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WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS



RHÔNE 2017  
*En Primeur*

# RHÔNE 2017 *En Primeur*

**Fiona Hayes**  
RHÔNE BUYER



*Fiona Hayes*

The 2017 vintage follows in the footsteps of two highly regarded years in the Rhône Valley. As such, speculation was rife as to whether 2017 could compete or even better the efforts of 2015 and '16. The answer, perhaps, isn't that simple. The vintage will be noted by many for its extremes in weather during the growing season, with the words "couleure" and "sécheresse" on the lips of every producer we visited. Although this affected the amount of wine produced, the quality remains high and there are some very approachable examples that I believe have the capacity to age.

Experienced and gifted winemakers were able to work with the vintage's tricky conditions, the year's subtleties shining through in their wines. In the North, the wines will be noted for their warmth, displaying a juicy, ripe profile and supple tannins, while the South's wines will be remembered for less Grenache dominance in the final blend, contributing to the visibly lower alcohols despite the warm vintage and firmer tannins.

As usual, it was a tale of two halves for the region and this led to some clear stylistic differences in the wines. Both North and

South experienced a very mild and dry winter, which – combined with little rain during the growing season – meant that the vines were under some drought stress, contributing to reduced yields across the region. The mild spring temperatures led to earlier than usual flowering, a crucial stage at which pollination is ready to occur, determining yield for both the current and subsequent vintage.

A sudden drop in temperature followed in late April, which was far from ideal, leading to poor fruit-set, known as "couleure". Fertilisation fails to occur and fruit growth is significantly impacted, meaning there are far fewer grapes. Earlier-budding varieties such as Grenache and Viognier are the most susceptible, so reduced yields both in the Southern Rhône (down 40%) and in Condrieu (down 50%) were typical.

Aside from a couple of pockets that experienced hail or frost damage, Syrah in the Northern Rhône went through flowering and fruit-set relatively unscathed. It was the same for other Southern Rhône varieties, such as Mourvèdre, which have as a result contributed a higher percentage in the blends this year.

A warm summer ensued and "sécheresse" (drought) meant that some vines struggled. As a result, the berries tended to be smaller (less juice) with thicker skins (more tannin) for the reds. For the whites, this means a richness and concentration, with fruit flavours at the tropical end of the spectrum. Harvest was earlier than "normal" and many growers had already harvested a third to half of the vintage by 1st September.

The drought's impact is most evident in the South, where the tannins are more

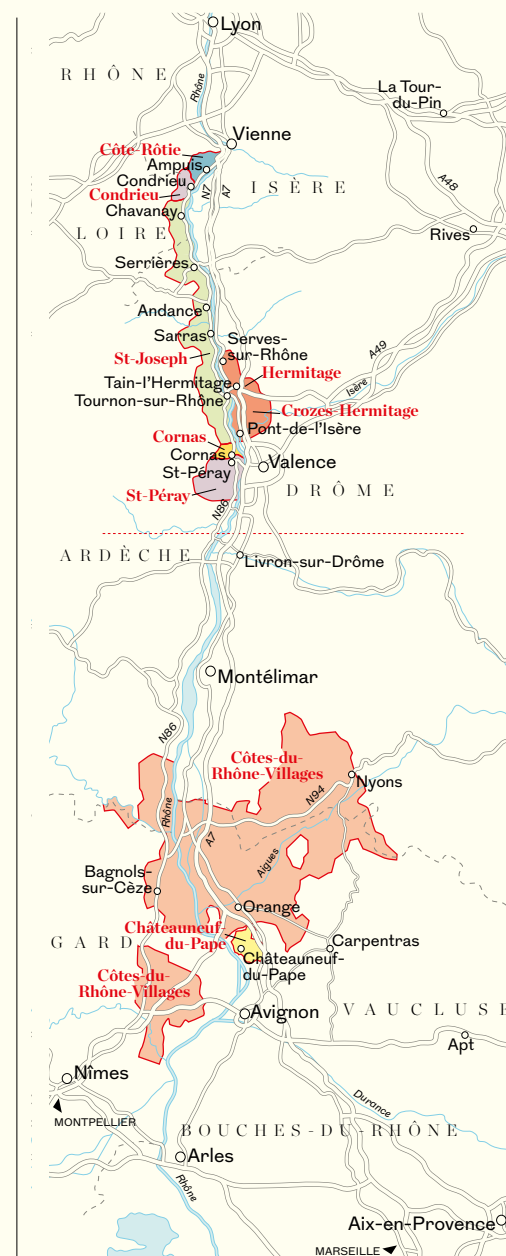
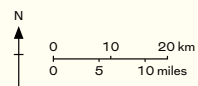
pronounced in the reds. It is, as Vincent Avril from Clos des Papes explained, the quality of tannins – rather than acidity – that determine a wine's cellaring potential in the South's warm climate. Those who have managed extraction well in the cellar have succeeded in making very good wines that will also age very well.

My colleague Oliver Barton accompanied me as we tasted our way through the region's 2017s. We hope we've brought the vintage to life for you in the pages that follow.

## THE RHÔNE VALLEY

### KEY

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



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# NORTHERN RHÔNE

## Report

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*The 2017 vintage saw a return to warmer growing conditions in the North compared to the cooler temperatures experienced in 2016. As a result, the wines are driven by darker red fruit and spice, with a more supple tannin structure. Although growers spoke of reduced yields due to a lack of rain, these are more modest reductions compared to their Southern neighbours.*

*Notable exceptions to this are St Joseph and Crozes-Hermitage, where frost and hail caused damage (down up to 30 and 10%, respectively). In Condrieu – with Viognier being particularly susceptible to “coulure” – some growers reported losses of 50%.*

*Winemaking rockstar Yves Gangloff defines the vintage as “solaire” (sunny), but one that offers freshness, giving the wines instant drinking appeal, as well as the potential to age. Many growers feel the quality is on par with the highly regarded 2015 vintage, however the tannins are much juicier in profile, rather than firm and rustic.*

*There is no denying that the whites are rich and more tropical in profile than both 2015 and '16. We have been careful to select only those that managed this well – choosing exceptional examples that demonstrate the luxurious opulence balanced by the acidity and energy that top growers are aiming to showcase.*

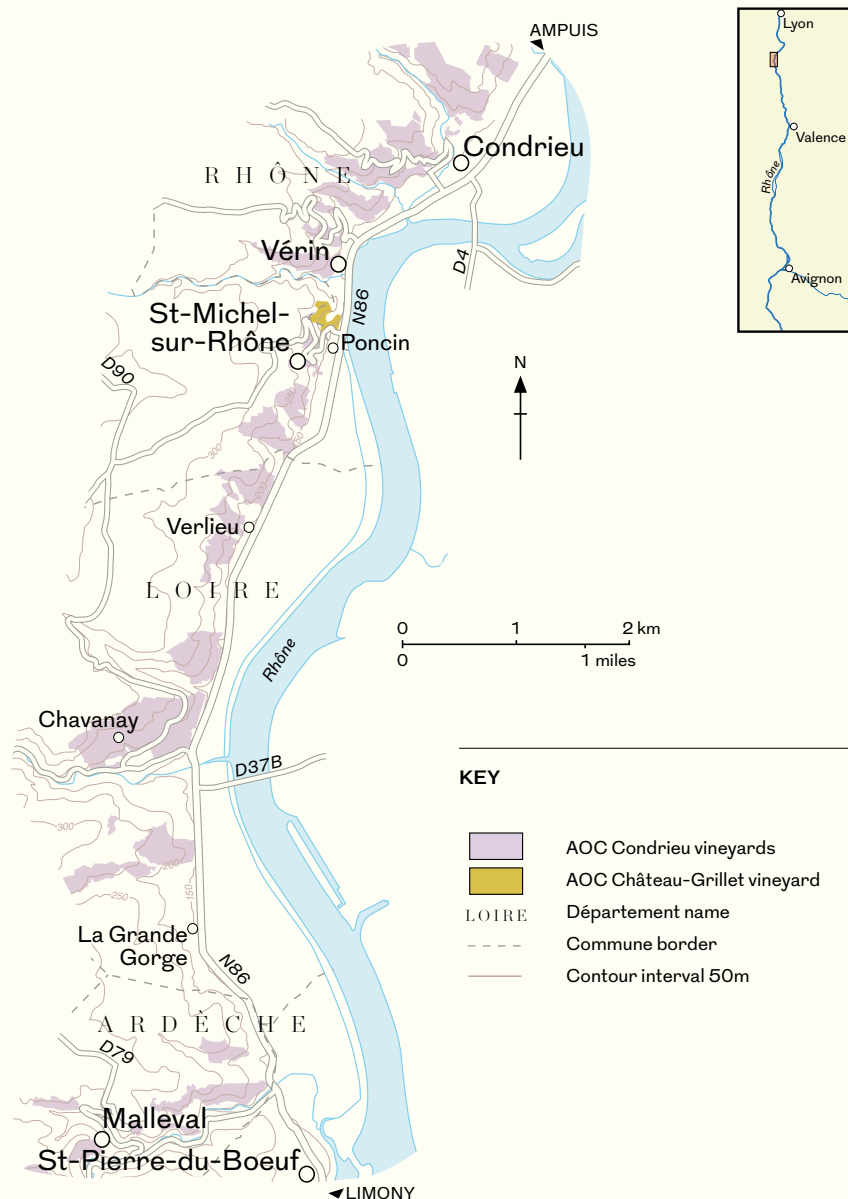
# NORTHERN RHÔNE

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## CONDRIEU

Viognier: nowhere does it better than Condrieu. In the same way that growers the world over have planted Pinot Noir in the hope of emulating red Burgundy, the similarly finicky Viognier is planted in the hope of achieving the unique balance of exotic perfume, weight and freshness for which Condrieu is famed. Few succeed. Traditionally vinification and *élevage* are in relatively inert, large, wooden vessels, but there is more interest from a new generation in the qualities of new oak. Plantings have expanded beyond the core of the AOC, around the village itself, to 140 hectares from the low of eight hectares in the 1960s. The vineyards pick up where Côte-Rôtie leaves off, the slope continues, but the schist of the north begins to give way to a little more granite and a topsoil of decomposed mica. Georges Vernay, of the eponymous *domaine*, was the region's de facto godfather, a constant feature during the difficult years and a key figure in keeping Condrieu from falling into total obscurity. Today the appellation is characterised by energy and creativity, and demand for the wines from this diminutive region is soaring.



## Domaine Mouton

JEAN-CLAUDE MOUTON



*Jean-Claude Mouton's vines sit high above the village of Condrieu and his modest winery is located right on the top of the hill, giving a wonderful view over the valley below. He currently farms 3.4 hectares in the appellation, with another 1.5 due to come into use over the next few years. His two Condrieu cuvées express two quite different terroirs, one mainly planted on granite, the other based on a mixture of clay, limestone and loess. In the winery, minimal new oak is used and the wines are matured in Burgundian barrels with little to no toasting.*

### White

#### 2017 VIOGNIER, COLLINES RHODANIENNES

As always this wine is very expressive, packed full of vibrant fruit characters. The nose shows plenty of orange, greengage and white blossom, while the palate is equally generous with more citrus and stone-fruit. Barrel fermentation brings a nice creaminess to the wine and the finish is long and expressive. Think of this as a "mini-Condrieu". Drink now to 2021.

**V8326B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£63.00**

#### 2017 CONDRIEU, CÔTE BONNETTE

The Bonnette vineyard tends to produce a more linear style of Condrieu, of which this *cuvée* is a good example. The nose shows white blossom, apricot and a touch of pear fruit, whereas the palate is focused around peach and citrus, with a lovely creamy mouth-feel from the 50% *élevage* in oak. The finish is fresh, long and textured with delicate minerality. Drink now to 2023.

**V7765B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£132.00**

#### 2017 CONDRIEU, CÔTE CHATILLON

The Chatillon *cuvée* always see more oak here, and in 2017 25% is new. The wine starts with quite a cool, steely mineral impression with a lovely ginger note, then moves on to plenty of peach and apricot. It is quite fat and rounded on the tongue, with a good amount of spice on the long finish. Drink now to 2024.

**V7764B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£162.00**

### Red

#### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE

Jean-Claude's Côte-Rôtie comes from the Côte Blonde. He uses 25% whole-bunch and ages it in 400-litre barrels. Medium-bodied, there is plenty of red-berry fruit here which mingles with smoky, meaty and mineral notes. The tannins are fine and grippy, leading towards a rustic, earthy finish. Drink 2020-2028.

**V8148B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

## Domaine Rostaing

PIERRE ROSTAING



*René has officially retired, with his son Pierre now running the domaine very successfully under his father's watchful eye. In the winery, the use of predominantly whole-bunch fermentation and maturation in demi-muid barrels remains, as does the domaine's style, which beautifully showcases the terroir and makes for extremely dark, rich and long-lived wines. This year, a new cuvée has been added to their portfolio: Pierre decided that a plot of vines usually used for the Ampodium blend has now reached suitable maturity to deserve its own single-vineyard expression. In 2017, yields were low here – due to frost and the hot summer. The resulting wines are rich and concentrated, somewhere between the style of 2016 and the revered '15 vintage.*

### White

#### 2018 CONDRIEU, LA BONNETTE

From a plot right at the top of the hill, Rostaing has just over one hectare in Condrieu. Their Viognier flourishes on the granite soil, developing rich flavours while maintaining all-important acidity. A beautifully floral nose is framed by ripe apricot fruit. The wine sees no new oak, allowing a focus on the purity and complexity of flavour. The palate is cool and well-measured with a hint of ginger and a slight salinity on the long and concentrated finish. Drink now to 2024.

