THORMAN HUNT

EST. WINE SHIPPERS 1978

Lyrarakis

Crete

Plyto White Psarades Vineyard



Grape varieties:
100% Plyto

Farming:
Organic

Bottling options:
75cl

Closure:
Cork

Suitable for:
Vegetarians and vegans

Grower

Lyrarakis was established in 1966 by the brothers Manolis and Sotiris Lyrarakis and is now run by the second generation of the family. The winery is in the mountainous commune of Alagni, 440 metres above sea level, south of Heraklion in central Crete. The family has devoted itself to reviving rare, almost extinct Cretan varieties such as Dafni, Plyto and Melissaki. Soils are predominantly loam, with more sand or clay depending on the site, and the family's vineyards have been farmed organically since 2020. Winemaker Myriam Ambuzer looks for precision, purity and a supple texture.

Vineyards

Plyto was also saved from extinction by the Lyrarakis family, who first planted it in their Psarades vineyard at Alagni in 1992. The vineyard lies at 480 metres on clay loam with a slightly north-easterly aspect. The vines are cordon trained, spur pruned and not irrigated, and are farmed organically.

Vinification

Timing the harvest is the key decision: the fruit is tasted constantly until sugar, acidity and tannins are in balance, and in some years the vineyard is picked in two passes. The grapes are destemmed and lightly crushed and given a cool skin contact, then the free-run juice ferments slowly with indigenous yeasts in stainless steel tanks.

Style

An elegant, full-bodied dry white, both fruity and mineral, with vibrant acidity and a long, gently mineral finish. Best within 3 to 6 years of the vintage. Serve at 10 to 12°C with seafood, grilled fish, white meat or cheese and vegetable pies.



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