

Arcane: Adjective (är-'kän): Known or understood by very few, mysterious, secret, obscure, esoteric

After years of working as a winemaker and consultant in both hemispheres, Xavier Vignon settled down in Southern Rhône some 25 years ago. Since then, Xavier has developed a deep appreciation and understanding of the incredible diversity of Terroirs and grape varieties of the region, and he scouts every corner of the Southern Rhône, looking for the best grapes for his wines. Every vintage, Xavier identifies parcels that offer something unique to that specific vintage, whether a specific Terroir or a specific grape variety that stands out; Xavier created the Arcane series to showcase these unique expressions in one-off bottlings, each highlighting a unique concept, but always very Southern Rhône. Each release in the Arcane series represents some of the best kept secrets of the Southern Rhône Valley.

Tarot is a pack of playing cards, used from at least the mid-15th century in various parts of Europe to play games such as Italian tarocchi, French tarot and Austrian Königrufen. In the late 18th century, some tarot decks began to be used for divination via tarot card reading and cartomancy leading to custom decks developed for such occult purposes. The Sforza Visconti deck, dating back to 1451, is used for Xavier Vignon's Arcane series; it contains 74 cards, including 20 major Arcanes (also called Atouts). Each Arcane in the Sforza Visconti deck has a different meaning, and each cuvee in the Arcane series is the sole expression of a vintage, a grape or a terroir. Xavier Vignon's Arcane cuvées are only released once, never to be used again.





“Hats off to the team here for having the guts to pull something like this off!”

- Wine Advocate



ARCANE LE PAPE 2010

A.O.C. CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Details

This 100 percent Grenache was sourced from 15 parcels spread across the Châteauneuf-Du-Pape appellation and produced in a unique way; After the wine was put in new French oak barrel, the entire barrel was then submerged into a concrete tank filled with Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine. This submerged aging process is Xavier Vignon's personal interpretation on the underwater aging process that some people experiment with, and the result is that's there's no exposure to oxygen whatsoever, and the wine was kept like this for five years, with no racking or topping required since there's no evaporation.

Reviews

"With regards to the 2010 Châteauneuf du Pape Arcane Le Pape, I had to have Xavier explain how he made it about three times before I understood. The wine is 100% Grenache, from 15 different parcels, that was put into a barrel, then the entire barrel was put into a concrete tank, which was then filled with wine. This is a take on the underwater aging process that some people experiment with, and the result is that's there's no exposure to oxygen whatsoever, and the wine was kept like this for five years, with no racking or topping (since there's no evaporation, it never needed to be topped). Inky purple in colour, with a sensational,

youthful bouquet of crushed flowers, blueberries, blackberries, cured meats and spice, it hits the palate with incredible richness, a thick, unctuous mid-palate and ripe, yet present tannin. It's a singular, exotic beauty that I wish every reader could taste! I've not a clue how it will age, given its crazy elevage, yet I suspect it will benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for two to three decades! Hats off to the team here for having the guts to pull something like this off!

96+ Points, Wine Advocate

"Some age here. This has a very rich, ripe and complex feel with a sleek, supple stream of such deeply fleshy, ripe dark-plum and berry flavours. The tannins are so regal. Wow!"

96 Points, James Suckling

"A 100% Grenache sourced from numerous terroirs in the appellation, the 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Arcane Le Pape offers a lovely bouquet of blackberries, saddle leather, garrigue, and forest floor. Medium to full-bodied, elegant and silky, it's still tight and backward on the palate, with good acidity, building tannin, and a great finish. It's going to hit prime time in 2-3 years and keep for a decade."

96 Points, Jeb Dunnuck



“Shows a surprising degree of elegance for such a big wine... Impressive.”

- Wine Advocate



ARCANE LA PAPERSE 2016

A.O.C. CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE



Details

This 100 percent Grenache was sourced from 15 parcels spread across the Châteauneuf-Du-Pape appellation and produced in a unique way; After the wine was put in new French oak barrel, the entire barrel was then submerged into a concrete tank filled with Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine. This submerged aging process is Xavier Vignon's personal interpretation on the underwater aging process that some people experiment with, and the result is that's there's no exposure to oxygen whatsoever, and the wine was kept like this for five years, with no racking or topping required since there's no evaporation.

