

# DEPARTMENT 66 "PHARAON" GRENACHE 2015

## Côtes Catalanes IGP

Produced and bottled by Department 66 in Maury, France

### Maury, France

It was ten years ago that Dave Phinney first took friends up on their offer to visit Maury, France. Nestled in the Pyrénées-Orientales (France's department number 66), Maury is a historic agricultural village with an enduring legacy of growing grapes. Home to old-vine grenache, syrah, mourvedre and carignan, the region's warm climate is tempered by the blustery Tramontane wind that whips across the valley. Steep hillsides, black schist and red angle soils reveal striking shades of black, gray and orange, and conspire to make Maury one of the most compelling wine producing regions in Southern France.

### Vineyards

Grapes are sourced from the winery's 300 estate-owned acres in the Côtes Catalanes growing region, a sub-appellation of the Roussillon. Vines range in age from 10 to 65+ years.

### Winemaker Notes

In the famed book, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, protagonist Edmond Dantes arrives to Marseille on a ship named 'Pharaon.' The word's etymological roots and context since inspired Dave Phinney's philosophy and the reserve wine for Department 66.

"There are two ways of seeing: with the body and with the soul.  
The body's sight can sometimes forget, but the soul remembers forever."  
— **Alexandre Dumas, *The Count of Monte Cristo***

Aromas of sweet oak, dark chocolate liqueur and Tahitian vanilla are complemented by ripe plum and herbal sage notes. Savory red fruit flavors of boysenberry and rhubarb fill the palate and blend with a glimpse of schist and minerality. Firm tannins are primed for extended aging while lingering acidity extends the finish across the palate.

### Maturation

100% new french oak for 18 months

### Alcohol

15.5%

### SRP

\$175



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