NORTH

THE RHONE VALLEY

A LAND OF CONTRASTS

LE COURRIER VINICOLE

VOLUME 28, No. 1 (2014)
Much to the delight of connoisseurs, we’re returning with a new selection of wines from the Rhone Valley. You will find classics in sought-after designations, including novelties in the 2011 vintage, which offers wines that will be best enjoyed young, and others with significant aging potential. You will also have the opportunity to purchase wines from various promising vintages, including the excellent 2009 and 2010 vintages.

The northern vineyards in the Rhone Valley stretch from Vienne to Valence. The vines are planted on steep hillsides and narrow granite terraces, often with little room to expand, thus growing almost vertically above the Rhone River. The climate on these banks is rather sunny yet cooler than in the south, and tempered by the daily morning fog. The northern valley is a one-of-a-kind location bolstered by more than 2,500 years of history, making it one of the most ancient vineyards in France.

It is here that Syrah fully expresses the complexity of its aromas in appellations such as Hermitage, Côte-Rôtie, Saint-Joseph and Cornas.... And that is not to mention the great white wines, such as Condrieu and Château-Grillet.

ORDER STARTING JANUARY 10 AT NOON. COMMANDE.SAQ.COM

Find out how to order as well as consult the complete collection on pages 23–24.
THE WINES
NORTH

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See page 23 for details on how to order.
Discover the southern wines on the reverse side of the catalogue.
Yves Cuilleron took the helm of his 3.5-hectare family estate in 1987. He had originally planned to become a mechanic, but after spending time with wine growers from Alsace and Burgundy upon completion of his military service, he knew the world of wine was for him. His dedication and determination drive the success of the estate, which now boasts some 50 hectares of vines, including 21 in Saint-Joseph, spread over five northern Rhone crus, making it a sizeable property for the region. Cuilleron is often praised for his intimate knowledge of his vines. Though his wines have previously met with criticism for their rather heavy-handed maturation, more recent vintages have offered a smoother balance between fruit and wood, and a more authentic character.

This 3.5-hectare property has had its very own appellation since 1936, despite being one of the smallest estates in France. Château-Grillet was purchased by the Neyret-Gachet family in 1830 and has changed hands only once, in 2011, when it was acquired by billionaire François Pinault, owner of Château Latour in Pauillac and Domaine d’Eugénie in Vosne-Romanée. Current head Isabelle Baratin-Canet is credited with guiding the estate back to greatness before it was sold. In 2002 she sought the advice of Denis Dubourdieu, a renowned Bordeaux oenologist, to take the property’s sole vintage up a notch. The south-facing estate sheltered from the mistral along the banks of the Rhone sits amphitheatre-like in the middle of the Condrieu appellation, with granitic sand terraces that take the Viognier grape to unrivalled heights of expression.
Domaine Alain Graillot has made quite the name for itself in the northern Rhone Valley. Owner Alain Graillot founded the vineyard in the 1980s following a long career in agriculture as an electrical machinist. Meticulous and utterly devoted to his craft, Graillot favours an entirely herbicide-free biodynamic approach to cultivating his 18 hectares of Crozes-Hermitage Rouge vines—the AOC on which he has built his reputation. Today he works with his son Maxime, an oenologist trained at the University of Dijon, Burgundy. The younger Graillot boasts extensive experience in both California and South Africa, and he has flawlessly emulated his father’s tradition of excellence and authenticity from day one.

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_CROZES-HERMITAGE 2012_

“This fruity white 2012 (80% Marsanne) is polished and expressive. Fresh and reminiscent of apricots, this wine is also worth cellaring for four to five years.”

— TRANSLATED FROM _LE GUIDE DES MEILLEURS VINS DE FRANCE 2014, LA REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE_

_CROZES-HERMITAGE 2011_

“The 2011 Crozes-Hermitage displays beautiful density and is much fresher than average, thanks in part to the whole-crop vinification. This wine will benefit from a two-year wait.”

— TRANSLATED FROM _LE GUIDE DES MEILLEURS VINS DE FRANCE 2014, LA REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE_

-SAINT-JOSEPH 2011_

“This elegant Saint-Joseph... is delicate, juicy and ready to deliver.”

— TRANSLATED FROM _LE GUIDE DES MEILLEURS VINS DE FRANCE 2014, LA REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE_
Pierre-Marie Clape began his career as a mechanical engineering professor before turning to winemaking in 1988, joining the family business in his early forties. Two years later, he took the helm of the barely 8-hectare estate, succeeding his father Auguste, a veritable living legend. Ever since, he has methodically and painstakingly worked the vines, lowering yields in the process. Clape grows his grapes entirely herbicide-free and has a marked penchant for aged barrels. He has even returned to using foudres, like his father in the early seventies, out of a belief that new barrels “mask the rawness of the terroir.” Vinified in full, unstemmed bunches, Domaine Auguste Clape’s Syrahs boast such clarity that they have become a touchstone for all wines made in northern Rhone and embody the very essence of Cornas.

In the 1950s, like many farmers in the region, René and Joséphine Clusel were growing fruits and vegetables on Ampuis land and vines on the arid hillsides of Côte-Rôtie. At the time, this northern Rhone estate did not have the distinguished reputation it has today. René and Joséphine’s son Gilbert believed that the great land was not being used to its full potential. After his studies, he joined the family business, reviving and replanting neglected vines, particularly those planted by his grandparents. With the help of his wife Brigitte Roch, the family estate regained its momentum. At the turn of the millennium, the estate began practising organic production, and in 2002 the property of barely eight hectares obtained official certification. With help from their son Guillaume, they plan to continue making pure, sparkling, clear wines.

"The 2011 Cornas Renaissance displays extraordinary purity and opulence along with notes of grilled meats, bouquet garni, blueberries, blackberries, cassis and spring flowers. The tannins are sweet and the wine is fleshy. No new oak is ever used at Clape, and the wines are aged in old, various sized barrels as well as larger foudres.”

— www.erobertparker.com

"The flagship wine, the 2011 Cornas exhibits classic notes of blackberries, cassis, camphor, incense, violets and hints of forest floor... a sensational texture, a full-bodied opulence and terrific richness. This remarkable Cornas can be drunk early or cellared for 15–20 years.”

— www.erobertparker.com

"Inky ruby. Potent, spice-accented aromas and flavors of candied red fruits and cherry, with deeper cola and licorice notes emerging with air. Juicy and incisive, with strong finishing grip and gentle tannins. Shows very good promise....”

— Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
One is rather reserved; the other is the village mayor. While they have two very different personalities, Dominique and Laurent Courbis share a common goal: ensuring the longevity of their family estate which dates back to the 16th century. Located on the south end of the Saint-Joseph appellation, the property has 32 hectares of hillside vineyards, the majority of which slope spectacularly into the breathtaking landscape. Succeeding their father, the brothers gave the property new life by upgrading its facilities and, above all, combining their inherited knowledge with modern winemaking techniques. Their success is the result of classic, elegant, finely crafted wines with subtle modern notes reminiscent of past achievements. Once again, the work of these brothers is flawless!

**LES GRANDES PLACES 2011, CÔTE-RÔTIE**

“The 2011 Cornas Les Eygats reminds me of some of the 1991s. A black/purple color, beautifully supple tannins, copious amounts of sweet black raspberry and cassis fruit, medium to full body, and a round, generous, already seductive personality.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

“An impeccable series of Côte-Rôtie including an admirable Les Grandes Places, with a marriage of intense spicy and fruity flavours. The terroir is outstanding!”

— TRANSLATED FROM LE GUIDE DES MEILLEURS VINS DE FRANCE 2014, LA REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE

**CHÂTEAU D’AMPUIS 2009, CÔTE-RÔTIE**

“This cuvée is a blend of seven exceptional terroirs in the Côte-Rôtie appellation: in Côte Blonde their parcels include Le Clos, La Garde and La Grande Plantée. In Côte Brune they include La Pommière, Le Pavillon Rouge, Le Moulin and La Viría. Syrah (93%) and Viognier (7%) are fermented in stainless vessels and then matured for 38 months in oak barrels (100% new wood). This wine is a bright ruby red with a sophisticated and complex nose featuring aromas of blackberry and cassis, tobacco, cocoa, leather, licorice, violets and smoke. Powerful and full-bodied, it is ample, rich and smooth with perfect acidity. The tannins are ripe, structured and polished to perfection. This is a wine with excellent length! Made since 1995, this 2009 cuvée is at the peak of perfection according to Marcel Guigal.”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

**DOMAINE COURBIS**

Founded by Étienne Guigal in 1946, this exceptional wine operation is now managed by second-generation Marcel, who was joined recently by third-generation Philippe, an oenologist. The Guigal family is practically wine royalty in the northern Rhone Valley. Their involvement with the business is far-reaching: they work in multiple appellations and own the fabled Château d’Ampuis, which underwent slightly more than a decade of renovations and is now a French historic monument. They are also owners of prestigious cru vineyards including the renowned “La La La”: Côte-Rôtie La Landonne, La Mouline and La Turque. Exceptional wines from a truly exceptional producer!

