



Décembre 2005

## **A BLESSING THAT BOWLED US OVER !**

### **Daumas Gassac Red 2005**

***We're bowled over by the 2005 red ! Even as the fermentation ended, it became quite clear that this wine would be thoroughly opulent : truly one of the greats ! We've no doubt it'll be on a par with the outstanding Daumas Gassac vintages of 1980, 1982, 1988, 1990.***

*And yet we twice skirted round failure: once when fixing the date to start harvesting; then when deciding the length of time the grapes should macerate !*

#### ***When to start harvesting ?***

*In 2005 the grapes seemed to be perfectly mature at the end of August. Yet, we don't usually start picking until around 15 September.*

*So, after hesitating, we bit the bullet and started the harvest at the end of August. We'd have fallen into a trap had we waited : we'd have lost the freshness and subtle aromas that are such a feature of this vintage.*

#### ***Then, how long to macerate ?***

*Normally at Daumas Gassac we macerate the grapes for between four and six weeks !*

*But this year was different. After only eight days, it seemed as though our thoroughly ripe grapes had nothing more to give. So, taking the bit between my teeth, and with more than a touch of trepidation, I drained them on the ninth day. But, I was right; this 'revolution' was just what was needed.*

*By mid-December as it started maturing, the 2005 was giving every sign of its destiny as a one-off vintage, unique and full of character. It's deeply coloured, almost black, with a suave, powerful, fruity mouth. Normally, wine tends to be a touch harsh in the early months, a tendency no longer evident in this great vintage.*

*So now we must watch over this superb 2005 with care and, most particularly, with a light touch. A vintage as potentially great as this can only reach its apogee if matured with subtlety and care; we must respect its personality, not seek to change it.*

*Daumas Gassac 2005 will go down in the annals of great wines; it will undoubtedly be among the most majestic of all those which have seen the light of day in the Gassac valley since 1978 !*

*So let us give thanks to the wild valley though which meanders the Gassac stream ! In 2005 it has blessed us with a staggering vintage !*

My best wishes,

Aimé GUIBERT



Véronique, Samuel & Roman GUIBERT