

Domaine Hautes Cances Cairanne



The Wines

- *VdP de la Principauté d'Orange "Terre de Cheyenne"*: The name comes from the early days when AnneMarie kept a spirited horse named Cheyenne near the vineyard. Yields here average 40 hectoliters per hectare and the grapes are hand-harvested (the law permits yields up to 120 hl/ha and machine harvesting, both of which tend to be the norm). This is the one red wine the domaine makes entirely in tank. The blend is roughly 40% Syrah, 30% Grenache, and 30% Carignan.
- *Côtes du Rhône*: The blend is roughly 45% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Cinsault, 10% Carignan, and 5% Mourvèdre. The vines average 50+ years of age, and the wine is aged in older Burgundy barrels. Production comes in around 1,000 cases a year.
- *Cairanne Tradition*: The blend is roughly 35% Syrah, 20% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 15% Carignan, 5% Cinsault, and 5% Counoise. These vines have an older average age than the Côtes du Rhône vines, and the wine is aged in older Burgundy barrels. Production is around 850 cases.
- *Cairanne Vieilles Vignes*: Grenache vines are over 100 years old and the wine gives this cuvée an extraordinarily broad profile; Serine was planted in 1972-73, while the Mourvèdre was planted in 1962-63. Wine is aged in older Burgundy barrels and bottled without fining or filtration. Between 250-450 cases annually.
- *Cairanne Col du Débat*: This vineyard is up on the north face of the Ventabren Massif, and as such it gets the full brunt of the mistral when it blows out of the Alps, sucked south by African deserts. The northern exposure protects the vines from the sun's hottest rays while the elevation gives cooler nighttime temperatures; thus, fundamentally, this is the opposite situation from the parcels that make up the vieilles vignes cuvée. The vines average 50+ years of age, and yields of 18-20 hectoliters per hectare are the lowest of all the domain's vineyards. The blend is based on 50-65% Grenache, then normally Carignan, followed by Syrah, followed by Counoise (this last is usually under 5% of the blend). The élevage is no different from the other Cairanne cuvées, but this wine is darker, more linear, fresher, and plainly more elusive than its siblings. It is a fascinating wine. Production varies greatly depending on the year, between 250 to 650 cases.