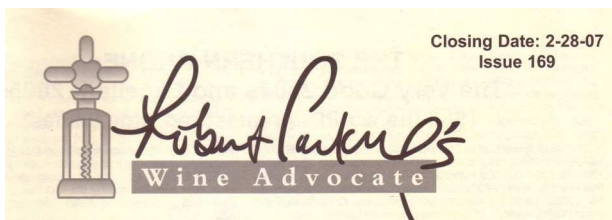


Robert Parker proclaims Domain Le Couroulu's wines "...the bottled essence of Provence..."

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DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2005	VACQUEYRAS CUVÉE CLASSIQUE	(\$18.00-20.00)	RED	(88-90)
DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2004	VACQUEYRAS CUVÉE CLASSIQUE	(\$18.00)	RED	89
DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2005	VACQUEYRAS VIEILLES VIGNES	(\$28.00-32.00)	RED	(89-91)
DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2004	VACQUEYRAS VIEILLES VIGNES	(\$28.00)	RED	89+

Another reference point estate in Vacqueyras, for many years these wines have given me considerable pleasure. Representing what might be called the bottled essence of Provence, they are always filled with peppery herbs dominated by black cherry and cassis fruit with hints of raspberries and smoked meats in the background. There is generally little difference between the Cuvée Classique and the Vieilles Vignes, with the latter wine possessing an extra dimension of body and depth. That's the case with the following wines. The 2005 and 2004 vintages are different, with the 2005s requiring 1-2 years of bottle age. They should possess 10-12 years of longevity. Both 2005 cuvées are powerful, deep black/ruby/purple-colored offerings with

good acidity, high tannin, and impressive levels of concentration. The 2004s are both more near-term wines, although they are certainly capable of evolving for 8-10 years. They are deep ruby-hued with beautifully pure notes of herbs, smoke, roasted meats, and black raspberry, cherry, and cassis fruit. The 2004s are softer and more charming than their 2005 counterparts. The 2004s can be enjoyed over the next 7-8 years.