

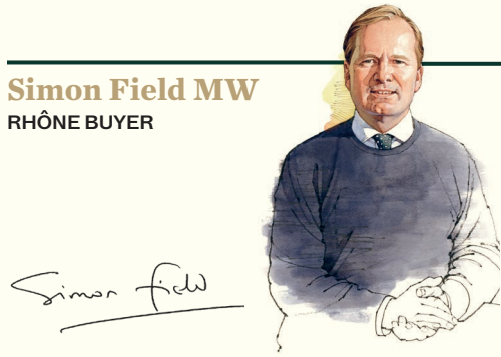
BERRY BROS & RUDD
3, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS

RHÔNE 2016
En Primeur

RHÔNE 2016 A Tale of Two Terroirs

Simon Field MW
RHÔNE BUYER



It would be somewhat simplistic, but not wholly inappropriate, to cut France in two when analysing the 2016 vintage. The northern half is troubled, modest, Protestant of temperament and relatively ungenerous of disposition; the south by contrast is benevolent, Reuben-esque, Catholic in spirit, and a source of unalloyed bounteous pleasure. To my mind the Rhône Valley is similarly divided – two wine regions sharing nomenclature but little else, something especially the case in 2016. Yet, as with most generalisations, one should be a little wary – cherishing the diversity and appreciating the nuance that nature has bestowed upon each.

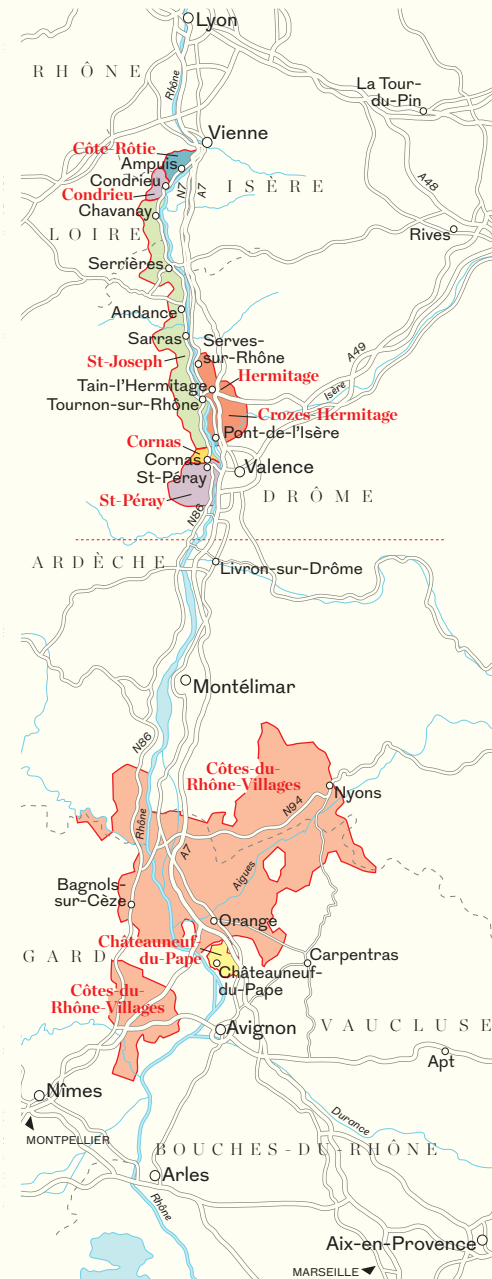
The fantastic generosity of the Southern Rhône wines should not undermine on-going issues with drought and its potentially disastrous effects on the wines, whereas the restraint of the Northern Rhône styles may presage a safer future and may, in fact, capture a stylistic mood. Be that as it may, one should not undermine the unabashed brilliance of the 2016 southern portfolio and, reciprocating its innate generosity, celebrate a very great year in the making.

The received wisdom is that the reds are better the further south one goes, with attractive ethereal whites resplendent across the whole region. Indeed, this is

the first time of tasting young wines in the southern vineyards in two decades where the quality has been immediately and gloriously apparent; with the '15s (a far from negligible year), by comparison, tasting awkward and somewhat disjointed. The '16s all have a lift, a purity, and a wealth of fruit, and are self-assured by the fact that the high acid levels are natural and are not forced or added. The tannins are sublime; phenolic ripeness is achieved with minimal effort.

In 2016 there was no 'canicule', with just enough rain and surprisingly bounteous yields. The north was more difficult certainly, with spring frost and a rather lacklustre "humid" August compromising matters. Overall, however, this is a far from negligible vintage, its style embracing a far from unattractive Burgundian femininity. In short, 2016 is fascinating and infinitely varied. The southern reds most certainly keepers, their northern siblings to be approached sooner, the whites universally refreshing yet with a distinctive southern French charm. Comparisons in the North have focused on the 2012, 2020 and for some, the 2000 vintages, all of which have matured beautifully. In the South, not surprisingly, the comparisons have been more ambitious, 2010, 2009, 2007 and even 1990 have all been all cited more than once.

I am convinced that this is the best young vintage I have ever tasted, and I am lucky enough to have been sourcing this range now for nearly two decades. Only 2010 and maybe 2001 come close, but this is even better than both.



THE RHÔNE VALLEY

KEY

- G A R D Département name
- Département border
- Boundary between Northern & Southern Rhône areas
- Côte-Rôtie Wine area name
- Wine area

INDEX

NORTHERN RHÔNE

3	<i>Domaine Mouton Père & Fils</i>
4	<i>Domaine René Rostaing</i>
6	<i>Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier</i>
7	<i>Domaine Yves Gangloff</i>
8	<i>Domaine Yves Cuilleron</i>
8	<i>Domaine Pierre Gaillard</i>
11	<i>Maison Chapoutier</i>
11	<i>Domaine Pierre et Jérôme Coursodon</i>
13	<i>Domaine Pierre Gonon</i>
13	<i>Jean-Louis Chave Sélection</i>
13	<i>Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud</i>
14	<i>Domaine Laurent Combier</i>
14	<i>Domaine Bernard Faurie</i>
15	<i>Domaine Marc Sorrel</i>
15	<i>Domaine des Lises</i>
16	<i>Domaine du Tunnel</i>
17	<i>Domaine Alain Voge</i>
17	<i>Domaine Vincent Paris</i>
19	<i>Domaine Thierry Allemand</i>
19	<i>Domaine des Remizières</i>
20	<i>Domaine Dumien Serette</i>
20	<i>Domaine Franck Balthazar</i>

SOUTHERN RHÔNE

23	<i>Domaine La Bastide St Vincent</i>
23	<i>Maison Brunier</i>
24	<i>Domaine Dieu-Le-Fit</i>
25	<i>Domaine des Escaravailles</i>
25	<i>Domaine Montirius</i>
27	<i>Domaine le Sang des Cailloux</i>
28	<i>Domaine de L'Oratoire St Martin</i>
28	<i>Domaine Chaume Arnaud</i>
29	<i>Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin</i>
31	<i>Domaine des Sénéchaux</i>
31	<i>Domaine Raymond Usseglio</i>
32	<i>Château la Nerthe</i>
32	<i>Domaine de Marcoux</i>
34	<i>Domaine de la Janasse</i>
34	<i>Domaine la Cabotte</i>

WINES AT A GLANCE

36	<i>Wines at a Glance</i>
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NORTHERN RHÔNE

Report

After the ripe and rich 2015, a thoroughly modern vintage, 2016 is a return to a more sober, classical style in the North – its relatively unassuming nature is not to be underestimated however. Comparisons with recent “lesser” years such as 2008 or, more especially 2014, are unworthy and inappropriate.

The season was, however, marked by lower than average temperatures and early patchy frost which delayed the budding, rather as it had done in 2013. Brief but well-publicised bouts of hail in parts of Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage in April complicated things further: flowering was three weeks later than 2015, a return therefore to its more traditional timing and coinciding with generally warm and pleasant conditions through the early summer. August saw more rain than usual, especially in the first two weeks; thereafter warmer conditions, allied to a cleansing Mistral, ensured that there were no mildew issues and, thankfully, the dreaded fruit-fly, so malicious in 2014, did not make an appearance.

All in all, a small crop, with natural acidity lending tension and purity to the wines; the harvest was relatively late, but sunny, and the fermentations were, according to Pierre Rostaing, “easy”, needing little encouragement. Indeed, the descriptors generally employed by the growers focus on the charm, elegance and approachability of the wines. The most frequently cited comparison is 2006, an underrated vintage at the time and one which has stood the test of time very well. Better, dare I say it, than the much lauded 2005. Excellent whites and silky reds, not blockbusters to be sure, but it is in the cyclical nature of one’s approach to such things, with its concomitant nostalgia for more subtle pleasure, that 2016 will strike a most agreeable chord.

Prices are quoted by the case in bond
and are inclusive of freight and insurance
but exclusive of VAT and duty.

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⑥ 6 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑫ 12 x 75cl bottles in bond
M 3 or 6 x 150cl magnums in bond

CONDRIEU

Viognier – nobody does it better. In the same way that growers the world over have planted Pinot Noir in the hope of emulating red Burgundy, the similarly finicky Viognier is planted in the hope of achieving the unique balance of exotic perfume, weight and freshness for which Condrieu is famed. Few succeed. Traditionally vinification and *élevage* are in relatively inert, large, wooden vessels, but there is more interest from a new generation in the qualities of new oak. Plantings have expanded beyond the core of the AOC, around the village itself, to 140 hectares from the low of eight hectares in the 1960s. The vineyards pick up where Côte Rôtie leaves off, the slope continues, but the schist of the north begins to give ground to a little more granite and a topsoil of decomposed mica. Georges Vernay, of the eponymous *domaine*, was the region's *de facto* godfather, a constant feature during the difficult years and a key figure in keeping Condrieu from falling into total obscurity. Today the appellation is characterised by energy and creativity, and demand for the wines from this diminutive region is soaring.

KEY

- AOC Condrieu vineyards
- AOC Château-Grillet vineyard
- LOIRE Département name
- Commune border
- Contour interval 50m

Wine Producers

- 1 Domaine Yves Cuilleron
- 2 Domaine Pierre Gaillard
- 3 Domaine Yves Gangloff
- 4 Domaine Mouton Père et Fils



Domaine Mouton Père & Fils

JEAN-CLAUDE MOUTON



Condrieu is home to a number of persuasive personalities, stentorian in their self-belief and highly eloquent. Antithetical to this, other than in his wines' eloquence, is Jean-Claude Mouton. The vines sit high above Condrieu village itself. His wines show a proclivity for nuance and subtlety perhaps not readily associated with such a decadent name. He feels the cooler conditions of 2016 enhance these differences and add an ethereal elegance to his wines.

White

CONDRIEU, CÔTE BONNETTE

A little more loess in the soil, a touch more sand and a longer, more linear style, its vinification more in *cuve* than wood. Honeysuckle and apricot descriptors are not absent, but there is a flinty, stone fruit character here, an attention to detail which would repay careful gastronomic selection. Drink now to 2021.

V0485B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£126.00**

CONDRIEU, CÔTE CHATILLON

More classic granitic *terroir* beneath photographic "wig-wam" *archet* vines, then more wood in the *élevage*, some of it from *barrique* of only a year of age. The wine is accordingly richer and fuller-bodied than the Bonnette, unctuous and creamy of texture, not at the expense of structural integrity and with an impressive length to boot. Drink now to 2020.

V0484B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

NORTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine René Rostaing

RENÉ ROSTAING



René was not at the Domaine for my last visit; he was taking a class in Latin somewhere in Vienne. Having got to know him over the years, this did not come as a source of great surprise. I wrote, in Latin, to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. He wrote back, in Latin, to advise that he had not retired, but rather that Pierre was now in day-to-day charge. Will the legacy of the supreme classicist be safe, even if he hasn't really retired? On the evidence of the '16s, there can be little cause for concern.

The philosophy of using predominantly whole-bunch fermentation, the famous (infamous to some!) roto-fermentors and the tendency towards 'demi-muid' maturation, are all unchanged, ditto the celebrated house style, which rewards patience and underlines nuance. Pierre describes 2016 as "facile, gourmand and soyeux"; a vintage made in September, after a relatively cool mid-summer, much in the style of 2006, but less powerful than in many years such as 2005 and 2015. 2016 is more Burgundian, he concludes. Promising words indeed, and more than justified by the wines themselves.

White

CONDRIEU, LA BONNETTE

From the famous *lieu-dit* high above the village, a deliciously complex Condrieu, my first tasting notes here include the words ginger and salt whereas normally with Condrieu it is honeysuckle and apricot, or maybe lychee, if I wish to be controversial. Rostaing captures the biotite granitic soil profile and tames his Viognier with great skill, avoiding oak which I commend with such an inherently powerful varietal. A partially suppressed malolactic fermentation underlines the freshness. The vintage has helped certainly, but the classicist and the son of the classicist have eschewed the decorative and the overly indulgent with great skill. Drink now to 2020.

V2412B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£246.00**

Red

CÔTE-RÔTIE, AMPODIUM

Destemming was virtually absent in 2016, then a long *cuvaison*, gently executed and with minimal pumping over; all the energy and power from the fruit itself channelling the nutrients and character of the vintage. *Elevage* was mainly in *demi-muid*, with very few *barriques* employed, none of them new; the result has ripe yet restrained fruit, with subtle aromatics of violets and forest floor, and beautifully silky tannins at the back of the mouth. Approachable, yet youthful at the same time; a child for our time. Drink 2020-2024.

V2406B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£246.00**

CÔTE-RÔTIE, LA LANDONNE

The Rostaings are lucky enough to own two plots of this famous vineyard, their holdings amounting to 1.6 hectares overall, predominantly east and south east facing, the morning sun warming the steep schistous plots over the extended ripening period. The ferrous soils lend austerity and power to the wine; less ripe and voluptuous than 2015, and maybe closer in personality to its more distant progenitors, with a quiet authority and incredible length. Dark fruits and tightly-knit tannins; the classic Côte Brune of our imagination; Lent rather than Carnival; patience over indulgence, patience to be indulged, *enfin*. Drink 2022-2028+.

