

MAISON  
**TARDIEU - LAURENT**  
FAMILLE TARDIEU



## Maison Tardieu Laurent - Côtes du Rhône - Cuvée Spéciale

AOC Côtes du Rhône, Vallée du Rhône, France

*A "handkerchief Wine" - Vin de mouchoir -, e.g. so delicate and scented that you feel like pouring drops on a - preferably lace - handkerchief, just to enjoy its fragrances during the day... What a Cuvée ! Old Grenache with touches of beautiful Pinot noir. Constructed more on the aromatic intensity than on the density. An actual delight !*

### THE VINTAGE

In the spring, contrasting, predominantly humid weather conditions, and ensuing cryptogamic pressures, rekindle still fresh memories, feeding the concerns of conscious Vignerons. The threatening shadow of 2018 hangs over the heads... A fear exacerbated by the prospect of a bountiful harvest, an aggravating factor in this circumstance... In hindsight, these rather substantial spring rains will prove to be beneficial, contributing to the replenishment of water reserves.

Indeed, a terribly dry summer period will follow this rather wet start of the year. Dry once again. Once more. Bitter observation : 2020 is the third year in a row to suffer so badly from harsh drought... Fortunately, the nights are cool. As a result, the few "mean" rains granted by Mother Nature become "life-saving" blessings. The vines survive, adapt... And this is relevant to epigenetics, according to the learned term used by one of our Confreres...

However, as the harvest approaches, while "technological maturity" soars, the actual phenolic maturity remains at a standstill... This phenomenon chiefly affects early sectors, young vines, and substantially loaded vines : at the dawn of the harvest, Vignerons are thus facing a "Cornelian dilemma"...

Uncommon occurrence, the wisest of the Vignerons, they who take the risk of awaiting the famous "equinoctial rains", will not necessarily benefit from their fortitude. One could therefore state that, in 2020, Virtue was not rewarded. One exception to confirm the Rule... Yet, hard, extremely hard finding for a year that proves to be exceptional in its own special way... Only the Very Old Vines, meticulously worked, meet the expectations of the most demanding Vignerons. At the cost of low to extremely low yields... Nevertheless, by the grace of their deep roots, once again, the Very Old Vines recall that they are the key to success, in an odd Vintage too !

### TERROIR

On the Borders of the AOC Châteauneuf, side of Courthézon

### AGEING

8 months in 2 years and 3 years old barrels. Then ten months in foudres. Allier and Tronçais.

### WINEMAKING

100% non destemmed.



**VARIETALS**

Grenache 95%, Others 5%

**TECHNICAL DATA**

Age of vines: 70 years old. years old

**14,5% % VOL.**

Bottling: Without fining and filtration.

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**SERVING**

14°C

**TASTING**

Wonderful expression of old Grenache when gorgeously matured. On notes of grena-dine and sweet spices... I love it !

