

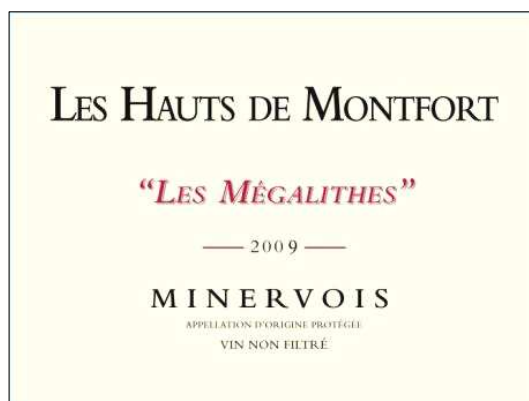
Les HAUTS DE MONTFORT 'Les Megalithes'
from Stephane Vedeau
Decanter's best-priced, best-value French wine of 2011

Over the last few years we have been increasing the number of estates with whom we work directly. We are proud of these partnerships and the fact that we can offer our customers wines of real quality and character at great prices. What we are not so good at is 'blowing our own trumpet' and so we were delighted when Decanter magazine recognised one of our favourite Languedoc wines in their September 2011 panel tasting.

Stephane Vedeau had submitted his Minervois 'Les Megalithes' into the tasting and it was voted the top wine, scoring 17.83 points out of 20. Not only that, at just £8.49 a bottle it was also the cheapest of all the top 20 wines! Within a short time our stocks sold through and so we ordered more.

In their December issue, Decanter then ran a feature 'Best of France – 2011' and from 1242 wines tasted during the year selected the top 50 best-value French wines. The Megalithes came in at number 9 even though the cheapest of all the wines ahead of it was £21 a bottle and scored just 16.63 points compared to the Megalithes at 17.83. In fact Stephane's wine was the lowest priced of all the top 50 wines so we can say that the Megalithes was Decanter's best-priced, best-value French wine of 2011.

With all this great publicity the new delivery did not stay long in our warehouse and so we contacted Stephane to get hold of as much of the remaining wine as we could. The Megalithes sells well across the whole of Europe, not just through us in the UK, but Stephane generously let us have half of his stock, a total of 492 bottles. With these final bottles due to arrive the first week of December we thought it was time to make sure all our customers knew about this remarkable wine.



We first met Stephane Vedeau back in 2005 when he was working with Claude Serra and producing an excellent range of varietal wines under the Terre à Verre label. Their success solicited an approach from a large French negociant and they sold the business. However Stephane's winemaking skills and his talent for finding superb, over-looked vineyards were undiminished and so he started once again.

Stephane is a great believer in growing vines at altitude, where the cooler conditions lead to wines where ripeness is allied to elegance and complexity. So his quest for old vines eventually led him to Les Hauts de Montfort high up in the Minervois. Here ancient Grenache vines grew alongside Syrah and even older Carignan. Following hand-picking and traditional fermentation the wine was left un-oaked to allow the pure fruit flavours to show through.

FR3559R Les Hauts de Montfort 'Les Megalithes' 2009, Minervois, France 13.5% £8.49

Deep, youthful colour and ripe cherry, liquorice and damson aromas. Rich bramble fruit flavours are balanced by a lovely mineral freshness and a spicy aromatic finish with just a touch of tannin. Bottled unfiltered to retain all the sun-filled flavours, this wine will generate sediment if cellared. Enjoy to 2014

'Firm nose of red fruit pastilles. A charming and drinkable, light, aromatic style with fine supporting tannins. Good flavoursome stuff with freshness and character. Nice substantial wine. 17.83 points.'
 Decanter magazine

Les Hauts de Montfort 'Les Megalithes'

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| 12 x FR3559R | Les Megalithes | £101.88 |
| ORDER CODE | FRC034R | – with free delivery |

As is shown by the fact that this wine is so much cheaper than its competitors we have already priced this wine very keenly. So we are unable to give any further discount on the wine price. However we are pleased to offer free delivery on a case of 12 wines. We are expecting strong demand and so highly recommend early ordering to avoid disappointment.