

# CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE: VIEUX DONJON RED 2006

## Style

Red, Dry, Full bodied

## Region

Southern Rhône

## Wine Maker

Lucien & Claire Michel

## Appellation

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, on the east bank, 18 km north of Avignon.

## Cépage

80% Grenache Noir, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre and Cinsault.

## Tasting Note

'Vieux Donjon's 2006 Châteauneuf du Pape is a powerful, seriously-endowed effort for the vintage, displaying more structure and muscle than most wines in this forward, fruit-friendly year.' Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate

## Serve

With simple, bold dishes grills, stews, daubes or hard cheese.

## Cellarage

Drink 2007 - 2020

## Vinification

Low yields of ripe grapes are picked by hand from 80-year-old vines. They then undergo an alcoholic fermentation in cement vats for 18-21 days, followed by 2 months in cement tanks for a malolactic fermentation. The wine is left unfiltered and is bottled 18 months after the vendage.

## History

Featured by Robert Parker as "one of the great unheralded estates of Chateauneuf-du-Pape" in his book The World's Greatest Wine Estates, Le Vieux Donjon continues to garner accolades for its wonderful wines.

It is a relatively new creation, having been founded after the marriage of Lucien and Marie José Michel in 1979. Despite their huge success, the modest Michels (these days ably assisted by their daughter Claire) go about their business with the minimum of fuss, producing just the one red and one white wine and eschewing the practice of fancy special cuvées.

Over 75% of the 32-acre estate comprises vines that are more than 80 years old and are situated on the sweet spot plateau of the appellation near Mont Redon and Les Cabrières.

The town itself is named after the castle of Pope John the 22nd that was built there between 1318 and 1333. Having survived centuries of conflict it was almost entirely destroyed by retreating German forces in August 1944.