V2408B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£504.00**

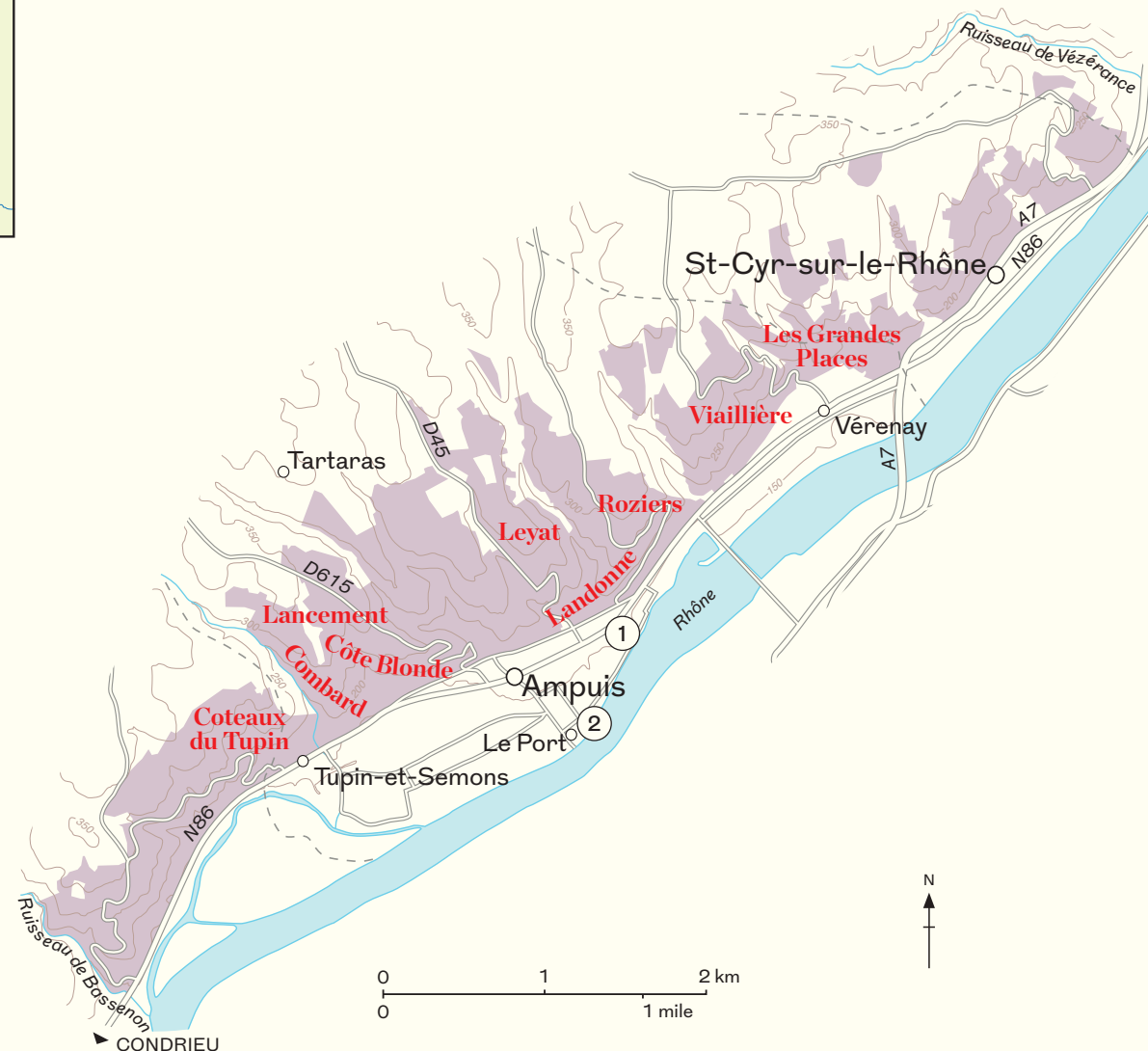
CÔTE-RÔTIE, CÔTE BLONDE

More powerful than its siblings, the Côte Blonde is the longest-lived member of the Rostaing family. From 80-year-old vines, with clay, iron and gneiss soils, this wine is aged mainly in *demi-muid*, as usual, but also, for a small volume, in *barrique*, up to 10 percent of which is new. The soil lends more minerality and a touch less acidity than La Landonne, the wood affording a creamy texture in support of the rich blackberry and cassis fruit. The use of 5 percent Viognier in the blend contributes to addictive aromatics of violets and tobacco, and yields graciously to a plummy, spicy, richly ornate mid-palate, a bed-rock of complexity and potential and a tightly tannic structure which will take time to unravel. Drink 2022-2028+.

V2410B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£546.00**

CÔTE-RÔTIE

Having hit a low point in the 1970s, the intimidating hill of Côte-Rôtie (literally the “roasted slope”) has risen in esteem to achieve its present, rightfully-revered position. Its recent success is in part thanks to the critical acclaim awarded to wines from small, single sites; a new mode for a region which is traditionally blended across the hill. The slope reaches a 60 percent gradient in places and an extensive terracing system, with walls known as *cheys*, is needed to make it possible (but only just) to farm vines here. Facing south and south-east, the vines are well exposed to the benevolent rays of the sun and warm southerly winds, while protected from the brutal northerlies. The hillside is split broadly into two, nominally representing a division in soil structure; Côte Brune with iron-rich clay mingled with schist, and the lighter Côte Blonde, which tends to produce wines that display finesse rather than muscle. Viognier is grown alongside the Syrah in places, particularly in the Côte Blonde, and up to 20 percent can be co-fermented, bringing perfume and, paradoxically, intensifying the colour. More romantically the names are reputed to derive from the respective hair colours of the daughters of the lord who owned the hillside in the 16th century.



KEY

- AOC Côte-Rôtie vineyards
- Commune border
- Landonne Vineyards
- Contour interval 50m

Wine Producers

- 1 Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier
- 2 Domaine René Rostaing

NORTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier

STÉPHANE OGIER



Stéphane Ogier goes from strength to strength, his magnificent new winery nearing completion, totemic of ambition and success, but also built in such a way to defer to the principle of vinification by parcel which is fundamental to his project and long-term vision. This is no flight to volume and anonymity; quite the contrary, and it is exciting indeed.

He sees 2016 is seen as a sibling to 2006, especially in the tannic structure of its reds. Naturally high yields and a green harvest allied to cooler temperatures and a longer growing season sit well with the Ogier philosophy of natural selection, later harvests and intensity of fruit. Despite a little spring frost, 2016 is very far removed from 2014, and in some ways its generosity recalls 2011, together with 2006's siren aromatic call.

White

VIOGNIER DE ROSINE, VIN DE PAYS

A white sister for the justly celebrated Rosine Syrah, the Vognier is only demure and feminine up to a point. That point being when one recognises, with great satisfaction, that the viscous complexity and structural harmony are incredible for a supposedly modest Vin de Pays. Drink now to 2021.

V2530B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£72.00**

CONDRIEU, LA COMBE DE MALLEVAL

Located in the hills above St Pierre-de-Bœuf, adjacent to Medieval Malleval, these Viognier vines skirt the southerly tip of Condrieu, but the wine does not lack for firm granitic grip; the apricot profile writ large, the grape's naturally indulgent inclination held in check by subtle vinification which controls temperature but ensures that inherent exuberance is not undermined. Rich and long, for sure, an oil rather than a watercolour, but with incredible attention to detail. Drink 2019-2021.

V2531B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£144.00**

CONDRIEU, LES VIELLES VIGNES DE JACQUES VERNAY

One of the greatest of all those in Condrieu, this wine's full name is deferential to a member of the extended Vernay family, sourced from vines that were planted in 1948. Aged partly in 350 litre barrels and partly in larger 16hl *foudres*, the 2016 is rich, yet energetic, spicy, yet focused, with hints of exotic orange-like fruit and stem ginger and an unctuous mouthfeel belied only by a reassuringly strong undertow of natural acidity. Drink now 2019-2022.

V2532B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£240.00**

Red

LA ROSINE SYRAH

A firm favourite at Berry. Bros. & Rudd, where its relatively approachable red fruit personality is valued, La Rosine is sourced from vines just behind the commune of Semons, and has been aged for over nine months in *barrique*, unusually generous for a Vin de Pays. Pure Syrah is writ large here, with exuberant red and black-berried fruit behind a gloriously floral aroma. Behind that exists tapenade, bacon rind and wood smoke. Plenty of depth, in other words. Drink 2019-2021.

V2536B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£72.00**
V2536M 3 x 150cl magnums in bond **£78.00**

ST JOSEPH

Located on the plateau above the Medieval village of Malleval, these vines are now 35 years old and the 2016 is rich, spicy and wonderfully harmonious, with notes of crushed rock and ripe blackberry in evidence. 100 percent whole bunch vinification underwrites its structure, grip and persistence. Drink 2019-2024.

V2538B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£90.00**

L'ÂME SŒUR, SYRAH DE SEYSSUEL

More finesse than ever in the l'Âme Soeur, and yet still recognisably different to the wines from across the river. These historic Seyssuel vineyards have been championed by Stéphane and here we can understand why. Maybe more Taylor to the Côte Rôtie's Fonseca — not lacking in cerebral nourishment and rigour on the finish, but still fulsome, fruity and beautifully rounded. Drink 2020-2025.

V2537B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£168.00**

CÔTE-RÔTIE, LE VILLAGE

The concept of subdividing the Côte Rôties has been well received; the Village *cuvée* is intended as an archetype of the youthful, relatively approachable face of the appellation. The parcels concerned are Bassenon, Bourrier, Le Goutay, Gerine and significant parts of his holdings in Besset and Leyat. The wine recalls La Rosine in its purity and red fruit charm, a little additional ageing adding slightly firmer tannins and a little more power on the finish. A modern Côte Rôtie for relatively earlier drinking. Drink 2020-2024.

V2535B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£162.00**

CÔTE-RÔTIE, RÉSERVE DU DOMAINE

In 2016, the Réserve *cuvée* is made up of parcels in the *lieu-dits* of But de Mont, Fongéant, Côte Blonde, Côte Rozier, Champon, La Viallière, Bertholon, Montmain, Côte Bodin, Lancement and also, shared judiciously with Le Village, parts of Besset and Leyat. There is nothing so straightforward as a sub-division of schist and granite, *blonde* and *brune*, north and south for Monsieur Ogier. His philosophy is far more ambitious, far more focused than that — epithets which can both be applied to the young wine itself. Of the multi-faceted components, I was especially taken by Fongéant, with its descendant of top notes, by Bertholon, where there is a little more clay in the soil, and by Champon, which I always consider to be a stalwart with all the powerful potential that one has come to associate with the Côte Brune. A Burgundian aspiration, almost, with a Burgundian mindset and distant Burgundian melodies play out through the wine itself. Drink 2020-2026.

V2534B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£282.00**
V2534M 3 x 150cl magnums in bond **£288.00**

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③ 3 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑥ 6 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑫ 12 x 75cl bottles in bond
M 3 or 6 x 150cl magnums in bond

Domaine Yves Gangloff

YVES GANGLOFF



Aged rocker and superb winemaker for sure, but gifted designer and architect? Well, maybe; on my last visit I was more than surprised to see that the sleepy property, wonderfully inaccessible and unkempt, was being transformed. Maybe the influence of daughter Elise is being brought to bear. The wine, thankfully does not change, structurally or otherwise.

White

CONDRIEU

Yves' Condrieu is one of the torch-bearers for the appellation, its personality residing at the more gregarious end of the spectrum. It comes from the Bonnette (65 percent) and Chery (35 percent) vineyards and is fermented in oak and matured for 12 months in one and two-year-old-barrels of 300 litres. Indigenous yeasts and innate genius make for a wine that has creamy exotic power, but plenty of grip and persistence too. Characteristically generous, but tempered pleasingly by the cooling influence of the vintage, the 2016 has honey, apricot and glazed pear aromatics followed by suggestions of hazelnut and Mirabelle plums on the palate. There's minerality behind the fruit, however, and beyond the vistas of viscosity and the plenitude of flavour, there is fine grip and harmony as one reaches the home key. Drink 2019-2022.

Y9222B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond

⑥ £300.00



NORTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine Yves Cuilleron

YVES CUILLERON



Yves compares 2016 to 2012 and 2006, both forward charming vintages without the burn of indolent heat or the tannic grip of allegedly more persuasive years such as 2005, 2009 or even 2011. Indeed, he makes the bold statement that it is shaping up better than 2015, which gained great plaudits in the North. “Tardif” but more open than the similarly late 2013 vintage, the crop had benefitted from rain at the end of August and an extended growing period. Yves now farms 70 hectares, and is as dynamic, energetic an inquisitive as ever.

White

ST PÉRAY, LIEU-DIT BIOUSSE

The Biousse *lieu-dit* is on the slopes adjacent to Cornas, its soils alluvial with distinctive *galets* (pudding stones) recalling vineyards far further south. A blend of Marsanne and Roussanne, the wine has enjoyed nearly nine months in *barrique*, of which 20 percent is new. I was struck by the beguiling juxtaposition of freshness, salinity and complexity. Smoky gunflint on the one hand, a basket of citric fruit on the other, fired up by an energetic tension and a softly spicy finish. Drink now to 2021.

V2368B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£90.00**

ST JOSEPH BLANC, LE LOMBARD

Lombard is a brand name rather than a *lieu-dit* specifically, although all of the fruit is sourced on the steep granitic slopes behind Verlieu. In terms of *terroir*, a deceptively sandy top-soil conceals a firm granitic core and the wine itself has similar *Janus-lie* complexity, the youthful Marsanne soft spicy fruit ceding to a firm core with plenty of scope for evolution. Natural yeasts and 9 months in barrel complete the picture. Drink now to 2024.

V2371B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£96.00**

Red

ST JOSEPH, LES SERINES

Old-vines, *massale* selection and organic viticulture all inform the personality of what to me is the signature Cuilleron brand. Although Yves is prolific throughout the north of the valley, his winery is located in St Joseph and St Joseph is currently hugely modish. 18 months in *barrique*, none of which are new, underwrite old-vine spice and complexity; there is a hint of *sauvage* here behind the blueberry and myrtle. It has real Ardèche grip and an irresistible sense of place. Drink 2019-2024.

