
A PERSONAL RECORD OF WINEMAKERS

About Codex Vinitorum

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The project

Codex Vinitorum — the book of winemakers — is a personal record of the winemakers I have met in person. It is a reference for myself, not a commercial site: a way to see whom I have met, where their work is rooted, and how those encounters have settled in memory.

It is the sibling of *Codex Vini*, the atlas of wines I have tasted. Where *Codex Vini* keeps the bottle and its rating, *Codex Vinitorum* keeps the encounter — the person behind the work. Both sit in the Personal Codex, the part of the *Vinotheca* that looks not at wine in general but at one person's experience of it. By design the codex stands apart from the library's analytical works: nothing recorded here feeds them, and a winemaker appears for one reason only — that they were met. The name is Latin for *book of winemakers*; *vinitor* (genitive plural *vinitorum*) is the classical word for a vine-dresser.

The signals, not a score

Codex Vini gives every wine a number. *Codex Vinitorum* gives its winemakers none. Rating people on a personal record felt wrong, so in place of a score each entry may carry up to three optional signals that describe the encounter:

Felt close to — a sense of personal closeness with the winemaker.

Memorable encounter — the meeting itself stood out.

Stayed with me — the encounter kept working on me afterwards.

The three are independent and do not add up to a ranking. They record something about my experience of the meeting, not a verdict on the winemaker. The full reasoning is in the companion Signals document.

Dynamic structure

Every winemaker lives as a single JSON entry in *winemakers.json*, stored in the GitHub repository that powers this site. Adding a winemaker means committing one new object to that file; the site updates automatically within a minute. A flat JSON file in a git repository — rather than a database or spreadsheet — is deliberate: git provides version history and backup, there is no server to run, and the codex stays self-contained and portable.

Taxonomy

Each winemaker is placed by two fields. Region locates their estate in the wine world and groups under the Old World / New World traditions; estate names the domaine or house they work. Rather than self-host its own reference lists, the codex points at the family's existing documents: the region profiles drawn from *The Soul of Wine* — both the Identity narratives and the Terroir profiles (see the companion *Regions* links) — and the estate maps of *The Maker Atlas* (see the companion *Estates* link).

Data

At the time of writing the codex holds 35 winemakers, drawn from the estates and regions I have visited, and grows as new encounters are recorded. Every entry holds: name, estate, region, country, the event at which we met, the date, geographic coordinates for the map, a short factual bio, and any of the three affinity signals that apply.