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THE RHÔNE VALLEY AND SOUTHERN FRANCE

THE 2016 VINTAGE AND OTHER RELEASES



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INTRODUCTION

We're delighted to present the latest wines of the Rhône valley and southern France.

With the 2016 vintage already praised by critics, there's perhaps never been a better time to enjoy this region's wines. Certainly, the Rhône hasn't witnessed a pair of stunning vintages like 2015 and 2016 for nearly three decades.

Moreover, while the Rhône booms, developments across the south of France shouldn't be ignored. There are serious wines being made here, offering stunning value as great winemakers capitalise on the region's potential. Some, like Mas de Daumas Gassac, we've worked with for years. Others, like Le Soula, are more recent additions. Together, they comprise our most serious southern French collection yet.

We're nurturing old and forging new relationships to bring the best of southern France to you. When the wines are this splendid, they're impossible to resist.

Instagram

Producers increasingly use social media to share what's going on in the vineyard and in the cellar. One growing platform is Instagram. We'd like to help you discover their accounts by indicating their handle, where applicable, next to this symbol.

Enjoy.

VINTAGE REPORT



The Rhône 2016: a thrill

It can be tough to follow greatness. Just ask George Lazenby, who followed Sean Connery as James Bond; or Andy Robinson, successor to Sir Clive Woodward as England Rugby coach.

Imagine my thrill to taste the 2016 wines of the Rhône, which continue the greatness of 2015 with aplomb, perhaps even surpassing their predecessor.

I spent a week in the Rhône valley in November, and was consistently wowed by the sheer balance of these wines. With dancing freshness, silky tannins, and pure fruit, they're some of the most complete examples you will find anywhere.

The North: elegance follows power

Just as 1991's elegance was overshadowed by 1990's power, before proving even more exciting, so 2016 in the north may end up the biggest secret.

The wines are perhaps not as powerful as in 2015, but what they lack in concentration, they make up for in finesse: this is a vintage for true Syrah lovers.

It is also a vintage growers love, evidenced by the prevalence of top cuvées made this year throughout the valley.

Notably, in Hermitage, quantities were decimated by hail early in the season. But what remains is brilliant. Secure whatever you can find from this much-hailed hill.

The South: simply outstanding

"It was like harvesting blockbuster grapes from the sofa."

So proclaimed Lucien Barrot of Domaine la Barroche, exalting the quality of the harvest in the Southern Rhône in 2016.

Here has seen one of the greatest vintages in decades. Indeed, 1990 was the comparison that I kept hearing, in cellar after cellar.

The Châteauneufs are powerful but retain the energy and acidity necessary in this part of the world. Appellations such as Gigondas and Vacqueyras, meanwhile, have performed brilliantly, with the added altitude bringing even more vivacity to the wines.

In 2016, I suggest you grab hold of all the wines from the south that you can. From Côtes du Rhône to single vineyard top cuvées, you won't be disappointed.

The Whites: the hidden gems

The best surprise has been the quality of the white wines, from both north and south.

They carry freshness beautifully, with clean, precise fruit and minerality shining through. Many will be delicious in their youth, with the concentration and energy to age gracefully.

If the Rhône valley is all about reds for you, it's time to be surprised.

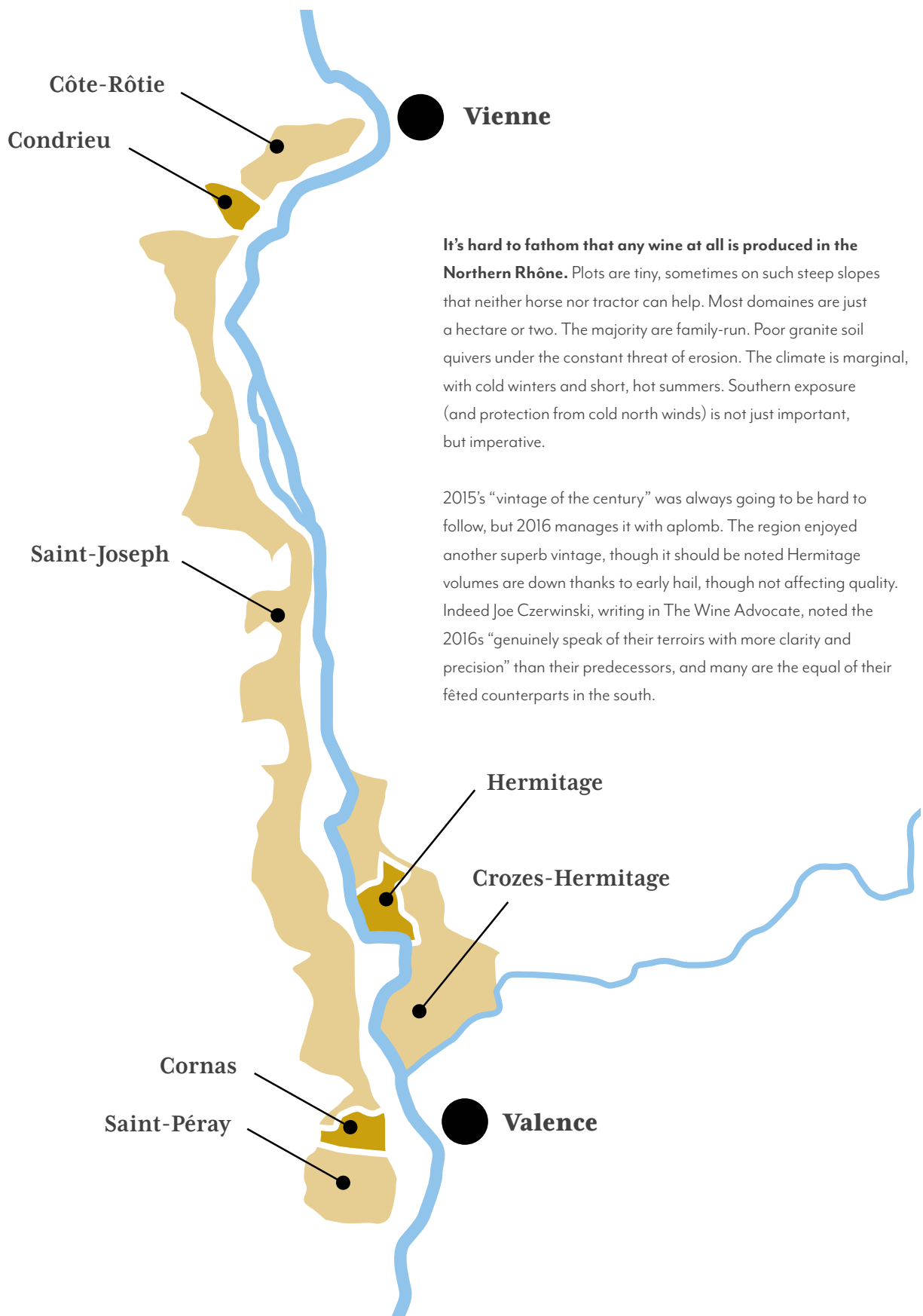
La France Méridionale: a welcome addition

For the first time, I'm delighted to include wines from Provence and Languedoc-Roussillon here. Whether Mourvèdre from Bandol, or white blends from Roussillon, these are some of the great wines of France, available at outstanding prices. I urge you to join me in discovering them.

Best wishes,


Robbie Toothill | Buyer

NORTHERN RHÔNE




Côte-Rôtie

Syrah

 This tiny commune, which takes its name from the French for 'roasted slope', is one of the Northern Rhône's biggest names. It's known for elegant, dramatic wines which are rightfully some of the most sought-after in the region.


Condrieu

Viognier

 Condrieu is the spiritual home of Viognier, a wonderfully aromatic grape with notes of honeysuckle, white fruit and flowers. Top producers tease out balance and complexity from the grape to produce tiny amounts of some of the best whites in France.


Saint-Joseph

Syrah; Roussanne, Marsanne

 Always second fiddle to Hermitage across the river, Saint-Joseph is considerably larger, and quality can vary. We've made our selection carefully, and 2016 is another vintage of excellent quality.


Hermitage

Syrah; Roussanne, Marsanne

 Hermitage once rivalled the First Growths as the most expensive wine in France. The appellation is a single 300 hectare hill, and its wines are firmly tied with those of Côte-Rôtie as the most desirable in the region.


Crozes-Hermitage

Syrah; Roussanne, Marsanne

 Surrounding Hermitage, this appellation is 10 times larger. Given its size, we are particularly careful to only work with the best.


Cornas

Syrah

 At the southernmost point of the Northern Rhône, Cornas is known for more rustic wines. These powerful reds are where some of the best value lies. Winemaking methods have outpaced prices: here are brilliant wines for the money.

Saint-Péray

Roussanne, Marsanne

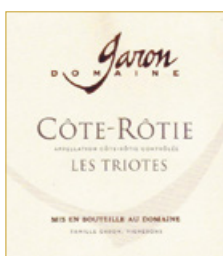
 This small appellation, devoted entirely to white wine, is more known for sparkling wine than still due to its cool climate. The still whites, dominated by Marsanne with small amounts of Roussanne, tend to be lighter in style and difficult to find. We've secured small amounts from the best producers there.

CÔTE-RÔTIE

Côte-Rôtie is a warren of narrow valleys carved by ancient Rhône tributaries. This patchwork of soils and aspects gives producers a broad palette with which to construct their wines. Traditionally, winemakers used this diversity to create a wine greater than the sum of its parts, a view still espoused by Bernard Burgaud, among others.

But, beginning with Marcel Guigal in the 1960s, we now see a concurrent movement towards single site bottlings. The two hillsides behind the town of Ampuis, the Côte Blonde and Côte Brune, have long been synonymous with the appellation's best wines, and

now individual vineyards are rising to prominence. In addition to Guigal's iconic "La La" wines, we're pleased to showcase bottlings from sites as diverse as Lancement, Les Rochains and La Viallière.



DOMAINE GARON

The Garon family have been landowners in Ampuis for more than 500 years, but it wasn't until 1982 that they started tending to the neglected vines on their land. Releasing their first cuvée in 1995, Jean-Francois Garon observed with little irony that "it wasn't bad for the vineyards to rest a hundred years between plantings." Today, brothers Kevin and Fabien are now in charge. They make three wines from the Côte-Rôtie's Côte Blonde and one from the Côte Brune, all mostly destemmed and aged in a mix of new and older French oak.



Drink 2020 - 2029



£150 per 6 bottles



£25 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Sybarine

This cuvée is blended from vine parcels on granite across the Côte Blonde. There's charming fruit, with real density and depth underneath. It tastes fantastic: fresh and easy, but brilliantly made.