V2369B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£144.00**

CÔTE-RÔTIE, MADINIÈRE

Madinière is the name of the stream which dissects the hillsides of the north of Côte Rôtie; its vineyards are planted at 10,000 plants per hectare, its wines for me always the archetype of *schistous* northerly *terroir*, that is to say with a velvety, peppery grip and a rich black fruit personality. The 2016 is a little longer than the broad and fulsome 2015, wonderfully fresh with violets and hedgerow belying eighteen months of *barrique* ageing. Pure and powerful; powerfully persuasive. Drink 2020-2025.

V2370B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£192.00**

Domaine Pierre Gaillard

PIERRE GAILLARD



By turns avuncular and hugely influential, Pierre Gaillard’s sense of history and sense of place has been credited with the burgeoning re-emergence of the Seyssuel vineyards north of Vienne. Some might say he has also, along with Jean-Louis Chave, been ascribed with the re-emergence of St Joseph itself as the most dynamic appellation in the northern Rhône. This winery, high above Medieval Malleval continues to grow, as does the family, with daughters Jeanne and Elise and son Pierre-Antoine now assuming more control. In 2016 he made an exceptional range, his whites especially impressive.

White

ST JOSEPH BLANC

In glorious counterpoint to the equally flamboyant Michel Chapoutier, Pierre Gaillard only cultivates Roussanne amongst the white grapes. For him the tension engendered between its naturally flamboyant personality and a stark granitic backdrop engender real complexity and gastronomic potential. The 2016 is a perfect illustration of this self-assured confidence; 8 months in Allier and Nevers oak, of which 5 percent is new, with gentle *battonnage*, have secured a rounded, gently creamy personality. Poached pear, nectarine and soft spice are all evidenced. Generous and flamboyant certainly, there is a cerebral tension and finely etched finish. This wine captures the personality of the man with great accuracy! Drink now to 2022.

V2330B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£84.00**

CONDRIEU

Pierre’s Viognier vines are located in the south of the appellation, divided equally between the communes of Chavanay and Malleval, all the wines enjoying an exclusively south-facing aspect. Low yields on decomposed granite, relatively late picking without jeopardising freshness and an *élevage* in 10 percent new Allier *barrique* all score an adamantine personality, with benchmark malolactic *richeur* underscored by fresh acidity and expressive notes of lychee, white peach and violet. Drink now to 2020.

V2329B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£132.00**

Red

ST JOSEPH, CLOS DE CUMINAILLE

Planted in 1981 by Pierre himself, shortly after leaving the house of Vidal Fleury, Cuminaille is now one of the greatest wines in St Joseph, an eloquent expression of northern Syrah and a worthy leitmotif for all the progress made in this diverse and once rather misunderstood appellation. Pierre destems completely and uses a system of *pigeage* to achieve gentle extraction from the mature vines. Aromatic integrity, softly persuasive peppery tannins and a linearity which marks out this vintage are all expertly captured in this seminal example. Drink 2019-2024.

V2326B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£84.00**

CÔTE-RÔTIE

Pierre’s total Côte Rôtie holdings now cover over 5 hectares and are located across the appellation. The final blend therefore combines Brune Syrah, which has a firm spicy *oxyde de fer* character, with “Blonde” Syrah and Viognier, the latter making up 10 percent of the final *assemblage*. In 2016 sites in Pimotin, Bassenon, Viaillière and Mollard have been favoured and the Viognier is especially expressive, adding lift, lyricism and floral charm to a finely chiselled and supremely elegant wine. Drink 2020-2025.

V2327B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£162.00**

CÔTE-RÔTIE, LAROSE POURPRE

The natural amphitheatre of this vineyard covers 0.8 hectares and is located exclusively in the Rozier enclave (Côte Brune). Here, its south-facing aspect, stony *terroir* and unusually warm microclimate engender musts which require longer ageing than some and which are well suited to 100 percent new wood for 18-19 months. The wine is a dark-fruit *vin de garde*, its velvety enrobing tannins recalling cassis and wild raspberry, its smoky, teasing personality promising a long and satisfactory evolution for two decades or more. Drink 2022-2028.

V2328B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond

£336.00

HERMITAGE AND CROZES-HERMITAGE

Small and intricately parcellated, the 132-hectare hill of Hermitage has a long standing prestige which, unlike much of the Rhône, has seldom waned. During the 18th and 19th centuries, it enjoyed equal billing with the First Growths of Bordeaux, which it augmented as a blending partner on occasion. The granite hillside's full, southerly exposure cuts an imposing figure; leering over the town of Tain, crested by its iconic small chapel which appears to be floating mid-air when the rest of the hillside is cloaked in the black of night. For many this is Syrah's apogee, and so strong is the association that the word "Hermitage" is employed as a synonym. A portion of white grapes (up to 15 percent) may feature in the red wines, but it is less common here than Côte-Rôtie, and there is no Viognier. The whites, also wines of distinction, are the rich and intriguingly aromatic product of the partnership between Marsanne and Roussanne. The rolling, rather than vertiginous, hills around Tain form Crozes-Hermitage AOC, the Northern Rhône's largest at 1,450 hectares, where Syrah is also king. Crozes has a more chequered history than its towering neighbour but over the last two decades or so a number of willing and able producers have helped to raise the region to its current high standard.

KEY

- AOC Hermitage
- AOC Crozes-Hermitage
- AOC St Joseph
- Le Méal Vineyards
- Contour interval 50m

Wine Producers

- 1 Maison Chapoutier
- 2 Jean-Louis Chave Selection
- 3 Domaine Laurent Combier
- 4 Domaine Pierre et Jerome Cour
- 5 Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud
- 6 Domaine Pierre Gonon
- 7 Domaine des Lises
- 8 Domaine Marc Sorrel





NORTHERN RHÔNE

Maison Chapoutier

MICHEL CHAPOUTIER



Applying his usual break-neck rigour to the presidency of professional association “Inter Rhône” has not in any way distracted Michel Chapoutier from his goal of ensuring that his range, more impressive in scope than ever, is providing the most complete dissection of the terroir of the Rhône Valley. We focus on the north with a range selected from a more than extensive tasting and have juxtaposed wines which really dazzled from their respective Crus.

White

ST PÉRAY, LIEU-DIT HONGRIE

A small *lieu-dit*, high in the hills, spread on the borders of the communes of Touland and St Peray itself, this granitic plot was selected by Chapoutier for its potential for white wine. Natural yeasts and ageing in older *demi-muids* preserve a distinctive authenticity in this once famous appellation, which is now firmly back on track. *Hongrie* is a 100 percent old vine Marsanne and has a nutty texture backed by a lively, almost tropical ebullience, one that is held in check by citric and somewhat chalky notes at the back, which underline complexity and seriousness of intent. Drink now to 2021.

V2734B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£120.00**

Red

CROZES-HERMITAGE, LES MEYSONNIERS

Les Meysonniers is a benchmark Crozes-Hermitage and has been a firm favourite at Berry Bros. & Rudd for a very long time. It has been wonderfully consistent over the years and it is impressive that Michel has been able to avoid any manifestation of Icarus-like hubris brought on by increased emphasis on the parcel selections. The wine displays such rich, ripe berry flavours and supple tannins that it would appear that his wings are safe. Drink 2019-2022.

V2730B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£60.00**

ST JOSEPH, LES GRANILITES

A broad seductive graphite nose provides the overture to a very serious (Syrah-ious maybe...?), synaesthetic, symphony of colour and restraint like a Turner sea-scape. This is farmed on impossibly steep slopes behind Mauves, where eponymous granite underwrites the vines, and their progeny, with artistic rigour. Drink 2019-2024.

V2732B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£96.00**

CORNAS, LES ARÈNES

Michel’s Cornas vines are located next to a small chapel, which closely resembles that in Hermitage, the location of many of his top parcels. Old vine Syrah is grown on a combination of clay, limestone and decomposed granite, the latter known locally as “gore”. Destemmed but with lengthy *cuvaison* and *élevage*, some of which is carried out in concrete, in the name of freshness, most in wood, in deference to latent complexity, this is a suitably robust and powerful example, with notes of beef-stock, tobacco, blueberry, camphor, liquorice and spice all vying patiently for attention. Drink 2020-2025.

V2733B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£126.00**

HERMITAGE, MONIER LA SIZERANNE

Berry Bros. & Rudd started working with the Chapoutiers in 1926 and it was this *cuvée*, or at least a forebear thereof, which cemented the long and happy relationship. We were especially impressed by the 2015, an iron fist in a velvet glove if ever there was one and the 2016, child of a more potentially troubled vintage, carries on the good work, its ripe and seductive raspberry flavours underscored by hints of development involving tobacco, *gibier* and *sousbois*, then very firm but ripe tannins and a strong finish. Drink 2020-2026.

V2729B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£270.00**

Domaine Coursodon

JÉRÔME COURSDON



Jérôme puts recent vintages in contrasting pairs: ’15 and ’16 mirror ’05 and ’06 which in turn reflect the patterns of ’09 and ’10. In each case the former rich, powerful and attention seeking – the latter more subtle, perhaps with higher natural acidity and no lack of charm. “Pretty” is his word, so let’s run with that. A little hail on 17th April was not enough to endanger the vines; warm June and July weather was countered by a late season, when it rained over 10 days, sometimes more welcome than others. He harvested from 19th September until 1st October. Neither advanced nor late. On time, therefore.

White

ST JOSEPH BLANC, SILICE

My only “issue” with this gem of a wine is that it is made in such small volume, which usually entails an indecorous scramble for an allocation. Well worth it, of course, as it is rare to encounter such a forthcoming Marsanne, its citric and orchard fruit personality mapped onto a denser more complex structure, honied and beautifully layered. Drink 2019-2023.

Y5799B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£198.00**

Prices are quoted by the case in bond and are inclusive of freight and insurance but exclusive of VAT and duty.

bbr.com/rhone2016
finewine@bbr.com
020 3302 2883

③ 3 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑥ 6 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑫ 12 x 75cl bottles in bond
M 3 or 6 x 150cl magnums in bond

ST JOSEPH BLANC, LE PARADIS SAINT PIERRE

The blend (95 percent Marsanne and five percent Roussanne) is responsible for this superb Paradise Blanc. Tilleul and chalk rock cede to wax and honey; tightly constructed, this has impressive *matière* and a clear head for (the) heights. Drink 2020-2025.

V2339B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £132.00

Red

ST JOSEPH, SILICE

Boasting a wealth of silky red and black fruits, this wine is poised and perfumed. Underlying spices and notes of sousbois perfectly complement the structure. The 2016 has a wonderfully refreshing and clean finish, courtesy of the mild season and inherent fruit quality. Drink 2019-2023.

V2336B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £180.00

ST JOSEPH, L'OLIVAIE

L'Olivaie is the branded name given to the fruits of magnificent 60-year-old vines located at St Jean de Muzols at the northern edge of the so-called cradle of St Joseph. Having enjoyed an upbringing in 25 percent new wood, with the balance shared between barrel and *demi-muid*, the 2016 has blacker fruits than Silice, but the integrated yet ripe tannin profile is very much *le style de la maison*. It may not completely work in translation but Jérôme describes this one as jovial. A bringer of joy, certainly. Drink 2021-2025.

V2341B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £126.00

ST JOSEPH, LE PARADIS SAINT PIERRE

This hails from 80-year-old vines grown at low yields, with a production of a mere 5,000 bottles. As usual, 50 percent of stems are maintained, engendering a more cerebral edgy wine than its siblings, but well worth the intellectual investment. Bold ripe black fruits, then spice, complexity, velvety tannic grip and a powerful finish. Drink 2021-2026+.

V2340B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £180.00



NORTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine Pierre Gonon

PIERRE GONON



The brothers Gonon have long been ploughing their vineyards with a horse, have been organic for most of this century and indeed make use many of the biodynamic treatments. The modern world has latterly caught up with their old-fashioned ways, and they are now lauded across the world. Fortunately, they are temperamentally disinclined to be over-awed by the attention and the wines are as good as ever, even better maybe.

Red

ST JOSEPH

The “St-Jo” is sourced from the gneiss soils of a steep plot in Mauves, and, a little further to the north a *lieu-dit* called *Les Oliviers*, where there is more clay in the soil. Partial destemming was felt to be appropriate in 2016, a season that has more in common with 2012 and 2006, than the warmer years such as 2015, and most particularly 2009. The 2016 has a signature perfume of forest floor and crushed blueberry and a beautifully harmonious palate, where the dark fruit and red fruit are entwined, with a backdrop of soft spice and eucalypt. Drink 2019-2024.

V2527B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£420.00**

Jean-Louis Chave Sélection

JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE



Domaine Chave dates from 1483, two centuries before Berry Bros. & Rudd set up shop in St James's. St Jean-Louis Chave is now in his early forties, married to a Canadian, Erin, and has built on the pre-eminence of his Hermitage Domaine with the addition of a bijou négociant business, based over the River in Mauves. Startlingly serious and effusive about his vinous mission, Chave is aware of the weight of responsibility which he carries as the leading Rhône winemaker of his generation. The quest for perfection touches all his wines and for him a humble Côtes-du-Rhône, is far from humble – not for any lack of humility.

Red

CÔTES DU RHÔNE, MON COEUR

Vinsobres, with its altitude, its high proportion of Syrah and its relatively northern location provides a significant minority of the fruit for this superlative Côtes-du-Rhône, the other key communes are Cairanne, Séguret and Valréas. Elegant and aromatic, the wine has a dense textured palate and a pleasing lick of pepper at the finish. Drink 2019-2023.

V3088B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£78.00**

ST JOSEPH, OFFERUS

St Joseph is very close to Jean-Louis' heart; the Syrah from these south-east-facing granitic hills is a grape “*qui Pinote*”, by which he means a grape which assumes the aromatic complexity and silky texture of a fine Burgundy. The Offerus is made from vines in Mauves and St-Jean-de Muzols. Its fruit not entirely de-stemmed, which lends extra grip to the notes of crushed raspberry, cassis and tapenade. Drink 2019-2024.

V3089B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£150.00**

Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud

EMMANUEL DARNAUD



*Emmanuel is one of the more engaging and enthusiastic winemakers; garrulous one may say. His winery is in Roche du Glun, on a rather peculiar peninsular which cleaves the mighty river. Most of his vineyards are therefore located in this alluvial sector, or a little further to the west in Mercurol. The style of his wines somewhat belies this, such is his attention to detail and, initially at least, proclivity to use oak. Maturity has courted wisdom and his 2016 wines are less ponderous, more ethereal and altogether more “*buvable*”. There were episodes of hail and frost down here, both of which Emmanuel has vanquished with some panache.*

Red

CROZES-HERMITAGE, LES TROIS CHÈNES

The name of the *cuvée* refers to the fact that the fruits of the different vineyards are matured differently; in 2016, 50 percent was in new or one-year-old barrel, 30 percent in *tronconique* and the balance in older *barrique*. The assemblage has an attractive nose dominated by tapenade, wood-smoke and blackberry fruit; on the palate there are additional notes of pepper and spice. The finish is finely etched and winsome. Drink 2019-2022.

V2372B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£138.00**

ST JOSEPH ROUGE, DARDOUILLE

The vines inherited from father-in-law Bernard Faurie are just behind Mauves, at reasonable altitude and with appropriate granitic austerity. This year they have acquired a sunny soubriquet, in deference to this picturesque *lieu-dit*. Fourteen months in mainly *demi-muid* later we have an exemplary St-Jo; sinewy, rich, generous and linear. A black pepper garland flirts harmlessly. Drink 2020-2024.

V2373B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £240.00

Domaine Laurent Combiér

LAURENT COMBIÉR



The archetypical “cheeky chappie”, Laurent Combiér also happens to be one of, if not “the” leading winemaker in Crozes Hermitage. His vines are mainly located around Mercurol and the flagship Clos des Grives is now nearly 70 years old, although the relatively new Cap Nord is situated on the more granitic slopes of Gervans and is wonderfully different. The paradox which provokes the Combiér grin is time, the ability to produce wonderfully pure and fruity wines from not demonstrably auspicious terroir, yet without compensatory gestures of over-extraction and or too much oak. Always a pleasure.

Red

CROZES-HERMITAGE

The 2016 Domaine Crozes has aromas of dark cherry and *crème de cassis*, with notes of tapenade and spice on the palate and very silky tannins. The wine is pure and refined with a sweet entrancing core. For relatively early drinking, this will not fail to please. Drink now to 2021.

V2333B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £72.00

CROZES-HERMITAGE, CAP NORD

This imaginative and entirely appropriately named *cuvée* is sourced from plots in the north of the appellation, in Gervans to be precise, where the soil is dominated by loess and gneiss. The aspect has a northerly inclination too, affording a certain rigour to the wine, which has marked peppery acidity, which nonetheless defers to the dark fruit and a powerful finish worthy of near neighbours on the hill of Hermitage itself. Drink 2019-2023.

V2334B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £108.00

CROZES-HERMITAGE, CLOS DES GRIVES

The Clos des Grives, all 10 hectares of it, escaped the hail which challenged many local vineyards late in the spring of 2016. *Barrique* ageing over an extended period; (extended for Crozes in any event: nine months) half in new and half in second fill barrel, has resulted in a wine which is correspondingly denser and more powerful than its sibling. The purity remains however and the dark fruit echoes down the memory. Drink 2019-2024.

V2332B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £150.00

Domaine Bernard Faurie

BERNARD FAURIE



Working from a chaotic garage in the backstreets of Mauves does not appear to be immediately promising in terms of potential quality and yet, for more than 40 years, and with holdings that are as modest in terms of size as they are significant in terms of location, Monsieur Faurie has been making wines of immense pedigree and longevity, consistently ranked amongst the very best in the appellation.

Red

HERMITAGE, GRÉFFIEUX BESSARD

The combination of the granitic musculature of Les Bessards and the aromatic purity of Le Greffieux is a harmonious one; the 2016 has charming aromatics, supple tannins and a pure, rounded fruit character. It embodies, in other words, all the best features of the vintage, and then adds a few more for good measure. Drink 2020-2026.

V3054B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £252.00

HERMITAGE, BESSARD MÉAL

Bernard's top wine is a blend from the two most famous communes on the hill. The granitic power of Bessards is finely tempered by the alluvial soils of Le Méal, which lend grace and elegance. A wine of great dignified pedigree, this will age beautifully. Drink 2021-2027.

V3055B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £300.00

NORTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine Marc Sorrel

MARC SORREL



Marc Sorrel, with logic and the wisdom of age on his side, is finally talking of retirement. For those of us who felt sure that this would never happen, it will be a dark day indeed, but it is good to know that his son, Guillaume, already proven as a winemaker elsewhere in Crozes-Hermitage, is waiting in the wings. The end of an era, in any event. Marc's first vintage was in 1983. He cites 2016 as "challenging" after an episode of hail in April, which was particularly irksome in the vineyards in the easterly sector, and therefore affected the white wines more. Production is low, but the warm summer ensured ripeness and timely maturation, and, in Marc's view a classic and "honest" vintage, which will yield a few surprises, or so he claims.

White

HERMITAGE BLANC, LES ROCOULES

From vines of over 50 years of age, the Rocoules Blanc is made up of 90 percent Marsanne and 10 percent Roussanne, vinified traditionally and aged patiently for 18 months in old wood. The 2016 has attractive aromas that are chalky going on floral, citric going on honeyed. Complex, in other words. If only there was more available, as scarcity and quality are dancing a teasing *pas-de-deux* in 2016. It delights in its youthful fruity precocity; then we expect it to sulk in a somnolent fashion, finally to emerge resplendent several years down the line. Drink 2019-2027.

V2271B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£528.00**

Red

HERMITAGE

The Plantiers site enjoyed a very warm summer, which has influenced the youthful style here; ripe and rich in the mid-palate which works well with the more linear, steely influence of the more granitic sites, Bessards and Méal. Ethereal charm and youthful *joie de vivre* work harmoniously here. Drink 2022-2028.

V2270B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£342.00**

HERMITAGE ROUGE, LE GRÉAL

Marc Sorrel's linguistic invention (an amalgam of the Greffieux and Méal vineyards) as opposed to the mythical chalice, le Gréal is one of the great wines of the Northern Rhône. As usual the 2016 has 10 percent of Marsanne added to lend silky charm to the ensemble. All the stems have been maintained, but there is no austerity or bitterness evidenced, even in youth; both more than promising precursors. Drink 2022-2030+.

V2272B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£528.00**

Domaine des Lises

MAXIME GRAILLOT



Thomas, with characteristically flamboyant turn of phrase, describes 2016 as artistocrate rather than arriviste, rather in the vein of 2012 or 2006. I'm not sure if he cites these two comparisons because he knows how much I like these vintages: under-rated, both. I'm also not sure which vintages are to be categorised as arriviste This hangs in the air. In Crozes, 2016 was not without complication, with episodes of rain and then mildew in the early part of the summer challenging at times. August was dry, with cleansing winds, and despite the absence of great heat, the fruit ripened steadily and the harvest was brought in under clear skies on 20th September.

Red

CROZES-HERMITAGE

The 2016 is maybe a little less concentrated than the 2015, but more aromatic, with classic black olives and tapenade behind the ripe leafy and raspberry fruit. The 30 percent of stems have lent structure and length. Maxime praises the wine's energy, and it is indeed hard not to be seduced by the ensemble. Drink now to 2020.

V2375B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£162.00**



Domaine du Tunnel

STÉPHANE ROBERT



The magnificent and eponymous railway tunnel has now been excavated and converted in a photogenic and naturally temperature-controlled winery. Quite an impressive sight it is too! Stéphane is very taken by the 2016 wines; for him it's perfectly possible for a crop to both be "tardif", and yet to be generous and fully ripe at the same time, without issue of "surmaturité" or structural compromise. Higher yields, higher acidity and, for M. Robert higher quality all mark out this classic year.

White

ST PÉRAY, CUVÉE PRESTIGE

Marsanne and Roussanne, favouring the former in a 4:1 ratio. Its pleasing *gras* is born out of the age of the vines, perfectly complementary to the Roussanne, which lend notes of pear-skin and honeysuckle, thereafter white peach and citrus fruits. The palate has classic Marsanne grip and hints of beeswax and lanolin; and beyond that, a fine, almost saline minerality which lends a firm structure. Prestigious indeed. Drink now to 2020.

V2247B 6x 75cl bottles in bond 6 £114.00

Red

CORNAS

A classic blend from vines of up to 55 years of age, with 30 percent of the stems preserved in the *assemblage*, this is an outstanding Cornas which effortlessly combines rich, dark fruit with hints of pepper, scrub, charcuterie and liquorice. The tannins are poised and delicate, antithetical to the popular concept of Cornas, yet gently, quietly persuasive and running along the boardwalk of the wine's powerful and far from pedestrian appeal. Drink 2022-2028.

V2248B 6x 75cl bottles in bond 6 £150.00

CORNAS, VIN NOIR

Vin Noir is the famous, and far from inappropriate *soubriquet* of all wine from Cornas, deemed to date from the time of Charlemagne. This example, however, certainly lives up to the name. More tannic and unyielding than the Classic Cuvée, the wine is *sauvage* in the extreme with notes of tar, liquorice and boot leather coming to the fore and yet, beneath all that the kernel of sweet fruit that will eventually, inevitably, blossom. Only 40 percent of the stems have been maintained in the blend; they forge a powerful partnership with the magisterial dark fruit and underline an almost unparalleled ageing potential. Drink 2023-2030+.

V2249B 6x 75cl bottles in bond 6 £198.00

CORNAS, PUR NOIR

Darker, denser, deeper and more profound than the Vin Noir, the Pur Noir captures the essence of uncompromising Cornas, its vines over a century old, its winemaking, somewhat unusually trusted to new wood, then bottling without fining and filtration after 13 months. "Pure decadence" as a phrase does not really do it justice; its purity is more Mohammed Ali than George Foreman, ethereal in its magnificent power. Drink 2024-2030+.

V2250B 6x 75cl bottles in bond 6 £420.00

NORTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine Alain Voge

ALBÉRIC MAZOYER



Cornas is very much the appellation of the moment, its 250 hectares still only just over half planted, yet with new blood entering the fray every year, together with interest from bigger beasts such as Chapoutier and now Jaboulet, their investment, as usual, is betraying burgeoning international interest. At the heart of it all there are famous old names such as Juge, Michel, Clape and Voge, a monosyllabic canon of fame, of which only the latter two are still flourishing. And flourish they do, with the Clape dynasty eased into a new generation and the Voge wines expertly vinified by Chapoutier alumnus Albéric Mazoyer. As we are talking about traditional Cornas, there will always be stems in the vat, and plenty of aeration to placate the Syrah, but also something gently lifted and almost ethereal in its scope. Gamey, poetic and profoundly impressive.

Red

CORNAS, LES CHAILLES

The vines for Les Chailles are located mainly in the *lieux-dits* of Chaillot and Les Reynards. The wine is fermented in stainless steel and then matured in cask for 10 months. The 2016 is deep in colour, with a nose of smoked raspberry and peat, with cloves and violets providing an aromatic backdrop, hint of compote and liquorice on the palate and a Proustian echo of distant bonfires. Drink 2022-2028.

V2255B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

CORNAS, VIEILLES VIGNES

The age of the vines here varies from 25 to 90 years old, sourced from plots in Le Chaillot, Les Mezards and Les Reynards. A near opaque colour with an iridescent sheen cedes to a fantastic bejewelled palate, which seems to be both modern and traditional at the same time, such is its creamy richness and its fine savoury finish. Drink 2023-2030+.

V2256B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£228.00**

Domaine Vincent Paris

VINCENT PARIS



Vincent has, not without a degree of relief, finally managed to hand over the chair of the Syndicat of Cornas, and should reflect on a job very well done. Cornas is, after all, now firmly (no pun intended) back in fashion, a success which is in no small measure down to the skill and efficiency of Monsieur Paris – attributes captured in the wines themselves, needless to say. Vincent is somewhat contrarian in his analysis of 2016, however, expressing concern that “surmaturité” was a potential danger, especially with his older vines, almost in the manner of 2003. Thankfully he has been able to resist such dangers, and the wines are models of balance and charm.

Red

CORNAS, GRANIT 30

Vines from Patou and higher up, St Pierre (the location of a distinctly Hermitage-esque chapel) apparently average out at a gradient approximating 30 degrees. There is nothing average in the wine however; floral, dark, brooding, powerfully aromatic. Drink 2020-2025.

V2512B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£108.00**

CORNAS, GRANIT 60

The grapes are 60 percent destemmed in 2016; their provenance – two parcels in Patou and one each in Saumon and Mazards. Vincent has eschewed *pigeage* this year and is careful that he does not over-do the *remontage*; extraction should always be gentle when the raw materials are so fine. Dark, tannic, classic. Drink 2020-2026.

V2513B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£150.00**

CORNAS, LA GEYNALE

La Geynale is a four hectare south-facing vineyard perched immediately above the village and made up of soils of granite and crumbled loess. Berry Bros. & Rudd worked for many years with Vincent’s famous uncle Robert Michel, in this famous vineyard, and it’s wonderful to see the nephew continuing the good work. In this, there is dark, dark fruit, a massive block of tannin and dark, savoury fruit lurking beneath. More gifted tasters than I sometimes say they can discern granitic flavours in wines such as this. In this instance I can just about see what they mean... *magnifique!* Drink 2020-2027+.

V2514B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£192.00**



NORTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine Thierry Allemand

THIERRY ALLEMAND



Thierry Allemand, the hermit not of Hermitage, but of Cornas, continues to make outstanding wines from his lofty eerie above the village, located at an altitude of 400 metres on the St Romain-de-Lerps plateau. His wine-making is highly individual, idiosyncratic perhaps, with high densities and often late harvests informing a style which can be pleasingly pragmatic. Quality is fine beyond peradventure however and this winery above all others sets the standard which has allowed Cornas to lead the way in terms of reputation.

Red

CORNAS, LES CHAILLOTS

From the north-west of the village where there is a little more clay in the soil, these relatively (at a mere 45 years of age) younger vines have yielded a charming and very complete wine, with floral violet-scented aromatics, an attractive black fruit pepper-laden palate and silky, rounded tannins. Graphite, plum and dark chocolate are all evidenced, and the finish whispers soft spice and future pleasures. Drink 2022-2030+.