**DOMAINE E. GUIGAL**

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"The 2009 Côte-Rôtie La Mouline possesses off-the-charts richness. Like all the vintages, it comes from the Côte Blonde and is co-fermented with 11% Viognier. Its 13.5% alcohol is one of the highest in all the La Moulines made to date, which shows you that these wines are never that powerful. Extraordinary layers of concentration offer up notes of roasted coffee, sweet black cherries, black raspberries, blackberries, licorice and hints of spring flowers as well as lychee nuts (no doubt attributable to the floral/honeysuckle character of Viognier). With its full-bodied, extravagant richness, the 2009 La Mouline should be relatively approachable in 1–2 years, and last for two decades or more."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

"The 2009 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne is a killer wine. An extravagant bouquet of black truffles, roasted meats, licorice, ground pepper, blackberries, scorched earth and camphor soars from this muscular, dense, over-the-top, serious, masculine La Landonne. Built like Arnold Schwarzenegger was two decades ago, this enormously concentrated bodybuilder of a wine should hit its prime in a decade, and last 40–50 years. This is no trivial boast as the debut vintage of La Landonne, the 1978, is just reaching full maturity at age 34."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

"Another perfect wine is the 2009 Côte-Rôtie La Turque. It possesses a slightly denser purple color than the opaque Côte-Rôtie La Mouline as well as notes of Asian spices, roasted meats, bouquet garni, spring flowers, camphor and truffles. It is a different expression of Syrah as this comes from the more iron-laden soils of the Côte Brune. Although never as aromatic, precocious or enjoyable as La Mouline is in its youth, La Turque is, nevertheless, a remarkably concentrated, profound wine that is built like a skyscraper. It possesses a level of intensity and richness that must be tasted to be believed. Despite the flamboyant personality of the vintage, the 2009 will require 4–5 years of cellaring and should age effortlessly for 25–30 years."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

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— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM
DOMAINE 
ÉRIC & JOËL DURAND

This estate, managed by the Durand brothers, was established in Ardèche at Châteaubourg, not far from Valence. In 1987 Joel, the self-taught older brother, took over the modest family business that specialized in arboriculture (mainly apricot trees) and grape production. He was joined by brother Éric in 1996. Determined and passionate, they now own 15 hectares of vines on the steep granite slopes of two vineyards in northern Rhone, Cornas and Saint-Joseph. Using Syrah, they plan to make delicate, elegant and especially balanced wines. Never ones to rest on their laurels, these brothers take nothing for granted and believe that they can continue to strive for even greater quality. This is an excellent winery for the keen connoisseur!

DOMAINE 
FRANÇOIS VILLARD

The unusual and surprising start to François Villard’s career gave no clue he would become a winemaker—he began as a cook in a hospital in Vienne, south of Lyon. But his life—and job satisfaction—changed forever after he took a wine course. Learning first-hand about the craft was a revelation, and he decided to study viticulture and oenology. He bought his first vines and brought out his very first vintage in the early nineties. A fan of uncomplicated, concentrated wines, he succeeds by limiting yields and harvesting at maximum maturity. In the words of this energetic, talkative vintner, “wine is best aged in wood” to get the results he desires—although in recent vintages he seems to have eased up a bit on the use of new wood. Inspiring wines, like their creator.

LE GRAND VALLON 2011, CONDRIEU

“This cuvée from Condrieu is a sparkling yellow-green colour. Extremely aromatic, it offers aromas of anise, pear, apricot and citrus. Its floral and mineral notes are refined and uplifting. The palate is fresh and full with good volume, and the Viognier adds a nice purity. Le Grand Vallon pairs perfectly with Asian dishes featuring lemongrass and ginger.”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

MAIRLANT 2010, SAINT-JOSEPH

“The Syrah grapes in this wine come from the Ardoix, Félines and Chavanay communes in the Saint-Joseph appellation. A purplish-blue colour, Mairlant opens with musky notes that fade with aeration. It also gives off aromas of black olives, violets, blackberries, freshly ground pepper, incense and sandalwood. Fresh and sound, this wine has a good base of tannins and finishes on notes of black fruits, licorice, violets and hints of chocolate.”

— SIGNATURE TEAM
In 1940, when Francis Vernay first created the Condrieu Couteau de Vernon, little did we know that Domaine Georges Vernay was later to become one of the region’s top estates. At the time, winemaking was not popular and was frequently abandoned for more secure, profitable and less physically demanding trades. However, his son Georges believed in the potential offered by the Condrieu appellation. He founded the estate in 1953 and became a strong advocate for winemaking. Third-generation winemakers, Christine Vernay and her husband Paul Amsellem have been skilfully managing this property, whose reputation has long been built on the incredible quality of its Condrieu wines, since 1997. When Michel Bettane and Thierry Desseauve named Christine Vernay “Man of the Year” in the 2012 edition of Le Guide Bettane & Desseauve des vins de France, this honour was also attributable to the remarkable development of her red wines—namely the splendid Côte-Rôtie. An inspiring estate, both for its operations and its philosophy.

DOMAINE GEORGES VERNAY

Brothers Jean-Paul and Jean-Luc Jamet are on top of the world, so to speak, in the Côte-Rôtie appellation. In 1991 they took the reins of this magnificent terroir from their father, Joseph. Today the estate—with 25 parcels in 17 different hamlets—has nine hectares under cultivation. The Jamet brothers are working to remodel the vineyard, planting extensively. They take special care to ensure that the Syrahs reach just the right maturity for the altitude, exposure and underlying schist and granite of each elevation. As hardcore traditionalists, they insist on using old barrels for most of the winemaking and aging, with new wood introduced only occasionally. The challenge then becomes finding the best balance during the blending process. Each vintage is unique, but all are truly a class apart.

DOMAINE JAMET

LES TERRASSES DE L’EMPIRE 2012, CONDRIEU

BLOUDE DU SEIGNEUR 2011

CÔTE-RÔTIE

CÔTE-RÔTIE 2010

"A wonderful violet bouquet, half-bodied, with silky and focused tannins, full of elegance."

— TRANSLATED FROM LE GUIDE BETTANE & DESSEAUVE DES VINS DE FRANCE 2014

"Opaque purple. Heady aromas of red and dark berry preserves, potpourri, incense and Asian spices, with a bright mineral accent. Stains the palate with intense black raspberry, blueberry and candied violet flavors and becomes sweeter with air. Rich but lively, with superb finishing clarity, fully integrated tannins and lingering spice and floral notes. This wine’s blend of power and finesse is remarkable."

— STEPHEN TANZER’S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

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DOMAINE
JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE

This 16-hectare winery perched atop the famed Hermitage hill has been in Chave family hands since the late 15th century. Here tradition is followed to the letter, with the vines tended with surgical-like precision to ensure perfect maturation. Unlike producers who hopped on the production-at-all-costs bandwagon of the 1970s, the Chave family has always eschewed pesticides and herbicides. The super-steep vineyard is a dauntingly complex patchwork of parcels, each with its own needs and features. Jean-Louis Chave was 26 years old when he officially took over from his father, Gérard, in 1994, after finishing his military service. His son Louis, born in 2006, will no doubt carry on the wine-growing tradition that has passed from father to son since 1481.

L’HERMITAGE 2010

“As for the 2010 Hermitage Blanc, it is an exquisite wine with fabulous fruit intensity. Lots of acacia flower, anise, quince, fig and pineapple intermixed with a hint of white peaches emerge from this well-delineated, full-bodied, enormously endowed, complex, dry white Hermitage. This wine lives up to the reputation bestowed on it by President Thomas Jefferson when he said in the 1780s that white Hermitages were France’s greatest white wine. The 2010 should drink well for 30–40+ years.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

SAINT-JOSEPH 2010

“Once again, the Saint-Joseph from Domaine Jean-Louis Chave is one of the appellation’s most successful cuvées. A deep ruby red, this wine features charming spicy and mineral notes. Once aerated, it produces aromas of black fruit, licorice, black olives and hints of sandalwood. This wine is aged perfectly. Long, balanced and very fresh, the palate is marked by dense, ripe tannins. A superb bottle ready for drinking now, but it can still be enjoyed over the next 10 years. Bravo!”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

HERMITAGE 2010

“Pure perfection, the 2010 Hermitage reminds Jean-Louis Chave of their 1990. It appears to be a richer, fresher example of what I remember the 1990 tasting like in 1992. The wine exhibits an opaque purple color along with an extraordinary bouquet of sweet blackberry fruit intermixed with crème de cassis, lead pencil shavings, acacia flowers, bouquet garni, meat and crushed rocks. Full-bodied and stunningly rich with laser-like precision, this is a powerful, massive yet exceptionally well-balanced wine that should be forgotten for a decade and drunk over the following 30–40 years.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM
DOMAINE
JEAN-MICHEL GERIN

In 1983 when he was just 22 years old, local boy Jean-Michel Gerin bought a piece of land in Côte-Rôtie. He was convinced of the region’s immense potential, and set about creating a vineyard at Ampuis. But this sixth-generation member of the Gerin winemaking clan didn’t really soar until a few years later when he took control of the family business. His systematic destalking of the Syrah, new barrel-aging and single vineyard offerings all demonstrate his more modern approach and wine style preferences. By respecting and preserving the terroir, Jean-Michel Gerin has ensured that the family estate’s exceptional legacy can be passed on to his sons, Alexis and Michaël, now being groomed to take over.