Drink 2020 - 2029



£165 per 6 bottles



£27.50 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Les Triotes

Les Triotes comes from three parcels on the Côte Blonde: Lancement, Le Combard and Les Triottes [sic]. There's lovely energy to this, with fresh, cool red fruits and fine tannins. It's finessed and quite pretty, but there's a balance of texture and lovely drive.



Drink 2020 - 2035



£270 per 6 bottles



£45 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Les Rochins

The Garons' only bottling from the Côte Brune, this parcel borders the legendary lieu-dit La Landonne. There's fabulous depth and power, but it's wonderfully elegant too. You'll need to have patience with this one, but it will reward you.



Drink 2020 - 2036



£420 per 6 bottles



£70 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Lancement

Lancement is the highpoint of the Côte Blonde, bordering the plateau. The fruit profile is noticeably darker here: black cherries and violets, beautifully defined across the palate. It's pure and precise, with fantastic energy.



@coterotie_stephaneogier

DOMAINE MICHEL ET STÉPHANE OGIER

While arguably one of the greatest producers of the Côte-Rôtie (and with a full 10 hectares there), this estate remains steadfastly a family affair. For years, the Ogiers sold their grapes to Guigal and Chapoutier, but in the 1980s they began to produce their own wine. Stéphane started working alongside his father Michel in 1997 before taking the helm in 2003. Stéphane learned how to make wine in Beaune, in the heart of Burgundy, and the influence is clear. His belief in the importance of 'crus' within Côte-Rôtie and vinification of individual plots, plus the presence of aged barrels from one of the very top Burgundy estates in his cellar, leads to wines with considerable elegance and finesse.

"OVER THE LAST DECADE OR SO, STÉPHANE OGIER HAS RAISED THE BAR IN JUST ABOUT EVERY WAY POSSIBLE FOR HIS ESTATE IN CÔTE-RÔTIE"

Jeb Dunnuck,
The Wine Advocate



Drink 2018 - 2020
£78 per 6 bottles
£13 per bottle

2016 Viognier de Rosine

This is fresh and energetic, with not a hint of Viognier flabbiness. There are savoury touches to complement the floral nuances. It's wonderfully balanced and textured.



Drink 2018 - 2020
£72 per 6 bottles
£12 per bottle

2016 Syrah La Rosine

Stéphane uses 30% whole bunches in this cuvée, giving it wonderful lift and fragrance. The fruit is so pure it crunches, and there's impressive length and balance too.



Drink 2018 - 2023
£144 per 6 bottles
£24 per bottle

2016 Condrieu La Combe de Mallevall

The Combe de Mallevall is so fresh and delicious now, with fabulous drive and tension over the long finish. Really impressive.



Drink 2019 - 2027
£84 per 6 bottles
£14 per bottle

2016 Saint-Joseph Le Passage

Fragrant and rich with impressive structure, this is classy. There's wonderful Syrah purity and freshness and a finish that leaves you wanting more.



Drink 2018 - 2026
£234 per 6 bottles
£39 per bottle

2016 Condrieu Vieilles Vignes de Jacques Vernay

From vines planted in 1948, this has gorgeously concentrated apricot and jasmine with spicy touches of ginger and lemongrass. Once again it's fresh and precise with not a hair out of place.



Drink 2019 - 2028
£147 per 6 bottles
£24.50 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Mon Village

Mon Village is the destination for the fruit of the Ogier's younger vines, but such is the skill in winemaking and blending that there's nothing simple on show here. Dark fruits, minerals and pepper all in abundance, with some savoury richness developing too. It broods and builds, and the structure shows how serious a wine this is.



Drink 2018 - 2021
£48 per 6 bottles
£8 per bottle

2016 Côtes du Rhône Le Temps Est Venu

One of the Northern Rhône's best value wines, this is 60% Grenache with the rest Syrah. It's juicy and fresh, with mouthwatering acidity giving fantastic elegance and freshness. There's impressive balance here, and it's just so drinkable.



Drink 2020 - 2035
£264 per 6 bottles
£44 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Réserve du Domaine

Blended from six lieux-dits, there's wonderful tension here between ripeness and mineral purity, with wonderfully perfumed and expressive Syrah fruit. The tannins are ripe and supple: this is a complete wine.



@maisoncluselroch

DOMAINE CLUSEL ROCH

The wines of Gilbert Clusel and Brigitte Roch - hence the domaine's name - are known for their elegance and purity of fruit. The couple started the domaine in Côte-Rôtie in 1989 by themselves, with little more than the vines planted by Gilbert's grandfather before the Second World War. With gradual investment in a modern cellar, they continued in the vineyards and began to produce wine organically in 2002. It's now their son, Guillaume, who takes the lead, and the wines leap to ever greater heights.

"CLUSEL ROCH CÔTE-RÔTIES HAVE LONG BEEN PRIZED BY THEIR FANS FOR THEIR RELATIVELY LIGHT TOUCH, BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN SEEING A BIT MORE DEPTH OF FLAVOR, WITH NO LOSS OF ELEGANCE"

Josh Raynolds,
vinous.com



Drink 2020 - 2031



£186 per 6 bottles



£31 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Cuvée Classique

Guillaume's Cuvée Classique is composed from parcels in the lieux-dits Viallière, Grandes Places, Verenay and Champon. As ever, tasting each constituent part was a joy, and the way they come together is remarkable: floral elegance, juicy berry fruit, then power and intensity with a deft hand. This is classic and exquisite.



DOMAINE BERNARD BURGAUD

Bernard Burgaud took over his family's domaine at the time of his father's early death in 1985, though his first vintage was 1980. He assembled a few more choice lieux-dits, though it remains a mere four hectares in the heart of Côte-Rôtie. Bernard studied viticulture in Beaune, and has maintained a more traditional approach to winemaking, with an emphasis on longevity. He was also ahead of his time in the region when he gradually introduced small amounts of new oak, foresight which led to more complex, ageworthy wines, improvements which his son, now 30, will continue as he prepares to take over.



Drink 2020 - 2033



£168 per 6 bottles



£28 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie

Made from a blend of lieux-dits, including some of the most celebrated in Côte-Rôtie, Bernard's wine is a benchmark of Côte-Rôtie. Fresh notes of violet and cherries leap from the glass, with earthy undertones and amazing length. Gorgeous. A wine to buy every year.



DOMAINE ROSTAING

It's remarkable given the esteem in which Domaine Rostaing is held, that winemaking wasn't a full time occupation for René Rostaing until 2000. The estate now has 7.5 hectares of vines in some of Côte-Rôtie's finest locations, and the wines blend the best of traditional and modern techniques to amplify this innate quality. René's son, Pierre, who first studied in Lyon, then worked in Paris and then studied oenology in Montpellier, has been in charge since the 2015 vintage (making his first two vintages a dream start!) having worked on the estate since 2007. This seamless transition promises a bright future here.

"ROSTAING'S 2016S LOOK EXTREMELY PROMISING"

Joe Czerwinski,
The Wine Advocate



Drink 2018 - 2022

£240 per 6 bottles

£40 per bottle

2016 Condrieu La Bonnette

The 2016 La Bonnette has electric energy and great depth to the flavour. It's clean and elegant, with a saline balance to the finish. It's a touch less overt or hedonistic than previous vintages, but it's no bad thing.



Drink 2020 - 2029

£252 per 6 bottles

£42 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Ampodium

A blend of 15 lieux-dits across Côte Blonde and Côte Brune (in total 25 plots go into it), this is delicious in 2016. There's lovely fruit - pure and juicy - with hints of violet and liquorice on the long finish. This is already lovely.



Drink 2021 - 2041

£450 per 6 bottles

£75 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie La Viallière

The vines are a plot inherited from Pierre's grandfather, Côte-Rôtie legend Albert Dervieux Thaize, with vines over 80 years old. There's amazing tension and purity here, with floral and mineral characters, and such density from the gnarled vines. The texture is sumptuously layered and quite delicious.



Drink 2021 - 2041

£540 per 6 bottles

£90 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

There's a powerful nose with graphite and savoury complements to the fruit. The intensity is really impressive: it's a baby, but the potential here is palpable. It's fresh and filled with energy and lasts minutes.



Drink 2021 - 2041

£570 per 6 bottles

£95 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde

The most elegant of Pierre's cuvées, this is precise and poised, with an electric finish to the pure fruit and floral palate. It unfurls and builds seamlessly: just gorgeous.



Drink 2021 - 2041

£840 per 6 bottles

£140 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Côte Brune

The Rostaings only make Côte Brune in the very best vintages, and this is the first since 2013. It's dark, mineral and brooding, but there's undeniably finesse and elegance too. Wonderfully powerful, mouth-coating tannins, amazing length and such definition of flavour on the finish.



@domaineguigal

ETIENNE GUIGAL

One of the most renowned producers in Côte-Rôtie, Guigal produces wines of stunning purity and balance. Founded in 1946 by Etienne, his son (and Légion d'Honneur holder) Marcel joined in 1961 and helped to expand their land to what represents over a third of the Côte-Rôtie harvest. Today, third generation winemaker Philippe, Etienne's grandson, has been involved since 1999 after a six-month internship at Château Cheval Blanc and studies in Dijon. Guigal's Côte-Rôties have received more 100-point scores from Robert Parker than any other wine, and Marcel has been described as "this planet's greatest winemaker."

"THIS ESTATE IS PRODUCING SOME OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE AND SINGULAR WINES IN THE WORLD"

Jeb Dunnuck,
The Wine Advocate



Drink 2018 - 2037

£178 per bottle

2012 Côte-Rôtie La Turquie

"Similar to the La Mouline with its forward, incredibly sexy style, the 2012 Côte Rôtie La Turquie (there's 7% Viognier in the blend) offers a saturated purple color to go with meaty, smoky notes of cassis, cured meats, chocolate and roasted herbs. It's a big mouthful of a wine, with full-bodied richness and a stacked mid-palate, but it has a seamless, weightless texture, perfectly ripe tannin and a blockbuster finish."

98 points, Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2020 - 2033

£175 per bottle

2013 Côte-Rôtie La Mouline

"It offers a terrific perfume of spiced red and black fruits, violets, lots of minerality and even a hint of damp forest floor to go with a full-bodied, elegant, seamless style on the palate. It's not the most massive wine in the lineup, but it has terrific purity, fine, polished tannin and beautiful length."

(94-97) points, Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2020 - 2038

£183 per bottle

2013 Côte-Rôtie La Turquie

"A bigger, richer wine than the La Mouline, the 2013 Côte Rôtie La Turquie offers full-bodied, layered and almost decadent notes of blackcurrants, chocolate, cassis and toasted spice. This beauty has building tannic grip, a layered, concentrated mid-palate and serious length — all pointing to a long, healthy life."

