



DOMAINE LA GARRIGUE

Côtes-du-Rhône Cuvée Romaine

Domaine la Garrigue, established in 1850 by the Bernard family, continues to be managed by Famille Bernard, specifically by brothers Maxime Bernard-Cosme of the fifth generation and Pierre Bernard. While Maxime oversees the estate, Pierre focuses on *Les Florets*, the family's inn and restaurant situated beneath the *Dentelles de Montmirail*. Visits from the US are treated as special occasions, featuring lively tastings marked by differing opinions, arguments, and ample gossip. Fortunately, Maxime's daughter, Virginie Combe, has been the winemaker for over a decade, crafting refined wines that embody the estate's polished rusticity. Domaine de la Garrigue remains a traditional Southern Rhône estate where Grenache constitutes half of the planted hectares. With an average vine age of 50 years and a commitment to sustainable farming practices, the estate's cellars reflect a timeless approach with concrete tanks and stainless steel fermenters, showcasing the natural terroirs of Vacqueyras in each bottle.

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

Throughout the years of collaboration with Domaine la Garrigue, there has been a gradual evolution in the wines without compromising their original charm or altering their style significantly. Representing the essence of the South of France, these wines encapsulate the character of Vacqueyras, an appellation overshadowed by Gigondas and Châteauneuf. Attaining cru status in 1990, Vacqueyras boasts three distinct terroirs: the red-clay-under-galets plateau of la Garrigue (the estate's location), the sandy soils around the village of Vacqueyras, and the rocky limestone slopes at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail. Each terroir contributes specific attributes to the final blends at la Garrigue, with power from the plateau, finesse from the sand, and structure from the limestone slopes.

The Cuvée Romaine is a blend made from the more precocious tanks at Domaine la Garrigue sourced from in and around Vacqueyras but in the charmingly polished rusticity that has defined this address. Not needing the extended aging in concrete to tame it like its sibling cuvée from Vacqueyras, Cuvée Romaine is far more complex and age-worthy than your average Côtes-du-Rhône due to the age of the vines and its long, whole-cluster maceration.

ACCOLADES

92 – 2020 Cuvée Romaine – Jeb Dunnuck

92 – 2017 Cuvée Romaine – Jeb Dunnuck

93 – 2016 Cuvée Romaine – Jeb Dunnuck



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS