

MAISON  
**TARDIEU - LAURENT**  
FAMILLE TARDIEU



## Maison Tardieu Laurent - Châteauneuf du Pape - Vieilles Vignes

AOC Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Vallée du Rhône, France

*A most amazing wine!*

### THE VINTAGE

The rather warm conditions of the last few vintages could have led us to believe that the same conditions would repeat themselves with the 2008 vintage, but, that was not the case! The 2008 vintage will have a style that one could call old fashion, the product of a vintage that was from cold to very cold with very slow maturing rates.

The spring rainfall did not make things easier, promoting mildew which was responsible for the loss of part of the harvest.

The rather cold summer, with no periods of excessive heat, did not promote fast maturation of the grapes as had been the case in previous years.

At the beginning of September, an unexpected rainfall came to add complexity to this vintage, with strong rains, mainly in the north and in the Rhône Valley. This wet period was fared perfectly in those areas where the sanitary state of the fruit was perfect. The grapes that were in perfect good health were found in those vineyards belonging to the best vignerons. It was these same vignerons that received the full benefit of a long favorable period with cool temperatures and plenty of sun beginning in mid-September.

The weather during harvest brought smiles to our faces, knowing that the quality potential was rather good.

### TERROIR

The top of La Crau, Le Grès d'Orange.

### AGEING

New oak casks and one year casks - Allier and Tronçais.

### WINEMAKING

100% destemmed.

### VARIETALS

Grenache 90%, Syrah 10%

### 14,5% % VOL.

Bottling: No filtration.

### TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: Grenache, 80 years, Syrah over 30 years. years old

### TASTING

Very ripe tannins and opulent mouth. Great length on the palate, perfect balance...



## REVIEWS AND AWARDS



92/100

"The only question with this wine is whether it might be too much of a good thing. It's full bodied and densely concentrated, with oaky notes of toasted almond and vanilla layered over plummy fruit, finishing warm and lush. Hedonistic to the max."

Joe Czerwinsky, *Wine Enthusiast*, 01/10/2011

92/100

"A dense, concentrated, and muscular '08 that still needs a couple of years to round into shape, the 2008 Tardieu-Laurent Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes is a blend of 90% old vine Grenache and 10% Syrah that was aged in new and 1-year-old French oak. It sports a semi-opaque, blood red color to go with smoky, complex notes of mulled cherries, hoisin sauce, toasted spice, rolled stone, and beef jerky-like aromas on the nose. This is followed by a medium+ bodied wine that shows solid concentration, ripe fruit, solid tannin, and vibrant, racy acidity that carries in to a lengthy finish. Where a lot of '08s should be consumed in their first 5'ish years of life, this should continue to improve for 2-3 years and have a solid decade or longer of prime drinking after that."

Jeb Dunnuck, *The Rhone Report*, 01/09/2011

90/100

"Opaque ruby. Sexy aromas of black raspberry, spice cake, garrigue and rose, with a touch of smoky minerals adding lift. Deeper and more serious on the palate, which offers bitter cherry and blackberry flavors that are given spine by juicy acidity. Fine-grained and silky on the persistent finish, which repeats the spice and floral notes. This has lost the firm edge that I found last year and should drink well young."

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

**Wine Spectator**

94/100

"Large-scaled but beautifully rendered, with a dense core of Black Mission fig, blackberry and black currant fruit woven together with suave espresso, chocolate, maduro tobacco and Lapsang Souchong tea notes. Accessible now, but should cruise for a while."

James Molesworth, *Wine Spectator*, 15/10/2010



16/20

"Dark brownish crimson with a pale rim. Very, very ripe – actually it smells overripe – quite a triumph for 2008?! Not fresh enough for my taste, though I can see why someone would want to show that wines like this were possible in a year like 2008. Very drying tannins on the finish. Just not enough life and vivacity for me. More like cough medicine. Very sweet, with a hot finish. It's certainly dramatic and some will love it but I wonder whether it will ever be perfectly balanced."

Jancis Robinson