(95-97) points, Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2020 - 2037

£250 per bottle

2012 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

"The utterly perfect 2012 Côte Rôtie La Landonne is the star of three single vineyards in 2012. Possessing an off-the-charts sexiness in its layered, concentrated and full-bodied style, it has a wealth of fruit, ripe tannin, a stacked mid-palate and pedal-to-the-metal notes of black fruits, scorched earth, caramelized meats and crushed rocks."

100 points, Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2023 - 2038

£188 per bottle

2013 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

"The inky black-colored 2013 Côte Rôtie La Landonne is certainly one of the gems in the vintage, and it has more texture, depth and richness than just about every other wine out there. Charred fruits, black, black fruits, espresso, crushed rock and wood smoke all emerge from this full-bodied, concentrated Côte Rôtie that certainly shows a masculine style, yet still possesses incredible purity and elegance."

(97-99) points, Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate

CONDRIEU



DOMAINE ANDRÉ PERRET

André Perret makes world-renowned Condrieu and under-appreciated Saint-Joseph from his family-owned domaine, one of the best sites in the region. His family has always made wine in Chassagne-Montrachet (Château de la Maltroye) before coming to the Rhône. He took control of the concern, now 4.8 hectares, in 1983 and built a new cellar 10 years later. With his wife and two daughters, André makes three Condrieus, the top one from the vineyard Côteau de Chéry. His wines tend to balance richness and freshness perfectly, with classic peach and apricot aromas - the ideal expression of this classic Rhône white.

“THIS ESTATE LONG AGO SOLIDIFIED ITS POSITION AMONG THE ELITE PRODUCERS OF CONDRIEU, BUT ITS RED WINES STILL CRUISE ALONG UNDER MOST RHÔNE LOVERS’ RADAR”

Josh Raynolds,
vinous.com



Drink 2018 - 2022

£162 per 6 bottles

£27 per bottle



Drink 2018 - 2025

£204 per 6 bottles

£34 per bottle



Drink 2020 - 2028

£114 per 6 bottles

£19 per bottle

2016 Condrieu

The 2016 Condrieu from Perret is saline, fresh, and driven. There's wonderful purity and fragrance of small flowers, and freshly picked peaches. Gorgeous.

2016 Condrieu Côteau de Chéry

Spicier than the straight Condrieu, this has notes of ginger, cardamom and white pepper alongside fresh stone fruit. The finish is clean and very long, with impressive complexity and depth.

2016 Saint-Joseph Les Grisières

Don't ignore Perret's reds: this is silky, juicy and so long. There's elegance but also ripeness of pure, red fruit. Delicious straight out the barrel, there's still huge potential here.



DOMAINE FRANÇOIS VILLARD

François Villard is a passionate young winemaker and former chef who began planting vines in 1989. It is his Condrieu for which he is most revered: focussed, pure and complex. A man of extremes, he allows a small amount of his Viognier, as well as Marsanne for his Saint-Joseph, to develop botrytis - the fungus known as 'noble rot' made famous in Sauternes production. This method, less common for dry wines, may be why he's been called one of Condrieu's Young Turks, and why his wines are so in demand.



Drink 2018 - 2022

£156 per 6 bottles

£26 per bottle

2016 Condrieu Les Terrasses du Palat

Silky and textured, this sees one third new oak, adding spice yet perfectly balanced by the weight of the wine. Notes of grapefruit, watermelon and rose petal leap from the glass. Delicious.



Drink 2018 - 2022

£171 per 6 bottles

£28.50 per bottle

2016 Condrieu Le Grand Vallon

From a cooler terroir, this is elegant with orange blossom and ripe clementines on the nose. There's drive with freshness and a saline finish. All about elegance and finesse, a charming Viognier.



Drink 2018 - 2022

£186 per 6 bottles

£31 per bottle

2016 Condrieu DePoncins

There's ripe, intense fruit with notes of peach and pineapple, and good weight on the palate. This is an upfront Condrieu, but one with good ageing potential.



DOMAINE YVES CUILLERON

Yves Cuilleron is an important name in the Northern Rhône. His family has farmed there since at least the early 1900s, and as a fourth generation winemaker, he has since taken on holdings in Saint-Joseph, Condrieu and Côte-Rôtie. While on one hand, he farms as naturally as possible, in the vineyard he has been open to experimenting with new oak. His fearlessness in innovating in pursuit of producing world-class wines is admirable, and seems to be working.



 Drink 2017 - 2020
 £144 per 6 bottles
 £24 per bottle

2016 Condrieu La Petite Côte

A perfect introduction into the wines of Condrieu, this is floral, juicy and beautifully fresh. There are notes of acacia and orange flower water, with a saline touch to the finish.



 Drink 2020 - 2030
 £186 per 6 bottles
 £31 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Bassenon

A traditional Côte-Rôtie that sees Yves co-ferment 10% Viognier with his Syrah, there's nice balance here between floral lift and meaty richness. With its energy and texture, it's complex but easy to drink. This is very fine indeed.



 Drink 2018 - 2030
 £264 per 6 bottles
 £44 per bottle

2016 Condrieu Lieu-Dit 'Vernon'

Jeb Dunnuck called this lieu-dit "one of the finest terroirs for Viognier in the world", and Yves makes it sing year in, year out. This cuvée sees 45% new oak, giving a creamy texture and added power to the palate. It's one of those rare Condrieus that cries out for some age to get the most from its complex, marmalade-y richness and spice.



 Drink 2020 - 2030
 £186 per 6 bottles
 £31 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Madinière

The Madinière, from the north of Côte-Rôtie, has a degree or two more power, but Yves retains marked freshness and purity. This is long and fragrant with gorgeous texture.



 Drink 2018 - 2024
 £90 per 6 bottles
 £15 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage Laya

Yves' Crozes is juicy and fresh, with lovely texture and definition to the flavours. It's beautifully made, making it deceptively easy to drink.



 Drink 2021 - 2035
 £222 per 6 bottles
 £37 per bottle

2016 Cornas Les Côtes

From vines planted in 1911, this has striking power and intensity. There's real wildness to the fruit, but a structure that keeps it in check, and depth of flavour that pulls you in. A massive wine, but brilliantly balanced.

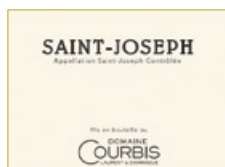


 Drink 2020 - 2027
 £138 per 6 bottles
 £23 per bottle

2016 Saint-Joseph Les Serines

This is top-notch Saint-Joseph, with graphite and stone complementing the fresh fruit character. There's great concentration and purity, too.

SAINT-JOSEPH



DOMAINE COURBIS

Winemaking has been the Courbis family vocation since 1587, according to patriarch Maurice. Today, his sons Laurent (the vinifier) and Dominique (who runs the vineyard) make wines in five appellations, including in Saint-Joseph for more than 400 years and in Cornas since 1982. They're part of the fabric of life here: in fact, Laurent has been mayor of the local town for decades, and his tasting room is always bustling. The modern, polished style of Domaine Courbis belies the historic roots of the family, and it has long been considered one of the top concerns in the Northern Rhône. This domaine is the perfect example of modern vinification meeting classic viticulture and terroir.

“AN ESTATE THAT READERS NEED TO HAVE ON THEIR RADAR”

Jeb Dunnuck,
The Wine Advocate



Drink 2019 - 2027
£144 per 6 bottles
£24 per bottle

2016 Saint-Joseph La Cotte Sud

These vines are planted directly onto granite in the sweetspot of the slope. The fruit is dark and ripe but fresh. Loads of energy and depth, with real elegance.



Drink 2019 - 2031
£117 per 6 bottles
£19.50 per bottle

2016 Cornas Champelrose

Dark bramble fruits mark a lovely, expressive nose, carrying on to an intense yet mineral palate. The tannins are present and firm. Balance is clear from start to finish, underscoring Laurent's decision to use barriques three to five years old rather than new oak.



Drink 2020 - 2032
£168 per 6 bottles
£28 per bottle

2016 Cornas Les Eygats

There's wild perfume here, and a plush texture over the juicy dark fruits, with liquorice and meaty savouriness developing. With impressive length and a gorgeously clean finish: this is a wine that will last and last.



Drink 2020 - 2033
£222 per 6 bottles
£37 per bottle

2016 Cornas La Sabarotte

Full-bodied and full-throttle - the texture and volume are just superb. It's wonderfully intense and precise, with very fine tannins and mineral freshness. Such depth to the flavour, and it just keeps building.



DOMAINE DES PIERRES SÈCHES

Sylvain Gauthier is a Northern Rhône rising star. He trained in Beaune and worked at Domaine du Tunnel and Chapoutier before establishing his own domaine in 2007 high above the river valley in Cheminas. His drive to improve quality in his six hectares of vineyards and at the tiny winery in the heart of the village is impressive. We're delighted to offer his wines for the first time, and encourage you to get acquainted.



Drink 2019 - 2025



£90 per 6 bottles



£15 per bottle

2016 Saint-Joseph

Sylvain fashions this from 12 different parcels across Saint-Joseph. It's really bright and fresh with dark fruits, pepper and flowers.



Drink 2019 - 2028



£138 per 6 bottles



£23 per bottle

2016 Saint-Joseph Sainte Epine

From a single lieu-dit with old vines, there's impressive depth and texture here. Sylvain uses more new oak here, and it wears it well. Still really bright and clean, with lovely balance and elegance.

HERMITAGE



@maisonchapoutier

MAISON CHAPOUTIER

The name Chapoutier has long been associated with the Northern Rhône, but it was only once Michel Chapoutier took control of the family business in 1988 that quality accelerated it to become the world-class concern it is today. From some of the best plots in the Northern Rhône, they craft all of their wines biodynamically. Michel and his daughter Mathilde have begun to add land in southern France, Alsace and as far as Australia, evidence of their ambition and the demand for their wine. We were astonished to discover that Michel still tastes every sample, flown in from around the world to his home.



Drink 2018 - 2035

£117 per bottle

2016 Ermitage Le Méal Blanc

"The 2016 Ermitage le Meal Blanc is all Marsanne and all power, with ample weight and richness on the full-bodied palate. Grilled melon and tangerine flavors are big, bold and round yet balanced by a hint of bitterness on the finish. It should drink well for two decades or more."

94 points, Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2021 - 2051

£190 per bottle

2016 Ermitage l'Ermite

"Scents of crushed stone are joined by blueberries, plums and cassis in this impressive, full-bodied wine. It's rich and concentrated, tannic as hell but endowed with enough fruit to see it through to 2025, when it should begin to approach drinkability."

(95-97), Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2018 - 2035

£275 per bottle

2016 Ermitage de l'Ermite Blanc

"My favorite of the white Hermitages, the 2016 Ermitage l'Ermite Blanc boasts aromas of gently toasted marshmallow and ripe pear. It's full-bodied and generous, with a rich, grainy texture balanced by brine and zest notes. While it can be enjoyed now, my feeling is that it will get better over the next decade, then drink well for at least another decade after that."

98 points, Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2021 - 2051

Sold Out

Sold Out

2016 Ermitage Le Méal

"The 2016 Ermitage le Meal shows distinctly more crushed stone character than Les Greffieux, but it still maintains a strong fruit component. Cassis, blackberries and raspberries all mingle on the palate of this full-bodied, tannic and richly concentrated wine, lingering on the layered, velvety finish."

(94-97) points, Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2020 - 2031

£150 per 6 bottles

£25 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage Les Varonniers

"This vineyard is on the same granite as Les Bessards in Hermitage, so it's no surprise that the 2016 Crozes Hermitage les Varonniers is a solid wine. It starts off with forward aromas blackberry pie and pastry crust, yet it delivers a structured, slightly restrained experience on the palate. It's not overly tannic, just reined in by crushed stone notes on the lingering finish."

(91-93)+, Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2021 - 2051

Sold Out

Sold Out

2016 Ermitage Les Greffieux

"The most approachable of Chapoutier's single-parcel Hermitages, the 2016 Ermitage les Greffieux offers fruit-forward notes of cassis, raspberries and pomegranate. It's full-bodied and plush with a long, elegant finish that hints at mocha and licorice."

(93-96) points, Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2021 - 2051

Sold Out

Sold Out

2016 Côte-Rôtie La Mordorée

"The elegant, medium to full-bodied 2016 Côte Rôtie la Mordorée was aging in 30% new oak. It shows cedar and leather notes upfront, balanced by raspberry fruit, hints of espresso and black olive. Firmly tannic yet velvety in feel, it should drink well for 20 years after release."

(93-95) points, Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



Drink 2021 - 2051

£171 per bottle

2016 Ermitage Le Pavillon

"A 30-year wine, the 2016 Ermitage le Pavillon is inky in color, displays the essence of crushed rock on the nose, offers flavors of dark chocolate, espresso and scorched meat on the palate and lingers forever on the finish. This full-bodied, intensely concentrated and tannic wine represents the essence of Les Bessards. Looking at my notes, the rating may well prove to be conservative."

(96-98) points, Joe Czerwinski, The Wine Advocate



@carofrey

MAISON PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ

Jaboulet is one of the Rhône's most famous names, and the house's flagship wine, Hermitage La Chapelle, is an icon. Founded as a family concern in the early 19th century, it remained in family hands for nearly two hundred years, until it was sold to the Frey family, proprietors of Bordeaux Third Growth Château La Lagune and Champagne's Billecart-Salmon. Caroline Frey now oversees the winemaking, and the estate has returned to the top table in Hermitage.

These wines will be released later in 2018.



MARC SORREL

Marc Sorrel makes excellent wines on the legendary hill of Hermitage, from superbly situated parcels of old vines. He studied in Lyon before his first vintage in 1984, inheriting the vines from his father, a notary, and grandfather, also a notary, who bought the plot in 1928. Marc is the first of his family to take on wine full-time, and his son is set to follow suit this year. A dedicated grower, he's most often found tending to the vines, with little interest promoting his handiwork. His holdings are small - just 2.55 hectares - and production for two whites and two reds is low. However, the combination of dedication in the vineyard and traditional methods in the winery leads to wines which are impressive year-on-year, displaying ever greater complexity as they age.



Drink 2021 - 2031



£315 per 6 bottles



£52.50 per bottle

2016 Hermitage Rouge Classique

Marc had half the amount of fruit in 2016 as 2015, and it shows in this wine's concentration. The texture is superb, with pure red fruits, smoke and spice of lovely depth.



Drink 2021 - 2046



£468 per 6 bottles



£78 per bottle

2016 Hermitage Le Gréal

Le Gréal is one of France's very best wines: a top performer in every vintage. And the tiny-production 2016 will challenge 2015 for the greatest ever made. But with so little available of this ageworthy wine, you'll have to move fast.



DOMAINE BERNARD FAURIE

A visit to Bernard Faurie's humble cellar in the village of Tournon is in contrast with the class of the wines he makes here. With minimal intervention, he makes a classic, if not benchmark, Hermitage from the 1.7 hectares he shares with his cousin. He now shares in the winemaking with his son-in-law Emmanuel, who manages their authentic Saint-Joseph wines, while Bernard focuses on his prized Hermitage. Bernard describes his job as "ma passion, ma vie", a raison d'être evident in his outstanding wines.

"BERNARD IS CURRENTLY MAKING THE BEST WINES OF HIS CAREER, WHICH IS NOW WELL INTO ITS FOURTH DECADE"

Josh Raynolds,
vinous.com



Drink 2021 - 2041

£312 per 6 bottles

£52 per bottle

2016 Hermitage Cuvée Assemblage

Assembled from Bernard's parcels in Gréffieux, Bessards and Le Méal. The nose is savoury and herbal initially before pure fruit arrives, then chocolate and even coffee. It's so complex already. And there's fantastic balance between the freshness and intensity.



DOMAINE DU COLOMBIER

Florent and David Viale own nearly 17 hectares in the Northern Rhône, where they produce both red and white Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage. They used to sell the wine from their three plots in Hermitage to Guigal, and their red Crozes-Hermitage to Ogier and to Burgundy, but since 1991 they've bottled their own. In the cellar, the Viales prefer oak not to dominate the purity of the fruit. They use large oak barrels called tonneaux, where the wines take on terrific finesse and balance.



Drink 2018 - 2019

£105 per 6 bottles

£17.50 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage Blanc, Cuvée Gaby

The Viale brothers Crozes cuvée is named Gaby after their father. Toasty and rich, the Gaby Blanc has lovely depth, but there's great balance with freshness too.



Drink 2020 - 2033

£240 per 6 bottles

£40 per bottle

2016 Hermitage Blanc

For me, this is the standout of the Colombier range this year. Lovely white flowers, peaches and clean saline freshness. It's rich and round, but balanced and delicious. This is really impressive.



Drink 2019 - 2027

£99 per 6 bottles

£16.50 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage, Cuvée Gaby

This vintage's Gaby rouge has really impressive energy, with the smoke and texture of the oak enlivened by fresh acidity and peppery Syrah.



Drink 2021 - 2039

£240 per 6 bottles

£40 per bottle

2016 Hermitage

The nose is already inviting, showing power and deep cherry fruit. There's amazing drive and energy on the palate, with black fruits, spice and fine tannins. The power is undeniable, but it's so elegant and finessed.

CROZES-HERMITAGE



MAISON DELAS FRÈRES

One of most prolific producers of the Northern Rhône, Delas Frères was formed in 1835 and has steadily acquired desirable plots in nearly every appellation in that part of the valley. Initially family-owned, the maison merged with the Champagne house Deutz in the mid-70s, an entity then purchased by Louis Roederer in 1993. They've now been organic since 2013, though not accredited, and have really hit their stride.

With an impressive female winemaker, Claire Darnaud, at the helm since 2010 (though with experience there dating back to 1996), and considerable investment in the cellar to move to the historic town centre, the wines here are some of the more refined in the region. Careful never to use more than 40% new oak, Claire is a master of her craft.



Drink 2018 - 2025
£234 per 6 bottles
£39 per bottle

2016 Condrieu Clos Boucher

This is a two hectare plot that borders Château Grillet. It's so powerful and elegant, with clean mineral and savoury notes added to the spice and stone fruit. The definition across the finish is spectacular, and there's energy to keep it driving on.



Drink 2020 - 2032
£288 per 6 bottles
£48 per bottle

2016 Hermitage Domaine des Tourettes

Claire says this cuvée, from the Grandes Vignes and Bessards lieux-dits, has come on leaps and bounds since they switched to organic methods. It feels slightly backward at present, but there's so much precision complexity to the finish already.



Drink 2019 - 2027
£276 per 6 bottles
£46 per bottle

2016 Hermitage Blanc Marquise de la Tourette

Once again, an Hermitage Blanc steals the show: this is just awesome. Fresh and savoury, with so much depth, texture and purity, the flavours just keep coming and delighting you.



Drink 2020 - 2045
£660 per 6 bottles
£110 per bottle

2016 Hermitage Les Bessards

From a single lieu-dit on poor granitic soil, this is big and bold, but there's an elegance too, with fresh stone and cured meat over the dark cherry fruit. The length is really impressive as the layers keep unfurling.



Drink 2019 - 2027
£114 per 6 bottles
£19 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage, Domaine des Grands Chemins

Fresh, textured and accessible, this is simply delicious. There's pure cherry and spice with a touch of smoke, and it's thoroughly charming.



Drink 2020 - 2034
£312 per 6 bottles
£52 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie Seigneur de Maugiron

This Côte-Rôtie cuvée is wonderfully elegant, with violets, gorgeously pure raspberry, herbs and spice. It's beautifully balanced and fresh, with lacy acidity and great length.



Drink 2019 - 2030
£162 per 6 bottles
£27 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage Le Clos

Unusually for Crozes, this comes from a single block on fine gravel soil. It's wonderfully elegant and driven, with so much texture. There are violets and pure black fruit in wonderful balance. Precise and finely judged.



Drink 2020 - 2045
£720 per 6 bottles
£120 per bottle

2016 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

From one of Côte-Rôtie's most famous lieux-dits, and this lives up to the billing, exuding power and depth. It's classically-styled, with floral and herbal characters as well as juicy black fruits. There's tremendous energy and freshness, and the finish is cool and pure.



Drink 2020 - 2032
£150 per 6 bottles
£25 per bottle

2016 Cornas Chante Perdrix

This is bright and floral, with ripe dark fruits that have both wildness and elegance. It's blended from the first and last plots to be harvested in the region, so there's real complexity here. It's spicy, pure and mineral with gorgeous depth, impressive length and fine tannins.



ALAIN GRAILLOT

A Vienne native, at the very top of the Northern Rhône, Alain left the corporate world at age 40 to make wine. He began on a former pig farm, knowing nothing about wine making, in 1985. Today, Alain farms about 20 hectares with his family and is one of the most respected producers in Crozes-Hermitage. From these vines, he produces wines that are approachable in their youth, with remarkable longevity, too.



Drink 2018 - 2028



Sold Out



Sold Out

2016 Crozes-Hermitage

Once again, Alain Graillot has produced an accomplished Crozes-Hermitage. Ripe, fresh and peppery, this is Syrah so delicious it'll be hard to resist, although a few years in the cellar will richly reward you. Graillot's Crozes should be mandatory for any Rhône cellar, and in a vintage like 2016 this is a no-brainer.



CAVE ROUSSET

Stéphane and Robert Rousset work some of the finest terroir across 10 hectares in Crozes-Hermitage, including about half of the famous, granite-terraced Les Picaudières vineyard, acquired from their great-uncle Raymond Roure (the rest went to Joboulet). They have always worked from the soil up, practising biodynamic viticulture and even ploughing by horse where the valley's famous slopes allow! The wines are ageworthy and gorgeously expressive.



