

# Domaine de Durban

## Beaumes de Venise

Domaine de Durban is located in the hills to the east of the village of Beaumes-de-Venise, in the direction of Vaucluse, and is owned and run by Madame Leydier and her 2 sons. This "Vin doux naturel" is made from Muscat grapes cultivated and vinified like table wine before pure alcohol is added to stop fermentation and bring the strength to 15 degrees alcohol.

Domaine de Durban is widely recognized as the definitive producer of Muscat Beaumes de Venise. Bernard Leydier claims that his wines are so much more aromatic, opulent and delicately coloured than others because they use 100% Muscat de Frontignan à petit grains blanc as opposed to the more common Muscat de Frontignan à grains noir.

In the United States Muscat de Beaumes most often accompanies dessert, but in the cafés of the southern Rhône it is a popular aperitif, chilled and served with local melon or foie gras. In youth it displays flamboyant floral aromas with notes of apricot and honey which deepen to dried figs, clove and herbs with a few years of bottle age. There is a surprising mineral character to the flavors as well.

This is the outstanding estate in a village otherwise dominated by a powerful co-operative and several large négociants.

