

α TIM ATKIN MW



SPECIAL REPORT

Rhône 2014 Special Report

by Matt Walls

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Cover photo: La Tour Sarrasine, Gigondas

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Introduction

What is a great vintage?

For me, the first thing that springs to mind is a series of numbers. Numbers with haloes: '61, '78, '90, '05... For drinkers they are markers of bottles that have moved us, wines with the balance, power and longevity to casually smelt the passing years and yield the concentrated essence of a place. Wines that we covet. For winemakers they also act as an aide-memoire of the growing season. For great vintages the stories will be similar: ample heat and sun at the right times, no rain at the wrong times, late frosts and hail that didn't come at all. For Eric Boulet of Roucas Toumba in Vacqueyras "opening an older bottle is like opening a photo album."

So is 2014 a great vintage? With plentiful rain at the wrong times and a side order of hail, the answer is a resolute 'no'. But an ordinary vintage doesn't equate to uniformly ordinary wines. Some appellations will do better than others. Individual producers will outdo their neighbours. In great vintages everyone makes good wine; in difficult vintages there are winners and losers. First of all the winners must have the knowledge, energy and inclination to rise to the challenge. Secondly, they must have the means; significant manual labour was required in the vineyards to make a good wine in 2014.

When buying wines in middling years it can be wise to play it safe. Venerable estates with favourably positioned vineyards and a long-standing reputation for quality rarely disappoint. Even 2008, considered by many to be a below average vintage, resulted in thoroughly enjoyable wines from producers such as Clos des Papes, Domaine Jamet and Gourt de Mautens. Among the

very best estates, vintage is more often a longevity issue rather than a quality issue. But average years also serve to highlight talented producers who may be less renowned but who also strive for quality – estates that might offer better value for money than their more illustrious neighbours.

What isn't so brilliant about great vintages is that you have to wait until they're ready to drink. The last great vintage in the Rhône was 2010, and the more interesting wines are still far from ready. Most of the 2014s don't have the concentration and structure for the long haul, but they'll be ready to enjoy from release. This isn't a vintage for investors; it's a vintage for drinkers. Although it has its own unique imprint on the wines, the overall quality of the vintage is neither high nor low: in this sense it can be considered an average vintage. But when you consider the best wines of 2014 from a wider international perspective they are anything but average.



“This isn't a vintage for investors; it's a vintage for drinkers.”

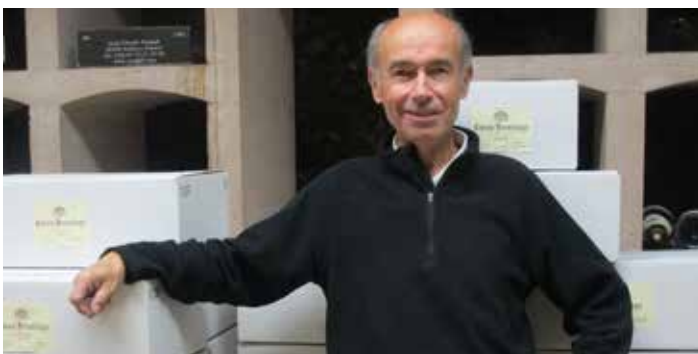


Winemakers of the Rhône



Clockwise from top left: Eric Bouletin (Roucas Toumba), Daniel Coulon (Domaine de Beurenard), Olivier Klein (Domaine la Réméjeanne), Vincent Avril (owner of Clos des Papes, right) and his Chef de Culture Jean-Luc Lancelot, Olivier Clape (Domaine Clape), Claire Darnaud-McKerrow (Delas)

MATT WALLS RHÔNE 2014 *Special Report*



Clockwise from top left: Emmanuel Reynaud (Château Rayas), Michèle Aubéry (Domaine Gramenon), Jean-Paul Jamet (Domaine JP&C Jamet), Emmanuel Darnaud (Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud), Marc Sorrel (Domaine Marc Sorrel), George Truc (renowned local geologist), Stéphane Vedeau (La Ferme du Mont)

MATT WALLS RHÔNE 2014 *Special Report*



Clockwise from top left: Anthony Taylor (PR Director at Gabriel Meffre), Véronique Maret (Domaine de la Charbonnière), Yoann François (Domaine François & Fils), Louis Barruol (Château de Saint Cosme), Frédéric Alary (Oratoire Saint Martin), Claude Chastan (Domaine de Saint Siffrein), Didier Négron (Domaine Roger Sabon)

10 things

you need to know about the vintage

1

2014 wasn't an easy year for vigneron in the Rhône. Those with favourable sites and the means to meet the challenges made good wines, though generally in a lighter style.

2

This is a growers' vintage; a huge amount of work was required in the vineyard to ensure a good result. The year started with a warm spring and early flowering, but July was cool and very wet. This led to multiple problems such as rot, dilution and a struggle for ripeness, particularly in vineyards where drainage is an issue. Although the weather improved dramatically in the second half of August there was rain again in mid-September in much of the Northern and the Southern Rhône when many were harvesting.

3

Another problem that vigneron had to face in 2014 was *Drosophila suzukii*, the Asian fruit fly. It feeds on and lays its eggs in soft fruits such as grapes and was particularly prevalent in parts of the Rhône this year. Those affected had to sort their grapes with care or risk off flavours in their wines (a dirty, vinegary note).

4

Lightness and leanness are hallmarks of the vintage. Where the wines are balanced and – crucially – there is sufficient fruit and flesh, the wines are fresh and enjoyable with a certain diminutive athleticism and bright acidity that makes them enjoyably drinkable.

5

As such, this is not a year for long ageing. Most wines will be approachable on release and will age into the medium term at best.

6

In general, the vintage was more successful in the Northern Rhône than the Southern Rhône. Vineyards on slopes suffered less from the rains, as the water

runs off or drains away more readily. Appellations that performed the most consistently in the Northern Rhône were Saint-Joseph, Saint-Péray and Hermitage.

7

It was a very difficult year for Crozes-Hermitage, particularly those vineyards on the flatter southern part. Not only did they suffer from heavy rain, but they were also hit by hail; one producer described the summer as “catastrophic”. Another reported seeing “botrytis pretty much at veraison”. I tasted numerous wines that bordered on faulty. It's unwise to write off an entire appellation, but buy Crozes with care in 2014.

8

The rains also proved problematic in the Southern Rhône, and the results are mixed. The left bank had a particularly tough time. Lirac is often a go-to appellation for value reds, but many that I tasted were scrawny in 2014. Châteauneuf was badly affected by the rains, and although some very good wines were produced, some reds lack depth, concentration and structure. Cairanne, Rasteau, Vacqueyras and Gigondas were generally more consistent.

9

It may have been a challenging year for red wines, but 2014 is a good year for white wines throughout the Rhône. Hermitage and Saint-Péray in the north and Châteauneuf and Cairanne in the south in particular are appellations to look at. The best have clarity and definition of flavour, freshness and pinpoint acidity that will provide a lot of pleasure in their youth, and some into the medium term.

10

Winemakers couldn't contain their excitement about the 2015 vintage; I tasted a handful, and now I can't either. In all likelihood it will be a superlative year. It will almost certainly be a vintage in which to buy big, but you'll have to wait many years for them to be ready to drink.

Four key questions answered



Compare 2014 to another vintage.

SOUTH

“The same family as 2006, 2004.”

Emmanuel Reynaud, Château Rayas, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“2004, 2006, but with more tannin and breadth.”

Véronique Maret, Domaine de la Charbonnière, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“Like 2008 or 2004.”

Olivier Klein, Domaine la Réméjeanne, near Lirac

“Between 2008 and 2013 – the freshness of 2008 with the fruit of 2013.”

Didier Négron, Domaine Roger Sabon, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“2008 or 2011, but more like 2011.”

Serge Ferigoule, Le Sang des Cailloux, Vacqueyras

“2011.”

Eric Bouletin, Roucas Toumba, Vacqueyras

NORTH

“Like 2007, 2012 or 2000.”

Jean-Louis Chave, Domaine JL Chave, Hermitage

“Like 2007 for reds, 2006 for whites.”

Marc Sorrel, Domaine Marc Sorrel, Hermitage

“Between 2012 and 2013.”

Bernard Faurie, Domaine Bernard Faurie, Hermitage

“Between 2011 and 2012, or 2004.”

Olivier Clape, Domaine Clape, Cornas

“2004, but with more *matière*. Like 2012 in elegance.”

Jean-Paul Jamet, Domaine JP&C Jamet, Côte-Rôtie

“2004.”

Emmanuel Darnaud, Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud, Crozes-Hermitage



Describe the vintage in a few words.

SOUTH

“Finesse, fruit, complexity; a winegrower’s year.”

**Véronique Maret, Domaine de la Charbonnière,
Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

“Difficult but interesting – fruit and balance.”

Daniel Coulon, Domaine de Beurenard, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“More on the fruit, pleasant in their youth.”

Michèle Aubéry, Domaine Gramenon, near Valréas

“Tender, fresh, fruity.”

Eric Bouletin, Roucas Toumba, Vacqueyras

“Lovely freshness, quite fine tannins, more on the spice than on the fruit.”

Frédéric Alary, Oratoire Saint Martin, Cairanne

“Lively, crunchy fruit – small red berries with good acidity.
Ready to drink.”

Olivier Klein, Domaine la Réméjeanne, near Lirac

NORTH

“Elegant, very feminine, flattering, not too tannic.”

Marc Sorrel, Domaine Marc Sorrel, Hermitage

“Fluid, aromatic, yet with a lovely textural quality.”

Claire Darnaud, Delas

“Fruit forward but with elegance.”

Olivier Clape, Domaine Clape, Cornas

“Flattering, with a lovely aromatic expression and less imposing structure
than some.”

**Emmanuel Darnaud, Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud,
Crozes-Hermitage**

“Very elegant wines, not to age for a long time.”

Jacques Desvernois, Paul Jaboulet Aîné

“Beautiful aromatics, lovely fruit.”

Yoann François, François et Fils, Côte-Rôtie



Name some up-and-coming Rhône estates.

SOUTH

“Domaine Combe Julière in Rasteau, Domaine La Cabotte in Massif d’Uchaux.”

Daniel Coulon, Domaine de Beurenard, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“Domaine Pique-Basse in Roaix, Mas Poupéras near Vaison La Romaine, La Ferme Saint Martin.”

Frédéric Alary, Oratoire Saint Martin, Cairanne

“Domaine d’Ouréa, Domaine Saladin.”

Olivier Klein, Domaine la Réméjeanne, near Lirac

“L’Abbé Dîne, Domain Tourbillon, Domaine Patrice Magni – and I hope my own!”

Véronique Maret, Domaine de la Charbonnière, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

NORTH

“Guillaume Gilles.”

Olivier Clape, Domaine Clape, Cornas

“Domaine Melody.”

Emmanuel Darnaud, Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud, Crozes-Hermitage

“Domaine d’Ouréa in Vacqueyras, Domaine Dieulefit in Visan.”

Christophe Mingeaud, Vinergie

“Julien Cecillon.”

Claire Darnaud, Delas



Which appellations or villages performed relatively strongly in this vintage?

SOUTH

“Rasteau.”

Didier Négron, Domaine Roger Sabon, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

“Visan.”

Michèle Aubéry, Domaine Gramenon, near Valréas

“Gigondas.”

Eric Boulet, Roucas Toumba, Vacqueyras

“Gigondas.”

Jean-Michel Vache, Le Clos du Cazaux, Vacqueyras

NORTH

“Saint-Joseph and Hermitage.”

Claire Darnaud, Delas

“Hermitage and Saint-Joseph. Crozes-Hermitage was more difficult.”

Jacques Desvernois, Paul Jaboulet Aîné

“Cornas and Côte-Rôtie.”

Christophe Mingeaud, Vinergie

“Generally the southern part of the Northern Rhône.”

Olivier Clape, Domaine Clape, Cornas



Vintage guide

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



About the tastings and scores

The following lists of recommended wines are the result of an extended two week visit to the Rhône at the end of October 2015. The majority were tasted in groups sorted by colour and appellation, and no more than 100 per day. 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, 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) and some in February/March (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 2014 vintage is not yet available, I've quoted a stockist of a recent vintage that would be a good place to enquire about the 2014s. 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 and a suggested stockist or importer to approach. 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 pricing with.

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 in 2014. 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 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 particularly averse to unbalanced levels of alcohol, oak or sweetness.

In total I tasted nearly 1,000 wines from over 250 producers but inevitably some weren't available. Others such as Domaine Georges Vernay never show unfinished wines. Notable absences this year are Yves Gangloff, Henri Bonneau, Thierry Allemand, Raymond Usseglio, Vieille Julienne, Domaine Gonon, Gourt de Mautens, Clos St Jean, Stéphane Ogier and Château Grillet... I'll try to fit them in next year.

Each note is laid out as follows:



Producer Appellation Wine name

Grape variety/varieties, Alcohol level, Stockist, £ Price for 12 bottle in bond

- (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

BBR	Berry Brothers & Rudd	HFW	Harrogate Fine Wine
BDI	Bordeaux Index	HIC	Hic Wine Merchants
BDW	Black Dog Wine Company	J&B	Justerini & Brooks
BIB	Bibendum	JER	Jeroboams
BOW	Bowes Wines	L&W	Lay & Wheeler
BRK	Berkmann Wine Cellars	LIB	Liberty Wines
BRW	The Big Red Wine Company	MIL	Millesima
BWC	Butlers Wine Cellars	MRC	Marc Fine Wines
C&B	Corney & Barrow	N&P	Nickolls & Perks
CBW	Charles Blagden Wines	ODD	Oddbins
CDV	Carte du Vin	OWL	O W Loeb
CHK	Christopher Keiller Fine Wine Services	PHW	Pierre Hourlier Wines
CLC	Clos & Cru	RFW	Roisin Fine Wine
CMW	Charles Mitchell Wines	SLP	Slurp
CTW	Charles Taylor Wines	SSW	Stannary Street Wine Co
CWM	Cambridge Wine Merchants	SVS	Stone, Vine & Sun
EAR	Earle Wines	SWG	Swig
ECT	Eclectic Tastes	SWS	Soho Wine Supply
EXL	Excel Wines	TBB	The Bottle Bank
FAR	Farr Vintners	THT	Thorman Hunt
FRW	Fine+Rare Wines	TWS	The Wine Society
FWW	Four Walls Wine Co	UNC	Uncorked
GAU	Gauntley's of Nottingham	VNT	Vine Trail
GDH	Goedhuis	VOD	Voddens Vintages
GEN	Genesis Wines	VTS	Vinatis
GWS	The Good Wine Shop	WDR	Winedirect
H2V	H2Vin	WLW	Whelehans Wines
HAM	Hammock Wines	WTR	Waitrose Cellar
HED	Hedonism Wines	YAP	Yapp
HFW	Halifax Wine Company		



Tasting notes

Top 50 Northern Rhône Reds

97

Domaine JP&C Jamet Côte-Rôtie Côte Brune

100% Syrah, FRW £2,736.00 (2012)

No destemming. 20-25% new oak. 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 over the years, it is now a small proportion of production (just 2,000 bottles). It has incredible soaring aromatics – juniper, thyme and violet – and deep, dark fruit. Real depth and concentration here, amazing freshness, velvet texture and very long. Delicacy, power and beauty, all in balance. 2022-2040