L A L O Y E 2 0 1 2 , C O N D R I E U

• 2011 Vintage (IWC 90)

S A I N T - J O S E P H 2 0 1 1

• 2010 Vintage (WS 90)

C H A M P I N L E S E I G N E U R 2 0 1 1
CÔTE-RÔTIE

“Deep ruby. Intense, mineral-dominated aromas of redcurrant, cherry and fresh flowers, with a suave Asian spice element gaining power with air. Firm red berry and cherry skin flavors show good clarity and pick up spice and cracked pepper notes on the back end. Pure, focused and light on its feet, finishing with good lift and lingering minerality.”

— STEPHEN TANZER’S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

No. 25
No. 26
No. 27
No. 28

78
750 ml / $60
500
750 ml / $32
120
750 ml / $68
14
1.5 L / $136

2017
2018
2020
2025

IWC 89-91

No. 26 2017
No. 27 2020
No. 28 2025
DOMAINE LOUIS CHÈZE

On his website, Louis Chèze writes about “a bold challenge and steep hills,” adding that he relishes challenges. And well he should, for he’s handled them very well. The family vineyard he took over in 1978 is located on the right bank of the Rhone, 60 km south of Lyon. Chèze, who started out with just one hectare of vines in Saint-Joseph and several leased parcels, has grown his operation to over 30 hectares. Discipline and humility are bywords for this vintner, who strives tirelessly to improve each parcel under cultivation, always matching winemaking techniques to the piece of land in question. The two cuvées parcellaires recommended here will surely leave you feeling you’re in direct contact with each of the distinctive vineyards from which they have come.

PAGUS LUMINIS 2011, CONDRIEU

“A sleek and racy style for the varietal, with a singed almond husk edge framing the core of peach, apricot and ginger notes. A bitter citrus hint extends the finish.”
— WWW.WINESPECTATOR.COM

ANGE 2010, SAINT-JOSEPH

“Sleek and enticing, with delicious raspberry, steeped cherry and blood orange notes that course along, lined with singed spice and violet accents. Drips with delicious fruit and delivers fine acidity.”
— WWW.WINESPECTATOR.COM

DOMAINE MARC SORREL

Marc Sorrel has been growing vines on the legendary Hermitage hill since 1984 when he took over the reins of the operation from his father, Henri. In the early 1970s, Henri decided to modify the family estate’s vocation to make and bottle his own wines rather than sell it off to others. The estate launched its operation on four hectares of fragmented land covering the Crozes-Hermitage and Hermitage appellation areas. Their well-tended vines and precise winemaking and aging processes have earned Domaine Marc Sorrel a place among the elite northern Rhone estates. Its portfolio offers highly consistent wines that make their mark with character and uniqueness.

LE GRÉAL 2011, HERMITAGE

— WWW.JANCISROBINSON.COM

No. 29

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DOMAINE OGIER

Wines from the Ogier family’s small estate are hailed as some of the region’s finest. After selling its grapes to négociants for over 30 years, Michel and his son Stéphane recently decided to market their own wines, developed in keeping with the Ogier philosophy that finesse and elegance trump concentration and power. Based at Ampuis, the Ogiers own 12 separate parcels in the Côte-Rôtie appellation, among others. The vines grown there are used to produce highly sought-after cuvées (Lancement and Belle Hélène) in small quantities. Wines that scale the very summit of their art, thanks to the talent of a new generation of winemakers.

“Even better is the 2011 Condrieu La Combe de Malleval. Full-bodied, opulent and rich with unmistakable minerality, it reveals notes of lychee nuts, peaches, honeysuckle and crushed rocks.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

“The 2009 Côte-Rôtie La Belle Hélène is another perfect wine. Made in a completely different style than the more structured, mineral-laced 2010, the 2009 is a flamboyant, exuberant effort with nearly over-the-top ripeness and fruit. However, it is extremely supple, sexy and bursting with complexity, revealing notes of truffles, graphite, black raspberries, espresso roast, spice box, tapenade and bouquet garni. The wine’s richness, full-bodied, massive fruit impact and 50-second finish are amazing.”

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“Even better is the 2011 Condrieu La Combe de Malleval. Full-bodied, opulent and rich with unmistakable minerality, it reveals notes of lychee nuts, peaches, honeysuckle and crushed rocks.”

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— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM
DOMAINE
PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ

In 2006 Jaboulet Aîné joined the realm of the Frey family, who already owned Château La Lagune, a Médoc Cru Classé. La Chapelle, a veritable gem in the Jaboulet Aîné crown, is one of the mythic Hermitage wines that the Freys wanted to take even higher, enlisting the help of Bordeaux oenologist Denis Dubourdieu. This vaunted cuvée bears the name of the chapel to St. Christophe built on the hill overlooking Tain-l'Hermitage, which was acquired by the estate in 1919. The cuvée doesn’t hail from the parcels surrounding the chapel, however, but is instead a meticulous blend of old Syrahs from four fabled terroirs: Bessards, Greffieux, Méal and Rocoules. In 2006 production of the Hermitage white, sourced uniquely from Marsanne, was restarted. Both Hermitages are exquisitely aged and claim a place at the pinnacle of French wines.

DOMAINE
RENÉ ROSTAING

René Rostaing developed his first cuvées in the early 1970s in Ampuis. His elegant wines are remarkably straightforward and guileless. Rostaing believes that the emphasis should be on terroir. He uses new wood sparingly, convinced that long cellaring in 228-litre oak barrels (called pièces bourguignonnes) or 600-litre demi-muids is best. The keys to his success also include using indigenous yeasts and restricting yields on the seven hectares of vines spread across 21 parcels in the dizzyingly steep Côte-Rôtie hills. Interestingly enough, all the estate’s cuvées are vinified and aged in the same way, so that the intrinsic character of each terroir can shine through.

CÔTE-RÔTIE 2010

La Chapelle 2010, Hermitage

"It should be fascinating to compare the potentially legendary 2010 Hermitage La Chapelle with the prodigious 2009 La Chapelle over the next 30–40 years. About 20% new oak was used and, as were previous vintages, the 2010 was aged 15 months prior to bottling. This black/purple-colored beauty is revealing more weight and richness than it did last year from barrel along with great precision, stunning minerality and enormous quantities of blackberry, cassis, beef blood and smoked game intertwined with hints of graphite and acacia flowers. With good acidity and richness as well as abundant, but ripe, well-integrated tannin, this great wine equals the titan produced in 2009."

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

LA CHAPELLE 2010, HERMITAGE

La Landonne 2011, Côte-Rôtie

"Readers looking for a slightly more masculine, muscular style should check out the 2011 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne. It possesses a dense, saturated purple color as well as abundant notes of charcoal/creosote, truffles, blackberries and cassis. Full-bodied, moderately tannic, dense and atypically rich, long and structured for a 2011."

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

CÔTE-RÔTIE 2010

Côte-Rôtie 2010

"The largest cuvée (20,000 bottles) is the 2010 Côte-Rôtie Classique, Stéphane Ogier’s ‘greatest vintage to date.’ Seventy percent of the fruit comes from their holdings on the Côte Brune. It boasts a dense purple color along with a sweet nose of asphalt, licorice, forest floor, blackberries, cassis and bouquet garni, sensational concentration and sweet tannins."

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

No. 35

240

750 ml / $75

WA95

No. 36

24

1.5 L / $157

No. 37

167

750 ml / $270

WA96+

No. 38

345

750 ml / $149

WA90-92+

No. 35 2016-2027

No. 36 2016-2030

No. 37 2017-2037

No. 38 2016-2027
Acquired in 1970 by Bernard and Nicole Chave, this property, located in Mercurol, Drôme, had only four hectares of land in its early days and only a quarter of that land was used for viticulture. As time progressed, they purchased new plots with some being dedicated to vines and others to fruit trees. This development gave the property a more defined direction but not a specific vocation. Sometimes selling its wines to wine merchants and sometimes to the Cave Coopérative de Tain-l’Hermitage, the property did not take on its true vocation until their son Yann came on board in 1996. Yann restructured the vineyard and focused his efforts on producing quality wines. This certified organic estate now operates on 20 hectares of land with the majority spanning the Crozes-Hermitage appellation and just 1.2 hectares in Hermitage. Though Yann says that he is just happy to make drinkable wines, he is in fact a very talented winemaker.

DOMAINE YVES & MATHILDE GANGLOFF

A native of Strasbourg, Alsace, Yves Gangloff joined his brother Pierre, a painter, in Ampuis in the late 1970s. It was during this time that he met his future wife Mathilde. A musician at heart, Yves took a labourer job at Maison Delas Frères, a pivotal move in the life of this rock guitarist, whose wild image seemingly clashed with that of a local winemaker. In 1982, he acquired his first vines, from which he made his first wines despite not having the slightest idea what he was doing. Six years later, he founded his estate with Mathilde, but with more confidence this time. Part of the estate was sold to wine merchants, including Maison Guigal. In 1992, a tough year, Yves bottled his entire production and the response was extremely positive. Since then his sensational Condrieu and Côte-Rôtie wines have become part of an elite production. True wine artisans.

CÔTE BLONDE 2011, CÔTE-RÔTIE

“Rostaing’s top cuvée nearly every year is the Côte-Rôtie Côte Blonde, which comes from two great sites, Moulin and Chatillonne. The 2011 was co-fermented with a small percentage of Viognier (2-3%)…. A stunning nose of caramelized exotic fruits intermixed with raspberries, black currants, licorice and camphor jumps from the glass of this perfumed, expansive, silky smooth Côte-Rôtie. Medium- to full-bodied and seductive with stunning concentration and opulence, this is one of the stars of the vintage.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

HERMITAGE 2011

“Dark purple. Potent aromas of black and blue fruit preserves, black olive, Indian spices and smoked meat, with a bright mineral overtone. Sweet, intensely flavored and penetrating, with deep blackberry and bitter cherry flavors and a hint of candied violet. Tannins come on late and add grip to a very long, sappy and incisive finish that echoes the floral note.”

— STEPHEN TANZER’S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

CONDRIEU 2012

• 2011 Vintage (WS 92)

No. 39
$50
750 ml / $155
WA92-95
2016-2030

No. 40
240
750 ml / $85
IWC91-93
2016-2027

No. 41
36
750 ml / $112
2019
Marseille native Jean-Luc Colombo and his wife, Anne, are both pharmacists by training. Charmed by Cornas’ rolling landscape and splendid Syrahs, they moved to the region in the early 1980s with dreams of making their own wines. In 1984, they opened a wine consultancy in Côtes du Rhône, advising numerous estates in the Rhone Valley, Provence and even Bordeaux, where Jean-Luc Colombo studied the craft. After purchasing promising property, they developed their first Cornas in 1987, pioneering the use of new barrels. As big fans of “modern wine,” they believe in softening the tannic intensity of local Syrahs. They also favour destemming and extraction and use a higher proportion of new casks for aging. Since the 2010 vintage, the “second largest vineyard owner in Cornas” has been helped out by daughter Laure, also an oenologist.

“Lush, creamy style, with pear, yellow apple, white peach and floral notes backed by a freshly churned butter note. A flash of green almond offsets the ripe fruit beautifully.”

— www.winespectator.com

“A wonderful violet bouquet and the classic delicateness of granite wines from the southern sector (Tupin), with a delicious salinity in the tannins.”

— Translated from Le Guide Bettane & Desseauve Des Vins de France 2014
In 1972 Alain Paret acquired a very steep piece of land 50 km south of Lyon and founded his grape-growing estate. He put in 37 hectares of Syrah and Viognier on parcels contained within the Saint-Joseph and Condrieu appellations, where the shallow soil consists of mostly schist and granite. This wine’s name—“420 Nuits”—refers to the 420 days of rest the wine is said to need before bottling, according to Paret’s grandfather. Alain Paret also believes in consulting the lunar calendar to determine the optimum time for racking and bottling his crus.

“Shows a lovely savory hint, with green olive and tobacco notes wrapping around serious chalky grip. The core of butter, cherry, red currant and blackberry fruit sits in the background for now. Dense and vinous, this is driven by minerality and should age wonderfully as the fruit comes forward.”

— WWW.WINESPECTATOR.COM
MAISON FERRATON PÈRE & FILS

Jean Orëns Ferraton founded this estate in Tain-l’Hermitage in 1946. His son Michel, wanting to kick things up a notch, decided to follow Michel Chapoutier’s sage advice: “go organic.” The vineyard received certification in 1998 and has become increasingly biodynamic too. While Ferraton has been run officially by Chapoutier since 1996, winemaking facilities are kept separate, and the technical team retains its autonomy. Damien Bresset’s arrival as head oenologist in 1998 has helped steadily improve the quality of Ferraton’s single vineyard crus. The aging process is now much better controlled, and the resulting wines are more polished. This is one estate to watch!

LE MÉAL 2010, ERMITAGE

“...Production is very limited, as it is for the 2010 Ermitage Le Meal. Blackberry and beef blood notes intermixed with acacia flower, tomato confit and chocolate characteristics are followed by a wine with a fabulous texture, opulent, viscous fruit notes and a heady, thick, full-bodied finish.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

No. 50 60 750 ml / $120
WA95 2016-2030

MAISON DELAS FRÈRES

Delas was founded in 1835 by Philippe Delas and Charles Audibert, but gained immediate cachet in 1996 when purchased by Champagne producer Deutz (owned by Roederer). Under the purview of Burgundy’s Jacques Grange, technical director since 1998, Delas has had a total facelift. Grange, a trained oenologist with impressive credentials, worked at Chapoutier in the early 1990s before managing this 30-hectare estate. He has also worked with oenologist Jean-Luc Colombo, a renowned producer in the region. The estate’s rebirth took massive investments in both the vineyard and the cellar (including a gravity flow system, concrete tanks, new barrel room, Burgundy casks and more). Today Delas Frères is not just a négociant but a major northern Rhone player known for delivering wines that are a delight to drink—and drink again.

LES DIONNIÈRES 2010, ERMITAGE

“A rich, velvety style, with lush fig, blackberry and blackcurrant fruit driven by warm ganache, singed anise and roasted espresso notes.”

— WWW.WINESPECTATOR.COM

No. 49 60 750 ml / $95
WS94 2016-2028

SEIGNEUR DE MAUGIRON 2011 CÔTE-RÔTIE

“This pure Syrah comes from Côte Brune (70%) and Côte Blonde (30%) on the right bank of the Rhone River. Vinified in concrete tanks, the wine is fermented and aged for 15 months in used oak casks. A purple-blue/ruby colour, this wine is rather subtle at first. However, it opens up quickly with notes of black olives, blackcurrants, licorice, ripe raspberries and fine wood. It has lovely body and soft tannins on the palate, with a truly noteworthy overall balance. This is a long, typical Côte-Rôtie with average cellaring potential.”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

No. 48 60 750 ml / $79
ST90 IWC90-92

No. 49 60 750 ml / $95
WS94 2021

No. 50 60 750 ml / $120
WA95 2016-2030
The “incredible taste” was what convinced Michel Chapoutier of the merits of biodynamic growing. He has owned 250 certified hectares since 1989, including 30 in Hermitage that have brought him celebrity and made him the largest player in this outstanding cru. The vineyard, which was abandoned after being purchased from his grandfather, has been brought back to life by this passionately effusive vintner who operates out of Tain-l’Hermitage. He practices biodynamic viticulture “to get back to the microbiology of the soil” and “let the terroir speak through the wine.” Terroir typology is revealed by isolating individual parcels of old vines. Michel Chapoutier is an ambitious visionary who inspires future generations with his beliefs, philosophy, ideals and the values nurtured by his family, who have been part of the region since 1808.
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*Limited quantities. If the demand exceeds the offer, a computerized draw among all orders received will be held before noon on January 20, 2014. Orders cannot be received between noon on January 20 and noon on January 22.
EXPLORE THE CONTRASTS, DISCOVER THE SOUTHERN WINES ON THE OTHER SIDE.
SOUTH

THE RHONE VALLEY

A LAND OF CONTRASTS
SOUTH
Much to the delight of connoisseurs, we’re returning with a new selection of wines from the Rhone Valley. You will find classics in sought-after designations, including novelties in the 2011 vintage, which offers wines that will be best enjoyed young, and others with significant aging potential. You will also have the opportunity to purchase wines from various promising vintages, including the excellent 2009 and 2010 vintages.

The valley gets wider from Valence to Nîmes, the landscape softens, and vines cover small hills. The southern Rhone Valley boasts a Mediterranean climate, with intense heat and sparse rains, and is swept by the strong mistral wind that has a beneficial effect on the development of the vine. Few vineyards can lay claim to a past as glorious as those located in the south of the region. Formerly vins des papes, wines from the Rhone Valley have now gained international prestige.

This is where Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and many other varieties in promising appellations are among the most sought-after. Châteauneuf-du-Pape is considered to be the top wine in the region.

ORDER STARTING JANUARY 10 AT NOON.

COMMANDE.SAQ.COM

Find out how to order as well as consult the complete collection on pages 23–24.
## The Wines

### South

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See page 23 for details on how to order. Discover the northern wines on the reverse side of the catalogue.

