

Château La Verrerie,
Luberon Rouge 2016
Luberon, Southern Rhône, France



PRODUCER

Château La Verrerie is located in the Luberon appellation. Jean-Louis Descours fell in love with Château La Verrerie in 1981. He purchased the 20 hectare estate and, along with his son Gérard, brought it back to life. Their first vintage was released in 1985. Today, the grandson of Jean-Louis and owner of Charles Heidsieck, Piper-Heidsieck and Biondi-Santi, runs the estate with Valentine Tardieu-Vitali as the winemaker, who joined the team in 2017. The estate now has 56 hectares planted, which have been certified organic since the 2013 vintage.

VINEYARDS

The estate has 56 hectares of vineyard and of the red varieties planted, half of the plantings are Grenache, 40% Syrah and 10% Cinsault and Carignan. Soils are predominantly clay and limestone. The winery has been certified organic since the 2013 vintage.

VINTAGE

France's Provence region is known for its sunny, dry summers, a trend that continued in 2016. Frost in April affected the yields slightly, but in general the region had few problems aside from drought. The drought was particularly severe, starting with winter having 40% less rainfall than normal with this trend carrying on through most of the growing season. The dry and warm seasons resulted in smaller berries than usual, and less juice. The end of August and beginning of September were hotter than normal and harvest began on 8th September.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless-steel tanks. Each varietal was kept separate and aged for 12 months in old large oak casks, of either 25 or 50 hectolitres. The batches were then blended and aged for another 10 months.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas of raspberry, wild blueberry and elderberry give way to blood orange with hints of cocoa and pepper. This wine is smooth and dense with fresh acidity and grippy tannins bringing texture in the mid-palate. Flavours of tangy red fruit are followed by a discreet touch of oak on the finish.

Grape Varieties	74% Syrah 22% Grenache 4% Carignan
Winemaker	Valentine Tardieu Vitali
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	14%
Residual Sugar	1.4g/L
Acidity	5.31g/L
Wine pH	3.5
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Certified Organic, Vegetarian, Vegan