



# CHÂTEAU DE VAUDIEU

## Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc Les Vieilles Roussanne

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.

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.

Laurent's oldest parcel of Roussanne is located on a distinctly unique soil – a grey limestone clay with inclusions of flint. This tiny, low yielding plot used to go in its entirety into the Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, but Laurent suspected that it could be a unique expression of this odd terroir. So in 2015 he began segregating a small amount of fruit from this parcel to be elaborated as a limited cuvée of 600 bottles. After pressing Laurent selects a portion of the juice to ferment in a couple of new 228L French oak barrels. The wine ages in the same barrels for 9 months before bottling.

### ORIGIN

*France*

### APPELLATION

*Châteauneuf-du-Pape*

### SOIL

*Clay limestone, flint*

### AGE OF VINES

*50*

### ELEVATION

*90 meters*

### VARIETIES

*Roussanne*

### FARMING

*Sustainable*

### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, gentle pressing, selection of the musts, fermented in new 228L French oak barrels*

### AGING

*9 months in new 228L French oak barrels*

### ACCOLADES

94 – 2017 Châteauneuf Les Vieilles Roussanne – Jeb Dunnuck

95 – 2016 Châteauneuf Les Vieilles Roussanne – Jeb Dunnuck

97 – 2015 Châteauneuf Les Vieilles Roussanne – Wine Advocate



ERIC SOLOMON  
SELECTIONS