Reviews

"The full-bodied, voluminous 2016 Chateauneuf du Pape Arcane La Papesse shows a surprising degree of elegance for such a big wine. Remarkably dark and youthful in appearance, it gives up hints of leather, cedar, and dried spices, all set against a backdrop of black cherries and plums. The tannins are fine and silky on the mid-palate, fading gently into soft dustiness on the lingering finish. Impressive, with at least a decade of aging potential still ahead of it. Vignon's seeming obsession with minerality in wine has led to him seeking sites that express that feature (as he perceives it). He's also experimenting with various

different vessels for aging, and even submerging filled barrels within tanks of wine—as he did with the outstanding 2016 Arcane La Papesse.

Xavier Vignon, along with Philippe Cambie, are probably the two most highly renowned oenologists in Chateauneuf du Pape as well as some of the surrounding Cotes du Rhone regions. Vignon's office and laboratory are next to the Auto Route A7, in the same complex as Chateau Husson. He is the consultant for such well-known domaines as Raymond Usseglio, Jerome Quiot, Beaugrenard, La Nerthe, Mont Redon, Marcoux, Grand Veneur and La Gardine."

94 Points, Wine Advocate



**“Another beautiful wine from Xavier...
Elegant, seamless, and silky, with
beautiful purity and elegance.”**

- Jeb Dunnuck

ARCANE IX





ARCANE L'HERMITE 2016

A.O.C. GIGONDAS



Details

A blend of 80 percent Grenache, seven percent Mourvèdre, five percent Syrah, four percent Muscardin and four percent Picpoul noir. Sourced from over 25 parcels from the terraces next to the Dentelles de Montmirail, including centenarian Grenache vines as well as ancient local varietals. The Muscardin and Picpoul noir are vinified and aged in un-toasted oak barrels. The Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah are fermented together in concrete tanks before being aged in truncated wooden vats. Certain barrels were submerged in wine for over 12 months to preserve the pure Grenache from oxidation.

Reviews

"From steeper slopes, the 2016 Gigondas Arcane L'Hermite checks in as 80% Grenache, 7% Mourvèdre, and the rest Syrah, Muscardin, and Picpoul Noir that was aged in a submerged barrel. It's another beautiful wine from Xavier that has loads of blackberries, spice, dried herbes de Provence, and loamy soil. It's elegant, seamless, and silky, with beautiful purity and elegance. It's going to benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for a decade."

94 Points, Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2016 Gigondas Arcane VIII L'Hermite likely won't be released for three to four years, said Vignon (it's already bottled). It is linear, tight and crisply focused, so no doubt he's right about when it will be approachable. Cedar frames bright cherry fruit in this medium to full-bodied GSM blend."

This is another impressive lineup from oenologist Xavier Vignon, who works with the likes of Raymond Usseglio, Le Nerthe, Marcoux and Grand Veneur, to name a few. These are all negociant wines, but they obviously have access to some serious vineyard, and the winemaking is impeccable. These can drink nicely in their youth, yet age beautifully as well."

93 Points, Wine Advocate



“Beautifully textured, balanced, and layered, with fabulous purity.”

- Jeb Dunnuck



ARCANE LES AMOUREUX 2016

A.O.C. CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE



Wine Details

A blend of 95 percent Grenache with the remainder being Syrah sourced from equal proportions of five crus from the Southern Rhone: Lirac, Vacqueyras, Gigondas, Rasteau and Beaumes-de-Venise. Each cru was chosen to add a specific quality to the blend; Lirac adds roundness, Gigondas adds structure, Beaumes-de-Venise adds freshness, Vacqueyras adds notes of garrigue, floral notes and sweetness, and Rasteau adds tannins.

Reviews

"Sourced from parcels in Lirac, Vacqueyras, Gigondas, Rasteau, and higher elevation sites in Beaumes de Venise, the 2016 Côtes du Rhône Arcane Les Amoureux (mostly Grenache) offers an awesome bouquet of black cherries, blackberries, pepper, garrigue, and olives. Beautifully textured, balanced, and layered, with fabulous purity, it's a rocking wine that has loads of fruit, yet has the purity and elegance that makes this vintage so special. Drink it over the coming 15-20 years."

94+ Points, Jeb Dunnuck

"A blend of lots from five different Southern Rhône crus (and hence declassified to Côtes du Rhône), the 2016 Cotes du Rhone Arcane VI Les Amoureux is a stunning

effort, showcasing raspberry and strawberry fruit, a silky-creamy texture, and lush, mouth-watering flavours. No, it doesn't speak of the individual terroirs (Beaumes de Venise, Gigondas, Lirac, Rasteau, Vacqueyras), but it delivers sheer deliciousness."

94 Points, Wine Advocate

"Red berries, red flowers, and a berry-pastry edge to the nose, making for an attractive offering. The palate has a super juicy feel with succulent, vibrant raspberry, and red-plum flavours, carrying long on silky, powerful tannins. Impressive. Drink or hold."

93 Points, James Suckling

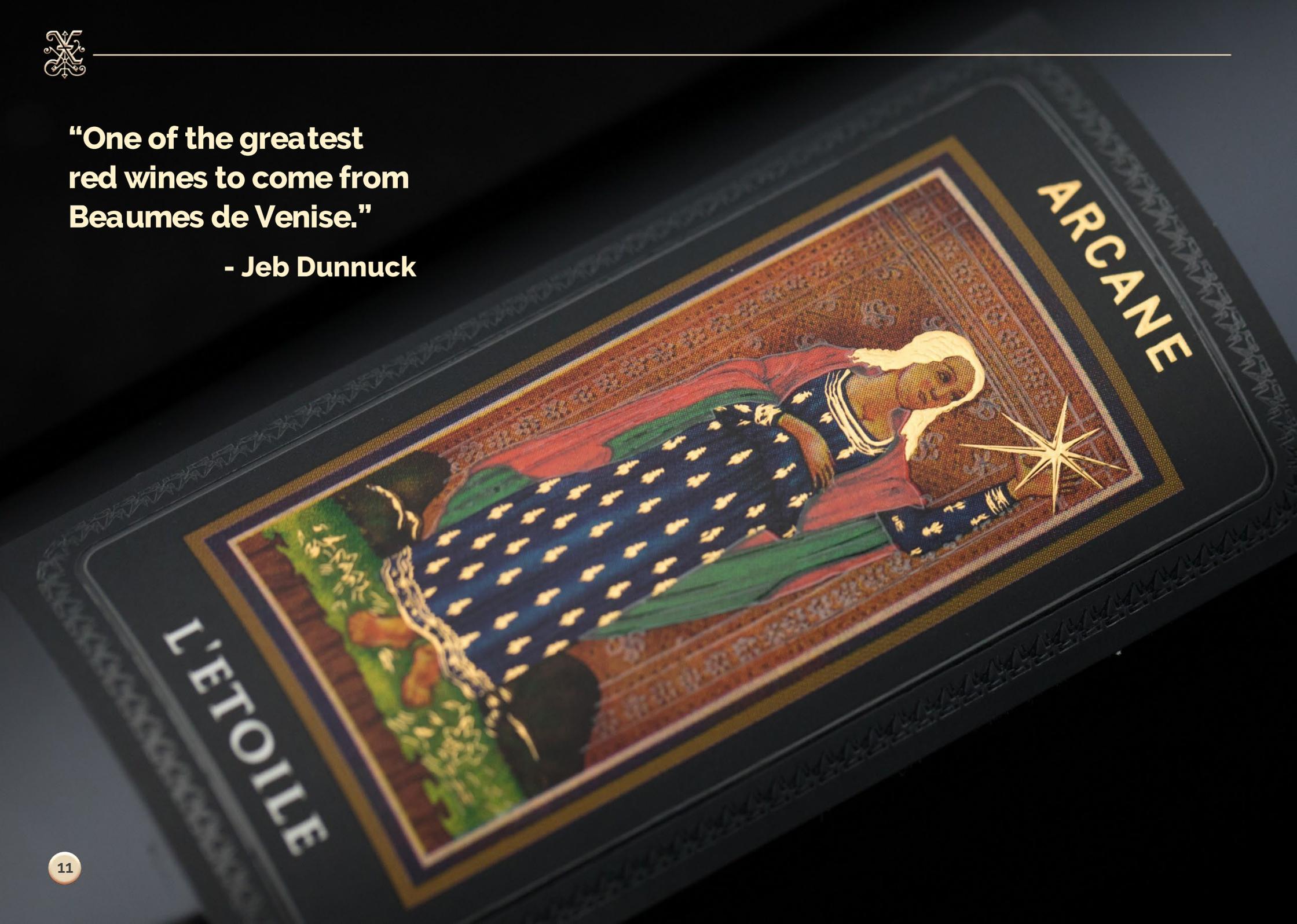
"Xavier Vignon is one of the top oenologists in the Southern Rhône and releases a bevy of outstanding wines under his own label."

