



MATT WALLS

WINES OF THE RHÔNE

VENTOUX AND LUBERON 155

Key producers

Château la Canorgue

Bonnieux

chateaulacanorgue.com

The first thing you notice is the birdsong. ‘You hear them all the time,’ says Nathalie Margan. ‘And insects. But they get eaten by the birds.’ Château la Canorgue was the first property in the region to go organic, in 1977, and the local fauna seem very happy here. All being well, they will soon be certified biodynamic. Nathalie is certainly the fifth generation of the family to work here, but that’s only as far as written records go. Today they play around with 15 different cuvées, but their Luberon *rouge* Château la Canorgue (a blend of 70 per cent Syrah, 20 per cent Grenache and 10 per cent Carignan, 50 per cent whole bunch) is not to be missed. You can see why the family has stuck around for so long. It’s one of the most beautiful estates in the region, near the rickety mountaintop village of Bonnieux. The *bastide* and gardens are so beautiful they supplied the backdrop for the 2006 Ridley Scott film *A Good Year* featuring Russell Crowe and Marion Cotillard. The main challenge they face here is being invaded by fans of the film trying to take selfies.