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### Legend

- **ST**: Signature Team - Mark out of 100
- **WS**: Wine Spectator - Mark out of 100
- **WA**: Wine Advocate - Mark out of 100
- **JR**: Jancis Robinson - Mark out of 20
- **IWC**: Stephen Tanzer - Mark out of 100
- **RVF**: Revue du Vin de France - Mark out of 20
- **BD**: Bettane & Desseauve - Mark out of 20
- **JLL**: John Livingstone-Learmonth - Mark out of 6

**Aging Potential**

The aging potential is the potential lifespan of a wine if kept in favourable storage conditions. The year that is indicated for each wine represents the year in which the wine will peak and display its full complexity. Of course, depending on your personal taste, you may find a wine is ready to drink well before the year indicated here.

**Drink now**

Drink now or keep until year indicated

**Drink during indicated period of maturity**

**Quantity of bottles available**
This winemaking estate has been in the Perrin family for five generations. It extends some 100 hectares, three-quarters of which are devoted to Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Though Beaucastel is best known for incorporating all 13 AOC-authorized varietals in its classic cru, it is also notable for its generous proportion of Mourvèdre. Although commonly associated with table wines from southern Rhone, the grape appears in some of France’s finest wines too. Hommage à Jacques Perrin, the estate’s iconic cuvée, is also one of Châteauneuf-du-Pape’s most sought-after wines, and for good reason. As family patriarch Jacques Perrin liked to say, “It’s better to be healthy than try not to get sick.” For a family that has tended the land organically for over 40 years, it is a fitting credo indeed. Moreover, the 1995, 1998, 2001 and 2003 vintages come from the Perrin family’s cellar.

“Vinified and partially aged in stainless steel tanks (30%) and Burgundy barrels (70%) for eight months, Roussanne (80%) and Grenache Blanc (15%) are combined with small amounts of Clairette, Picardan and Bourboulenc (5%). Sparkling golden yellow in colour, this smooth-textured wine has notes of apricot, honey, almonds and milk in addition to particularly appealing and enchanting floral and fruity notes of acacia and pears. The perfectly balanced, ample, full-bodied palate finishes with flavours of apricot marmalade, pineapple and hints of nutmeg-like spices. It’s superb!”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

“Known in the region as being truly exceptional, this 1995 vintage has been one of Beaucastel’s greatest successes in recent years. A deep tile-red, this wine is complex and intense with aromas of cooked fruit, plum, earth, undergrowth, licorice, smoke, mild spices and tomato paste. It also features notes of balsamic and sandalwood-like aged wood. The palate is surprisingly fresh, marked by dense tannins, further developed and intensified by a finish of plum, grilled vegetables, black tea, smoke, mild spices and licorice. A great pleasure to drink, it can easily be kept until 2018.”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

“With a larger portion of Grenache Noir than usual in its Château de Beaucastel, the Perrin family once again considers the 1998 vintage to be outstanding. A rather deep tile-red, this wine offers delightful, concentrated aromatic notes that evoke sandalwood, licorice, cocoa, raspberries, candied cherries, smoke, sun-dried tomatoes and violets. Mineral and complex, the palate is powerful and long with fine and dense, yet light, remarkably balanced tannins. Wonderful!”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

| No. 53 | $90 | 750 ml / $90 |
| No. 54 | $145 | 750 ml / $145 |
| No. 55 | $138 | 750 ml / $138 |
François Perrin compares the 2001 vintage to the spectacular 1990. He combines Grenache Noir (30%), Mourvèdre (30%), Syrah (10%) and Counoise (10%) with the other grape varieties permitted by the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation. A deep tile-red, this wine reveals hints of stewed black fruit, licorice, hoisin sauce, earth, potpourri, cocoa, plums, nuts and vanilla. This wine is opulent and rich with a long, reasonably complex, generous palate and tannins that will become even more refined over time. According to critics Michel Bettane and Thierry Desseauve, this ‘is one of the greatest Beaucastels of the past 15 years.’ Amazing!" — SIGNATURE TEAM

"If you’re interested, you will have to be patient, as this is a young, surprisingly fresh, yet powerful and heady Beaucastel much like the 2003 heat wave vintage. This deep garnet wine displays a nose of ripe fruits (blackcurrents, blueberries) in addition to aromas of licorice, cocoa, garrigue, mild spices and meat juices. Well developed, the palate is powerful, broad and extensive." — SIGNATURE TEAM

"No such issue exists with the perfect 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hommage à Jacques Perrin. I don’t know what more a wine could offer. Inky blue/purple, with an extraordinary nose of smoked duck, grilled steaks, Provençal herbs, blackberries, blueberries, kirsch, licorice and truffle, enormously massive, concentrated, full-bodied and built for 30–50 years of cellaring, this wine, which is dominated by its Mourvèdre component, is a tour de force, a spectacular, world-class wine. It is going to require some patience, though, and seems to need 4–5 years of cellaring. It should again be almost ageless in its potential." — WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM
Located just north of the city of Orange, Château de Fonsalette was purchased in 1945 by Louis Reynaud, grandfather of the estate’s current owner, Emmanuel Reynaud. The vineyard produces and blends its wines at Château Rayas, with which it shares many similarities despite the fact that Grenache is not the only red varietal grown over its 10 hectares. Fonsalette boasts a masterful hand with Cinsault, elevating the oft-neglected varietal to its full potential, and also produces sumptuous Syrahs. The wine is still coaxed to greatness in foudre barrels and old 450-to 550-litre demi-muid casks. Don’t let the chateau’s rather modest appellation lead you astray—its wine puts many an established Châteauneuf-du-Pape to shame.

Emmanuel Reynaud rose to fame after taking the helm of the storied Château Rayas following the death of his uncle Jacques in 1997. However, since 1989 he has also overseen Château des Tours, a roughly 40-hectare Vacqueyras estate that produces wines similar to those from Rayas. Des Tours’ wines boast such richness, depth and originality that they have previously been denied the Vacqueyras AOC for not conforming to the appellation’s standards. Fortunately such quibbles are now a thing of the past, and the wines—particularly vintages from the past decade—continue to wow and win over oenophiles and critics alike.
Château Jas de Bressy is owned and operated together with Château des Fines Roches and Château du Bois de la Garde by Catherine Mousset and Robert Barrot under the name Vignobles Mousset-Barrot. Acquired by the couple in 2003, Château Jas de Bressy is by far the smallest estate of the three, spanning a mere 4.5 hectares entirely contained within Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The vineyard is located at the southern end of the appellation, where it is sheltered from the mistral and benefits from the famed terroir of galets roulés—smooth, rounded stones. The estate produces just one red and one white, with the white grown on barely a hectare of land. The estate’s wines, admired for their frankness and elegance, are cultivated from vines with an average age of 70 years.

Previously called Grange de Beauvenir, Château La Nerthe is one of the oldest and largest estates in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It traces its origins back to the 12th century when the very first vines were planted in the area that the appellation now covers. The Beauvenir name was first recorded in 1560, bestowed on the estate’s finest white wine made from a blend of Roussanne, Clairette and Grenache Blanc aged in oak barrels. Christian Voeux took over for Alain Dugas in 2008 at this leading estate, having previously worked at Château Mont-Redon for over 25 years.

"Ripe, rounded and mouthfilling, but also very bright and pure, with white peach, green melon and green plum flavors laced with floral and dried chamomile notes. Long finish."
— WWW.WINESPECTATOR.COM

"As one might expect, the 2010 Clos de Beauvenir blanc is luxurious, with super-intense fruit and a full-bodied, multi-dimensional mouth feel, with hints of dried apricot, honeysuckle, peach jam, rose water and a touch of almond paste all present in this lavishlly rich, expansive and full-throttle dry white."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

"Not unexpectedly, the 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée des Cadettes (a blend of 39% Mourvèdre, 35% Syrah and the rest Grenache, aged in small barrels) is a long-term proposition for Rhone wine enthusiasts. Dense bluish/purple to the rim, with notes of blueberry, black raspberry liqueur, kirsch, spice box, vanillin, graphite and licorice, the wine is extraordinarily complex, deep, full-bodied and juicy, with a sweet, luxurious mid-palate and a long finish with moderately high tannin."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM
Though Châteauneuf-du-Pape is indelibly associated with the smooth, rounded galets roulés of the region, Château Rayas boasts a terroir all its own. Nestled in a pine grove, the 12-hectare estate is known for its very compact, sandy earth called safres and for cultivating but a single red varietal—Grenache Noir. Its cool microclimate also sets it apart in a region known for its warmth. Château Rayas was purchased by the current owner’s great-grandfather, Albert Reynaud, in 1880. After going deaf at age 45, Reynaud gave up being a notary and devoted himself to winemaking, though the fruits of his labour were not bottled for commercial distribution until 1920 with help from his son Louis. In 1997 Emmanuel Reynaud took the helm of this mythical estate following the death of his uncle Jacques, Louis’ son. Emmanuel’s aversion to new wood led him to use old casks during the maturation process, such as the 450-litre demi-muid. The Rayas style has thus been preserved—and continues to embody the subtle elegance of an exceptional terroir.

Pignan, a Châteauneuf-du-Pape made, aged and sold by Emmanuel Reynaud of Château Rayas, is not the second wine of this mythic estate. It hails from vines planted in the 1980s in the hamlet of Pignan, where the soil is sandy and the exposure northern. Grenache, the great Spanish grape variety, predominates. But confusion may arise due to the fact that in some years, part of the grapes in Rayas, which come from young vines, have been declassified in order to blend them in Pignan, for instance. In keeping with the Reynaud family’s chosen style, old barrels (foudre and demi-muid) are used so the wine matures “free of artificial aromas.”

"The 2000 Rayas Châteauneuf-du-Pape, which Emmanuel Reynaud believes is better than 1998, came in at a whopping 15.2% alcohol. It is reminiscent of a hypothetical blend of the 1998 and 1999, with a medium to light ruby color and a sumptuous bouquet of kirsch liqueur, spice box and licorice. Full-bodied and fleshy, with low acidity, it is a sweet (from high glycerin and alcohol), seductive, intoxicating offering with no hard edges and a rich, fleshy mouth feel."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

"The 2003 Rayas Châteauneuf-du-Pape has gone from strength to strength and now looks to be the finest vintage since the monumental 1995. Deep ruby to the rim with that classic Rayas nose of flowers, kirsch liqueur, black raspberries, crushed rocks and minerals, the wine is dense and concentrated, with a broad, savory mouth feel, sweet yet silky tannin, fabulous persistence and a blockbuster finish that just goes on and on. This is a reassuringly profound Rayas that seems to suggest that Emmanuel Reynaud has finally figured out this cold-climate terroir in a warm climate appellation."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

"Probably the greatest one ever made was the 1990, but the 2003 Pignan Châteauneuf-du-Pape is strikingly good. There are about 7,000 bottles of it, and I would probably go as far as to say that it is the best Pignan from this estate since the 1990. Dense ruby to the rim with a glorious nose of framboise, black raspberries, sweet cherries and kirsch, the wine is full-bodied, broad, high in alcohol, but rich, chewy and totally captivating and seductive."
— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

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After ranking first in Wine Spectator’s annual Top 100 for its 2005 vintage, Clos des Papes seems to be on everyone’s lips. The estate is noted for the high concentration of Mourvèdre in its blends, though the grapes are never awarded a starring role. The traditional varietals, Grenache and Syrah, are fully destemmed, then vinified and matured in aged casks. Owner Vincent Avril has operated the estate since 1989, after studying viticulture in Beaune. He eschewed the single-vineyard vintages fashionable among many producers in the late 1980s in favour of a sole cru assembled from all of his parcels, providing—in his estimation—much finer results. Making up only a small portion of production, the Châteauneuf-du-Pape white is also one of the appellation’s most successful wines. It’s simply magnificent!

**CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE 2008**

“Bright red. High-pitched aromas of redcurrant, raspberry, rose petal and Asian spices, lifted by a mineral quality. Suave, silky and alluringly sweet, offering penetrating red fruit flavors and slow-mounting florality. This refined, focused wine stains the palate with perfumed flavors of raspberry and garrigue. This has the juicy acidity and spine to reward cellaring but I find it awfully delicious now.”

— STEPHEN TANZER’S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

**CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE 2012**

“This delightful 2012 white has intense, minimalist, fresh, salty flavours. It exudes characteristics of the south, yet it’s shaded without being in excess of 15°. This is an excellent 2012 to purchase right away for lovers of wine with great age potential.”

— TRANSLATED FROM LE GUIDE DES MEILLEURS VINS DE FRANCE 2014, LA REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE

**CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE 2011**

“From yields of barely 18 hectolitres per hectare, the Clos des Papes red has a wonderful nose of stewed fruit, cherry liqueur, licorice, nutmeg, fine wood and thyme. A delightful wine with an enticing texture and restrained power despite its alcohol content of 15.5%. In the mouth it is long, but not heavy, and contains notes of blackcurrants, mocha, black olives, kirsch and garrigue. Elegant and balanced, it’s an amazing feat! This wine is simply remarkable, even brilliant!”

— SIGNATURE TEAM
Three successive generations have operated Domaine Brusset since 1947, with Daniel and Laurent Brusset—a father and son duo—currently at the helm. Despite covering nearly 90 hectares and spanning a number of appellations in southern Rhone, the estate is best known for its Gigondas wines. Its Tradition Le Grand Montmirail is cultivated on 68 terraces nestled at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail mountains, at an altitude of roughly 250 metres. Composed of Jurassic and Triassic limestone, the terraces are some of the most stunning in the entire appellation. The estate was among the first to use small oak barrels to age its more prestigious wines. Despite a pronounced oakiness apparent in early batches, today’s top crus exhibit remarkable balance.

The cicada, an insect that has been heard in the region for ages, must have inspired Hyppolite Jourdan who named the family estate Le Clos Chante Cigale in 1874. In 2000, for health reasons, Christian Favier had to give this property to his son Alexandre, who was only 20 years old at the time. The 45-hectare estate is spread over 45 plots of the best land in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Both the red and white wines are praised like no other by the trade press. In 2010, the Tradition and Vieilles Vignes cuvées became models for the region, owing to the exceptional work of this young winemaker. The cicadas will no doubt continue to sing for many years to come.

“Good, quite full red colour. The first aroma is black cherry, with a small roll of smoke behind…. The palate hands out easy, tasty black cherry fruit with sleek tannins attached. It drinks freely now, without complications …. 70% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah, 10% Cinsault.”
— www.drinkrhone.com

“The 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape is a traditional blend of 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah and the rest Mourvèdre and Cinsault from 50-year-old vines aged in a combination of concrete tanks, old wood foudres and small old barrels. It displays notes of charcuterie, roasted meats, garrigue, kirsch and black currants along with a full-bodied, seriously endowed, super-concentrated mouthfeel that builds like a skyscraper in the mouth. This cuvée possesses remarkable density and richness.”
— www.erobertparker.com

“No. 73  1800 750 ml / $28
JLL★★★
2016

No. 74  660 750 ml / $40
WA94
2030

No. 75  120 750 ml / $58
WA98
2017-2037

The greatest wine I have ever tasted from this estate (and I don’t think that’s an overstatement) is Chante Cigale’s 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes. A blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre from 65- to 125-year-old-vines, it was aged 40% in foudre, 30% in concrete and 30% in a combination of old and new small oak. This wine boasts off-the-charts intensity, full-bodied power and abundant notes of roasted Provençal herbs interwoven with lavender, crème de cassis, kirsch, black raspberry, truffle and smoked meat-like characteristics. Rich, full-bodied and extraordinarily structured and massive. Bravo!”
— www.erobertparker.com
Each and every one of the nearly 38 hectares at Domaine de Fondrèche is skilfully managed by Sébastien Vincenti and Nanou Barthélemy, making it a hallmark for excellence in Ventoux. After studying oenology in Montpellier in the early nineties, Vincenti founded the estate together with his mother in 1995. Strongly held convictions and a desire to assert their status led the mother-son duo to seek organic certification for the estate, which lies at the foot of Provence’s imposing Mont Ventoux. They strive first and foremost to produce wines that personify the terroir, balancing breadth with freshness and beauty with brawn. Mr. Vincenti draws the inspiration for his wines from a surprising source—top producers from the Loire Valley and Beaujolais. “Grenache possesses an innate elegance—it’s the Pinot Noir of the south. It opens the door to such great things.”

Domaine de la Janasse has grown by leaps and bounds since it was founded by Aimé Sabon in 1967. Though he started out with just 15 hectares belonging to his father and in-laws, Sabon acquired enough neighbouring parcels over the years to bring the estate to the 50 hectares it covers today. In the early nineties, Sabon’s children Christophe and Isabelle joined the family business to assist him. Though the estate has long enjoyed steady growth, it has truly hit its stride in the past decade, earning rave reviews from prestigious critics such as Robert Parker.

“IL ÉTAIT UNE FOIS 2010, VENTOUX

“This wine just goes from strength to strength. A blend of 80% Grenache aged in cement eggs and 20% Syrah aged in small barrels, this includes grapes from their oldest Grenache parcels, planted in 1936. There is also some Mourvèdre in the wine, which is elegant and slightly more linear than it was last year right after bottling. Incredible notes of kirsch liqueur intermixed with black fruits, spring flowers, raspberries... as well as a note of forest floor are all present in this opulent, full-bodied, super-rich wine, which is both subtle and authoritative.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

“VIEILLES VIGNES 2011
CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

“The same thing is true for its sibling, the 2011 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes. This cuvée comes from four parcels of the estate’s oldest vines and tends to be 80% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre and 5% Syrah. The Grenache is always aged in foudre and the other cépages aged in small oak. Achieving 16.5% natural alcohol in 2011 was no easy task, but this wine is not the least bit hot. Full-bodied, intense and opulent, it may be the wine of the vintage, not only in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, but in all of southern France.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

No. 76
WA92+
2020

No. 77
WA95–95
2027
Born into a family of winemakers, Francis Delorme built this estate in Tavel on the right bank of the Rhone River in the middle of the 1980s. After selling his high-tech companies that specialized in private protection, he focused on his two very different passions: wine and hunting. Together with his son Christophe, who was later joined by brother Fabrice, Francis began managing the 60-hectare vineyard which extends across the southern appellations of Lirac, Tavel and, to a lesser extent, Châteauneuf-du-Pape. An environmentally friendly work ethic and high standards of quality are at the core of this dynamic family business. At Domaine de la Mordorée, innovation truly meets tradition and this is reflected in its rich, concentrated wines, known for their solid reputation.

