



MAISON  
**TARDIEU - LAURENT**  
FAMILLE TARDIEU

PRE-ARRIVAL MAISON TARDIEU-LAURENT OFFER  
A TALE OF OUTSTANDING WINES FROM TWO  
NAIL-BITING VINTAGES  
NOVEMBER 2023

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# INTRODUCTION

Just when you think patterns are beginning to emerge, along come 2021 and 2022, two anarchic vintages that challenged all preconceptions. Even the oldest, wisest and most experienced growers had to sit down and, if not tear up, at least radically re-edit the rule book.

Conditions were difficult in both years but the vine, being the extraordinarily resilient and pragmatic plant that it is, was able, particularly in 2022, to draw on its reserves and deliver truly beautiful grapes. Indeed, what has been produced by the best wine makers must rank amongst some of the finest the region has seen in recent years but in two very contrasting ways.

2021 saw a return to conditions last seen in 2011 and will be regarded as a year of the 'vigneron'. Late spring frosts are a huge challenge to grape growers and whilst they occur in the Rhône Valley, they are relatively rare. However, on the nights of the 7th and 8th April 2021, temperatures dropped to between -2°C to -9°C as a result of a front of polar air moving across the region. The impact was devastating in some communes with up to 100% crop loss. If this wasn't enough, a long period of cool weather throughout flowering brought about elevated levels of coulure (bunch shatter) in susceptible varieties such as Grenache. The unseasonable conditions continued through July and most of August, leading to increased demands on the growers in the vineyards. Then, at the start of September, like a miraculous intervention, the clouds parted, the sun came out and the Mistral started to blow. OK, it wasn't all Hollywood – there was a little interruption for rain on the 15th September – but overall it was a glorious

month for fruit ripening, lasting all the way until 3rd October.

Careful selection was required for certain varieties such as Cinsault, where the skins had become very delicate due to frequent rain but, in general, the quality was extremely good with beautiful levels of acidity, lovely perfume and fine tannins.

2022 was an emotional year for many growers and wine makers. By mid-August nerves were totally shredded with the region, and most of Europe, having experienced one long drought that had started in early June. The vines looked like they were on their knees, gasping for water. They had kicked into survival mode and were starting to drop their leaves, which if this had continued, would have meant no photosynthesis and thus no ripe grapes. On the 14th and 16th August though, the psychiatrists' couches emptied and thanks were being given (apart from a little localised hail in some areas) for two episodes of significant rain that unblocked the vines, swelled the berries by between 20-30% and pushed them on to achieve phenolic ripening in record time. This fast finish meant sugar levels never got too high and combined with the good diurnal temperature range of the whole season, the grape quality was excellent to outstanding.

Not every commune came out on top with vines in the warmer sites suffering too much and some growers picking too early, panicked by the state of the vines but in this vintage of paradoxes, the wines from the cooler sites and from those producers who held their nerve, are, in some cases, possibly the best wines seen since 2001 in terms of balance and potential longevity.



# GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WINES OF 2021 AND 2022

The red wines of 2021 are going to be a pleasure to drink. Alcohol and acidity levels are like those that haven't been witnessed for ten years and the thinner skins on many of the varieties mean the tannic structures are not hugely pronounced. They sing in terms of colour, aroma and freshness. Instinctively, one might think they will be for early drinking and whilst they will give immediate pleasure, their balance and acidity should give them, like great Pinot Noirs, good ageing potential.

The whites of 2022 are outstanding, with depth and yet, in spite of the early season, great freshness. They are wonderfully aromatic and the lower alcohol levels have allowed the fruit to shine through but at the same time, they have a touch more structure and concentration than the 2021 whites, which were also of a very high level.

# MAISON TARDIEU- LAURENT

Run by the Tardieu family, Tardieu-Laurent is an almost unique operation in the Rhône Valley, a model that is much more commonly found in Burgundy and one that is a growing trend in Champagne. They are quite simply a ‘micro-négociant élèveur haute couture’ which in their case roughly translates to ‘a specialist, non-vineyard owning house, making wines, from grapes sourced from the very best sites, in very limited quantities.’

