

# LA GRAND COMTADINE

## AOC VACQUEYRAS



### ORIGIN

Southern Rhône, France

### APPELLATION

AOC Vacqueyras

### VINEYARD

35 hl/ha of 50-year old Grenache vines;  
25-year old Syrah vines  
Chalky-clay soils

### BLEND

70% Grenache  
30% Syrah

### WINEMAKING

Hand-harvested grapes, de-stemmed, sorted in the vineyard and again at the winery. Long-vatting for 25-days to maximize extraction in temperature-controlled tanks.

### AGING

Aging is done in subterranean cement tanks for several months before bottling.

Located in the district of Vacqueyras in southeastern France, the winery of La Grand Comtadine was built in 1929 and had two adjacent hectares of vineyards. The origin of the vineyards on and surrounding the property predate the devastating 1860's blight of Phylloxera. The upkeep of the vineyards was further affected by economic hardship, the First World War and its aftermath.

Denis Cheron, originally from Burgundy's Côtes du Nuits, fell in love with the region and potential of Vacqueyras and bought La Grand Comtadine in the 1960's. Using his knowledge of Burgundian winemaking practices, Denis improved the conditions of the vineyards. His efforts were rewarded with healthy, quality grapes that had developed finesse and showed the terroir in the glass.

Yves, Denis's son was also born in Burgundy. His formative experience with a single-varietal as delicate as Pinot Noir is manifested in the refined elegance he creates in an appellation often perceived as rustic. Yves took the vineyard care to the next level and introduced vineyard selection, lower yields, hand-harvesting and sorting. Varietals are vinified separately and in smaller quantities. He also invested in state-of-the-art equipment. Today, Yves's wines are rich, concentrated expressions of fruit and the terroir of the Vacqueyras.

Vacqueyras is an appellation in the Southern Rhône Valley, producing magnificent red wines in the style of its closest neighbors Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Gigondas. Acquiring the status of "Appellation" as recently as 1990, Vacqueyras is still one of the best-kept secrets of the Rhône. **As Robert Parker states: "One AOC that is exceptional is Vacqueyras. This is an up and coming star in the Southern Rhône."**

### ACCOLADES

2017 **This vintage has not yet been rated**

2016 Wine Advocate - 92 Points

2015 Wine Advocate - 91 Points

2015 International Wine Report - 92 Points