Domaine de Nalys belonged to the Nalys clan right up to the French Revolution, when it was acquired by a Châteauneuf-du-Pape family that would cultivate the vines for seven generations. It later came full circle when Dr. Philippe Dufays took it over and married the Nalys heiress following World War II. The estate was in pitiful condition, but Dufays gave up his medical career to restore it to glory. He brought in a team as passionate and talented as he was and worked hard to increase plantings while promoting the wines internationally. However, the tragic death of his only son, combined with market upheavals in the seventies, led him to sell in 1975. Today the estate belongs to Groupama, an agricultural mutual insurance company.
In addition to being the president of the Syndicat des Vignerons de Rasteau, Robert Charavin manages this 14-hectare Rasteau estate in the famous southern Rhone village which officially obtained appellation status for its 2010 reds. That same year, the Domaine des Coteaux des Travers (where “Travers” means “on the side” of the rising sun) was certified organic and began the transition to biodynamic production methods. Their winemaking practices are traditional, preferring to age their wines in wooden conical barrels, concrete tanks and demi-muids. The Rasteau soil, rich in clay and swept by the mistral, is ideal for growing Mediterranean varietals. The Charavins have been successfully growing vines here since 1920.

Although the Féraud family has been making wine in Châteauneuf-du-Pape since the 17th century, their estate was created only in 1987. Laurence Féraud, a recent wine school graduate, inspired the family to found a property under the Pégau name. It was a struggle at first given the substantial sums involved, but the estate came into its own in the 1990s as its wines met with increasing acclaim. The trade press, particularly outside France, took a liking to Pégau, and today 90% of its production is exported. Despite its innovative and hard-working owners, Pégau remains a bastion of tradition in Châteauneuf-du-Pape with its powerful, age-worthy wines.

Pierre and Mireille Giraud began their great winemaking love affair with four hectares of vines in 1974. Over the next dozen or so years they added further vines by renting, then turned a family-owned distillery into a production facility in 1981 so they could create and age their own wines. That was also when they introduced their first estate bottling. Their children Marie and François share their dream and have continued the family tradition since 1998. Domaine Giraud today totals nearly 20 hectares of vines, including century-old Grenache plantings. And the philosophy remains the same: elegance no matter the expense.

“The 2010 (Rasteau) Cuvée Paul was aged completely in demi-muids. This fabulous blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre tips the scales at 15+% natural alcohol. Its dense purple color is accompanied by copious aromas of chocolate fudge, blackberries, black currants, garrigue, licorice and lavender. This is a full-throttle, masculine as well as pure, authoritative wine.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

“Nothing represents the traditional Châteauneuf-du-Pape style better than Cuvée Laurence, which is aged for 36 to 48 months. Grenache (80%), Syrah (6%) and Mourvèdre (4%) are complemented by the other varietals permitted by the appellation. Showing signs that it has changed, the colour is a truly deep garnet. This wine opens slowly with aromas of herbes de Provence. After aeration, it becomes more complex with varying aromas of truffles, tomato paste, garrigue, black olives, smoke, plums, candied cherries, figs and cloves. Powerful and heady, Cuvée Laurence has fine tannic structure and acidity, finishing with mineral and licorice notes. It’s a success!”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

“The 2011 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition is composed of 60% Grenache, 35% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre. The Syrah is aged in small barrels and the Grenache in tank. From 50- to 80-year-old vines, it exhibits aromas of... bouquet garni, licorice, black raspberries and black currants. Full-bodied and lush with heady alcohol as well as decent acidity, this beautiful 2011 can be drunk during its first decade of life.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM
Forget about modern wine cellars and the latest winemaking gadgetry: at Domain Henri Bonneau there are no signs of change. It’s as though nothing has been altered since the early 20th century. Legendary winemaker Henri Bonneau, a 12th-generation vintner, made his first wines in 1956. Not surprisingly, the septuagenarian’s grape of choice is Grenache, the most common variety in the region. It occupies the majority of the vineyard’s six hectares along with Mourvèdre, Syrah, Counoise and Vaccarèse. Unlike his neighbours, Mr. Bonneau harvests late in the season and does not strip the grapes, except during poor vintages. Deeply rooted in tradition, he opts for used casks and barrels and prefers long aging processes (five to six years on average) as his standard. Made from the famous Crau terroir, one of the estate’s gems, the rich and rustic Réserve des Célestins, is simply outstanding. A fine example of the intuition and knowledge of a great winemaker.

This estate in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation has been in the same family since the 14th century. It was carved up over the years and generations, so when Christian Barrot inherited it in the early 1970s, there were just five hectares left. His son Julien Barrot is a trained oenologist who honed his craft in Australia and at other estates in France before returning home, convinced of Domaine La Barroche’s potential. He was the driving force behind the introduction of the vineyard’s own cuvées in 2003, after each distinct terroir had been meticulously identified. Like so many new-generation vintners who are at home with technology, Julien Barrot writes a blog sharing his workaday life at the estate.
When Serge Férigoule arrived to work the vines in 1979, le Sang des Cailloux was owned by the Ricard family. In 1982, with no one to take over, the Ricards partnered with Férigoule. He became sole owner in 1990, the year that Vacqueyras, a village in the Côtes du Rhône, achieved AOC status. Domaine le Sang des Cailloux stretches across 17 hectares on the Plateau des Garrigues, not far from the Dentelles de Montmirail, and recently switched over to biodynamic growing. Frédéri, Serge’s son, has been part of the operation for several years. Le Sang des Cailloux is the sum of its many parts, including its terroir (rich in galets roulés), low yields and very advanced maturities, all alluding to the highly evocative name of this vibrant estate (in English, “Blood of Stones”), one of the most highly visible in the region.

Francis Usseglio came from Italy in 1931 and settled in Châteauneuf-du-Pape to work as a farmer. In 1948 he began making his own wines. He expanded the family estate with the help of his son Raymond and Raymond’s wife, Danielle, and in 1999 their son Stéphane took the reins of the 24-hectare vineyard. A lover of nature and the great outdoors, Stéphane took to his new role quite naturally. Using biodynamic methods, he compares his region to Burgundy and its various climates, as there is variation between the different plots, exposures and soils. Traditional in spirit, the wines are influenced by Stéphane’s desire for innovation, as he is always refining his methods, regardless of the vintage. The Impériale cuvée is made from 100-year-old vines with minimal yields, planted in the early 20th century—the oldest Grenache Noir vines on the estate.

Marcel Richaud is a talented winemaker given to constant introspection. When it comes to developing signature wines, he has been making the right choices since the mid-1980s. His estate, with slightly more than 40 hectares, is 100% organic. La Revue du vin de France wrote, “In France, very few winemakers are as demanding and thorough as Marcel Richaud—from the vine to the barrel.” An unstinting perfectionist, he makes all his wine without sulphites or acidification. He also uses indigenous yeasts and leaves his wine unfiltered. While self-taught, he is the fifth generation of his family to make wine. After finishing his studies in 1974, he opted to not join the wine-growing cooperative, as his father had done, preferring to make his own wines—and begin his own brilliant ascent to the top of the Côtes du Rhône Villages Cairanne appellation.

**CUVÉE DE LOPY 2011, VACQUEYRAS**

“The Lopy cuvée refers to the name of the farm where Serge Férigoule, the man with the impressive moustache, was born. Lopy comes from Grenache vines that are over 65 years old and from mature Syrah varietals that average 40 years of age. The wine is aged for 12 to 15 months in used 450-litre casks. At first, the nose is subtle, but then notes of pepper, licorice, leather, cocoa and fruit liqueur emerge. The rich, powerful and sumptuous palate is supported by good acidity that, as expected, allows the flavours to linger. A very unique wine.”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

**CUVÉE IMPÉRIALE 2010 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE**

“A candidate for perfection, the 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Impériale... is clearly the greatest wine I have ever tasted from Raymond Usseglio, even eclipsing their remarkable 2007. Don’t be surprised if it merits a three-digit score in five or six years. Somewhat closed, but bursting with potential, the wine is inky/purple to the rim and boasts abundant amounts of concentrated, jammy blackberry, kirsch, licorice, lavender, forest floor, white chocolate and a hint of truffles in its magnificent perfume. Some tannins appear in the mouth, but there is no doubting the luxurious concentration, multidimensional mouthfeel, full-bodied texture, enormous extract and richness, and nearly endless finish. This monumental Châteauneuf-du-Pape needs to be forgotten for 4–5 years and consumed over the following 2–3 decades.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

**L’EBRESCADE 2010 CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE-VILLAGES-CAIRANNE**

“This Ebrescade has an elegant aroma and an equally sophisticated palate. Fine grained and fruity, its freshness is remarkable.”

