

MAS DE GOURGONNIER

Provence

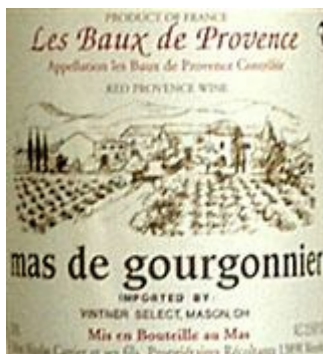
Les Baux de Provence

Mas de Gourgonnier, the property of the Cartier family, is located in that unique, rocky, high-altitude micro-climate of Provence which won the right to its own appellation in the last ten years. (adopting the name of the ancient nearby town in which Bauxite was first mined).

Our red cuvée from Mas de Gourgonnier represents an assemblage of some of their best lots of Grenache, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and a little old-vines Carignane, depending on the vintage. There is always a significant measure of flavor imparted by the *garrigues*, the wild scrub and herb melange that covers the Provençal countryside.

Methods at Gourgonnier are scrupulously organic and yields controlled to a level where the terroir and the varieties both achieve full expression. In fact, their organic approach (as well as their fabulous olive oil) helped put them on the map even before their wine gained gustatory notoriety.

The assemblage of Mas de Gourgonnier done for us from the 1998 vintage was the deepest, most intense yet, but leaned in the direction of total Cabernet Sauvignon, supplemented by fruit from the property's old vines Carignan, and only a little Syrah and Grenache. For all of its reliance Cabernet, the sweet and spicy smells of Provençal herbs and earth still came through as clearly as ever. In 2005, the blend was 1/3 each of Carignan and Cabernet, with the rest Grenache and Syrah (37% Carignan, 36% Cabernet, 18% Grenache, 9% Syrah). So yes, Virginia, there is terroir here, even though the assemblage is highly flexible!



“This estate consistently produces extraordinary values. **Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate**
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“Vintner Select ... has used [its] European contacts to quickly develop a good stable of low to mid-priced wines from throughout France.

John Long, Cleveland Plain Dealer
“Finding Quality at Small Cost” 1/14/98

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Varieties: *Grenache, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Mourvedre, Carignan, Cinsault*

Total acreage: *85 acres*

Average production: *17,000 cs., but typically only 4-6,000 of the single cuvée in which we participate.*

Vinification: *mixture of tank and barrel; occasionally filtered or fined if the effect proves salutary.*

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[*cuvée speciale*]

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