



# Southern Rhône

BRUNOLAFON  
wine selection

## Southern Rhône, Xavier Vignon, Arcane XIX Le Soleil, AOC Côtes du Rhône Villages, Rouge

AOC Côtes du Rhône Villages, Vallée du Rhône, France



Xavier Vignon is one of the top consultant winemakers in the south of France. He used to be a master Champagne blender (so he knows a thing or two about constructing wines) but now lives in the Rhône Valley from where he visits around 300 estates to advise them on viticulture and vinification. At the end of each year, as he hands over his bill, he offers some of his employers to exchange it for barrels to make his own blends - well, that's more or less how it works!

### PRESENTATION

The blend is made up mainly of old Grenache with very limited yields (the equivalent of one bottle per vine stock), Mourvèdre over eighty years old and Syrah fifty years old. The vines face east, on the cool terroirs of northern Vaucluse.

### TERROIR

9 plots selected from various villages on cool terroirs (altitude and exposure) to combine density and freshness.

### IN THE VINEYARD

Blend of century Grenache grapes, Mourvèdre grapes that are over eighty years old and fifty-year-old Syrah grapes with very limited yields.

### WINEMAKING

Manual harvest. Long maceration without mechanical extraction.

### AGEING

Aged for 15 months. 1/3 in concret vats, 1/3 in tuns and 1/3 in new Austrian barrels.

### VARIETALS

Grenache noir 80%, Mourvèdre 10%, Syrah 10%, 14,5 ABV

### SERVING

15°C/59°F

### AGEING POTENTIAL

10 to 15 years

### TASTING

Perfume of blueberries, crushed violet and red berries. Silky tannins, black cherry, hints of dark chocolate and garrigue.

### FOOD PAIRINGS

Duck à l'orange - Lamb tagine with apricots - Chargrilled rib of beef - Mature cheeses.



### Bruno Lafon Selection

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ABUSE OF ALCOHOL IS DANGEROUS FOR YOUR HEALTH. DRINK RESPONSIBLY.



## REVIEWS AND AWARDS



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"The 2015 Côtes-du-Rhône Villages Arcane XIX Le Soleil is youthfully dark in color and fruit-forward, but it also shows softening, silky tannins. It's full bodied but not overblown, with a sensationally seductive mouthfeel. Black cherries define the fruit, joined by hints of dark chocolate and enough garrigue to give it a seriously savory character despite the fruit. This is an old-vine blend of 80% Grenache with 10% each Syrah and Mourvèdre, aged 15 months in one-third new oak, the rest in concrete or foudre. Maybe the best Côtes-du-Rhône Villages I've ever tasted, it looks to have the stuffing to go another 10 years."

**Joe Czerwinski, Robert Parker**

**JEB DUNNUCK**

93+

"Coming from 100-year-old Grenache vines (there's 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre in the blend) mostly in the northern part of the Southern Rhône, (...) le Soleil saw 15 months in one-third each of new barrels, concrete tanks, and stainless-steel tanks. This inky colored beauty offers a terrific perfume of blueberries, scorched earth, graphite, and crushed violets. Deep, full-bodied, incredibly pure, and elegant, with silky tannin, it's a sensational Côtes-du-Rhône that's better than most Châteauneuf-du-Pape in the vintage."

**Jeb Dunnuck, Jeb Dunnuck, 15/02/2018**