Jeb Dunnuck



**“One of the greatest
red wines to come from
Beaumes de Venise.”**

- Jeb Dunnuck





ARCANE L'ETOILE NV

A.O.C. BEAUMES DE VENISE

Wine Details

A blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre, and a multi-vintage blend from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 vintages. This wine reveals the complexity and remarkable freshness of Beaumes de Venise's high-altitude terroirs. These Triassic soils, a combination of sand, limestone, and clay, lie at the foothills of the Dentelles Sarrasines and the Grand Montmirail, and were chosen for their high altitude (up to 600 metres above sea level) to impart freshness and elegance to the wine. Long maceration, over one month, without mechanic extraction. The wine is macerated with viognier skins which are left in contact with the wine during maceration. Aged for 15 months in one-third new French and Austrian oak barrels with a light toasting, one-third small concrete vats, and one-third large oak tuns.

Reviews

"Coming from the higher elevation sites, the NV Beaumes de Venise Arcane Etoile is another elegant, finesse-oriented wine from Xavier that has both richness and freshness. A blend of Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre as well as a small amount of Viognier from 2015, 2016, and 2017, it has something profound in its texture and balance. Notes of black raspberries, currants, dried flowers, lavender, and pepper are

followed by a beautiful, full-bodied, elegant wine that might just be one of the greatest red wines to come from Beaumes de Venise."

95 Points, Jeb Dunnuck

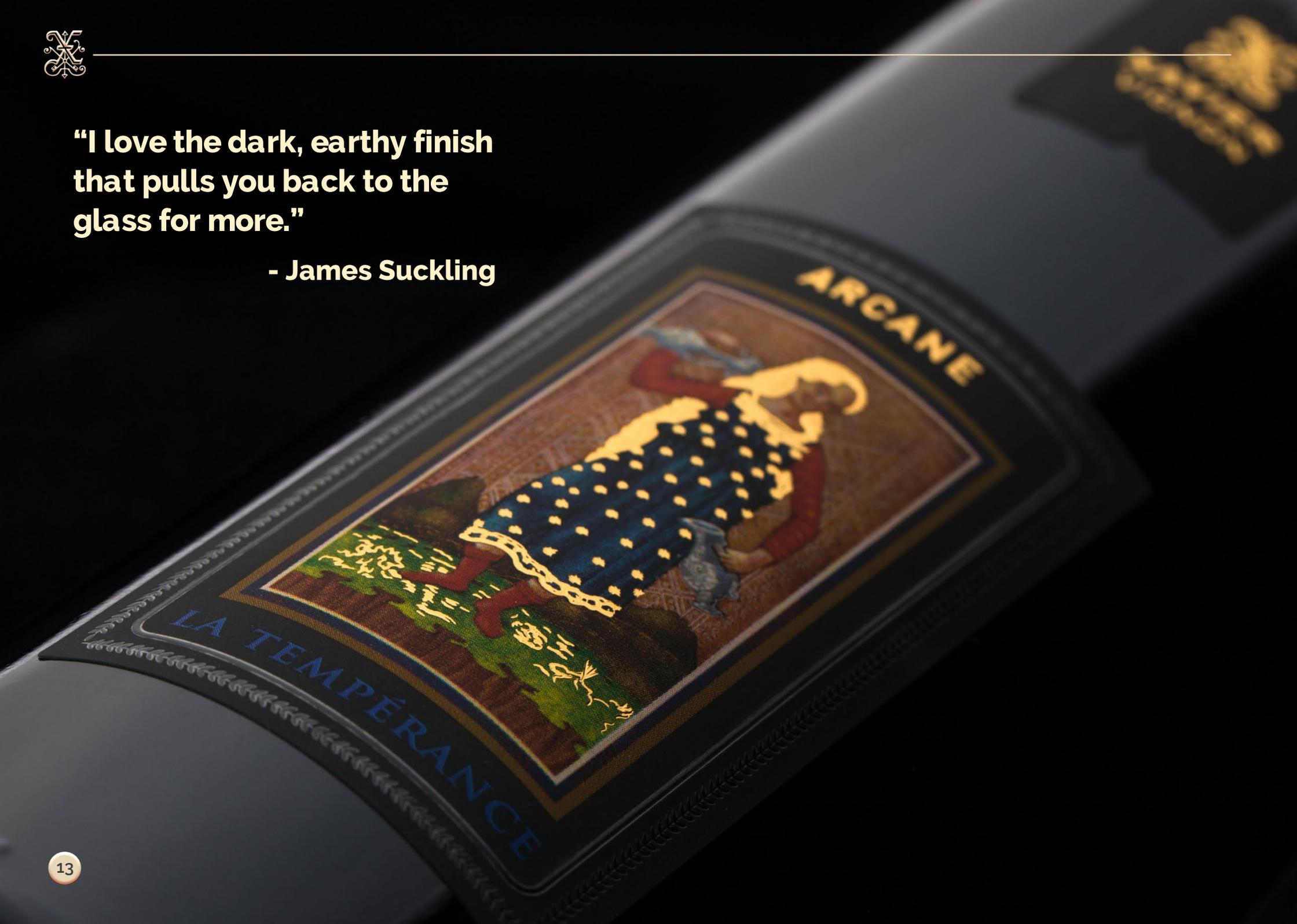
"I visited Xavier Vignon at his aging-bottling cellar in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, just beside Château des Fines Roches. He does most of the vinifications at another facility in Beaumes de Venise. Vignon, who started out as a winemaking consultant, sources grapes from many clients and former clients throughout the Southern Rhône for his own various labels. Fascinated by blending and tinkering, tasting with him is something like meeting with a benevolent mad scientist—there are so many different experiments to try, it is sometimes difficult to keep up with what is what. Many of his wines are released quite late onto the market, as he prefers to age wines up to three winters before bottling and two winters after bottling."

