

MAISON
TARDIEU - LAURENT
FAMILLE TARDIEU



Maison Tardieu - Laurent - Rasteau Vieilles Vignes

AOC Rasteau, Vallée du Rhône, France

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 !

TYPE OF SOIL

Limestone-clay slopes and blue and yellow clay.

AGEING

10 months in one vintage old barrels. Allier and Tronçais. Then 8 months in foudre.

WINEMAKING

1/3 non destemmed.

VARIETALS

Grenache 70%, Syrah 20%, Mourvèdre 10%

14,5% % VOL.

Bottling: Without fining and filtration.

TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: Grenache: 80 years, Syrah and Mourvèdre: 40 years years old

SERVING

14°C

Decant an hour before tasting.



TASTING

Attractive elegance of this Wine, despite of a power which still remains a tri?e ostentatious. The Cuvée will bene?t from the élevage... Longer than usual élevage - the Wine deserves it - so as to gain even more ?nesse.

REVIEWS AND AWARDS

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

92/100

"Aromas of dark berries, dark cherries and dried herbs with some spicy and meaty undertones. It's full-bodied with creamy tannins and texture. Rich and voluptuous with creamy berries in the finish. Drink or hold."

James Suckling, James Suckling, 17/10/2023

Wine Spectator

91/100

"There's a lot to like about this lush, seductive Rasteau. Offers cherry, plum and white fig dusted in refreshing white pepper, with good tension and smoked garrigue detail. Ripe and balanced, with good focus. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah."

Wine Spectator, 31/12/2023

JEB DUNNUCK

90/100

"Black cherries, scorched earth, leather, and peppery, garrigue, and liquid violet-like notes all emerge from Tardieu's 2021 Rasteau Vieilles Vignes, a medium-bodied, elegant, beautifully balanced Rasteau offering ripe tannins and outstanding length."

Jeb Dunnuck, Jeb Dunnuck, 30/10/2023