V3116B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£420.00**

CORNAS, LES REYNARDS

Three separate lots here (with clay, decomposed granite and “pure” granite to the fore) will be blended into what shows every sign of being a superb Reynards. From steep granitic slopes, a Cornas from the traditional school; almost opaque in colour and reassuringly difficult to taste at the moment, this has powerful aromas of *pot pourri*, macerated fruit and roasted meat, with hints of Bonfire Night perceived in the darkness. Tannic and powerful on the one hand, beguiling and perfumed on the other, this wine will lure you into its web of delicious contradiction. A sermon in stone. Drink 2022-2030+.

V3117B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£480.00**

Domaine des Remizières

EMILIE DESMUERE



Founded in 1977 by viticulteur Philippe Desmuere, Remizières is now run by his daughter Emilie; an admirable materfamilias, and one who is able to rely on an extended family for the execution of a very impressive philosophy (one which has, admittedly, taken me a while fully to appreciate) barriques and Hermitage not immediately obvious as bed-fellows. Instinctive female moderation has tempered the style, which is now most impressive and quietly influential.

Red

CROZES-HERMITAGE, CUVÉE CHRISTOPHE

If the generic Crozes is mainly sourced from the flatter vineyards around Mercurol, these vines are centred around the steeper granitic slopes of Larnage. The additional concentration engendered is complemented by a sojourn in *barrique* and the result rejoices in generous black fruit, spicy wood tannins and a clean fresh finish. Drink now to 2021.

V3027B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£78.00**

HERMITAGE, CUVÉE EMILIE

Emilie advises that her Hermitage vineyards were quite badly touched by hail in 2016. The Remizières are lucky enough to own 2.5 hectares in this famous (and famously small) appellation, but lost 50 percent of their fruit in 2016. The fruit which made the cut is finely cut indeed, a classic Hermitage iron fist wrapped in silky seduction. Drink 2020-2024.

V3028B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£198.00**

Domaine Dumien Serrette

NICOLAS SERRETTE



Nicolas now makes the wines at this delightful and wonderfully traditional domaine. Some of the vines planted by his forebears survive and contribute to Serrette's generic wine, the quality of which is consistently outstanding. Only 6,000 bottles are made.

Red

CORNAS, PATOU

Nicolas destemmed half the crop in 2016 and selected carefully, attentive to the possible impact of prolonged spring rainfall. Yields were reduced therefore, but there was no hail and no frost. Dense and dark, the wine has a hint of the *sauvage* behind the fruit, an edge which will guarantee the potential for lengthy cellaring and a fascinating evolution, at the culmination of which it should be relished with a game bird. Drink 2020-2025.

V2522B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £144.00

Domaine Franck Balthazar

FRANCK BALTHAZAR



Nephew of the great Noel Verset, Franck Balthazar made his first vintage in 2002 and produces something in the region of 4,000 bottles. One may reflect, especially as his small holding is the neighbour of the ever-expanding Colombo, how quality and quantity often run counter to each other. His philosophy is 100 percent "vendanges entières", with minimal sulphur and Ecocert accreditation. A jewel of a property.

Red

CORNAS, CASIMIR

From younger vines, located on the slopes immediately south of the village, farmed at yields of 25hl/hr, the fruit in 2016 is characteristically pure with a stone fruit personality, plenty of grip and a peppery finish. Hints of black tea and *jambon cru* are also evidenced, and the finish is long and satisfying. Drink 2020-2026.

V2424B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £138.00

CORNAS, LES CHAILLOTS

Franck's vines from this famously steep granitic *lieu-dit* are up to 110 years old, and although he concedes that many will eventually need replacing, theirs is an invaluable contribution to this outstanding wine, adding spicy constraint in a fashion which would normally appear oxymoronic, but in a wine of this complexity it describes perfectly the beguiling tension at its darkly luminous core. Drink 2020-2026+.

V2427B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £180.00





SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Report

In the South the vintage is special indeed; the normally measured Daniel Brunier extols the “benevolent generosity of the natural world” and Mark Perrin enthuses even more than he did for the 2007s and the 2010s. Even your humble correspondent was struck by the siren call of the cask samples during his Autumn visit! It will always be a challenge to taste youthful Grenache-dominated wines at 8 o’clock in the morning, but this year aspects of pleasure and challenge coincided more than usual and there was a definite spirit of celebration in the air. To achieve a juxtaposition of perfect maturity, generous ripeness and, the most difficult bit, attractive acidity plus purity of profile, is an achievement indeed. The tension between sweetness and freshness has seldom been better executed.

How was this achieved? The consensus seems to focus on a combination of cool nights, a relatively mild start to the season, timely rainfall and an inherent resilience of old vines when it comes to the challenges of near-drought conditions. Although the “sécheresse” was even more marked in 2017, it was far from absent in 2016, and is now a perennial source of anxiety for these southern vigneron.

After the harvest of 2015, the winter was mild, the temperatures seldom approaching freezing, and then equally clement spring conditions were followed by modest rainfall in early summer. Then there was nothing at all between 4th August and a very timely 45 millimetres on 14th September. The warm weather ensured that sugar levels rose apace, but the historic water reserves, the benevolent Mistral and the accumulative effect of punctilious husbandry in the vines all ensured that phenolic ripeness followed quickly and that the vines were, enfin, perfectly mature. The whites were generally finished before the rain, therefore by mid-September, the majority of the reds had been brought in, with Mourvèdre, as usual, closing proceedings by the middle of October.

A triumph, then, for the South. Thick-skinned grapes, relatively small and therefore concentrated, have yielded wonderfully aromatic juices and perfectly poised wines. Phenolic maturity has kept stride with sugar levels and the results are outstanding.

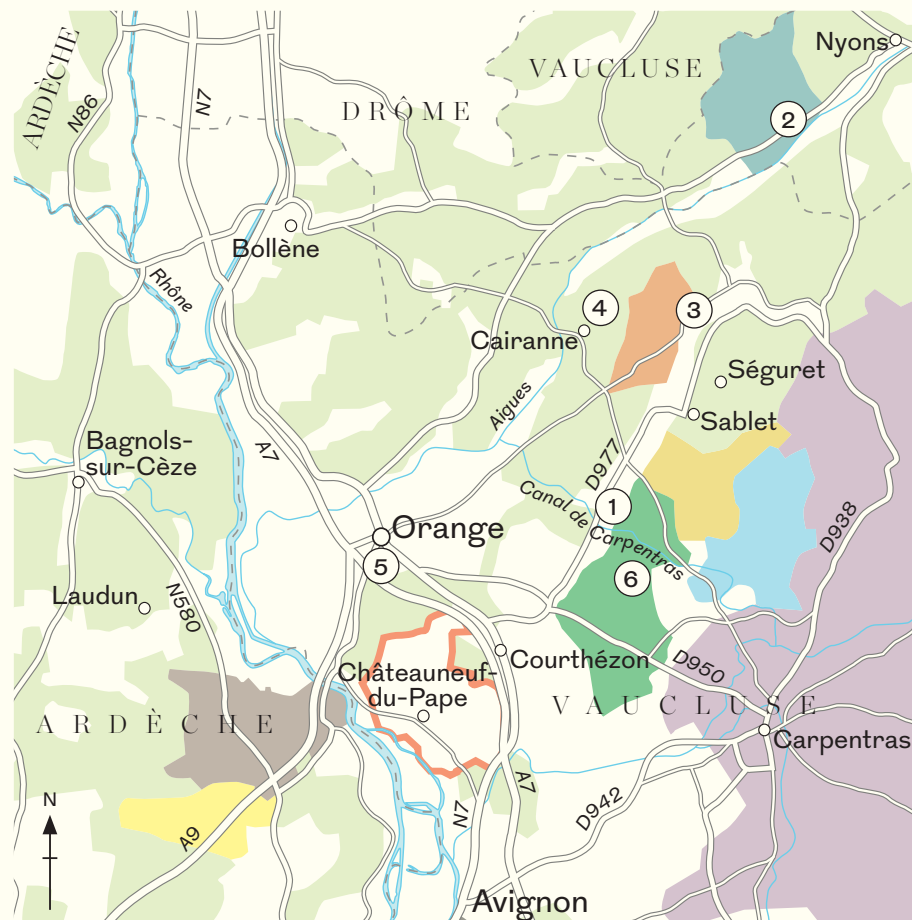
SOUTHERN RHÔNE VILLAGES

The vast AOC of the Côtes du Rhône followed the example set by Beaujolais in the late 1960s to single out individual village communes which had demonstrated a knack for high quality. Since then, several have been further rewarded with their own AOCs: Gigondas in 1971, Vacqueyras in 1990, followed by Vinsobres and Beaumes de Venise in 2006, Rasteau in 2010 and, most recently, by Cairanne in 2016. All are excellent sources of wines in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape mould, principally using Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, albeit with an identity of their own. Gigondas, at higher altitude, can show a certain elegance in texture, while keeping its rugged, herby aromas; Vacqueyras delivers concentration and rustic charm; Vinsobres, currently *de rigueur*, often shows to be the most fine, linear style, also being from high altitude. Beaumes de Venise, more famous for its Vin Doux Naturel, can produce characterful reds from its higher vineyards, while Rasteau and Cairanne offer weighty, rich styles which can rival Châteauneuf itself.

KEY

- Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages
- Tavel
- Lirac
- Vacqueyras
- Beaumes-de-Venise
- Gigondas
- Rasteau
- Vinsobres
- Côtes de Ventoux
- Châteauneuf-du-Pape, see detailed map

ARDÈCHE Département name
- - - - Département border



Wine Producers

- 1 La Bastide St Vincent
- 2 Domaine Chaume Arnaud
- 3 Domaine des Escaravilles
- 4 Domaine de l'Oratoire St-Martin
- 5 La Famille Perrin
- 6 Le Sang des Cailloux



0 10 km
0 5 miles

SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine La Bastide St Vincent

LAURENT DANIEL



“The quiet man of Violès” may not be an entirely catchy sobriquet, but it seems to capture something of the Laurent Daniel approach. We have worked with him for a long time, investing our faith because of his inherent understanding of how to get the best out of these challenging vineyards, that is to say a subtle juxtaposition of sweet approachability and the darker more “sauvage” elements which have always provided the most fundamental albeit sometimes perverse appeal. Be that as it may, Laurent is actually quite vocal in praise of the vintage that was 2016, one of the best he has ever made, with which he descants a perfect marriage of sweet fruit, powerful tannin, fresh acidity and deep colour.

Red

VACQUEYRAS, LA PAVANE

The 2106 Vacqueyras is certainly fresh and juicy – its fruit sourced from ten parcels and dominated by the 75 percent of tank-aged Grenache, with Syrah and Mourvèdre providing impressive support. Herbs, cassis and a hint of eucalypt provide the backdrop and the ensemble is enrobed and ennobled by ripe yet finely poised tannins. Drink 2019-2021.

V2391B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £96.00**

GIGONDAS

Vines approaching full maturity (40-50 years) have engendered appropriate complexity. The blend is made from 80 percent Grenache and 10 percent each of Syrah and Mourvèdre, the resulting wine evoking black fruit, *charcuterie* and *sousbois* with notes of liquorice, macerated prune and autumnal bonfires all celebrated in a fit of suitably poetic appreciation. Drink 2019-2022.

V2390B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £114.00**

Maison Brunier

DANIEL BRUNIER



Daniel, Frédéric et fils have had a busy year, redeveloping their already impressive cellars and improving drainage in the vineyards. The ascent of the Piedlong brand within the portfolio continues apace and it now provides a perfect stylistic counterpoint within the range and offers magnificent value.

Red

GIGONDAS, LES RACINES, DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES

As the names suggest, Les Racines is sourced from lower vineyards than Les Terrasses (Daniel’s other Gigondas) but from older vines, over 70 years of age in the case of the Grenache which makes up 90 percent of this *cuvée*, the balance made up of Mourvèdre. A surprisingly feminine floral aromatic is followed by a fine and elegant palate with notes of myrtle and liquorice, mocha, and forest floor all evidenced. The synergy between house style and vintage personality is conspicuously successful in 2016. Drink 2020-2024.

V3071B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **6 £99.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, PIEDLONG

Farmed on soils which are both sandy and pebbly, Piedlong is a poised and complex wine. With more than 80 percent Grenache providing a heady imprimatur of sweet fruit and a balance of Syrah and Mourvèdre adding structure and a savoury note, this is richly textured with a silky tannic backdrop and an engagingly sweet and rounded finish. Drink 2020-2024.

V3023B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **6 £150.00**

Domaine Dieu-Le-Fit

RÉMI POUZIN



Demeter accredited from 2016, and firmly ensconced in their smart period house/winery/gite in Visan, Rémi and Géraldine are at the top of their game. Remi inherited the majority of the vineyards from the property known as Fourmente, and built his own winery in the centre of the village. There is honesty and integrity in everything they do, and they are worthy torch bearers for this increasingly popular village, located in the northern half of the patchwork of named villages, not that far from Vinsobres. Their wines are given branded names because they are essentially assembled from different plots, with red clay and pudding stones at the lower altitudes, then “saffre” (sandstone) just above the village itself and more varied garrigue-strewn on the plateau which heads in the direction of Rasteau.

White

MARSANNE

I have been impressed by this *cuvée* before, and feel that in 2016 it has really come of age. From 25-year-old vines, discretely vinified with natural yeasts and in large *barrique*, this example shows how well suited Marsanne is to these relatively northerly vineyards, its supple waxy citric profile recalling a St Peray or St Joseph even, both of which are not that far away. Drink now to 2021.

V2521B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £72.00

Red

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, VISAN NATIVE

The Native is a blend of concrete-aged Grenache and wood-aged Syrah and Mourvèdre. The Grenache makes up 70 percent of the blend, its fruit sourced from a variety of soil types, with more black clay higher up the slopes and, beneath that, soils punctuated by pudding stones but build on sand. Silky tannins enrobe a pleasing dark fruit core, with myrtle and red cherry both evidenced. Drink 2019-2021.

V2519B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £60.00

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, VISAN, GRAINS SAUVAGES

There is more red clay underneath these vines, 85 percent of which are Grenache, the balancing Mourvèdre is grown in a vineyard which is surrounded by the eponymous scrub. The felicitous blend of soils and natural environment brings out the fresher more linear side to Grenache, and complements it with sooty spicy complexity, courtesy of the Mourvèdre. Concentration and firm tannins do not seem to contradict an engaging almost ethereal character, very typical of this grower. Drink 2019-2023.

V2520B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £132.00



SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine des Escaravailles

GILLES FERRAN



Escaravailles is located high in the hills behind the villages of Roaix and Rateau, where the vines enjoy a special microclimate, relatively warm despite the altitude, and with exceptional expositions and soils which are dominated by red and blue clay. Gilles Ferran celebrates the aromatic harmony of his 2016 wines and of course their fresh taut structures, courtesy of the topography. To this, a generous and very attractive texture is added, which stands out immediately.

Red

CAIRANNE ROUGE, LE VENTABREN

Syrah adds polish and floral lift to this outstanding blend of Grenache and Carignan, its blue and red clay *terroir* ideally suited to the generous vintage that was 2015. Here we enjoy ripe yet savoury notes, with a backdrop of liquorice and, touched by star anise, the wine is garlanded by Mediterranean flowers. Drink 2019-2023.

V3025B 6x 75cl bottles in bond **£45.00**

RASTEAU, LA PONCE

A mixture of 70 percent concrete-matured Grenache and 30 percent wood-matured Syrah make up this less than entirely felicitously named wine. The quality of the liquid is hard to resist however, with purity born of altitude and exceptional length. The Rasteau micro-climate lends warmth and power. Drink 2019-2023.

V3024B 6x 75cl bottles in bond **£51.00**

Domaine Montirius

ERIC SAUREL



Benevolent October weather allowed us to taste outside, surrounded by the autumnal Grenache plantings of the nicely named Plateau des Garrigues, all in the lee of the Dentelles de Montmirail, Mont Ventoux clear and resplendent in the distance. In the vanguard of the burgeoning Southern Rhône biodynamic movement, Montirius were, in the early days, maybe a touch too evangelical. Things have moved on, and with the complete family involved and elder daughter Justine having worked stages in New Zealand, I can say without any hesitation that the wines are better than ever. Christine, ever ready with pithy yet apposite analysis, praises the 2016 wines because they are velvety, without any hint of excessive sucrosity; linear without losing fundamental mid-palate generosity.

Red

VACQUEYRAS, GARRIGUES

A wine of great purity and focus, with red fruits, aniseed and hints – appropriately enough – of the *garrigue*. The wine is made up of 70 percent Grenache and 30 percent Syrah, the age of the Grenache being at least 60-years-old. Christine describes the fermentation process in terms of an *infusion* delicacy being key and the temperature kept no higher than 28 degrees. The resulting style she describes as *une bonne amertune*, the apparently bittersweet oxymoron explained most lucidly by the wine itself. Drink 2019-2023.

V2258B 6x 75cl bottles in bond **£54.00**

VACQUEYRAS, LE CLOS

The Clos in question is a single vineyard, with a distinctive blue clay *terroir* and more Syrah in the blend, which is shared equally with Grenache. Boundless finesse ensues, with elegant dark fruit flavours to the fore, finely etched tannins and a distinctly peppery lick on the finish. Drink 2020-2024.

V2259B 6x 75cl bottles in bond **£78.00**

GIGONDAS, TERRE DES AÎNÉS

This famous, old-vine *cuvée* has been made by five generations of the Saurel family, its fruit sourced from three plots which complement each other and which, combined, express the essence of fine Gigondas. The blend is 80 percent Grenache and 20 percent Mourvèdre, as before, but this time with rounder, riper, fruit yet there is a wonderful purity that has come from an *élevage* in cement vat only-oak is superfluous when the raw material is of such outstanding quality. Drink 2020-2024.

V2266B 6x 75cl bottles in bond **£84.00**

GIGONDAS, CONFIDENTIEL

From a small but unique plot, shared by 40-year-old Mourvèdre and 80-year-old Grenache, the Confidential 2010 is an outstanding effort, its weight of dense black fruit beautifully complemented by what Christine describes as salinity – a reference to the pure minerality which underpins the wine's structure. Wonderfully balanced and almost feminine, despite its power – a word seldom used in this particular appellation. Drink 2021-2025.

V2267B 6x 75cl bottles in bond **£114.00**



SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine le Sang des Cailloux

SERGE FÉRIGOULE



The quietly charismatic Serge Férigoule has, over the last two decades, done more than most to raise the profile of Vacqueyras. Located on gently ascending limestone vineyards between Vacqueyras itself and Sarrians, this evocatively named property continues to be a leading light (a phare) in this still undervalued appellation. When asked about the 2016, Monsieur Férigoule strokes his rather becoming handlebar moustaches and reflects on which superlatives to deploy. He settles on a few, shrugs his shoulders, and points to the barrel. “Let the wine do the talking.” “Well said,” said the wine.

White

VACQUEYRAS, UN SANG BLANC

White Vacqueyras is a relatively rare beast, the snow leopard of the Southern Rhône, and Monsieur Férrigoule is far from forthcoming with his allocation. Well worth a look, however, with fennel and eucalypt, honeysuckle and spring flowers all evidenced on a bed of lemon posset. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc, Roussanne, Marsanne and Viognier all feature, it seems. Seldom do these rocks bleed white. Drink 2019-2024.

V2656B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£240.00**

Red

VACQUEYRAS, CUVÉE FLOURETO

Serge advises that his reds combine a high degree of alcohol with high levels of natural acidity, despite their relatively early harvest at the very beginning of September. Balance is key here therefore; the wine is a master-class in Southern power; discrete and subtle, yet ultimately persuasive. Grenache makes up over 70 percent of the blend, with additional complexity from the Mourvède, which dominates on the finish, also Syrah, which gives lift, and Cinsault, offering gentle fruit in the background. Drink 2019 -2023.

V2655B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£138.00**

VACQUEYRAS, CUVÉE LOPY, VIEILLES VIGNES

This famous old vine *cuvée* is made from 80 percent Grenache and 20 percent Syrah. *Elevage* takes place over 12 months, in 450 litre *tonneaux*, all of which are two or three years old. The 2016 is not far from 15 degrees in alcohol, yet Serge is not afraid to describe it as *aérien*, and he is right of course; the tannins are enrobed by the myrtle and cassis fruit and the finish is lifted by a touch of menthol. One for the cellar, certainly. Drink 2020-2024.

V2654B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£222.00**



Domaine de l'Oratoire St Martin

FRÉDÉRIC & FRANÇOIS ALARY



Frédéric compares 2016 to 2010, although there was a little more rain, the majority of which was very timely. He feels that the soils richest in clay fared best, and that there is a very distinct correlation between yields and quality in the differing sites. In his older more venerable vineyards, of which there are several, he has had the confidence to leave virtually all of the stems in the fermentation vats. Outstanding results have ensued, the Demeter accredited approach ensuring that the paradigm of purity is not in any way compromised by the inherent richness and power of the vintage. L'Oratoire St Martin – the leading house in the recently promoted Cru of Cairanne – continues to make an exceptional range of wines.

White

CAIRANNE, RÉSERVE DE SEIGNEURS

The Seigneurs is made up of 60 percent Grenache, 30 percent Mourvèdre and 10 percent Syrah, all vinified in concrete and aged in a combination of tank and varying manifestations of cask. The Mourvèdre has performed exceptionally, and adds spicy, smoky depth to the generous ripe fruit of the core. Drink 2020-2024.

V2378B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £99.00**

CAIRANNE BLANC, HAUT-COUSTIAS

Although it only makes up 30 percent of the blend, Marsanne from 75-year-old vines, is very evident in the blend, recalling Hermitage with its waxy subtle complexity. The balance is shared between Clairette, Roussanne and Grenache Blanc. White flowers, pineapple and grilled almonds lead the descriptors, alongside something a little more tropical. Drink 2019-2021.

V2377B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £144.00**

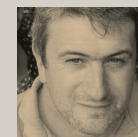
CAIRANNE, LES DOUYES

Clay-limestone soils and 50-year-old vines are the progenitors of this exemplary blend, which is made up of 60 percent Grenache, and 40 percent Mourvèdre, all co-planted from centurion vines. Gentle extraction and generous ageing have yielded a gloriously fruity wine, with hints of soft spice and leather. Spicy subtle tannins even out further in the background. Drink 2020-2022.

V2376B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £144.00**

Domaine Chaume Arnaud

PHILIPPE CHAUME ARNAUD



Although still very much a family affair, the promotion of Raphael to the French Rugby Union team has meant that Thibault is now in charge day-to-day at Chaume Arnaud, albeit still working closely with his parents Valérie and Philippe. Vinsobres is now an established Cru, and a fascinatingly diverse one, with at least two distinctive terroirs. The Chaumes farm the higher ground and relish years such as '16, cooler than '15 and less dry than '16, comparing it to 2012, when Syrah was also triumphant – its natural lift coaxed by nature with only the most gentle of extractions required and the resulting fruit character wonderfully pure and refreshing.

White

COTES DU RHONE VILLAGES, LA CADÈNE BLANC

A famous blend with the limelight shared predominately between Marsanne and Viognier, plus Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette, Bourboulenc and Picpoul all vocal as minority shareholders – in short, pretty much the who's-who of Mediterranean white grape varieties. The wine is appropriately complex, with *agrumes*, figs, nougat and hints of exotic fruit on the nose, followed by a palate dominated by star anise, spice, almonds and pineapple. Drink now to 2021.

V2379B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £102.00**

Red

VINSOBRES

A regal colour presages a suitably refined nose, its dark fruit and spice underwritten by a whiff of something savoury, *jambon cru* maybe, courtesy no doubt of the Mourvèdre. Figs and white chocolate join more usual descriptors such as myrtle, plum and *griotte* on the palate. The blend in 2106 is 60 percent Grenache, 20 percent Syrah, 10 percent Cinsault and 10 percent Mourvèdre. Drink 2019-2022.

V2380B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £99.00**

VINSOBRES, LA CADÈNE

The red Cadène is a GSM blend, with equal shareholdings for the Grenache, the Syrah and the Mourvèdre. Darker, denser and more tannic than its sibling, its old-vine fruit is hitherto reticent, but will over time reveal itself and its full gastronomic potential. Drink 2019-2024.

V2381B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **12 £162.00**

SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin

MARC PERRIN



Few developments have been as telling or as significant as the progress made by the Perrins in the villages outside of their Châteauneuf-du-Pape fortress. Their aspiration has been clear and it has been honourable; through ownership, partnership and, where appropriate, acquisition, they wish to build a portfolio which shows the very best in the very best of the terroirs which these villages have to offer and thereby to promote both the Perrin philosophy, which is focused on quality and quality only, and in the process, to raise the profile of the region as a whole. Let us not, of course, forget Beaucastel itself, one of the most consistently impressive properties in the South of France and a worthy flag-bearer for its famous appellation.

White

CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL, VIELLES VIGNES ROUSSANNE

From 1909 plantings, thus well into its second century, this is one of the greatest, most intriguing white wines in the world – immediately obvious through its rich texture, and beguiling combination of honey, lemon zest and white flowers, all in wonderful suspended tension. These very old vines cover seven hectares of pebbly terrain, their fruits vinified and matured 40 percent in barrel and 60 percent in tank, a slightly higher percentage of wood than is the norm. The wine combines creamy richness, nutty elegance and mineral grip – it will age with effortless grace but beware because after five years the wine will be overtaken by a somnolence and assume a darker colour and an unnerving *rancio* odour. Fear not, this will only then emerge a few years later into a second childhood, seemingly fresher than ever, but with the finely wrought wisdom of minerality etched into its persona. Drink 2019-2025.

V0860B 3 x 75cl bottles in bond **£240.00**

Red

COTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, CAIRANNE, PEYRE BLANCHE

A blend of 80 percent Grenache and 20 percent Syrah make up this rich and silky Cairanne. I love the wines from this village which is a little more sheltered than Gigondas. They are generally generous of fruit, with a rounded almost velvety texture, and notes of truffles, raspberries and the faintest of autumnal whispers. Drink 2019-2022.

V2929B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£72.00**

VINSOBRES, LES CORNUDS

A beautiful 60 hectare vineyard with an average altitude of 300 metres, les Cornuds is a totemic plot and really shows off the personality of Vinsobres, the most southerly of the Southern Rhône appellations and one which really has deserved its stand-alone *cru* status. The blend is shared equally between Syrah and Grenache, vinified apart to reflect their radical differences in temperament, all of which are banished with their happy alliance, a symphony of dark fruit and spice. Drink 2020-2023.

V2928B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£78.00**

VACQUEYRAS, LES CHRISTINS

Based on the Plateau de Sarrians, surrounded by olive trees, and in full view of the jagged Dentelles de Montmirail, Les Christins is a beautiful site, and the wine, for me, captures the very specific essence of fine Vacqueyras, a felicitous combination of old vine charm and energetic pomp. Notes of liquorice, black tea, fennel and violets all come to mind here. Drink 2020-2023.

V2927B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£102.00**

COTES DU RHÔNE, COUDOULET DE BEAUCASTEL

A blend, in roughly equal proportions, of Mourvèdre, Grenache, Syrah and 80-year-old Cinsault, the wine is intense in colour and richly concentrated; savoury notes and sweet dark cherry fruit join forces, with pepper, liquorice and spice box in reserve. Plenty of plush and polish and an almost Burgundian swagger. A triumphant wine, almost as popular as the senior wine and always a winner with Berry Bros. & Rudd staff! Drink 2019-2022.

V0855B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£150.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

In Beaucastel itself Mourvèdre just edges the Grenache, its savoury, gently smoky texture hitherto a little austere, is serious in deference to the vintage. With Syrah, Counoise and white grapes all evidenced the wine does not want for complexity, with cassis, summer flowers, white chocolate and clove, *inter alia*, harmoniously entwined. Youthful purity abounds, the child of a very special year. Drink 2022-2030+.