Wine Advocate



**“I love the dark, earthy finish
that pulls you back to the
glass for more.”**

- James Suckling





ARCANE LA TEMPÉRANCE NV

A.O.C. CAIRANNE



Wine Details

A blend of 90 percent Grenache and 10 percent Syrah, from four different vintages, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, with 25 percent of the blend coming from each vintage. The grapes are sourced from several Terroirs known for their garrigues notes, from the Coteaux of Miocene (Montagne du Ventabren) in the southern part of the Cairanne appellation. Both vinification and aging are done in Xavier Vignon's trademarked 'Wine Globes', which are small glass tanks of 200 liters. There is no oak treatment for this wine.

Reviews

"Although this is a self-confidently rich and fleshy Cairanne, it also has a very well-crafted structure, the gentle tannins keeping the 15% alcohol on track. I love the dark, earthy finish that pulls you back to the glass for more. Drink or hold."

93 Points, James Suckling

"Black cherries and plums appear alongside hints of cedar and leather on the nose of the NV Cairanne Arcane La Tempérance. It's full-bodied (labeled at 15% alcohol), yet not overly heavy, with silky tannins, peppery notes and even some brighter, raspberry-like nuances on the lingering finish. Given its structure and

concentration, it should drink well for at least 4-5 years.

Xavier Vignon is one of the leading oenologists in the Southern Rhone, and you only need to taste his own negociant wines to understand why. Across the board, they show beautifully made profiles, with loads of fruit and texture, superb balance, and classic Southern Rhone characters."

92 Points, Wine Advocate



**“Another unique wine from
this incredible winemaker.”**

- Jeb Dunnuck



ARCANE LE FOU NV

VIN DE FRANCE

Wine Details

The culmination of a long project from Xavier Vignon: the Champagne blending style taken to its limits! Five vintages from the most outstanding of recent years grown in 10 different Terroirs in the Southern Rhône valley, mostly Châteauneuf-du-Pape, with small amounts of Rasteau, Ventoux and high-altitude parcels in Côtes du Rhône Village. The blend is composed of 15 different, mainly late ripening clones of Grenache with a variety of rootstocks (Rupestris du Lot, Fercal, Riparia Gloire de Montpellier, 41B), clones (old clones) and pruning systems (primarily gobelet trained vines). The final blend is 85 percent Grenache, five percent Mourvèdre, five percent Syrah and five percent Caladoc (to impart spice and structure). Aged for 12 months in 40 percent French and Austrian oak barrels, 30 percent in truncated wooden vats, and 30 percent in concrete vats.

