

MAISON  
**TARDIEU - LAURENT**  
FAMILLE TARDIEU



## Maison Tardieu Laurent - Hermitage

AOC Hermitage, Vallée du Rhône, France

*L'Appellation Reine - the "Queen Appellation" -,  
the one that succeeded best this year, in Northern Rhône.  
Deep red, opaque. This Wine is some kind of an Athlete... Can be kept for long !*

### THE VINTAGE

Firstly, the vineyards had to stand a very hot month of July, as hot as July 2003... Then, they had to put up with a month of August amongst the coldest in the last 50 years ! After a rather pleasant 2005 autumn, winter cold suddenly struck. Frosts were frequent, and the thermometer did not rise above 13° during the best periods in the day. 2005-2006 Winter was long and chilly. Unfortunately, and once again, feeble rains were not sufficient to bring back up the level of water tables. A violent Mistral in March and April, then sunshine stronger than the average, did not help fixing this problem. The growing of the vine was thus perturbed, first at the period of the floraison, then in the course of the véraison, causing, in the whole of the vineyards, a notable heterogeneity. In return, the vineyards remained perfectly healthy. There were more grapes than last year, with volumes close to 2003, but the berries were small, with thick skins. After the heat wave in July, the rains in August supported maturity. Now, the rains of September made the harvest of Grenache delicate. As often - as always ! - you had to be patient and wait for the right moment... As regards the vinifications, you had to show the same persistence. The Wines revealed their nature very late, in the course of the post-fermentation phases. The juice you could then taste, at this moment, let you anticipate the best - most beautiful wonders...

### TERROIR

Beaumes, Diognières, Murrets, Rouméas.

### AGEING

New barrels. Tronçais and Allier.

### VARIETAL

Syrah

### TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: 60 years and over. years old

### 13% % VOL.

Bottling: Manually.

### TASTING

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### REVIEWS AND AWARDS

90/100

"This is tight and reserved, its black raspberry flavors held taut by bright acidity, then wrapped in savory stone and black pepper tannins."

Wine & Spirit, 01/02/2010



## Decanter

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"Oakly nose, quite international in style, but mineral, earthy too, complex."

Decanter, 01/04/2009

91/100

"Inky purple. Fresh red and dark berry aromas are underscored by zesty minerals, olive and violet. Showing plenty of complexity today, with sweet raspberry and cassis flavors lifted by a late note of floral pastille. Fine tannins frame the long, juicy finish. This is already pretty easy to drink."

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 01/02/2009



90-91/100

"The dense ruby/purple-colored 2006 Hermitage smells of pen ink, creme de cassis, earth, and truffles. The wine has medium to full body, with rich, pure fruit, excellent density, and good acidity in the finish. Overall, it is a very elegant style of wine."

Robert Parker, Wine Advocate, 01/02/2008

## Wine Spectator

93/100

"Exotic and alluring, with gorgeous incense, spice bread and crushed boysenberry and raspberry aromas and flavors. Long and silky, but with impressive underlying grip. Ganache, melted licorice and tar notes extend the finish. Best from 2010 through 2020."

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, 01/01/2009

