

## One of a handful of ★★★★★ domaines in France in Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2023



La Pèira is one of a handful of ★★★★★ Domaines in Southern France, and a select few from France itself in Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book (2022/2023).

★★★★★ is the highest-ranking awarded by the guide

There are only three or so domains in our entire region with this rating, only a handful in all Southern France and just a select few in all of France.

The entry :

Peira, La L'doc ★★★★★ Superlative TERRASSES DU LARZAC DOM making intense and complex reds. La Peira (SYRAH/GRENACHE), Las Flors de la Peira (Syrah/Grenache/MOURVÈDRE), Obriers de la Peira (CARIGNAN/CINSAULT).

## Pocket Wine Book – ‘An Exercise In Crowding Angels On A Pinhead’



The Pocket Wine Book has been published since its 1977 debut every year and is now in its 47th-or-so vintage.

It was a suggestion of the British publishers Mitchell Beazley, founded in the 1960s for the publication of atlases, reference books, natural history books, cook books, garden books and wine books.

Speaking to David Kermode on the Drinking Hour podcast, Hugh Johnson recounted:

‘It came out when James Mitchell was staying with us at Saling Hall (the Tudor home at the time of Johnson) and we’d just had this huge success with The World Atlas of Wine. At breakfast one day, he took out his little pocket diary and said, ‘All that anyone needs to know about wine could go into a book like this, couldn’t it?’ And I sort of took a deep breath and thought, ‘Right. You’re absolutely right. Why don’t we crunch it?’ And then he said, ‘Well, how about it?’

Said to be the world’s best-selling wine guide, it was authored then edited for many years by Hugh Johnson whose other publications included The World Atlas of Wine (1971), The Story of Wine (1989) and The Principles of Gardening (1979).

A favourite in this parish is his Trees: A Lifetime’s Journey through Forests, Woods and Gardens.

## Margaret Rand and Team



Margaret Rand, author of books such as *Grapes and Wines* and *101 Wines to Try Before You Die*, was the general editor of Hugh Johnson's *Pocket Wine Book* for 15 years.

She took over the reins formally in 2023 and holds full responsibility for the publication, and in addition contributes to journals such as *The World of Fine Wine*, *Drinks Business*, and *Decanter Magazine*.

Both authors share a convivial writing-style: the effortless charting of an insouciant course over well-trod terrain.

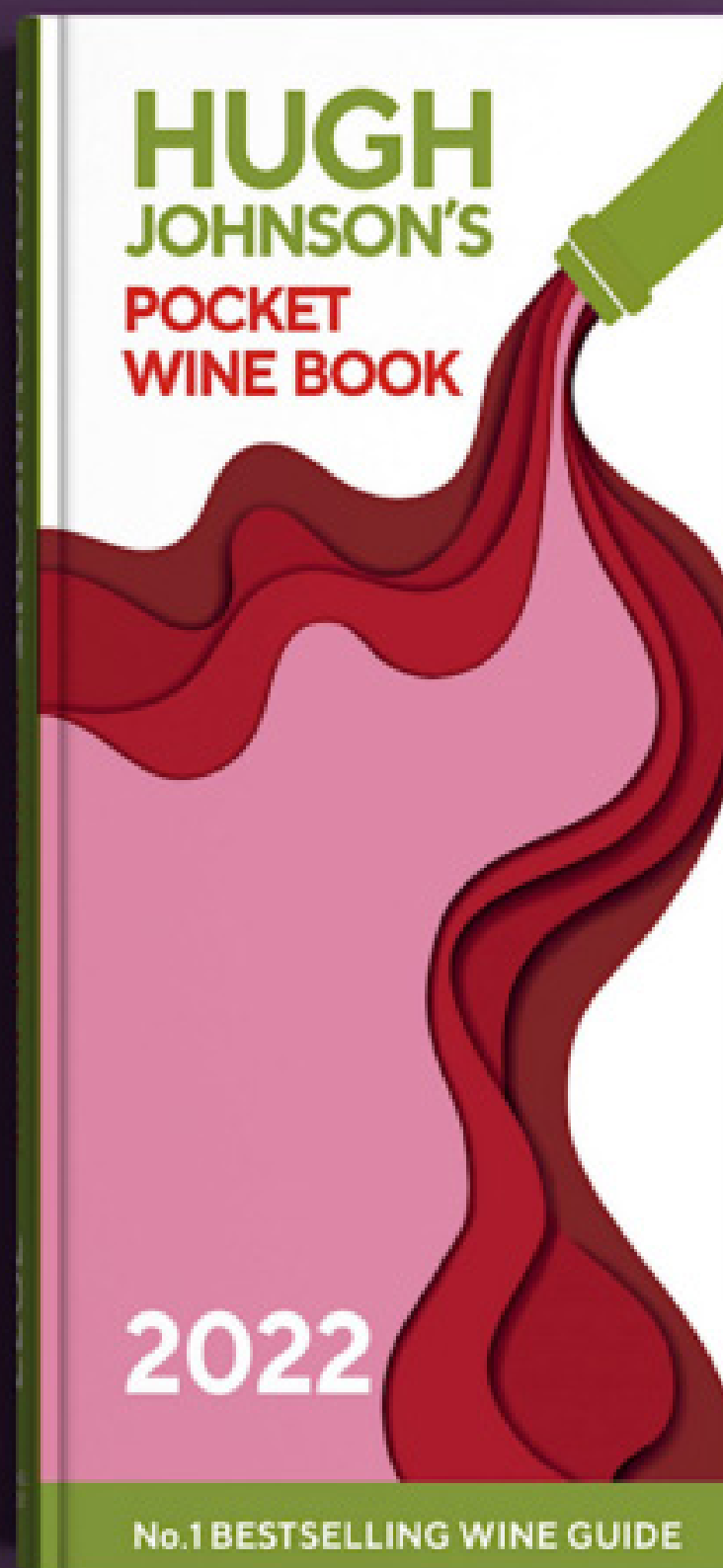
We had the good fortune to introduce Margaret Rand to the 2019 La Pèira vintage over lunch at Corney and Barrow in late spring this year.