97

M. Chapoutier Hermitage Le Pavillon

100% Syrah, FAR £1,350.00

4 hectare plot of 65-year-old vines on granite lieu-dit Les Bessards. 100% destemmed. 18 months in fûts, 30% new. Generous veneer of oak on the wine at the time of tasting, but there is copious fruit underneath. Very full-bodied, very dry and herbal. Straight and well balanced with muscular tannins and soaring fruit. This has the unmistakable shape and regal disposition of a serious Hermitage. Very long finish. 2022-2032

96

Domaine JL Chave Hermitage

100% Syrah, C&B, £1,775.40 (2012)

10% new oak. “Un été de pluie” is how Jean-Louis described the 2014 – a problem for many winemakers, but less so with vineyards on the slopes. He admits the year was “not easy” but a tasting of the various parcels shows a decent vintage in these experienced hands. It will be ready before the 2010 and the 2013 I suspect as it doesn’t quite have the density of fruit and tannin of these vintages, but it will provide plenty of pleasure and glide on through the years thanks to vibrant acidity and overall balance. 2024-2040

95

E. Guigal Hermitage Ex Voto

100% Syrah, FRW £1,806.00 (2007)

40% Bessards, 40% Greffieux, 10% Hermite, 10% Murands. 40 to 90-year-old vines, 42 months in new oak (so will be on the market 2018). Wide, regal and intense, shot through with ripe, firm tannin – this is a solid success for Guigal in 2014. Dense, mineral with that unmistakable Hermitage majesty. It has a robust structure but relatively lean, straight fruit expression. Pretty epic. 2022-2040

95

Domaine JP&C Jamet Côte-Rôtie

100% Syrah, FRW £717.00 (2012)

“Finesse, but not without concentration” is how Jean-Paul referred to the 2014s. We tasted a number of component parts from across his blends of 16 different parcels. Rather than bottling single parcels he prefers to blend, and keeps new oak to a minimum (10-15%). The overall impression is a fragrant, floral, peppery style with good aromatic definition and adequate concentration for medium-term ageing. It will be ready relatively early, and despite not being a terribly weighty vintage, its elegance and balance will provide much pleasure. 2020-2030

95

Domaine Vincent Paris Cornas La Geynale

100% Syrah, 13.0%, UNC £290.00 (2013)

Incredible nose of wild herbs, camphor, raspberry, balsamic fruits, plum sauce. You name it. Powerful and intensely concentrated, but not heavy, totally fresh and alive. It breathes. So fresh, so powerful, it's a force of nature. Never disappoints. 5,000 bottles made. 2020-2040

94

E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

100% Syrah, FRW £1,945.00 (2011)

No destemming for this 100% Syrah plot planted in 1975. 42 months in new oak (so will be on the market 2018). Noticeable hint of stalks on the nose that will add complexity in the long term. A robust style, very dry and intense, straight and concentrated. Deep and brooding with considerable tannic structure. Very long. 2022-2035

94

Domaine Benjamin & David Duclaux Côte-Rôtie Maison Rouge

100% Syrah, 13.0%, VTS £475.40 (2012)

Intensely tightly wound at this stage, with a savoury, almost earthy nose inlaid with woodspice. Very full and powerful, but not without a sense of freshness, this is a serious wine that will take some time to come round, but the balance and quality of the tannins recommends it. If you can wait. Very long finish. 4,000 bottles. 2022-2030

94

Domaine Bernard Faurie Hermitage Bessards-Méal

100% Syrah, UNC £450.00 (2013)

60% Bessards, 40% Méal. Similarly elegant and compact like the Greffieux-Bessards, but this is slightly more intense in fruit and structure, with some smoky, meaty hints among the fruit. Very fine and elegant, with more of a tannic frame and darker fruit than his other cuvée, so to be broached a little later, but will last longer. 2018-2035

94

Domaine Clape Cornas

100% Syrah, YAP £625.40 (2011)

No destemming as the stems add “another dimension” to the wine according to Olivier Clape. 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) shows that this is a dry, savoury vintage, with a degree of austerity. The overall impression is of a lighter vintage, but not one without balance, complexity and interest. It won't be a very long lasting one, but that's not always such a bad thing – it will be ready sooner. 2020-2030

94

Delas Hermitage Les Bessards

100% Syrah, FRW £1,002.00 (2013)

Ebullient and intense with joyfully hedonistic fruit that takes centre stage due to measured oak (just 30% new, 18 months) and total destemming. Mouthcoating fruit and fine tannins with lovely bright acidity and a mineral core. Long finish. Very Hermitage, very straight in structure but expansive in fruit. A success. 2022-2032

94

Domaine Clusel-Roch Côte-Rôtie La Viallière

100% Syrah, 12.5%, GDH £450.00

50% destalked, natural yeasts, aged for two years in barriques, 20% new. Very fine enticing aromatics already; bay leaf, loganberry, black cherry and violet. Medium- to full-bodied, with exceptionally fine tannins and a lovely beam of redcurrant acidity shining through it. Very fine, wet clay tannins and a long finish. Very well done indeed. Perfectly balanced. It sings. 2,500 bottles. 2017-2028

93

E. Guigal Côte-Rôtie La Mouline

93% Syrah, 7% Viognier, BDI £1,850.00 (2011)

42 months in new oak barriques (so will be on the market 2018). This is elegant and subtle in style with detailed aromatics of plum and cherry blossom. Very fresh, lively and graceful with a long finish. It won't be as long lived as some vintages, but will deliver plenty of pleasure. 2018-2030

93

Delas Côte-Rôtie La Landonne

100% Syrah, FRW £1,183.00 (2013)

18 months in fûts, 40% new. The oak is dominating the dark berry fruits and wild herbs for now, but this is lively and dynamic on the palate, remarkably mineral and expressive even at this stage. It's balanced, long and appetising. Exceptionally fine and discretely powerful. 2018-2028

93

Domaine Bernard Faurie Hermitage Greffieux-Bessards

100% Syrah, BBR £408.00 (2013)

60% Bessards, 40% Greffieux lieux-dits. Bright, fresh, pure, clean and detailed nose of raspberry, wild strawberry and plum. On the palate it's considerably more subtle and slight in frame compared to many other Hermitages. But this is one of the hallmarks of Faurie's wines; they are intentionally lighter in structure and extraction than most of his neighbours. It has fresh, zingy, crunchy fruit and the overall impression is one of sublime elegance. A very Burgundian style. So much for his plans to retire after 2015 – Bernard's not going anywhere. Rejoice! 2017-2030

93

Domaine Marc Sorrel Hermitage Le Gréal

100% Syrah, UNC £800.00 (2013)

Blend of lieux-dits Les Greffieux and Le Méal (hence the name). Lovely violet and black pepper nose bolstered by use of whole clusters. Fresh, clean fruit, slightly diminutive in structure compared to an average vintage of this cuvée, but more importantly the balance is good. Close-grained tannins and real finesse. 2020-2030

93

Paul Jaboulet Aîné Hermitage La Chapelle

100% Syrah, FRW £939.00 (2013)

Deep, brooding and intense with smoked meats on the nose. The oak is present but not overdone. Intense fruit on the palate and very straight in style. Quite hedonistic ripe-fruited style which closes with a very long finish and serious structured tannic weight. 2020-2030

93

Domaine du Colombier Hermitage

100% Syrah, 13.5%, J&B £375.00

Soy on the nose along with liquorice and roasted herbs. Lovely texture, intense fruit, and all very well balanced. Lovely sappy damson and blackberry on the palate, with generous but integrated oak which gives length to the vibrant, saline finish. A bubbling cauldron of a wine, lovely acidity, very well balanced. This will be lovely when it's ready. 2018-2030

93

Domaine Clusel-Roch Côte-Rôtie Les Grandes Places

100% Syrah, 12.5%, J&B £550.00

80-year-old vines grown on schist, 50% destemmed, aged for 2 years in barriques of which 25% are new. Deep and earthy with notes of undergrowth and leaf tea. Medium-bodied but intense in flavour with firm, grainy tannins and a long finish. It has freshness, but a firm, savoury core. The emphasis is on elegance and finesse here rather than heft and will deliver very enjoyable mid-term drinking. 2,500 bottles made. 2018-2026

93

Domaine JL Chave Saint-Joseph

100% Syrah, YAP £365.40 (2012)

A tasting of the component lieux-dits. From the lifted, rose-scented upper Bachesson, through the vibrancy of Les Challoys, to the dark, spicy, powerful bass notes of Le Clos, the components of the 2014 Chave Saint-Joseph produce an overall impression of detail, freshness and medium-weight style that should provide a harmonious, dry, savoury finished blend that will be ready to drink with great pleasure from release. 2016-2022

93

Delas Saint-Joseph Sainte-Épine

100% Syrah, FRW £364.00 (2013)

Grown on the granite lieu-dit of Sainte-Épine, 100% destemmed, vinified in concrete then aged 18 months in barriques, 40% new. A very fine, harmonious, unshowy nose. There's a hint of smoked meat under the ripe black fruit, some camphor and pine resin. Full-bodied, perfectly ripe fruit and a firm, muscular heft of tannin to hold it all up. The oak is present, but the fruit dominates and overall the impression is one of harmony, balance and concentration. Lovely acidity, very long. 2018-2024

93

Domaine Vincent Paris Cornas Granit 60

100% Syrah, 13.0%, UNC £230.00 (2013)

Old vines grown on the granitic lieux-dits of Patou, Sauman and Les Mazards. Natural yeasts, aged 12 months in barriques of 2 to 8 uses. Incredible nose of raspberry, blackberry, loganberry, so inviting. Very full and very concentrated on the palate, with dynamic fruits, powerful acids, and rapacious tannins. This is impressive stuff, but it's balanced, with the fruit required to match the structure. A tremulous wine. 5,000 bottles made. 2018-2036

93

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Côte-Rôtie Esprit de Blonde

100% Syrah, H2V £420.00

Beautifully floral and aromatically perfumed. Fine acidity, with a light touch of caramel oak on the finish giving it length. Real aromatic finesse and delicacy. 2016-2020

93

Domaine Alain Voge Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes

100% Syrah, 13.5%, GDH £350.00

80% destemmed. Powerful sage and blueberry fruit with a lovely sweetness to it, matched by some forthright oak treatment. Long finish, and robust, fine-grained tannins. Quite *sauvage* in style, with a mineral crunch. 2018-2030

93

Domaine Johann Michel Cornas

100% Syrah, SSW £225.00 (2013)

Nephew of the great Robert Michel and considered by many to be a rising star of the appellation. Crème de mûre on the nose and garrigue herbs. Very full in fruit, with a powerful tannic base. It's very long, with ripe fruit and a mineral edge that brings freshness. A deceptively fruity and effortless impression draped around a very serious wine. Long finish. 2018-2030

93

Domaine Alain Voge Saint-Joseph Les Vinsonnes

100% Syrah, 13.0%, L&W £325.44

Grown on granite, 100% destemmed. Very mineral nose with stalky rosemary in the background, reminiscent of the pine tree-lined terroir of Cornas. Very bright, fresh, piercing in fruit and structure. Dry and savoury in style, this is a real palate cleanser. It has fine-grained tannins, refreshing acidity and authentic fruit character. No excess fat, a structural, impressive wine. 2016-2022

93

Domaine Pierre & Jérôme Coursodon Saint-Joseph Le Paradis St Pierre

100% Syrah, CHK £337.90 (2013)

An enveloping fug of rich fruit and camphor on the nose. Very full-bodied, velvet in texture, with no-nonsense tannins and good length. This is remarkably concentrated and balanced, shot through with gleaming acidity and sweetly ripe fruit. A rich and luxurious style of Saint-Joseph that is almost always worth buying, and 2014 is no different. A very complete wine. 2017-2024

92

Domaine Robert & Remi Niero Côte-Rôtie Vires de Serine

100% Syrah, 13.5%, BBR? £616.00, AWSP

Destalked fruit from the lieux-dits of La Viallière and Bassenon. It has a dark, brooding, earthy/floral nose. Full-bodied, with rich, plush fruit, freshness, and a good sense of balance. The wine has a considerable degree of oak influence but it's very well made – give it a couple of years before broaching. 1,200 bottles. 2017-2024

92

Domaine Benjamin & David Duclaux Côte-Rôtie La Germiné

95% Syrah, 5% Viognier, 13.0%, VTS £308.40 (2012)

22 months in fûts, 15% new. Dark, brooding and intense, with the emphasis very much on fruit rather than oak with back notes of pencil lead and rosemary. Full-bodied, with savoury tannins and a dry finish. Long – the wines of the Duclaux brothers are always tight as hell when young but this shows promise. 2018-2026

92

Domaine André Perret Saint-Joseph Les Grisières

100% Syrah, GDH £135.00

Dark and brambly on the nose with a touch of soy. Full-bodied, very dry but with lovely sweet fruit on the mid-palate. Mouthwatering finish. He's played this very well, it's lifted and floral but has an agreeably strict structure and good length. It has that granite edge and fruit. Not the longest perhaps, but this is very good. 2016-2020

92

Domaine Vincent Paris Saint-Joseph Les Côtes

100% Syrah, 12.5%, CTW? £204.00, AWSP

Grown on granite, vinified using natural yeasts. Aged for 12 months: 50% in barriques of 2 to 8 years, 50% in stainless steel. Leathery, with some slightly animal backnotes reminiscent of smoked duck. Wild herbs on the nose and palate. Sweet fruit but with a savoury centre. Ripe tannins, medium length. A serious, grown up wine. This has power and drive with a mineral core. 8,000 bottles. 2016-2020

92

Domaine René Rostaing Côte-Rôtie Ampodium

100% Syrah, J&B £380.00

This is the sole cuvée he made in 2014 – he describes the vintage as “assez catastrophique”. Earthy and bright, just a tiny bit green on the nose but not problematically so. Juicy fruit on the palate alongside lightly grainy tannins. Very classic, not terribly long, but will make good mid-term drinking. 2016-2020

92

Domaine François et Fils Côte-Rôtie Rozier

100% Syrah, LIB? £396.00 AWSP

Darker fruit than their Classique, this has expressive loganberry, plum and raspberry. More extraction and more serious in body and concentration too, with velour tannins and a larger frame. It retains a sense of elegance and finesse. 2017-2022

92

Domaine Christophe Pichon Côte-Rôtie Rozier

90% Syrah, 10% Viognier, GAU £312.00 (2005)

Dark and serious fruit under a considerable oak veneer. Sweet, svelte, juicy fruit with good length. A charming wine, not without depth. 2017-2022

92

Domaine Eric & Joël Durand Cornas Confidence

100% Syrah, 13.5%, BBR? £348.00 AWSP

Granite soils, 80% destalked, aged for 12 months in fûts, of which 30% are new. The air above the glass is saturated with camphor, black cherry, espresso and wild herbs. Very full, very flowing texture despite the muscular tannin and powerful, sweet fruit. It's tannic, long and polished with some new oak on the finish. A monster as always. 2020-2038

92

Domaine Mouton Côte-Rôtie

100% Syrah, 13.0%, BBR? £252.00 AWSP

100% destemmed, aged for 18 months in fûts, 25% of which are new. Lovely depth and concentration of fresh, juicy blackberry fruit, with a touch of raspberry and clove on the finish. A very shapely and well sculpted wine, balanced, and offers lots to enjoy. Fine and elegant. 600 bottles made. 2017-2022

92

Delas Hermitage Marquise de la Tourette

100% Syrah, FRW £501.00 (2013)

Granite lieux-dits of Les Bessards and Grandes Vignes. 100% destemmed, aged for 18 months in barriques, 30% new. The result is a savoury yet accessible style that will drink relatively early with much pleasure. Not heavy, but a good concentration of red and black fruit, good freshness and balance. Long finish. 2018-2026

92

Domaine Aléofane Saint-Joseph

100% Syrah, 13.0%, GEN £130.00 (2012)

Vines near Tournon grown on granite. 100% destemmed. Aged 12 months in demi-muids and pièces, no new oak. A faintly smoky, mineral nose that's almost minty with fresh herbs. Very elegant and fresh example, with beautifully fine tannins and a long finish that ends on wood spice and smoke. A stylish wine. 6,000 bottles. 2016-2021

92

Domaine Pierre & Jérôme Coursodon Saint-Joseph Silice

100% Syrah, VTS £180.40

Smoky mineral nose. Very fresh impression on the palate, with a dense tannic matrix and very firm texture. Muscular ripe tannic squeeze on the long finish. A very good quality Saint-Joseph that stands out from many of its peers in this vintage. 2017-2022

91

Domaine Eric & Joël Durand Cornas Empreintes

100% Syrah, 13.5%, BBR £271.92 (2013)

Granite soils, 80% destalked, aged for 12 months in fûts, of which 20% are new. Dark fruits and camphor on the nose. The structure is robustly Cornas. All in harmony and balance. This vintage isn't quite as hedonistic as the previous two, but it has impressive relief and detail. 2018-2030

91

Delas Cornas Chante Perdrix

100% Syrah, FRW £253.00 (2013)

Grown on the granite lieux-dits of Reynards, Champelrose and St. Romain, all destemmed. Very lively, very fresh, with expansive structure to reign in the unruly red and black fruits. Grainy, wild and dynamic and texture; well balanced. The fruit is just a little on the sweet and easy side, but it has a sense of purity to it. 2018-2030

90

Domaine Clusel-Roch Côte-Rôtie

Almost 100% Syrah, J&B £295.00

10 to 60-year-old vines grown organically on schist across three lieux-dits (Viallière, Champon, Le Plomb). Natural yeasts and 15% new oak. This is for those who prefer a more herbal style – it's not the most generous in fruit on the nose. Fine tannins with a very close grain. Medium length. Classic and strict in character rather than powerful or rich. 2015-2020

90

Cave Yves Cuilleron Côte-Rôtie Terres Sombres

100% Syrah, CHK £514.16 (2013)

Grown on schist, 80% destemmed. Savoury nose, wild herbs, an agreeable touch of shoe polish and ample polished oak (the wine spends 18 months in barriques, 50% new). Medium-bodied, with fine muscular tannins and good length of flavour. Savoury rather than fruity, this will develop into a lovely wine given time. 2018-2022

90

Domaine François et Fils Côte-Rôtie Classique

97% Syrah, 3% Viognier, HWC £305.40 (2013)

Four south-facing lieux-dits grown on schist, 20% new oak. Yoann François is the fourth generation of winemaker here, where they still rear cattle and make cheese. Lovely bright red fruits and juniper berries on the nose. A flattering, svelte style, not hugely intense or tannic, but attractively aromatic and pretty with juicy sweetness to the fruit. 2016-2020

90

Domaine Combiar Crozes-Hermitage Clos des Grives

100% Syrah, 13.0%, FRW £230.00 (2013)

Consistently one of the best wines of Crozes-Hermitage, this 60-year-old, hand-harvested vineyard did relatively well in 2014. It doesn't have the concentration and power of recent vintages, but still has lots to offer. Crème de mûre, bay leaf and blackberry. No bitterness, and well managed tannins. 2015-2021

90

Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud Saint-Joseph

100% Syrah, BBR £290.40 (2013)

Soft and inviting black fruits on the nose alongside some appetising clove spice from the oak. Rather soft on the palate, but some firmer tannins make themselves known on the finish. Remarkably fruity for the vintage. 2017-2022

90

Domaine Pierre Gaillard Saint-Joseph Clos de Cuminaille

100% Syrah, H2V £156.00

Beautifully floral – violets and pink peppercorn. Some raspberry fruit, a fairly light style in terms of fruit density but has good structure. Very fresh and drinkable. 2016-2019

89

Cave Julien Cecillon Crozes-Hermitage Les Marguerites

100% Syrah, 13.0%, CBW, £216.00 AWSP

100% destemmed, vinified in stainless steel, aged for 1 year in used oak fûts. Authentic blackberry and even blackcurrant fruit. The oak supports the fruit rather than the other way around. Fairly full and rounded with attractive fruit on the palate, medium length and real finesse. Small production (3,500 bottles) so snap it up. Balanced, fresh, juicy and appetising. 2015-2017

89

David Reynaud Crozes-Hermitage Beaumont

100% Syrah, 12.5%, ECT £138.70 (2013)

Classic Crozes nose, black pepper and violets, lifted and appealing. Soft and juicy, without any of the stalky bitterness found in so many other Crozes this year. Not terribly long or concentrated but this is good. 2015-2017

88

Cave de Tain Saint-Joseph Esprit de Granit

100% Syrah, 13.0%, TBB £194.40 (2011)

Graphite on the nose, wild herbs and a touch of smoked meat. Medium-bodied, with ample blackberry fruit and a medium-length finish. Good structure, with fine-grained tannins – well balanced and not dumbed down. This is often one of the strongest bottlings from Cave de Tain and they've done a good job here considering the challenges of the vintage. 2016-2020

Top 50 Châteauneuf- du-Pape Reds

96

Château Rayas Châteauneuf-du-Pape

100% Grenache, FWW £2,580.00 (2008)

Very pale in colour. It has a distinctly herbal/spicy style this year, with sage and rosemary on the nose alongside wild strawberry and some floral, dried rose notes. It's fuller in the mouth than the colour would suggest, with lively acidity and a mineral edge. It won't be the longest lasting Rayas perhaps, but will provide a lot of pleasure nonetheless in terms of aromatic finesse and detail. 2020-2030

95

Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape

50% Grenache, 35% Mourvèdre, 2% Syrah, 13% others, GDH £450.00

Pale in colour. An elegant Burgundian style, with exceptionally fine tannic mouthfeel. Floral and spicy with piercing acids and very pretty fruit expression. Not the longest or most powerful Clos des Papes, but a wine of great finesse and balance. 2017-2028

95

Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Secret des Sabon

100% Grenache, BBR £1,020.00 (2012)

A blend of two old vine parcels. Fresh herbs, wild strawberry, violets. Wonderfully full and generous texture, long and juicy. Doesn't have the immediate appeal of their other bottlings, but has serious presence and power all bound up in its core. Perfect balance and structure, but needs time to show its hand. It may be pure Grenache, but it has some dark fruit character, grunt and intensity. 3,000 bottles. 2018-2035

95

Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Counoise/Vaccarèse, BBR £353.40 (2012)
Beautiful, soaring aromatics spring effortlessly from the glass: blueberries, damsons, fig skin, and garrigue herbs. Very full, rounded, juicy and flowing. Perfectly measured acidity and tannin, this is well endowed with structure but it doesn't dominate – the fruit and flavour is to the fore. Oak peeps through on the finish, but the fruit dominates. Very well judged, an assured success of the vintage. 2017-2028

94

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah/Mourvèdre, FRW £450.00 (2013)
Deep, rounded, rich, harmonious, quintessentially Châteauneuf nose. The concentrated fruit has the perfect level of ripeness, with defined fruit flavours and finely scripted acidity. Very long, very fine, very elegant. 2016-2026

94

La Ferme du Mont Châteauneuf-du-Pape Côtes Capelan

90% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, BDI £500.00 (2010)
Deep, dark, brooding, tightly-wound fruits of the forest. Intense explosion of flavour – incredible concentration and very, very long. Crunchy mineral and tannic structure – extremely primary but very exciting to taste. A full-throttle wine but not without charm; the oak is present but it's the fruit that dominates. A very impressive wine. 2017-2030

93

Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah/Mourvèdre, H2V £320.00
Biodynamic, no oak. Lifted plum notes with sage, thyme and some spicy hints. Full-bodied, very ripe fruit and a rounded, juicy mouthfeel. Ample ripe tannin and perfectly balanced acids. Doesn't quite have the weight of more concentrated years, but it does have freshness, liveliness, detail and finesse. This is a successful Marcoux and it will age well. At once vivid in fruit but generous and comforting in body. (No Vieilles Vignes made in 2014.) 2016-2026

93

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Principally Mourvèdre, Grenache, Syrah and Counoise but all 13 varieties are used, C&B £390.00
Mourvèdre makes its presence felt; a dark and brooding nose. Full-bodied, rich in fruitcake and plum flavour. There is concentration here that others lack, though fairly restrained in tannin. Powerful, impressive length and a fanning out of flavour on the finish. (Homage à Jacques Perrin not available to taste.) 2017-2024

93

Domaine la Barroche Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pure

97% Grenache, 3% others, 14.5%, GAU £510.30 (2012)
A single plot of 100-year-old vines grown on sand, aged in old foudre. Lovely wild lavender and rose aromatics unfurl from the glass alongside wild strawberry and thyme. Very smooth and full texture, mouthfilling fruit. Firm acid, and ample fine-grained tannin alongside a glint of minerality. Long finish. A serious wine, but the tannins are just a little on the dry side for now, akin to eating a redcurrant. One of the most detailed and, yes, pure wines of the vintage. Lacks much in the way of muscle and bass notes but there's much to enjoy. 5,000 bottles. 2018-2028

93

Domaine Pierre Usseglio Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée de Mon Aïeul

100% Grenache, FRW £431.00 (2012)
Aged for 12 months in concrete. Wonderful nose, vibrant defined fruits and garrigue herbs. Touch of plum sauce. Medium- to full-bodied, flowing and generous but all shot through with ravier acidity. Ends fresh and bright. A powerful wine, not with weight but with intensity and steeliness. You really want to drink this. 6,000 bottles. 2016-2026

93

Le Clos du Caillou Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Réserve

60% Grenache, 40% Mourvèdre, H2V £725.00

Organic. Makes a real impression on the nose: pure violets, raspberry leaf, crème de myrtille, backed up by a touch of vanilla bean and toffee. Medium- to full-bodied in the mouth, with real intensity and length, serious mineral backbone and detail. It has keen acidity to match the sweet strawberry and blueberry fruit and ample but neat tannic structure. It has real intensity and presence. It's a pure, polished and modern wine with a beginning, a middle and an end. 2018-2030

93

Domaine du Pegau Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve

80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% others, 14.0%, FRW £381.00 (2012)

Deep, intense, almost fruitcakey nose. Lots of resinous oak on the finish, but this should integrate; there's burgeoning complexity here. Juicy fruit and real clarity of flavour. Zinging acids and firm, no-nonsense tannins. Long finish. Better than the 2013. Lots of spice and sap on the finish. 2017-2024

93

Domaine la Barroche Châteauneuf-du-Pape Signature

65% Grenache, 16% Mourvedre, 13% Syrah, 5% Cinsault, 1% others, 14.5%, J&B £260.00

65-year-old vines on average. Compellingly pretty nose of perfumed fruit and great purity – lavender and damson. Very fine and silky in texture, with a fine beam of acid running through it. A very fine, pure, smooth and straight style but with generosity of fruit and good length. Good persistence of fruit. Really stands out from its peers in this vintage. 2015-2022

93

Domaine de la Mordorée Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Reine des Bois

75% Grenache, 14% Mourvèdre, 7% Syrah, 2% Vaccarèse, 2% Counoise, 15.0%, H2V £385.00

Organic fruit, aged for 12 months in 80% stainless steel and 20% old barriques. Concentrated damson juice with a faint veneer of oak. Blueberry, blackberry and sage in the background. Clearly picked at optimum ripeness. Totally swaddles the palate with juice and ripe tannin. Serious concentration here. Quite a resolute structure, this will take a while to come round, but it is very good, as always. Only 3,000 bottles in this vintage. 2018-2025

93

M. Chapoutier Châteauneuf-du-Pape Barbe Rac

100% Grenache, FRW £398.00

Organic 4 hectare plot of 90-year-old Grenache grown on galets over red clay and sand. Deep, dark, dense, intense and inviting nose. Blackberry, plum sauce and smoke. Full, flowing, intense, sweet fruit. Long, juicy, fruity finish. It has persistence, concentration and length of flavour. Supple and succulent style, all very well managed and balanced. 2016-2024

92

La Ferme du Mont Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vendage

80% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, RFW £240.00 (2010)

Vibrant, spicy, intense and slightly meaty. Medium-bodied, with intense acidity and fine-grained tannic and mineral structure. Very dry, very savoury, but with really bright, intense fruit – cranberry, black pepper, blackberry. A fountain of joyful, hedonistic flavour. Some pleasing grain to the tannin on the long, saline finish. 2016-2029

92

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chaupin

100% Grenache, BBR £425.40 (2013)

From the Chapoin lieu-dit. Lovely herbal strawberry nose, violets and sage. Medium-bodied, flowing Grenache fruit with that fine-grained tannin that results from growing it on sand. Some length of juicy strawberry and raspberry fruit. A lovely wine, with real elegance and vibrancy. The essence of Grenache. 2015-2020

92

Le Clos du Caillou Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Quartz

85% Grenache, 15% Syrah, H2V £432.00

Darker, more complex nose than the classic blend: damson, plum, notes of fruitcake and plum sauce. Silky and sweet. Powerful, very fine tannin. Long, almost meaty finish, herbal too. It's impressive and highly individual, with a sweet-and-sour element on the palate.

2017-2022

92

Château Sixtine Châteauneuf-du-Pape

50% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 25% Mourvèdre, FRW £258.00 (2011)

Deep, dark, powerful nose – melted liquorice. Medium-bodied, intense fruit and firm structure to back it up – the tannins are muscular and juicy, not dry. A proper Châteauneuf with balls, juicy fruit, power, and all backed up by keen acid. Long finish. A success in this vintage. 2016-2024

92

Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape Compromis

80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, THT??

New cuvée. Dark and brooding, aromatically towards the darker side of Grenache fruit. Medium-bodied, flowing texture, very fine-grained tannin and a generous squeeze of acidity. This sample was at a difficult stage of development and not showing well, but my gut feeling is that after some time in bottle this will be a very good wine. 2017-2022

92

Isabel Ferrando Châteauneuf-du-Pape Colombis

100% Grenache, 15.5%, BBR £372.12 (2012)

Organic. Lip-smacking freshness and delicious acidity. A modern-styled technicolour explosion of pure Grenache but with structure, power and juiciness, and a very long finish. Intense blackberry juice on the palate. A feast for the senses, but might be a bit much for those that prefer a more restrained, classic expression. 2015-2028

91

Château Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Avenue

100% Grenache, LIB??

A new cuvée for Vaudieu. Surprisingly tannic for pure Grenache grown on sand. Similarly to the Val de Dieu this is very oak-dominant for now, and the pure Grenache fruit sits apart from the structure. It will take time to knit. The fruit however is admirably pure; I'd like to taste this when bottled as I suspect it might show better then – so the score is conservative. 2,400 bottles. 2018-2024

91

Château Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Val de Dieu

60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, L&W £390.00 (2012)

Hard to judge due to the robust oak treatment, but there is good purity and concentration of fruit underneath. Powerful, with tannic structure derived from both fruit and oak. This will be interesting in time, but will take a few years to show its best. 8,000 bottles. 2018-2026

91

Domaine Charvin Châteauneuf-du-Pape

85% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre/Vaccarèse, 15.0%, FRW £323.00 (2012)

No destemming, no new oak. Herbal, meaty, savoury nose. Medium- to full-bodied with real concentration of flavour and good structure. Plenty of acid to balance things out, but the alcohol, sadly, does make itself known. But in terms of structure and future aromatic complexity, this is an interesting wine. 2016-2022

91

Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

45% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 45% Mourvèdre, H2V £460.00

Dense, quiet, earthy nose. Juicy, fresh, dynamic, intense. This is a serious, earthy, herbal style of Châteauneuf, all very harmonious and well balanced, with remarkable length. Serious tannic load here, plenty of it, with weight and textural grain. 2018-2025

91

Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve

80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, BBR £262.90 (2012)

Good depth of fruit with lovely fresh herbal notes of bay and sage. Very full, rich and generous in fruit with a warming, juicy finish. Damson and strawberry all backed up by a discreet but serious structure. A detailed and delicious wine that really delivers all you'd want from a classic Châteauneuf. 2016-2024

91

Domaine Pierre Usseglio Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Traditionelle

80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault, FRW £184.00

Deep, brooding damson and liquorice. It smells serious! Full-bodied, rich and concentrated in juicy, dark fruits. Perfectly balanced with a mineral streak on the long, powerful finish. Nothing weak or lacking. 2016-2022

91

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

85% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, H2V £337.00

80 to 90-year-old vines, no destemming, aged in large oak barrels and concrete vats. Attractive damson and herb aromatics with some peppery hints – it's a lovely nose. Medium-to full-bodied with a vivid intensity to the sweet fruit. A refreshing mineral edge and acid backbone runs through it delivering length and refreshment which helps cut through the fairly high alcohol. Not their most concentrated Chante la Merle but it has real freshness and clarity. 2016-2022

91

Château Beauchêne Châteauneuf-du-Pape Grande Réserve

80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 14.0%, C&B £207.90 (2012)

100-year-old Grenache, 50-year-old Syrah and Mourvèdre. Immediately impressive, spicy, peppery nose – very promising. Medium-bodied, well balanced, the fruit has good ripeness but isn't overly sweet. It has a very tailored shape, and finishes savoury and structured. Perhaps not the longest finish, but this has real interest and detail. 2016-2022

91

Domaine Saint Préfert Châteauneuf-du-Pape Classique

70% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 15% Cinsault, 13.5%, FRW £184.00 (2012)

Organic fruit aged for 15 months mostly in concrete alongside some large old oak barrels. It offers up a very attractive nose of lavender, raspberry, strawberry and cocoa. It's medium-bodied, with lovely acidity and fine-grained tannins. This has real vitality and brightness to the flavours, and a long, mineral finish. A joy to taste, really dynamic, lip-smacking stuff. Other red samples from this producer were sadly out of condition. 2017-2024

91

Château Sixtine Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée du Vatican

65% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, BDI £216.00 (2007)

Deep, dark, brooding damson fruit with a touch of leather and shoe polish. Vibrant, medium-bodied, fresh style with a mineral edge. Not the most concentrated but this has real freshness and liveliness. 2015-2022

91

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

70% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, BBR £335.40 (2013)

Plum, damson and strawberry fruit. Rounded and juicy. Good acids. Not quite the weight of fruit of previous years, but medium length and good balance. 2016-2020

91

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape

65% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault, 14.5%, J&B £360.00

Classic Vieux Télégraphe on the nose, fresh herbs and pure strawberry fruit. Very rich and flowing with added plum and damson on the palate, it has warmth and generosity. There is some firmness of tannin and good acidity here, with the balance to see it age with ease into the medium term. It clearly bears the stamp of the vintage. 2016-2022

90

Château Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape

75% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 15.0%, GAU £232.83 (2012)

Pure damson, plum and blackberry fruit with a hint of florality. Lovely mouthfilling juicy fruit and a generous layer of ripe tannin, with plenty of keen acidity. Some Châteauneufs are lacking weight and depth this year; not Vaudieu. 2016-2022

90

**Domaine de la Mordorée Châteauneuf-du-Pape
La Belle Voyageuse**

90% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre/Syrah/Counoise/Vaccarèse, 15.0%, H2V £268.00

Organic. A new cuvée from Domaine de la Mordorée since Christophe Delorme decided only to release a small amount of Reine des Bois. 100% destemmed, 12 months in 85% stainless steel and 15% old barriques. Lovely inviting nose of bramble, raspberry and liquorice. Some herbal and meaty hints. Mouthfilling fruit, inky concentration and firm structure underneath. The alcohol does show a little, as is so often the case with this domaine. Not the longest or most elegant, but you can really sink your teeth into this. A juicy, fruity, early-drinking style. 2016-2020

90

Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Origines

50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 30% Mourvèdre, H2V £273.00

Quiet on the nose at the time of tasting, just some damson and plum. Plenty of stuffing on the palate though – intensely concentrated dark berry fruit, a good heft of ripe tannin, and good balancing acidity. It's a harmonious wine already, which bodes well for the future. 2016-2022

90

Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape

70% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, BBR £244.92 (2013)

Plum, liquorice and garrigue herbs in abundance. Full-bodied, juicy, with good depth of fruit. Real intensity and a lovely zesty brightness to the fruit on the finish. 2015-2018

90

Le Clos du Caillou Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition

95% Grenache, 5% Syrah/Mourvèdre, H2V £209.00

Organic, grown on sand, fermented in concrete, then aged 15 months in foudres. Gorgeous open plum, damson, cinnamon and orange zest aromatics. Some lavender and garrigue as well. A lovely nose at this stage. Medium-bodied, very lively and juicy with lovely lip-smacking acidity and fine, unobtrusive tannins. A very polished and clean style, and very well produced. 2015-2019

90

Domaine Jérôme Gradassi Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, SVS £198.65 (2013)

No destemming, 10 months in old barriques. Solid, richly fruited nose, plenty of dense Mourvèdre showing through. Full-bodied, with expressive fruit, good acidity and a layer of ripe tannin. Full, flowing, generous, sweet fruit with a distinctly herbal side – thyme, bay and rosemary. Long finish. This is an impressive showing from Gradassi. 2016-2022

90

La Bastide St Dominique Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Hesperides

50% Grenache, 50% Mourvèdre, 15.0%, BIB? £312.00 AWSP

Organically grown on Les Bedines lieu-dit. Aged for 18 months, 80% in concrete, 20% in demi-muid. Unmistakably Mourvèdre in aroma – earthy currant and floral notes. Juicy, very rich in concentration and texture, very intense. Pointedly firm acids – and chock full of chewy, fairly dry tannins. Mouthcoating and powerful, everything is in place for the long haul. Perhaps just a little sweet in fruit for those that like their Châteauneuf very savoury, but this is good – powerful and long. 2018-2027

89

Vignobles Mayard Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine du Père Pape

60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 15% Cinsault, 15.0%, H2V £199.00

Blueberry liqueur, violets and liquorice. Sweet black fruits, and some slightly grainy, reasonably serious tannins. Good acidity whipping it all straight. Always quite an easy, juicy, flattering style and 2014 is no different. The alcohol is on the high side but the finish pleasantly long. 2017-2022

89

Mas de Boislauzon Châteauneuf-du-Pape

65% Grenache, 35% Mourvèdre, 15.0%, CWM £254.50 (2013)

Organic. Bright and clear bramble, damson and plum aromas. Sweetly juicy, with something that reminds me of whisky. A clear beam of acid and some slightly rustic, 100% cocoa tannins. A robust, unruly, characterful style. 2017-2024

89

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape

70% Grenache, 30% Syrah/Mourvèdre, BBR £307.92 (2013)

Attractive plum, damson and raspberry nose, lots of high-toned detail to the fruit. Medium-bodied, not the most complex, but some bright red fruit character. A readily quaffable style of Châteauneuf, enjoyably crunchy. 2015-2018

89

Domaine de la Solitude Châteauneuf-du-Pape

60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault, WDR £215.40 (2012)

Full, generous, juicy style, quite spicy on the nose but no obtrusive oak. Full-bodied, but the structure neatens things up on the long finish. Very classic, well balanced and well made. 2016-2020

89

Domaine de l'Arnesque Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 14.0%, ODD £215.40 (2011)

One year in demi-muids of 1 to 7 uses. Lush fruit on the palate, with velour tannin and good concentration of vibrant red and black berry fruits. Nicely done, in a clean, contemporary style. Pretty firm tannins here. A successful vintage for l'Arnesque. 2017-2022

89

Domaine Mathieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Grenache, 20% twelve other varieties, 14.5%, CMW? £276.00 AWSP

20 hectares spread over 58 separate parcels. Fermented in cement, then spends 18 months in foudre. Authentic, fairly classic, restrained aromatics – damson and lavender. Medium-bodied, not too high in acid, with tight interwoven tannic structure. The tannins have been well managed and have a lovely velour texture. Domaine Mathieu has produced a highly competent, considered wine – a quietly confident performer. 2016-2021

89

M. Chapoutier Châteauneuf-du-Pape Croix de Bois

100% Grenache, FRW £368.00

Organic. Bright, red-fruited style – cranberry, raspberry and pomegranate. Juicy, less intense than their Barbe Rac – it doesn't have the same concentration or stuffing but the wine is well balanced and very drinkable with a degree of finesse thanks to its precise acids. 2015-2020

89

Ferraton Père & Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Parvis

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, MIL £183.73 (2013)

A gentle, plummy style with subtle baking spices on the nose. There is some generosity and Southern Rhône warmth to the aromas. Soft, silky in texture, with juicy strawberry and raspberry fruit. Fine tannins are inlaid into the fruit and acidity is nicely balanced. Gently perfumed fruit and a degree of finesse. 2015-2020

89

Château Mont-Redon Châteauneuf-du-Pape

60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 8% Mourvèdre, 2% others, 14.0%, J&B £180.00 (2011)

Good depth of colour. Attractive, open, plummy nose with plenty of forest fruits and violets. Medium- to full-bodied, with balanced acidity and some textured tannin. Soft and approachable but with sufficient structure. Remarkably successful considering the volumes produced (280,000 bottles in 2014). 2016-2020

89

Vignobles Mayard Châteauneuf-du-Pape Clos du Calvaire

70% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 10% Cinsault, 14.5%, H2V £173.00

Already quite expressive on the nose, some crème de mûre and a little bit of Syrah spice coming through. Touch of mocha. Full and flowing on the palate, with good acidity but noticeable alcohol. Medium length. Soft and drinkable already with noticeable sweetness to the fruit. 2016-2018

Top 35 Other Côtes-du-Rhône

93

Château de Saint Cosme Gigondas Hominis Fides

90% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 14.5%, FRW £495.00 (2013)

No destemming, fermented in concrete, aged for 12 months in 1- to 3-year-old barriques. Remarkably bright, dynamic and effusive nose with notes of lavender, garrigue herbs, potpourri, damson and liquorice. Medium-bodied, wonderfully lively and fresh, with a medium to long finish. This may not have the concentration and density of their most long-lasting vintages but it's still a beautifully balanced and fresh wine that will last into the medium term and take on intriguing complexity as it does. 2014 is a lighter vintage in Gigondas, but this is still a wine to be reckoned with. The most complete wine of the Saint Cosme single vineyards, and the most balanced regarding oak influence. 1,200 bottles. 2016-2024

93

Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras Oumage

100% Grenache, BBR? £300.00 AWSP

Not made every year, Oumage is a selection of vines from within the Lopy parcel, and never the same blend. The 2014 is a generous, very rounded style that's powerful without heaviness. It's subtle in structure, with sweet fruit but a lively, savoury finish. 2017-2022

92

Château de Fonsalette Côtes-du-Rhône

50% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 35% Cinsault, FWW £648.00 (2008)

A Côtes-du-Rhône of beautiful aromatic detail and intensity. Lifted and aerial, with wild strawberry, cherry blossom, rose and black pepper. It has finesse and vigour, with a fine line of acidity and some upright tannin from the Syrah. Very classic. 2016-2022

92

Domaine des Bosquets Gigondas La Colline

Mostly Grenache, 15.0%, LIB? £300.00 AWSP

Deeper, fruitier, slightly darker in character than the Lieu Dit. Fuller in body, richer in tannin, soft and ripe and supple. It has generous fruit, lovely acidity, ample tannin and a piercingly fresh, long finish. A wine that transcends what was a tricky vintage. 2017-2020

92

Domaine Saint Gayan Gigondas In Nomine Patris

Mostly Grenache, 14.0%, YAP? £228.00 AWSP

No destemming, aged for 12 months in old foudres. Beautifully lifted, pure Grenache fruit: black cherry, wild strawberry, garrigue herbs. Very full-bodied, concentrated and juicy – yields must have been tiny. Admirable tannic structure and overall finesse. A serious Gigondas. 2,000 bottles. 2017-2022

92

Domaine Saint Damien Gigondas La Louisiane

80% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault/Syrah, 14.5%, CLC £190.00 (2012)

A full-bodied yet straight style, with length and power, and no excess fat. Solid structure built around pure sweet damson and blackberry fruit. Well balanced, with well-worked, fine tannins. An impressive wine that will stay the course. 2017-2022

92

Domaine Gramenon Côtes-du-Rhône La Mémé

100% Grenache, CHK £250.40 AWSP

120-year-old vines, some pre-phylloxera, no destemming. A profoundly deep wine with structured but intensely juicy, succulent black berry fruits. Sublimely fresh. 2016-2020

92

Montirius Vacqueyras Le Clos

50% Grenache, 50% Syrah, 13.5%, BBR £154.92 (2013)

Incredible nose, beautifully fragrant, spicy and peppery from the large proportion of Syrah. It's explosively aromatic, with raspberry, lavender, wild herbs and wild strawberry all jostling for attention. Full-bodied on the palate, packed full of dynamic fruit and perfectly balanced by beautiful freshness, piercing acidity and a very fine but firm tannic structure. 2016-2022

91

Domaine des Bosquets Gigondas Le Lieu Dit

Mostly Grenache, 15.0%, ECT £269.60 (2011)

Old vine Grenache grown on sand, 80% destemmed, aged for 18 months in old demi-muids. Intense and detailed on the nose: damson, thyme, plum, eucalyptus. Fairly gentle on the palate, with a little spicy kick on the finish. Good length, good balance, not the fullest or most concentrated but nonetheless a very good wine. It has that forest freshness and vigour that places you immediately in Gigondas. 4,000 bottles. 2017-2020

91

Le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras Lopy

75% Grenache, 25% Syrah, BBR £244.92 (2013)

A selection of old vines that delivers deep, dark fruit – bramble amongst the red berries. Lovely balance, and a fine-boned structure. Consistently one of the most elegant wines of the appellation. 2017-2022

91

Domaine Brusset Gigondas Les Hauts de Montmirail

50% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre, 14.0%, BRW £198.00 (2013)

Plum, damson, bramble and sage on the nose. Wonderfully expressive fruit, a real pleasure to sink your teeth into. Full-bodied, generous in fruit, with real length and vibrancy. Very pure, with little herbal notes on the long finish. Very good considering the challenges of 2014.

2016-2020

91

Domaine de la Monardière Vacqueyras Les 2 Monardes

60% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre/others, 14.0%, BBR £135.12 (2013)

Authentic and savoury brambly nose. Not too full in body but with a lovely concentration of very pure, fresh fruits. This really sings, and is admirably drinkable. A textured tannic structure gives this plenty of crunch. This has a satisfyingly rustic edge, it lacks any unnecessary polish, and simply presents itself naked and proud. 2015-2020

91

Oratoire Saint Martin Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Les Douyes

60% Grenache, 40% Syrah, BBR £154.92 (2012)

100-year-old co-planted vines from a single vineyard, no destemming. Dark and meaty in style. Intense, juicy strawberry fruit, all very bright and fresh. A delicious, relatively structured style of Cairanne. 2016-2022

91

Domaine des Amadiou Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Vieilles Vignes

50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre, 10% Carignan, PHW £104.90 (2011)

Authentic plum and strawberry fruit. Wonderful freshness, with a thick swathe of ripe tannin perfectly integrated into the juice. A beautifully natural, unforced and unspun impression of Cairanne. Perfectly balanced in terms of structure and varietal blend. So pure and lively, a joy. 2015-2019

91

Domaine Raspail-Ay Gigondas

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 14.0%, PHW £157.40 (2013)

Lovely nose, real intensity of fresh fruit and fresh herbs. Full body, good intensity of fruit, good concentration. Lovely balance between fruit, ripe tannin and acidity. Raspail-Ay are one of the top estates in Gigondas, and their 2014 is, as ever, delicious. A little lighter than some years but delightfully drinkable. 2016-2018

91

Domaine la Soumade Rasteau Cuvée Confiance

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 15.0%, CHK £215.40 (2012)

Raspberry fruit and raspberry leaf. Beautifully silky texture with a long, redcurrant, wild strawberry and violet finish of pure silk. As fine and elegant as ever, with very well worked tannins. 3,500 bottles. 2015-2020

91

Domaine Gramenon Côtes-du-Rhône La Sagesse

100% Grenache, 14.0%, H2V £150.00

Blueberry, damson and bramble and a very pure seam of resin running through it. Medium-bodied, very juicy and full on the finish, concentrated tangy fruits. A real teeth blackener, concentrated for the vintage. 2016-2020

91

Domaine Le Clos de Caveau Vacqueyras Fruit Sauvage

60% Grenache, 40% Syrah, 14.5%, SWG £124.90 (2013)

No oak, all fermented then aged for 12 months in concrete. This Vacqueyras has an earthy, growling, animal side. Behind the wild fruits you can smell the savoury scrapings from the Sunday roast pan. Very full, flowing and concentrated, but not without some ripe tannin holding it all up like a dam. 2017-2022

91

Montirius Vacqueyras Garrigues

70% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 13.5%, BBR £190.00 (2010)

A bit more serious on the nose than their Village cuvée – darker and spicier in style, dried herbs on the barbeque. Very juicy and lively with lovely strawberry and blackberry fruit, all very harmonious. Good length, perfect balance. A distinctly elegant Vacqueyras. 2017-2022

91

Domaine Gramenon Vinsobres La Papesse

100% Grenache, BDW £231.90 (2010)

Very full, serious style made from 80 to 90-year-old vines. Very concentrated and profound, the intense, pure fruit aromatics pull you in to a powerful, savoury palate. Balanced, lively, fresh and dynamic. It has the uncomplicated, unrestrained fruit of the best natural wines. 2018-2025

90

Domaine d'Ouréa Gigondas

50% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 25% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, BBR £244.96 (2012)

Fermented then aged for 18 months in concrete. Bold strawberry and raspberry aromatics with some lightly spicy hints and dried herbs. A structured style for the vintage, with darker fruits than some and a touch of lavender. It is not overly rich in fruit, but this gives a sense of relief to the texture of the wine. Dynamic, lively, crunchy and confident. 2016-2020

90

Domaine les Hautes Cances Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Col du Débat

43% Grenache, 28% Syrah, 25% Carignan, 4% Counoise, 14.5%, GWS £200.40 (2012)

Hand-harvested, natural yeasts, aged in cement and old foudres. Gorgeously expressive strawberry fruit. Lifted violet, lavender and black cherry. Medium-bodied but highly expressive fruits on the palate, balanced with ripe tannins and perfectly judged acidity. Real freshness and detail. A successful wine in a difficult vintage. 2016-2019

90

Domaine Alary Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne La Jean de Verde

100% Grenache, H2V £114.00

Darkly fruited for a Grenache. Rich, full-bodied, wonderful smoothness of texture all pierced by bright acidity. Delicious fruit, lovely balance, long finish. Transcends the vintage. 2015-2020

90

Domaine Brusset Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Les Chabriles

60% Grenache, 40% Syrah, 14.0%, BRW £120.00 (2013)

Brooding dark fruit on the nose, sweet damson on the palate and a touch of sloe. Full, good acidity and ripe tannin. This has the structure and concentration that some other lack from this appellation in 2014. Not hugely long but nonetheless one of the best Cairannes of the vintage. 2016-2018

90

Domaine les Pallières Gigondas Terrasse du Diable

90% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Clairette, 14.5%, UNC £180.00 (2012)

Wonderful soaring floral aromatics of violet and eucalyptus. Full-bodied, delicious plum and damson fruits and a hint of spice on the finish. Juicy and fresh, fairly easy on the in tannin. 2016-2019

90

Domaine la Soumade Gigondas

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 14.5%, THT? £200.00 AWSP

A distinctly lifted, spicy style of Gigondas with Victoria plum fruit. Beautifully soft and rounded satin texture and good length of plum, damson and blackberry. Soumade always make a very elegant style of Gigondas, and this vintage has played into their hands. A delightful wine. Balanced and fine, this is the kind of wine that will win Gigondas new fans. 4,800 bottles. 2016-2019

90

Roucas Toumba Vacqueyras Les Restanques de Cabassole

60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, HED £301.40 (2010)

A muscular and savoury, almost meaty style of Vacqueyras with a big structure with the necessary acidity to hold everything together. Long finish. 2016-2022

90

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

60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre/Cinsault, 14.5%, WLW £154.80 (2012)

Beautiful purity of fruit, very lively and dynamic, really full of vitality. Juicy, fresh berry fruits on the palate, very well balanced with a vibrato finish like a tuning fork. Impressive finesse and sheer drinkability. 2016-2019

89

**Domaine de la Janasse Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages
Terre d'Argile**

25% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 25% Mourvèdre, 25% Carignan, BBR £136.92 (2013)

Freshly squished strawberries and blackberries alongside some lifted black cherry. Full, sweet fruit, very ample and fresh. Wonderful texture, highly expressive and detailed aromatics. Remarkably long and concentrated, but no heaviness. Hint of eucalyptus and cigar tobacco. Really has that clay-rich bass register in the fruit. Can Janasse make a bad wine? I'm yet to taste it if so. 2016-2020

89

**Domaine André Berthet-Rayne Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages
Cairanne Castel Mireio**

60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, CDV? £75.40 AWSP

Fermented in concrete, aged for a year in foudre. Darker and spicier than their Vieilles Vignes, with the Mourvèdre showing through. Medium-bodied, spicy on the palate too with a touch of liquorice. Medium length. But fresh to the end, and well managed tannins. 2016-2018

89

Le Clos de Cazaux Gigondas La Tour Sarrazine

70% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, J&B £105.00

Intriguing herbal, floral nose. Full, juicy, generous strawberry and bramble fruit, with ample ripe tannin and a long, juicy finish. Clearly a lot of work was done to manage this – many Gigondas lack that juicy, generous, flowing Grenache fruit in 2014 – but not this one. 2016-2018

89

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

80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 14.5%, HFW £105.30 (2013)

Aged for 12 months in concrete. This has a lovely nose, with plenty of dark fruits, strawberry, liquorice and garrigue. Juicy berries all wrapped up in a serious structure. Needs a bit of time to settle but very well made and harmonious. 2017-2020

89

Arnoux & Fils Vacqueyras Seigneur de Lauris

70% Grenache, 30% Syrah, SWS £155.30 (2009)

Lovely nose displaying notes of blueberry and liquorice. Medium-bodied, very lively and drinkable. Fine tannins all well integrated, this shows considerable harmony right from the off. 2015-2018

88

L'Ameillaud Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne

50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 2% Mourvèdre, 18% Carignan, 14.0%, EXL £87.19

High proportion of Carignan here giving a rich, figgy flavour alongside the classic blackberry fruit. Dry and savoury, it's not overly stuffed with fruit and will provide satisfying early- to mid-term drinking for those that enjoy a restrained, savoury style. 2016-2019

88

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

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 14.5%, TWS £74.57 (2013)

The relatively high altitude (400m) really benefits this wine; it's distinctly spicy, quite peppery in style, light in body but very drinkable. Sappy, snappy red berry fruit and a dusting of pepper. Lively and vital. 2016-2019

Top 35 Northern Rhône Whites

97

M. Chapoutier Hermitage De l'Orée

100% Marsanne, 13.5% BDI £930.00

3.5 hectares of lieu-dit Les Murets, 70-year-old vines grown biodynamically on pebbles and sand. A profound but ebullient nose featuring peach juice, alphonso mango, almond and yellow plum. Very full-bodied, very rich, but somehow it reverses mid-palate and ends up neat and fresh again – extraordinary winemaking sleight of hand. Long and intense with pronounced oak influence but if there's one white Rhône that can take it, it's de l'Orée. Not overly heavy in alcohol. All perfectly balanced and incredibly long. A dream-inducing wine, but one with a snap of fresh acidity to keep you awake. The ultimate guilty pleasure.

2016-2034

96

Domaine JL Chave Hermitage

Around 80% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne, FRW £1,474.00 (2012)

20% new oak. A tasting of the component lieu-dits (Le Méal, l'Ermite, Les Rocoules, Maison Blanche and Péléat) shows clear definition and the signature of each separate terroir is plain to see. There is good freshness with fine, bright acids. The overall effect is a fine and elegant vintage that will age into the medium term; it doesn't quite have the concentration of the 2013 or the joyful freshness of the 2012 but there is much to enjoy here. 2020-2035

96

Paul Jaboulet Ainé Hermitage La Chapelle

80% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne, FRW £1,430.00

Gorgeous nose of vanilla pod, mango, celery, and white chocolate. Very full-bodied and intense with a flowing texture. It's intensely firm, straight, powerful, long and piercing, with a beam of bright acidity pointing the way. Very fresh and dry. Somehow hugely powerful yet also light on its feet. A thrilling wine. 2020-2040

96

Domaine Bernard Faurie Hermitage

100% Marsanne, GDH? £516.00 AWSP

Incredibly bright fragrance jumps out of the glass, more mineral than fruit, before giving way to yellow plum, honey and honeysuckle aromas. It has a shining beam of acidity running through it, and a very dry impression but ends with intense fruit and heather honey on the long finish. Amazing energy. Only 600 bottles made. 2017-2038

95

Cave Yves Cuilleron Condrieu Vertige

100% Viognier, CHK £574.16 (2013)

Grown on the biotite granite of the Coteau de Vernon. A deeply coloured wine with incredible soaring aromatics; oatmeal, apricot, bergamot – just wonderful and enveloping. Very full-bodied and concentrated, very fresh. Mouthcoating flavour, and so long. Beautiful acidity and a saline lift on the finish. This is very special, a soft, slow-motion rollercoaster of soft fruits, flowers and honey. Handles its 50% new oak without blinking. 2,500 bottles produced.

2016- 2030

95

Domaine Marc Sorrel Hermitage Les Rocoules

95% Marsanne, 5% Roussanne, 14.5%, FRW £761.00 (2013)

2014 was a good year for Marc's whites as they were picked before the rains of 27/28 September. Pure mango, pineapple and freshly cut pear, this is full-bodied and wonderfully intense with a long, fresh, satisfying finish and a lovely balance. 2020-2040

95

Domaine André Perret Condrieu Coteau de Chéry

100% Viognier, J&B £330.00

As usual this is one of the best Condrieus of the vintage. Pure, lifted, floral, very pretty nose. Full and rounded, with good concentration on the palate. Vibrant acidity delivers plenty of lift, with a long, peach and nectarine finish. Not overblown, beautifully judged, nothing forced. An utter delight. 2015-2020

95

M. Chapoutier Hermitage Chante-Alouette

100% Marsanne, 14.0%, WDR £375.40

Biodynamically grown, three lieu-dits: Le Méal, Les Murets and Chante-Alouette. 50% aged in stainless steel, the rest in demi-muid of which 10% is new. Wonderfully pure honeysuckle, mango, fresh green herbs and almond milk on the nose. Very full-bodied, almost too rich. But it's sapid, long, delicious and captivating. Intense concentration and length of fruit, ending fresh, bright and clean. Unashamedly hedonistic and ebullient but the oak is barely noticeable so bold is the fruit. A remarkably reliable cuvée, year after year. 2016-2026

95

Domaine Robert & Remi Niero Condrieu Chéry

100% Viognier, 14.0%, BBR £334.92 (2013)

An incredibly pure, ethereal aroma rises from the glass like dry ice, this is a beautifully perfumed wine. Very full-bodied, with sweet peach and apricot, clove and cinnamon and a long, mouthwatering finish. So long. A lesson in purity. 4,500 bottles made. 2016-2022

94

Domaine du Colombier Hermitage

100% Marsanne, J&B £400.00

Really intense almond and apricot nose with considerable oak as well. Very full in body with rich apricot and peach fruit. Lovely acid balance rides in on the finish to neaten things up. Ends with energy, vibrancy and real length of flavour. The oak is marked, but is balanced by sheer intensity of fruit. Could only be Hermitage. 2018-2032

94

Domaine René Rostaing, Condrieu La Bonnette

100% Viognier, J&B £395.00

This has a light, blossomy fragrance. It's full in body, intense on the palate, and has a touch of citrus which gives it freshness. It has lovely acidity and a mineral finish. A powerful, keen, straight style with a medium length finish. 2015-2019

94

M. Chapoutier Saint-Joseph Les Granits

100% Marsanne, BDI £310.00

2 hectares of very old vines south of Tournon grown biodynamically on steep granite slopes. Bright and expressive, pithy grapefruit, apricot, honeysuckle, vanilla – lean in fruit but aromatically generous. Rounded, fairly full-bodied. Fine, firm acid line and distinctly salty on the long, mouthwatering finish. A very good, powerful yet lean Saint-Joseph. 2016-2026

94

Domaine Bernard Grippa Saint-Joseph Le Berceau

100% Marsanne, 13.5% MIL £258.73

Grown on granite. Incisive, no-nonsense aromatics spring from the glass. Mango, honeysuckle, liquorice. It's full-bodied with ripe sweetness to the fruit and all enveloped in a cloak of oak (quite prominent at this early stage so hands off for a year or so). A deliciously generous wine with power and elegance and a very long finish. 3,000 bottles made.

2017-2022

93

Domaine André Perret Condrieu Clos Chanson

100% Viognier, J&B £310.00

Grown on granite, no new oak. Jasmine florality on the nose. Full and rounded, ripe fruit and a long, neat finish with a tiny touch of green banana. A very pure expression with a mouthwatering finale. A cute, almost diminutive Condrieu despite its breadth on the palate. Lovely, very drinkable, not hugely concentrated. 2015-2019

93

Domaine Robert & Remi Niero Condrieu Les Ravines

100% Viognier, 13.5%, BBR £289.92 (2012)

Incredibly pure peach and apricot fruit. This has a real lightness of touch and beautiful elegance to it. The oak is present but it doesn't overwhelm, and contributes to a long, floral finish inlaid with wood spice. A beautifully judged, restrained style of considerable finesse.

2016-2018

93

Delas Saint-Joseph Sainte-Epine

100% Marsanne, 13.0%, BRK??

