

α TIM ATKIN MW



SPECIAL REPORT

Rhône 2015 Special Report

by Matt Walls

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Saint-Joseph 'Le Clos', Domaine JL Chave



Introduction

“It’s a vintage when nature is very generous... Good grapes and good quantity. Everything is good in 2015.”

Jean-Louis Chave

If there’s a word to encapsulate the 2015 vintage in the Rhône, it is indeed this: generous. It was a hot year, in which even the leanest, meanest granite outcrops in the Northern Rhône oozed rich, pure fruit. But thanks to some sympathetic rains in June and August, it’s not a vintage that expresses climate over terroir like the 2003s sometimes do. The best wines combine this richness of fruit with freshness and definition – particularly in Côte-Rôtie, where there are flashes of true greatness.

There is also an abundance of fruit in the Southern Rhône. Those that could master and rein in the characteristic generosity of 2015 have produced juicy, joyful and jubilant wines that will provide fabulous drinking now and into the future. Others have landed an embarrassment of riches: grapes that have gorged on too much sun.

Whether you prefer the Northern Rhône, the Southern Rhône, or like me, you love them both, you will want some 2015s in your collection. Jean-Louis is absolutely right, there is high quality across the board, from entry-level thirst-quenchers to the most treasured vineyards and cuvées. But as always it’s worth being selective; everything is good – but some are better than others.





Winemakers of the Rhône

Clockwise from top left: Jean-Marie Astart (Domaine les Hautes-Cances), Laurent Brusset (Domaine Brusset), Jean-Louis Chave (Domaine JL Chave), Bernard Faurie (Domaine Bernard Faurie), Sophie Armenier (Domaine de Marcoux), Vincent Estevenin (Domaine de Marcoux)

MATT WALLS RHÔNE 2015 Special Report



Clockwise from top left: Marc Sorrel (Domaine Marc Sorrel), Daniel Brissot (Cave de Tain), Laetitia and Julien Barrot (Domaine la Barroche), Marion Férigoule (Le Sang des Cailloux), Jérôme Bressy (Gourt de Mautens), Christophe Sabon (Domaine La Janasse) and Jean-Paul Lecroq (La Table de Sorgues)

MATT WALLS RHÔNE 2015 *Special Report*



Clockwise from top left: Patrick Rigoulet (Ferraton Père et Fils), Pierre Clape (Domaine Clape) and Jean Gonon (Domaine Pierre Gonon), Guillaume Gonnet (Domaine Font de Michelle), Anne-Sophie Ay (Domaine Raspail-Ay), Jean-Paul Jamet (Domaine Jamet), Emmanuel Reynaud (Château Rayas)

10 things you need to know about 2015 in the Rhône



The 2015 vintage is extremely good in the Northern Rhône with superb reds throughout the region.

This was one of the hottest growing seasons of the past few decades and between mid-June and mid-August there was precious little rainfall. Thankfully the water table had been replenished during a wet winter and spring which helped prevent water stress in all but the youngest vines, and thundery storms in late August and September also served to mitigate these conditions. The result is elegant Cornas, concentrated Saint-Joseph, majestic Hermitage, and some of the best Crozes-Hermitage I've tasted in years. But the wines of Côte-Rôtie in particular this year have excelled.



Generally speaking, it is a very good vintage for reds in the Southern Rhône.

The growing season here was largely similar to the Northern Rhône, but the results here are less consistent. The best show vibrancy, concentration and balance, but some of these Grenache-based wines suffer from low acidity, high alcohol and a lack of freshness. Wines that come from cooler sites, old vines and assertive terroirs have tended to perform better.



In the Southern Rhône, it's usually the right bank of the river that hogs the limelight.

But in 2015, the left bank has outdone itself, and produced some stunning wines. Chusclun, Laudun and Lirac in particular have produced a bevy of wines with concentrated fruit, robust structures, freshness and balance. The right bank has suffered a little more with issues of low acidity and high alcohol, but the best are excellent, and combine power, purity and drinkability. Good wines can be found

throughout the Southern Rhône, in particular Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas, Vacqueyras, Beaumes-de-Venise, Cairanne, Rasteau and Séguret.



Grape varieties have performed well across the board, with particularly strong showings from the Grenache, Carignan and Mourvèdre in the south and of course Syrah in the north.

When it comes to white varieties, Clairette and higher-acid varieties such as Bourboulenc performed a useful role. Viognier has broadly been less successful in both the south and the north, though some exceptional Condrieu has been made. Philippe Guigal explains "it's a great vintage for Condrieu – if it's picked in time."



Some of the other more serious, ageworthy styles of white wine are highly impressive in 2015; white Hermitage, white Châteauneuf and some Saint-Joseph.

But as a rule, the red wines are more interesting than the whites in 2015. Many whites and rosés I tasted lacked freshness and verve compared with the past few vintages.



The best Cornas, Côte-Rôtie and red Hermitage will be long-lived thanks to their concentration,

freshness and energy.

The best wines of Châteauneuf, Gigondas and Vacqueyras will also age well into the medium to long term on their concentration of fruit and vibrancy. Most whites, rosés and more straightforward reds should be enjoyed young and fresh, within a few years of vintage.



The principal challenges in 2015 were a result of excess heat. Aside from some minor outbreaks of black rot in the Southern Rhône, there was little in the way of disease, lack of ripeness or pests such as the *drosophila suzukii* fly of 2014. Good conditions at vintage meant that winemakers could pick exactly when they wanted, with no pressure from impending heavy rains or rot. “Not a single damaged berry – that’s rare,” according to Bernard Faurie in Hermitage; Vincent Avril at Clos des Papes in Châteauneuf described the same experience.



The 2015 vintage slays the myth that you can’t have both quality and quantity in the same year.

After several relatively small vintages in the Rhône, quantities are good, only marginally below average in both the Southern and Northern Rhône.



Prices are likely to be marginally higher than last year. This is mostly due to the weakness of the pound, but some producers are – not unreasonably – increasing their prices by a small margin. There are still plenty of good value wines to be found.



Though the quality of the 2015 vintage is broadly very good, during my visit to the region in October, winemakers couldn’t contain their excitement about the 2016 vintage.

It could be even better than the 2015, especially in the Southern Rhône. It was, however, much more demanding, so will be less consistent. Don’t let this put you off buying the 2015s; many winemakers in the Northern Rhône compared it to the 1990, and many in the Southern Rhône compared it to the 2005. If I had more of these vintages in my collection right now, I’d be feeling pretty pleased with myself.



Four key questions answered



Compare 2015 to another vintage.

NORTH

“My dad would say 1961, and he talks about the ‘45s and the ‘29s...”

Phillipe Guigal, E.Guigal, Côte-Rôtie

“2009, or 1999.”

Jean-Paul Jamet, Domaine Corinne & Jean-Paul Jamet, Côte-Rôtie

“1990.”

Jean-Louis Chave, Domaine JL Chave, Hermitage

“1990.”

Jean Gonon, Domaine Pierre Gonon, Saint-Joseph

“2010 but less rich, less fruit, more open and ready. Will taste well young, but with a good future.”

Pierre Clape, Domaine Clape, Cornas

SOUTH

“2009 is pretty similar.”

Sébastien Barbara, Plan Vermeersch, Côtes du Rhône (Suze la Rousse)

“Like 1998 or 2001.”

Jérôme Bressy, Gourt de Mautens, near Rasteau

“A bit like 2009 or 2005.”

Cecile Dusserre, Domaine de Montvac, Vacqueyras

“2001.”

Sophie Armenier, Domaine de Marcoux, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“2005.”

Vincent Avril, Clos des Papes, Châteauneuf-du-Pape



Describe the vintage in a few words

NORTH

“A dream vintage, without complications. More an expression of vintage than terroir, but for those who will wait 15 years or so, this will swap over.”

Jean-Paul Jamet, Domaine Corinne & Jean-Paul Jamet, Côte-Rôtie

“Deep, structured, solar, intense in fruit.”

Patrick Rigoulet, Ferraton Père et Fils, Hermitage

“On the fruit, elegant, good density.”

Bernard Faurie, Domaine Bernard Faurie, Hermitage

“Concentrated, structured, but with lots of flesh, not austere... will probably be drunk too young!”

Jean Gonon, Domaine Pierre Gonon, Saint-Joseph

“A very forward wine, with a gourmand character. Elegant, fruit forward, rich.”

Olivier Clape, Domaine Clape, Cornas

SOUTH

“Bright, racy, profound, complex, elegant, fine; controlled power.”

Jérôme Bressy, Gourt de Mautens, near Rasteau

“The juiciness (*gourmandise*) of 2008, but more like 2001 in terms of structure.”

Jean-Marie Astart, Domaine Les Hautes-Cances, Cairanne

“Balanced and elegant but with depth and complexity.”

Cecile Dusserre, Domaine de Montvac, Vacqueyras

“Promising, lots of tannin, silky, structured.”

Anne-Sophie Ay, Domaine Raspail-Ay, Gigondas

“Balanced, good acidity, good concentration.”

Laetitia Barrot, Domaine La Barroche, Châteauneuf-du-Pape



Can you name any up-and-coming producers?

NORTH

“In Côte-Rôtie: Domaine François et Fils, Domaine Bernard Chambeyron, Domaine Levet.”

Jean-Paul Jamet, Domaine Corinne & Jean-Paul Jamet, Côte-Rôtie

“Julien Pilon in Condrieu.”

Patrick Rigoulet, Ferraton Père et Fils, Hermitage

“Domaine Monier-Perreol in Saint-Joseph and Domaine de la Bouïsière in Gigondas.”

Jean Gonon, Domaine Pierre Gonon, Saint-Joseph

“Guillaume Gilles in Cornas and Eric Michel [of Cros de la Mure, Massif d’Uchaux].”

Pierre Clape, Domaine Clape, Cornas

SOUTH

“Elodie Balme in Rasteau.”

Laurent Brusset, Domaine Brusset, Cairanne

“In Gigondas: Domaine des Bosquets, Domaine Bertrand Stehelin, Domaine Font Sane, Domaine Font Sarade.”

Anne-Sophie Ay, Domaine Raspail-Ay, Gigondas

“Domaine Guiraud in Châteauneuf, Château du Bosc in Signargues.”

Guillaume Gonnet, Domaine Font de Michelle, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“Clos Saint-Antonin in Châteauneuf-du-Pape.”

Christophe Sabon, Domaine de la Janasse, Châteauneuf-du-Pape



What are the top performing areas or appellations?

NORTH

“Saint Joseph.”

Patrick Rigoulet, Ferraton Père et Fils, négociant working primarily in the Northern Rhône

“It is a year where the ‘lesser’ terroirs will shine, as we have great colour, concentration, fruit and balance pretty much everywhere.”

Claire Darnaud-McKerrow, Delas Frères, négociant working throughout the Rhône

SOUTH

“The northern part of the Southern Rhône; Rasteau, Cairanne, Gigondas.”

Laurent Brusset, Domaine Brusset, producing wines across six appellations in the Southern Rhône

“Vacqueyras.”

Adrien Rousten, Domain d’Ouréa, producer in Gigondas and Vacqueyras



Vintage guide

YEAR	NORTH	SOUTH
2002	★★★★★	★★★★★
2003	★★★★★	★★★★★
2004	★★★★★	★★★★★
2005	★★★★★	★★★★★
2006	★★★★★	★★★★★
2007	★★★★★	★★★★★
2008	★★★★★	★★★★★
2009	★★★★★	★★★★★
2010	★★★★★	★★★★★
2011	★★★★★	★★★★★
2012	★★★★★	★★★★★
2013	★★★★★	★★★★★
2014	★★★★★	★★★★★
2015	★★★★★	★★★★★

About the tastings and scores

The following lists of recommended wines are the result of an extended two week visit to the Rhône in October 2016. The majority were tasted in groups sorted by colour and appellation. This was supplemented by daily visits to taste from barrel and talk directly with winemakers in order to build up an understanding of the vintage. Further tastings held by various importers in London in November helped to complete the picture. Since not all of the wines could be tasted blind, in the interests of consistency, none of the wines were tasted blind.

Most of the whites were finished and in bottle. Most of the reds were barrel or tank samples. Where the wines aren't yet finished, it's not always possible to give precise information on blends and final alcohol levels. With certain wines that were yet to be assembled, it was necessary to taste the separate components of the blend. This is mentioned in the tasting note, and the scores for these wines should be considered in light of this.

Unlike Burgundy and Bordeaux, there is no dedicated period that the UK wine trade concentrates on the Rhône. Some offers are released in November (Justerini & Brooks, H2Vin, Goedhuis, Yapp, Armit, Averys, Genesis Wines) and some in early 2017 (Berry Brothers & Rudd, OW Loeb, Lay & Wheeler, Charles Taylor, Jeroboams). So some of the wines in this report are available at the time of publication, some will be offered later, and others (particularly the less expensive wines) will simply come onto the market as vintages sell through.

This makes it difficult to give stockists and prices for all the wines. Where the wine is currently available on the UK market I've quoted a stockist and price. If the 2015 vintage is not yet available, I've quoted the stockist of a recent vintage that would be a good place to enquire about the 2015s. Where no vintage of the wine is available in the UK, I've quoted average Wine Searcher pricing across all other countries as a rough guide. A few wines have no guide price as they are either first vintages of new cuvées or there are no vintages of the wine available anywhere to compare.

What follows aren't simply lists of the top scoring wines; they are a selection of wines that I think are particularly worthy of your attention from the 2015 vintage. It is designed to cater for different tastes across a range of budgets and appellations. Where producers make dozens of wines, it will be a selection of their best, best value, or most interesting cuvées. No individual can be entirely divorced from his or her personal likes and dislikes. To give you an idea of my palate: balance, harmony, elegance and drinkability are important to me; I'm not a fan of unbridled levels of alcohol, oak or sweetness.

In total I tasted over 1,000 wines from over 300 producers but inevitably some weren't available and others such as Domaine Georges Vernay never show unfinished wines. Notable absences this year are Yves Gangloff, Henri Bonneau, Thierry Allemand, Vieille Julienne, Alain Graillet, the reds of Stéphane Ogier and Château Grillet... I'll try to fit them in next year.

Each entry is laid out as follows:



Producer Appellation Wine name

Grape variety/varieties, Alcohol level, £ price for 12 bottles in bond, Stockist

- (20xx) means the quoted price refers to a previous vintage
- (AWSP) denotes average Wine Searcher pricing across all countries, and the stockist quoted will be a suggested place to enquire

Tasting note and other relevant information.

Drink from/to dates.

Guide to stockists

AFW	Atlas Fine Wines	HWW	Hedley Wright Wines
ALB	Albany Vintners	IVV	In Vino Veritas
AMA	Amathus	J&B	Justerini & Brooks
AMZ	Amazon	JIC	Just In Cases
ARM	Armit	L&S	Lea & Sandeman
AVY	Averys	L&W	Lay & Wheeler
BBR	The Big Red Wine Company	LAS	L'Assemblage
BIB	Bibendum	LIB	Liberty Wines
BIW	BI Wines & Spirits	MIL	Millesima UK
BVN	Buon Vino	N&P	Nickolls & Perks
C&C	Clos & Cru	NFL	Noble Fine Liquor
CAM	Cambridge Wine Merchants	NGW	Nethergate Wines
CAP	Capital Vintners	PHW	Pierre Hourlier Wines
CAS	Castang Wines	PRC	Private Cellar
CAV	Caviste	RBC	The Red Bottle Company
CDB	La Cave de Bruno	RWC	The Real Wine Company
CKW	Christopher Keiller Wine Services	SDC	South Downs Cellars
CKW	Corking Wines	SEC	Seckford Wines
CRS	Crump, Richmond & Shaw	SOL	Solent Cellar
CWW	Cru World Wine	SSW	Stannary Street Wines
DAW	Darley Abbey Wines	SVS	Stone, Vine & Sun
DLW	Daniel Lambert Wines	TAN	Tanners
DSW	Dashing Wines	TAW	Ten Acre Wines
EAR	Earle Wines	TDS	thedrinkshop.com
ENO	Enotria	TFC	The Flying Corkscrew
EWM	Evington's Wine Merchants	TMH	Thorman Hunt
FAR	Farr Vintners	TOW	Theatre of Wine
FMT	Find Me That Wine	TVN	The Vintner
FRW	Fine+Rare	TWS	The Wine Society
FVD	From Vineyards Direct	VIN	Vinum Fine Wines
GAU	Gauntley's of Nottingham	VNT	Vintage Roots
GDH	Goedhuis	VTR	Vine Trail
GWS	The Good Wine Shop	WBR	WineBear
GWW	Great Western Wine	WDT	winedirect.co.uk
H&F	Hook & Ford	WIN	Wine Invest
H2V	H2Vin	WIW	Wilde Wines
HED	Hedonism Wines	WNY	The Winery
HFW	Harrogate Fine Wine Company	WTC	Waitrose Cellar
HHC	Haynes, Hanson & Clark	WWW	WoodWinters Wines
HIC	Hic Wines	YAP	Yapp Brothers
HUM	Humble Grape	YRS	Your Sommelier

Tasting notes

Top 75 Northern Rhône Reds

99

E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

100% Syrah £2,160.00 L&W (2012)

No destemming for this 100% Syrah plot planted in 1975. Its customary 42 months *élevage* in new oak has only recently begun; it will be on the market in 2019. Deep, inky, straight in style with deep, dark blackberry fruits all saturated with velvet tannins. Extremely concentrated yet retains a remarkable sense of freshness and vibrancy, this will undoubtedly be an epic Guigal La Landonne. 2025-2050

99

Domaine C&JP Jamet Côte-Rôtie Côte Brune

100% Syrah £3,756.00 FRW (2013)

20% new oak in this single lieu-dit bottling. His Côte Brune was once 50% of production when his father first started bottling it in 1966, but after much vineyard acquisition by Jean-Paul Jamet over the years, it is now a small proportion of production, on average 2,000 bottles. "Not a single berry lost," according to Jean-Paul, such were the amazing conditions of 2015. Cassis, violets and black pepper, with a herbal, menthol backnote. Grippy, fine yet gently textural tannins and good balancing acidity finish off what is a very complete and compelling wine. 2020-2040

99

Domaine JL Chave Hermitage

100% Syrah £1,876.00 FRW (2013)

10% new oak. A tasting of principal component lieux-dits La Beaume, Les Bessards, L'Ermite, Le Méal. After a number of slightly leaner-styled years, the components of the 2015 Hermitage show more depth of juicy fruit and generosity. Although characteristically straight and saline, even L'Ermite has some fat on its bones this year. "When Ermite is strong, it opens up possibilities," says Jean-Louis regarding blending. Will we see a Cuvée Cathelin this year? We'll have to wait another couple of years to find out. But either way, this is looking like an irresistible, sumptuous Hermitage. 2025-2045

99

M. Chapoutier Hermitage Le Pavillon

100% Syrah £1,899.96 BIW

Deep, dark, brooding nose with a touch of plum sauce, star anise and soy. Exceptionally smooth, very full-bodied, rich and totally saturated with super-fine tannin. Powerful, long, shapely, not overdone. Showing balanced use of oak at this stage and a long, long finish. A thoroughbred Hermitage, very impressive, not only expressing Hermitage with precision, but expressing Les Bessards with total clarity. 2021-2045

98

Domaine René Rostaing Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde

95% Syrah, 5% Viognier £1,200.00 J&B

No destemming, aged in demi-muid, a maximum of 10% new oak. The first vintage vinified by Pierre, René's son. Incredible, soaring, high-toned nose: black peppercorn, rubbed thyme and rosemary, a spellbinding nose. Super-fine tannins, but actually quite loaded for the Côte-Blonde, but not overdone. Stays intense and lifted on the palate. Incredible drive and length. This is always a domaine whose wines strongly reflect the vintage - and in 2015, that's a very good thing. 2022-2039

98

E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Turque

93% Syrah, 7% Viognier £1,920.00 L&W (2012)

