



A votre santé!

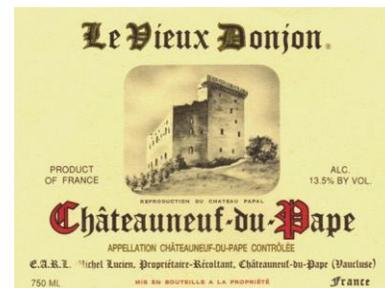
Le Vieux Donjon



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Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge

Owner/Winemaker: Lucien & Marie-José Michel



Blend: 75% Grenache 15% Syrah 10% Mourvèdre & Cinsault

Wine is produced from grapes grown on 32 acres in several different parcels including *Mont-Redon*(Grenache), *Les Cabrières*(Grenache) & *'Les Pialons'*(Syrah). The average age of the Grenache vines is between 85 to 95 years old.

In the vines

Organic farming w/o the fancy certificates. Aka, 'Reasonable Farming.' Green harvest and pruning as needed. Usually one of the last to start harvesting his red grapes.

Manual harvest using buckets and small clippers. Sorting is performed in the field in medium-sized plastic bins located on the tractor. The team of harvesters is made of approx. 20 people each year. Lucien is aided in the cellar and the vines by three full-time employees.

In the cellar

Once the fruit has arrived at the cellar (an unmarked building on the Route de Courthézon), Lucien and his daughter Claire will destem (if necessary) or pass the fruit directly onto an elevated rolling carpet that carries the grapes to the top of one of six, 50 hectoliter, tanks where the grapes and wine will remain for about three weeks. Only one or two tanks will contain a single varietal...Grenache. The rest are a combination of two or more that will ferment and macerate together. *Pumpovers* and *Releases* occur a handful of times, this varies each year, over the course of vinification. After vinification the wine is pumped downstairs into foudres ranging from two years to 'very' old. The wine is left to age anywhere between 18-20 months.

'Lulu' and Claire Michel

Lucien Michel is an avid bow and rifle hunter. From the first day of the season to the last he spends any free-time hunting wild boars and deer at the foot of nearby Mont Ventoux. Don't be surprised when you see various copies of *Cabela's* catalogs lying around the cellar!

Lulu's daughter, Claire, joined her father in 2008. Claire (28 yrs old) was allowed to run the harvest with her parents helping out when necessary. Claire spent six months in 2005 as an intern at *Harlan Estate* in California.



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