



# Altavins Joan Aruffi i Pieg

(zhoo-AHN ah-RU-fee ee pee-EGG)



LOCATION

Catalunya, España.  
*(D.O. Terra Alta)*  
12 hectares. 425 meters.



ESTATE

Altavins.  
(AHL-ta-VEENS)



WINEMAKER

Joan Aruffi i Pieg.  
(zhoo-AHN ah-RU-fee  
ee pee-EGG)



ENOLOGIST

Jordi Vidal.  
(JOHR-dee vee-DAHL)



ENVIRO-COMMITMENT

Hand-harvested.  
No irrigation.



ESTATE PRODUCTION

2,950 cases.



PARTNERSHIP

Joan has been part of the Small  
Vineyards family since 2008.

A true “garagiste,” winemaker Joan Aruffi i Pieg crafts his exceptional wines in a cellar the size of an inner-city flat, with the zeal of Jack Black listening to classic Rock-n-Roll (but with perhaps a bit more sanity!). In the rural hills of Terra Alta, this humble artisan is causing a considerable stir with wines that are Burgundian in elegance and length – they run counter to the over-extracted, oaky style of Spain in the 90’s. “Alta Vins” means “top wines”, referring to both the exceptional quality of his wines, as well as the altitude. With hills well over 400 meters (1,200 feet), his vines have a long ripening cycle, and therefore, take on significant complexity. Not yet 40 years-old, Joan is a young master in the new generation of Spanish winemakers. He has a strong grasp of tradition, and respect for it, but is not bound by it. In fact, he enjoys expanding the perception of wines from his homeland, feeling that they are – when at their best – equal to the best of Italy and France, or have the potential to be. After all, Spain has more land under vines than other country, and a long, proud history that is just hitting its stride! As evidenced by his varietal plantings of traditional local varietals (primarily Garnacha and Carinena), he appreciates what has been proven and successful before him. However, he also has achieved exceptional results with some international varietals, including Syrah (a fantastic blending grape in Terra Alta), and Chardonnay, which lends body and more ageworthiness to the classic Garnacha. If you visit in late September, Joan just may call on you, along with family and friends, to assist with harvest (he doesn’t need to hire workers). The rest of the time, he happily toils in the vineyards and cellar, pursuing his calling with a rarified passion.



Discovering the best hand-harvested, family-owned, earth-friendly Mediterranean wine.

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