



CHÂTEAU DU MOURRE DU TENDRE

Côtes-du-Rhône Villages Vieilles Vignes Cuvée Tradition

Driving north from Courthézon on the Route de la Plaine, you'll ascend a gentle slope flanked by an ivy-covered brick wall and a hedge, creating a tunnel-like sensation. Upon reaching the hill's summit, known locally as Mourre du Tendre or the hill of love, you'll be greeted by Le Château du Mourre du Tendre.

For generations, the Paumel family has cultivated grapes in the Rhône Valley. Jacques Paumel assumed control of the estate in 1962, transitioning to estate bottling with his wife Josephine in 1988. Now semi-retired, they've entrusted the estate's management to their daughter Florence and her son Paul Verité. Having sampled their remarkable wines—Côtes-du-Rhône, Côtes-du-Rhône Villages, Côtes-du-Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu, and Châteauneuf-du-Pape—you'll eagerly purchase whatever they're willing to part with.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Côtes-du-Rhône Villages

SOIL

Clay limestone, gravel

AGE OF VINES

60–75

ELEVATION

90 meters

VARIETIES

Grenache, Mourvedre

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Whole cluster, semi-carbonic maceration and fermentation with indigenous yeasts, 30 day maceration

AGING

30 months in tank then six months in bottle before release

The estate spans 25 hectares, including 3 hectares in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, characterized by sandy terroirs. Notably, Grenache vines planted in 1929 or 1942 and Mourvèdre vines added in 1967 contribute to their unique wines. Minimalist and traditional farming methods prevail, with manual labor, pesticide-free practices, and meticulous harvesting and sorting. The resulting wines, aged for about three years in concrete tanks and foudre, are powerful, traditional, and reminiscent of Barolo and Barbaresco, aging gracefully, even the Côtes-du-Rhône. Unfortunately, limited quantities are available, leaving us in suspense about the family ledger's generosity.

The oldest vines at Château du Mourre du Tendre is a Grenache vineyard planted in 1925 on gravelly clay soils in the Côtes-du-Rhône appellation. These vines were supplemented in 1969 with the addition of Mourvedre bringing the total size of site to 7 hectares. This is the source of the estate's Côtes-du-Rhône Villages Vieilles Vignes cuvée. It is darker, earthier and more somber than the regular Côtes-du-Rhône, no doubt due to the Mourvedre, but it retains the intensity and charming rusticity that is the hallmark of this estate.

ACCOLADES

90 – 2015 Côtes-du-Rhône Villages – Jeb Dunnuck

91 – 2013 Côtes-du-Rhône Villages – Wine Advocate