An adept team of regional editors supports her. In our region in the south of France, the editor is Juliet Bruce Jones, who also oversees the sections on Provence and Corsica. A Master of Wine herself— a title held by only several hundred people globally—she co-owns *Domaine La Tasque* in the Minervois region with Simon Ingman :

<https://domainelatasque.com/>.



AS FEATURED IN



# LA PÈIRA



La Pèira ★★★★★ Superlatif  
TERRASSES DU LARZAC  
DOM faisant des rouges  
intenses et complexess. La  
P è i r a ( S Y R A H /  
GRENACHE), Las Flors de la  
Pèira (Syrah, Grenache,  
MOURVÈDRE), Obriers de  
la Pèira (CARIGNAN/  
CINSAULT).

## Margaret Rand on the Changes in the Last 15-Years – ‘Producers rather than Appellations’

On The Drinking Hour podcast with David Kermode, Margaret Rand was asked , ‘In your time editing the book (15 years or so), what changes have you seen?’ She replied:

‘A greater and greater focus on producers rather than appellations, I think. I think people buy wine now much more by the name of the producer than the appellation.

You know, we used to list lots of appellations... every appellation in the appellation world! That was a lot of them. We’re now beginning to weed out some of the ones that are not very significant.

Because we need more producers in there; that’s how people buy wine now. You don’t need to know it’s AOC ‘Côte de Whatnot’, but you do need to know it’s by ‘Monsieur Dupont,’ who makes extremely good wine.

And of course, natural wines and biodynamic wines. That’s been very important. And again... They’ve become absorbed in the mainstream, as it were... the extremes aren’t quite as extreme as they were. But they’ve been a force for good.’

In her introductory remarks to the book, Margaret Rand as quoted in this Forbes article by John Mariani, focuses on about ripeness and regions:

‘Perhaps in the future the great wines will not be, as they have been for a few lifetimes now, the ripest in years; perhaps the greatest terroirs will not be those that deliver more reliable ripeness.’

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of ★★★★★  
Domaines in  
Southern France,  
and a select few  
from France  
itself.

## Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2023

**Pauillac H-Méd ★★★→★★★★** 00' 05' 09' 10' 15 16' 18' 19' 20 Communal AOP in N MÉD with 18 Classed Growths, incl LAFITE, LATOUR, MOUTON. Famous for long-lived wines, the acme of CAB SAUV. Other top CHC: CLERC MILON, DUHART-MILON, GRAND-PUY-LACOSTE, LYNCH-BAGES, PICHON BARON, PICHON LALANDE, PONTET-CANET. Relatively gd-value: BATAILLEY, PÉDESCLAUX, PIBRAN.

**Pays d'Oc, IGP L'doc ★→★★★** Largest IGP, covering whole of L'DOC-ROUSS.

Extremes of quality from simple, quaffing varietals to innovative, exciting; 58 different grapes allowed. CARIGNAN, esp old vines, increasingly popular. Big players incl Bruno Andreu, DOM PAUL MAS, GÉRARD BERTRAND, Jeanjean and co-op Foncalieu.

