



DOMAINE LA GARRIGUE

Vacqueyras Albert & Camille

Domaine la Garrigue was founded in 1850 by the same family that runs the property today, Famille Bernard. Brothers Maxime and Pierre Bernard, of the 5th generation, are at the helm of the estate, with Maxime acting as general manager while Pierre focuses on the family's restaurant nestled in the hills below the Dentelles, Les Florets. Their wives, 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. Their vines' average age is about 50 years old, with some vines well over a century. The reticent but talented Virginie Combe, a member of the 6th generation, is in charge of the winemaking with Philippe Cambie's guidance.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Vacqueyras

SOIL

Clay limestone, sand, gravelly clay

AGE OF VINES

70

ELEVATION

150

VARIETIES

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Cinsault

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

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

AGING

18 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 is captured and preserved in each bottle. These are not shy or polished Rhônes but engaging and forceful examples hearkening to the past. Tasting through a series of tank samples of mono-varietal wines, you can notice subtle differences in each, but the overall impression is a common sense of place and the epitome of Vacqueyras.

A worthy comparison between the Vacqueyras and Cuvée Romaine can be made at Domaine la Garrigue. Whereas the Romaine trades on a fruitier, more easy-going structure, the Vacqueyras is altogether different. Seeing an additional 6 months in tank, it possesses a notable meaty quality with firmer tannins and a seriously dense core of black fruit and iron. Should you find yourself with a fairly large piece of beef or lamb on your hands, you'd be hard-pressed for a more suitable assistant at the table than this Vacqueyras.

ACCOLADES

90-92 - 2020 Vacqueyras - Jeb Dunnuck

92 - 2019 Vacqueyras - Jeb Dunnuck

91 - 2016 Vacqueyras - Vinous Media

92 - 2015 Vacqueyras - Jeb Dunnuck



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS