



CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU

Châteauneuf-du-Pape L'Avenue

Located about a five minute drive outside the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape along the road which leads to Courthézon you will find Château de Vaudieu. It is one of three 18th century Châteaux located in the appellation, tucked into a small valley surrounded by hills and plateau. It is at the intersection of several major terroirs: sandy soils to the north, along a border it shares with Château Rayas, pale limestone and clays centered around a forested hillock, and two large plateaux of galets over red clay soils. In total there are 70 hectares within one contiguous estate – something very rare in the appellation.

When you taste these wines you will taste the terroir, especially Val de Dieu which comes from sandy soils and Amiral G which is from a small spot at the highpoint on one of the plateaux layered deep with galets over red clay. All this innovation is due to the vision of Laurent Brechet.

Laurent, and his brother Julien, are the grandsons of Gabriel Meffre. Through their mother, Sylvette, they inherited several properties when Gabriel died in 1987 including Château de Vaudieu, and Domaine des Bosquets in Gigondas. The estate had a great reputation during the 19th century exporting its wines all over Europe but it had fallen into disrepair by the time that Gabriel purchased it in 1955. At that time there were only about 25 hectares of vines which Gabriel expanded to nearly the current size of 70 hectares. In the replanting he included a very high proportion of white varieties equaling about 1/7 of the total plantings including a vineyard of Grenache Blanc on the highest part of the property.

In pursuit of more terroir-based cuvées from his 70 hectares of vines, Laurent Brechet created L'Avenue, a Châteauneuf-du-Pape made from 100% Grenache grown primarily on a sandy terroir of decomposed red sandstone. This terroir makes for an expressive and vibrant style of Grenache and one when tasted along side Amiral G, is a masterclass in seeing how terroir in Châteauneuf-du-Pape really matters.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

SOIL

Sand, red sandstone, clay limestone

AGE OF VINES

40-70

ELEVATION

100-110 meters

VARIETIES

Grenache

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, fermented in tulip-shaped concrete vats, 30 day maceration with delestage and remontage

AGING

18 months in neutral 600L French oak demi-muids

ACCOLADES

97+ – 2016 Châteauneuf L'Avenue – Jeb Dunnuck

96 – 2016 Châteauneuf L'Avenue – Wine Advocate

96 – 2016 Châteauneuf L'Avenue – Wine Spectator



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS