Serge Doré Selections, Ltd.
MERCHANT OF SIGNATURE WINES

# Domaine Fond Croze «Le Serre de la Garde»

**2024 · CÔTES DU RHÔNE AOC**

*A single lieu-dit exclusivity in Saint-Roman-de-Malegarde — only fruit grown on this exact parcel can carry the Serre de la Garde name.*

## THE STORY




Charles Long began growing vines on this land in 1918, after returning from the First World War. His son Raymond expanded the estate, and in 1997 Raymond's sons Bruno and Daniel formally founded Domaine Fond Croze — Bruno leading the winemaking, Daniel the vineyards, now spanning 70 hectares farmed under organic certification since 2009.

Serre de la Garde is the domaine's single-vineyard exclusivity: a named lieu-dit in Saint-Roman-de-Malegarde where only fruit grown on this exact parcel can be bottled under the Serre de la Garde name. It's a rare degree of specificity for a Côtes du Rhône, more typical of a Burgundy climat than a regional Rhône appellation.

## THE VINEYARD — SERRE DE LA GARDE

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| **Appellation** | Côtes du Rhône AOC |
| **Lieu-dit** | Serre de la Garde, Saint-Roman-de-Malegarde |
| **Grape** | 70% Grenache Noir, 30% Syrah |
| **Vine Age** | 40 years |
| **Soil** | Stony clay-limestone hillsides, northwest exposure — the northern slope brings freshness |
| **Farming** | Certified organic (European standards) since 2009 |
| **Coordinates** | GPS 44.072, 4.95973 |
| **Annual Production** | 20,000 bottles |

## WINEMAKING & AGING

Each varietal is vinified separately before blending. The harvest is sorted and destemmed, with vinification taking place in concrete vats, followed by one to two years of aging in vat.

## TASTING NOTES

Bright dark garnet in color, with purplish reflections. A fantastic long finish carries earthy notes of moss and minerals alongside oak, spice, leather, apple, and anise — a genuinely complex profile.

## FOOD PAIRING

Grilled meats, a charcuterie platter, and cheeses.

## CRITICAL RECOGNITION

No critic review is yet available for the 2024 vintage at time of writing. Serre de la Garde has, however, built a remarkably consistent track record across past vintages: International Wine Report scored the 2018, 2022, and 2023 vintages 92 points each, and Wine Enthusiast scored the 2020 vintage 92 points as well — four reviewed vintages at the same high mark.

## WHY THIS WINE

A single lieu-dit Côtes du Rhône with real exclusivity — only fruit grown on this exact parcel in Saint-Roman-de-Malegarde can carry the Serre de la Garde name — from four generations of the Long family and vines averaging 40 years old.