

MAISON
TARDIEU - LAURENT
FAMILLE TARDIEU



Maison Tardieu Laurent - Gigondas - Vieilles Vignes

AOC Gigondas, Vallée du Rhône, France

A dark wine, perhaps a touch austere, but still it has energy to spare.

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

Dentelles, Garrigues, Village

AGEING

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

VARIETALS

Grenache 80%, Syrah, Mourvèdre et Cinsault 20%

14,5% % VOL.

Bottling: Without filtration.

TECHNICAL DATA

Age of vines: Grenache, 60 years, Syrah, Mourvèdre, et Cinsault, 35 years years old



TASTING

A very traditional wine crafted in a traditional way.

REVIEWS AND AWARDS



92/100

"Despite incredible levels of ripeness—evidenced by notes of chocolate and dried fruit—this wine features a bit of garrigue on the nose and licorice flavors on the palate, which together impart a sense of freshness. Full bodied and richly textured, it ends in a silky dusting of cocoa powder-like tannins."

Joe Czerwinsky, *Wine Enthusiast*, 01/10/2013



91/100

"Very ripe yet very fresh, with bright cherry, plum and red currant notes melded nicely together, followed by hints of ganache, toasted spice and charcoal on the sleek finish. Really solid."

James Molesworth, *Wine Spectator*

91/100

"Dark purple. A smoky, complex bouquet evokes dark fruit preserves, floral oils, licorice and peppery spices. Lush and expansive, offering deep blackberry and bitter cherry flavors and a smooth, seamless texture. Closes with gentle tannic grip, very good persistence and lingering dark fruit notes."

Stephen Tanzers *International Wine Cellar*, 01/02/2012



91-93/100

"The most provocative wine, and to my palate, the most complex, is the 2009 Gigondas Vieilles Vignes. With notes of bay leaf, crushed rock, blueberry, raspberry, and spring flowers, the wine has terrific stuffing and full-bodied richness."

Robert Parker, *Wine Advocate*, 01/10/2010