Reviews

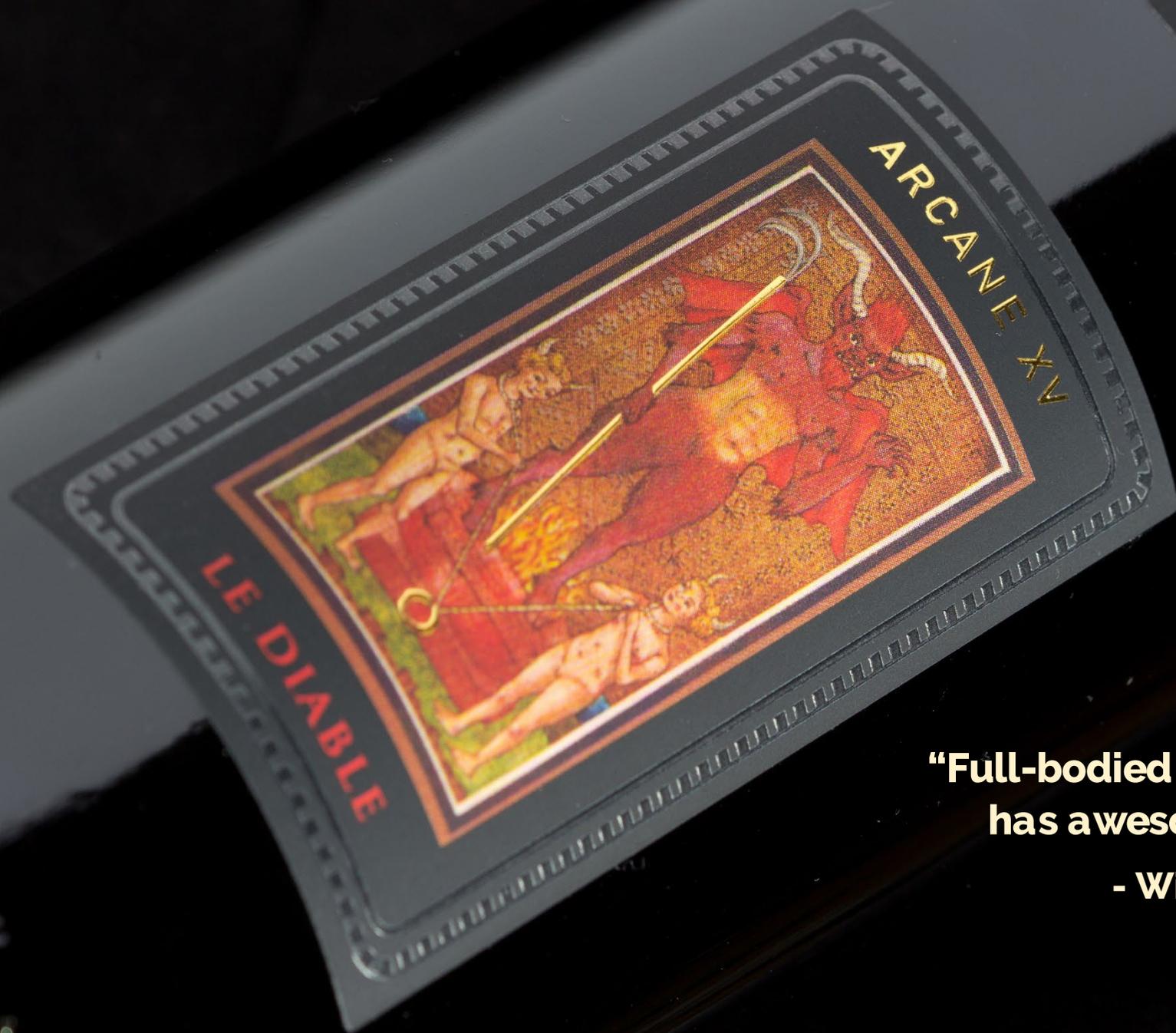
"The NV Vin de France Arcane Le Fou is another unique wine from this incredible winemaker. This cuvée focuses on different clones of Grenache as well as just about every permitted variety out there (although it's 85% Grenache). It has a big, sweet nose of blueberries, black cherries, lavender, and peppery incense as well as a full-bodied, layered, powerful yet seamless style on the palate. With no hard edges, silky tannins, and a

