

**SOUTHWEST**  
**MADIRAN**
**MOUREOU**  
**/CHAPELLE L'ENCLOS**  
**MAUMUSSON**

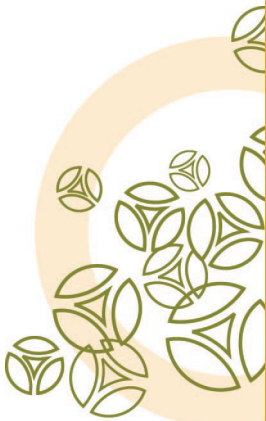

**OVERVIEW** | Patrick Ducourneau has long been an important figure in Madiran. His influence derives from his development of the technique of micro-oxygenation. While overused and misunderstood in other regions of the wine world, its judicious application in Madiran has clearly improved the region's place in today's wine market without disrupting the traditions of its heritage. The approach involves bubbling tiny quantities of oxygen into the wine, either during fermentation or afterwards, as it rests in tank or barrique. The practice was developed after Madiran winemakers noticed reductive problems in tannat stored in stainless steel. But the benefits of the process go beyond prevention of reduction; tannins are tamed, color is stabilized, and stuck fermentations can be fixed. It's a process that has been lucrative for Ducourneau, who finds himself in demand as a Southwest wine consultant.

The domaine was inherited by Ducourneau, having previously been worked by his father. Patrick's cousins, incidentally, are the famous Laplace family who own Chateau d'Aydie and help Patrick market his wines as well. Vines here are reasonably young, with plantings dating back to the late 1970s on silt and alluvial clay.

**WINES** | The Mouréou is a blend of 80% tannat from 15 year old vines, with the balance made up of cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon. 1/3 of the blend is then aged in 400 liter oak barrels (with the rest in tank) for 2 years.

The Lenclos is 100% tannat and spends one year in 400 liter oak barrels followed by another year in vats (with aeration to avoid reduction of the lees). No cold stabilization or fining occurs on either wine, just a very soft filtration before the bottling.

Both wines are aging beautifully, with rich, beautifully balanced fruit and spice and structured but softened tannins.


**trriage wines**

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