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Riviera Times

€ 2.50

October 2003

Hard work has paid off at the medal winning Château L'Arnaude

Viticulturally Vidauban is an important landmark, as the River Argens flowing through the old town marks the dividing line between Côtes de Provence's *Vallée Intérieure* and the later ripening *Collines du Haut Pays* to the north.

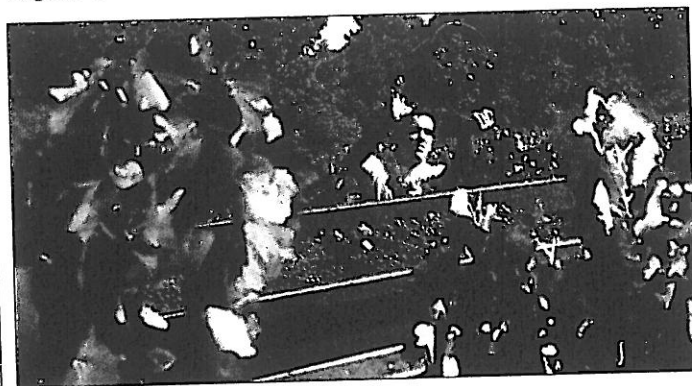
Following the road to Lorgues, you will pass signs to other well-respected wine estates. A continuous 4km climb through oakwoods brings you out 150 metres higher onto the 20 hectare

wines in all three colours, true to their *terroir*.

Progress really began at L'Arnaude with the purchase of the château in the mid-eighties by the current owners - the Knapp family. There was much work to be carried out with renewals in the vineyard and over time considerable investment was made in modernising the winemaking areas and with acquiring up to date vinification equipment, all of which was completed, and



Heinz Knapp inspects the grapes



Harvesting this year at the family-owned Château L'Arnaude

south-facing gentle slope of vineyards belonging to the lovely Château L'Arnaude.

Striking red soil on a limestone base, vineyard positioning, local climate and the ever-present scents of Provence allows for the successful production of

up and running, by 1987.

In addition a comfortable, spacious tasting cave makes for a relaxed *dégustation* of this domaine's well-constructed range of wines.

Whilst good value Vins de Pays are produced, it is for the A.O.C. (*Appellation d'origine*

Contrôlée) Côtes de Provence *gamme* that L'Arnaude has achieved widespread recognition, and has been an ever-present medal winner at both national and local *concours*.

A fresh blossomy Rolle-dominated white and a dry salmon-tinted delicately fruited rosé precede the reds which consist of an earthy, *Provençal Château*, a rounder, more Cabernet-influenced *Vieille Bastide* and an oak-aged, old-vine *cuvée Barrique*.

A more recent crisp white with Vin Mousseux now completes the line-up.

Ian Parkin

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