**V8328B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£246.00**

### Red

#### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, AMPODIUM

This is Rostaing's signature blend from various parcels across the appellation, using 95% whole-bunch to great success. The wine itself has a dark inky colour which is an indication of the concentration and richness to come. The palate shows incredibly pure, dark fruit with a textbook note of violets. Despite its pedigree this is very approachable, but will reward a few years' patience. Drink 2021-2031.

**V7856B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£246.00**

#### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, LA LANDONNE

This famous vineyard is currently shared by five *vignerons*. Rostaing uses only whole-bunch on the fruit from their plot. Inky black in appearance, the nose reveals youthful bramble fruit with heady violets creeping through. The palate is textured and muscular, the dark blackberry fruit combined with a hint of pepper and iron. The finish is very long and the tannins fine, adding to the wine's finesse. Drink 2022-2042.

**V7857B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£510.00**

#### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, CÔTE BLONDE

From lighter, poorer soils, this *cuvée* has a very elegant nose with an extremely expressive floral note. The palate reveals more of the latter, but with both red and black fruit, and some lovely liquorice sweet spice. The very fine tannins help to create a silky mouth-feel. The finish is fresh, true to the vintage and Rostaing's *savoir-faire* in both the vineyard and winery. Drink 2022-2042.

**V7858B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£600.00**

#### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, CÔTE BRUNE

A new addition to the family, the grapes for this *cuvée* used to go into the Ampodium blend, but Pierre has decided that this plot is now mature enough to merit its own offering. This wine is very unlike its siblings, the nose displaying lots of red fruit and dried rose petals. The palate is mineral, with ripe berry notes and a rich black pepper and allspice note on the lengthy finish. Drink 2022-2042.

**V8149B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£780.00**

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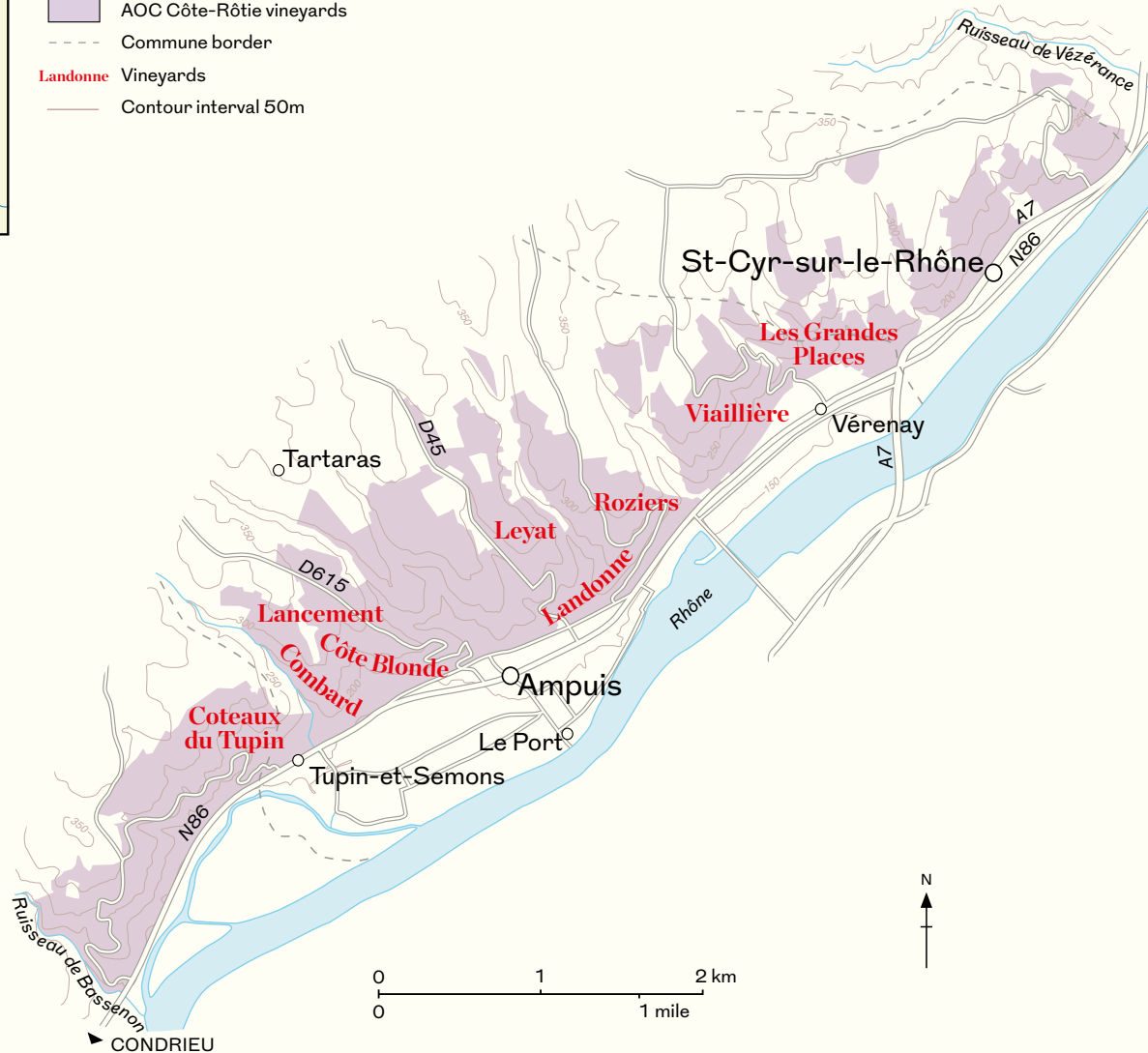
## CÔTE-RÔTIE