Drink 2019 - 2025



£69 per 6 bottles



£11.50 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage Rouge

This is straightforwardly delicious, with nice pure fruit, a lovely lick of tannins and a hint of savouriness on the finish.



Drink 2019 - 2027



£90 per 6 bottles



£15 per bottle

2016 Crozes-Hermitage Les Picaudières

A noticeable step up, there's wonderful balance here between the purity and concentration. Dark cherries and minerals with wild herbs and spice build to a delicious total. It's very good indeed.

CORNAS



DOMAINE ALAIN VOGÉ

It is not an exaggeration to suggest that Domaine Alain Vogé helped to re-establish the appellations of Cornas and Saint-Péray to the international wine scene. Alain took over the domaine with his mother in 1965, at age 26, when his father died unexpectedly. He's risen to the forefront of acclaimed Rhône producers with his wines from these less prestigious places now receiving more of the recognition they deserve. They've seven hectares of 70 individual plots filled with 60 year old vines, farmed entirely organically and often with horses, if not winches because of the slopes. Talented winemaker Albéric Mazoyer, former technical director at Maison Chapoutier who's now spent 10 years there, is now poised to retire, handing over to the very capable Lionel Fraisse.



Drink 2018 - 2023

£144 per 6 bottles

£19 per bottle



Drink 2018 - 2024

£69 per 6 bottles

£11.50 per bottle



Drink 2019 - 2029

£126 per 6 bottles

£21 per bottle



Drink 2021 - 2030

£156 per 6 bottles

£26 per bottle



Drink 2021 - 2036

£240 per 6 bottles

£40 per bottle



Drink 2023 - 2041

£TBC

£TBC

2016 Saint-Péray, Ongrie

The cuvée formerly known as Terres Boisées, now named for its lieu-dit: 50 year old vines on clay soil. There's lovely depth here: spice, lime blossom and pear. It's rich but has the energy to keep the palate fresh.

2016 Côtes du Rhône, Les Peyrouses

A rare "northern" Côtes du Rhône, Alain makes this cuvée with young vines from Cornas and other parcels from just outside the region. There's real northern spirit here: pepper and ripe tannins, violets and black fruits.

2016 Saint-Joseph Les Vinsonnes

Alain gets wonderful intensity in his Saint-Joseph, with concentrated darks fruits underneath a pronounced aroma of violets. It's vibrant and textured, and immensely satisfying.

2016 Cornas Les Chailles

Although not the "Vieilles Vignes", these vines still average 50 years of age. Intense dark fruits, mineral sleekness and a nice touch of struck match make this a classy Cornas. There's wonderful balance here, and a long, pure finish.

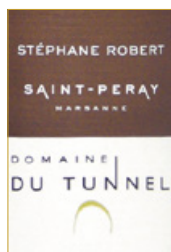
2016 Cornas, Les Vieilles Vignes

There's so much going on here, it's a ball of energy at the moment. It's dark and brooding, with such purity to the fruit. Lovely ripe tannins, and beautifully clean on the finish. Really impressive.

2016 Cornas, Les Vieilles Fontaines

From a specific selection, this is wonderful. Produced only in the very best vintages, in 2016 it shows the very best of the vintage, with notes of dark fruit, and razor-sharp precision. Brilliant.

SAINT-PÉRAY



DOMAINE DU TUNNEL

A rising star amongst world class Rhône producers, Stéphane Robert has produced wines that have caught the eye of many wine critics. Stéphane started his domaine by renting vines in 1994 with his wife Sandrine, at the young age of 24. Now he has 10 hectares of his own vines, in Cornas, Saint-Péray and Saint-Joseph, for wine all aged in the eponymous (and James Bond-like) converted railway tunnel off a gravel road in the hills above the river Rhône. The wines he creates here are characterised by fruit intensity, rather than oak, and particularly expressive of their terroir.

“AN ESTATE THAT HAS COME ON LIKE GANGBUSTERS OVER THE PAST DECADE”

Jeb Dunnuck,
The Wine Advocate



Drink 2018 - 2022
£123 per 6 bottles
£20.50 per bottle

2016 Saint-Péray Cuvée Prestige

There are beautifully expressive white flowers on the nose, before the palate plunges into sweet, textured fruit. It's rich and weighty, but balanced, building to a delicately spiced close.



Drink 2021 - 2031
£177 per 6 bottles
£29.50 per bottle

2016 Cornas

Cornas has a reputation for “rusticness”, for which this is the ideal riposte. It has such a lovely texture, glossy and well balanced. Intense violet, dark fruits and pepper. There's real ageing potential here too.



Drink 2018 - 2024
£120 per 6 bottles
£20 per bottle

2016 Saint-Péray Roussanne

There are tropical and even honied notes to the fruit, with a herbal lift and mouth-filling texture. The acidity carries the wine along, and complexity builds without any heaviness.



Drink 2021 - 2037
£228 per 6 bottles
£38 per bottle

2016 Cornas Vin Noir

From old vines grown across three hillside vineyards. This is dark and brooding; there's phenomenal intensity and power. Blackberry, plum and spice as well as fresh herbs and flowers. Simply glorious.



Drink 2019 - 2029
£174 per 6 bottles
£29 per bottle

2016 Saint-Péray Pur Blanc

This comes from a small clos of 100 year old Marsanne vines. Richly textured, with depth and intensity to the ripe stone fruit, energy carrying it through and fresh herbal savouriness on the finish.



Drink 2023 - 2047
£468 per 6 bottles
£78 per bottle

2016 Cornas Pur Noir

This is so impressive, with notes of tapenade, dark cherries, but also piercing acidity and wonderful length. A barrel selection, it's a truly stunning wine.



Drink 2019 - 2028
£120 per 6 bottles
£20 per bottle

2016 Saint-Joseph

Sourced from 2.5 hectares of parcels around the appellation, there's wonderful depth here with layers of flowers, fruit and peppery spice all competing for attention. Excellent precision to the flavour and a creaminess to the texture along the finish.

BRÉZÈME



@brezeme

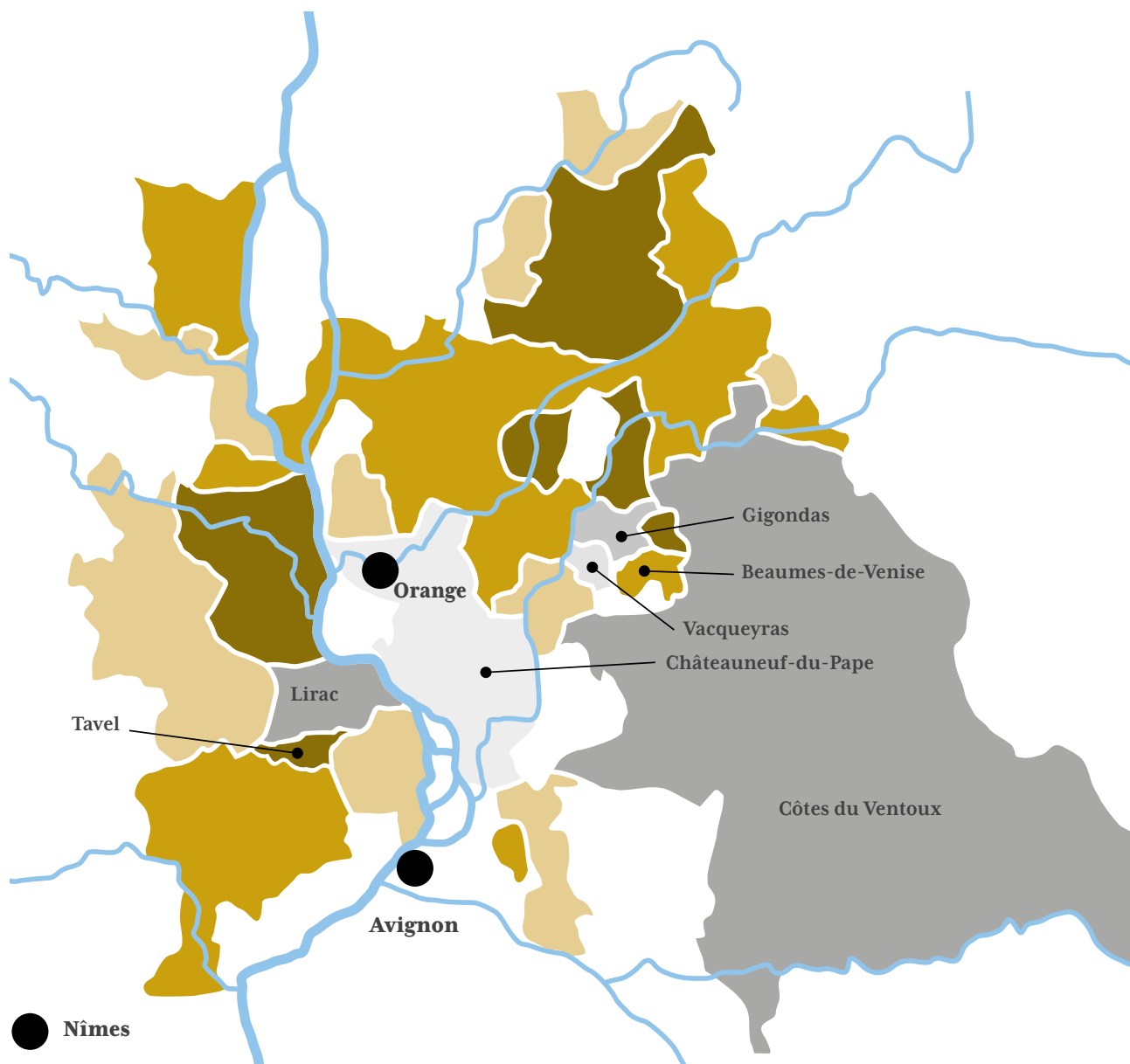
ERIC TEXIER

Eric Texier made the unlikely switch to winemaking from previous work as a nuclear engineer. And his wines have all the precision you'd expect from a man of that background. His move into wine was inspired by a love of Burgundy but, unable to afford to establish himself there, he found himself in the Rhône valley. He operates from the tiny subregion of Brézème, in the no-man's land between Valence and Montélimar. Eric's wines, bursting with freshness and terroir expression, deserve to put it on the map.

Eric's wines will be released later this year.



SOUTHERN RHÔNE



CÔTES DU RHÔNE LEVELS



The Southern Rhône stands in stark contrast to its northern counterpart. Defined by rolling scrubland with a distinctly Mediterranean climate, it is home to 95% of wine production of the Rhône valley. Not only is it warmer, larger and flatter, the wines too, are different. While Syrah stands alone in the north, blends dominate here.