Its customary 42 months in new oak barriques has only just begun - it will be on the market in 2019. Deep, dark, full, really rounded and concentrated black fruits. Aromatically more smoky and roasted than the perfumed La Mouline. "It was very difficult to make bad wines in Côte-Rôtie in 2015," says Philippe Guigal, and the quality of the juice here is extremely impressive. 2023-2045

98

Delas Frères Hermitage Les Bessards

100% Syrah; 14.5% £1,040.00 CRS (2013)

Aged for 18 months in barriques, 30% new. Violets, black cherry, ripe blackberry and integrated oak spice, sun-baked stone and Provençale herbs. Very full, rounded and sweetly fruited for this typically savoury lieu-dit. It has the straightness of style and mineral grind you'd expect from Les Bessards, and a very long finish. 3,300 bottles. 2021-2041

98

E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Mouline

93% Syrah, 7% Viognier £2,040.00 L&W (2012)

Its 42 months in new oak has only just begun; it will hit the market in 2019. Both red and black fruits shot through with star anise aromatics and fine tannin. Really concentrated, with vivacious, rounded juicy fruits. "At the same time seductive and serious," says Philippe Guigal, and you can't help but agree. 2023-2040

97

Domaine C&JP Jamet Côte-Rôtie

100% Syrah £900.00 CKW (2013)

10% destemmed in 2015 and 10% new oak. A tasting of various barrels, most containing combinations of different selections of his 20 lieux-dits, mostly on schistous soils. All were strongly characterful and quite different. The overall impression is a juicy, concentrated vintage, expressive not only of the warm year but also of different lieux-dits. The barrel of La Landonne, Côte Blonde and Côte Rozier was particularly impressive, with incredible concentration and energy, mouth-coating tannins; strict yet round, floral and fresh. 2018-2032

97

Domaine B&D Duclaux Côte-Rôtie Maison Rouge

100% Syrah; 13.0% £494.54 TAW (2009)

Lieu-dit Maison Rouge, submerged cap, aged for 22 months in large barrels, 40% new. Somehow denser and more compact than the Germine. Star anise, clove, potpourri, liquorice and something animal. Full-bodied, very concentrated, incredible mineral surge and piercing acidity. It's almost painful to taste now, such is the tension and concentration. The 40% new oak should be of no concern, it's already entirely integrated and harmonious. Length, texture, balance and harmony - this is breathtaking. 4,000 bottles. 2025-2045

97

Domaine Vincent Paris Cornas La Geynale

100% Syrah; 13.5% £300.00 UNC (2013)

Lieux-dits Reynard and La Geynale, no detemming, aged for 15 months on old barriques. Fresher than fresh, with garrigue herbs, ripe blackberries and pine resin all lifted further by a whiff of menthol. Very full-bodied, but again it's the freshness that's the most arresting thing on the palate; the surge of fine, ripe tannins only really ride in on the finish. It totally coats the mouth in a fusion of fruit and tannin, and leaves you feeling like you've just jumped in a swimming pool. Perfect balance. As fit as a butcher's dog. 2023-2050

97

Delas Frères Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

100% Syrah; 13.5% £1,932.00 FRW (2013)

Aged for 18 months in large barrels, 40% new. A serious and altogether rather regal demeanour; it's immediately clear this is a serious wine. Purity and power, nothing overstretched; the oak certainly strongly discernible for now, but the fruit is the dominant force. Precision and balance are the watchwords here. This is polished, refined, well-crafted and highly promising. 2,000 bottles. 2025-2040

97

Domaine Marc Sorrel Hermitage Le Gréal

93% Syrah, 7% Marsanne; 14.0% £900.00 L&W

A blend of 15% lieu-dit Les Greffieux and 85% lieu-dit Le Méal (hence the name), 60-year-old vines yielding 25 hl/ha. No destemming. Marc says "it's the best I've ever made" and compares it to the 1978 vintage, which is all you need to know really. Dense, powerful but light on its feet, this has herbal bitters and liquorice painted over mouthcoating, supple, ripe tannins. Good balanced acidity and a mineral sheen on the finish. This will be wonderful when it's ready. 2025-2050

97

Domaine Clape Cornas

100% Syrah £690.00 LAS (2013)

No destemming as usual, fermented in concrete, aged in large old oak barrels. A tasting of the four main component parts (La Petite Côte, Sabarotte, La Côte and Reynards) reveals a relatively easy-going Cornas from Clape this year, with juicy, ripe elegance; "a bit too elegant for Cornas!" says Olivier Clape, such are the generous, velvety blackberry fruits. But this is still unmistakably Cornas. The structure is robust, with tannins perhaps a little less serrated than cooler years, but still plenty of raspberry acidity running through it and a powerful, imposing frame. 2023-2038

97

Domaine Alain Voge Cornas Les Vieilles Fontaines

100% Syrah; 13.5% £727.32 L&W (2012)

Lieu-dit La Fontaine, 80% destemmed, aged for 24 months in barriques, 20% new. Intense, vivid, ripe fruits with some earthy, woodland hints on the background of resinous wood and sous-bois. Mouthcoating ripe fruit and tannin, this is incredibly vibrant and alive. Long, surging, finish with more fresh earth and ripe black fruit. A compelling wine. 2023-2035

97

Domaine Bernard Faurie Hermitage Les Bessards

100% Syrah £? J&B?

For the first time ever, Bernard Faurie will be bottling some pure lieu-dit Les Bessards, possibly just in magnum. It's a very straight style as you might expect from this lieu-dit, with keen, crystalline tannins and remarkable freshness. It brims with liquorice and violets and has an exceptionally long finish. Will be lovely for the length of its long, long life. 2018-2040

96

Domaine Vincent Paris Cornas Granit 60

100% Syrah; 13.5% £240.00 UNC (2013)

Lieux-dits Patou, Mazard and Sauman, 70% destemmed, aged for 15 months in old barriques. A nose that draws you in and pulls you under; it's very tightly wound for now, but contains fresh, ripe black fruits, Asian spices, soy and some woodland aromas. Full-bodied, but not massive or overly thick, it coats the palate in super-fresh fruit and very fine tannins. There is ample acidity too to help shape the wine. This is very powerful, but what hits you is the extraordinary aromatic and textural refinement of what can be an untameable terroir. Very, very long, saline finish. 2021-2030

96

Domaine Jean-Michel Stephan Côte-Rôtie

90% Syrah, 10% Viognier; 13.0% £334.94 H&F (2013)

Now you're talking. Expressive nose of blueberry, ripe blackberry, sage and thyme. Medium-bodied style with incredible vibrancy of fruit throughout the palate, and super-fine but structural tannins. Very long finish. Real weight of tannin, fruit and all tied up by some piercing redcurrant acidity. A beautifully balanced, refreshingly old-fashioned, idiosyncratic style of Côte-Rôtie. 2019-2035

96

Domaine René Rostaing Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

100% Syrah £1,000.00 J&B

No destemming, aged in demi-muid, a maximum of 10% new oak. Macerated herbs, intense berry fruit, some meat stock. Very full and intense, almost minty in its herbal register. Mouthcoating and powerful, but all ripe and in balance. This is really exciting to taste, it heightens all the senses. Large-framed but exceptionally pure and very long. 2021-2035

96

Domaine Barge Côte-Rôtie Côte Brune

95% Syrah, 5% Viognier £317.80 CKW (2013)

Glorious savoury nose of smoky bacon and roasted herbs, and a rich, earthy fullness to the fruit. Medium- to full-bodied for a Côte-Rôtie, fresh acidity and driving, vivid fruit on the palate. This will be a complex and joyful wine when it hits its stride. 2021-2035

96

Domaine B&D Duclaux Côte-Rôtie La Germiné

97% Syrah, 3% Viognier; 13.0% £390.00 TWS (2013)

Aged for 22 months in large barrels, 15% new. A compressed black block of violets, rose petal and raspberry; this will take some time to open up. Incredible concentration matched with incredible freshness and sublime tannic and textural finesse. Remarkable purity, harmony and balance thanks in part to piercing raspberry acidity and a stony mineral base. 2022-2037

96

Paul Jaboulet Ainé Hermitage La Chapelle

100% Syrah £880.00 CWW (2014)

Lieux-dits Le Méal, Les Bessards, Les Rocoules, aged for 15-18 months in barriques, 20% new. Gently resinous nose, with damson, black plum and ripe blackberry. Very ripe, intense, with a swathe of mouthcoating ripe tannin and inky fruit. Good sense of harmony and a straight style that finishes long. The overall impression is impressive; great harmony, power and freshness combine to create the best La Chapelle in a long time. 2025-2040

96

Domaine Yann Chave Hermitage

100% Syrah; 13.5% £459.00 C&C (2013)

A nose you just want to eat; smoky bacon, cracked black pepper and a hint of pine resin. Very full-bodied, but sublimely fresh, this has agreeable roundedness and juiciness of fruit, leading to a long, dry, savoury finish. It's a rich, fruity style, highly expressive and juicy, that will make for a deliciously complex wine in time. 2023-2035

96

Domaine P&V Jaboulet Hermitage

100% Syrah; 14.0% £424.54 FVD (2009)

Lieu-dit Les Dionnières, aged for 24 months in large barrels, 50% new. Fresh, savoury nose, full-bodied and flowing on the palate. Powerful, detailed and precise with a long, spicy, firm finish. Totally classic in style, all in good balance. Just perfectly balanced, very fresh and highly concentrated. A great showing from this estate, but it will need time to show its best. Likely to offer good value for Hermitage. 2,800 bottles. 2021-2033

96

Domaine du Colombier Hermitage

100% Syrah; 13.5% £475.00 J&B

All destemmed, aged for 18 months in demi-muids. Remarkable aromatic finesse already, boding well for the future; it majors on rich, ripe fruit rather than oak. Very full and rounded, but full of life and energy, this is buzzing with vitality. It has fresh, lip-smacking acidity and tannin, and a very long finish. A fantastic balance between freshness, concentration and pure, regal Hermitage fruit. Whatever style of Hermitage you like, this shouldn't disappoint - it has depth and power as well as finesse. Very impressive, complete wine. 2021-2035

96

Domaine Alain Voge Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes

100% Syrah; 13.5% £348.00 L&W (2014)

Lieux-dits Mazard and La Côte, 80% destemmed, aged in barriques for 20 months, 15% new. A touch of oak influence on the nose brings some further complexity here. It also serves to temper the tannins a little and round off the coarser edges. This is nonetheless robust in texture, and very long, but the fruit is perfectly ripe and savoury. Classic stuff, in a traditional mould. 2021-2028

95

Domaine Barge Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde

95% Syrah, 5% Viognier; 13.0% £355.04 AVY (2012)

No destemming, submerged cap, matured 24 months in 600l barrels. Very fine, floral nose with high-toned spice. Ground black and pink peppercorns. Superfine tannins, medium-bodied, with bright piercing acidity. Wonderful balance, and a fine, aerial quality. Power without force, effortless, but makes a real impression. 1,500 bottles. 2018-2030

95

Domaine JL Chave Saint-Joseph Le Clos

100% Syrah £? YAP?

Rebuilding the Saint-Joseph vineyards has been a long-standing project at this domaine, and it has finally come to fruition. Le Clos and Bachasson were previously blended into the domaine Saint-Joseph; 2015 is the first vintage they will be bottled as stand-alone lieux-dits. "We're at the point where we can start the story," says Jean-Louis Chave. Le Clos is a magical 4 hectare site near Mauves. It's a dark, brooding and intense style of Saint-Joseph that's deep and powerful but bristling with life and energy. Generous in super-fine tannin and with a bergamot freshness, Le Clos will likely be marginally longer lived than Bachasson. Both are equally sublime; new benchmarks for Saint-Joseph. 2021-2032

95

Domaine JL Chave Saint-Joseph Bachasson

100% Syrah £? YAP?

Bachasson was previously blended into the domaine Saint-Joseph; 2015 is the first vintage it will be bottled as a stand-alone lieu-dit. This is actually just one old vine plot within their Bachasson holding, planted on decomposed, oxidised, fine, sandy granite. It produces an exceptionally fine and elegant, medium-bodied, aerial style of Saint-Joseph with sublime freshness and a distinctly floral aromatic profile of roses in bloom, red fruits and spice. Pricing is likely to be around one third of their Hermitage. Bachasson has the kind of compelling Syrah fragrance that is unique to the Rhône. It is a wine that works on a physical and an emotional level. 2018-2028

95

Domaine Clusel-Roch Côte-Rôtie Les Grandes Places

100% Syrah £695.00 J&B

75-year-old vines on lieu-dit Les Grandes Places, around 35% destemmed. Herbal bitters, cranberry, white pepper. An intense and dynamic medium-bodied style. Mouthcoating tannin, very ripe, and savoury on the finish. Deeply textural and herbal, with some pine resin and pine needles on the long finish. A wine of great depth, and deeply impressive. 2021-2032

95

Domaine JC&N Fayolle Hermitage Les Dionnières

100% Syrah £? ?

Lieu-dit Les Dionnières. High-toned, slightly earthy blackberry fruits, violets, black pepper; unmistakably Hermitage. Medium-bodied, deliciously light, fresh and drinkable style with robust tannic grain and texture. Long finish. A deliciously balanced and detailed Hermitage that may not have the concentration and ambition of some others, but it is nonetheless a wonderful expression of this site, albeit in a more medium-weight, tonic style. 2019-2033

95

Domaine Bernard Faurie Hermitage

100% Syrah £450.00 L&W (2014)

“A sunny year, with not a single damaged berry - that’s rare,” says Bernard about the 2015. He says it was an easy year for him, but will be concentrating primarily on a blend of his three terroirs - Les Greffieux, Le Méal and Les Bessards. It’s a wonderfully balanced blend between the fleshy fruit, the freshness and the mineral streak that his hands-off winemaking seems to underline. Very long, vibrant and supremely drinkable Hermitage. 2018-2035

95

Domaine Pierre-Jean Villa Côte-Rôtie Belle de Maia

100% Syrah; 13.0% £? SSW?

Lieu-dit Fongéant, arzelle soils, 50% destemmed, matured for 24 months in barrels of various sizes. Slightly exotic nose; plum sauce perhaps, and black cherry. Very fresh, with a robust weight of tannin and an impressive internal structure. Rich in fruit, with a lovely velvety texture, this has an authentic, natural demeanour. Tonic drinkability despite its concentration. 2,000 bottles. 2019-2027

95

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Côte-Rôtie Rose Pourpre

100% Syrah £600.00 H2V

Schist soils, 16-18 months in barrel, 100% new. Slightly dusty, ground spices over the fruit here - raspberry, rose and orange zest. Medium-bodied, but very concentrated, featuring very fine, ripe tannin and piercing, pinpoint acidity. Very juicy, very spicy and hugely long, with a great sense of purity. Somehow this manages to absorb the 100% new oak, and will be a beautiful wine when it blossoms. 2018-2029

95

Domaine Pierre Gonon Saint-Joseph

100% Syrah £414.00 HED (2012)

Various plots from 15 to 50 years of age in and around Mauves and Tournon. Robust bacon and fresh, woody herbs. Intense freshness and bright juicy red fruits, cassis and blackberries. Thick with crunchy, textural tannin, this is bright and vibrant yet muscular. So many other producers name-check the Gonon brothers, and it’s not hard to see why. 2020-2030

95

Domaine Fayolle Fils et Fille Hermitage Les Dionnières

100% Syrah; 13.8% £552.00 TMH? AWSP

Lieu-dit Les Dionnières, 100% destemmed, matured for 10 months in barriques. Not as opaque as some this year - no bad thing. Deep, dark, brooding and resinous. Just medium-to full-bodied (for a Hermitage), this has the trademark freshness and mineral edge of the house style, and a long, dry, steely finish. Perfectly balanced, this is a tight, compact but nonetheless superb Hermitage that will age on its balance rather than sheer heft. 1,500 bottles. 2019-2032

95

Domaine du Coulet Cornas Gore

100% Syrah £1,200.00 J&B

North-facing vineyard of 50-year-old vines, fermented and aged in concrete eggs. Incredible, soaring, lifted nose of violets and blueberries. Only just medium-bodied for a Cornas, but it contains an outrageous explosion of aromatic fruits, spices and flowers. Very juicy. Ends with fine, mouthwatering tannins and a nip of bitter herbs. Natural winemaking at its best.

2017-2024

95

Domaine Dumien-Serrette Cornas Patou

100% Syrah; 13.5% £275.00 C&C (2012)

Lieu-dit Patou, 50% destemmed, fermented in cement, aged 14 months in barrel. Rosemary and menthol on the nose, with dark plums. Medium-bodied for a Cornas, with real finesse and elegance thanks to the sublimely smooth and well-rendered textural tannins, which give shape and length to the wine. You can sense that this is made by a domaine with an intimate understanding of this demanding terroir. Great style. 5,000 bottles. 2018-2027

95

M. Chapoutier Saint-Joseph Les Granits

100% Syrah £400.00 LAS

Granitic soils, 100% destemmed, matured for 16-18 months in barrels of one or two previous uses. The nose is very tightly wound for now, but shows equal weighting between fruit and oak. Full-bodied, rich in fruit, but no excess. Remarkable purity, follows a tight, straight, hemmed-in course. Very long, with a fine tannic frame and saline mineral finish. This is a serious wine, that will take a little while to come round. Undeniable quality. 2019-2025

95

Delas Frères Cornas Chante Perdrix

100% Syrah; 13.0% £240.00 CRS (2013)

Lieux-dits Reynards, Champelrose and St. Romain, all destemmed and fermented in concrete. Very smoky, spicy style, brimming over with grilled bread and crispy duck skin. Full-bodied, packed full of ripe juicy fruit and piercing acidity. The tannins are relatively refined but plentiful. A polished expression of Cornas, but nonetheless authentic, with incredible concentration, freshness and length. 2019-2028

94

Domaine Pichat Côte-Rôtie Loss

£396.00 SVS? AWSP

Turned earth, vibrant ripe blackberry and star anise. Medium-bodied but powerful, this is a vivid, bright and stylish wine. There's density and depth to the texture, and good length to the fruit. A wine that marries darkness and depth with freshness and vibrancy, all without recourse to heavy extraction or overbearing oak. Pretty clever, I'd say. 2018-2028

94

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Côte-Rôtie Esprit de Blonde

95% Syrah, 5% Viognier £492.00 FRW? AWSP

Schist soils, matured for 16-18 months in barriques, 50% new. Like smelling a rose in bloom. There's more oak influence here than on the straight Côte-Rôtie, but it works well with this style. Medium-bodied with lovely juicy fruit on the palate and ripe yet firm, fine tannins. Pure strawberry juice on the finish, this is utterly charming. 2,000 bottles. 2018-2027

94

Ferraton Père & Fils Hermitage Les Dionnières

100% Syrah £480.00 MIL

Lieu-dit Les Dionnières. A herbal expression, with liquorice and root extracts. Very full, slow and dense in the mouth, shot through with saturated fine tannin and wood spice, this ends dry, savoury, long and resinous, with pine needles and a touch of sous bois. This has a whiff of incense too, which contributes to its dark, exotic style. Very long finish. 2023-2038

94

Domaine Coursodon Saint-Joseph Le Paradis Saint Pierre

100% Syrah; 13.5% £367.54 CKW (2014)

All destemmed, matured for 12 months in barrels of various sizes. Black olive and blackberry. Very full, very smooth and intense driving fruit, saturated with fine tannin - this is very tightly wound for now, but the length of fruit is remarkable. The oak use here is relatively subtle compared to their Silice and Sensonne, and the result is better balanced than these two cuvées. 2,000 bottles. 2019-2025

94

Domaine Jean-Claude Marsanne Saint-Joseph

100% Syrah £154.21 HHC (2013)

A broad spectrum of red and black fruit aromas, from wild strawberry to ripe blackberry. Medium-bodied, very fresh and beautifully balanced. Some slight stony, mineral hints on the finish. A Saint-Joseph as unpretentious, pure and wonderfully old-fashioned as the label would lead you to believe. Really classic, and a joy to drink. Despite this not being a greatly ambitious or ageworthy wine, it deserves a high score, because frankly you could ask for little more in a Saint-Joseph, and this will bring huge pleasure if restraint and subtlety are what you seek. 2017-2023

