

MAISON  
**TARDIEU - LAURENT**  
FAMILLE TARDIEU



## Maison Tardieu Laurent - Cornas - Coteaux

AOC Cornas, Vallée du Rhône, France

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### 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 Saveaux, les Eygas, St Pierre, Chaillots.

### AGEING

Tronçais and Allier new barrels.



## VARIETALS

Syrah, Serine

## TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: 50 years and over. years old

## 13% % VOL.

Bottling: Without filtration.

## TASTING

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## REVIEWS AND AWARDS

93/100

"Compellingly aromatic and deeply flavorful despite the fact that it is only moderately weighty, this wine is all about character and class. Polished tannins and high-class oak contribute to the impression of very high quality, and exotic notes of cured meat work beautifully with the core of dark berry fruit."

Michael Franz, *Wine Review Online*, 31/05/2011

91/100

"Dark purple. Bright, mineral-driven aromas of dark berries, violet and olive. Juicy cassis and blueberry flavors are given spine by zesty minerality and pick up notes of floral pastilles and cracked pepper with air. The smoky finish displays lingering notes of cola and candied violet. All new barriques here but they're not getting in the way of the fruit."

Josh Raynolds, *Stephen Tanzers International Wine Cellar*, 01/02/2010

## Wine Spectator

92/100

"A bit of a brute now, with dark roasted fig and plum fruit held in check by coffee, maduro tobacco and bittersweet cocoa notes. An iron hint weaves through the background, and the finish is sappy and long."

James Molesworth, *Wine Spectator*, 28/02/2010

92/100

"Gamey, dark and rich, this is impressive in its tannic texture, super firm yet not all abrasive. It slowly develops flavor as it lasts on the tongue, first rocks then fruit, then leather and spice."

*Wine & Spirit*, 01/02/2010

