

MAISON  
**TARDIEU - LAURENT**  
FAMILLE TARDIEU



## Maison Tardieu Laurent - Châteauneuf du Pape - Vieilles Vignes

AOC Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Vallée du Rhône, France

*Châteauneuf-du-Pape is probably the top appellation in 2001.*

### 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 southern Rhône, the strong Mistral wind has blown for the 20 first days of September, producing concentration in the berries, but, also, in some exposed zones, a beginning of stress due to the lack of water. Fortunately, cool nights and sunny days have built up the maturité pelliculaire. Healthy and firm skins have maintained the fine sanitary state of the berries. Heat and wind have resulted in a concentration which has lowered the quantities produced by some 5 to 30% under 2000, depending on the vines and grape varieties.

### TERROIR

Grès d'Orange, Courthézon, Montredon.

### AGEING

Tronçais new and one wine barrels.

### VARIETALS

Grenache 90%, Autres 10%

### TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: Over 60 years. years old

### 14,5% VOL.

Bottling: Manually, without filtration.

### TASTING

A concentrate of Great Grenache. Noble aromas - fresh scrub, laurel, dry figs... Deserves time, time for ageing, then time for tasting and enjoying !



## REVIEWS AND AWARDS



93/100

"Reminiscent of Pomerol's Chateau l'Evangile, the inky/purple-colored 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes offers up aromas of violets, blackberries, and raspberries. Full-bodied and intensely concentrated, with background notes of new oak, this phenomenally pure, rich, structured 2001 demands 3-5 years of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2018."

**Robert Parker, Wine Advocate, 01/02/2004**