2016 was the year the south sang. The wines demonstrate all the region's beloved ripeness, with elegance and balance that can often elude producers. Indeed, many winemakers we work with claimed they hadn't had such a vintage since 1990. Or even earlier! With quality through the roof, and plenty of wine to go round, it's a happy time to love these wines.

Côtes du Rhône



The largest geographic designation in the Rhône Valley, these wines are more commonly found on the shelves of supermarkets than the cellars of fine wine merchants. The best examples, however, are made by top producers known for other wines. Their Côtes du Rhône wines tend to be made just outside appellations of higher status, and can offer some of the highest quality to price ratios.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape



This legendary wine, a blend of up to 13 different grape varieties, is misunderstood. Many wines made here are fruit bombs with silly alcohol levels. We've sought out a more refined style, from producers who make ripe wines which are also elegant, with fine acidity and balance.

Gigondas



Similar in style to Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas has never made it to the international spotlight in the same way. And this is to our benefit, as we've tasted and selected some top examples which offer excellent value for money.

Vacqueyras



Considered more rustic and restrained than the wines of its easterly neighbour, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Vacqueyras offers juicy wines with more freshness. We work with the very best producers, who still manage to offer impressive value in the region.

Côtes du Ventoux



One of the more exciting up and coming areas of France, the Côtes du Ventoux is the future of the Southern Rhône. Gorgeous, unspoiled land is dotted with plots of old vines which benefit from the cooler climate. And the examples we've found represent the very best of this region.

Lirac



On the opposite bank of the Rhône river from Châteauneuf-du-Pape, these wines are often considered a baby brother. We only feature one wine from this region, from the 100-point producer Usseglio, and it's a gorgeous and less expensive alternative to Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

Tavel

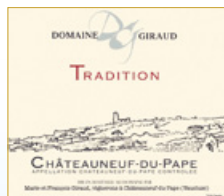


Tavel is the Rhône valley's rosé specialist. A more powerful (and often darker) wine than from further south in Provence, this is rosé of a different complexion: complex and food friendly. It's rosé for wine lovers.

Beaumes-de-Venise



Protected from fierce north winds by the Dentelles de Montmirail hills, Beaumes-de-Venise is a vintage with a growing reputation for its table wines, but it's the region's Muscat dessert wine that drives its reputation. The sheltered location lets the grapes attain perfect ripeness, and the wines' intense sweetness and exotic perfume is legendary.



DOMAINE GIRAUD

Although they've got a history in the region dating back generations, the Giraud family are relative latecomers to wine, having been distillers for most of their history. They only got hold of their first vines in 1974, with brother and sister team, François and Marie, taking over from their parents in 1998 and deciding to cease selling grapes on to négociants in favour of bottling the wine themselves. They focus on each plot (of which they have 60) in turn, creating some of Châteauneuf's most elegant and precise wines that show none of the heaviness of some of their neighbours. With 35 hectares all certified organic since 2008, they're a producer with a steadfast commitment to doing the very best thing.



Drink 2018 - 2023

£66 per 6 bottles

£11 per bottle

2016 Côtes du Rhône

Impressive vine age (60 years) makes a Côtes du Rhône that punches above its weight. Firm tannins, pure fruits and some lovely spice and depth. This is great.



Drink 2020 - 2030

£150 per 6 bottles

£25 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition

The 2016 Tradition has wonderfully pure fruit with a satisfying savoury balance. The concentration is really impressive, and there's such energy on the palate, driving it along. This is a great effort from Marie, power and elegance combined and superb value.



Drink 2020 - 2035

£336 per 6 bottles

£56 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Gallimardes

What a stunning texture this Gallimardes has: plush tannins, depth and so much energy and elegance. There's lovely lift on the finish, it's fresh and vivacious. A glorious wine.



Drink 2020 - 2035

£336 per 6 bottles

£56 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Grenaches de Pierre

Named for François and Marie's father, not stone (in fact, the vines are on sandy soil, like Rayas). This is voluptuous and silky with real elegance and power. There are deep, ripe fruits, violets and such length and definition on the finish.



@domainepierresusseglio

DOMAINE PIERRE USSEGLIO

This well-regarded estate is run by brothers Thierry and Jean-Pierre Usseglio, who divide their time respectively between the cellar and the vineyard. Having taken over the running of the domaine from their father, Pierre, in 1998, these hardworking brothers have gradually modernised the cellars. They've sought to improve quality without compromising the traditional style espoused by their father. Usseglio wines are complex, profound and aromatic; they've rightly acquired world-wide recognition and acclaim.



Drink 2019 - 2024

£144 per 12 bottles

£12 per bottle

2016 Lirac

As juicy and simply pleasurable as ever, but with an extra dimension of freshness in this vintage. There's lots of depth and energy, with fragrant spice and wild herbs coming through on the finish.



Drink 2019 - 2030

£132 per 6 bottles

£22 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Tradition

There's nice spice and fresh, pure fruit here. It's ripe and might flirt with confit, but the impressive acidity is keeping everything in balance. Wonderful tension, and it builds to a clean, savoury finish.



Drink 2020 - 2035

£330 per 6 bottles

£55 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cuvée de mon Aïeul

Impressive intensity here, there's concentration, juiciness and mineral freshness. It's enormous, but perfectly balanced with no fat, and nothing overblown. A superb wine.



Drink 2020 - 2035

£510 per 6 bottles

£85 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cuvée Deux Frères

The brothers' signature cuvée is aged entirely in oak, but it wears it effortlessly. As you would imagine, the structure is huge, and there's lots of herbs and spice complementing the fruit. There's really impressive length, with the wine's power carrying all the way through.



DOMAINE BOIS DE BOURSAN

The domaine has been in the hands of the Italian Versino family since 1955, with third generation Jean-Paul now at the helm. He takes great pride in continuing to create classic, traditional Châteauneuf-du-Pape, with the belief that vinifying with stems and ageing the wine for extended periods in large oak foudres gives his wine its unique character. As a result, Bois de Boursan is an exemplary old-school Châteauneuf-du-Pape. There is nothing flashy or opulent here, just wines with great character.

“I’VE ALWAYS LOVED JEAN-PAUL VERSINO’S WINES AND THEY ARE AS CLASSIC A CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE AS YOU CAN FIND”

Jeb Dunnuck,
The Wine Advocate



Drink 2020 - 2027



£114 per 6 bottles



£19 per bottle



Drink 2020 - 2034



£210 per 6 bottles



£35 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Tradition

The finest we’ve tasted from the domaine, the Bois de Boursan really steps up in 2016. Ripe dark fruits, spice and garrigue are balanced by a keen freshness that makes this elegant and eminently drinkable. This is built for the long term, with a structure that cries out for time in the cellar. This will mature into a stunning wine, and a steal at the price.

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cuvée Félix

Intense, yet still with beautiful freshness, this is a standout Félix from Jean-Paul. There’s notes of tapenade and dark cherry, yet with wild strawberries offering lift and energy. Outstanding, and a bargain at this price.



@domainelabarroche

DOMAINE LA BARROCHE

Domaine la Barroche is one of a host of impressive Châteauneuf-du-Pape producers who have emerged on the wine scene here. Ironically, it’s also one of the oldest properties, though it wasn’t until the Barrot family purchased it in the 1970s that its future changed course. In 2002, young and talented winemaker Julien Barrot became involved in the winemaking and the wines took flight as some of the best in the area. Old vines and intelligent, non-interventionist winemaking are the secrets to Julien’s success, as well as his perfectionist mindset.



Drink 2018 - 2027



£90 per 6 bottles



£15 per bottle



Drink 2020 - 2029



£162 per 6 bottles



£27 per bottle

2016 Liberty

Bright and juicy, with well-defined fruit and plenty of power. The tannins grip, but it’s floral and fresh too. The structure is really impressive, and it’s complex and long. It will age beautifully. It really shows the quality of the terroir, from the Rhône’s southernmost vines.

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Signature

At once elegant and satisfying, there’s spice and pure cherry fruit, and flowers and wild herbs. It’s beautifully finessed, with fine tannins and a long, fresh finish. It dances over the palate. Stunning.



DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE

Brothers Daniel and Frédéric Brunier took over this storied estate, one of the larger in Châteauneuf-du-Pape with 70 hectares under vine, from their father Henri. While he recently passed away, they continue his work cultivating their prized parcel on 'La Crau,' considered one of the top sites in the region. Rightfully so, these wines are some of the most recognised Châteauneufs.



Drink 2019 - 2031



£135 per 6 bottles



£22.50 per bottle



Drink 2020 - 2040



Sold Out



Sold Out

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Piedlong

2016 is a new high for this branch of the Bruniers' estate. There's juicy strawberry and fresh liquorice with delicate floral top notes, very pure and so well balanced. Great energy and tension, with excellent depth of flavour - a top effort.

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape

2016 is going to be a legendary vintage for Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and fittingly this Vieux Télégraphe is one of the year's standouts. There's gorgeous red fruits and herbs, with real energy and balance.



@paulvincentavril

DOMAINE DU CLOS DES PAPES

Three generations of the Avril family, all named Paul, have worked the land since 1896. Paul Vincent Avril, who runs the estate today, studied in Beaune, trained at top places including Château Mouton-Rothschild, and then returned to his calling here at Clos des Papes. He's known for particular methods, like low yields, harvesting in tries, 100% destemming, no new oak and no filtering, all which contribute to his wine's complexity. 24 individual parcels make up Clos des Papes rouge. Their cellar is almost a cathedral to fine wine in its grandeur, and befitting of the legendary wines the Avrils continue to produce. Outside the cellar, one's more likely to find him cycling up the Dentelles, or turning a tight corner in his beloved German sportscar.



Drink 2018 - 2036



£234 per 6 bottles



£39 per bottle



Drink 2021 - 2036



Sold Out



Sold Out

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc

No oak is used in fermentation or élevage to maintain freshness, and all complexity here is just from the grapes. There's ripe apple and pear, herbal notes and aniseed too. The finish is long and pure, with ginger spice developing. There's lovely tension - it will bring joy over many years.

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Simply stunning. There's amazing texture and profound depth, with layers of fruits and spices unfurling. It's so long and complex, with perfect balance. A highlight of the vintage.



FAMILLE PERRIN

Dating back to 1549, Château de Beaucastel may be the oldest estate in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, now managed by four members of the Perrin family. One of the first estates in the region to utilise organic viticulture, they are known for their use of all 13 permitted grape varieties, particularly Mourvèdre, resulting in powerful, generous wines. As well as red and white Châteauneuf, the estate produces a Vieilles Vignes Blanc from Roussanne and the extremely rare cuvée, Hommage à Jacques Perrin.



