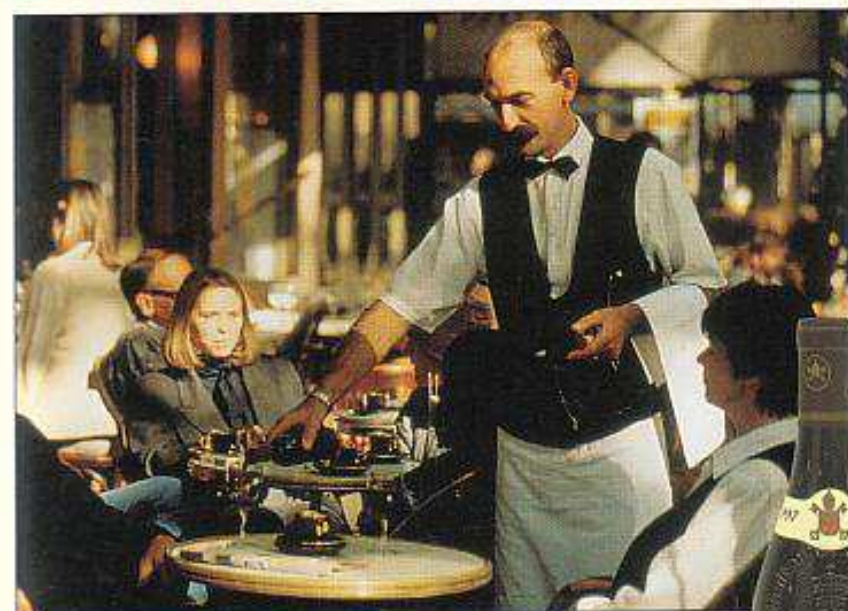


KAREN MACNEIL



THE WINE

B I B L E



"A dazzling, comprehensive, modern guide to wine, free of elitism and pedantry. This thoroughly successful work sets a new standard and makes wine more accessible and user-friendly than it has ever been before."

—ANTHONY DIAS BLUE,
wine and spirits editor,
Bon Appétit

More than 500
photos, detailed
maps, and charts

The seductive, soulful wines of
Châteauneuf-du-Pape eloquently
speak of earth itself, *page 248*

Think of this book as a lively course from an expert teacher, grounded deeply in the fundamentals and enriched with passionate asides, tips, anecdotes, definitions, glossaries, illustrations, maps, wine labels—everything, in fact, but the actual wine itself. By America's

renowned
wine teacher
and authority.



Gigondas

The Gigondas vineyards cover a series of hills just below the jagged spurs of rock known as the Dentelles de Montmirail. This is the most northern of the important southern Rhône appellations. A few miles below it is Vacqueyras and below that and to the west is Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

Maybe Gigondas took its cue from the rugged Dentelles, for its wines are as strong and appealing as a firm handshake. The best have explosive raspberry, leather, and spice aromas and flavors and chewy textures. They are often characterized as robust versions of Châteauneuf, but the truth is they have an altogether different personality. To drink Gigondas is to go back to a time when great red wines were muscular and rough—a time before winemakers knew how to soften up wine and give it polish.

Only red and rosé Gigondas are made. By law, the reds must be no more than 80 percent grenache, with no less than 15 percent syrah and/or mourvèdre blended in.

The remaining fraction is often cinsaut but may be made up of any other red Rhône grape except carignan.

All of Gigondas was once simply Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages. But in 1971 the reds and rosés of the area were given a new, higher status and the appellation Gigondas, named after the nearby village, was born. Its top producers include Domaine de Cayron, Domaine de la Garrigue, Les Hauts de Montmirail, Grand Bourjassot, Domaine Santa Duc, St. Cosme, and Domaine les Pallières.

Vacqueyras

Just south of Gigondas, Vacqueyras became an appellation in 1990. Before that, like Gigondas, wines from this area were labeled Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages. Vacqueyras are sturdy, bold red wines—rather like even more rustic versions of Gigondas. The best smell and taste like the land itself; there's the aroma of sun on the hot stony ground, of scrappy dried

252



Rising above Gigondas is the rugged outcropping known as the Dentelles de Montmirail. From a distance the rocky spurs look rather like teeth, leading many visitors to assume that that is how they got their name (dents in French means teeth). Dentelle, however, means lace, and these mountains were named for what the local populace insists is their lacy look.