94

Domaine Aléofane Saint-Joseph

100% Syrah; 14.0% £180.00 SEC

Fruit from Tournon, grown on granite, all destemmed, mostly large barrels, no new oak. Just-ripe blackberry and savoury damson juice aromas. The juice is concentrated, with a lovely internal beam of refreshing acidity. Long, superbly elegant Saint-Joseph of great finesse and quiet, restrained power. 2018-2024

94

Domaine Vincent Paris Cornas Granit 30

100% Syrah; 13.5% £180.00 UNC (2013)

Lieux-dits Patou and Saint Pierre, all destemmed, matured for 15 months in old barriques. Soy sauce and bottled ink on the nose. Very ripe, very smooth in mouthfeel, with intense, surging, super-fine tannin. Very long. A concentrated Cornas with remarkable elegance and refinement. Long, straight and highly impressive. 2018-2025

94

Domaine David Reynaud Crozes-Hermitage Les Croix

100% Syrah; 13.5% £255.04 WBR (2012)

Matured for 12 months in old barriques, then 3 months in concrete. Dark chocolate, bitter orange and black cherry. Mouthcoating, sweet berry juice and superfine tannin. Remarkable depth and purity. Long finish. Reynaud's wines are easy to spot blind; they have a detail, freshness and vibrancy of aroma that is unmistakable. The 2015s are his best yet. 2018-2025

94

Domaine Guy Farge Saint-Joseph Passion de Terraces

100% Syrah; 13.5% £252.00 GWW? AWSP

100-year-old vines grown on granite terraces, natural yeasts, matured for 12 months in barriques, 20% new. Savoury style with lightly spiced loganberry, mulberry, blueberry and violets. A medium-bodied Saint-Joseph with fine, velvety tannins. Greatly concentrated and remarkably complex already, this is the most impressive Saint-Joseph I have tasted from this estate. 3,500 bottles. 2019-2025

94

Domaine Clusel-Roch Côte-Rôtie Classique

96% Syrah, 4% Viognier; 13.5% £365.00 J&B

Lieux-dits Le Plomb, Champons and lower Viailière. Natural yeasts, 60% destemmed, aged for 24 months in barriques, 15% new. Very deep, earthy forest berry fruits. Sublime freshness and lift, with real verve and vivacity within. Herbal savouriness to the finish, and some dry stoniness to the texture. 2018-2024

93

Domaine de Bonserine Côte-Rôtie La Sarrasine

£396.24 FMT (2012)

Plum, damson and blueberry on the nose. Full-bodied, rounded and fruity style, inlaid with smoke and gentle spice. This has freshness, firmness of texture, and a very well measured use of oak - overall this is a well-balanced, well-crafted example of classic appeal. It feels like it made itself. 2019-2030

93

Domaine Pichat Côte-Rôtie Les Grandes Places

£575.04 CKW (2010)

Incredible nose! Freshly ground black pepper, ripe blackberry and blackcurrant, eye-watering vibrancy. Medium-bodied, superfresh style with aromatic definition and textural precision. Dynamic on the palate, and the oak is quite assertive, both in flavour and tannic texture. On the finish there is some dryness, which is a pity, but otherwise this wine is banging. May well deserve a higher score when in bottle. 2020-2030

93

E. Guigal Saint-Joseph Le Lieu-Dit

100% Syrah £250.04 MIL (2013)

Full, rich, ripe style with plenty of oak spice, and lovely juicy fruit throughout. A fresh and powerful example. 2016-2021

93

Cave de Tain Hermitage Grand Classique

100% Syrah; 13.5% £244.94 WTC (2011)

Aged for 12 months in used barriques and foudres. High-toned, attractive nose with cracked black pepper and violets over ripe black fruits. Medium- to full-bodied style, with very fine tannins and balanced use of oak that gives elegance to the texture and some added spice on the nose and palate. Long finish. Often a good choice for value in good vintages, and 2015 will be no different if their prices remain stable. 2019-2032

93

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Saint-Joseph Les Pierres

100% Syrah £235.00 H2V

Schist soils, aged for 16-18 months in new oak barriques. Earthier and spicier than their other Saint-Josephs. You would never guess this was aged in 100% new oak. The red berry and blackberry fruit is still to the fore, and the tannins don't have the drying, rasping feel that can come from overoaking. Very long, spicy finish. Sublime purity, softness and juiciness of fruit and a tailored feel have all been retained. 2018-2023

93

Domaine Alain Voge Cornas Les Chailles

100% Syrah; 13.5% £228.00 L&W (2014)

Lieu-dits Chaillots, 80% destemmed, aged for 18 months in oak. Soy, dark plums and spice, reminiscent of woodlands. A medium-bodied, vivid style, with real depth, grain and relief to the texture. 2018-2024

93

Domaine Pierre-Jean Villa Saint-Joseph Tilde

100% Syrah; 13.0% £317.04 SSW (2012)

Granite soils, aged for 24 months in barriques and demi-muids, 50% destemmed. Fresh, lively, expressive blackberry and damson with spices ground into the fruit. Powerful, but retains vibrancy and lift. Plentiful ripe tannin gives this a dry and savoury aspect on the finish. Sinewy, muscular style, but not overproduced. Ambitious; successful. 2018-2025

93

Domaine André Perret Saint-Joseph Les Grisières

100% Syrah £210.00 J&B

70-year-old vines, all destemmed, 20% new oak. A more detailed nose than his standard bottling, with some hot stone and blackberries on the nose. Concentrated fruit, elegant and fresh, with fine tannins and a mineral grind on the finish. Dry and slightly grainy with real dynamism on the palate. Long finish. 2018-2022

93

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Saint-Joseph Clos de Cuminaille

100% Syrah £165.00 H2V

Granite soils, aged for 16-18 months in barriques, 30% new. Vanilla, raspberry and violet aromas. Light-bodied, with some discernible oak spice within the fruit, but it's not excessive. Fine tannins, long finish. Such an idiosyncratic style: purity, finesse, elegance. Very drinkable, and never disappoints in a warm vintage. 2017-2021

93

Domaine Durand Cornas Empreintes

100% Syrah; 13.5% £271.44 BBR (2013)

Aged in barriques, 25% new. Incredibly full-bodied, thick and flowing style, with sweet ripe blackberry fruit and inky depths. Long, flowing finish, with more weight and fat fruit than many. Very long. Other cuvées not available to taste this year. 2019-2025

93

Domaine David Reynaud Crozes-Hermitage Georges Reynaud

100% Syrah; 13.5% £225.04 WBR (2013)

Matured for 12 months, half in concrete, half in old barriques. Bergamot, raspberry, violets - this is a complex, but most of all, expressive and detailed nose. Some dark chocolate too. Full, very smooth mouthfeel and tannins of real finesse, like a fur coat. Lovely intense juicy berry acidity and flavour on the palate, and a long tapered finish. The pointillist painter of Crozes, in vibrant colours. 2017-2022

93

Domaine Yann Chave Crozes-Hermitage Le Rouvre

100% Syrah; 13.5% £177.00 C&C (2014)

Fruit from Les Chassis, aged in demi-muids. Dark, brooding, slightly meaty aromatics. Full-bodied, rich and dense in fruit but with ample acidity shining through. Lifted, gently mineral, stony finish. Long. A serious wine, very well balanced. It has real persistence, purity and intense, driving fruit. 2018-2023

93

Domaine Aléofane Crozes-Hermitage

100% Syrah; 13.5% £163.54 EWM (2011)

Various plots around the appellation, all destemmed, matured for 12 months in demi-muid, 15% new. An agreeably idiosyncratic nose - loganberry, clove, black pepper. Very rounded, spicy, savoury palate. Powerful, with zippy raspberry and redcurrant acidity, great finesse and style. A firecracker. 2017-2021

93

Domaine du Colombier Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée Gaby

100% Syrah; 13.0% £185.00 J&B

Fruit from Mercuriol, all destemmed, aged for 12 months in demi-muids. Smoky bacon, violets, blackberries and blueberries. Very full-bodied, densely packed, but with driving, complex fruit that will bring serious interest and pleasure far into the future. Wonderfully soft, fine tannins, deep fruit and incredible vibrancy. This is a knock-out Crozes. 2019-2024

92

J. Denuzière Hermitage

100% Syrah; 13.5% £282.84 AMZ (2010)

An elegant and pure style, with toasty grilled bread and roasted spices on the nose and palate. The oak is quite dominant for now of course, but there is good concentration and a long, silky finish. Some dryness due to the oak tannins, but overall a concentrated, elegant wine. 2021-2030

92

Domaine Betton Crozes-Hermitage Caprice

100% Syrah; 13.0% £160.04 TOW

90% destemmed, 10 months aged in used barriques. Wonderful nose, showing some complexity already; Kalamata olive, rosemary, black pepper and blackcurrant. Light in body, but good concentration of fruit. Real freshness and lift, with keen acidity and a bright, twinkling finish. Beautifully put together, this is almost frighteningly delicious. 2017-2021

92

Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud Saint-Joseph

100% Syrah £290.04 BBR (2013)

Granite soils, all destemmed, no new oak. It still has some oak influence coming through, but this is in the background, just adding a little spice and bringing out some liquorice in the fruit. Medium-bodied style, with coating fruit and fine tannin in the mouth, all very well-integrated and balanced. Very classic and well crafted. A pure, fruit-driven depiction of the terroir. 2018-2023

92

Domaine Barge Saint-Joseph Clos des Martinets

100% Syrah; 12.5% £288.00 SSW? AWSP

Granite soils, all destemmed, 12 months aged in demi-muids. An elegant style of Saint-Joseph, with ample, round fruit on the palate: plum and blackberry. Fine tannins and a tapered finish. No exaggeration or overextraction here, just a very satisfying whole. Perhaps not the longest, but a stylish example. 2017-2022

92

Domaine David Reynaud Crozes-Hermitage Beaumont

100% Syrah; 13.5% £174.94 WIW (2014)

Aged for 8 months in concrete, all destemmed. Gorgeous, expressive, spicy nose with some sweet smoked paprika and black pepper among the blueberry, blackberry and raspberry fruits. Blackberry acidity and malleable, sturdy tannins. Densely fruited but sublimely fresh, this is an absolute joy - his best Beaumont yet. 2017-2020

92

Domaine Equis Crozes-Hermitage Equinoxe

100% Syrah £101.00 H2V

Pure smoky bacon on the nose, then very juicy and fresh on the palate with bags of berry fruit. Crunchy tannins and a long, juicy finish. An absolute joy to drink young; zippy, vibrant, full of energy. Best Equinoxe to date. 2017-2019

92

Domaine Gaylord Machon Crozes-Hermitage Lhony

100% Syrah; 12.5% £? CAV?

Matured for 16 months in new and second use demi-muids. Medium-bodied, with bright acids and snappy raspberry fruit, all inlaid with subtle oak spice and clove. Long finish. Crunchy, serrated tannins and real vibrancy. A contemporary, forward looking style. One to watch. 2018-2022

92

Domaine Combier Crozes-Hermitage Laurent Combier

100% Syrah; 13.0% £192.48 FMT

Organic. Lovely nose: smoky bacon, black olive and herbs. Full-bodied, with intense but not heavy fruit with real freshness and persistence - long, and powerful without being too dense or thick. Beautifully tailored, and cut from the most exquisite Crozes cloth. No Clos des Grives available to taste this year. 2017-2021

92

Domaine Habrard Crozes-Hermitage Bio

100% Syrah; 13.7% £228.00 CDB? AWSP

No added sulphur. All destemmed, matured for 10 months in concrete and used barrels. Wonderfully high-toned nose of violets and black pepper. Medium-bodied, sublimely fresh to start, but the dense fruits and furry tannins swing in later. A fresh, chewy Crozes with dense tannic structure. Unruly and expressive with lots to enjoy. 2017-2022

92

Delas Frères Crozes-Hermitage Domaine des Grands Chemins

100% Syrah; 13.0% £150.04 MIL (2013)

Touch of reduction for now, and some liquorice. Full, sweet, rich fruits and a strong tannic base. This is good - really long, and very well balanced considering its plus-size measurements. Often a good pick, this year even more so. Delas just get better and better. 2018-2022

92

Cave de Clairmont Crozes-Hermitage Immanence

100% Syrah; 14.0% £240.00 TAN? AWSP

Fermented and aged for 12 months in concrete. Quite closed for now, with crème de mûre, herbs and black olives just making themselves known. Full-bodied, very concentrated fruit, with full, saturated suede tannins and a good balancing acidity. Long, firm wine, straight in style, with a notably long finish. Impressive. An embryonic, concentrated Crozes from a quality-minded cave co-operative that shows great promise. 3,000 bottles. 2018-2022

Top 50 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Reds

99

Château Rayas Châteauneuf-du-Pape

100% Grenache £5,400.00 VIN (2007)

I tasted the Coeur, the Couchant and the Levant parcels with Emmanuel Reynaud (there are 14 parcels, some very small) which make up 'the heart, the flesh and the skeleton' of Rayas. The overall impression is a classic Rayas with superb freshness and depth of fruit, without any excess weight or alcohol. It's a ripe, friendly and juicy year, but with great finesse.

2022-2040

98

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage à Jacques Perrin

60% Mourvèdre. Always includes Grenache, Syrah, Counoise, Cinsault, others also possible £2,450.04 BIW (2014)

Only produced in good vintages, Hommage is partly put together by plot selection, partly by barrel selection. The score is for a representative barrel containing a large proportion of Mourvèdre which showed remarkable depth of fruit, and of ripe, mouthcoating tannin. It's exceptionally long, very fresh, but with a brooding intensity. The abiding impression is one of restrained power and deep, lush, textural tannins. I'm looking forward to tasting the finished blend as this is hugely promising. 2022-2040

97

Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape

50% Grenache, 35% Mourvèdre, 2% Syrah, 13% others £552.00 L&W

35 hectares owned in total, all worked organically across 24 plots, all destemmed, bottled unfiltered. "I didn't see one rotten grape - not one; it's been a long time since I've seen that," says Vincent Avril about the 2015 growing season. We tried a variety of different blends from old foudres, to get a feel for different varieties, soils and ages of barrel. The most indicative of the final blend has plenty of Mourvèdre spice and plump Grenache strawberry fruit and a good balanced level of acidity and alcohol. Sublime freshness and very fine tannin - this will be a brilliant Clos des Papes, in a fairly rich style. 2017-2038

96

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

85% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah; 14.5% £778.00 FRW

Fermented in concrete, matured for 12 months in foudre and demi-muid. Plum, damson and savoury macerated herbs, a good strong beam of acidity, and muscular tannins. Powerful, balanced and sturdy. A excellent example of a powerful, classic Châteauneuf that has used the range of blending options available to its advantage. A strong Châteauneuf, with its feet firmly on the ground. 2020-2035

96

Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

Mostly Grenache, with a few others co-planted £950.00 H2V

116-year-old vines planted on north-facing clay and sand lieux-dits of Charbonnières and Esquières, all co-fermented. 'Like old people, they take their time' says Vincent Estevenin of the vines - they were harvested fairly late. 3,500 bottles made this year, only produced in good vintages. Fresh strawberry jam and spearmint. Full-bodied, but it has a lightness and elegance to it, and a fine balance. Tannins are a little more intense than the Tradition bottling. It has a fresh earthiness to it and wonderful intensity without forceful extraction - a Cuvée Spéciale worthy of the name. 2019-2040

96

Domaine de Beurenard Châteauneuf-du-Pape Boisrenard

1% Bourboulenc, 1% Cinsault, 1% Clairette, 1% Clairette Rose/Counoise, 66% Grenache Blanc/Grenache Gris/Grenache Noir, 12% Mourvèdre, 1% Muscardin, 1% Picardan, 1% Picpoul Blanc, 1% Picpoul Gris/Picpoul Noir/Roussanne, 12% Syrah, 1% Terret noir, 1% Vaccarèse; 15.0% £420.00 FRW

10% matured in new oak barriques, the rest in old barriques and old foudres for 18 months. Vibrant, dynamic, high-toned aromas. Medium-bodied, with perky acidity and real freshness. Remarkably light on its feet for a Cuvée Spéciale. The small percentage of new oak has lent a discrete spiciness, but is otherwise absorbed by the fruit, and the effect is harmonious. Elegance, drinkability and balance, with fine tannin. A real winner this year. 5,000 bottles. 2019-2038

96

Domaine Saint Préfert Châteauneuf-du-Pape Collection Charles Giraud

60% Grenache, 40% Mourvèdre £560.04 BBR (2014)

Polished, darkly fruited nose with some subtle, ingrained wood spice. Full-bodied, highly concentrated wine with a serious payload of super-fine tannin. It coats the mouth with tannin and fruit. Balanced, with a very long finish. Very elegant, very Châteauneuf. The wines of Saint Préfert are excellent throughout the range, and consistently so. 2019-2045

95

Domaine Chante Cigale Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

70% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah; 15.2% £330.04 HWW (2013)

Fermented in stainless steel, matured in demi-muids and old barriques for 18 months. Licorice and a little hint of bitter roots and root beer. This has remarkable freshness and energy on the palate. It's powerful, but light on its feet like a boxer. It's deep and serious, but fresh and drinkable, really dynamic in style. Chante-Cigale seems to be going in an increasingly positive direction of late, with even their Cuvée Spéciale and their white accentuating drinkability and elegance. 5,900 bottles. 2018-2028

95

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape

30% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah, 10% Counoise, 10% Vaccarèse/Terret Noir/Muscardin, 3% Cinsault, 7% white others £450.00 J&B

Grenache and Cinsault fermented in cement, Syrah and Mourvèdre fermented in foudre. Fruit is rounder here, more effusive and detailed than the (very good) Coudoulet. Remarkably dark in fruit character. The overarching effect is one of freshness; no problem with acidity here, and alcohol in check. Hard to fault; an excellent vintage for Beaucastel. 2018-2030

95

Domaine la Barroche Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pure

97% Grenache, 3% others £680.00 J&B

A 100+-year-old sandy Grenache vineyard, around 3% of which is planted with a host of other varieties, situated at the intersection of Rayas, Le Pointu and Grand Pierre on top of the hill. It's a brew of potpourri, thyme and wild strawberry; lively, silky and juicy. It's not powerful in weight or extraction, just beautifully detailed and aromatically precise. A wine of great finesse with a peppery, salty, mineral finish. Gorgeous stuff. Pure is the word. 2019-2031

95

Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige

70% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah, 5% others; 15.0% £280.00 C&C (2013)
Lieux-dits Les Brusquières and Cabrières. Kirsch, crème de mûre and cocoa. This is very full-bodied, very concentrated. But it has vibrant, broad brush strokes of strawberry and raspberry juice, damson and plum. It is already harmonious, and tastes balanced despite the high alcohol. Very long, very concentrated, with a savoury finish and very fine, sinewy tannins. So yes, this is a big wine; but it's not just big - it's a lesson in scale.
2019-2035

95

Domaine Saint Préfert Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve Auguste Favier

70% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 5% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre £324.96 BBR (2014)
Dark and savoury on the nose. Liquorice and bitters. Very concentrated but not forced and loaded with superfine tannins. Dense, straight, highly textural, with serious weight of tannin - but of exceptionally fine, soft tannin. This has a serious demeanour, and will be a great wine when it's ready. This is impressive, and will have a long life. 2021-2045

95

Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape L'Avenue

100% Grenache; 15.0% £? L&W?
Fermented in concrete, matured in demi-muid for 18 months. Slightly medicinal nose; camphor, Benylin cough mixture, almost a whiff of hot tar among the blackberry and raspberry flavour. Sweet fruit, but it's outgunned by the piercing lance of acidity. Tannins are fine, lightly grainy. Long, and straight - like an Avenue, I suppose. This has some mineral drive and texture that help give it form and direction. 2019-2030

