

MAISON  
**TARDIEU - LAURENT**  
FAMILLE TARDIEU



## Maison Tardieu Laurent - Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes

AOC Vacqueyras, Vallée du Rhône, France

*A transparency of the fruit, a delicacy of the tannins, that charm absolutely. A little less concentrated than previously, this Wine gains smoothness and definition. Classy !*

### THE VINTAGE

In 2007, the challenging, pretty wet, conditions leading up to the end of Spring, resulted in disease pressure in the vineyards. Combined with the potentially higher yields of the year, this reminded the observant Vignerons of testing vintages of the past. Providentially, Summer was remarkably dry. A formidable sunshine and a sustained wind - although less fierce than in the preceding years - thus cleansed the Vineyards of any disease.

Even better : in these ideal conditions, the harvest began 120 days after flowering. It is exceptional that there is so long a period of time between flowering and harvesting - normally 100 days.

The harvest was drawn out. The conscientious Vignerons harvested "à la carte", parcel by parcel, taking into account a complex heterogeneity, linked to the various maturing pace of each cépage, and to the greater or lesser precocity of each Terroir.

An impeccable sanitary state, and fresh nights, allowed the collection of perfect grapes, ideally healthy. And, cool temperatures made it possible to start slow vinifications under optimal conditions.

A subtle balance between fruit, crispness, and finesse of the tannins. The extraction of colour in the cuves never was this easy. The aromatic profiles are complex, powerful, without a hint of over ripeness. The tannins appear to be fine, round, and mellow.

Less imposing than in 2005, but amply sufficient, these tannins let anticipate a keeping Vintage. Yet, the most striking feature of 2007 is the purity of perfect fruit - the volatile acidities are the lowest ever recorded - a promise of a radiant expression of the Vins Rouges, and even more so, of the Vins Blancs.

The involvement and the know-how of the real Vignerons. In 2007, a number of Vignerons of the Vallée du Rhône, the best ones, redoubled efforts, so that their grapes reached a Quality close to perfection. Indeed, the work of the man can be decisive... unless the Vintage is "obvious" from the start, a case which is not so frequent ! The battle of authenticity, and of excellence, is to be attained in the Vineyards. Starting with the soils.

More than ever, being a Vigneron, is being able to "listen to" Nature. This way only, the challenge of adapting the Vineyards to the climatic changes will be won...

### TERROIR

Les Grès, Les Pendants, Le Plateau de Sarrians.

### AGEING

Tronçais and Allier new oak.



## VARIETALS

Grenache 85%, Syrah 15%

## TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: Grenache, 65 years, Syrah, 35 years. years old

## 14,5% % VOL.

Bottling: Without filtration.

## TASTING

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## REVIEWS AND AWARDS

91/100

"Glass-staining purple. Smoky aromas of cherry-cola, cassis and licorice, with a floral overtone. Really showing its syrah element today, and more powerful than it was from barrel, displaying deep dark fruit flavors and suave floral and mineral qualities. Finishes with very good clarity and chewy, sappy persistence. This is already very alluring."

Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 01/01/2010

**Wine Spectator**

93/100

"Hyperripe, but racy and beautifully defined, with amazing drive thanks to the strong graphite spine that holds the fig paste, hoisin sauce, black tea and mulled currant fruit flavors. Superlong."

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, 15/11/2009

