

OUTSTANDING ARTISAN RHÔNE ESTATE

DOMAINE DES ESCARAVAILLES

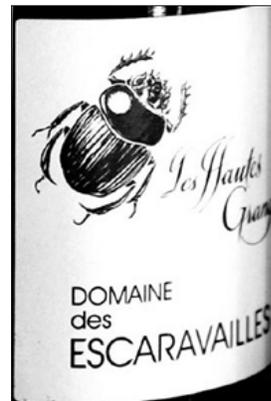
GILLES FERRAN, PROPRIETOR/WINEMAKER

PHILIPPE CAMBIE, CONSULTANT

CÔTES DU RHÔNE "Cuvée les Sablières" Rouge

CÔTES DU RHÔNE-VILLAGES RASTEAU "La Ponce"

In 1953 Jean-Louis Ferran purchased several hillside parcels above the southern Rhône villages of Rasteau, Roaix and Cairanne, naming his new domaine "Escaravailles" (Occitan for *black beetles*, a nickname for the black-robed monks of the area's monasteries). Graduating first in his class from the University of Montpellier's prestigious enology school, Jean-Louis' grandson Gilles Ferran took up the reins in 1999 aided by friend and consultant Philippe Cambie. Built into a hillside in the heights of Rasteau, the winery is surrounded by terraced vineyards. The Grenache from these high altitude vineyards sets Escaravailles' wines apart from the many overripe, over-extracted reds from this sun-baked part of Provence. The domaine totals 160 acres, 100 of which are perched on Rasteau hillsides. Estate vine age is impressive, averaging 40 – 50 years-old with Syrah averaging 30 – 35 years.



92 points "The **2010 Cotes du Rhone-Villages Rasteau La Ponce** (80% Grenache and 20% Syrah) exhibits a deep purple color along with a big, sweet kiss of chocolate-infused blackberries and kirsch, Provençal garrigue and licorice. This pure, big, masculine Rasteau has not lost the 2010 hallmarks of elegance and precision. Drink it over the next decade. With 160 acres of vines, most of them planted on hillsides in Rasteau, this is a serious estate that remains somewhat under the radar. It is run by Gilles Ferran, who graduated first in his class at the University of Montpellier-s School of Oenology (the number two graduate that year was his best friend, Philippe Cambie, who now consults at Escaravailles)." – Robert M. Parker, Jr., Wine Advocate #197, Oct11

90 points "Lively and focused, with a beam of red licorice running through the core of red and black cherry fruit. Polished structure and a lingering apple wood note provide length." –

Wine Spectator (15Nov11): **2009 Dom. des Escaravailles Côtes-du-Rhône "Les Sablières"**

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