big finish, it's a singular wine (it's mostly from vines in Châteauneuf Du Pape) to enjoy over the coming 10-15 years."

96 Points, Jeb Dunnuck

"Aromas of ripe blackberry, black cherry, licorice, clove and dark chocolate. It's medium-to full-bodied with ripe, velvety tannins. Creamy and flavorful. Drink or hold."

91 Points, James Suckling



“Full-bodied beauty that has awesome purity.”

- Wine Advocate

ARCANE LE DIABLE 2015

VIN DE FRANCE

Wine Details

This rare 100 percent Mourvèdre was sourced from 17 parcels of very old vines, some well over 100 years old, scattered across the Vaucluse. The soils consist of mostly red clay, blue clay, galets, Urgonian limestone and sand. The wine is aged for 12 months in 30 percent new French oak with medium toast, and 70 percent in small concrete vats.

Reviews

"There are two slightly eccentric wines from this estate that merit serious attention. Almost 100% Mourvèdre from a parcel close to Vinsobres, the sensational 2015 Vin de France Arcane XV Le Diable had a three-week maceration (Xavier prefers to get as much extraction as possible before alcoholic fermentation), and was aged mostly in small oak tanks and concrete. Blueberries, blackberries, peppery herbs and spice all flow from this layered, full-bodied beauty that has awesome purity, integrated acidity and plenty of structure. Give bottles 2-3 years and drink over the following 10-15 years."

94 Points, Wine Advocate





“A sensational Côtes du Rhône that’s better than most Chateauneuf du Pape in the vintage.”

- Wine Advocate





ARCANE LE SOLEIL NV

A.O.C. CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE VILLAGES

Wine Details

A blend of 80 percent Grenache, 10 percent Syrah and 10 percent Mourvèdre; the Grenache vines are over 100 years old, the Mourvèdre vines are over 80 years old and the Syrah vines are over 50 years old. Sourced from nine parcels, mostly from the northern part of the Vaucluse from various Terroirs. The grapes were selected based on their high mineral salt content and density, containing twice the polyphenols of the average harvest. The wine was aged for 15 months in one-third Austrian oak, one-third in concrete tanks and one-third in stainless-steel tanks.

Reviews

"The 2015 Cotes du Rhone Villages Arcane XIX Le Soleil is youthfully dark in color and fruit-forward, but it also shows softening, silky tannins. It's full bodied but not overblown, with a sensationally seductive mouthfeel. Black cherries define the fruit, joined by hints of dark chocolate and enough garrigue to give it a seriously savory character despite the fruit. This is an old-vine blend of 80% Grenache with 10% each Syrah and Mourvèdre, aged 15 months in one-third new oak, the rest in concrete or foudre. Maybe the best Côte du Rhône Villages I've ever tasted, it looks to have the stuffing to go another 10 years."

94 Points, Wine Advocate

"Coming from 100-year-old Grenache vines (there's 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre in the blend) mostly in the northern part of the Southern Rhône, the 2015 Côtes du Rhône Villages Arcane le Soleil saw 15 months in one-third each of new barrels, concrete tanks, and stainless-steel tanks. This inky colored beauty offers a terrific perfume of blueberries, scorched earth, graphite, and crushed violets. Deep, full-bodied, incredibly pure, and elegant, with silky tannin, it's a sensational Côtes du Rhône that's better than most Chateauneuf du Pape in the vintage. It will be better in another year or two and keep for 8-10 years."

93+ Points, Wine Advocate

"This is a very composed and concentrated style with intense, fresh red-berry and cherry aromas, delivered in a concentrated, fresh and energetic style. Impressive wine. Drink or hold."

93 Points, James Suckling