Bastien Tardieu and his sister Camille are increasingly taking over from their father Michel who founded the business in the mid-1990’s but the most important elements of their success remain the same; access to top vineyard sites, old vines and their influence on the ‘mode de culture’ or the viticultural approach. The wines are fermented in their respective appellations under Bastien’s guidance and then racked into Tardieu-Laurent’s own barrels before malolactic fermentation. The following spring, the barrels are collected and then taken to the company’s cellars in Loumarin in the Lubéron for further ageing.

Bastien continues to push his family business to higher and higher levels of quality, applying a lighter and fresher touch to the wines than perhaps his father did. For the reds, he likes to use a higher percentage of stems and does less extraction, particularly with the Grenache based wines. He also likes to do more



ageing in larger casks, with an impressive battery of 20 hectolitre oval foudres from the famed Austrian cooperage, Stockinger. He has also reduced the amount of new oak.

The whites are noticeably more vibrant as he has eschewed the use of heavier toasts and has also experimented with bringing in different fermenting vessels such as amphorae and glass and porcelain *bonne bons* to help accentuate the fruit and bring more tension.

These are truly magnificent wines, top flight additions to any wine list or collection.



**“Exceptional wines...the Tardieus are famous for the quality of their élevage.”**

**Jancis Robinson**

# THE WHITES



Côtes du Rhône 'Nobles Origines'  
2022, Tardieu-Laurent

An interesting blend of declassified wines from Crozes-Hermitage, Lirac, Cairanne, Vacqueyras and Rasteau.

One quarter of the blend comes from the North and three quarters from the South.

Made up of 20% Grenache Blanc (70 year old vines), 15% Marsanne (60 year old vines), 15% Roussanne (60 year old vines), 20% Clairette (30 year old vines) and 30% Viognier (40 year old vines).

Fermented in barrel with 5% new oak, the remainder in 1 year old and 2 year old barrels with further ageing for 6 months.

13.5% alc.  
16+ Jancis Robinson  
Offer: €113 per 6x75cl



Saint Péray 'Vieilles Vignes' 2022,  
Tardieu-Laurent

A blend of 50% Marsanne from 100 year old vines and 50% Roussanne from 40 year old vines grown in the curiously named vineyard 'Hongrie' on limestone/clay soils.

Fermented and aged for 12 months in new 228 litre barrels from the forests of Tronçais, Allier and Jupille .

13.5% alc.  
Offer: €165 per 6x75cl



Saint Joseph 'Vieilles Vignes' 2022,  
Tardieu-Laurent

Made from 85% Marsanne and 15% Roussanne with 1/3rd of the wine coming from the southern part of the appellation around Mauves and 2/3rds from Chavanay and St. Pierre de Boeuf in the northern part.

The vines are between 30-40 years old.

Fermented and aged for 12 months in new, 1 and 2 year old barrels.

13.5% alc.  
Offer: €177 per 6x75cl



Hermitage 2021,  
Tardieu-Laurent

A blend of 80% Marsanne and 20% Roussanne from 40-50 year old vines across the four separate lieux-dits of Beaume, Pierrelles, Murets and La Croix.

The wine was fermented and aged in new and 1 year old 228 litre barrels for 12 months, followed by a further 12 months in large, oval oak casks from Stockinger.

13.5% alc.  
17+ Jancis Robinson  
Offer: €301 per 6x75cl

# THE REDS



Côtes du Rhône 'Cuvée Spéciale'  
2021, Tardieu-Laurent

This wine comes almost exclusively from 70 year Grenache vineyards in Courthézon just on the north eastern corner of the Châteauneuf du Pape appellation.

Made from 99% Grenache and 1% other varieties, the grapes are fermented in cement tanks with 100% whole bunches and then aged initially for 8 months in 2nd and 3rd fill barrels, followed by 8 months in large, oval oak casks.