95

Domaine Santa Duc Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Saintes Vierges

90% Grenache, 9% Mourvèdre, 1% Counoise; 15.0% £? H2V?
Organic, from lieu-dit Les Saintes Vierges. Great purity on the nose, with blackberry fruit overlaid with violets and spice. Full-bodied, with an inner vitality and assertive structure that keeps this feeling bright and drinkable. All the elements are seemingly laid out separately in this barrel sample, but they'll come together in time to make a lovely wine of considerable class. A well-crafted and elegant wine. 5,300 bottles. 2019-2030

94

Domaine Font de Michelle Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Etienne Gonnet

70% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah £400.00 GDH (2012)
Very old vines (100 years+) from La Crau. Rounded, generous, ever so slightly spiry nose. Concentrated, balanced, good acidity, fine, ripe tannin. A neat, savoury Châteauneuf, well proportioned. It really has everything you need. 2018-2030

94

Domaine Raymond Usseglio et Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Impériale

95% Grenache, 5% others; 16.0% £420.48 BBR (2014)
Biodynamic, mostly grown on sand with some galets roulés, partially destemmed, fermented and matured in concrete. Blueberries, blackberries and violets. Very broad and soft on the palate, but really driving and powerful once it's there. It's like a wide river that gradually enters a valley, and ends in surging rapids. It speaks strongly of its origins and of its vintage.
2019-2028

94

**Domaine Pierre Usseglio Châteauneuf-du-Pape
Cuvée de mon Aïeul**

100% Grenache; 16.0% £506.00 IVV (2014)

Grown on sand with some galets roulés, partially destemmed, fermented in concrete, then matured in concrete and demi-muid. Classic plum, damson, strawberry and raspberry. Very full-bodied and flowing. Good acidity, fine tannins. This has a bit more weight and seriousness than some other 100% Grenache wines. Some can be a little two-dimensional; this has depths to explore. Long finish. 2019-2036

94

Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

95% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre; 15.5% £371.04 BBR (2013)

From lieux-dits La Crau and le Grand Pierre, fermented and matured primarily in tronconic vats. Very broad, full and flowing, but the structure and acidity ride in to tighten it up. Very fine tannin and a long finish. A classic expression of the 2015 vintage. 2018-2023

94

Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 30% Mourvèdre £499.00 H2V

Generous and densely-packed berry fruits on the nose. Lovely smooth texture and superfine tannin, good length of fruit. A distinct step up from their Les Origines bottling. It's powerful but vibrant. 2019-2030

94

Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Cadettes

32% Grenache, 34% Mourvèdre, 34% Syrah; 14.5% £650.04 BBR (2013)

Organic, no destemming, fermented in tronconic vats then matured for 12 months in 80% new and 20% old oak barriques. The oak, unsurprisingly, is very present on the nose at this early stage. But crucially it works well on the palate, with no drying effect. Spicy plum and prune, with star anise and clove. For an oaked style of Châteauneuf, this is consistently one of the best. 2021-2033

94

Domaine Charvin Châteauneuf-du-Pape

85% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Vaccarèse £338.00 FRW (2013)

Charvin always seems to get a deep sense of herbal savouriness into his wines. Full-bodied, with a really crisp, enlivening structure that makes you want to sink your teeth into it. The fruit is dense, not overripe, and wonderfully juicy. A relatively new estate when it comes to bottling wine, but it tastes like they have been established for centuries. 2018-2025

93

Domaine la Barroche Châteauneuf-du-Pape Signature

65% Grenache, 16% Mourvèdre, 13% Syrah, 5% Cinsault, 1% others £320.00 J&B

We tasted from three barrels that would make up the majority of the Signature in their impressive new cellar on the edge of the village, containing a series of large conical cement fermenters. We can expect a vibrant, pure and dark-fruited Signature in 2015, full of vibrancy, energy and fine tannin. It's medium-bodied, with a real sense of authenticity and purity, and a savoury edge. They manage to walk a fine line between a modern and traditional style, to great effect. 2018-2027

93

**Domaine Roger Perrin Châteauneuf-du-Pape
Réserve des Vieilles Vignes**

70% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah; 14.7% £552.00 CRS (2004)

Aged 30% in new oak barriques, 70% used barriques. Closed on the nose, very full-bodied and powerful. Has real drive and energy. Black olive, and some oak hints on the nose, then very firm tannic bedrock and mineral foundation. Fruit is concentrated, but has good freshness. This is ambitious, and it works. The oak is well integrated. 2019-2029

93

Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve

80% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah; 14.5% £206.00 C&C (2013)

Very full-bodied, very concentrated. This has fiery acidity and grippy tannin to hold everything together, and it succeeds; the finish is neat. Blueberry and blackberry aromatics are very tightly wound for now. The alcohol does feel quite raised but the tannic profile is robust and helps to bring balance and structure; an impressive beast! 2019-2028

93

Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape

85% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre/Syrah £335.00 H2V

Around 10 different lieux-dit around Châteauneuf, most are fermented separately, then assembled after vinification and élevage. All harvested in small cases, all destemmed. Really rich and expressive, mostly strawberry but with some lively blackberry. Full-bodied, lovely sweetness of fruit and buzzing acidity. Tannins are very fine, it's already harmonious. Full of energy and life. Some slightly animal hints. Finishes savoury. 2018-2027

93

Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape Murre des Perdrix

69% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 1% Cinsault; 15.5% £335.04 BBR (2013)

Plummy fruit with a savoury edge. Very full and flowing, very long in fruit. The structure is fairly subtle, and serves to support and channel the fruit. Fine tannins, gentle but present acidity. A Châteauneuf like a fur coat. A lovely pure expression. 2018-2027

93

Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Val de Dieu

60% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 30% Syrah; 15.0% £378.00 L&W (2014)

Plenty of camphor, rosemary and black olive. Full-bodied, intensely concentrated, with robust smoky oak ingrained into the fruit. The tannins are intense and grippy, and slightly drying, but they give a frame, along with the surging acidity, to the intense fruit. This is a very large-framed Châteauneuf, and very ambitious. 2019-2030

93

Domaine de Beurenard Châteauneuf-du-Pape

6% Bourboulenc/Cinsault, 66% Clairette/Clairette Rose/Counoise/Grenache Blanc/Grenache Gris/Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 1% Muscardin, 15% Picardan/Picpoul Blanc/Picpoul Gris/Picpoul Noir/Roussanne/Syrah, 1% Terret Noir, 1% Vaccarèse; 14.5% £260.00 FRW (2014)

A variety of lieux-dits, soils and varieties, grown biodynamically then 5% is fermented and aged in new oak barriques, the rest in a variety of sizes of older wood. Incense and pot-pourri among the black fruit; liquorice too. Deep, plush fruit with a real sense of vibrancy and freshness throughout the course of the wine. Ripe tannins give it a firm foundation. Very well balanced, and has the freshness and vibrancy that some others lack in this vintage. 2017-2025

93

Domaine Raymond Usseglio et Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 6% Syrah, 3% Cinsault, 1% Counoise; 15.0% £213.48 BBR (2014)

Very appetising nose; pounded berries and fresh woody herbs. Touch of sous bois. Expansive on the palate but not gloopy, then the structure tightens up like a drawstring to finish neat and tidy. Lovely texture, fresh fruit, lively dynamic energy on the palate. Hard to believe this is 'just' their entry level bottling - it's seriously impressive. Don't be concerned about the 15% alcohol, the wine is balanced. 2018-2025

93

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Tradition

65% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah, 5% Cinsault; 14.0% £307.44 BBR (2013)
A little closed for now, but some promising, high-toned, red fruit aromas are creeping out. Some garrigue herbs too. Full, rounded, fresh on the palate, and some exceptionally well sculpted smooth, tight, fine-grained tannins keeping everything tucked in. They really add to the length of the fruit and to the overall shape of the wine - firstly expansive, then tapered. Otherwise all in balance; acidity, alcohol, sweetness. No surprises that they are excelling even at this level in 2015. 2017-2025

93

Domaine du Banneret Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah, Muscardin, Vaccarèse, Terret Noir, Cinsault, Picpoul Noir, Cunoise; 14.5% £434.94 WNY (2013)
Four hectares of vines with an average age of 60 years, no destemming. Spicy, slightly herbal, stemmy aromas that catch your attention. Good depth of ripe, juicy plum and strawberry fruit and it's all tucked into shape by firm acidity and assertive, slightly grainy tannin. An old-fashioned Châteauneuf, and I mean that in a good way. Well balanced and fresh. Satisfyingly savoury and textural. 2017-2024

93

Clos du Caillou Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Quartz

85% Grenache, 15% Syrah £455.00 H2V
Denser, stonier style, more dark-fruited than their Safres or Tradition. Long, mineral, balanced, intense and juicy with a heavy payload of fine, ripe tannin. Victoria plum and damson amongst the blackberry and strawberry. Their Réserve is perhaps marginally better, but not necessarily worth the much higher price tag. 2018-2025

93

Domaine André Mathieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vin Di Felibre

10% Grenache, 80% Mourvèdre, 5% Syrah, 5% others; 14.5% £? ?
Grown on sand, matured in 1-year-old tronconic oak vats (and 7% new oak barriques) for 24-30 months. Very full-bodied and thick with ripe fruit. Good weight of ripe tannin. A deep and brooding wine, intense, concentrated and powerful. It retains however a sense of elegance; no excess sugariness or alcohol. The dense tannin profile will need some time to soften, but will be rewarding in a few years' time. 4,000 bottles. 2019-2032

92

Domaine Les Cailloux Châteauneuf-du-Pape

70% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah, 5% Cinsault; 14.0% £310.80 TDS (2012)
This has a certain wildness to the nose; garrigue herbs, some woodland aromas, and high-toned crème de mûre fruit. The acidity is a little low, but the fruit is delicious and overall it retains a sense of freshness; there is already some burgeoning complexity. Good weight of ripe tannin completes the package. 2018-2025

92

Domaine du Pegau Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Réserve

1% Bourboulenc, 1% Cinsault, 1% Clairette, 1% Cunoise, 80% Grenache, 4% Mourvèdre, 1% Muscardin, 1% Picardan, 1% Picpoul Noir, 1% Roussanne, 6% Syrah, 1% Terret Noir, 1% Vaccarèse; 14.0% £300.00 J&B (2013)
No destemming, fermented in concrete, aged in foudres. Deep, liquorice, thyme, bitter orange and root extracts, with a touch of VA - very classic for this cuvée. Full-bodied, but lively, with good acidity and crunchy tannin. It has an agreeable serrated effect, which makes for a more textured and drinkable wine than some others in the vintage that are just a little too plump and flowing. 2018-2024

92

Domaine Saint Préfert Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 5% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre £271.44 BBR (2014)

Beautifully fresh plum and damson fruit. Very full, packed full of juicy, flowing fruit and ripe, juicy acidity. This is notable for the finesse of its tannin, and overall sense of balance, harmony and vibrancy. The alcohol is slightly noticeable on the finish, but this is nonetheless vibrant, juicy and full of pleasure. A winner in this vintage. 2017-2025

92

Domaine de Verquière Châteauneuf-du-Pape

70% Grenache, 16% Mourvèdre, 8% Syrah, 4% Cinsault, 2% Clairette; 14.5% £365.04 BVN (2012)

Biodynamic, fermented and matured for 18 months in concrete. Enticing slightly herbal aromas, smells slightly stemmy despite there being none used in making the wine! Peppery too, alongside dried herbs. Full-bodied, with good richness of fruit and an enjoyable savoury depth. Good tannic grip. This is already showing complexity and detail, which bodes well for the future. 2018-2025

92

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape

65% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah, 5% Cinsault; 14.5% £420.00 SEC

From the galets roulés of La Crau, partially destemmed. Lovely sense of purity to their 2015, and plenty of their characteristic red fruits; strawberry, raspberry, Victoria plum. Very fine tannins, and a strong mineral backbone adds to the sense of freshness. 2018-2024

92

Domaine Chante Cigale Châteauneuf-du-Pape

65% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah, 5% Cinsault; 15.0% £245.04 JIC (2013)

Energy, complexity, texture and balance - the 2015 from Chante Cigale is looking good. Damson, plum and blackberry fruit with some macerated herbs. The palate is harmonious already, with ripe fruit, keen acids and surging fine tannin, all in balance. 2018-2024

92

Le Bois Pointu Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Grenache, Counoise, Mourvèdre, Cinsault, Bourboulenc £430.00 J&B

Small holding owned by British negociant Charles Blagden. Fermented in cement, partial destemming. Relatively pale in colour. Cranberry, redcurrant and raspberry - a fine red-fruited fragrance. Juicy, with more sweet red berry fruits on the palate and freshening acidity. An idiosyncratic Châteauneuf, lightly extracted, with elegant tannins and a sonorous finish. 2017-2025

92

Guillaume Gonnet, Vigneron Châteauneuf-du-Pape Bel Ami

70% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Cinsault, 10% Mourvèdre
£294.03 FMT (2013)

50-year-old vines on lieu-dit Croix de Bois. Full and rich in dark fruit. Good acidity, good freshness, and no excess weight. Elegance and drinkability are the calling cards of this new estate, and a pure, clean, detailed fruit profile. 2018-2023

92

Domaine du Père Caboche Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 'Elisabeth Chambellan'

78% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 2% Mourvèdre/Cinsault/Clairette/Vaccarèse/Bourboulenc/Roussanne/Picardan/Counoise/Muscadin/Picpoul/Terret Noir; 15.5% £257.04 YAP (2012)

From La Crau, fermented in stainless steel, matured in stainless steel and foudres for 12 months. Aromatically elegant, with pure Victoria plum and liquorice. Very full to start with, but then neatens up on the finish, with good sappy acidity and silky, discrete tannins. A Cuvée Spéciale with elegance and finesse - not always easy to find in this vintage. 2018-2024

92

Domaine du Bosquet des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chante Le Merle - Vieilles Vignes

86% Grenache, 7% Mourvèdre, 7% Syrah; 15.0% £363.00 H2Vin

Vines are 80- to 90-years-old. Fresh dark fruits are given an extra dimension by spicy, stemmy aromas. Herbal on the palate too. This has a good, gruff, grippy structure that is needed to hem in the sweet fruits. Acidity is pretty perky as well. A bubbling cauldron of a wine. 2018-2025

92

Château Sixtine Châteauneuf-du-Pape

45% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 25% Syrah; 15.5% £240.00 CRS (2013)

Intense, piercing damson fruits on the nose. Medium-bodied, with assertive structure that gives the wine a sense of crispness and brightness. No heaviness; the oak influence (7% is aged for 12 months in new oak barriques) is integrated. Quite a punchy and dynamic style, with good purity and balance. 2018-2028

92

Domaine de la Mordorée Châteauneuf-du-Pape Belle Voyageuse

90% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre/Syrah/Counoise/Vaccarèse £310.00 H2V

Agreeably vibrant and juicy. A real pleasure, this has lovely crisp, fresh berry fruit, crunchy tannins and a totally effortless feel. There is ample fine tannin and the balance is good. A really drinkable, perky Châteauneuf - more immediately drinkable than their more expensive cuvées. 2017-2024

92

Château Beauchêne Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vignobles de la Serrière

65% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre, 30% Syrah; 14.0% £182.54 PRC (2009)

Agreeable lightness to this, but still with good tannic frame and depth of fruit. Blackberry and raspberry, with crunchy fruit and good acidity. It lacks a bit of heft and length, but has a drinkable freshness. 2018-2025

91

Domaine Julien Masquin Châteauneuf-du-Pape Montplaisir

60% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 30% Syrah; 14.5% £216.00 DSW? AWSP

From La Crau, partially destemmed, fermented in stainless steel, matured in foudres, old barriques and stainless steel. Full-bodied, but with a good sense of finesse and very fine tannins. Good sense of purity, and well balanced acidity. Long straight finish. 2,500 bottles. 2018-2025

91

Domaine L'Abbé Dîne Châteauneuf-du-Pape

90% Grenache, 8% Syrah, 2% Mourvèdre £225.04 RWC (2014)

Authentic blackberry fruits, inviting, a real pleasure to smell. Rounded and juicy with flowing fruits and just enough acidity and freshness to make this work. Fine, slightly dry tannins on the finish. This estate has been gradually on the up, and is now showing some class. 2017-2023

91

Domaine Saint Siffrein Châteauneuf-du-Pape

65% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah, 5% Cinsault; 14.5% £372.00 WNY? AWSP

Organic, partial destemming, no new oak. Some high-toned spiciness on the nose and woody herbs. Full-bodied, but not overly so, and a really dynamic, juicy effect on the palate. Long, structured finish with good balancing acidity and ripe tannin. An impressive showing from Saint-Siffrein in this vintage. 2018-2023

90

Domaine Porte Rouge Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah; 14.5% £216.00 BIB? AWSP

Organic, partial destemming, no new oak. Violets and menthol, rosemary; high-toned aromatics and a touch medicinal (Vicks Vaporub!). Concentrated fruits with depth and breadth. Tannins are fine yet dense, and the wine is harmonious, with good length of fruit and a tapered finish. Porte-Rouge are doing better and better each year. One to watch.

2017-2023

Top 50 Other Côtes-du-Rhône Reds

98

Château Saint Cosme Gigondas Hominis Fides

Grenache; 14.5% £852.00 FRW (2014)

Fermented in concrete using indigenous yeasts, no destemming, aged in barriques, one third new. Deep, dark and intensely spicy. Very full-bodied, very concentrated fruit. There is also a shining beam of acidity and very fine, ample wet clay tannin. This is all very bound up in itself for now, but it's perfectly balanced, spellbinding stuff. This is a decidedly modern, ambitious expression of Gigondas, but an utterly compelling one. Exceptional length.

Gigondas haute-couture. 3,000 bottles. 2019-2033

97

Domaine Gourt de Mautens IGP Vaucluse

Grenache, Carignan, Mourvèdre, Counoise, Vaccarèse, Terret Noir, Cinsault, Syrah, Clairette, Muscardin £341.74 MIL (2012)

Old vines planted in goblet, low yields (14 hl/ha). Robust yet fine tannins, very lively aromatics of bright red fruit, herbs, and woodland aromas. Rosemary, lavender, thyme and resin all emerge from the glass. Lovely freshness from start to finish and mouthcoating fruit and tannin. Juicy, with a bright beam of balancing acidity. Pretty wonderful. "Un beau millésime," says Jérôme Bressy, with a glint in his eye. 2022-2032

97

Château Saint Cosme Gigondas Le Poste

Grenache; 14.5% £852.00 FRW (2014)

Fermented in concrete using indigenous yeasts, no destemming, aged in barriques, one third new. Sage, blackberry and blackcurrant, all backed up by oak spice. Medium-bodied, very fresh with lively acidity and super-fine tannin. Expertly crafted, no excess weight or alcohol and sublime freshness. Very impressive. Finishes like a tuning fork. 1,500 bottles.

