



DOMAINE LA GARRIGUE

Côtes-du-Rhône Cuvée Romaine

Domaine la Garrigue was founded in 1850 by the same family that runs the property today, Famille Bernard. Siblings Maxime, Pierre and Martine Bernard, of the 5th generation are at the helm of the estate with Maxime acting as chef with Martine taking care of operations while Pierre focuses on the family's restaurant nestled in the hills below the Dentelles, Les Florets. Their spouses, children, nieces and nephews all have roles at the domaine and there is plenty of work for all, as this is the largest domaine in the appellation covering 83 hectares. They farm vines of Grenache, Mourvedre, Cinsault, Syrah, Grenache Blanc and Clairette on the three primary terroirs of Vacqueyras. The average age of their vines is about 50 years old with some vines well over a century. The reticent but very talented Virginie Combe, a member of the 6th generation, is in charge of the winemaking with guidance from Philippe Cambie.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Côtes-du-Rhône

SOIL

Clay limestone, sand, gravelly clay

AGE OF VINES

40-60

ELEVATION

150

VARIETIES

Grenache, Mourvedre, Syrah

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, lightly crushed but whole cluster fermentation in tank, daily delestage

AGING

8-10 months in concrete tanks

The traditional structure of the family business carries through to the wines as well. Farming is sustainable – as much for its inherent benefits as a seeming distrust of modernity. In fact a visit to the cellars is like stepping back in time. There's nary a barrel in sight and the walls are lined with concrete tanks and stainless steel fermenters. Fermentations are conducted on the stems and macerations are long and gentle, followed by reductive aging in concrete. As a result the natural ferocity of the terroirs of Vacqueyras are captured and preserved in each bottle. These are not shy or polished Rhônes but engaging and forceful examples hearkening to the past.

The Cuvée Romaine is a blend made from the more precocious tanks at Domaine la Garrigue. As such, it is in fact a declassified Vacqueyras not needing additional time in concrete. Therefore it can be viewed as a really easy-going “Vacqueyras” or an amazingly complex and serious Côtes-du-Rhône.

ACCOLADES

92 – 2017 Côtes-du-Rhône Cuvée Romaine – Jeb Dunnuck

93 – 2016 Côtes-du-Rhône Cuvée Romaine – Jeb Dunnuck



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS