## WHAT'S NEW IN THE CELLAR?

Since last December, Sébastien has constantly kept an eye on the two Cuvées that are maturing in oak barrels. The first test in February was very promising. The two Cuvées, one "bordelaise" and the other "regional", won't be bottled before the end of 2006. Despite our impatience, the wine needs time! One of the Cuvées has a blend of Carignan, Syrah and Grenache. That's all I can say about them for now.



## Montagnère White and Isidora Rosé 2005, Cabernet-Sauvignon 2004

New wines made their appearance in March 2006 and the excellent "Helviens" 2004, Merlot 2001-2002, "Alphonse" 2002, "Rustique", and Syrah 2002-2003 (amongst others) are now available. We have wines for all tastes at affordable prices.



# Vacation in Valvignères

If you are interested in vacationing in our beautiful valley, ask for the information we've prepared about the restful and fascinating vacation you can spend here.

Holiday cottages, hotel-restaurants, historical villages characteristic to the area, walks and hikes, and the municipal camp site of Valvignères...



## Cottage for rent in the lower part of Intras

One of our neighbours rents a small vacation farm about 500 meters away from us.

# Two excellent Hotel-Restaurants in the village of Valvignères

We've experienced them and we highly recommend them! A stay in Valvignères may be combined with an adventure in gastronomy. You'll be tempted by the classic, sometimes surprising, refined dishes.

Montan





Denis & Emmanuel ROBERT & Sébastien PRADAL - GAEC du Mas d'Intras F - 07400 Valvignères - Tél. +33 (0)4.75.52.75.36 - Fax +33 (0)4.75.52.51.62 Web Site: WWW.MASDINTRAS.FR Email: contact@masdintras.fr





Information Letter no. 2, by Denis







# VINEYARD, WINE & ENVIRONMENT

We continue our commitment to environmentally friendly practices, but the viticultural situation prevents us from doing even more at this time. Nevertheless, we made big strides in 2005, particularly with the purchase of the tournesol - the machine we use to work the ground. During 2006, we will take a break in our eventual transition to an all-organic winery.





Our most important efforts toward a better environment:

- We grow grass in the middle of the vine rows and use our tournesol for weed control. No herbicides are used (see pictures above).
- We have created a sustainable way of protecting the vineyard by lowering the amount of fungicides used.
- We do not use insecticides, except in very rare situations (one time in ten years on one hectare).
- For the vinification of our red wine (a process needing much heat) we use solar energy.
- We only add a minimum amount of sulphur to our wines. Our red wines are not filtered.
- By using lightweight bottles, we save ten to twenty tons of glass, therefore less glass is used in production and less petrol is used in transporting the lighter bottles.
- There is no PVC in the tape we use to close our boxes.
- There are many other environmentally friendly steps we take, but are too numerous to mention here. They are altogether beneficial for the environment and for our health.

## Finally water!

After three years of drought, our ground was finally watered by snow and rain. Though it causes lots of mud, it is so good for nature!!!



#### **ABOUT US**

At their parents' death in 1965, Alphonse's brothers and sisters gave him the family property. Alphonse had been working there since he was 14 years old (1943). He had more ambitions than to only produce grapes; therefore, Alphonse and Françoise created the "Mas d'Intras" in 1982.

At age 76 and 74 respectively, Alphonse and Françoise are now retired, but they are always available to give a helping hand where needed.







#### WHO IS WORKING AT THE MAS D'INTRAS IN 2006?

Currently there are only four of us. Denis and Emmanuel joined the estate in the early nineties, as did Emmanuel's wife Magalie - our only employee. Sébastien, the son of Alphonse's youngest sister, joined as a third partner in 2005.

Emmanuel is responsible for the equipment and the vineyards, where he is assisted by Sébastien and Magalie.

Sébastien takes care of the cellar and supervises the bottling. Magalie assists him.

Magalie works in the office and helps customers in our tasting room, where we all take turns lending a hand.

Denis's job is marketing and delivering of the wine in France and Northern Europe.









## THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

Though the Vintner's day is very busy, he should find time for his family!





Cyril (son of Magalie & Emmanuel) and Vincent (son of Valérie & Denis), both 7 years old, go to school in



Marina, daughter of Magalie & Emmanuel, is 9 years old and also goes to school in Valvignères.



Camille, daughter of Valérie & Denis, is 5 and goes to school in Valvignères with the others.



Marie-Julienne, Sébastien's companion, works at a goat cheese farm and often comes to support us in our work at Mas d'Intras.

Sébastien & Marie-Julienne live in the village of Valvignères.



Valérie. Denis's wife, is a teacher. How about some homework for the s u m m e vacation?!!