2019-2030

96

Château de Fonsalette Côtes-du-Rhône

50% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 35% Cinsault £980.00 WIN (2009)

I was tempted to put my name down for the entire production of this wine after having tasted just the Cinsault, some of the most beautifully aromatic fermented grape juice I've encountered in years. The Grenache and Syrah were also fantastic; this will be a medium-bodied, beautiful, fresh and elegant wine when it's ready. 2017-2028

96

Domaine Moulin de la Gardette Gigondas Ventabren

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Cinsault; 14.5% £244.44 BBR (2013)

Organic, no destemming, aged in old foudres. Sage, thyme and rosemary over blueberry and blackberry fruit. This is full-bodied, with a wonderfully generous dose of grainy, sinewy tannin and real depth and length. It has relief, texture, and savoury bite; a rambunctious Gigondas with masses of detail and interest. An absolute winner. 2019-2030

96

Domaine des Bosquets Gigondas Le Lieu Dit

Majority Grenache; 16.2% £305.04 JIC (2011)

A cool, north-west facing microclimate, lower than La Colline, but harvested after. 80% destemmed, fermented in stainless steel, aged in old demi-muids. Wow - the nose. Lavender, rosemary, blueberries and strawberries, Victoria plums. Full-bodied, powerful, rich and fresh. Precise acidity, and quite a powerful, driven character. The alcohol is a little noticeable, but the intensity of the other elements deflects your attention. Structured, super-fine tannins and a very long finish. Gigondas as superhero. 5,000 bottles. 2019-2027

96

Domaine des Bosquets Gigondas La Colline

Majority Grenache; 16.3% £468.00 LIB? AWSP

Vines grown at 350m altitude, very high for the region. 80% destemmed, fermented in stainless steel, aged in second- to fourth-use demi-muids. Dense dark plum, damson and strawberry on the nose this time, with marginally more oak influence at this stage than Le Lieu Dit, but it's all fully integrated. Very rich, very rounded with a dense payload of fine, wet clay tannin, ending with clove spice and stewed plum. A very powerful Gigondas, but not without freshness, that will last for some time. Gigondas as supervillain. 4,000 bottles. 2020-2032

96

Domaine Brusset Gigondas Les Secrets de Montmirail

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre; 14.0% £456.00 ENO? AWSP

All destemmed, 30% aged in new oak. Coffee bean and dark chocolate, with pure damson juice and black cherry. Mouthcoating fruit and tannin, this is immediately impressive. It is already harmonious, powerful and balanced. Very, very long. A polished style in the vein of des Bousquets and Saint-Cosme, and done really well. 2,700 bottles. 2018-2028

95

Domaine Raspail-Ay Gigondas

70% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre; 15.0% £170.04 PHW (2014)

A single unbroken plot near the village of Gigondas, matured in old foudres for 18-24 months. No special cuvées, just a single wine produced from this domaine. Raspberry, raspberry leaf, sage and some lifted, perfumed elements to the fruit. Very full, juicy, very fresh. There's real harmony here between the generous fine tannin, bright acidity and expressive fruit, that all glides together into a long finish. A seductive blend of generous ripe fruit and elegance, utterly classic Gigondas. 2017-2027

95

Domaine Gramenon Côtes-du-Rhône La Mémé

100% Grenache; 14.8% £269.80 CKW

Biodynamically farmed 100-year-old vines, no destemming, aged for 12 months in demi-muids. Deep, beguiling scents of violet, strawberry, crème de mûre, lavender. Full-bodied, sweet fruit, mouthcoating intensity. Very fine tannins. A wine that surges as it flows, and it flows far and wide. On the palate, it's clearly a wine that contains generous alcohol, but the fruit is so extraordinary that it can handle it, and the result is balanced - in fact it would be unbalanced without it. Gramenon make a particular style of wine, one that champions bright primary fruit and puts it front and centre, to brilliant effect. 3,000 bottles. 2017-2027

94

**Domaine Roucas Toumba Vacqueyras
Les Restanques de Cabassole**

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre; 15.0% £326.04 HED (2011)

80% destemmed, 18 months maturation in large old barrels. Agreeable spiciness here; bright, crunchy cranberry and blackberry fruit with tight, gently serrated tannins and good freshness. This is significantly more tannic than most Vacqueyras in this vintage, giving it a more structured, textural, food-friendly appeal. Vacqueyras can do texture and structure more ably than most Southern Rhône appellations, and this estate uses this attribute to their advantage. 2018-2025

94

Domaine des Bernardins Beauges-de-Venise

60% Grenache, 30% Syrah 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Grenache Blanc; 13.5% £132.00 TMH? AWSP

No destemming, aged 10-12 months in stainless steel. Deep, dense, tightly packed nose with smoky herbal essences and lovely peppery, stemmy fragrance. Full-bodied, very rich with concentrated fruits - but the acidity is perfectly balanced and the tannins are pleasingly muscular and sinewy. Already harmonious, this is a great achievement, the best red I've tasted from this exemplary Beauges-de-Venise estate. Very long finish, Real complexity and interest. 2017-2025

94

Domaine Le Couroulu Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes

70% Grenache, 30% Syrah; 14.0% £170.04 SVS (2012)

Considerably more closed on the nose at the time of tasting compared to the Classique. Very full, very dense and surging with fruit and ripe, sinewy, muscular tannin. Plenty of acidity and remarkable length, this is one of the quiet stars of Vacqueyras. 2019-2027

94

Domaine La Ligière Vacqueyras Le Mourre de la Caille

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre; 14.0% £? H2V?

Organic, destemmed, aged in concrete. The nose on this is fantastic. It surges out of the glass: cinnamon (though no use of oak), loganberry, and sun-warmed garrigue herbs. I'd buy this without even tasting it. On the palate however it's medium-bodied with ample but not exaggerated ripe tannins and lovely blackberry acidity. Long, balanced, utterly delicious. A delight; elegant, juicy and crunchy. 2017-2022

94

Domaine Les Hautes Cances Cairanne Col du Débat

50% Grenache, 35% Carignan, 10% Syrah, 5% Counoise; 14.5% £200.04 GWS (2012)

60-year-old vines grown on a north-facing slope at 250m altitude. All destemmed, submerged cap, aged for two years then bottled without filtration. Bright, detailed and focussed aromatics - berry fruit and spice. Rounded, juicy and delicious. Full in body, but has lovely chiselled structure and piercing acidity. Very well judged, a real achievement. Perfectly balanced, and incredibly dynamic fruit. 2018-2023

93

Domaine Tourbillon Gigondas Vieilles Vignes

77% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 3% Cinsault; 15.5% £? DLW?

70% destemmed, aged in concrete and barriques of various ages. A perfectly classic nose, between red and black berry fruits with some lifted floral and spice back notes. Violets too. Generous fruits on the palate, good acidity, and super-fine tannin. Long finish. If you want to show someone a classic example of really good Gigondas, show them this. It has finesse, lightness and drinkability. One to watch. 2017-2025

93

Domaine Moulin de la Gardette Gigondas Tradition

80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre; 14.5% £181.44 BBR (2013)

Organic, no detemming, aged in old foudres. Woody herbs with a touch of peppery spice. Very full-bodied, but it has a lovely savoury, slightly wild expression that brings a sense of freshness. There is grain to the texture, which gives some interest and food-friendliness. Relatively tannic and dry in style, this is very enjoyable and a good pick for those that appreciate structure in Gigondas. 2017-2022

93

Domaine Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras Lopy

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah £244.44 BBR (2013)

A parcel of 70-year-old old vines. Spicy cherry and red berry scents. Medium-bodied, very fresh, good acidity and fine, dry tannins. Lively and vibrant. 2018-2022

93

Château de Montfaucon Lirac Baron Louis

50% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Cinsault, 10% Carignan, 10% Mourvèdre; 14.5% £124.94 SOL (2012)

Five varieties co-fermented, matured in barriques and concrete for 22 months before bottling. Roasted meats, berry fruits and herbs all jostle for attention. Full-bodied, really packed with juicy fruit and dense with ripe tannin. This is a serious wine, a Lirac with staying power. Very well balanced, with an intrinsic freshness and serious structure.

2019-2026

93

Domaine La Soumade Rasteau Confiance

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre; 15.0% £215.04 BVN (2012)

80% destemmed, matured in foudres for 15 months. Violets, blueberries and damsons on the nose - really open and beguiling aromas. Medium-bodied, but wonderfully caressing fruit and tannin. Lovely concentration and integral freshness. Long finish. A wine of considerable class. 2017-2022

93

Domaine Alary Cairanne La Jean de Verde

90% Grenache, 10% others; 15.0% £122.00 H2V

Hand-harvested, old vines. Fabulous nose; eucalyptus and lavender interwoven with deep plum and damson fruit. Full, flowing and soft on the palate with intense concentration of fruit, but it has retained the requisite acidity and freshness to keep everything in balance. The finish is long and fresh. They've hit the bullseye this year. 2017-2022

93

Domaine Montirius Gigondas Confidentiel

80% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre; 14.5% £244.44 BBR (2013)

Biodynamically farmed for 22 years now. All destemmed, fermented and matured in concrete. Plum, damson, strawberry, all backed up by a herbal freshness. Very full-bodied, and concentrated, but intensely juicy and fresh. Bags of fine, ripe tannin and a lively beam of balancing acidity. Like a bucket of Gigondas against a white canvas, this has sublime energy, and is wonderfully drinkable. It wakes you up. 2018-2028

93

Domaine du Grapillon d'Or Gigondas 1806

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah; 14.5% £149.00 C&C (2014)

100% destemmed, aged in old oak barrels for 12 months. Plum, damson, blackberry alongside some fresh herbs. Very smooth, flowing fruit, all very ripe but not overly so. Lovely intensity, it flows in waves. Acidity is good, no overt oak influence, just finessed tannins. Long finish. Always a good pick, and they've done a particularly fine job in 2015. Beautifully balanced, no excess alcohol, wonderfully pure fruit. 2017-2025

93

Domaine les Pallières Gigondas Terrasse du Diable

90% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Clairette; 14.5% £190.00 UNC

Matured for 20 months in large oak foudres, bottled without fining or filtration. Fuller than their Racines, with a greater load of tannin. All very ripe, though the alcohol is a little raised. Long finish. An expressive, vivid Gigondas. 2018-2030

93

Domaine d'Ouréa Vacqueyras

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 5% Cinsault, 5% Carignan; 14.2% £244.44 BBR (2011)

75% destemmed, aged for 18 months in concrete. A remarkably spicy nose considering there's no new oak, hints of cinnamon and spiced plum compote. Full-bodied, with gentle, pliable fruit and good vibrant acidity. Long finish. Adrien manages to convey the richness and fruitiness of Vacqueyras, but with restraint and elegance. Juicy, drinkable and precise. 2017-2023

93

Domaine Montirius Vacqueyras Le Clos

50% Grenache, 50% Syrah; 13.5% £204.96 BBR (2014)

Biodynamically farmed for 22 years. All destemmed, fermented and matured in concrete. An agreeable almost animal spiciness to the fruit here, the Syrah really makes itself known. Clean, bright, spicy fruit on the palate, and structured, long-grained tannins from the Syrah. Fairly tannic, lots to get your teeth into. 2018-2025

93

Domaine la Fourmone Gigondas Le Fauquet

60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre; 14.0% £131.04 NGW (2012)

Vinified in stainless steel, aged in concrete. Currently converting to organic practices. Wonderful lifted, spicy nose. Full, flowing, juicy raspberry fruit, with a spicy, textured, savoury finish. 2018-2022

93

Domaine Oratoire St Martin Cairanne Les Douyes

60% Grenache, 40% Syrah £159.48 BBR (2014)

100-year-old co-planted vines from a single vineyard, no destemming. Liquorice, plum and damson, very flowing but not too broad - it still has good definition thanks to the generous acidity and tannin. Long finish. Coating fruit and tannin. A particularly strong showing of this cuvée, which always feels like a little bit of Gigondas in Cairanne. 2017-2025

92

Domaine Alary Cairanne

65% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% Carignan £75.00 H2V

Dark berry fruits with a touch of crispy duck skin on the nose - pure and spicy. Lovely texture, with plenty of fresh, ripe tannin - but in no way overburdened - and a long, pure finish. Textbook stuff. 2017-2021

92

Domaine l'Ameillaud Cairanne Harmas

60% Grenache, 40% Syrah; 14.0% £? ARM?

Matured for 12 months in barriques, 20% new, 80% one use. Meatier and more arterial than their standard cuvée. Richer, more concentrated in fruit, but retains that crisp structure and sense of vibrancy. Long, tapered, finish. This has real harmony and purity - it seems to buzz with energy. Seek this out. 5,000 bottles. 2017-2023

92

Clos de Caveau Vacqueyras Fruit Sauvage

60% Grenache, 40% Syrah; 14.5% £124.94 VTR (2013)

Aged in concrete. Full-bodied and mouthcoating, this is a wonderful elixir of juicy damson, sloe and fine-grained, abundant tannin. Very fresh, very concentrated, very lively, no excess weight or alcohol - what contemporary Southern Rhône is all about. 2017-2021

92

Mas des Restanques Vacqueyras

25% Grenache, 75% Syrah; 14.4% £150.04 TFC (2013)

Organic, destemmed, aged 12 months in concrete. Discrete, lightly perfumed nose, then fairly expansive and mouthcoating on the palate. Robust tannic frame, but ripe and fairly fine in quality. A lively, textured, tannic and festive Vacqueyras. 2017-2022

92

Domaine du Cayron Gigondas

70% Grenache, 15% Cinsault, 14% Syrah, 1% Mourvèdre; 14.5% £156.00 L&W (2014)

No destemming, aged in foudres for at least 12 months. A distinctly herbal, earthy, almost truffler style. Full-bodied, with plentiful sous-bois character and soft, rich fruits. This has multiple aromatic registers, which bodes well for development. 2017-2024

92

Maxime-François Laurent Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Visan Orpiment

70% Grenache, 30% Syrah £124.00 H2V

Earthy raspberry and black cherry. Full, rich and packed full of concentrated juice. Very pure and straight, with bright inky fruit all the way to the finish. Good balancing acidity. Somehow fun and serious at the same time. 2017-2021

92

Domaine de Montvac Vacqueyras Variation

Majority Grenache; 14.0% £252.72 FMT (2013)

Parcel selection. Darker fruits than their Arabesque, with herbal hints - lavender and rosemary. A more mineral style, with lovely purity. 2017-2021

92

Château d'Aguéria Lirac

50% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 25% Mourvèdre; 14.5% £107.04 CKW (2014)

30% aged in oak, of which one quarter is new. Spicy red berry fruits can just about be coaxed out for now. Full-bodied, very concentrated in thick fruit and tannin. Seriously structured, no sign of oak due to the sheer weight of fruit. Long, savoury, dry finish. Straight, mineral style. 2018-2023

92

Domaine des Amadiou Cairanne Vieilles Vignes

50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre, 10% Carignan £124.54 SVS (2014)

Full-bodied, richly concentrated fresh juice, with remarkable intensity and length. Perfectly balanced acidity, fruit and alcohol, all in a crunchy tannic shell. Long finish. Lively and drinkable, but concentrated and full of bright fruit impact. Balance, harmony and finesse. 2017-2021

91

Domaine de la Tête Noire Vacqueyras La Clapière

50% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre; 14.0% £? ?

Medium-bodied, fresh and lively with zesty black fruits and a considerable load of crunchy tannin. Pretty long too. This wine uses the naturally generous concentration of fruit as a counterweight to nudge up the tannins to produce a wine of structure, fruit and balance. The alcohol is also just 14%. An impressive package from a good under-the-radar organic producer. 2018-2024

91

Domaine de la Charbonnière Vacqueyras Cuvée Spéciale

100% Grenache; 15.5% £? BBR?

First year working with consultant Philippe Cambie, and the first time they've used this newly acquired vineyard. 70% destemmed, fermented and aged in large oak. Very full, very rich with a decided *sucrosité* of strawberry fruit, this nonetheless has a good level of acidity and a surprising weight of fine, sandy tannins. The alcohol feels a little high, but it's impressive. 2017-2025

90

Domaine de l'Amauve Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret Laurances

75% Grenache, 25% Syrah; 14.5% £144.00 EAR? AWSP

A relaxed and inviting nose of woody herbs, lifted red fruits, plum with a savoury element. Medium-bodied, really fresh and lively, with great depth of ripe fruit and a piercing finish that really persists. A joyful wine that deserves greater recognition. 2017-2022

90

Domaine la Florane Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Visan Terre Pourpre

80% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre; 14.5% £100.00 ATL (2010)

400m altitude, very high for the region. No destemming, fermented in tronconic vat then aged for 18 months in foudre. Some aromatic complexity here, with a lovely expression of Mourvèdre coming through. Some prune and dark chocolate. Mouthcoating fruit and tannin, all very ripe and flowing. Acidity is just about high enough. Opulent stuff, but there are depths here to explore. 2017-2019

90

Domaine de Verquière Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Sablet

60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Cinsault, 10% Mourvèdre; 14.0% £120.00 BVN? AWSP

Organic. Lifted red fruits and damsons on the nose. Medium-bodied, juicy, with a real sense of lift and good finesse. Tannins are ripe and give welcome grain to the concentrated fruit. Verquière have raised their game. One to watch. 2017-2020

90

Domaine des Coteaux des Travers Rasteau Lou Montel

60% Grenache, 40% Carignan; 15.0% £? YAP?

Biodynamic. A new old vine cuvée from this domaine. Attractive lightly perfumed nose, with figs and flowers amongst the rich blackberry fruits. Expressive Carignan element. The structure is there; firmness and dryness behind the detailed fruit. Pliable tannins, acidity is on the low side but not flabby. A highly individual cuvée of considerable class that is well worth a look. 2,400 bottles. 2017-2021

90

Château Signac Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Chusclan Combe d'Enfer

60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Carignan, 10% Mourvèdre; 13.6% £? WDT?

Aromatically tighter and more herbal in style than their classic cuvée. Fuller in body, with a lovely roundness to the fruit. Juicy, fruity acids and grippy tannins. More ageworthy, less ebulliently drinkable. 2018-2021

90

Domaine Vallot - Le Coriançon Vinsobres

65% Grenache, 32% Syrah, 3% Mourvèdre; 14.5%

£134.94 WNY (2014)

Biodynamic. Very ripe, mulberry and damson. Full-bodied, dense and lush. Balanced levels of acidity, ripe tannin and fruit. Enjoyable now, but will get better with time. Harmonious, and the alcohol is in balance. 2017-2021

89

Domaine de l'Echevin Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Saint-Maurice Echevin

80% Syrah, 20% Grenache; 14.0% £99.48 TWS (2013)

400m altitude. Deep, dark, brooding fruits, but there is freshness within. Distinctly spicy, with a strong Syrah profile. Smooth, ripe, medium- to full-bodied, harmonious and satisfying. Well balanced. Fairly long finish. A convincing Saint-Maurice. 2017-2021

89

Domaine la Cabotte Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Massif d'Uchaux Garance

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre; 14.5% £108.00 CWW? AWSP

Biodynamic. Lifted nose with freshness and detail of raspberry and raspberry leaf. Medium- to full-bodied, with vibrant, juicy fruits. Lovely acidity, alcohol is a little high, but the quality is good. It's not overdone, it retains a fresh, drinkable side that delivers real pleasure. 2017-2020



Les Vignerons de Roquemaure Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Laudun Les Barryes

45% Grenache, 55% Syrah; 14.0% £74.54 WSS (2012)

Surprisingly full in body, this is densely packed with ripe black fruits and hints of dark chocolate. Juicy and well balanced, this is an excellent co-op that is at the top of its game. Intense and powerful but not without finesse. 2017-2020



Domaine de Mourchon Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret Tradition

65% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% Carignan; 14.0% £104.94 AVY (2013)

Bergamot, raspberry, raspberry leaf, leaf tea and dark chocolate. Full-bodied and generous in fruit. All very ripe, rounded and fulsome, but slightly lacking in freshness and structure. Could be a good value pick at this price. 2017-2019



Domaine de l'Espigouette Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Plan de Dieu

80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre; 14.5% £104.94 HFW (2013)

Fresh red berry fruits and herbs on the nose, this has a freshness that some other Plan de Dieus lack. Full-bodied, but with a sense of freshness and depth to the fruit. Overall this is very well made and well balanced, with lots to enjoy. 2017-2019

Top 40 Northern Rhône Whites

97

Domaine JL Chave Hermitage

Around 80% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne £1,597.00 FRW (2013)

20% new oak. A tasting of component lieu-dits (L'Ermite, Les Rocoules and Péléal) revealed a well-built, broad and sumptuous style of Hermitage Blanc from Chave this year. Les Rocoules and Péléal in particular showed a rich and almost oily body that will stand it in good stead for the long term. Though acidity isn't particularly high, other components such as the saltiness of L'Ermite, and the classic Marsanne bitter twang compensate, providing shape and structure. Great power and drive. 2023-2045

96

M. Chapoutier Hermitage De l'Orée

100% Marsanne £1,230.00 BIW

Lieu-dit Les Murets. Rich mango on the nose, rhubarb and a touch of celery. Very full-bodied and unctuous, very full and flowing; so well within the classic de l'Orée style, but this year it's even more opulent. Thankfully it also has good acidity, a little bitter twist and a mineral core that stop it from being flabby. On the edge of decency, as always, but this is a pure pleasure. 2018-2034

96

E. Guigal Condrieu Luminescence

100% Viognier; 14.5% £500.00 CAP (1999)

A rare, sweet Condrieu only made in exceptional years. Not actually a late harvest Condrieu as it was picked on 12th September, with a natural potential alcohol of 19% and no botrytis. Final alcohol is 14.5%, leaving 80 grams of residual sugar, with the fermentation stopping naturally. Remarkable copper colour. Powerful nose of mango, pineapple, honeysuckle. "More a Super Condrieu than a late harvest Condrieu" says Philippe Guigal. It's very rich in body, but with lovely balancing acidity, and yellow and green pear and a distinct nuttiness on the mid-palate. Long finish, no heaviness, totally opulent and delicious. Wonderful nectar. One third of the crop was stolen from the vine, so production is tiny. 2017-2035

95

Domaine André Perret Condrieu Côteau de Chery

100% Viognier £380.00 J&B

20% new oak. Pure perfumed apricot and a touch of flat peach. Slightly fuller and silkier than his Clos Chanson, with more concentration of fruit. Deep, yet fresh and piercing. Long finish. Beautifully balanced, combining fruit, acidity, oak and alcohol all in good measure. Very long finish. Always a joy. 2017-2021

95

E. Guigal Condrieu La Doriane

100% Viognier; 14.5% £652.00 FRW

Exceptionally, this was bottled later than the Classique. Fermented in 100% new oak, and the oak spice is certainly present, as is jasmine, yellow peach and ripe apricot - aromatic fireworks. Very rounded, with sweet fruit. It has an almost oily texture, but good acidity throughout to help balance it. It's not totally opulent; this has a firm, almost sharp underpinning mineral streak that keeps it fresh. 2017-2021

95

Domaine Marc Sorrel Hermitage Les Rocoules

95% Marsanne, 5% Roussanne; 14.5% £900.00 L&W

Lieu-dit Les Rocoules, 60-year-old vines yielding just 20hl/ha. Mango, honeycomb and deeply ingrained spice, very rich and full in the mouth. "I like it when it's very ripe," says Marc Sorrel, and this is, but still balanced. Will age well. 1,500 bottles. 2020-2040

95

Domaine C&JP Jamet Condrieu

100% Viognier; 14.0% £? BIB?

From 7- to 25-year-old vines on Côte Chatillon, no new oak. A lovely expression of Condrieu, between fruit and flowers, with a rich, silky palate and balanced acidity. Mild salinity on the finish contributes to a fresh impression. An incredibly strong effort considering this is their first shot at making Condrieu! 2017-2019

95

Domaine du Colombier Hermitage

100% Marsanne £490.00 J&B

70-year-old vines from lieu-dit Maison Blanche. Fairly closed at time of tasting, with some lime and yellow plum. Powerful on the palate, crystalline and stony. A rich style, but takes its richness and power from the fruit rather than oak, which serves to underline its inner freshness. 2018-2028

94

Cave Yves Cuilleron Condrieu Lieu-Dit Vernon

100% Viognier £? FAR?

Aged for 18 months in barriques, 50% new. A hint of copper to the colour here. Almond, jasmine and peach pit - a heady aroma. Very full in body, unctuous, almost indecent in texture. This has an intense, salty mineral streak running through it that prevents it becoming too heavy, despite the broad, estuarine flood of fruit of the mid-palate. Very long finish. Not just a wine: an experience. 2017-2030

94

Domaine B&D Duclaux Condrieu Les Caillets

100% Viognier; 14.0% £324.00 VTR? AWSP

Granite soils, 8 months in barrel, 10% new. Spiced lime and a hint of Szechuan pepper on the nose. Very full-bodied, but then after a long, flowing course, the wine ends up neat, thanks to balanced acidity. Very long, and aromatically detailed finish. Deft use of oak. 4,000 bottles. 2016-2020

94

Domaine Remi Niero Condrieu Chéry

100% Viognier; 14.7% £334.44 BBR (2012)

Lieu-dit Chéry, decomposed granite soils, matured for 10 months (40% in barrels, the rest in stainless steel). Pure peach, apricot and jasmine. Very full and rounded on the palate, but then it tightens up like a corset. Lovely apricot acidity on the finish keeps it neat. Long, impressive, very opulent, but with a lifted finish. 2016-2019

94

Domaine Pierre-Jean Villa Condrieu Jardin Suspendu

100% Viognier; 14.0% £330.00 SSW (2014)

Granite soils, 12 months in barrels of various sizes. Beautifully floral - honeysuckle and jasmine. Very full-bodied and rich. Fresh peach on the palate, with just enough acidity and structural bitterness to hold it up. Very long finish. 2016-2019

94

Domaine Fayolle Fils et Fille Hermitage Les Dionnières

100% Marsanne; 14.3% £384.00 TMH? AWSP

Lieu-dit Les Dionnières, fermented then aged for 10 months in barriques. Lime blossom, vanilla pod, fresh like mountain air. A very full and flowing Hermitage Blanc even from this typically lean domaine, but they have retained more acidity and bite than most. Plenty of oak spice, but it works well with the fruit and the overall style of the wine. Long, mineral finish. 900 bottles. 2017-2027

94

M. Chapoutier Hermitage Chante-Alouette

100% Marsanne; 13.5% £424.54 JIC

Lieux-dits Le Méal, Les Murets and Chante-Alouette, around 50% is aged in demi-muids, of which 10% are new. Vanilla pod and mango. Very full in body, this is more unctuous than usual; very opulent and fleshy. Long finish, that does somehow retain a sense of freshness and drinkability. It's hugely pleasurable; in 2015 it's one for those who seek the fuller, more opulent style of Hermitage Blanc. 2017-2025

94

Domaine Georges Vernay Condrieu Terrasses de l'Empire

100% Viognier; 13.5% £433.34 MIL

Matured for 8 months in wooden tanks and barriques. Jasmine, peach and some integral citrus that brings some welcome sobriety to proceedings. Fairly full-bodied with green almond flavour and some tannic grip on the finish that really holds everything together and provides some genuine structure. Very long finish, with more almond and peach. A touch of saltiness keeps things refreshing. Bodes well for their other wines (which, as usual, were not available to taste until bottling). 2017-2020

94

Domaine Remi Niero Condrieu Les Ravines

100% Viognier; 13.8% £289.44 BBR (2012)

Lieux-dits Roncharde, Côte Chatillon, La Caille, Vergelas and Corbéry, matured for 10 months (40% in barrels, the rest in stainless steel). Fresh fennel, almond and apricot. Very full-bodied, with huge concentration and then a long, fresh, savoury, dry finish. There is good use of oak here, which serves to frame the fruit, and give structure and length. Very good indeed. 2016-2020

94

Delas Frères Hermitage Domaine des Tourettes

100% Marsanne; 14.0% £341.74 MIL

Lieux-dits Les Bessards and Les Grandes Vignes. Lime blossom, orange blossom, green pear and white flowers - very pretty nose, without too much oak influence. Full-bodied, and flowing on the palate, with soft ripeness to the fruit and silk on the mid palate, giving a luxurious feel. Long finish, with grilled bread and roasted nuts. The acidity is a little low, but this is a really good effort from Delas this year, well-balanced and unctuous but still fresh. 2017-2025

93

Domaine de Bonserine Condrieu

100% Viognier £378.78 FMT (2014)

Lime blossom and jasmine. Very full and flowing, very rich in body. It retains some dryness and freshness however, and isn't in any way exaggerated. Long finish, with some citrus hints among the peach. A well balanced 2015 Condrieu. 2016-2019

93

Cave de Tain Hermitage Au Coeur des Siècles

100% Marsanne; 13.0% £336.00 FRW? AWSP

Don't underestimate this old vine cuvée (80-year-old vines) from Cave de Tain. Aged for 6 months in barriques, one third new. Almond, meringue, yellow plum and nectarine. Very rich, very full and flowing texture. Plenty of oak spice and a slightly silky, almost oily mouthfeel from the oak. A little bitter twist on the palate helps bring some freshening structure. Long finish. Distinctly opulent this year, but very good despite the low acidity; this will bring huge pleasure for years to come. 5,000 bottles. 2017-2027

93

Domaine Marc Sorrel Hermitage

100% Marsanne £600.00 BIW

Lieu-dit Les Greffieux, planted in the 1980s. Rich and powerful mango flavour and texture on the palate, with a light honeyed spice over the top. Fairly low acidity, but a mineral streak keeps it lively. Long finish. 2018-2025

93

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Condrieu L'Octroi

100% Viognier £300.00 H2V

Discrete almond and apricot aromas on the nose that follow through onto the palate. A lighter-weight style to many 2015 Condrieus; fresh, very drinkable, with no excess fat and balanced acidity. It's lighter in weight, but still very Condrieu. 2016-2019

93

E. Guigal Saint-Joseph Le Lieu-Dit

90% Marsanne, 10% Roussanne; 14.0% £362.04 BBR (2013)

Vinified 50% in new oak barriques, 50% in 2nd use, then spends nine months in them. All barrels at Guigal get a medium toast, long and slow, with a natural flame. Measured oak influence on the nose: peach, apricot, brioche. Rich mouthfeel, lush, silky, luxurious. Bright acidity, well balanced. Powerful style, run through with wood spice. Long finish.

2017-2023

93

Domaine Bernard Gripa Saint-Joseph Le Berceau

100% Marsanne; 14.5% £291.74 MIL

Granite soils, aged 12 months in oak. Pure almond nougat on the nose, yellow pear and peach. Very full-bodied, with sweet fruit and vanilla oak. There is still a sense of freshness, but this is a distinctly languorous and luxurious wine, with a long, silky, fleshy finish.

2017-2020

93

Domaine Clusel-Roch Condrieu Verchery

100% Viognier; 13.6% £370.00 J&B

Granite soils, natural yeasts, fermented then aged for 12 months in two-thirds barriques, one-third stainless steel. Lime blossom, with just a hint of struck match. Medium-bodied for a Condrieu, with a good sense of freshness, and a feather-light tannic structure that gives it length and refreshment value. 2,000 bottles. 2016-2019

93

Domaine Bernard Faurie Hermitage

100% Marsanne £636.00 J&B? AWSP

Bernard bottled two separate white Hermitages this year: lot number 119 was picked 5 days before lot number 120 (look for the numbers printed on the glass bottles). Both are relatively medium-bodied for the style, but deliciously drinkable, and neither is necessarily better than the other. The 119 has juicy yellow plums, bright acidity, good freshness and noble Marsanne bitterness. The 120 is a little richer and fuller, with marginally lower acidity but a little more unctuousity. 600 bottles in total. 2019-2027

93

Maison Nicolas Perrin Hermitage

50% Marsanne, 50% Roussanne; 13.0% £324.00 C&C (2013)

Aged for 10 months in demi-muids with a proportion of new oak. Almond, apricot and crème pâtissière with a lime blossom freshness over the top. Full-bodied, very rich in fruit, but with good balancing acidity. A fresh, eminently drinkable and well balanced Hermitage Blanc with some oak spice on the finish that gives further complexity and length. 3,000 bottles.

2017-2025

93

Domaine Pierre Gonon Saint-Joseph Les Oliviers

80% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne; 14.2% £375.04 NFL (2012)

40-year-old vines on the clay and loess-covered old alluvial deposits and granite of Les Oliviers lieu-dit, yielding a healthy 38 hl/ha. A fleshy style of white Saint-Joseph, still plenty of puppy fat and a slightly oily texture. Yellow flowers and stone fruit on the nose, with the texture of a fleshy peach. Even more opulent than usual this year. 2017-2025

93

Domaine Coursodon Saint-Joseph Le Paradis Saint Pierre

90% Marsanne, 10% Roussanne; 13.5% £272.54 CKW (2014)

High altitude granite soils, matured for 12 months in oak. Rich nose: honeycomb, vanilla, peach and pear. Wonderful intensity. Thin threads of spice run through the rich, broad, fleshy fruits. An opulent wine, fully luxurious and for all its slightly over-the-top ways, it's balanced. For fully paid-up Saint-Joseph Blanc lovers. 2017-2020

93

Domaine François Villard Condrieu Deponcins

100% Viognier; 14.0% £353.00 H2V

Matured for 11 months in oak, 35% new. Rich peach and some fresh herbs. Full in body, silky in texture, but has a vitality and freshness that is found in all of Villard's Condrieus. Long, bright finish - really vivid and lively for what is in general a very rich vintage. 2016-2019

93

Cave Yves Cuilleron Condrieu Les Chaillets

100% Viognier; 14.0% £350.00 FAR

Aged for 9 months in barriques, 15% new. More floral and slightly spicier than La Petite Côte thanks to the addition of 15% new oak. Very full and unctuous, concentrated. It's weighty, but there's refreshment value. Long finish. 2016-2019

93

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Saint-Joseph

100% Roussanne £160.00 H2V

Granite soils, aged for 6-8 months in old barriques. Neat and defined honeysuckle, anise, fresh pear. Medium- to full-bodied, with broad, juicy pear on the palate, and a sense of herbal freshness on the finish that gives lift. Long finish. A very drinkable style. A smart pick for 2015 in Saint-Joseph. 2016-2018

93

Domaine du Tunnel Saint-Péray Pur Blanc

100% Marsanne £443.34 HPW (2013)

100-year-old vines grown on granite. Very full-bodied, and full of plump, juicy pear, this is a bold wine, but somehow it stays fresh - it has a kind of inner vibrancy that keeps it balanced despite the fairly low acidity. The finish is exceptionally long. Oak use is balanced, there's certainly no excess, just textural silk and a touch of vanilla pod. It's a very polished, pure style that needs food, but it's undeniably impressive. 2016-2018

93

Domaine Bernard Grippa Saint-Péray Les Figuiers

40% Marsanne, 60% Roussanne; 14.0% £200.04 MIL

Granite soils, aged 12 months in oak. Fresh pear, fennel and almond, with subtle wood spice. Rounded, full-bodied, but fresh, with balanced acidity and good length - very long in fact, and all-round harmonious. This vintage has more opulence than the past few, but perhaps marginally less zip. 2016-2019

92

Domaine David Reynaud Crozes-Hermitage Aux Bêtises

60% Marsanne, 40% Roussanne; 13.0% £195.04 HPW (2014)

Two-thirds aged for 8 months in concrete eggs, the other third in barriques. Lime blossom and peppery mango. Full-bodied, with lush fruit and a soft finish. This retains a sense of freshness and is a hedonistic treat for now. 2016-2018

92

Domaine Marc Sorrel Crozes-Hermitage

50% Marsanne, 50% Roussanne £210.00 BIW

60-year-old vines grown on white Kaolin soils in Larnage. Aged for 12 months in old barriques. Ripe apricots, rich peach and pear flesh on the palate - remarkably intense, but good freshness too. Very good for the vintage. 2017-2022

92

Domaine Bernard Grippa Saint-Péray Les Pins

70% Marsanne, 30% Roussanne; 14.5% £150.04 MIL

Granite soils, 8 months aged in barriques and demi-muids. Apricot, vanilla, and some underlying citrus pith keeps things fresh. Full, soft style, mouthcoating flavour; pear and more vanilla. The silky oak is quite present, but the fresh wood adds to rather than subtracts from the whole. Medium length finish, plumply rounded but not fat. 2016-2018

92

Domaine du Tunnel Saint-Péray Cuvée Prestige

Marsanne, Roussanne £198.00 L&W (2014)

Granitic soils. A full-bodied blend that shows off both varieties to their best advantage. Very rich, full and luxuriant with plenty of fleshy texture and a very long, concentrated finish. A powerful wine that would need the right food to set it off. 2016-2018

92

Domaine Fayolle Fils et Fille Saint-Péray Montis

100% Marsanne; 13.5% £? TMH?

Gently perfumed style, with some yellow pear and underlying macadamia nut. Relatively light-bodied, style, very fresh for the vintage, but no lack of concentration. An elegant, well balanced Saint-Péray. 2016-2018

92

Domaine Christophe Pichon Saint-Joseph

£216.00 BBR? AWSP

Indian spices among the rich fruits. There is better freshness here than in many, and good length of fruit. Pure and rich. 2016-2018

91

Paul Jaboulet Aîné Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Roure

100% Marsanne; 14.0% £300.00 BIB? AWSP

2.5 hectare plot on south-facing white soils, aged in oak barrels (15% new), stainless steel tanks and concrete eggs for 7-9 months. Apricot and honeycomb. Broad on the palate, but there is a sense of freshness here, and good length of fruit. The oak is well integrated, and delivers subtle spice complexity and length. Well judged. 2017-2019

Top 25 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Whites

97

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape Roussanne Vieilles Vignes

100% Roussanne; 14.0% £880.00 J&B

100+-year-old Roussanne giving very small yields and harvested 2 weeks after the younger vines. Really powerful, this jumps out of the glass. Richly honeyed pear, with mango, honeycomb and some floral hints - honeysuckle. Very full and rounded, with perilously low but effectively balanced acidity. Alcohol also appears in balance. Long, rich, a good vintage all round for this cuvée. 2017-2035

96

Château Rayas Châteauneuf-du-Pape

50% Grenache Blanc, 50% Clairette £2,064.00 CRS (2005)

Full-bodied, firm, intense in texture and mineral drive. It has a freshness derived more from energy and salinity than acidity. Long, powerful wine with plenty of rich apricot and peach, but it's more notable for its structure than its fruit. It makes a strong physical impression. 2018-2033

96

Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Equal parts Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette, Bourboulenc, Picpoul, Picardan £396.00 L&W

Various plots around the appellation, farmed organically, all varieties co-fermented. Pear, anise and honeysuckle. Quite a rich, fat Clos des Papes Blanc, but with good freshness. It's full but not massive, with real texture and drive. Concentrated, mealy, ever so slightly tannic and very well balanced. 2017-2032

95

Domaine de Beurenard Châteauneuf-du-Pape Boisrenard

11% Bourboulenc, 42% Clairette, 1% Clairette Rose, 10% Grenache Blanc, 1% Grenache Gris, 1% Picardan, 1% Picpoul Blanc, 1% Picpoul Gris, 32% Roussanne; 14.0% £474.96 JIC (2014)

Biodynamic, fermented and aged in foudres and old barriques. Reminiscent of rhubarb on the nose for now, but will no doubt open out. Full but not overly so, with good acidity and minerality to keep things flying. This has incredible energy, and displays just what the fruit of this region can do. A seriously good wine. 4,800 bottles. 2017 -2033

95

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige

15% Clairette, 15% Grenache Blanc, 70% Roussanne; 14.0% £756.00 LAS (2014)

Grown on sand, 20% fermented and aged in new oak barriques. Broad, lush, vanilla and woodspice on the nose - there is more oak influence than the Tradition bottling but it works well, giving a sense of richness rather than woodiness. Full-bodied this time, with ample piercing acidity. A very rich wine, but one with the requisite structure, acidity and freshness to keep it drinkable. 900 bottles. 2017-2030

94

Domaine Les Cailloux Châteauneuf-du-Pape

20% Grenache Blanc, 80% Roussanne; 13.5% £372.00 GAU? AWSP

Fermented and aged for 8 months in concrete. Citrus pith and fleur du sel on the nose. Very rich, very broad in body, but the citrus flavour, citrus acidity and saline minerality bring a sense of order on the finish. Long, harmonious and balanced - pure luxury. 2017-2028

