

## Robert Parker acclaims Domaine Le Couroulu’s “top-notch” 2009 and 2010 Vacqueyras wines.

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DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2010	VACQUEYRAS CUVÉE CLASSIQUE	(not yet released)	RED	(92-94)
DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2009	VACQUEYRAS CUVÉE CLASSIQUE	(\$32.00-35.00)	RED	90
DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2010	VACQUEYRAS VIEILLES VIGNES	(not yet released)	RED	(92-94+)
DOMAINE LE COUROULU	2009	VACQUEYRAS VIEILLES VIGNES	(\$35.00-38.00)	RED	90+

This impressively run, 40-acre Vacqueyras estate has consistently made top-notch wines for many years. The most forward and drinkable of these offerings is the **2009 Vacqueyras Cuvée Classique**, which is a blend of 60% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre primarily aged in cement tanks. This gorgeous effort reveals abundant notes of tapenade, black cherries, soy, new saddle leather, blackberries and earth. This seductive, round, generous, pure, velvety-textured 2009 should drink well for 7-8 years. Potentially better, but backward and in need of several years of bottle age at present, the **2009 Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes** comes from 60-year-old vines. Composed of 65% Grenache and 35% Mourvèdre aged in cement tanks, it exhibits a dense purple color in addition to restrained aromatics, a highly extracted mouthfeel, but no hard edges. Silky tannins, low acidity and stunning concentration suggest it should turn out to be a brilliant Vacqueyras that

will hit its prime in 2-3 years, and last for 10-12. Two spectacular Vacqueyras were also produced in 2010. Both are black as a moonless night with lots of blueberry and blackberry fruit. The **2010 Vacqueyras Cuvée Classique**, a blend of 60% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre aged in cement tanks, is more evolved with good acidity, terrific focus and unbelievable concentration for a wine that sells for under 10 euros at the domaine. The **2010 Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes** (70% Grenache and 30% Syrah aged in cement) reveals off the charts blackberry and blueberry fruit notes intermixed with Provençal herbs, lavender and licorice. This sensational 2010 should drink well for 10-15+ years.