14.5% alc.  
16.5 Jancis Robinson  
Offer: €109 per 6x75cl



Gigondas 'Vieilles Vignes' 2021,  
Tardieu-Laurent

The grapes for this cuvée come from four separate parcels, Les Teysonnières, Pied-Gü, Les Garrigues and Les Dentelles.

Made from 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah the vines are more than 40 years old on average.

The wine is fermented in cement tanks with 25% whole bunch. It is then aged for 10 months in 1 and 2 year old barrels followed by 12 months in large, oval oak casks.

14.5% alc.  
Offer: €173 per 6x75cl



Rasteau 'Vieilles Vignes' 2021,  
Tardieu-Laurent

A more classic blend here of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%) from old vines grown behind the village of Rasteau at 300 metres altitude on clay/limestone slopes.

The Grenache vines are 80 years old and the Syrah and Mourvèdre both 40 years old. 1/3rd of the grapes are fermented whole bunch and the wine is then aged for 10 months in 1 year old 228 litre barrels followed by 8 months in large, oval oak casks.

14.5% alc.  
16.5 Jancis Robinson  
Offer: €121 per 6x75cl



Bandol 2021,  
Tardieu-Laurent

Made from 50 year old vines of Mourvèdre (95%) and Grenache (5%) grown on clay/limestone soils in Le Castellet part of the appellation.

The wine is fermented in tank and then aged for 24 months in 1 and 2 year old 228 litre barrels from Allier and Tronçais.

14% alc.  
Offer: €149 per 6x75cl

# THE REDS



Châteauneuf du Pape 'Vieilles Vignes' 2021, Tardieu-Laurent

A blend of 80% Grenache (80-100 years old), 15% Mourvèdre (60-80 years old) and 5% Syrah (50 years old) grown on 5 separate, cooler vineyard plots between the villages of Châteauneuf du Pape, Courthézon, Bédarrides and the town of Orange.

50% of the grapes are fermented whole bunch.

Ageing takes place for 12 months in 1 year old 22 litre barrels followed by 12 months in large, oval casks.

14.5% alc.  
17+ Jancis Robinson  
Offer: €245 per 6x75cl



Crozes-Hermitage 'Vieilles Vignes' 2021, Tardieu-Laurent

This is very distinctive expression of Crozes-Hermitage, coming from the northern part of the appellation and more specifically from Gervans and Méjeans. The lay of the land here very different to its southern counterpart with hilly, steep slopes and granite soils giving wines of great elegance and precision.

The Syrah vines are over 60 years old and 1/3rd of the wine is made using whole bunches. It is then aged for 12 months in new and 1 year old barrels for 12 months followed by 6 months in large, oval casks.

13.5% alc.  
Offer: €149 per 6x75cl



Saint Joseph 'Vieilles Vignes' 2021, Tardieu-Laurent

As for the white St. Joseph, the red is made up of wines from both the northern and southern parts of the appellation – Mauves and St. Jean de Muzols in the south and Chavanay in the north. It should be noted that part of the wine is made from 60 year old Syrah vines and the other part from 100 year old Serine (a smaller berried, and some say superior version of Syrah).

Half of the grapes were fermented whole bunch and the wine was first aged for 12 months in 228 litre barrels (25% new and the remainder 1st fill) followed by 8 months in large, oval oak casks.

13.5% alc.  
16.5 Jancis Robinson  
Offer: €173 per 6x75cl



Hermitage 2021, Tardieu-Laurent

Made from grapes sourced from the lieux-dits of Le Méal, Diognières, Les Pierrelles and La Croix. The vines average over 60 years old and are planted on a mixture of granite and clay soils.

During the fermentation 1/3rd of the grapes are added whole bunch. The first 12 months of ageing takes place in 228 litre barrels of which 40% are new and 60% 1 year old. This is followed by 12 months in large, oval oak casks.

14% alc.  
16.5+ Jancis Robinson  
Offer: €354 per 6x75cl



TERMS & CONDITIONS  
ALL WINES ON THIS  
OFFER ARE SUBJECT TO  
FINAL CONFIRMATION OF  
AVAILABILITY.

WINES ARE ALL OFFERED IN 6 BOTTLE CASES.  
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