94

Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Clos du Belvédère

100% Grenache Blanc; 14.5% £516.00 L&W? AWSP

Fermented and aged in old barriques. The nose is quite contained, with just some hints of florality and spice for now. It's full-bodied, with real intense vibrancy and drive on the palate. Generous puppy fat to start with, but then the acidity and mineral dimension work together to tighten up the palate, ending dry and snappy. 2,000 bottles. 2017-2030

94

Domaine Raymond Usseglio et Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pure Roussanne

100% Roussanne £404.00 FRW

Very powerful, deep pear, nectarine and liquorice. Super-rich, fat, exotic. This is almost like a sweet wine in texture, but then finishes dry and pure. Absurd and amazing in equal measure; some will find this simply too much, particularly with the unapologetically robust use of new oak. This is a wine that will divide people. But with the right food, this will sing and will surely make for memorable drinking. 2017-2035

94

Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape

65% Roussanne, 25% Clairette and Grenache Blanc, 10% Bourboulenc; 14.0% £335.00 H2V

Western exposure. Fermented in stainless steel and second use demi-muids, no malo. Attractive pear and fennel nose. Medium-bodied, dry, with an agreeably, slightly grainy texture in the mouth. Very good balance and freshness. Another successful white from Marcoux this year. 2018-2025

93

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape

10% Bourboulenc, 40% Clairette, 25% Grenache Blanc, 25% Roussanne; 13.5% £375.00 J&B (2014)

10% fermented then aged for 10 months in new barriques; the rest in old oak barrels of various sizes. Lime blossom, lime skin and quinine on the nose, then a broad softness on the palate and flavours of poached pear. The finish is long and detailed, with a touch of caramel and cream, dry, with a fine texture. Best white Vieux Télégraphe in years. 2017-2028

93

Domaine Pierre Usseglio Châteauneuf-du-Pape

5% Bourboulenc, 80% Clairette, 15% Grenache Blanc; 14.0% £247.00 DAW (2012)

Fermented in stainless steel, 25% aged in new oak barriques for 6 months. Crème pâtissière on the nose. Very rounded, with pear and a touch of ripe pineapple on the palate. It has the texture to keep things lively. Oak use is well-judged. Saline finish. This is a brilliant wine, from a domaine that knows exactly what it's doing: opulence, elegance, drinkability. 2017-2025

93

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Tradition

20% Clairette, 60% Grenache Blanc, 20% Roussanne; 14.5% £370.00 CAP

Grown on sand, fermented in concrete, 10% is aged in new oak barriques. The clarity, definition and vibrancy of the aromas make this a joy to inhale. Rich and juicy on the palate, but only medium-bodied, which makes for a very drinkable style. Straighter in profile than many other wines of this vintage, but no lack of fruit. Very long finish. 3,000 bottles. 2017-2025

93

Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape

11% Bourboulenc, 16% Clairette, 42% Grenache Blanc, 31% Roussanne; 13.5% £250.04 MIL

Organic, no new oak. Peach, pineapple and honeycomb oak. Very rich, but the acidity is bright enough to hold it together. Undoubtedly a well-made and well-proportioned wine, but one cut to an XL pattern. Not however without elegance, and it has good length of flavour. 2017-2025

93

Domaine de Beurenard Châteauneuf-du-Pape

25% Bourboulenc, 30% Clairette, 20% Grenache Blanc, 1% Picardan, 2% Picpoul Blanc, 22% Roussanne; 14.0% £262.00 FRW

Biodynamic. 3% fermented and aged in new oak. Powerful nose of orange and lemon pith and honeysuckle. Very full, but this has bags of energy on the palate that help bring it to life. Sublimely fresh, successful wine. 2017-2021

93

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Roussanne, 20% others; 14.0% £450.00 J&B

30% fermented in oak, 70% in stainless steel; 25% aged in new oak. Vibrant fruits, lime blossom, almond, oak quite evident still but should integrate nicely. Lush, fat, opulent sweet fruit. Alcohol a little high, acidity a little low, but this really makes an impression for the opulent lushness and sheer weight of ebullient fruit. Perhaps just lacks a little crispness and cut, but the oak level is well judged, and overall this will make for very pleasurable drinking. 2017-2022

92

Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Renaissance

15% Bourboulenc, 20% Clairette, 30% Grenache Blanc, 35% Roussanne; 13.5% £206.00 C&C

Fermented and aged in tronconic vats. Rich aromatics. It's broad on the palate in this vintage, but still manages to refresh thanks to the mineral grain on the very long finish. Good energy and balance. 2017-2020

92

Domaine du Banneret Châteauneuf-du-Pape Secret

5% Bourboulenc, 40% Clairette, 40% Grenache Blanc, 5% Picardan, 10% Roussanne; 13.5% £? WNY?

First vintage for this cuvee, from the limestone lieu-dit Terres Blanches. Fermented in stainless steel, 15% aged for 6 months in new oak barriques. Restrained macadamia nut and a touch of citrus on the nose. Full-bodied, very broad, but then tightens up with good acidity and a bright mineral seam. Long finish. The oak here is well integrated. It retains a sense of elegance despite the challenging vintage for whites. 1,200 bottles. 2017-2024

92

Domaine Font de Michelle Châteauneuf-du-Pape

30% Grenache Blanc, 30% Clairette, 30% Roussanne, 10% Bourboulenc £231.09 CKW (2011)

A dry and restrained example, with good acidity, line and cut. Fennel and pear on the nose, medium-bodied on the palate; highly drinkable. Elegant and refreshing. 2017-2020

92

Château de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape

40% Grenache Blanc, 60% Roussanne; 14.5% £246.00 L&W (2014)

Red apple and fennel. Good integral freshness here - good firm acids, and it veers towards a noble bitterness on the finish. Long too. The oak is certainly discernible, but it works well as a package, and is nicely integrated. Good length. 2017-2020

92

Domaine Roger Perrin Châteauneuf-du-Pape

3% Bourboulenc, 20% Clairette, 50% Grenache Blanc, 7% Picardan, 20% Roussanne; 14.5% £204.54 SVS (2014)

20% fermented and aged for 10 months in new oak barriques, the rest in stainless steel. Broad but fresh, with good acidity and a long finish. Pear, spiced apple compote, vanilla and a touch of wood spice. Vibrant finish. 2017-2020

91

Château Beauchêne Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vignobles de la Serrière

30% Bourboulenc, 20% Clairette, 20% Grenache Blanc, 30% Roussanne; 13.5%
£230.04 YRS

Fermented then aged in stainless steel for 5 months. Very drinkable, well made. Good length and intensity to the fruit; pear, peach, some fennel. Medium-bodied, with good balance. Elegant and refreshing. 2,985 bottles. 2017-2022

91

Domaine Patrice Magni Châteauneuf-du-Pape

30% Clairette, 50% Grenache Blanc, 20% Roussanne; 13.5% £228.00 SVS? AWSP

Fermented then aged in stainless steel. Lightness and florality on the nose. Elegant on the palate, with a fresh, saline finish. A really drinkable, transparent Châteauneuf blanc with no oak. 3,000 bottles. 2017-2020

91

Domaine Durieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape

£396.00 ? AWSP

Lime and pear. Full-bodied, with a touch of caramel on the finish. Pretty vibrant, with a crystalline dry finish. Good energy here; mineral and precise. 2017-2024

91

Domaine Giraud Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Gallimardes

£360.00 GAU? AWSP

Full and rich, but not overly so, with a pleasing integral citrus burst. Very drinkable, quite modern style, but not overburdened by oak. 2017-2020

91

Domaine Berthet-Rayne Châteauneuf-du-Pape

40% Bourboulenc, 30% Clairette, 10% Clairette Rose, 10% Grenache Blanc, 10% Roussanne;
14.5% £288.00 CAS? AWSP

Organic, fermented then also aged for 5 months in concrete. Grapefruit pith on the nose and the palate, lime blossom too. This has a pleasing bitterness that keeps it all fresh and snappy. 2017-2020

Top 15 Other Côtes-du-Rhône Whites

94

Domaine Gourt de Mautens IGP Vaucluse

Grenache Blanc, Grenache Gris, Clairette, Bourboulenc, Picardan, Piquepoul Blanc, Piquepoul Gris, Marsanne, Roussanne, Viognier £350.04 HIC (2012)

No sulphur or yeast added, fermented in old demi-muid and foudre, bottled unfiltered. Some fresh bread yeast aromas, preserved lemons and marine hints. Full and broad in body but it tingles with pinpoint acidity and has a crystalline internal structure. Long, rich, powerful and fresh. Impressive stuff. 2018-2025

93

Château de Fonsalette Côtes-du-Rhône

87% Grenache Blanc, 8% Clairette, 5% Marsanne £960.00 C&C (2006)

Peaches, cream, grilled almonds. Medium-bodied but there's lush texture to the wine, and no lack of acidity or freshness. The slightly oiliness is matched by a real mineral brightness. Good weight of fruit, with a herbal finish. 2017-2021

93

Domaine Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras Un Sang Blanc

Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Marsanne, Bourboulenc, Viognier, Clairette; 13.5% £263.04 BBR (2013)

Two hectare plot, field blend. Citrus pith and white flowers, real verve and vivacity. Ample acidity and fine minerality contribute to a long, balanced wine, with no aromatic oak influence. Just lovely. 2017-2021

93

Domaine de la Mordorée Tavel La Reine des Bois

60% Grenache, 15% Clairette, 15% Syrah, 10% Cinsault; 14.5% £150.04 MIL

Lieu-dit Vallongue, hand harvested, certified organic. Herbal elements stand equal with red berry fruits. Some almond too. Very full-bodied, with noticeable alcohol. Real intensity and drive though, this has massive fruit and serious concentration. The finish is long and mouthwatering. The idea of a powerful, muscular rosé might not appeal to everyone, but the wines of Tavel can be genuinely amazing, and need to be tasted to be believed. 2017-2021

92

Domaine des Amadiou Cairanne Haut de Beaugard

14.0% £? SVS?

Biodynamic, vinified and matured in large oak barrels. Rounded and juicy, but plenty of citrus bite and flavour. Full-bodied, full of energy, beautifully harmonious and well balanced. Some herbal flecks add to the sense of freshness. Decidedly moreish. 2017-2020

92

Domaine Oratoire St Martin Cairanne Haut Coustias

40% Clairette, 20% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc; 14.0% £154.44 BBR (2013)

65-year-old vines, farmed biodynamically, bottled without fining or filtration. Yellow plums, sage and nectarine. Full-bodied, plenty of intense depth of flavour but full of drive and length of fruit - very long. Creamy on the palate, juicy and fleshy, but there is throughout a sense of freshness and life. 2017-2020

92

Château d'Aquéria Tavel

45% Grenache, 20% Clairette, 15% Cinsault, 8% Mourvèdre, 6% Syrah, 4% Bourboulenc, 2% Piquepoul; 14.0% £134.16 JIC

Cherry pink, cherry blossom aromatics. Very full-bodied. The acidity is just a touch on the low side, but the sheer drive of fruit is so impressive. Cherry, redcurrant, blackcurrant; really intense on the palate - firm, rather than fresh. A beguiling vintage. 2017-2019

91

Domaine Maby Tavel Prima Donna

55% Grenache Noir, 45% Cinsault; 14.5% £99.48 TWS

Very full-bodied for a rosé, with real intensity and concentration of red and even some hints of black fruit. It makes quite an impression on the palate, with its glittering acidity and minerality. Long finish. Aromatically this is quite discrete currently, but it has huge drive and torque on the palate. The alcohol is high, but the wine is in balance. This has remarkable presence for a rosé. 2017-2020

91

Domaine de Montvac Vacqueyras Melodine

Clairette, Roussanne, Bourboulenc, Viognier; 14.0% £180.00 ENO? AWSP

Organic, co-planted varieties, natural yeasts, no additions. Vinified and aged in demi-muids, 10-15% new. Fresh cut pear; very pretty, discrete nose. A touch of aniseed on the palate brings freshness to a subtle, pretty and very drinkable white Vacqueyras with some mineral hints on the finish. 2017-2019

91

Domaine des Bernardins Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise

75% Muscat à Petits Grains Blanc, 25% Muscat à Petits Grains Rouge; 15.0% £155.04 WWW (2013)

Matured in stainless steel for 6-8 months, 110g/l residual sugar. Copper coloured. Deep, buried aromas of peach, pear, lemon, bitter orange and baking spices. Extremely full-bodied. Very harmonious, sweet but with piercing acidity and a long finish. Only just enough acidity to see this through for a few years, but in the meantime it's an opulent treat. 2017-2021

90

Domaine d'Ouréa Vacqueyras

80% Clairette, 20% Bourboulenc £? BBR?

Spends 12 months in 1-year-old barriques, no malo. 0.3 hectares planted in 2011, east-facing yellow marne all worked by horse. Yellow flowers, almond and marzipan with a touch of oak on the palate that works well. Lime acidity and a dab of honey flavour on the powerful finish. 2017-2019

90

Domaine Lafond Roc-Epine Lirac

50% Grenache Blanc, 30% Roussanne, 20% Viognier; 14.0% £95.04 N&P

Organic. Blossom and citrus aromatics, medium-bodied, with balanced acidity and good length of fruit. It has a good sense of freshness, and has managed to dodge the heaviness that has dogged many white wines in 2015 - very well judged. 2017-2019

90

Domaine de l'Amauve Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret La Daurèle

42% Grenache Blanc, 28% Clairette, 18% Viognier, 12% Ugni Blanc; 13.5% £179.40 EAR (2014)

15% new oak barriques for 7 months. Lovely lifted lime blossom nose. Bright, juicy, detailed. The acidity is just balanced, and this has real concentration of fruit alongside good structure and a slight oiliness to the texture. A serious wine. 2017-2018

90

Domaine Saint Amant Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages La Tabardonne

90% Viognier, 10% Roussanne; 14.0% £124.94 WTC (2012)

Vines grown at 450m altitude, fermented in two-year-old French barriques. Lovely lifted aromas of spiced, poached peach. The oak sets the fruit off to perfection. Medium-bodied, with ample freshening acidity, a good sense of purity and well-defined flavours. Really drinkable; a bright diamond in a less than glittering year for whites. 2017-2018



**Laudun Chuselan Vignerons Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Laudun
Elements – Luna**

Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne, Viognier; 13.5% £? ENO?

Citrus pith on the nose, then medium-bodied and lively in the mouth. It's well balanced, very drinkable in a year that has not been kind to white wines. This has keen, sharp acidity to cut through any excess fat, and is very successful for the vintage. A well respected cave co-operative with an eye on quality. Likely to offer good value. 2017-2018

Top 10s



TOP TEN PRODUCERS TO WATCH

1. Domaine B&D Duclaux, Côte-Rôtie
2. Domaine Guy Farge, Saint-Joseph
3. Domaine de l'Amauve, Séguret
4. Domaine Alary, Cairanne
5. Domaine l'Ameillaud, Cairanne
6. Domaine Betton, Crozes-Hermitage
7. Domaine André Mathieu, Châteauneuf-du-Pape
8. Domaine Gaylord Machon, Crozes-Hermitage
9. Domaine de Verquière, Sablet
10. J. Denuzière, négociant



TOP TEN VALUE REDS

1. Domaine Alary Cairanne
2. Domaine Equis Crozes-Hermitage 'Equinoxe'
3. Domaine des Bernardins Beaumes-de-Venise
4. Domaine Vincent Paris Cornas 'Granit 60'
5. Domaine Moulin de la Gardette Gigondas 'Ventabren'
6. Château de Montfaucon Lirac 'Baron Louis'
7. Domaine Jean-Claude Marsanne Saint-Joseph
8. Domaine Raspail-Ay Gigondas
9. Domaine Le Couroulu Vacqueyras 'Vieilles Vignes'
10. Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'Réserve'



TOP TEN VALUE WHITES AND ROSÉS

1. Domaine Lafond Roc-Epine Lirac Blanc
2. Domaine Maby Tavel 'Prima Donna'
3. Domaine Saint Amant Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Blanc 'La Tabardonne'
4. Château d'Aquéria Tavel
5. Domaine Bernard Grippa Saint-Péray 'Les Pins'
6. Domaine Oratoire St Martin Cairanne Blanc 'Haut Coustias'
7. Domaine des Bernardins Muscat de Beaufort-de-Venise
8. Domaine Pierre Gaillard Saint-Joseph Blanc
9. Domaine de la Mordorée Tavel 'La Reine des Bois'
10. Domaine Bernard Grippa Saint-Péray 'Les Figuiers'

Complete scores A-Z

SHORT NAME	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	12 X 75CL IN BOND	FOR WHICH VINTAGE?	RETAILER
Abbé Dine	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	91	£225.04	2014	RWC
Alary	Cairanne	La Jean de Verde	Rouge	93	£122.00	2015	H2V
Alary	Cairanne		Rouge	92	£75.00	2015	H2V
Aléofane	Saint-Joseph		Rouge	94	£180.00	2015	SEC
Aléofane	Crozes-Hermitage		Rouge	93	£163.54	2011	EWM
Amadiou	Cairanne	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	92	£124.54	2014	SVS
Amadiou	Cairanne	Haut de Beaugard	Blanc	92	?	?	SVS?
Amauve	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret	Laurances	Rouge	90	£144.00	AWSP	EAR?
Amauve	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret	La Daurèle	Blanc	90	£179.40	2014	EAR
Ameillaud	Cairanne	Harmas	Rouge	92	?	?	ARM?
Aquéria	Lirac		Rouge	92	£107.04	2014	CKW
Aquéria	Tavel		Rosé	92	£134.16	2015	JIC
Banneret	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	93	£434.94	2013	WNY
Banneret	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Secret	Blanc	92	?	?	WNY?
Barge, Gilles	Côte-Rôtie	Côte Brune	Rouge	96	£317.80	2013	CKW
Barge, Gilles	Côte-Rôtie	Côte Blonde	Rouge	95	£355.04	2012	AVY
Barge, Gilles	Saint-Joseph	Clos des Martinets	Rouge	92	£288.00	AWSP	SSW?
Barroche	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Pure	Rouge	95	£680.00	2015	J&B
Barroche	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Signature	Rouge	93	£320.00	2015	J&B
Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Hommage à Jacques Perrin	Rouge	98	£2,450.04	2014	BIW
Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	95	£450.00	2015	J&B
Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Roussanne Vieilles Vignes	Blanc	97	£880.00	2015	J&B
Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	93	£450.00	2015	J&B
Beauchêne	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vignobles de la Serrière	Rouge	92	£182.54	2009	PRC
Beauchêne	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vignobles de la Serrière	Blanc	91	£230.04	2015	YRS
Beaurenard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Boisrenard	Rouge	96	£420.00	2015	FRW
Beaurenard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	93	£260.00	2014	FRW
Beaurenard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Boisrenard	Blanc	95	£474.96	2014	JIC
Beaurenard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	93	£262.00	2015	FRW
Bernardins	Beaumes-de-Venise		Rouge	94	£132.00	AWSP	TMH?
Bernardins	Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise		Blanc	91	£155.04	2013	WWW
Berthet-Rayne	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	91	£288.00	AWSP	CAS?
Betton	Crozes-Hermitage	Caprice	Rouge	92	£160.04	2015	TOW
Bois Pointu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	£430.00	2015	J&B
Bonserine	Côte-Rôtie	La Sarrasine	Rouge	93	£396.24	2012	FMT
Bonserine	Condrieu		Blanc	93	£378.78	2014	FMT
Bosquets	Gigondas	Le Lieu Dit	Rouge	96	£305.04	2011	JIC
Bosquets	Gigondas	La Colline	Rouge	96	£468.00	?	LIB?
Bosquets des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Chante Le Merle - Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	92	£363.00	2015	H2Vin

