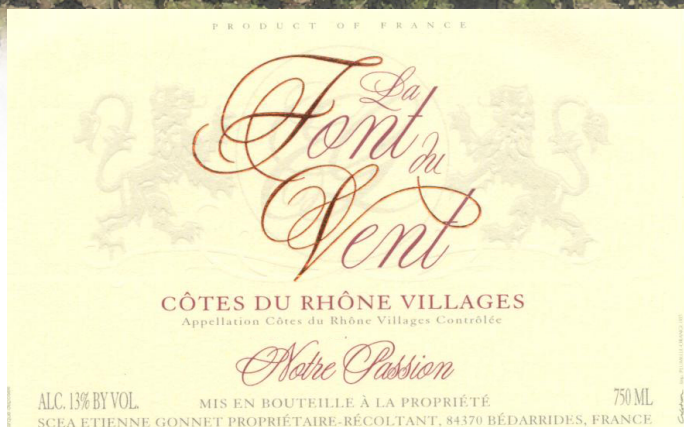


Côtes du Rhône Villages

"Notre Passion"



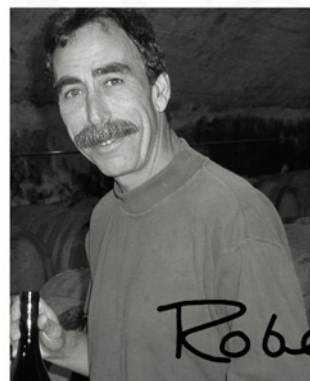
Domaine: La Font du Vent
Producer: Michel & Jean Gonnet
<http://www.font-de-michelle.com/>
Cuvée: "Notre Passion"
Vintage: 2004
Variety: 50% Grenache 50% Syrah
Country: France
Region: Rhône Valley

Background

The Font du Vent estate is owned by the Gonnet family, owners of Domaine Font de Michelle in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The property holdings of the family were first enlarged over 60 years ago when vigneron Etienne Gonnet married Mademoiselle Brunier of the neighboring property, Vieux Télégraphe. Today the domaine is run by brothers Michel and Jean (grandsons of Etienne) along with their two sons Bertrand and Guillaume. They continue to add vineyards to the family's holdings and have just purchased La Font du Vent in the village of Domazan.

Located on the western side of the Rhône River just below the appellation of Tavel, the vineyards of Domazan are classified as Côtes du Rhône Villages. Michel and Jean are really working these new vineyards, leaf-pulling, and crop-thinning to keep yields well below appellation's limits. The hand-harvested fruit is handled with the same meticulous care as in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and is vinified in their gravity-fed winery in Bédarrides. An equal blend of Grenache and Syrah, Notre Passion is harvested at 35 hl/ha (the same required for Châteauneuf-du-Pape). A powerful and intense wine offering up thick, lush fruit and Provençal spice notes, Notre Passion is more like baby Châteauneuf-du-Pape than Côtes du Rhône Villages.

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