Granite soils, lieu-dit Sainte-Épine, 40-year-old vines, 20 hl/ha. First vintage. Intense, deep aromas of hazelnut, bergamot, mango and quince – a lovely, detailed nose. Full-bodied, very rich, and could do with just a jot more acidity, but there is a lot to enjoy here. Long, slightly buttery finish, but not oily or heavy. A successful experiment from the Delas stable – just 300 bottles, sadly, but production will increase next year. Keep an eye on this one. 2015-2017

93

Domaine François Villard Condrieu De Poncins

100% Viognier, 14.0%, H2V £335.00

Attractive nose, very fresh. There is considerable oak here, but it frames the fruit nicely and adds spice to the rich peach nectar within. Lifted aromatics, full and flowing in body with lovely sweetness to the fruit all inlaid with sandalwood and spice on the long finish. Very good. 2015-2019

93

Delas Condrieu Clos Boucher

100% Viognier, 13.5%, FRW £409.00 (2013)

Grown on granite. Gentle apricot on the nose. Good acidity and some distinctly spicy highlights from the oak. Full-bodied, serious in style and concentration. Juicy and long.

2016-2018

93

Cave Yves Cuilleron Condrieu Les Chaillets

100% Viognier, 14.0%, CHK £424.16

Aged in barriques for 9 months (15% new oak). Pure and pretty floral nose. A full-bodied and rounded style but not without freshness. It has real persistence and a straightness of character leading to a long finish. Its concentrated nature and characteristic Viognier bitter twang on the finish make this a wine for the dinner table rather than an aperitif. 2016-2020

93

Domaine Bernard Gripa Saint-Péray Les Figuiers

40% Marsanne, 60% Roussanne, 13.5%, MIL £175.40

A little closed at the time of tasting, some fresh herbs and pine needles showing through. A touch fuller in body than Les Pins, with a more intense, cleansing, glinting mineral finish. Quietly powerful, but the power lies in the structure, not the aromatics. Long finish. This domaine makes seriously characterful white wines of considerable underlying interest and depth. 2015-2020

93

Domaine Bernard Gripa Saint-Joseph

70% Marsanne, 30% Roussanne, 13.5%, FRW £181.00

Grown on granite. Fresh and easy hazelnut and apricot aromatics. Rounded, medium-bodied and appetisingly dry with intense fruit and a mineral edge on the finish alongside some rich oak that sits in the background. Long, firm, fresh and perfectly balanced. 2015-2018

92

Domaine Mouton Condrieu Côte-Bonnette

100% Viognier, 14.0%, BBR £317.40 (2013)

Grown on the granite slopes of the Côte-Bonnette. Peach, almond, fennel and sage really jump from the glass. A full-bodied, concentrated wine with a straight, dry edge on the finish that keeps it fresh. Long apricot and peach finish. 2016-2018

92

Domaine Clape Saint-Péray

80% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne, YAP? £288.00 AWSP

Pear and vanilla on the nose, medium-bodied, with good bright acidity and a savoury finish. The fruit has an internal sweetness to it, and the finish is dry and mineral with no excess fat. 2016-2019

92

**Domaine Pierre & Jérôme Coursodon Saint-Joseph
Le Paradis St Pierre**

90% Marsanne, 10% Roussanne, 13.5%, VTS £230.40

Grown on granite. Honeycomb, lemon pith and spice. Medium-bodied, with noticeable oak that will likely be better integrated in a couple of years, so hands off for now. A rich, flattering style that's hard not to love. 2017-2020

92

E. Guigal Condrieu

100% Viognier, 13.5%, MIL £258.73

One third vinified and aged in new oak for 8 months. Open florality and oak spice on the nose. Cherubic soft peach on the palate, all very full and ample, and backed up by bright acidity. 2016-2018

92

Domaine Bernard Gripa Saint-Péray Les Pins

70% Marsanne, 30% Roussanne, 13.5%, MIL £133.73

Grown on granite and limestone. Lovely fresh nose, apricots, fennel and honeysuckle. Medium-bodied, bright pear and apricot fruit and a long finish. Woven through with lemon oil. A very pretty wine, beautifully balanced: it dances. 2015-2018

91

E. Guigal Saint-Joseph

95% Marsanne, 5% Roussanne, 13.0%, MIL £133.73

From the southern part of Saint-Joseph, grown on limestone and granite. Some domaine fruit, some bought in. 50% aged in oak, half of that new. Fresh herbs on the nose – mint, fennel fronds, dill, and a touch of peach and mango. Appealingly rounded but not heavy: well balanced and well made. The oak is buried in the fruit, not the other way around. Incisive freshness and a long, savoury finish. 2016-2020

91

Domaine Alain Voge Saint-Péray Terres Boisées

100% Marsanne, 13.5%, JER £195.00 (2013)

50-year-old vines grown on granite and clay/limestone, aged for 13 months in barriques of which 30% are new. Apricot and tangy citrus fruits on the nose. Sweet fruit and lemon curd, quite broad in style, but nicely balanced and ends dry. Fairly long. Very appetising, with integrated oak giving an attractive frame to the fruit. 2015-2018

90

Cave Yves Cuilleron Saint-Joseph Lyseras

50% Marsanne, 50% Roussanne, 13.0%, FRW £117.00

Aged for 9 months in used barriques. Pear and apple fruit with honeysuckle and a backnote of sandalwood. Well balanced and fresh, very drinkable though retaining some characteristic Saint-Joseph breadth of flavour and body. Juicy fresh pear on the finish, remarkably assertive for an entry-level cuvée. Very successful this year. 2015-2019

90

Domaine François Villard Saint-Péray Version

70% Marsanne, 30% Roussanne, 14.0%, H2V £140.00

Light lime blossom aromas. Rounded – it has a touch of puppy fat – but with good balancing acidity and freshness. A broad-shouldered wine made with considerable precision and therefore refreshment value. Some juicy pear on the medium-length finish. 2015-2017

90

Domaine JP&C Jamet Côtes-du-Rhône

Marsanne, Viognier, Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, BIB? £75.40 AWSP

Two plots close to Côte-Rôtie, majority schist and clay, and no new oak. A floral, mineral, lean style. Fine and elegant. 2015-2018

89

Domaine Alain Voge Saint-Péray Harmonie

100% Marsanne, 13.0%, N&P £170.00

30-year-old vines grown on granite and limestone, wine vinified and aged in stainless steel. Beautifully aromatic honeysuckle and apricot nose. Medium- to full-bodied with good concentration and freshness. Plump, cherubic fruits. 2015-2016

89

**Domaine François Villard Vin de France
Les Contours de Deponcins**

100% Viognier, 13.5%, H2V £145.00

Unmistakably Northern Rhône Viognier nose – almond and perfumed flat peach. Full and rich but balanced with good acidity. Good weight and concentration on the mid-palate though not terribly long. 2015-2017

88

Domaine Fayolle Fils & Fille Crozes-Hermitage Sens

60% Marsanne, 40% Roussanne, 13.0%, THT? £84.00 AWSP

One of the most successful white Crozes of the vintage thanks to a proportion of hillside vineyards and harvesting the fruit by hand. It's a subtle wine with good purity of fresh honeysuckle and hazelnut flavour. Well balanced with some mineral freshness. 2015-2017

88

E. Guigal Crozes-Hermitage

95% Marsanne, 5% Roussanne, 13.0%, MIL £108.73

From a 10 hectare plot in the northerly commune of Larnage plus some purchased grapes, but not much from Le Chassis which saw the worst of this year's problems. One quarter aged in 1-year-old barrels for 12 months, 50% malolactic. Aromatically on the lean side, some gentle mango and lemon curd. Brighter fruit on the palate, with some gentle oak influence in the background that brings complexity. Good weight, tension and freshness. A successful Crozes for the vintage. 2015-2017

Top 25 Châteauneuf- du-Pape Whites

97

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape Roussanne Vieilles Vignes

100% Roussanne, C&B £780.00

Only 4-5,000 bottles are made each year of this cuvée from a single parcel of Roussanne planted in 1909. An extraordinary nose, with crème pâtissière, poached pear, grapefruit, lime blossom, honey, macadamia and ginger all jostling for attention. It's very full-bodied and rich but its acidity and minerality keep it fresh. A wine to impress rather than refresh. Huge concentration; very, very long. 2016-2035

95

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige

70% Roussanne, 15% Grenache Blanc, 15% Clairette, VTS £553.90 (2013)

Fuller and richer than their Tradition bottling, with a jot more oak, but even more sparky vitality to balance it. This has real concentration and drive but without feeling forced. Fine mineral backbone. Beautifully balanced, long, clean and shimmering on the finish. A delightful white Châteauneuf that leaves you craving more. 2016-2029

95

Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Equal quantities Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Bourboulenc, Roussanne, Picpoul and Picardan, 14.5%, GDH £316.00

Pure florality, fennel and citrus – satsuma. Very open aromas. Bright, glinting minerality, lovely balance and length. Citrus pith on the finish. Long, structured, tiny touch of tannin. Not overly full in body or alcohol, this is beautifully drinkable but not without richness. 2016-2029

94

Château Rayas Châteauneuf-du-Pape

50% Grenache Blanc, 50% Clairette, MRC £900.00 (2008)

Citrus pith on the nose, lime and grapefruit, with a hint of more tropical fruit in the background – pineapple. It's a fresh and vibrant vintage of Rayas Blanc with firm acids and a serious mineral undertow. Well balanced, but not the most intensely concentrated in terms of fruit. Nonetheless a very good wine indeed. 2016-2024

94

Domaine du Pegau Châteauneuf-du-Pape A Tempo

A third each Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, 14.0%, GAU? £1,140.00 AWSP

A new cuvée from Pegau. Some richness on the nose, fruit and oak in unison. There is real intensity of flavour and aroma here – red apple, pear and a touch of aniseed. Intense, concentrated, tangy fruit continues into the long finish. Very firm but very fresh, with considerable structure for a white wine and a long finish. A seriously powerful, mineral wine that's hard to ignore. 1,200 bottles. 2017-2024

94

Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape

70% Roussanne, 30% Bourboulenc, 14.5%, H2V £320.00

Lifted almond, pear, orange blossom, full-bodied but bright and sweetly fruited. Plump and joyful, medium-bodied, and not overdone. It has a real sense of luxury on the palate, but somehow ends fresh and dry. Savoury final impression, with no unnecessary sweetness, alcohol or oak. Couldn't be anything but top white Châteauneuf. 4,000 bottles. 2016-2022

94

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape

80% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc/Clairette/Bourboulenc/Picardan, C&B £440.00

Fine, light, orange blossom aromas alongside intense pear, fennel and liquorice. It's full-bodied, rich and concentrated, but snappy acidity pulls it all up like braces. A long, saline finish makes this an intense and dynamic wine, with the oak all well integrated. Very nicely balanced and harmonious, a lovely wine. 2016-2025

93

La Ferme du Mont Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vendage

70% Grenache, 20% Clairette, 10% Roussanne, 14.0%, BDI??

Slightly botryised Roussanne for aromatic interest; some underripe Grenache Blanc for acidity. Beautifully lifted and vibrant spicy/floral nose – the botrytis does show a little if you know to look for it. Soft and rounded, but not overly full in body and features some tangy citrus flavour. Good acid balance and fairly long. A wine with a complex structure and fine mineral backbone which counteracts the plumpness of fruit. An admirably drinkable style. A wine with lots to talk about. 800 bottles. 2015-2019

93

Domaine du Pegau Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réservee

60% Clairette, 20% Grenache Blanc, 10% Bourboulenc, 10% Roussanne, 14.0%, UNC £300.00 (2009)

Fennel-frond freshness and a touch of oatmeal. Full-bodied and very rounded with a welcome structural squeeze of tannin that releases into a long, neat, mineral finish. The fruit is pure and the tight structure makes for a serious yet highly pleasurable wine. 2016-2022

92

Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape

60% Grenache Blanc, 20% Roussanne, 20% Clairette, EXL £325.70

Rich pear and apple compote with a little crème anglaise and a rich vein of oak spice and tangy citrus. Medium-bodied, fairly concentrated with a lively impression. It has some backbone and structure making it easier to drink than some of the more expansive examples. The gold standard for Tradition bottles. It has freshness and snap. 2016-2019

92

Domaine Roger Sabon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Renaissance

30% Roussanne, 30% Grenache Blanc, 20% Clairette, 20% Bourboulenc, 13.5%, FWW £282.00

Vinified and aged for 8 months in tronconic wooden vats of 25 hectolitre. A fresh, slightly reductive style with brisk acid and some evident oak. Firm, concentrated fruit on the palate, primarily ripe apricot, with well integrated spicy oak. The long, saline finish glints with minerality. Clever winemaking yielding good results. 3,300 bottles. 2015-2019

92

Domaine de Beurenard Châteauneuf-du-Pape

30% Clairette, 20% Granche Blanc, 25% Bourboulenc, 22% Roussane, 3% Picpoul/Picardan, 13.5%, WDR £225.40 (2012)

Organic. Aged for 6 months, 30% in barriques and 70% in stainless steel. Apricot, red apple and a touch of oak spice on the nose. Full-bodied and rich but very fresh and lively. Perfect level of acidity and real length of fruit. A broad-shouldered wine but with a real sense of vibrancy and drinkability. Leaves you wanting another sip – the crucial test for white Châteauneuf. Saline finish. (Boisrenards sadly not available to taste in 2014.) 2015-2020

92

La Bastide St Dominique Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chapelle

100% Clairette Rose, 14.0%, BIB??

