



DOMAINE VIRET

Never mind organic farming, on their estate in the commune of Saint Maurice sur Eygues in the southern Rhône, father and son Alain and Philippe Viret practice “cosmoculture”. According to the Virets, it’s based “on exchanges between cosmic and telluric [terrestrial] energies”. Cosmoculture makes conventional biodynamic practices look positively mainstream. So, for example, you’ll find menhirs (the things that Obelix delivers, for Asterix fans) in the vineyards, placed so as to direct those telluric energy fields. The winery – sorry, “cathedral of wine” – is inspired by ancient Inca and Mayan cultures and aligned according to the position of the sun on the day of Philippe’s birth in 1973. The massive granite blocks used for construction are sized according to the Royal Cubit (524mm) and the shape of the cathedral conforms to the Golden Section. Add in mystic fountains, crystals, amphorae and more and you have one of the world’s weirdest wineries. But the wines are excellent, brimming with life and personality, and deserve serious attention. If you want to find out more about aspects of cosmoculture such as radionic culture, geobiology, planetary beacons and water memory, check out the Viret website at domaine-viret.com. And if you want to try the wines, they’re imported by Artisan Wines (artisanwines.co.uk).