V0850B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£240.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

The most celebrated village of the Southern Rhône, and birthplace of the now indispensable French Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée system — imperfect though it may be. Compared to the Northern Rhône the vineyards here are relatively flat and often feature the iconic *galet* pebbles — the precise benefits of which are a source of much debate. Minimum alcohol levels required by the AOC are the highest in France, but at 12.5 percent it is well below the natural generosity of Grenache, which only achieves its full aromatic potential when it is fully ripe and laden with the resultant high sugars. Syrah and Mourvèdre contribute the other defining elements in the blend, adding pepper, savoury spice and structure to the decadent Grenache. There are a further 10 permitted red grape varieties which can be used to adjust the “seasoning”. Of the five white varieties permitted, it is Grenache Noir’s sibling — predictably perhaps — Grenache Blanc, which dominates, though Roussanne shows a great deal of promise when handled well, notably at Château de Beaucastel.



KEY

- Land above 100m
- La Crau Vineyards
- AOC Zone
- Commune border

Wine Producers

- 1 Château de Beaucastel
- 2 Domaine de la Janasse
- 3 Domaine de Marcoux
- 4 Domaine Raymond Usseglio

0 1 2 km
0 1 mile



SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine des Sénéchaux

JEAN-CHARLES CAZES



Sénéchaux is to me an exemplar of how a large “alien” concern (in this case Lynch Bages from Bordeaux), no less, should manage its purchase, namely by investing as and where necessary, which they have certainly done, but by not forsaking the historical essence of the Domaine, personified here by the long-standing régisseur Bernard Tranchecoste. Bernard compares 2016 to 2010 and 2007, bemoaning long-running water shortages in the village, but advising that 40 millimetres in 2016 saved the day and brought out the essence of Grenache and Mourvèdre. A benevolent Mistral, if the adjective can ever be applied to such a force of nature, secured the quality, which is high indeed.

White

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC

The blend this year continues to promote Roussanne, now 35 percent and barrel-fermented. Nearly as important is the modish Clairette (30 percent) with Grenache Blanc (27 percent) and Bourboulenc making up the balance. White flowers, orange zest and crushed almonds are all evidenced here, with a rich textural harmony which would make an excellent pairing, over the next couple of years, with scallops or turbot, amongst many other delights! Drink now to 2023.

V2421B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£126.00**

Red

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

Sénéchaux's red wine continues to grow in stature. In 2016, for example, 20 percent of stems were maintained in the vat, bolstering the structure beyond the ripe cassis and blueberry that we have come to love here. In addition, there is a really impressive colour but no evidence of over-extraction, itself a qualitative indicator where there is 60 percent of Grenache in the blend. Peppery persuasion informs the finish, which is finely etched and full of promise for a long future. Drink 2019-2023.

V2420B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£126.00**

Domaine Raymond Usseglio

STÉPHANE USSEGLIO



Stéphane Usseglio has really come of age, his full biodynamic accreditation manifested in both a regime of earlier harvesting and of more focus and depth in his range. Initially, he felt that 2016 might lose aromatics and have a rather ascetic personality, as a result of a dry season. He subsequently changed his opinion, maybe because 2017 proved even drier, but more probably because of the propitious late season conditions which diluted his anxieties, quite literally in a sense, and raised his comparatives to a superlative. Now he sees 2016 as a happy medium between the silky indulgence of 2007 and the razor-sharp focused concentration of 2010, less tannic than 2015.

White

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, PURE ROUSSANE

Pure indulgence, this 100 percent Roussanne has been fermented and aged in 100 percent new French barrel, but wears its oaky livery exceptionally lightly. Stéphane does not over-do it with the battonage such is the inherent quality of the raw materials. Honeycomb, nectarine and poached pear are evidenced, with a spicy twist on the finish. Drink 2019-2022.

V2275B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£192.00**

Red

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, TRADITION

A classic Châteauneuf with dense blackcurrant and kirsch fruit, supported by notes of ripe plum, Provence herb and graphite. Half of the vines are located in the norther and eastern sectors, with sandier soils, the rest a little further south and west, and with correspondingly more clay and *galets roulés* evidenced. Stéphane feels that the latter soils were better suited to the 2020-2026.

V2273B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£102.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, LA PART DES ANGES

The Part des Anges was, despite the intense competition, probably my favourite 2016 of the whole 16-day trip. With 70 percent Mourvèdre matured in 70 percent new oak, this is disarmingly fresh and open, its savoury precursors locked in a pure expression of dark dark fruit, its tannic potential completely harnessed by the intensity of the fruit. Spicy, rich, *gourmand* and utterly beguiling. A real triumph, and the smile on Stéphane's face shows that he is rather proud of this *cuvée*, with good reason. Drink 2022-2030.

V2276B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£174.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, CUVÉE IMPERIALE

Centurion Grenache vines, Imperial Centurions one might say, all matured in concrete, therefore a pure and completely unadorned expression of the quality of the fruit, all the more so as there has been only three grams of sulphur added here. Astonishingly energising. Drink 2022-2030.

V2274B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£198.00**

Château la Nerthe

RALPH GARCIN



Exciting times at La Nerthe where new and youthful winemaker Ralph Garcin has started to make his mark; alumnus of the house of Jaboulet, where he was involved all the way through the range up to La Chapelle, Ralph is determined to lend something of the poetry and charm of the finest Syrah to one of the great names of the South. So far, he appears to be succeeding rather well..

White

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, LA NERTHE

La Nerthe have always made well-loved whites, anticipating the current rebirth of the category, not least stylistically. The 2012 white has a little more Clairette than sometimes (the final blend, which was bottled in March this year, is made up of 40 percent Roussanne, 24 percent Grenache Blanc, then 23 percent Clairette and the balance Bourboulenc) and is less overtly creamy and forward at this stage. This is no bad thing, in my mind, an opinion which is underlined by a fascinating saline flourish on the finish. Drink 2019-2024

V2304B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £150.00

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, CLOS DE BEAUVENIR

The Beauvenir vines are located just outside the property in a homogenous plot, which is shared between several different varieties. Roussanne makes up 60 percent of the blend and Clairette a higher than usual 30 percent; the final *assemblage* is seductive indeed, with exotic notes of honeydew melon and pineapple, tempered by spice, spring flowers, nougat and almonds. Once again the finish is very carefully drawn, its oaky subtext subtly defined. Drink 2020-2024.

V2305B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £360.00

Red

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

The final blend this year will be the usual cornucopia of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault, the Syrah now nearly achieving parity with the Grenache (and in terms of taste profile it's certainly just as influential). Maturation has been 60 percent in barrel, 40 percent in *foudre* and the wine rejoices in classic ripeness and purity, aromatic and subtle intensity. An archetype from the modern end of the spectrum, its modernity is tempered by a robust respect for provenance and the dexterity of an extremely gifted winemaker. Drink 2019-2025.

V2306B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £150.00

Domaine Marcoux

SOPHIE ARMENIER



The charming sisters Sophie and Catherine Armenier have elevated Marcoux to the very highest ranks. They farm 26 hectares in Châteauneuf-du-Pape and eight more across the River Rhône in Lirac. Certified as organic by Ecocert as early as 1991, they follow rigorous biodynamic principles, with vines spread over 20 plots throughout the famous appellation. The key characteristic of the wines is a crystalline purity, rare this far south, and, need I mention it, an almost ethereal feminine charm. The Marcoux 2016s are, it is fair to say, more than worthy ambassadors for this superlative vintage, as fine an exemplar for all the greatest characteristics of the Grenache grape that one is likely to encounter; ripe, generous and full-bodied, yet without anything approaching an over-worked confit quality and with a rich seam of balancing acidity and an astonishing pedigree in the tannic structure. The other grapes, albeit lesser shareholders, are equally impressive. Bravo!

Red

LIRAC, LA LORENTINE

The warmer calcareous soils on the Right Bank underwrite Lirac's gregarious personality. The Marcoux vines here are sheltered by the *garrigue* and are older than the average, and as a result their wine has more depth and complexity and less fleshy opulence. The 2016 is initially a touch reticent, then the garland of black fruit flavours envelops the palate, with a subtle spicy backdrop and finely integrated tannic support. Drink 2019-2021.

V1863B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £60.00

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Thirteen plots, with a concentration on the famous Crau plateau, have gifted this blend which is made up of 80 percent Grenache, 10 percent Mourvèdre, seven percent Syrah and three percent Cinsault. Gentle extraction after a modest cold soak has been followed by eighteen months ageing, shared between vat and 350 litre casks, none of which are new. Benchmark Châteauneuf aromas of black olive and the scrub cede to a dark and savoury palate, hugely textured and with layers of potential. The 2016 calling cards of pure acidity and elegant tannins are both present and the finish is imperious. Drink 2020-2028.

V1859B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £180.00

V1859M 3 x 150cl magnums in bond M £195.00

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, VIELLES VIGNES

Centurion vines from famous plots (Charbonnières, Gallimardes and Esquerons) are co-planted, with Cunoise, Mourvèdre, Vaccarese and even Picardin, all present in small quantities, but with the magnificent Grenache carrying all before it. An ageing of 18 months in casks of two to four years of age has followed a gentle maceration and the young wine is bristling with potential, its aromas recalling the Baron's thyme and laurel descriptors, its fruit ripe yet restrained, elegant and quietly powerful. Complexity and quality are gloriously evident from the first sip. Drink 2022-2030+.

V1861B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑥ £456.00

V1861M 3 x 150cl magnums in bond M £480.00



SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Domaine de la Janasse

CHRISTOPHE SABON



Brother and sister team of Christophe and Isabelle Sabon continue to work wonders at Janasse, a property founded in 1973 and which farms 80 hectares of Côtes-du-Rhône and Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the latter of which is all located in the north-east of the appellation, in the commune of Courthézon. Concrete tanks are used for the Grenache and oak for the Syrah and Mourvèdre; in other words, everything is fairly traditional. Isabelle compares 2016 to 2001 and 2010; it has fathered wines of structure and power, but with good acidity, with the dreaded “côté secheresse” fended off at the pass.

White

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, TRADITION

Hazelnut and *agrumes* from the Roussanne and Grenache; married to a crisper floral acidity courtesy of the Bourboulenc and Clairette, the latter of which makes up 40 percent of the blend. Toasty yet pure, powerful yet refreshing, an archetypal white Châteauneuf. Drink 2019-2024.

V2324B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£150.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, PRESTIGE

Roussanne, as always, dominates the blend of this rare beast, its 60 percent stake, all barrel-fermented. The result is honeyed, almost savoury in its complexity, incalculably brilliant in short. Drink 2020-2025+.

V2325B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£330.00**

Red

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, TERRE D'ARGILE

Farmed just to the north of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, this *cuvée* is made up of a third each of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. The glossy and rich house style is evidenced by notes of damson, black cherry and camphor; there is real concentration here and a rich, spicy finish. Always a favourite with Berry Bros. & Rudd staff, which is, hopefully, a good sign. Drink 2019-2024.

V2308B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£144.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

The blend is dominated by Grenache (80 percent) with Syrah and Mourvèdre in support. All are completely destemmed, with the Grenache brought up in *cuve*, the others in barrel. Dense and spicy, with whispers of laurel and scrub, firm yet not overbearing tannic support and a generous finish. Highly accomplished in other words, although it would be unwise to expect less from such an accomplished team in such a great year. Drink 2020-2026.

V2309B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£144.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, CHAUPIN

Christophe describes this as “the best Chaupin ever”, and if there was ever an illustration of Grenache that is richly wrought, powerful and luxuriously textured, yet still structured and not tipping over into a decadent over-indulgence, then this would be it. The herbal hints at the back of the palate ground the wine magnificently; otherwise it’s an ethereal paean to Provencal pleasure. Drink 2022-2028.

V2310B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£240.00**

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, VIELLES VIGNES

Well, this year I marginally prefer the Vieilles Vignes, although I infer that the Sabons might vote for the Chaupin. Hard to choose really. I love the dense, richly complex, nervously adolescent splendour of this wine, its strutting potential and plush, unending generosity, a long and happy future definitively secured. Drink 2023-2030+.

V2311B 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£330.00**

Domaine la Cabotte

ERIC AND MARIE-PIERRE PLUMET



The domaine which stood out as a serious ‘discovery’ at the latest *Découvertes en Vallée du Rhône*, a biannual tasting across the region, was Cabotte, a gem of a biodynamic property based in the now “named” village of Massif D’Uchaux. More a geological phenomenon than a village, the Massif is geologically complex, topographically varied and generally a degree cooler than such local enclaves as le Plan de Dieu. The ideal location, therefore, for Eric and Marie-Pierre Plumet to practice their strict biodynamic artistry, their vineyards punctuated by photogenic eponymous shelters.

White

CÔTES DU RHÔNE BLANC, COLLINE

Grenache Blanc, Clairette and Viognier make up the blend here; co-fermented and vinified without sulphur and matured in concrete; floral and herbal at the same time, the wine has energy and citric power, beyond that real depth and length. Rich and rewarding, yet with a beguiling finesse, unusual for this particular blend. Drink now to 2020.

V2399B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£60.00**

Prices are quoted by the case in bond
and are inclusive of freight and insurance
but exclusive of VAT and duty.

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020 3302 2883

③ 3 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑥ 6 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑫ 12 x 75cl bottles in bond
① 3 or 6 x 150cl magnums in bond

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, SAUVAGEONNE

The Sauvageonne is an outstanding manifestation of old-vine Clairette, both vinified and matured in old barrels for twelve months. A traditional white varietal, increasingly modish, Clairette provides a whimsical southern antithesis to the north's Marsanne grape, their acidic structures are somewhat counter-intuitive, but their proclivity to providing intense and cerebrally challenging wines is unmatched. This was one of the stand-out whites of the vintage, unctuous, and elegant, with notes of silex flint, semi-exotic fruit and sour honey all evidenced. I shall be watching its development with huge interest. Drink 2019-2021.

V2400B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £96.00

Red

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, MASSIF D'UCHAUX GARANCE

The Garance is made up of 50 percent Grenache and 25 percent of each Syrah and Mourvèdre, fermented separately, with the assemblage matured in concrete. The biodynamic influence is evidenced once again in an extraordinary finesse and purity of fruit, almost lifted in its charm. An exemplary manifestation of all that is good in this great vintage, and good here means very good indeed. Drink 2020-2023.