Organic. Use of pure Clairette Rose leads to a very characterful style, one that's beautifully fragrant and floral. Lovely ripe apricot fruit on the nose and a touch of talc, compellingly fresh and fragrant. This has a lot of puppy fat on the palate but it's balanced with good acidity and a mineral seam. Finishes long in flavour and dry. The oak is seamlessly integrated. It has lightness but not without profundity and real vitality. 940 bottles. 2015-2020

92

Château la Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape

35% Grenache Blanc, 33% Roussanne, 18% Bourboulenc, 14% Clairette, 13.0%, MIL £225.40

Organic. Attractive pear and honeysuckle nose with some macadamia nut. Medium-bodied, very fresh, balanced acidity and a mineral streak. Long finish. Well-integrated oak supports the fruit and gives it a little extra structure. Exceptionally well balanced this year. 2016-2020

92

Château Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Clos du Belvédère

100% Grenache Blanc, 13.0%, LIB? £384.00 AWSP

Fermented and aged for 9 months in barriques. Soft, creamy, pear flesh nose. Very broad on the palate, but then tapers in quickly thanks to fine acidity and a touch of neatening tannin. There is clear oak influence, but more on the structure of the wine rather than the aromatics. Long, straight finish. 2018-2024

92

Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Fontaine

100% Roussanne, 14.0%, H2V £288.00

Beautifully clear and pure aromatics on the nose – lime blossom and pear. Full-bodied, sweet fruit, brimming with lively acidity and then oak spice gives complexity on the finish – the oak influence is marked. Very concentrated and fresh, a touch oily in texture. A tarty style, but hard not to love. Very long finish. Very much a wine for the dinner table. Lobster please. 2016-2024

92

Château Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape

75% Grenache Blanc, 25% Roussanne, 14.0%, GAU £247.16 (2013)

Fermented in barriques, then the Roussanne is aged in barriques for 9 months. Lovely fresh pear, with a touch of pineapple and a hint of spice. Exceptional freshness. Very full-bodied, admirably concentrated, really makes an impression. Fine beam of acidity and a glint of minerality on the long finish. A seriously good effort from Vaudieu. Animated and juicy. 2015-2019

92

Domaine Chante Cigale Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Grenache Blanc, Bourboulenc, Roussanne, Clairette, SLP £141.65

Apricot and honeysuckle-scented. Really fresh, with great clarity of flavour – juicy apricot to the fore and some background spice. Very Châteauneuf but very drinkable. 2016-2019

91

Domaine La Roquette Châteauneuf-du-Pape Clos La Roquette

33% Clairette, 34% Roussanne, 33% Grenache Blanc, 13.5%, HIC £225.40

Clear, fresh, spicy and floral aromas with some red apple fruit. Medium-bodied, fresh and lively, very drinkable style, but the oak appears a little more pronounced than in previous vintages. A lovely contemporary style, with sappy fruit and oak spice on the long finish. 2017-2020

91

Domaine du Bosquet des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape

35% Grenache Blanc, 45% Clairette, 20% Bourboulenc, 13.5%, H2V? £204.00 AWSP

A blend of 6 different lieux-dits, 15% new oak. Pear and apple compote with backnotes of yellow flowers. Full-bodied, concentrated flavour, lovely acidity and a hint of minerality. Juicy, long, lots to enjoy, hedonistic pineapple and peach fruit on the palate. The use of oak here is very well judged and really helps to lift the fruit. 4,000 bottles. 2016-2019

91

Domaine Patrice Magni Châteauneuf-du-Pape

60% Granche Blanc, 30% Clairette, 10% Roussanne, 13.5%, HAM? £204.00 AWSP

6 months in new oak for the Roussanne, stainless steel for the Grenache Blanc and Clairette. A pleasingly fruity nose, with plenty of apricot and a touch of peach. Very rounded in body, but a real sense of purity and a lightness of touch of the finish, making this a very drinkable option, but still with weight and presence. A deliciously contemporary style of white Châteauneuf – good concentration but no heaviness. 3,500 bottles. 2015-2019

91

Vignobles Mayard Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau de Ma Mère

40% Grenache Blanc, 20% Clairette, 20% Roussanne, 20% Bourboulenc, 14.0%, H2V? £228.00 AWSP

A pure floral/citric nose – lime blossom and orange blossom – with some integrated oak notes that don't intrude. Full, rich style on the palate with sweet fruit balanced by firm acidity. Some slightly more noticeable oak on the finish but not unbalanced in this regard. A fresh, well made, contemporary style of white Châteauneuf. 2016-2019

91

La Bastide St Dominique Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Equal quantities Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, 14.0%, VOD £184.38 (2013)

Organic, no oak, all stainless steel. Gorgeously open fruity peach and apricot nose. Medium-to full-bodied, lots of juicy fruit to enjoy, unburdened by oak. Neat mineral finish. Stylish, modern, nicely judged. 5,000 bottles. 2015-2018

90

Domaine de la Charbonnière Châteauneuf-du-Pape

40% Grenache Blanc, 40% Roussanne, 20% Clairette, BWC £243.10

From the Brusquières lieu-dit, 25% new oak. Some pleasant just-ripe apricot fruit on the nose, quite authentic in character, with a touch of fennel. There is some oak apparent but it's all well integrated and harmonious. Full-bodied, broad and flowing, but ample acidity to balance it. Good length. It doesn't quite have the vibrancy of some others in the vintage, but this is a solid example. 2015-2029

90

Domaine Saint Préfert Châteauneuf-du-Pape

60% Clairette, 40% Roussanne, 14.0%, BOW £313.00

From Les Serres lieu-dit, organic, 33% new oak. The oak is certainly present on the nose but it's balanced by fruit and florality. Very full-bodied with intense acidity and a long finish. The oak dominates a touch at time of tasting but I suspect it will meld. Doesn't quite have the elegance of some 2014s, but it's a fruity, juicy, intense style. 2017-2020

Top 15 Other Côtes-du-Rhône Whites and Rosés

92

Oratoire Saint Martin Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Haut Coustias

40% Clairette, 20% Marsanne, 20% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, BBR £154.92 (2013)

No new oak, just lovely intense apricot fruit and a touch of cinnamon spice in the background. Full-bodied, but beautifully balanced with a long finish. A touch of honey at the end rounds it off nicely. Consistently one of the best white wines in the Côtes-du-Rhône. 2016-2022

92

Domaine les Hautes Cances Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Tradition

45% Viognier, 23% Clairette, 20% Grenache Blanc, 12% Bourboulenc, 13.0%, OWL? £144.00 AWSP

No oak, no malolactic. Light, fresh, pure pear and mouthwatering fresh honeydew melon. It's medium-bodied, with a pleasing green apple freshness on the finish. Perfect balance and satisfyingly long. Just lovely. 3,500 bottles. 2015-2018

92

Domaine Brusset Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Les Travers

One third each Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Viognier, 13.0%, BRW £98.00 (2013)

Rich, ripe melon, Williams pear and a touch of peach. Long, intense, beautifully balanced with no heaviness. Some struck-match oak on the finish. A powerful but fresh white. 9,000 bottles. 2016-2019

91

Roucas Toumba Vacqueyras Les Prémices

Marsanne, Roussanne, Viognier, Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Bourboulenc, Carignan Blanc, Piquepoul, 14.0%, VNT? £204.00 AWSP

Remarkably rich apricot and pear fruit on the nose, then equally fully fruited on the palate, the savoury finish ending with a hint of walnut and vanilla bean. 2016-2020

91

Domaine André Berthet-Rayne Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Tradition

25% Roussanne, 25% Marsanne, 25% Clairette, 25% Bourboulenc, 14.0%, CDV £90.40 (2012)

Fermented and aged for 8 months in stainless steel before release. Pleasantly subtle aromatics, real freshness and vibrancy and lovely balance. Long, fine, straight and very enjoyable. It really sings. 8,000 bottles. 2015-2017

91

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

41% Grenache Blanc, 29% Clairette, 18% Viognier, 12% Ugni Blanc, 13.5%, EAR £176.80

Fermented in large and small oak barrels, then aged in them for 6 months. Lime blossom, pear and melon on the nose. Full-bodied but with powerful structure, acidity and minerality holding it all up. A concentrated wine, not overly full, and deliciously drinkable. Finishes fresh. 2015-2018

91

Château d'Aquéria Tavel

45% Grenache, 20% Clairette, 15% Cinsault, 8% Mourvèdre, 7% Syrah, 5% Bourboulenc
14.0%, BBR £124.92

Rosé de saigné, fermented then aged for 6 months in stainless steel. Authentic red berry fruit – redcurrant, raspberry and strawberry. It's a full-bodied wine but has the minerality to hold it up. Keen, dry and cleansing. In many senses, this is essentially a powerful, mineral, pale red wine. 2015-2019

91

Château d'Aquéria Lirac

50% Grenache Blanc, 25% Bourboulenc, 16% Clairette, 12% Roussanne, 7% Viognier, 14.0%,
CHK £110.40

Vinification and 6 months of ageing in stainless steel. Delightfully fresh, floral nose. On the full side, but plenty of fresh pear, melon and lemon pith flavour. Long, mineral finish. Fresh like sea air. 2015-2017

90

Château de Beaucastel Côtes-du-Rhône Coudoulet de Beaucastel

25% Roussanne, 25% Bourboulenc, 25% Viognier, 25% Marsanne, 13.0%, FRW £137.00

Grown on a specific plot of land next to their other vines, but classified Côtes-du-Rhône. A very spoilt Côtes-du-Rhône though, sorted and raised the same way as their white Châteauneuf. Just medium-bodied, rounded, with good crisp acidity and rich, ripe peach and pear fruit. Good length, punches well above its weight. 2016-2018

90

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

90% Viognier, 10% Roussanne, 13.5%, WTR £125.30 (2012)

High altitude vineyards for the Rhône (400m to 500m). Fermented and aged for 12 months in 2-year-old barriques, no malolactic. Lifted and pretty mango and peach aromas, lovely fruit and balance. Delightfully fresh despite the full, flowing texture. Such a great wine for the price. 5,000 bottles. 2015-2018

90

Domaine de la Mordorée Lirac La Reine des Bois

Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne, Marsanne, Viognier, Picpoul, 14.0%, H2V £149.00

Vanilla, fresh sage and some citrus hints. Straight, mineral and refreshing, with remarkable substance and extract. Pretty serious stuff, powerful and long. Good work. 2015-2019

90

Domaine des Bernardins Beaumes de Venise

75% Muscat à Petits Grains Blanc, 25% Muscat à Petits Grains Rouge, 15.0%,
FRW £156.00 (2011)

Sweet wine. Hand harvested, natural yeasts, aged for 6 months in stainless steel. Very pale apricot pink. Beautiful peach aromatics. Very sweet, but with perfectly balanced acidity that launches the sweet peach and ripe apricot fruit off into the finish. Extremely fresh and lively. The standard here is as high as ever. 2015-2018

89

Château de Montfaucon Côtes-du-Rhône Comtesse Madeleine

35% Marsanne, 20% Viognier, 20% Grenache Blanc, 15% Clairette, 10% Picpoul, 13.5%,
OWL? £168.00 AWSP

Aged for 8 months in barriques of 1 to 8 uses; no new oak and no malolactic. The result is a lightly spicy style of white Côtes-du-Rhône that's fairly full-bodied and rounded with good concentration of pear, melon and apricot fruit. Touch of almond on the finish. Good length – a pretty serious wine. 2015-2017

89

Domaine la Réméjeanne Côtes-du-Rhône Les Arbousiers

Roussanne, Viognier, Marsanne, Clairette, Bourboulenc, BWC £134.90 (2013)

Honeysuckle, peach stone and apricot aromas. Medium-bodied, well balanced and fresh.

2015-2017

89

Ferraton Père & Fils Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Laudun

Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne, Viognier, 14.0%, BBR? £60.00 AWSP

Appealingly fresh citrusy edge here. Full-bodied on the palate though, slightly unexpectedly, but with a crisp mineral finish that keeps the wine neat and refreshing. 2015-2017

Top Tens



TOP TEN ESTATES TO WATCH

- 1 Domaine Johann Michel, Cornas
- 2 Domaine d'Ouréa, Gigondas
- 3 Domaine Aléofane, Crozes-Hermitage
- 4 Domaine des Amadiou, Cairanne
- 5 Cave Julien Cecillon, Crozes-Hermitage
- 6 Domaine André Berthet-Rayne, Cairanne
- 7 Domaine de la Charbonnière, Châteauneuf-du-Pape
- 8 Domaine Alary, Cairanne
- 9 Domaine de l'Amauve, Séguret
- 10 Domaine Jérôme Gradassi, Châteauneuf-du-Pape



TOP TEN VALUE REDS

- 1 Domaine des Amadiou Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne 'Vieilles Vignes'
- 2 Domaine de l'Echevin Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Saint Maurice
- 3 Domaine Aléofane Saint-Joseph
- 4 Domaine Alary Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne 'La Jean de Verde'
- 5 L'Ameillaud Côtes-du-Rhône Villages Cairanne
- 6 Domaine André Perret Saint-Joseph 'Les Grisières'
- 7 Domaine de la Monardière Vacqueyras 'Les 2 Monardes'
- 8 Domaine Pierre Usseglio Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'Cuvée Traditionnelle'
- 9 Domaine Vincent Paris Cornas 'La Geynale'
- 10 La Ferme du Mont Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'Vendage'



TOP TEN VALUE WHITES

- 1 Domaine Brusset Côtes-du-Rhône Villages Cairanne Blanc 'Les Travers'
- 2 Domaine André Berthet-Rayne Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne Blanc 'Tradition'
- 3 Domaine Bernard Gripa Saint-Péray 'Les Pins'
- 4 Domaine Chante Cigale Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc
- 5 Château d'Aquéria Lirac Blanc
- 6 E. Guigal Saint-Joseph Blanc
- 7 Cave Yves Cuilleron Saint-Joseph Blanc 'Lyseras'
- 8 Domaine Bernard Gripa Saint-Péray 'Les Figuiers'
- 9 Domaine de Beurenard Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc
- 10 Château la Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc

Complete scores A-Z

PRODUCER	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	STOCKISTS	12 BOTS IN BOND	PRICING INFO
Alary	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	La Jean de Verde	Rouge	90	H2V	£114.00	
Aléofane	Saint-Joseph		Rouge	92	GEN	£130.00	2012
Amadiou	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	91	PHW	£104.90	2011
Amauve	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret	Laurances	Rouge	90	WLW	£154.80	2012
Amauve	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Séguret	La Daurèle	Blanc	91	EAR	£176.80	
Ameillaud	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne		Rouge	88	EXL	£87.19	
Berthet-Rayne, André	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Castel Mireio	Rouge	89	CDV?	£75.40	AWSP
Berthet-Rayne, André	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Tradition	Blanc	91	CDV	£90.40	2012
Aquéria	Tavel		Rosé	91	BBR	£124.92	
Aquéria	Lirac		Blanc	91	CHK	£110.40	
Arnesque	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	89	ODD	£215.40	2011
Arnoux & Fils	Vacqueyras	Seigneur de Lauris	Rouge	89	SWS	£155.30	2009
Barroche	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Pure	Rouge	93	GAU	£510.30	2012
Barroche	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Signature	Rouge	93	J&B	£260.00	
Bastide St Dominique	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Hesperides	Rouge	90	BIB?	£312.00	AWSP
Bastide St Dominique	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	91	VOD	£184.38	2013
Bastide St Dominique	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Chapelle	Blanc	92	BIB?	?	
Beaucastel	Côtes-du-Rhône	Coudoulet de Beaucastel	Blanc	90	FRW	£137.00	
Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	93	C&B	£390.00	
Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	94	C&B	£440.00	
Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Roussanne Vieilles Vignes	Blanc	97	C&B	£780.00	
Beauchêne	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Grande Réserve	Rouge	91	C&B	£207.90	2012
Beaurenard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	WDR	£225.40	2012
Bernardins	Beaumes de Venise		Blanc	90	FRW	£156.00	2011
Boislauzon	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	89	CWM	£254.50	2013
Bosquet des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Chante Le Merle Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	91	H2V	£337.00	
Bosquet des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	91	H2V?	£204.00	AWSP
Bosquets	Gigondas	Le Lieu Dit	Rouge	91	ECT	£269.60	2011
Bosquets	Gigondas	La Colline	Rouge	92	LIB?	£300.00	AWSP
Brusset	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Les Chabriles	Rouge	90	BRW	£120.00	2013
Brusset	Gigondas	Les Hauts de Montmirail	Rouge	91	BRW	£198.00	2013
Brusset	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Les Travers	Blanc	92	BRW	£98.00	2013
Cave de Tain	Saint-Joseph	Esprit de Granit	Rouge	88	TBB	£194.40	2011
Cecillon, Julien	Crozes-Hermitage	Les Marguerites	Rouge	89	CBW	£216.00	AWSP
Chante Cigale	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	SLP	£141.65	
Chapoutier	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Croix de Bois	Rouge	89	FRW	£368.00	
Chapoutier	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Barbe Rac	Rouge	93	FRW	£398.00	
Chapoutier	Saint-Joseph	Les Granits	blanc	94	BDI	£310.00	
Chapoutier	Hermitage	Chante-Alouette	Blanc	95	WDR	£375.40	

