

TUTTO



RIÉ & HIROFUMI SHOJI

Collioure, Roussillon

Rié and Hirofumi Shoji met whilst studying in Burgundy, where the couple spent years working with some of the region's most interesting producers, including our own Frédéric Cossard of Domaine de Chassorney.

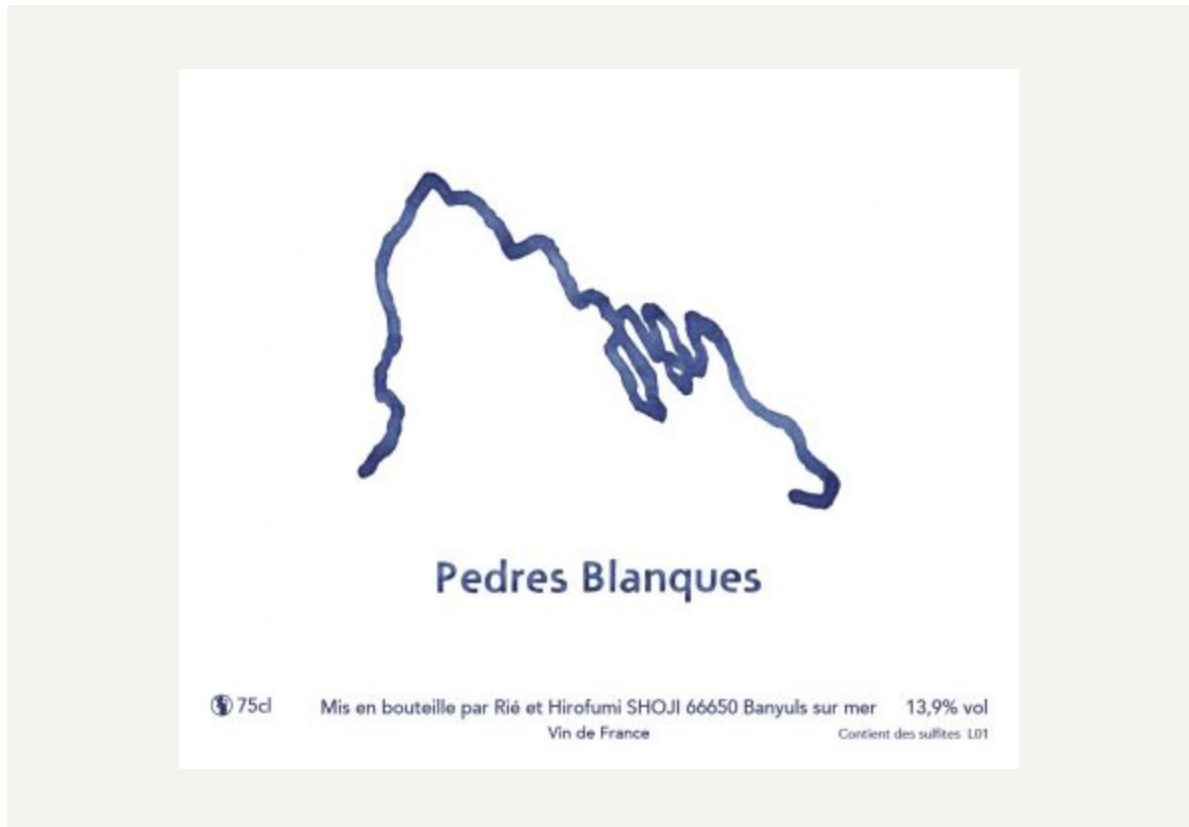
After several visits to the region, the two were lucky enough to find a remarkable vineyard high in the hills above the seaside town of Collioure. In Catalan, Pedres Blanques means 'white rocks' and the vineyard takes its name from an outcrop of granite that sits amongst the three and a half hectares of vines.

There is a palpable energy in this breathtakingly beautiful, remote place, where vines as old as fifty years grow wild over a complex mix of granite and schist. At some 350 metres above sea level, this is one of the highest sites in the region and the elevation, along with stiff winds from the Mediterranean, lends great freshness to their wines.

Nearly all of the vines are Grenache Noir, though recently Hirofumi and Rié have planted massale cuttings of various local varieties, given to them by the late Alain Castex, a dear friend. After his tragic passing, the two began looking after his old vineyards in Trouillas, a little south of Perpignan. The Shojis work the vines organically and nearly everything is done by hand. They prefer to eschew the use of copper completely and sulphur is used sparingly, if at all.

In the cellar their aim is simply to reveal the potential of this terroir. Grapes ferment with wild yeasts with no temperature control, and the use of gravity throughout fermentation and élevage means that not even a pump is used at any stage. The wines are bottled unfiltered with no additions and the intelligent use of these age-old practices renders soulful wines of rare balance, purity and finesse.

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PEDRES BLANQUES
2021

A beautiful wine from what was an incredibly challenging year. As always, this is mostly Grenache from vines of 30-50 years of age planted over granite and schist between 250-300 metres above sea level. The grapes were fermented as whole bunches in cuve for around a month, before being pressed and fed by gravity into old barrels of various sizes. A year of élevage has rendered an absolute masterpiece. With delicate notes of black fruit, minerals and iodine and a palate that is just pure silk, this is arguably their best work yet.