



 Vieux  
 Gaillac  
 Vin de France, Causse  
Toujours  
 Vin de France, Zacmau  
[www.causse-marines.com](http://www.causse-marines.com)  
  
12 ha; 50,000 bottles

## Domaine de Causse Marines

Hidden away just outside Vieux, the domain is not particularly well signposted because Patrice Lescarret and Virginie Maig-nien don't want to be interrupted by cellar door sales. It's very hands-on: Patrice does the grafting himself (he's adamant about not using clones), and when I arrived Virginie was pruning in the vineyard. We had lunch under the trees in a charming garden behind the house, and went through the range of wines, which are now mostly Vin de France. "Since I set up here in 1993 there have been problems with the AOP, and in 2003 and 2004 I stopped using the AOP. Now only the three basic wines are labeled with the appellation, and everything else is labeled as Vin de France," Patrice explains. "Gaillac has special grapes and my objective is to make authentic wine." This is defined as coming from local varieties: whites use Len de l'El, Ondenc and Mauzac; reds use Duras, Braucon, and Prunelard. There is also some Syrah. The dry whites are Les Greilles (a blend in Gaillac AOP), Zacmau (100% Mauzac), and Dencon (100% Ondenc). The reds are Les Peyrouzelles (a Gaillac blend), Rasdu (100% Duras), and Causse Toujours (Syrah and Prunelard). There are several moelleux cuvées, and in exceptional years a fully botrytized cuvée, Folie Pure. The vin de voile is a solera. The style is fresh, with light fruits supported by good acidity, varying between more and less aromatic varieties, but the same intent to avoid heaviness characterizes all the wines.