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PRODUCER	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	STOCKISTS	12 BOTS IN BOND	PRICING INFO
Chapoutier	Hermitage	Le Pavillon	Rouge	97	FAR	£1,350.00	
Chapoutier	Hermitage	De l'Orée	Blanc	97	BDI	£930.00	
Charbonnière	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	90	BBR	£244.92	2013
Charbonnière	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	90	BWC	£243.10	
Charbonnière	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Mourre des Perdrix	Rouge	91	BBR	£335.40	2013
Charbonnière	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Compromis	Rouge	92	THT?	?	
Charvin	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	91	FRW	£323.00	2012
Chave, Jean-Louis	Saint-Joseph		Rouge	93	YAP	£365.40	2012
Chave, Jean-Louis	Hermitage		Rouge	96	C&B	£1,775.40	2012
Chave, Jean-Louis	Hermitage		Blanc	96	FRW	£1,474.00	2012
Clape	Saint-Péray		Blanc	92	YAP?	£288.00	AWSP
Clape	Cornas		Rouge	94	YAP	£625.40	2011
Clos de Caveau	Vacqueyras	Fruit Sauvage	Rouge	91	SWG	£124.90	2013
Clos de Cazaux	Gigondas	La Tour Sarrazine	Rouge	89	J&B	£105.00	
Clos des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	95	GDH	£450.00	
Clos des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	95	GDH	£316.00	
Clos du Caillou	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Tradition	Rouge	90	H2V	£209.00	
Clos du Caillou	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Quartz	Rouge	92	H2V	£432.00	
Clos du Caillou	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	La Réserve	Rouge	93	H2V	£725.00	
Clusel-Roch	Côte-Rôtie		Rouge	90	J&B	£295.00	
Clusel-Roch	Côte-Rôtie	Les Grandes Places	Rouge	93	J&B	£550.00	
Clusel-Roch	Côte-Rôtie	La Viallière	Rouge	94	GDH	£450.00	
Colombier	Hermitage		Rouge	93	J&B	£375.00	
Colombier	Hermitage		Blanc	94	J&B	£400.00	
Combier	Crozes-Hermitage	Clos des Grives	Rouge	90	FRW	£230.00	2013
Coursodon, P&J	Saint-Joseph	Silice	Rouge	92	VTS	£180.40	
Coursodon, P&J	Saint-Joseph	Le Paradis St Pierre	Blanc	92	VTS	£230.40	
Coursodon, P&J	Saint-Joseph	Le Paradis St Pierre	Rouge	93	CHK	£337.90	2013
Cuilleron, Yves	Côte-Rôtie	Terres Sombres	Rouge	90	CHK	£514.16	2013
Cuilleron, Yves	Saint-Joseph	Lyseras	Blanc	90	FRW	£117.00	
Cuilleron, Yves	Condrieu	Les Chaillets	Blanc	93	CHK	£424.16	
Cuilleron, Yves	Condrieu	Vertige	Blanc	95	CHK	£574.16	2013
Darnaud, Emmanuel	Saint-Joseph		Rouge	90	BBR	£290.40	2013
Delas	Cornas	Chante Perdrix	Rouge	91	FRW	£253.00	2013
Delas	Hermitage	Marquise de la Tourette	Rouge	92	FRW	£501.00	2013
Delas	Saint-Joseph	Sainte-Epine	Rouge	93	FRW	£364.00	2013
Delas	Saint-Joseph	Sainte-Epine	Blanc	93	BRK?	?	
Delas	Condrieu	Clos Boucher	Blanc	93	FRW	£409.00	2013
Delas	Côte-Rôtie	La Landonne	Rouge	93	FRW	£1,183.00	2013
Delas	Hermitage	Les Bessards	Rouge	94	FRW	£1,002.00	2013
Duclaux, B&D	Côte-Rôtie	La Germinie	Rouge	92	VTS	£308.40	2012
Duclaux, B&D	Côte-Rôtie	Maison Rouge	Rouge	94	VTS	£475.40	2012
Durand, E&J	Cornas	Empreintes	Rouge	91	BBR	£271.92	2013
Durand, E&J	Cornas	Confidence	Rouge	92	BBR?	£348.00	AWSP
Echevin	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Saint Maurice		Rouge	88	TWS	£74.57	2013
Espigouette	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Plan de Dieu		Rouge	89	HFW	£105.30	2013
Faurie, Bernard	Hermitage	Greffieux-Bessards	Rouge	93	BBR	£408.00	2013
Faurie, Bernard	Hermitage	Bessards-Méal	Rouge	94	UNC	£450.00	2013
Faurie, Bernard	Hermitage		Blanc	96	GDH?	£516.00	AWSP

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PRODUCER	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	STOCKISTS	12 BOTS IN BOND	PRICING INFO
Fayolle	Crozes-Hermitage	Sens	Blanc	88	THT?	£84.00	AWSP
Ferme du Mont	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vendage	Rouge	92	RFW	£240.00	2010
Ferme du Mont	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vendage	Blanc	93	BDI?	?	
Ferme du Mont	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Côtes Capelan	Rouge	94	BDI	£500.00	2010
Ferrando, Isabel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Colombis	Rouge	92	BBR	£372.12	2012
Ferraton	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Laudun		Blanc	89	BBR?	£60.00	AWSP
Ferraton	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Le Parvis	Rouge	89	MIL	£183.73	2013
Fonsalette	Côtes-du-Rhône		Rouge	92	FWW	£648.00	2008
François et Fils	Côte-Rôtie	Classique	Rouge	90	HWC	£305.40	2013
François et Fils	Côte-Rôtie	Rozier	Rouge	92	LIB?	£396.00	AWSP
Gaillard, Pierre	Saint-Joseph	Clos de Cuminaille	Rouge	90	H2V	£156.00	
Gaillard, Pierre	Côte-Rôtie	Esprit de Blonde	Rouge	93	H2V	£420.00	
Gradassi, Jérôme	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	90	SVS	£198.65	2013
Gramenon	Côtes-du-Rhône	La Sagesse	Rouge	91	H2V	£150.00	
Gramenon	Vinsobres	La Papesse	Rouge	91	BDW	£231.90	2010
Gramenon	Côtes-du-Rhône	La Mémé	Rouge	92	CHK	£250.40	AWSP
Grand Veneur	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Les Origines	Rouge	90	H2V	£273.00	
Grand Veneur	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	91	H2V	£460.00	
Grand Veneur	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	La Fontaine	Blanc	92	H2V	£288.00	
Gripa, Bernard	Saint-Péray	Les Pins	Blanc	92	MIL	£133.73	
Gripa, Bernard	Saint-Péray	Les Figuiers	Blanc	93	MIL	£175.40	
Gripa, Bernard	Saint-Joseph		Blanc	93	FRW	£181.00	
Gripa, Bernard	Saint-Joseph	Le Berceau	Blanc	94	MIL	£258.73	
Guigal	Crozes-Hermitage		Blanc	88	MIL	£108.73	
Guigal	Saint-Joseph		Blanc	91	MIL	£133.73	
Guigal	Condrieu		Blanc	92	MIL	£258.73	
Guigal	Côte-Rôtie	La Mouline	Rouge	93	BDI	£1,850.00	2011
Guigal	Côte-Rôtie	La Landonne	Rouge	94	FRW	£1,945.00	2011
Guigal	Hermitage	Ex Voto	Rouge	95	FRW	£1,806.00	2007
Hautes Cances	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Col du Débat	Rouge	90	GWS	£200.40	2012
Hautes Cances	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Tradition	Blanc	92	OWL?	£144.00	AWSP
Jaboulet	Hermitage	La Chapelle	Rouge	93	FRW	£939.00	2013
Jaboulet	Hermitage	La Chapelle	Blanc	96	FRW	£1,430.00	
Jamet, JP&C	Côtes-du-Rhône		Blanc	90	BIB?	£75.40	AWSP
Jamet, JP&C	Côte-Rôtie		Rouge	95	FRW	£717.00	2012
Jamet, JP&C	Côte-Rôtie	Côte Brune	Rouge	97	FRW	£2,736.00	2012
Janasse	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages	Terre d'Argile	Rouge	89	BBR	£136.92	2013
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	89	BBR	£307.92	2013
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	EXL	£325.70	
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Chaupin	Rouge	92	BBR	£425.40	2013
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	94	FRW	£450.00	2013
Janasse	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Prestige	Blanc	95	VTS	£553.90	2013
Magni, Patrice	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	91	HAM?	£204.00	AWSP
Marcoux	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	93	H2V	£320.00	
Marcoux	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	94	H2V	£320.00	
Mathieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	89	CMW?	£276.00	AWSP
Mayard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Clos du Calvaire	Rouge	89	H2V	£173.00	
Mayard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Domaine du Père Pape	Rouge	90	H2V	£199.00	
Mayard	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	La Crau de Ma Mère	Blanc	91	H2V?	£228.00	AWSP

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PRODUCER	APPELLATION	WINE NAME	COLOUR	SCORE	STOCKISTS	12 BOTS IN BOND	PRICING INFO
Michel, Johann	Cornas		Rouge	93	SSW	£225.00	2013
Monardière	Vacqueyras	Les 2 Monardes	Rouge	91	BBR	£135.12	2013
Montfaucon	Côtes-du-Rhône	Comtesse Madeleine	Blanc	89	OWL?	£168.00	AWSP
Montirius	Vacqueyras	Garrigues	Rouge	91	BBR	£190.00	2010
Montirius	Vacqueyras	Le Clos	Rouge	92	BBR	£154.92	2013
Mont-Redon	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	89	J&B	£180.00	2011
Mordorée	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	La Belle Voyageuse	Rouge	90	H2V	£268.00	
Mordorée	Lirac	La Reine des Bois	Blanc	90	H2V	£149.00	
Mordorée	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	La Reine des Bois	Rouge	93	H2V	£385.00	
Mouton	Condrieu	Côte-Bonnette	Blanc	92	BBR	£317.40	2013
Mouton	Côte-Rôtie		Rouge	92	BBR?	£252.00	AWSP
Nerthe	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	MIL	£225.40	
Niero, R&R	Côte-Rôtie	Vires de Serine	Rouge	92	BBR?	£616.00	AWSP
Niero, R&R	Condrieu	Les Ravines	Blanc	93	BBR	£289.92	2012
Niero, R&R	Condrieu	Chéry	Blanc	95	BBR	£334.92	2013
Oratoire Saint Martin	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Les Douyes	Rouge	91	BBR	£154.92	2012
Oratoire Saint Martin	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Cairanne	Haut Coustias	Blanc	92	BBR	£154.92	2013
Ouréa	Gigondas		Rouge	90	BBR	£244.96	2012
Pallières	Gigondas	Terrasse du Diable	Rouge	90	UNC	£180.00	2012
Paris, Vincent	Saint-Joseph	Les Côtes	Rouge	92	CTW?	£204.00	AWSP
Paris, Vincent	Cornas	Granit 60	Rouge	93	UNC	£230.00	2013
Paris, Vincent	Cornas	La Geynale	Rouge	95	UNC	£290.00	2013
Pegau	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Réserve	Rouge	93	FRW	£381.00	2012
Pegau	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Réserve	Blanc	93	UNC	£300.00	2009
Pegau	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	A Tempo	Blanc	94	GAU?	£1,140.00	AWSP
Perret, André	Saint-Joseph	Les Grisières	Rouge	92	GDH	£135.00	
Perret, André	Condrieu	Clos Chanson	Blanc	93	J&B	£310.00	
Perret, André	Condrieu	Coteau de Chéry	Blanc	95	J&B	£330.00	
Pichon, Christophe	Côte-Rôtie	Rozier	Rouge	92	GAU	£312.00	2005
Raspail-Ay	Gigondas		Rouge	91	PHW	£157.40	2013
Rayas	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	94	MRC	£900.00	2008
Rayas	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	96	FWW	£2,580.00	2008
Réméjeanne	Côtes-du-Rhône	Les Arbousiers	Blanc	89	BWC	£134.90	2013
Reynaud, David	Crozes-Hermitage	Beaumont	Rouge	89	ECT	£138.70	2013
Roquette	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Clos La Roquette	Blanc	91	HIC	£225.40	
Rostaing, René	Côte-Rôtie	Ampodium	Rouge	92	J&B	£380.00	
Rostaing, René	Condrieu	La Bonnette	Blanc	94	J&B	£395.00	
Roucas Toumba	Vacqueyras	Les Restanques de Cabassole	Rouge	90	HED	£301.40	2010
Roucas Toumba	Vacqueyras	Les Prémices	Blanc	91	VNT?	£204.00	AWSP
Sabon, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Réserve	Rouge	91	BBR	£262.90	2012
Sabon, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Renaissance	Blanc	92	FWW	£282.00	
Sabon, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Prestige	Rouge	95	BBR	£353.40	2012
Sabon, Roger	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Le Secret des Sabon	Rouge	95	BBR	£1,020.00	2012
Saint Amant	Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages	La Tabardonne	Blanc	90	WTR	£125.30	2012
Saint Cosme	Gigondas	Hominis Fides	Rouge	93	FRW	£495.00	2013
Saint Damien	Gigondas	La Louisiane	Rouge	92	CLC	£190.00	2012
Saint Gayan	Gigondas	In Nomine Patris	Rouge	92	YAP?	£228.00	AWSP
Saint Préfert	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	90	BOW	£313.00	
Saint Préfert	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Classique	Rouge	91	FRW	£184.00	2012

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Sang des Cailloux	Vacqueyras	Lopy	Rouge	91	BBR	£244.92	2013
Sang des Cailloux	Vacqueyras	Oumage	Rouge	93	BBR?	£300.00	AWSP
Sixtine	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée du Vatican	Rouge	91	BDI	£216.00	2007
Sixtine	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	92	FRW	£258.00	2011
Solitude	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	89	WDR	£215.40	2012
Sorrel, Marc	Hermitage	Le Gréal	Rouge	93	UNC	£800.00	2013
Sorrel, Marc	Hermitage	Les Rocoules	Blanc	95	FRW	£761.00	2013
Soumade	Gigondas		Rouge	90	THT?	£200.00	AWSP
Soumade	Rasteau	Cuvée Confiance	Rouge	91	CHK	£215.40	2012
Usseglio, Pierre	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée Traditionelle	Rouge	91	FRW	£184.00	
Usseglio, Pierre	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Cuvée de Mon Aïeul	Rouge	93	FRW	£431.00	2012
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	90	GAU	£232.83	2012
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Val de Dieu	Rouge	91	L&W	£390.00	2012
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Avenue	Rouge	91	LIB?	?	
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Blanc	92	GAU	£247.16	2013
Vaudieu	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Clos du Belvédère	Blanc	92	LIB?	£384.00	AWSP
Vieux Télégraphe	Châteauneuf-du-Pape		Rouge	91	J&B	£360.00	
Villard, François	Vin de France	Les Contours de Deponcins	Blanc	89	H2V	£145.00	
Villard, François	Saint-Péray	Version	Blanc	90	H2V	£140.00	
Villard, François	Condrieu	De Poncins	Blanc	93	H2V	£335.00	
Voge, Alain	Saint-Péray	Harmonie	Blanc	89	N&P	£170.00	
Voge, Alain	Saint-Péray	Terres Boisées	Blanc	91	JER	£195.00	2013
Voge, Alain	Saint-Joseph	Les Vinsonnes	Rouge	93	L&W	£325.44	
Voge, Alain	Cornas	Les Vieilles Vignes	Rouge	93	GDH	£350.00	

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. For more information, please see 'About the Scores'.

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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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