



## Les Couventines Gigondas

SOUTHERN RHÔNE (FRANCE)

In 1993, five cooperatives in the Southern Rhône region merged together- Bernis, Uchaud, Milhaud, Saint-Césaire and Générac. In 2006 Costières et Soleil merged with Cave des Vignerons de Saint-Hilaire d'Ozilhan under the name Vignerons du Soleil. In 2010 the cooperatives in Beauvoisin (Costières de Nîmes) and Calvisson (IGP vine) became a part of Vignobles du Soleil.

Denis Vaudier is the Président of Costières et Soleil and of Vignobles du Soleil as well as the the president of FVAC, the national organization for all cooperatives in France from 1993-2012. He and his brother own Chateau de Peyguerol which provides grapes to the cooperative in Générac.

**Grapes:** 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre

**Alcohol:** 14 % vol.

### Tasting Notes

**Appearance:** Dark ruby

**Nose:** Ripe baked cherries with licorice and vanilla undertones.

**Palate:** Hedonistic jammy black cherries, black berries and raspberries layered with peppercorn, fresh hillside herbs and anise.

**Pairing:** Lamb, Boeuf Bourguignon, Coq au Vin

## Southern Rhône Wine Region of France

**Climate:** Southern Rhône has a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot summers and mild winters. *Le Mistral* is also present in this region, helping cool the vines (allowing grapes to retain acidity) and preventing rot.

The Rhône Valley takes its name from the Rhône River which runs South through the region (beginning in the Swiss Alps). The Southern Rhône varies much differently in climate and flavor profile from the Northern Rhône.

The most famous wine appellations from Southern Rhône are: Beaufort-de-Venise, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Côtes-du-Rhône, **Costières de Nîmes**, Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages, Gigondas, and Vacqueyras.

Gigondas, along with the rest of Southern Rhône has a Mediterranean climate that differs from its northern neighbour, which has a more continental climate. The main geographical feature in Gigondas is the Dentelles de Montmirail, a small range of mountains that divide the appellation into two distinct areas – one with a cooler climate and one with a hotter. It is primarily a Red wine region, with a very small amount of rosé wine produced. No white wines carry the Gigondas appellation. Being a little brother of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the wine is moderately prestigious and can yield beautiful results when treated with care. Gigondas AOC wine is produced exclusively in the commune of Gigondas, in Vaucluse.