Drink 2018 - 2021

£246 per 6 bottles

£ £41 per bottle

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, Château de Beaucastel

This has lovely texture and ripeness, kept fresh by wiry acidity. There's great balance, with pure fruits as well as hints of marmalade.



Drink 2018 - 2024

Sold Out

£ Sold Out

2016 Roussanne Vieilles Vignes, Château de Beaucastel

This has a stunning nose of blossom and herbs. It's wonderfully balanced and textured, there's ginger and beautifully pure peach, so precise and so much length. There's bags of energy here, and it's fantastically fresh.



Drink 2019 - 2027

£114 per 6 bottles

£ £19 per bottle

2016 Vinsobres Vieilles Vignes les Hauts de Julien, Perrin et Fils

Precise and elegant, with amazing intensity and depth, this is an delicious wine from an appellation you may not know. The salinity on the finish keeps it all together. Brilliant.



Drink 2019 - 2032

Sold Out

£ Sold Out

2016 Gigondas, Domaine des Clos du Tourelles

From the heart of Gigondas, this is a wine that should not be overlooked - it's one of the best in the Perrin selection. Tiny black fruits and herbal complexity combine for a complete wine.



Drink 2018 - 2026

Sold Out

£ Sold Out

2016 Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Château de Beaucastel

Lots of garrigue and flowers, with impressive fresh fruit too. There's great texture, it's crunchy, with fine tannins - like biting into a berry. Fresh and long on the palate; it's so impressive for Côtes du Rhône.



Drink 2020 - 2034

Sold Out

£ Sold Out

2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Château de Beaucastel

Richly perfumed and lushly textured, this Beaucastel is nevertheless deft and elegant. The fruit is pure, and complemented by classic spiciness. It's impressive as an infant: with time in the cellar, this will be utterly compelling.



Drink 2018 - 2019

£72 per 6 bottles

£ £12 per bottle

2017 Miraval Rosé

Quintessential Provence rosé from the Perrins. Soft, fresh red fruits complemented with bright citrus and just a hint of sweet spice. A superbly drinkable wine that's a benchmark of the style.



DOMAINE DE LA VIEILLE JULIENNE

One of the most compelling winemakers in the region, the gentle Jean-Paul Daumen has a philosophy of winemaking akin to an artist. Jean-Paul converted the property, which had been in the family since 1905, to biodynamic practices in 1998. His attention to detail and passion for his vines could not be more obvious after just a few minutes in his company. Almost Burgundian in style, here is Grenache winemaking par excellence, right next door to the legendary Château Rayas. They release a year later than other producers, hence this is the 2015 vintage.



 Drink 2018 - 2022

 £93 per 6 bottles

 £15.50 per bottle

2016 Côtes du Rhône Lieu-Dit Clavin Blanc

Precise, silky with a slight waxy character, this is a perfectly balanced white from Jean-Paul. Drink it right away for a refreshing, saline sip, or keep it to watch honeyed notes appear.



 Drink 2018 - 2027

 £78 per 6 bottles

 £13 per bottle

2015 Côtes du Rhône Lieu-dit Clavin

From vines just the wrong side of the Châteauneuf boundary, this is the wine Jean-Paul drinks at home. The 2015 has a lovely floral nose, then juicy fruit moving to a clean tapenade note on the finish. It's so fresh and well-balanced, with fantastic complexity and length for the price.



 Drink 2020 - 2035

 £240 per 6 bottles

 £40 per bottle

2015 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Trois Sources

Les Trois Sources always impresses, but this has to be its best vintage yet. There's fantastic concentration and power, but Jean-Paul has kept this wine beautifully fresh. With ripe fruit, delicate floral touches, and a structure to last decades, this will develop into a remarkable Châteauneuf.



 Drink 2020 - 2035

 £258 per 6 bottles

 £43 per bottle

2015 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Hauts-Lieux

2015 suited Les Hauts-Lieux down to the ground. There's impressively concentrated fruit and gamey spice, while a clean mineral finish keeps the wine fresh. It's a superb effort from Jean-Paul, unquestionably one of the highlights of the vintage.



DOMAINE DU CAYRON

Nestled in the tiny village of Gigondas at the base of the Dentelles de Montmirail, Domaine du Cayron is run by the fifth generation of the Faraud family, sisters Delphine, Cendrine and Roseline. Theirs is a traditional domaine, producing ageworthy wines which epitomise Gigondas. So it was a surprise that they moved to a pneumatic press in 2015, a small nod towards modernisation. They only make one wine: with well-situated vines nurtured through genuine hard work in the vineyard and the winery, and a wine neither fined nor filtered, it's a classic Gigondas.

**“THE WINES FROM
DOMAINE DU CAYRON
OFFER SINGULAR,
CLASSIC AND DOWNRIGHT
PROVENÇAL CHARACTERS
THAT I ABSOLUTELY LOVE”**

Jeb Dunnuck,
The Wine Advocate



Drink 2020 - 2029



£99 per 6 bottles



£16.50 per bottle

2016 Gigondas

The 2016 Gigondas from Cayron is benchmark, with notes of white pepper, fresh cherries and strawberries, a touch of garrigue and beautifully fine tannins. There's surprising energy on the finish, which ends long and complex.



DOMAINE LE CLOS DES CAZAUX

This beautiful domaine, tucked out of the way facing the rocky slopes of Les Dentelles de Montmirail with a 12th century cellar, is run by charismatic brothers Jean-Michel and Frédéric Vache. With 22 hectares in Vacqueyras and another 16 hectares in Gigondas, with wildly varied soils and subsoils, this is a considerable estate which consistently produces complex fine wines. Harvested entirely by hand and benefitting from the drying effect of the Mistral wind, old vines yield pure fruit, creating some of the most luscious, well-priced wines in the region.



Drink 2017 - 2021



£51 per 6 bottles



£8.50 per bottle

2016 Vacqueyras Blanc, Les Clefs d'Or

Always a delicious white, the 2016 Clefs d'Or delivers in spades. There's a waxy texture, with notes of lemon and a stoniness. Salinity on the finish has you reaching for another glass.



Drink 2020 - 2027



£63 per 6 bottles



£10.50 per bottle

2016 Vacqueyras, Cuvée des Templiers

Predominantly Syrah, the 2016 Templiers is a lesson in balance. There's spice, garrigue herbs and pure dark fruit, with saline, dark tapenade on the finish. You'll want this in your cellar.



Drink 2020 - 2029



£72 per 6 bottles



£12 per bottle

2016 Gigondas, Cuvée de la Tour Sarrazine

From some of the best terroirs in Gigondas, this is an outstanding wine. There are notes of wild strawberry, and wonderful lift. Already delicious, straight from the tank, this will go on and on. A bargain.



DOMAINE LA BOUÏSSIÈRE

High up in the foothills of Les Dentelles de Montmirail, brothers Thierry and Gilles Faravel are fortunate to have one of the most favourable vineyard sites in the appellation, with a full 10 of 19 hectares devoted to Gigondas. Their high-altitude setting benefits from a cooler climate which allows the grapes to mature more slowly and develop more complex flavours. The results, produced in a modern winery built in 2000, are expressive wines with great finesse, alongside an unmistakable Gigondas grip.



Drink 2020 - 2028



£102 per 6 bottles



£17 per bottle



Drink 2020 - 2031



£162 per 6 bottles



£27 per bottle

2016 Gigondas

This is remarkably well balanced, with juicy berry fruit and clean salinity. There's drive and finesse in equal measure, lovely fine tannins and herbal touches over the long finish.

2016 Gigondas, Font de Tonin

There's serious concentration here (the wine includes some fruit from vines planted in 1920), with impressive tension and energy. The fruit is powerful but fresh, with high-toned balsamic lift over the top. It's broad-shouldered and muscular but balanced. Very fine.



@chateaudaqueria

CHÂTEAU D'AQUERIA

Château d'Aqueria's history extends back to the 16th century, and the estate is widely acknowledged as the finest producer in Tavel. This town northwest of Avignon specialises in a style of rosé that's rich and food-friendly, and capable of ageing too. The estate is run by third generation vigneron, Vincent and Bruno de Bez. Their grandfather bought the neglected estate in 1920, but extensive renovation in the vineyards and winery has restored Château d'Aqueria to its deserved status.



Drink 2018 - 2019



£57 per 6 bottles



£9.50 per bottle

2016 Tavel Rosé

This is wonderfully drinkable rosé, with generous raspberry and orange fruit and subtle spicy tones. There's impressive volume and freshness too: this shouldn't be overlooked as a food wine. It's a style of rosé with more than something for everyone.



DOMAINE DURBAN

High on the southern slopes of the Dentelles de Montmirail, the Leydier family make celebrated Beaugues-de-Venise from Muscat Blanc à Petit Grains blanc. That second 'blanc' isn't a tautology: it's the Leydiers' use of the blanc, rather than noir, form of this Muscat that sets their wine apart, with glorious blossomed elegance. Beaugues-de-Venise is a vin doux naturel, a naturally sweet fortified wine fit to grace any table.



Drink 2018 - 2020

£72 per 6 bottles
£90 per 12 halves

£12 per bottle
£7.50 per half bottle

2015 Muscat Beaugues-de-Venise

Richly perfumed with blossom and green fruits, this Muscat Beaugues-de-Venise has glorious balance between its mouth-filling sweetness and pure fruit character. For a wine with so much weight, it's remarkably fresh and drinkable - this is a simply perfect dessert wine for summer.



@saintjeandubarroux

SAINT JEAN DU BARROUX

Philippe Gimel, the enthusiastic winemaker here, is an ex-chemist who first worked at top names such as Château de Beaucastel in the Southern Rhône and Château Pierre Bise in the Loire. With outstanding experience, he sought out pristine terroir where he could discover the land's potential for himself. His winery, which takes its name from the street (Chemin de St Jean) and the local village (Le Barroux) and has just been relocated to an exciting new space in nearby Malucène, offers some of the most pure expressions of the Côtes du Ventoux - plush and modern in their own way, and simply delightful to drink.



Drink 2018 - 2023

£60 per 6 bottles

£10 per bottle

2015 La Source

Remarkably fresh for 2015 (it was hot!), there's pure dark fruit, spice and a juicy balance. Full ripe tannins and a long, cool finish give an impressive structure. It's fresh, long and pure.



Drink 2019 - 2025

£90 per 6 bottles

£15 per bottle

2014 L'Argile

Spicy and richly textured, there's great density to the fruit here with savoury, meaty complexity coming through.



Drink 2019 - 2029

£138 per 6 bottles

£23 per bottle

2014 La Pierre Noire

There's a pure, concentrated character to the fruit here: dark, whole berries and a sense of sweetness. Then pepper and cinnamon, and saline coolness.



