

MAISON
TARDIEU - LAURENT
FAMILLE TARDIEU



Maison Tardieu Laurent - Cornas - Vieilles Vignes

AOC Cornas, Vallée du Rhône, France

A great Cornas. Concentrated, powerful, strong. A most traditional Style. Archetypical of the northern Vallée du Rhône Wines !

THE VINTAGE

The vines are asleep and restore their potential.

The temperatures are mild, and the rains heavy : almost twice as much as the average quantity of water.

Rather warm and sunny, March initiates the vegetative cycle of the vine, which seems to portend an early vintage. But, then, the coolness of April slows the pace down. The vines flower without a hitch.

Quick - it lasted between 8 and 10 days. No coulure, but on some Grenache aged over 40 years. The prospect of a beautiful crop !

Very warm, July and August have contributed to a good maturing of the berries. Two big thunderstorms have helped the berries not to suffer from dryness. In August, the heat wave has had a dramatic impact on the evolution of the sugar in the berries. Still, the maturity of the skin had not been reached. As this maturité pelliculaire is essential in terms of colour, aromas, tannins, it was more than urgent... to wait !

Not one drop of water since July 15th ! And most windy conditions : for 11 days the speed of the wind was over 50 km/h ! It had not been the case for thirty years.

In the northern Rhône, the cool temperatures of September have slowed down the maturing of the berries. The Phenolic maturity has come slowly but surely. It was essential to wait. The experience and wisdom of the Vigneron have been two key points !

TERROIR

Les Chaillots and Geynale.

AGEING

New barrels. Tronçais.

VARIETAL

Serine

TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: 80 to 100 years. years old

13% % VOL.

Bottling: Manually, without filtration.

REVIEWS AND AWARDS

91-93/100

"The Cornas cuvees are the most concentrated, interesting offerings I tasted from Michel Tardieu's 2001 northern Rhone portfolio. The 2001 Cornas Vieilles Vignes is aged primarily in new oak. It has soaked up all the toasty vanillin characteristics, revealing just a hint of new wood along with a wealth of blackberry liqueur, cassis, mineral, licorice, and espresso notes. Full-bodied and opulently-textured, with high tannin as well as extract, this is a 2001 to forget for 4-5 years. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2018."

Robert Parker, Wine Advocate, 01/02/2004

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Route de Cucuron, 84160 LOURMARIN - France

Tel. 04 90 68 80 25 - info@tardieu-laurent.com

tardieu-laurent.fr

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