**PC (Premier Cru)** First Growth in B'X; 2nd rank of vyds (after GC) in Burg; 2nd rank in Lo: one so far, COTEAUX DU LAYON Chaume.

**Pécharmant SW Fr ★★** 17 18 19 20 BERGERAC inner AOP on edge of town. Iron and manganese in soil generate biggest, longest-living wines of area. Veteran ★★★ CH de Tiregand, DOM du Haut-Pécharmant, l'Ancienne Cure; ★★ Chx Beauportail, Corbiac, du Rooy, Terre Vieille; Dom des Bertranoux.

**Peira, La L'doc ★★★★★** Superlative TERRASSES DU LARZAC DOM making intense and complex reds. La Peira (SYRAH / GRENACHE), Las Flors de la Peira (Syrah / Grenache / MOURVÈDRE), Obriers de la Peira (CARIGNAN / CINSULT).

**Pélican, Dom du Jura ★★★★★** VOLNAY's MARQUIS D'ANGERVILLE venture nr ARBOIS; bio vyds incl those from retired legend Jacques Puffeney – giving pristine range.

**Pernand-Vergelesses C d'O ★★★★★** (r) 09' 10' 12 15' 17 18' 19' 20' (w) 14' 15' 17' 18' 19' 20' Village hosting w-facing part of CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE. Now less austere. Different vyds thrive in each colour: (r) Île des Vergelesses; (w) Combottes, Sous Frétille. Local DOMS CHANDON DE BRIAILLES, Dubreuil-Fontaine, Rapet, Rollin lead way.

**Perret, André N Rh ★★★★★** 15' 16' 17 18' 19' 20' 21 CONDRIEU DOM, 1st class. Three wines, classic, stylish, clear CLOS Chanson, rich, musky Chéry. Also ST-JOSEPH



(r/w), bright-fruit classic red, deep, flowing old-vine Les Grisières (r). Also gd COLLINES RHODANIENNES (r/w).

**Perrier, Joseph** Champ ★★★→★★★★ Fine family-run CHAMP house with v.gd PINOTS N/M vyds, esp in own Cumières DOM. Ace Prestige CUVÉE Joséphine 12'; BRUT Royale NV as generous as ever but more precise with less dosage. Distinctive, tangy BLANC DE BLANCS 08 13' 17' 19 20. Now drier, finer CUVÉE Royale Brut NV; older BLANC DE BLANCS vintages age well esp 95. Owner Jean-Claude Fourmon, one of Champ's great characters, easing reins to son.

**Perrier-Jouët** Champ The 1st (in C19) to make dry CHAMP for UK market; strong in GC CHARD, best for gd vintage and de luxe Belle Epoque 12' ★★★★★ in painted bottle. BRUT NV; Blason de France NV Brut and Rosé; Belle Epoque Rosé 12'; new BLANC DE BLANCS. A gd team of winemakers now, change for better.

**Pessac-Léognan** B/x ★★★→★★★★ 05' 09' 10' 15 16 18 19' 20 AOP created in 1987 for best part of n GRAV, incl all Crus Classés (1959): DOM DE CHEVALIER, HAUT-BAILLY, HAUT-BRION, LA MISSION HAUT-BRION, PAPE CLÉMENT, SMITH HAUT LAFITTE, etc. Aspiring unclassified: LES CARMES HAUT-BRION. Firm, full-bodied, earthy reds; B/X's finest dry whites. Value from Brown, de la Solitude, LA LOUVIÈRE.

**Péters, Pierre** Champ ★★★★★ Tiptop Côte des Blancs estate. Les Chétillons probably longest-lived CHARD in CHAMP: 05 07 13 14 17'. 19' a cooler classic.

**Petit Chablis** Chab ★ DYA Thirst-quenching mini-CHAB from outlying vyds mostly not on Kimmeridgian clay. Best wines from BILLAUD, BROCARD, DAUVISSAT, Defaix, LAVANTUREUX, Pommier, RAVENEAU and co-op LA CHABLISIENNE.

**Pézenas** L'doc Charming medieval town, birthplace Molière. AOP L'DOC, diverse soils, fun to explore. Big gun PAUL MAS and smaller estates MAS GABRIEL, DOMS Allegria, La Croix Gratiot, Magellan, Prieuré St Jean de Bebian, Turner-Pageot, Villa Tempora.

**Philipponnat** Champ ★★→★★★★ Small house, intense, esp in pure Mareuil-sur-A? CUVÉE under careful oak 18. Now owned by LANSON-BCC group. NV, Rosé NV,