MAISON
TARDIEU - LAURENT
FAMILLE TARDIEU

Maison Tardieu Laurent - Châteauneuf du Pape - Cuvée Spéciale - 2023

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

Sensual and perfumed, this Cuvée once more stands apart, thanks to its re?nement, its mellow tannins, its aromatic complexity… and thanks to an energy which goes beyond the standards. De?nitely a "must keep" in your Cellars !

THE VINTAGE

It took just a few days…few days to oscillate a vintage between a « Great Vintage » and a « Complex vintage ».
However, the winter, finally « classic », rocked by a fairly rigorous cold, pushed back any risk of spring frost.
The vegetative cycle was regularly watered by abundant rains. The diseases were putting pressure on the vinegrowers !
Nonetheless, the experience of the 2018, year with high mildew, still engraved in the vinegrowers'memory, made it possible for them to carefully control this pressure.
The vinegrowers serenly entered the summer season, with good water reserves and a beautiful harvest in perspective.
Moreover, rare fact, the summer granted us a few days of mild rain.
On August 15th, the rhodanien vineyards were healthy and green. The vinegrowers were rejoicing as everything was a hallmark to a "Great Vintage".
Unfortunately, as is often the case over the last few years, Mother Nature decided otherwise. For a couple of days, the French vineyards, and most particularly the Rhône's suffered a wave of extreme heat.
Leaving little chance to the grapes of the young vines and early ripening terroirs.
Only old vines, and not even all, of low yield, on protected terroirs and late ripening, found resilience in getting their berries to optimal ripeness.
The catastrophe was avoided. However, the qualities were very heterogeneous, even amongst the most experienced cellars….
Once again, our meticulous work of selection will have found all its meaning this year!
Paradoxally, the whites are very digest and balanced. On the palate, they are bright and harmonious.
The quality of the reds however, are more varied from one grape variety to the next. Against all expectations, the Syrah played its card right, with fruits without any excess. The wine issued from Old vines Grenache are racy and precise!

TERROIR

Bas de la Crau.

TYPE OF SOIL

Sand.

AGEING

12 months in two and three vintages barrels - Allier et Tronçais. Then 12 months in foudre.

WINEMAKING

100% non destemmed.

Maison Tardieu - Laurent
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VARIETALS
Grenache 99%, Autre 1%

14,5% % VOL.
Bottling: Without fining and filtration.

TECHNICAL DATA
Age of vines: More than 100 years old

SERVING
14°C
Decant 2 hours before tasting.

TASTING
Shaped like a Bourgogne ! Clear color, intense nose on the faded rose and the peony. The mouth is chiselled, quite in restraint. Worth forgetting for a good decade !

REVIEWS AND AWARDS

bettane + desseauve
96/100
Guide Bettane et Desseauve des vins de France, 01/10/2025

JEB DUNNUCK
97/100
"The sensationally good Châteauneuf Du Pape Cuvée Spéciale defines the vintage and is up there with the crème de la crème. All Grenache that wasn't destemmed from the sandy soils of La Crau Ouest and Les Bédines lieux-dits and aged 24 months in old foudres and barrels, its ruby, semi-opaque hue is followed by quintessential Grenache aromatics of sweet red and black fruits, peppery garrigue, candied violets, and Provençal herb nuances. It's ripe, full-bodied, has a pure, layered, seamless mouthfeel, ultra-fine, soft tannins, and a great finish. It brings ample richness and depth while staying in the more forward, supple, seductive style of the vintage."
Jeb Dunnuck, 11/11/2025

Wine Spectator
94/100
"Seductive and ripe, with good range to its notes of cherry, sappy plum, Christmas spices and orange rind acidity. The energy and structure rein in the ripeness for a balanced version of the style, with herb and dried leaf details. Finely polished tannins make for a sleek, stylish, dense finish that stretches way out."
Wine Spectator, 31/01/2023

JAMESSUCKLING.COM
94/100
"A solid, generous, spicy and plush red showing sweet cherries, Campari, dried orange peel and warm spices on the nose. Full-bodied with plush tannins. Dense core of rich berry character and tons of spices on the palate, bringing vitality in the long, flavorful, peppery finish."
James Suckling, 27/01/2026

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