CLOS DE TRIAS

Situated high up in the foothills of the Ventoux mountain, Clos de Trias is located in one of the most beautiful spots we know. Founded in 2007, it's the product of three years of searching for the perfect locale by winemaker and owner Even Bakke. Despite being born far from wine country in Colorado in the United States, and growing up in Norway, he's one of the most intuitive winemakers out there: no doubt partly thanks to 14 vintages working in California. High up in the hills, Clos de Trias escapes many of the excesses of heat that its lower altitude neighbours experience, and these are some of the most individual and delicious wines being produced in the Southern Rhône today.



Drink 2018 - 2024

£TBC

£TBC

2012 Ventoux Rouge

This is textured, fresh and downright delicious. A wine for every night of the week, for winter nights and barbecues alike. At this price, for this complexity and elegance, it's a steal.



Drink 2018 - 2028

£114 per 6 bottles

£19.50 per bottle

2010 Vieilles Vignes Rouge

From 70+ year old Grenache vines, planted with a little Syrah, this is intense, textured and very long. There's a beautiful thread of acidity which balances that richness of flavour. Even's goal is to create balanced, characterful wines, and with this beautiful Grenache he's succeeded: were this from a better known appellation, it would be far more expensive.



Drink 2018 - 2032

£150 per 6 bottles

£25 per bottle

2010 Pied Porcher

Even's top red comes from a north-facing, high altitude vineyard that (according to local wisdom) could never produce ripe grapes. This more than disproves that wisdom. This 100% Grenache shows amazing grace and balance, worthy of serious acclaim. Get on the bandwagon before it leaves town.



Drink 2018 - 2023

£123 per 6 bottles

£20.50 per bottle

NV Liquidis Mineralis

A curiosity, aged under flor like a sherry from Grenache Blanc, this tiny production wine is one you simply have to try. There's great energy and balance here, with freshness in spades. Nutty notes and honey, and a wonderfully saline finish, complete the picture. Fascinating.

PROVENCE



DOMAINE DU GROS' NORÉ

Alain Pascal farms 16 hectares of vines in Bandol, regarded as Provence's 'grand cru' region, where altitude and proximity to the Mediterranean give his wines impressive balance. The domaine is named for his father, "Fat (Ho)Noré", who grew grapes here for many years, selling the bulk of his crop to top local producers, and only making wine for his personal consumption. After Noré died, Alain turned producer and, since the first vintage in 1997, is now regarded as one of the region's finest. The wines are blends based on the powerful Mourvèdre grape: rich, spicy and impressively ageworthy.



Drink 2017 - 2019



£87 per 6 bottles

£14.50 per bottle



Drink 2020 - 2040



£120 per 6 bottles

£20 per bottle



Drink 2018 - 2045



£228 per 6 bottles

£38 per bottle

2016 Bandol Rosé

Domaine du Gros' Noré came into its own in the late 1990s, after years of selling fruit to the likes of Domaine Ott. His speciality is a dry red made mostly of Mourvedre, so owner Alain Pascal applies this same prowess to his crisp, dry rosé. It's perfect for red wine enthusiasts.

2015 Bandol Rouge

Juicy, with notes of garrigue and spice and amazing depth to the fruit, this is a benchmark Bandol from one of the masters. While undoubtedly a big wine, it retains freshness and elegance,

2010 Cuvée Antoinette

This comes from a specific site, and is a benchmark of the region. There's texture, freshness and minerality alongside a volume and complexity that grows in the mouth. 2010 was a great vintage, and this is already delicious. But it will go on for decades.



@thewhisperingangel

CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS

Making Provence rosé that has to be tasted, this estate is the project of two Bordelais, Sacha Lichine (of Château Prieuré-Lichine) and Patrick Léon (former Managing Director of Rothschild properties including Mouton-Rothschild and Opus One). Château d'Esclans's cuvées, utilising grapes grown on old Grenache vines in the cool of Provence's hills above Fréjus, have received critical praise that should simply be beyond wines of this style. And they retain rosé's joyful drinkability.



Drink 2017 - 2021



£348 per 6 bottles

£58 per bottle

2016 Garrus

A new benchmark for Rosé, this is truly remarkable. There are notes of delicate flowers and wild fruit on the nose, but it's the palate where it really comes into its own, with volume and texture that would not look out of place in a top white Burgundy. Glorious.



DOMAINE DE TRIENNES

Domaine de Triennes has very special Burgundy ties. This organic estate in the hills east of Marseille was founded in 1989 by Burgundy luminaries Jacques Seysses (of Domaine Dujac) and Aubert de Villaine (of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti), and is now managed by Jacques' son, Jeremy. The name recalls the Triennia, an ancient festival of Bacchus that was celebrated in the region.



Drink 2018 - 2020

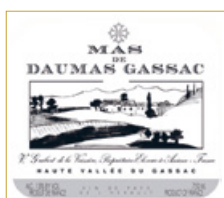
£45 per 6 bottles

£7.50 per bottle

2017 Triennes Rosé

The 2017 Triennes Rosé is everything you'd want from a Rosé, with pure red fruit, cranberries and strawberries jumping from the glass, as well as a savouriness keeping it all in balance. The slight salinity on the finish makes this a refreshing, delicious wine.

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON



@masdedaumasgassac

MAS DE DAUMAS GASSAC

Dubbed the "Lafite of the Languedoc", this modern great was established by Aimé Guilbert on the advice of two friends, who happened to be two of France's leading oenologists. They had spotted the potential of his farmland, and the estate has never looked back. When one of them, Emile Peynaud, who was more used to consulting at estates like Château Margaux was asked why he spent so much time there, he replied that he had "never before been lucky enough to be present at the birth of a Grand Cru." Aimé's children now run the estate, which continues to go from strength to strength.



Drink 2019 - 2030

£TBC

£TBC

2016 Mas de Daumas Gassac Blanc

Best known for their reds, the white is a wine that's sure to impress. Like the red, it's a blend of lots of varieties: the 2016 is 27% Viognier, 25% Petit Manseng, 21% Chardonnay, 13% Chenin and 14% rare varieties. It's a wine that wows with its texture and elegance, alongside power. Stunning.



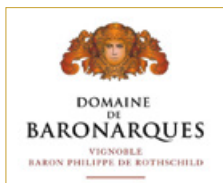
Drink 2020 - 2031

£132 per 6 bottles

£22 per bottle

2016 Mas de Daumas Gassac

Predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon, but with a whole host of supporting grapes ranging from the expected to the totally unexpected, this is surely the Languedoc's greatest wine. The 2016 is impressive, with amazing balance between concentration of flavour and freshness. Unfortunately, yields were way down in 2016 - so this is a wine that needs to be bought on first release.



@domainedebaronarques

DOMAINE DE BARONARQUES

Its humble address in Limoux in the Languedoc belies this estate's aspirations as well as its ownership by the Rothschild family, of Chateau Mouton Rothschild fame. They bought the estate in 1998, deciding to make no wine until 2003 once the vineyards and cellar were restored. With limestone and clay soil, and parcels close to the Pyrenees with altitude that brings out freshness in both their red Bordeaux blend (which also has some of the local Syrah), and Chardonnay, they produce elegant, well-crafted wines. Today, with a now longstanding technical team and support from Mouton, this domaine is poised to enter the spotlight.



Drink 2018 - 2023

£TBC

£TBC

2015 Chardonnay, Domaine de Baronarques

Bright, ripe and mouth-filling, this is a Chardonnay that shows its southern roots. But not lacking freshness, it retains balance and energy. Impressive.



DOMAINE D'AUSSIÈRES

Far from content with the perennial success of one of Bordeaux's most prestigious estates, Domaines Barons de Rothschild are constantly looking for projects with potential. That search has taken them as far afield as South America, as well as to the Languedoc. The wines of Domaine d'Aussières (near Corbières) are turning heads for their elegance and ageworthiness, not to mention value for money.



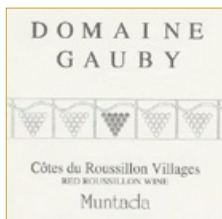
Drink 2017 - 2027

£174 per 12 bottles

£14.50 per bottle

2014 Château d'Aussières

Château Lafite's southern concern shows much of the same characteristics of its bigger brother. There's well-judged power balanced with finesse, with the level of fruit one would expect from the south of France.



DOMAINE GAUBY

Domaine Gauby's rise to prominence began when Gérard Gauby took over his family estate in 1985. Previously the grapes had been sold to the local co-operative, but Gérard decided to strike out on his own, and has never looked back. His wines are the benchmark for the modern Roussillon, possessing uncommon elegance alongside the region's typical power.



Drink 2018 - 2023



£120 per 6 bottles



£20 per bottle

2014 Vieilles Vignes Blanc, Côtes Catalanes

A classic field blend of Macabeu, Grenache Blanc, Carignan Blanc, Grenache Gris and Chardonnay, from Gérard's lovingly-tended old vines, this white marries nutty savouriness with remarkable freshness and pure orchard fruit. There's immensely satisfying weight to the texture that nevertheless doesn't lack for elegance.



Drink 2018 - 2028



£132 per 6 bottles



£22 per bottle

2012 Vieilles Vignes Rouge, Côtes du Roussillon Villages

A blend of Carignan, Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre, there's wonderful precision of berry fruit and spice with superb texture and complexity.



Drink 2020 - 2032



£300 per 6 bottles



£50 per bottle

2014 Muntada, Côtes du Roussillon Villages

This Muntada is a showstopper. There's a thrilling wildness and energy here, with bright, pure fruit and sweet leather and spice. Predominantly Grenache and Carignan (from 125 year old vines), there's superb concentration and complexity here.



LE SOULA

The first vintage of Le Soula wasn't produced until 2001, but it's fast become a star of the Roussillon, winning praise from critics like Jancis Robinson. It's a project that was started by Gérard Gauby, the region's most renowned winemaker, supported by English investors, Mark Walford and Roy Richards. The Roussillon's long been known for cheap and cheerful drinking wines, but Gérard knew it was capable of more. So he sought out neglected vineyards high in the Pyrenean foothills, to work old, low-yielding vines biodynamically. Winemaker Wendy Paillet's field blends age magnificently, and are the best ambassadors we can imagine for the region.



Drink 2018 - 2028



£99 per 6 bottles



£16.50 per bottle

2012 Le Soula Blanc

From high up in the hills of southern France, this is a truly exciting white wine. A beautiful nose of crushed herbs, orange peel and flowers leads onto a textured, savoury palate with stunning definition and length. Already totally delicious, and the perfect foil for so many foods, this will continue to develop over the coming years. It's a wine that belongs in every cellar.



Drink 2018 - 2030



£99 per 6 bottles



£16.50 per bottle

2012 Le Soula Rouge

Sappy, juicy and incredibly well balanced, the 2012 rouge shows the quality of the vintage in this part of France. It's full of fruit, with notes of leather, tapenade, potpourri and salinity offering support. A wonderful wine.

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