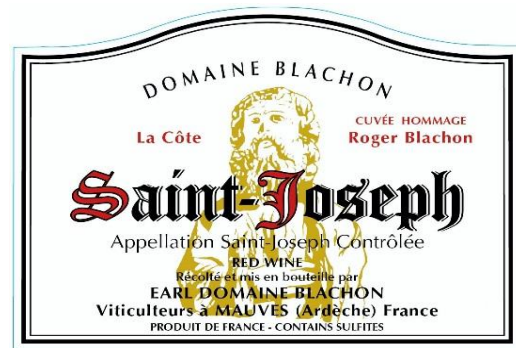




THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUALITY



## Domaine Blachon • Saint-Joseph, Mauves

There is an intimate circle of winemakers in Mauves, Tournon, and Saint-Jean-de-Muzols who have been bottling Syrah since before WWI and Domaine Blachon is among them, producing Syrah that is wildly aromatic, energetic, polished and rugged all at the same time. Blachon is fifth generation Mauves-ian, but the domaine began in earnest when Roger Blachon inherited the responsibility of his parents' vines in the early 1970s. His parents were growers and bottled wine for local consumption. As interest in Rhône wines resurfaced in the 1970s, wine grapes became a competitive valuable asset in Mauves (an agricultural mecca for cherries and apricots). Roger knew that his 6 hectares of vines grew alongside the best, including the hill of Saint-Joseph, the site that anointed the entire region.

Roger bottled his first Syrah for the commercial market in 1983. The wines had a brief flirtation in the US market in the 1980s, but with low-yielding vines and small-batch quantities, Roger decided to focus on the regional market. Roger passed suddenly in 2006, thrusting his children, Delphine and Sylvain, teenagers at the time, into the spotlight. The next several years were a period of patient transition, as the two aspiring vigneron gained skill and confidence in the cellar, while mastering the personalities of their esteemed vineyards. Now 15 years later, they know their cellar and their vineyards like the back of their hands, following very much in their father's footsteps. What began as a curiosity about *terroir* with their father, is now a passion with the siblings. Indeed, the Syrah and the Marsanne that they now offer as their truest expression of Saint-Joseph are their single-vineyard bottlings. Ask any Saint-Joseph vigneron what vineyards they most covet and the answer will always be "Les Oliviers" for Marsanne and "Les Côtes Saint-Joseph." for Syrah. Well, you guessed it, these are the "core" vineyards of the Blachon domaine. Beyond their stellar vineyards, Delphine and Sylvain keep things simple letting the wine make itself without manipulation or distortion. Of course, they must steward the wine, but nothing happens here that their father and grandfather would not recognize or approve of.

### Saint-Joseph Rouge "Hommage a Roger Blachon" 2020

"Hommage à Roger Blachon" comes from the family's oldest vines of Syrah within their monopole, "Les Côtes Saint-Joseph." It's an impressive steep south/southeast facing exposure with decomposed granite soils and marl. Blachon's Hommage Saint-Joseph is a big wine, vigorous and robust, proving how Mauves can be just as inspiring as its next-door neighbor, Cornas. Looking at the picture below you just know this wine comes from vines cultivated completely by hand. The Syrah is 80% destemmed, each block is vinified separately in cement. Delphine and Sylvain prefer a long cool fermentation with routine pump-overs to extract a deeper shade of color. The wine is then racked into a combination of 3, 4, and 5 year-old 400l and 228l barrels, where it rests for 18 months, then bottled unfiltered. Irresistible and beastly, succulent into sanguine and savory... Syrah for the classy carnivore.



*Delphine and Sylvain atop "Les Côtes Saint-Joseph," the finest vineyard in the appellation*