V2398B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £84.00

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, MASSIF D'UCHAUX GABRIEL

Described as a *cuvée parcellaire* from the very best sites, the Gabriel is an equal blend of Syrah and Grenache. Vinification takes place with whole bunches in an open-capped vat with regular *pigeage* and a lengthy maceration. The wine then enjoys 18 months in oak barrel; the old vine Grenache is especially impressive at this early stage of development, rich and quietly persuasive. Gabriel announces the arrival of this appellation and producer, both of whom will surely gain far wider recognition. Drink 2020-2023.

V2397B 12 x 75cl bottles in bond ⑫ £96.00



WINES AT A GLANCE

NORTHERN RHÔNE White		
6	VIOGNIER DE ROSINE, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £72.00
8	ST JOSEPH BLANC, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 £84.00
8	ST PÉRAY, LIEU-DIT BIOUSSE, Domaine Yves Cuilleron	6 £90.00
8	ST JOSEPH BLANC, LOMBARD, Domaine Yves Cuilleron	6 £96.00
12	ST JOSEPH BLANC, SILICE, Domaine Coursodon	12 £198.00
17	ST PÉRAY, CUVÉE PRESTIGE, Domaine du Tunnel	6 £114.00
11	ST PÉRAY, LIEU-DIT HONGRIE, Maison Chapoutier	6 £120.00
3	CONDRIEU, CÔTE BONNETTE, Domaine Mouton Père & Fils	6 £126.00
12	ST JOSEPH BLANC, LE PARADIS SAINT PIERRE, Domaine Coursodon	6 £132.00
8	CONDRIEU, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 £132.00
6	CONDRIEU, LA COMBE DE MALLEVAL, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £144.00
3	CONDRIEU, CÔTE CHATILLON, Domaine Mouton Père & Fils	6 £156.00
6	CONDRIEU, LES VIELLES VIGNES DE JACQUES VERNAY, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £240.00
4	CONDRIEU, LA BONNETTE, Domaine René Rostaing	6 £246.00
7	CONDRIEU Domaine Yves Gangloff	6 £300.00
15	HERMITAGE BLANC, LES ROCOULES, Domaine Marc Sorrel	6 £528.00

NORTHERN RHÔNE Red		
13	CÔTES DU RHÔNE, MON COEUR, Jean-Louis Chave Sélection	12 £78.00
11	CROZES-HERMITAGE, LES MEYSONNIERS, Maison Chapoutier	6 £60.00
13	CROZES-HERMITAGE, LES TROIS CHÊNES, Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud	12 £138.00
14	CROZES-HERMITAGE, Domaine Laurent Combier	6 £72.00
6	LA ROSINE SYRAH, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £72.00
13	ST JOSEPH, OFFERUS, Jean-Louis Chave Sélection	12 £150.00
19	CROZES-HERMITAGE, CUVÉE CHRISTOPHE, Domaine des Remizières	6 £78.00
15	CROZES-HERMITAGE, Domaine des Lises	12 £162.00
8	ST JOSEPH, CLOS DE CUMINAILLE, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 £84.00
12	ST JOSEPH, SILICE, Domaine Coursodon	12 £180.00
6	ST JOSEPH, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £90.00
11	ST JOSEPH, LES GRANILITES, Maison Chapoutier	6 £96.00
14	CROZES-HERMITAGE, CAP NORD, Domaine Laurent Combier	6 £108.00
17	CORNAS, GRANIT 30, Domaine Vincent Paris	6 £108.00
14	ST JOSEPH ROUGE, DARDOUILLE, Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud	12 £240.00
12	ST JOSEPH, L'OLIVAIE, Domaine Coursodon	6 £126.00
11	CORNAS, LES ARÈNES, Maison Chapoutier	6 £126.00
20	CORNAS, CASIMIR, Domaine Franck Balthazar	6 £138.00
20	CORNAS, PATOU, Domaine Dumien Serette	6 £144.00
8	ST JOSEPH ROUGE, LES SERINES, Domaine Yves Cuilleron	6 £144.00
14	CROZES-HERMITAGE, CLOS DES GRIVES, Domaine Laurent Combier	6 £150.00
16	CORNAS, Domaine du Tunnel	6 £150.00

6	L'ÂME SŒUR, SYRAH DE SEYSSUEL, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £168.00
17	CORNAS, GRANIT 60, Domaine Vincent Paris	6 £150.00
17	CORNAS, LES CHAILLES, Domaine Alain Voge	6 £156.00
8	CÔTE-RÔTIE, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 £162.00
6	CÔTE-RÔTIE, LE VILLAGE, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £162.00
20	CORNAS, LES CHAILLOTS, Domaine Franck Balthazar	6 £180.00
12	ST JOSEPH ROUGE, LE PARADIS SAINT PIERRE, Domaine Coursodon	6 £180.00
8	CÔTE-RÔTIE, MADINIERE, Domaine Yves Cuilleron	6 £192.00
17	CORNAS, LA GEYNALE, Domaine Vincent Paris	6 £192.00
19	HERMITAGE, CUVÉE EMILIE, Domaine des Remizières	6 £198.00
16	CORNAS, VIN NOIR, Domaine du Tunnel	6 £198.00
13	ST JOSEPH, Domaine Pierre Gonon	12 £420.00
17	CORNAS, LES VIEILLES VIGNES, Domaine Alain Voge	6 £228.00
4	CÔTE-RÔTIE, AMPODIUM, Domaine René Rostaing	6 £246.00
14	HERMITAGE, GRÉFFIEUX BESSARD, Domaine Bernard Faurie	6 £252.00
11	HERMITAGE, MONIER LA SIZERANNE, Maison Chapoutier	6 £270.00
6	CÔTE-RÔTIE, RÉSERVE DU DOMAINE, Domaine Michel et Stéphane Ogier	6 £282.00
14	HERMITAGE, BESSARD MÉAL, Domaine Bernard Faurie	6 £300.00
9	CÔTE-RÔTIE, LA ROSE POURPRE, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 £336.00
15	HERMITAGE, Domaine Marc Sorrel	6 £342.00
16	CORNAS, PUR NOIR, Domaine du Tunnel	6 £420.00
19	CORNAS, LES CHAILLOTS, Domaine Thierry Allemand	6 £420.00
19	CORNAS, LES REYNARDS, Domaine Thierry Allemand	6 £480.00
4	CÔTE-RÔTIE, LA LANDONNE, Domaine René Rostaing	6 £504.00

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③ 3 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑥ 6 x 75cl bottles in bond
⑫ 12 x 75cl bottles in bond
Ⓜ 3 or 6 x 150cl magnums in bond

15	HERMITAGE ROUGE, LE GRÉAL, Domaine Marc Sorrel	⑥ £528.00
4	CÔTE-RÔTIE, CÔTE BLONDE, Domaine René Rostaing	⑥ £546.00

SOUTHERN RHÔNE White

34	CÔTES DU RHÔNE BLANC, COLLINE Domaine la Cabotte	⑫ £60.00
24	MARSANNE, Domaine Dieu-Le-Fit	⑫ £72.00
35	CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, SAUVAGEONNE, Domaine la Cabotte	⑫ £96.00
28	CAIRANNE, RÉSERVE DE SEIGNEURS, L'Oratoire St Martin	⑫ £99.00
28	COTES DU RHONE VILLAGES, LA CADÈNE BLANC, Domaine Chaume Arnaud	⑫ £102.00
28	CAIRANNE BLANC, HAUT-COUSTIAS, L'Oratoire St Martin	⑫ £144.00
28	CAIRANNE, LES DOUYES, L'Oratoire St Martin	⑫ £144.00
27	VACQUEYRAS, UN SANG BLANC, Domaine le Sang des Cailloux	⑫ £240.00
32	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, Domaine des Sénéchaux	⑥ £126.00
32	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, LA NERTHE Château la Nerthe	⑥ £150.00
34	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, TRADITION, Domaine de la Janasse	⑥ £150.00
31	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, PURE ROUSSANE, Domaine Raymond Usseglio	⑥ £192.00
34	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, PRESTIGE, Domaine de la Janasse	⑥ £330.00
32	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC BEAUVENIR, Château la Nerthe	⑥ £360.00
29	CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL, VIELLES VIGNES ROUSSANNE, Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin	③ £240.00

SOUTHERN RHÔNE Red

24	CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, VISAN NATIVE, Domaine Dieu-Le-Fit	⑫ £60.00
29	COTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, CAIRANNE, PEYRE BLANCHE, Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin	⑫ £72.00
29	VINSOBRES, LES CORNUDS, Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin	⑫ £78.00
35	CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, MASSIF D'UCHAUX GARANCE Domaine la Cabotte	⑫ £84.00
25	CAIRANNE ROUGE, LE VENTABREN, Domaine des Escaravaillès	⑥ £45.00
35	CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, MASSIF D'UCHAUX GABRIEL, Domaine la Cabotte	⑫ £96.00
23	VACQUEYRAS ROUGE, LA PAVANE, Domaine La Bastide St Vincent	⑫ £96.00
28	VINSOBRES ROUGE, Domaine Chaume Arnaud	⑫ £99.00
29	VACQUEYRAS, LES CHRISTINS, Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin	⑫ £102.00
25	RASTEAU, LA PONCE, Domaine des Escaravaillès	⑥ £51.00
25	VACQUEYRAS, GARRIGUES, Domaine Montirius	⑥ £54.00
23	GIGONDAS, Domaine La Bastide St Vincent	⑫ £114.00
32	LIRAC, LA LORENTINE, Domaine Marcoux	⑥ £60.00
24	CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, VISAN, GRAINS SAUVAGES, Domaine Dieu-Le-Fit	⑫ £132.00
27	VACQUEYRAS, CUVÉE FLOURETO, Domaine le Sang des Cailloux	⑫ £138.00
33	CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES, TERRE D'ARGILE, Domaine de la Janasse	⑫ £144.00
29	COTES DU RHÔNE, COUDOULET DE BEAUCASTEL, Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin	⑫ £150.00
25	VACQUEYRAS, LE CLOS, Domaine Montirius	⑥ £78.00
28	VINSOBRES, LA CADÈNE, Domaine Chaume Arnaud	⑫ £162.00
25	GIGONDAS, TERRE DES AÎNÉS, Domaine Montirius	⑥ £84.00
23	GIGONDAS, LES RACINES, DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES, Maison Brunier	⑥ £99.00
31	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, TRADITION, Domaine Raymond Usseglio	⑥ £102.00

27	VACQUEYRAS, VIELLES VIGNES CUVÉE DE LOPY, Domaine le Sang des Cailloux	⑫ £222.00
25	GIGONDAS, CONFIDENTIEL, Domaine Montirius	⑥ £114.00
31	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, Domaine des Sénéchaux	⑥ £126.00
34	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, Domaine de la Janasse	⑥ £144.00
32	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, Château la Nerthe	⑥ £150.00
23	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, PIEDLONG, Maison Brunier	⑥ £150.00
31	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, LA PART DES ANGES, Domaine Raymond Usseglio	⑥ £174.00
32	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, Domaine Marcoux	⑥ £180.00
31	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, CUVÉE IMPERIALE, Domaine Raymond Usseglio	⑥ £198.00
34	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, CHAUPIN, Domaine de la Janasse	⑥ £240.00
29	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin	⑥ £240.00
34	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, VIELLES VIGNES Domaine de la Janasse	⑥ £330.00
32	CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, VIELLES VIGNES, Domaine Marcoux	⑥ £456.00

Terms and Conditions

PRICES

Prices for the Rhone 2016 En Primeur offer are quoted in bond and include freight and insurance (but exclude duty and VAT) and are quoted by the case.

CLOSING DATE

The Rhone 2016 En Primeur offer starts on Thursday 8th March 2018 and ends at 6pm on Friday 20th April 2018, subject to stocks remaining unsold.

AVAILABILITY AND QUANTITIES

Prices are quoted in bond, include freight and insurance but exclude duty and VAT. Orders are accepted subject to stocks remaining unsold. Stocks of certain wines may need to be allocated subject to demand. A case comprises 3/6/12 x 75cl bottles or 1/3/6 x 150cl magnums, as stated. Larger format bottles may be available. For further details, please contact the Fine Wine team on 020 3301 2883.

HOW TO PAY

We are happy to accept payment by Maestro, Mastercard, Visa, Amex, cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Berry Bros. & Rudd.

INSURANCE AND OWNERSHIP

We will remain responsible for insuring the wine at the original invoice value until your delivery and/or storage instructions have been completed. Ownership of the wines will pass on settlement of all outstanding charges.

SHIPPING

It is anticipated that the wines will be shipped from spring 2018 to early 2019.

DELIVERY AND STORAGE

Following shipment, your wines, by default, will be stored in bond in our Customers' Private Reserves.

Once the wines are in your Private Reserves we will notify you by email. On receipt of your delivery notification email or the subsequent invoice for rent, if you would like your wine delivered straight away we can arrange this as per our normal delivery terms. Any rent charged on wines withdrawn within 30 days of the date of invoice for rent will be credited. Customers who elect to take their wine out of bond, whether for delivery or for storage duty paid, will be required to pay duty and VAT at the prevailing rates at the time of delivery. These rates are currently £25.92 per case of 12 x 75cl bottles (nine litres) for duty and 20 percent for VAT on the original cost and duty*. Customers storing wine in bond or duty paid in Customers' Private Reserves will be required to pay rent at the prevailing rate (this is currently £12.00 including VAT per case per annum*). Please note that wines bought in bond and en primeur, and wines stored in Customers' Private Reserves are delivered free of charge when the original purchase value of the wines is more than £100 (including duty and VAT).

*Correct as of February 2018.

ORDER CANCELLATION

Please note that in bond en primeur orders can be cancelled within seven working days of placing the order. A full refund of the purchase price of the wines will be given on receipt of formal notification in writing of cancellation of the order. Due to the unique nature of en primeur sales we regret that orders cannot be cancelled after this time.

All purchases of wines and spirits and other goods and services from Berry Bros. & Rudd are subject to Berry Bros. & Rudd's standard terms of sale in addition to any terms stated in this brochure. These terms and conditions can be viewed at www.bbr.com/terms, by emailing your request to bbr@bbr.com or by telephoning 0800 280 2440.

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BY APPOINTMENT TO
H.M. THE QUEEN
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS
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