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SHORT NAME	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	12 X 75 CL IN BOND	FOR WHICH VINTAGE?	RETAILER
Brusset	Gigondas	Les Secrets de Montmirail	Rouge	96	£456.00	AWSP	ENO?
Cabotte	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Massif d'Uchaux	Garance	Rouge	89	£108.00	AWSP	CWW?
Cailloux	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	£310.80	2012	TDS
Cailloux	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	94	£372.00	AWSP	GAU?
Cave de Clairmont	Crozes-Hermitage	Immanence	Rouge	92	£240.00	AWSP	TAN?
Cave de Tain	Hermitage	Grand Classique	Rouge	93	£244.94	2011	WTC
Cave de Tain	Hermitage	Au Coeur des Siècles	Blanc	93	£336.00	AWSP	FRW?
Cayron	Gigondas		Rouge	92	£156.00	2014	L&W
Chante Cigale	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	95	£330.04	2013	HWW
Chante Cigale	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	£245.04	2013	JIC
Chapoutier	Hermitage	Le Pavillon	Rouge	99	£1,899.96	2015	BIW
Chapoutier	Saint-Joseph	Les Granits	Rouge	95	£400.00	2015	LAS
Chapoutier	Hermitage	De l'Orée	Blanc	96	£1,230.00	2015	BIW
Chapoutier	Hermitage	Chante-Alouette	Blanc	94	£424.54	2015	JIC
Charbonnière	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	94	£371.04	2013	BBR
Charbonnière	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Mourre des Perdrix	Rouge	93	£335.04	2013	BBR
Charbonnière	Vacqueyras	Cuvée Spéciale	Rouge	91	?	?	BBR?
Charvin	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	94	£338.00	2013	FRW
Chave, Jean Louis	Hermitage		Rouge	99	£1,876.00	2013	FRW
Chave, Jean Louis	Saint-Joseph	Le Clos	Rouge	95	?	?	YAP?
Chave, Jean Louis	Saint-Joseph	Bachasson	Rouge	95	?	?	YAP?
Chave, Jean Louis	Hermitage		Blanc	97	£1,597.00	2013	FRW
Chave, Yann	Hermitage		Rouge	96	£459.00	2013	C&C
Chave, Yann	Crozes-Hermitage	Le Rouvre	Rouge	93	£177.00	2014	C&C
Clape	Cornas		Rouge	97	£690.00	2013	LAS
Clos de Caveau	Vacqueyras	Fruit Sauvage	Rouge	92	£124.94	2013	VTR
Clos des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	97	£552.00	2015	L&W
Clos des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	96	£396.00	2015	L&W
Clos du Caillou	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Quartz	Rouge	93	£455.00	2015	H2V
Clusel-Roch	Côte-Rôtie	Les Grandes Places	Rouge	95	£695.00	2015	J&B
Clusel-Roch	Côte-Rôtie	Classique	Rouge	94	£365.00	2015	J&B
Clusel-Roch	Condrieu	Verchery	Blanc	93	£370.00	2015	J&B
Colombier	Hermitage		Rouge	96	£475.00	2015	J&B
Colombier	Crozes-Hermitage	Cuvée Gaby	Rouge	93	£185.00	2015	J&B
Colombier	Hermitage		Blanc	95	£490.00	2015	J&B
Comber	Crozes-Hermitage	Laurent Comber	Rouge	92	£192.48	2015	FMT
Coteaux des Travers	Rasteau	Lou Montel	Rouge	90	?	?	YAP?
Coulet	Cornas	Gore	Rouge	95	£1,200.00	2015	J&B
Couroulu	Vacqueyras	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	94	£170.04	2012	SVS
Coursodon	Saint-Joseph	Le Paradis Saint Pierre	Rouge	94	£367.54	2014	CKW
Coursodon	Saint-Joseph	Le Paradis Saint Pierre	Blanc	93	£272.54	2014	CKW
Cuilleron, Yves	Condrieu	Lieu-Dit Vernon	Blanc	94	?	?	FAR?
Cuilleron, Yves	Condrieu	Les Chaillets	Blanc	93	£350.00	2015	FAR
Darnaud, Emmanuel	Saint-Joseph		Rouge	92	£290.04	2013	BBR
Delas	Hermitage	Les Bessards	Rouge	98	£1,040.00	2013	CRS
Delas	Côte-Rôtie	La Landonne	Rouge	97	£1,932.00	2013	FRW
Delas	Cornas	Chante Perdrix	Rouge	95	£240.00	2013	CRS
Delas	Crozes-Hermitage	Domaine des Grands Chemins	Rouge	92	£150.04	2013	MIL
Delas	Hermitage	Domaine des Tourettes	Blanc	94	£341.74	2015	MIL

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SHORT NAME	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	12 X 75 CL IN BOND	FOR WHICH VINTAGE?	RETAILER
Denuzière	Hermitage		Rouge	92	£282.84	2010	AMZ
Duclaux, B&D	Côte-Rôtie	Maison Rouge	Rouge	97	£494.54	2009	TAW
Duclaux, B&D	Côte-Rôtie	La Germiné	Rouge	96	£390.00	2013	TWS
Duclaux, B&D	Condrieu	Les Caillets	Blanc	94	£324.00	AWSP	VTR?
Dumien-Serrette	Cornas	Patou	Rouge	95	£275.00	2012	C&C
Durand	Cornas	Empreintes	Rouge	93	£271.44	2013	BBR
Durieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	91	£396.00	AWSP	?
Echevin	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Saint-Maurice	Echevin	Rouge	89	£99.48	2013	TWS
Equis	Crozes-Hermitage	Equinoxé	Rouge	92	£101.00	2015	H2V
Espigouette	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Plan de Dieu		Rouge	89	£104.94	2013	HFV
Farge, Guy	Saint-Joseph	Passion de Terraces	Rouge	94	£252.00	AWSP	GWV?
Faurie, Bernard	Hermitage	Les Bessards	Rouge	97	?	?	J&B?
Faurie, Bernard	Hermitage		Rouge	95	£450.00	2014	L&W
Faurie, Bernard	Hermitage		Blanc	93	£636.00	AWSP	J&B?
Fayolle Fils et Fille	Hermitage	Les Dionnières	Rouge	95	£552.00	AWSP	TMH?
Fayolle Fils et Fille	Hermitage	Les Dionnières	Blanc	94	£384.00	AWSP	TMH?
Fayolle Fils et Fille	Saint-Péray	Montis	Blanc	92	?	?	TMH?
Fayolle, JC&N	Hermitage	Les Dionnières	Rouge	95	?	?	?
Ferraton	Hermitage	Les Dionnières	Rouge	94	£480.00	2015	MIL
Florane	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Visan	Terre Pourpre	Rouge	90	£100.00	2010	ATL
Fonsalette	Côtes-du-Rhône		Rouge	96	£980.00	2009	WIN
Fonsalette	Côtes-du-Rhône		Blanc	93	£960.00	2006	C&C
Font de Michelle	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée Etienne Gonnet	Rouge	94	£400.00	2012	GDH
Font de Michelle	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	£231.09	2011	CKW
Fourmone	Gigondas	Le Fauquet	Rouge	93	£131.04	2012	NGW
Gaillard, Pierre	Côte-Rôtie	Rose Pourpre	Rouge	95	£600.00	2015	H2V
Gaillard, Pierre	Côte-Rôtie	Esprit de Blonde	Rouge	94	£492.00	AWSP	FRV?
Gaillard, Pierre	Saint-Joseph	Les Pierres	Rouge	93	£235.00	2015	H2V
Gaillard, Pierre	Saint-Joseph	Clos de Cuminaille	Rouge	93	£165.00	2015	H2V
Gaillard, Pierre	Condrieu	L'Octroi	Blanc	93	£300.00	2015	H2V
Gaillard, Pierre	Saint-Joseph		Blanc	93	£160.00	2015	H2V
Giraud	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Gallimardes	Blanc	91	£360.00	AWSP	GAU?
Gonnet, Guillaume	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Bel Ami	Rouge	92	£294.03	2013	FMT
Gonon, Pierre	Saint-Joseph		Rouge	95	£414.00	2012	HED
Gonon, Pierre	Saint-Joseph	Les Oliviers	Blanc	93	£375.04	2012	NFL
Gourt de Mautens	IGP Vacluse		Rouge	97	£341.74	2012	MIL
Gourt de Mautens	IGP Vacluse		Blanc	94	£350.04	2012	HIC
Gramenon	Côtes-du-Rhône	La Mémé	Rouge	95	£269.80	2015	CKW
Grand Veneur	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	94	£499.00	2015	H2V
Grapillon d'Or	Gigondas	1806	Rouge	93	£149.00	2014	C&C
Gripa, Bernard	Saint-Joseph	Le Berceau	Blanc	93	£291.74	2015	MIL
Gripa, Bernard	Saint-Péray	Les Figuiers	Blanc	93	£200.04	2015	MIL
Gripa, Bernard	Saint-Péray	Les Pins	Blanc	92	£150.04	2015	MIL
Guigal	Côte-Rôtie	La Landonne	Rouge	99	£2,160.00	2012	L&W
Guigal	Côte-Rôtie	La Turque	Rouge	98	£1,920.00	2012	L&W
Guigal	Côte-Rôtie	La Mouilne	Rouge	98	£2,040.00	2012	L&W
Guigal	Saint-Joseph	Le Lieu-Dit	Rouge	93	£250.04	2013	MIL
Guigal	Condrieu	Luminescence	Blanc	95	£500.00	1999	CAP
Guigal	Condrieu	La Doriane	Blanc	95	£652.00	2015	FRV

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Guigal	Saint-Joseph	Le Lieu-Dit	Blanc	93	£362.04	2013	BBR
Habard	Crozes-Hermitage	Bio	Rouge	92	£228.00	AWSP	CDB?
Hautes Cances	Cairanne	Col du Débat	Rouge	94	£200.04	2012	GWS
Jaboulet	Hermitage	La Chapelle	Rouge	96	£880.00	2014	CWW
Jaboulet	Crozes-Hermitage	Domaine de Roure	Blanc	91	£300.00	AWSP	BIB?
Jaboulet, P&V	Hermitage		Rouge	96	£424.54	2009	FVD
Jamet, C&JP	Côte-Rôtie	Côte Brune	Rouge	99	£3,756.00	2013	FRW
Jamet, C&JP	Côte-Rôtie		Rouge	97	£900.00	2013	CKW
Jamet, C&JP	Condrieu		Blanc	95	?	?	BIB?
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	96	£778.00	2015	FRW
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée Tradition	Rouge	93	£307.44	2013	BBR
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Prestige	Blanc	95	£756.00	2014	LAS
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée Tradition	Blanc	93	£370.00	2015	CAP
Lafond Roc-Epine	Lirac		Blanc	90	£95.04	2015	N&P
Laudun Chusclan Vignerons	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Laudun	Elements - Luna	Blanc	89	?	?	ENO?
Laurent, Maxime-François	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Visan	Orpiment	Rouge	92	£124.00	2015	H2V
Ligière	Vacqueyras	Le Mourre de la Caille	Rouge	94	?	?	H2V?
Maby	Tavel	Prima Donna	Rosé	91	£99.48	2015	TWS
Machon, Gaylord	Crozes-Hermitage	Lhony	Rouge	92	?	?	CAV?
Magni, Patrice	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	91	£228.00	AWSP	SVS?
Marcoux	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	96	£950.00	2015	H2V
Marcoux	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	93	£335.00	2015	H2V
Marcoux	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	94	£335.00	2015	H2V
Marsanne, Jean-Claude	Saint-Joseph		Rouge	94	£154.21	2013	HHC
Mas des Restanques	Vacqueyras		Rouge	92	£150.04	2013	TFC
Masquin, Julien	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Montplaisir	Rouge	91	£216.00	AWSP	DSW?
Mathieu, André	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vin Di Felibre	Rouge	93	?	?	?
Montfaucon	Lirac	Baron Louis	Rouge	93	£124.94	2012	SOL
Montirius	Gigondas	Confidentiel	Rouge	93	£244.44	2013	BBR
Montirius	Vacqueyras	Le Clos	Rouge	93	£204.96	2014	BBR
Montvac	Vacqueyras	Variation	Rouge	92	£252.72	2013	FMT
Montvac	Vacqueyras	Melodine	Blanc	91	£180.00	AWSP	ENO?
Mordorée	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Belle Voyageuse	Rouge	92	£310.00	2015	H2V
Mordorée	Tavel	La Reine des Bois	Rosé	93	£150.04	2015	MIL
Moulin de la Gardette	Gigondas	Ventabren	Rouge	96	£244.44	2013	BBR
Moulin de la Gardette	Gigondas	Tradition	Rouge	93	£181.44	2013	BBR
Mourchon	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret	Tradition	Rouge	89	£104.94	2013	AVY
Nerthe	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Cadettes	Rouge	94	£650.04	2013	BBR
Nerthe	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	93	£250.04	2015	MIL
Niero, Remi	Condrieu	Chéry	Blanc	94	£334.44	2012	BBR
Niero, Remi	Condrieu	Les Ravines	Blanc	94	£289.44	2012	BBR
Oratoire St Martin	Cairanne	Les Douyes	Rouge	93	£159.48	2014	BBR
Oratoire St Martin	Cairanne	Haut Coustias	Blanc	92	£154.44	2013	BBR
Ouréa	Vacqueyras		Rouge	93	£244.44	2011	BBR
Ouréa	Vacqueyras		Blanc	90	?	?	BBR?
Pallières	Gigondas	Terrasse du Diable	Rouge	93	£190.00	2015	UNC
Paris, Vincent	Cornas	La Geynale	Rouge	97	£300.00	2013	UNC
Paris, Vincent	Cornas	Granit 60	Rouge	96	£240.00	2013	UNC
Paris, Vincent	Cornas	Granit 30	Rouge	94	£180.00	2013	UNC

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SHORT NAME	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	12 X 75 CL IN BOND	FOR WHICH VINTAGE?	RETAILER
Pegau	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée Réserve	Rouge	92	£300.00	2013	J&B
Père Caboché	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes 'Elisabeth Chambellan'	Rouge	92	£257.04	2012	YAP
Perret, André	Saint-Joseph	Les Grisières	Rouge	93	£210.00	2015	J&B
Perret, André	Condrieu	Côteau de Chery	Blanc	95	£380.00	2015	J&B
Perrin, Nicolas	Hermitage		Blanc	93	£324.00	2013	C&C
Perrin, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Réserve des Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	93	£552.00	2004	CRS
Perrin, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	£204.54	2014	SVS
Pichat	Côte-Rôtie	Loss	Rouge	94	£396.00	AWSP	SVS?
Pichat	Côte-Rôtie	Les Grandes Places	Rouge	93	£575.04	2010	CKW
Pichon, Christophe	Saint-Joseph		Blanc	92	£216.00	AWSP	BBR?
Porte Rouge	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	90	£216.00	AWSP	BIB?
Raspail-Ay	Gigondas		Rouge	95	£170.04	2014	PHW
Rayas	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	99	£5,400.00	2007	VIN
Rayas	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	96	£2,064.00	2005	CRS
Reynaud, David	Crozes-Hermitage	Les Croix	Rouge	94	£255.04	2012	WBR
Reynaud, David	Crozes-Hermitage	Georges Reynaud	Rouge	93	£225.04	2013	WBR
Reynaud, David	Crozes-Hermitage	Beaumont	Rouge	92	£174.94	2014	WIW
Reynaud, David	Crozes-Hermitage	Aux Bêtises	Blanc	92	£195.04	2014	HPW
Rostaing, René	Côte-Rôtie	Côte Blonde	Rouge	98	£1,200.00	2015	J&B
Rostaing, René	Côte-Rôtie	La Landonne	Rouge	96	£1,000.00	2015	J&B
Roucas Toumba	Vacqueyras	Les Restanques de Cabassole	Rouge	94	£326.04	2011	HED
Sabon, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Prestige	Rouge	95	£280.00	2013	C&C
Sabon, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Réserve	Rouge	93	£206.00	2013	C&C
Sabon, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Renaissance	Blanc	92	£206.00	2015	C&C
Saint Amant	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages	La Tabardonne	Blanc	90	£124.94	2012	WTC
Saint Cosme	Gigondas	Hominois Fides	Rouge	98	£852.00	2014	FRW
Saint Cosme	Gigondas	Le Poste	Rouge	97	£852.00	2014	FRW
Saint Préfert	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Collection Charles Giraud	Rouge	96	£560.04	2014	BBR
Saint Préfert	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Réserve Auguste Favier	Rouge	95	£324.96	2014	BBR
Saint Préfert	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	£271.44	2014	BBR
Saint Siffrein	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	91	£372.00	AWSP	WNY?
Sang des Cailloux	Vacqueyras	Lopy	Rouge	93	£244.44	2013	BBR
Sang des Cailloux	Vacqueyras	Un Sang Blanc	Blanc	93	£263.04	2013	BBR
Santa Duc	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Saintes Vierges	Rouge	95	?	?	H2V?
Signac	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Chusclan	Combe d'Enfer	Rouge	90	?	AWSP	WDT?
Sixtine	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	£240.00	2013	CRS
Sorrel, Marc	Hermitage	Le Gréal	Rouge	97	£900.00	2015	L&W
Sorrel, Marc	Hermitage	Les Rocoules	Blanc	95	£900.00	2015	L&W
Sorrel, Marc	Hermitage		Blanc	93	£600.00	2015	BIW
Sorrel, Marc	Crozes-Hermitage		Blanc	92	£210.00	2015	BIW
Soumade	Rasteau	Confiance	Rouge	93	£215.04	2012	BVN
Stephan, Jean-Michel	Côte-Rôtie		Rouge	96	£334.94	2013	H&F
Tête Noire	Vacqueyras	La Clapière	Rouge	91	?	?	?
Tourbillon	Gigondas	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	93	?	?	DLW?
Tunnel	Saint-Péray	Pur Blanc	Blanc	93	£443.34	2013	HPW
Tunnel	Saint-Péray	Cuvée Prestige	Blanc	92	£198.00	2014	L&W
Usseglio, Pierre	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée de mon Aïeul	Rouge	94	£506.00	2014	IVV
Usseglio, Pierre	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	93	£247.00	2012	DAW
Usseglio, Raymond	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Impériale	Rouge	94	£420.48	2014	BBR

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SHORT NAME	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	12 X 75CL IN BOND	FOR WHICH VINTAGE?	RETAILER
Usseglio, Raymond	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	93	£213.48	2014	BBR
Usseglio, Raymond	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Pure Roussanne	Blanc	94	£404.00	2015	FRW
Vallot - Le Coriançon	Vinsobres		Rouge	90	£134.94	2014	WNY
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	L'Avenue	Rouge	95	?	?	L&W?
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Val de Dieu	Rouge	93	£378.00	2014	L&W
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Clos du Belvédère	Blanc	94	£516.00	AWSP	L&W?
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	£246.00	2014	L&W
Vernay, Georges	Condrieu	Terrasses de l'Empire	Blanc	94	£433.34	2015	MIL
Verquière	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	£365.04	2012	BVN
Verquière	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Sablet		Rouge	90	£120.00	AWSP	BVN?
Vieux Télégraphe	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	£420.00	2015	SEC
Vieux Télégraphe	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	93	£375.00	2014	J&B
Vignerons de Roquemaure	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Laudun	Les Barryes	Rouge	89	£74.54	2012	WSS
Villa, Pierre-Jean	Côte-Rôtie	Belle de Maia	Rouge	95	?	?	SSW?
Villa, Pierre-Jean	Saint-Joseph	Tilde	Rouge	93	£317.04	2012	SSW
Villa, Pierre-Jean	Condrieu	Jardin Suspendu	Blanc	94	£330.00	2014	SSW
Villard, François	Condrieu	Deponcins	Blanc	93	£353.00	2015	H2V
Voge, Alain	Cornas	Les Vieilles Fontaines	Rouge	97	£727.32	2012	L&W
Voge, Alain	Cornas	Les Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	96	£348.00	2014	L&W
Voge, Alain	Cornas	Les Chailles	Rouge	93	£228.00	2014	L&W

Prices are meant as a guide only. Suppliers quoted are a suggestion, not an endorsement. It's always worth shopping around as you may find the wines cheaper elsewhere.

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For wine reviews, features and more special reports, visit www.timatkin.com and sign up to receive newsletters and regular updates

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