

Alchemy

Alchemy is an influential philosophical tradition whose practitioners have, from antiquity, claimed it to be the precursor to profound powers. The defining objectives of alchemy are varied, but historically have typically included one or more of the following goals: the creation of the fabled philosopher's stone; the ability to transform base metals into the noble metals (gold or silver); and development of an elixir of life, which would confer youth and longevity. Alchemy is recognized as a protoscience that contributed to the development of modern chemistry and medicine. Alchemists developed a framework of theory, terminology, experimental process and basic laboratory techniques that are still recognizable today. But alchemy differs significantly from modern science in its inclusion of Hermetic principles and practices related to mythology, magic, religion, and spirituality.

How does Wine and Alchemy relate? The Philosophy?

Rudolph Steiner, noted 19th Century Alchemist, has a profound influence in Agriculture, as the founder of Biodynamics. After the First World War, Steiner became active in a wide variety of cultural contexts. He founded a number of schools, the first of which was known as the Waldorf school, and which later evolved into a worldwide school network. He also founded a system of organic agriculture, now known as Biodynamic agriculture, which was one of the very first forms of, and has contributed significantly to the development of, modern organic farming. Michel Chapoutier studied his principles as he formed his opinions of the best agricultural processes to use to enhance the quality of the grapes and work in harmony with nature to achieve that goal.

V.I.T.R.I.O.L.

Rudolph Steiner, authored one of the most famous alchemical mottos which stands for *Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem*. It literally means: "Visit the Interior Parts of the Earth; by Rectification Thou Shalt Find the Hidden Stone."

For Michel Chapoutier, this greatly defines the interaction between the Earth (the "land" component of Terroir) and Life (the vineyard). He split the motto into three parts to name the top Roussillon wines: "V.I.T.", "R.I.", and "Occultum Lapidem". The big stone that lays on the top of our main vineyard has long been given esoteric powers by the locals. One of them being to capture the power from the Earth and spread onto the land. We related this to the "hidden stone" motto and named the vineyard "Occultum Lapidem". The wine itself is a single vineyard wine that is a blend of Syrah, Grenache and Carignan. V.I.T. is the top wine from the estate site and is made from the oldest vines planted to a unique subsoil in Latour de France. This soil has a chalky component to it which sets it apart from the other sites. It is Grenache driven with some Syrah in the blend. The newest addition to complete the range is the R.I. This wine comes from the L'esquerde Village and is made from Syrah with a touch of Grenache in it, depending on the vintage. The primary soil here is Granite and is one of the last vineyards to be harvested due to the climate. All of these wines are made from low yielding vines of impeccable age.