
A PERSONAL RECORD OF WINEMAKERS

The affinity signals

why there is no rating, the three signals, how they behave

Why there is no rating

Codex Vinitorum records people, and rating people on a permanent personal ledger felt wrong. A number suits an object you can taste twice and judge; a winemaker is not that. Scoring the people you have met — and leaving that score on the record — turns an encounter into a verdict. So the codex keeps no rating and produces no ranking. What it keeps instead is three small signals about the encounter itself.

The three signals

Felt close to — a sense of personal closeness with the winemaker — that the conversation met somewhere real, beyond the wine.

Memorable encounter — the meeting itself stood out — the occasion, the place, the exchange was one you would single out.

Stayed with me — the encounter kept working on you afterwards — it returned to mind or lingered past the day.

How they behave

Independent — each signal is present or absent on its own. An encounter can be memorable without feeling close, or stay with you without having been memorable in the moment.

Orthogonal — they measure different things and are not steps on one scale. There is no order among them.

Not a score — they never combine into a number and never produce a ranking. Three signals is not better than one; it is different.

About the encounter — a signal records my experience of the meeting, not a property of the winemaker or of their wine.

How they appear

In *The Book* the signals are three short columns — *Close*, *Memorable*, *Stayed* — and a marked signal shows as a single fleuron. In *The Collection*, two charts read them directly: their overall distribution and the combinations entries actually carry. On *The Atlas* they are deliberately

invisible — every pin is identical, because the map marks that an encounter happened, never how it scored. An unmarked signal is not a low mark; it is simply the absence of that note.