

PIERRE GONON

Mauves (Saint-Joseph)

Mauves calls itself “the cradle of Saint-Joseph”, the origination of this appellation. Certainly the best wines of this town, including those which issue from its most famous resident, Gérard Chave, have tremendous perfume, a unique cherry, nut and cocoa character and a certain soothing, coating suppleness even in youth. They blossom in a very different way from the wines of Chavanay at the far north of the appellation with their meatiness, black fruits and brown spice.

Vintner Select has found dynamic representatives for Mauves on our own map of France: brothers Pierre and Jean Gonon. Tasting the individual lots of wine at Gonon, each separated by parcel, is in itself a fascinating exhibition of (micro-) terroirs. In addition, Jean Gonon is constantly experimenting, with youthful eagerness and idealism, to find the most successful variations in vinification for his fruit and terroir. In the final analysis, he compiles one single red wine assemblage, of which he offers a Spring and Fall bottling.

Although delicious in its youth, indeed the most charming, gentle and ingratiating Syrah one could imagine, Gonon’s Saint-Joseph will gain nuance with several years in bottle.

There is also a fascinating white, bringing together Marsanne and Rousanne: floral and creamy when young, and blossoming into truly fascinating, satisfying complexity only if allowed to undergo a slight sherrification over six or eight years in bottle. I am still trying to persuade Gonon to part with more than two or three cases!



Saint-Joseph Saint-Joseph “Les Oliviers”

Variety: *Syrah, Marsanne, Rousanne*

Total acreage: *15 acres*

Average production: *1,900 cs.*

Vinificatory details: *Partial destemming. Vinified in largely in old oak, with lees stirring. Fined but not filtered.*

“We liked a great deal [from barrel] Pierre Gonon Saint-Joseph rouge. An expansive nose, floral with notes of violets and a developed fruitiness. On the palate very fruity presence, supple, substantial and ripe. A seductive and immediately expressive wine.”

la revue du vin DE FRANCE
JUN. 2001

“... aromas of game, tar and exotic spices ... the palate generous, concentrated and tannic [with] meaty material.”

la revue du vin DE FRANCE
OCT. 1998