BERNARD FAURIE

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See also St-Joseph.

Don't worry, Bernard! You make lovely wines, full of the authentic Hermitage qualities. Yours is a benchmark small domaine in a wonderful appellation. Hang loose!

Such words need to be addressed to the often fretful Bernard Faurie, a man completely without pretension and one who has toiled heroically since changing jobs in 1980. Until then he worked in a factory near Tournon, while his father looked after the family cherry and apricot trees and sold the wine from their 0.56 hectare of Hermitage to local merchants.

Bernard first had to learn to vinify the wine for his father and for his relation Jean Bouzige in nearby Mauves. Between them, the three elder members of the family each held 0.56 hectare. "It simply wasn't big enough for me to work when I came out of school," he recalls.