

Château Calissanne supports a major heritage cause by launching a charity cuvée called "Hommage à la Bonne Mère"

Château Calissanne, a wine and olive-growing estate in the AOP Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence region, announces the launch of a charity cuvée named "Hommage à la Bonne Mère", aimed at supporting the restoration of the Virgin Marie statue on the top of the Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde. This iconic monument in Marseille was built in 1852 using limestone blocks from the Château Calissanne's historic quarries, which also supplied stone for the La Major Cathedral during the same period.

An exceptional Cuvée in Service of a Marseille treasure

For every bottle of "Hommage à la Bonne Mère" sold—available in white, rosé, and red—one euro will be donated to the Diocese of Marseille to support the restoration of the iconic *Bonne Mère*, the gilded statue of the Virgin Marie holding Jesus' child that has overlooked Marseille since 1857. Subject to erosion, sea spray, and pollution, the statue requires a full renovation every 30 years. Restoration work will begin in February and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Since 1857, this is the fifth time the statue will be regilded, a process requiring nearly 30,000 sheets of 23-carat gold. This renovation will help preserve the spiritual, cultural, and symbolic significance of Notre-Dame de la Garde.



A shared origin, a common history

The limestone blocks used to build Notre-Dame de la Garde in 1852, as well as La Major Cathedral and the Palais Longchamp, were sourced from Château Calissanne's quarry. This enduring connection links the estate to these iconic structures in Marseille. The quarry, which was in operation for over 2,500 years, was closed following the 1909 earthquake.

Deeply rooted in Marseille's traditions, the Virgin Mary statue—affectionately known as the *Bonne Mère*—is a major site of Catholic pilgrimage and an internationally recognized spiritual symbol of the city.



Cuvée Château Calissanne
« Hommage à la Bonne Mère »

Public price incl. VAT : 12,50 € the bottle of 75cl
En vente sur www.chateau-calissanne.fr

About Château Calissanne:

Historical property of 1,200 hectares in Provence, Château Calissanne combines nature, history, and expertise since Antiquity, with Gaulish, Roman, and Templar influences. Modernized since 2001 by the Kessler family, the estate continues to excel in the production of high-quality wines and olive oils under the leadership, since 2008, of Sophie Kessler-Matière. Located at the foot of majestic limestone cliffs, Château Calissanne benefits from a unique microclimate that blends aridity and humidity, ideal for its 25 vineyard plots. This exceptional terroir allows for a diversity of emblematic grape varieties, such as syrah, cabernet sauvignon, and grenache for reds and rosés, or rolle and sémillon for whites, offering wines with typical character. Committed to sustainable agriculture, the estate is certified "Haute Valeur Environnementale" (level 3.4), promoting agroecology.

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