

# DOMAINE LA BOUÏSSIERE

Rhône

## Gigondas

The Southern Rhône is still a happy hunting ground for consumers seeking rich, complex, ageworthy reds at reasonable prices. Even good bottles bearing the region's most famous name, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, can often still be had for a twenty-dollar bill. This is mainly a function of the large scale of production in the region. But there are a few genuinely tiny new estates and there are also a few less-well-known appellations at times deserving of a price approaching that of Chateauneuf. One such domain and one such appellation are Bouïssiere and its Gigondas.

Gilles Faravel is in his thirties. He pursues his viticultural and winemaking activities with passion and open-mindedness. When he and his father Antonin almost literally carved out this estate in the rockiest, highest terraces beneath the cliffs of the famous Dentelles de Montmirail, they were either fools or visionaries. Hardly anyone in these parts starts from scratch and hardly anyone relies entirely on terraced vineyards.

Low yields, twelve-month's élevage in tank and fudre, and unfiltered bottling are the routine here. The wines exhibit clarity of flavors, elegance and sheer brightness (not to mention richness!) that one usually seeks in vain in this part of the world. Faravel says you can count on two or three points additional acidity at full ripeness just for having vines on cliffside terraces. High elevation also catches the Mistral, and Faravel's grapes are often subject to additional concentration through subtle dehydration on the vine.

Nature has rewarded Faravel with some superb recent vintages. The press has taken serious note, and now he is no longer an obscure visionary. He'll continue to innovate; his vines



are maturing; there is new child –  
Vacqueyras: the future looks bright!

## Gigondas Vacqueyras Vin de Pays

Total acreage: *ca. 20 acres*  
Average production: *2,500 cases*  
Varieties: *over 80% Grenache, around 15% Syrah, less than 5% Mourvedre.*  
*A little Merlot is planted outside the appellations*  
*The miniscule first harvest For Vaxqueyras was 2001.*  
*The Vin de Pays, "Les Amis de la Bouïssiere", marries Grenache Syrah and Merlot.*  
Vinificatory Highlights: *Maturation of a year or more in tank or wooden ovals. Unfiltered bottling.*