— TRANSLATED FROM LE GUIDE DES MEILLEURS VINS DE FRANCE 2014, LA REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE
Isabel Ferrando was a banker before she acquired this nearly century-old vineyard in 2003. Fuelled by an all-consuming passion for wine, she took inspiration from the Henri Bonneau and Vieux Donjon estates but wasted no time imposing her own style, which is both modern and accessible. Her first vintage, which was forceful and concentrated, attracted the attention of critics, especially the English-language press. Domaine Saint Préfert has garnered praise ever since, to the point where its various cuvées are much in demand. Ms. Ferrando hasn’t let this go to her head, however, and continues to price her bottles affordably.

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**CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE 2012**

"Bottled a few months ago, this 2012 white features fleshy fruit and a smooth, full and serious mouth feel."

— TRANSLATED FROM LE GUIDE DES MEILLEURS VINS DE FRANCE 2014, LA REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE

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**RÉSERVE AUGUSTE FAVIER 2011**

"From the Quartier des Serres lieu-dit, known for its gravel and stone terroir, this cuvée is made from 85% Grenache and 15% mature Cinsault grapes. Aged in both concrete tanks (50%) and used demi-muid barrels (50%) for 18 months, this wine offers a splendid bouquet of candied cherries and distinguished floral notes reminiscent of lavender. Its palate is fresh, powerful and lush with hints of cocoa, walnuts and ripe dark fruits. Tannins are present but are not harsh, and the wine’s length is very satisfying. What a treat!"

— SIGNATURE TEAM

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**COLLECTION CHARLES GIRAUD 2011**

"The 2011 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Collection Charles Giraud is a blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Mourvèdre, with the latter component aged in demi-muids, and bottled unfiltered. It is a full-bodied wine displaying abundant notes of roasted herbs, kirsch, licorice and truffles along with a meaty richness and power. Drink this beauty over the next decade."

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM
DOMAINE SANTA DUC

Domaine Santa Duc, which lies near the Dentelles de Montmirail mountain range, was founded in 1874. Yves Gras has headed it up since 1985, the fifth generation of his family to do so. The vineyard converted to organic growing not long ago and has become one of the gems of Gigondas thanks to a series of painstakingly aged cuvées, Santa Duc’s signature. The wines from the estate’s 13 hectares are dense, rich and well-structured. Santa Duc has now branched out from Gigondas, with Yves Gras owning some 15 hectares in neighbouring appellations, as well as begun a new merchant operation.

LE CLOS DU CAILLOU

Le Clos du Caillou sits on the grounds of a former hunting preserve just outside the confines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape because, in 1936, the estate’s owner refused to allow those responsible for drawing the boundaries of this fabled southern cru to enter. But that’s wine under the bridge for current owner Sylvie Pouizin, who has nine ideally situated hectares in Courthézon, a small community in northeast Châteauneuf-du-Pape, a stone’s throw from the Rayas and Beaucastel estates. She took over from her father in 1995 with the help of her husband Jean-Denis Vacheron, who died tragically in 2002. The terrifically talented oenologist Bruno Gaspard has worked with Sylvie since then, and together they are creating intense, modern-style wines with an indisputable Rhone Valley pedigree.

TRADITION 2010, GIGONDAS

“This is a brick house, with iron-clad grip coursing through the core of blackcurrant, dried fig and blackberry reduction notes. Lots of bay, tobacco and juniper stride in on the finish, with a sprinkle of baker’s chocolate for added length and tension.”

— WWW.WINESPECTATOR.COM

PRESTIGE DES HAUTES GARRIGUES 2011 GIGONDAS

“A more limited cuvée, the 2011 Gigondas Prestige des Hautes Garrigues is a blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Mourvèdre. Yves Gras implemented a strict selection in this more challenging vintage and the result is an intense, full-bodied wine boasting abundant blue and black fruit notes intermixed with hints of camphor, incense and lead pencil shavings. Surprisingly full for a 2011, it achieved 16% natural alcohol.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

LES QUARTZ 2011 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PÂPE

“Les Quartz is made from 85% Grenache aged in old casks and 15% Syrah aged for 14 months in used demi-muid barrels. A deep purple-blue ruby colour, this wine offers a powerful bouquet of jammy fruits, licorice, cocoa, cigar box, tobacco and smoke. Its rich, powerful and complex palate is marked by captivating notes of wood and spice with hints of raisin pie, cocoa and blueberries that culminate in a long, dramatic finish. Exquisite and featuring pure fruit flavours, fewer than 8,900 bottles were produced in 2011.”

— SIGNATURE TEAM

No. 94

640

750 ml / $55

WA91-93

2023

No. 95

480

750 ml / $90

ST93 WA91-94

2025

No. 93

840

750 ml / $34

WS94

2020
After studying engineering and working for a number of years in the technological sectors of the entertainment and nuclear industries, Éric Texier finally gave in to his passion. He returned to school in his native Bordeaux where he studied viticulture and oenology. His training ended at Verget, in the Mâconnais, where under the tutelage of renowned winemaker Jean-Marie Guffens, he learned the basics of wine-growing and how to respect the land through minimal human interference. His wines are made from property-owned vines, rented vines and vines on long-standing collaborative contracts with other winemakers. His 25 sources come from the Mâconnais and northern and southern Rhône. They combine tradition with free-spirited creativity. Although Maison Éric Texier only has a short history, it already displays great maturity and is worth watching over the coming years.

“Even better, and a candidate for the wine of the vintage, is the 2011 Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Réserve .... Composed of 60% Grenache and 40% Mourvèdre, it possesses great intensity, [sic] a stunningly dense purple color. This is one of the great wines of 2011. Much richer, fuller and deeper than most 2011s, this wine will need some bottle age and atypically last 15 or more years.”

— www.erobertparker.com
The “incredible taste” was what convinced Michel Chapoutier of the merits of biodynamic growing. He has owned 250 certified hectares since 1989, including 30 in Hermitage that have brought him celebrity and made him the largest player in this outstanding cru. The vineyard, which was abandoned after being purchased from his grandfather, has been brought back to life by this passionately effusive vintner who operates out of Tain-l’Hermitage. He practises biodynamic viniculture “to get back to the microbiology of the soil” and “let the terroir speak through the wine.” Terroir typology is revealed by isolating individual parcels, notably in this Châteauneuf-du-Pape where the Grenache vines boast the venerable old age of ninety. Michel Chapoutier is an ambitious visionary who inspires future generations with his beliefs, philosophy, ideals and the values nurtured by his family, who have been part of the region since 1808.

BARBE RAC 2010
CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

A magnificent effort, the 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Barbe Rac boasts huge notes of kirsch, exotic herbs, lavender, cedar, fig, black cherry, blackcurrant, licorice and roasted meats. This flamboyant, rich, full-throttle Châteauneuf-du-Pape should age well for two decades. It will be interesting to follow this wine’s evolution alongside the brilliant 2009 and 2007 Barbe Racs.

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

QUET 2010, CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

“The remarkable 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvee du Quet boasts a dark ruby/purple color along with a stunning bouquet of spring flowers, cranberries, black raspberries, blueberries, forest floor, incense and bouquet garni. The wine builds incrementally in the mouth, and the finish lasts nearly a minute. This amazingly full-bodied, gorgeously pure Châteauneuf-du-Pape has everything one could desire in a dry red wine.”

— WWW.EROBERTPARKER.COM

No. 99
WA96

No. 100
WA100

MAISON M. CHAPOUTIER

Mas de Boislauzon

Founded in 1950 in the city of Orange in northern Châteauneuf-du-Pape, this 24-hectare estate did not reach its full potential until the Chaussy family came along at the turn of the millennium. Fifth-generation winemakers, brother and sister Daniel and Christine Chaussy (Daniel takes care of the vineyard and vinification, while Christine is in charge of administration and sales) operate nine hectares in the lieux-dits of Cabrières, Boislauzon, Lagardiole, Palestot and Pignan on the largest vineyard in southern Rhone. The transition to organic production began in 2009, and three years later the estate obtained official certification. Only 5,000 bottles of the highly sought-after cuvée Quet are produced annually. The wine is aged for 16 months in both stainless steel tanks and old wooden casks. This exquisite wine combines 75% Grenache Noir with 25% Mourvèdre.
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JANUARY 22, 2014*

03
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END OF MARCH 2014

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*Limited quantities. If the demand exceeds the offer, a computerized draw among all orders received will be held before noon on January 20, 2014. Orders cannot be received between noon on January 20 and noon on January 22.
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