

MAISON
TARDIEU - LAURENT
FAMILLE TARDIEU



Maison Tardieu Laurent - Saint Joseph - Vieilles Vignes

AOC Saint-Joseph, Vallée du Rhône, France

Delightful.

THE VINTAGE

I will not begin to extol the quality of the quite exceptional 2009 vintage. Others have done this and some long before the wines were finished fermenting, which for me to do would be strange as I don't see myself as a fortune teller reading tea leaves!

In fact, I wished to be a little more cautious. Perhaps it is my hidden pessimism, which was telling me to hold back. Or, maybe it is the obvious difficulty of finishing wines from a rather whimsical (very low quantities) and late (especially in the southern Côtes-du-Rhône) vintage. In any case, I was both right and wrong. In the north, the vintage is superb. There were no great difficulties, the rains arrived at the right time, and the harvest and vinification ultimately went well.

The wines are concentrated, yet without aggressive tannins. They show both fruit and mineral with unusual balance. 2009 is akin to 1999, which produced rather exceptional wines. All of this you will experience for yourself with your first glass of wine from this vintage!!!

I will not detail the climatic conditions of the 2009 vintage except to say the Mistral was missing and a very hot period at the end of August placed rather stressful water conditions on certain parcels. As is often the case, we had to wait for the first rains to restart everything. The harvests were slow and difficult—we had to work on a parcel-by-parcel basis and not hesitate to stop and wait for more favorable conditions.

In the end, after a particularly tough vinification we can report the best wines will be quite exceptional. Not in the tannic way we predicted at the start of fermentation, but in a pleasant, concentrated way with incredible finesse. The maturation of the wines will reveal the full potential of the vintage—we have not seen the last surprises from this rather refined, unusual, and still secretive vintage.

Finally, a quick word to say that more and more of our sources, particularly in the southern Côtes-du-Rhône, have converted, or are in the process of converting, to organic methods, which we are most happy about. We do not wish to stress this information from a commercial perspective, but we have included this new information in the fact sheets. It is important enough in our relationship to be highlighted and each year you will be able to track the progress.

TERROIR

Saint Pierre de Bœuf, Mauves, Chavanay.

AGEING

New oak casks - Allier and Tronçais.

VARIETALS

Serine, Syrah

13% % VOL.

Bottling: Without filtration.

TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: 50 years and over. years old



TASTING

Juicy with mineral notes. The fruit appears very ripe and beautifully concentrated in this flattering wine.

REVIEWS AND AWARDS

Wine Spectator

92/100

"This has a lightly firm, singed wood frame, but plenty of flesh to soak that up thanks to the core of the damson plum, blackberry and licorice snap notes. A nice briary edge hangs on the finish."

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, 31/07/2012

91-93/100

"Opaque violet. Sexy aromas of boysenberry, kirsch, olive, violet and smoke. Broad, sweet and seamless on the palate, showing deeply concentrated dark berry liqueur flavors and mounting smokiness. The sappy finish echoes the floral note and leaves a sweet blue fruit quality behind."

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 01/04/2011



90-92/100

"Michel Tardieu's 2009 red Northern Rhone offerings...reveal deep colors as well as abundant concentration, structure and power...St.-Joseph should last at least a decade."

Robert Parker, Wine Advocate, 01/02/2011