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



### KEY

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





## Stéphane Ogier

STÉPHANE OGIER



*Stéphane Ogier goes from strength to strength, his magnificent new winery nearing completion, totemic of ambition and success, but also built in such a way to defer to the principle of vinification by parcel which is fundamental to his project and long-term vision. There is no flight toward volume and anonymity; quite the contrary, and it is exciting indeed. Stéphane compares 2017 to 2011 in terms of its tannic structure, with some similarities to the trickier 2007 vintage. He was quick to highlight the fresh acidity in the 2017s.*

### Red

#### 2017 LA ROSINE SYRAH

This is floral and delicate in style with red-berry perfume, subtle garrigue and spice notes adding layers of aromatic complexity. Juicy berry fruit, refreshing acidity and silky, mouthcoating tannins make for an extremely pure, precise and charming wine. Drink now to 2022.

**V7870B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£75.00**  
**V7870M** 6 x 150cl magnums in bond **£159.00**

#### 2017 L'ÂME SŒUR, SYRAH DE SEYSSUEL

Stéphane believes this site will get Côtes du Rhône or potentially Cru status in 2020 – fitting recognition for the quality of the *terroir* here. Black cherry and plum fruit is combined with savoury spice and thyme notes. The tannins are firm and chalky, with a sweetness that is characteristic of the 2017s. Liqueurice and black olive notes arrive on the finish of this dense and energetic wine. Drink now to 2023.

**V7871B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

#### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE

This is a blend of a handful of villages within the St Joseph appellation. The whole-bunch fermentation is evident in the wine's floral perfume, with a crunchy and firm tannin profile. Meaty, spicy and savoury notes are juxtaposed with dense fruit – cherries, cranberries and brambles. There's plenty of crisp acidity and a mineral core. Drink now to 2025.

**V7872B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£99.00**

#### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, LE VILLAGE

An *assemblage* of parcels from Bassenon, Bourrier, Le Goutay, Gerine, Basset and Leyat, this is elegant and super silky in texture. Linear and very mineral, savoury aromas – rosemary, graphite and black olive – support the pure, exuberant red-berry notes. With fine-grained tannins and brisk acidity, this is accessible, yet displays great complexity and finesse. Drink now to 2028.

**V7869B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£195.00**

### White

#### 2017 VIOGNIER DE ROSINE

This wine is a crowd-pleaser and great value for money. The white peach and floral aromas are supported by juicy acidity and a significant level of concentration, much more than you would expect for its humble price. A perfect midweek wine. Drink now to 2021.

**V8150B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£81.00**

## Domaine Mathilde & Yves Gangloff

YVES GANGLOFF



### Red

#### 2016 CÔTE-RÔTIE, LA BARBARINE

This is deliciously spicy with ripe redcurrant and raspberry fruit complemented by complex aromas of *sous-bois*, pepper and black olive. The tannins are firm and powdery, while the palate builds to a savoury finish – long and almost saline. Drink 2020-2040.

**V8210B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£291.00**

#### 2016 CÔTE-RÔTIE, LA SEREINE NOIRE

This *cuvée* offers more smoke and liquorice than La Barbarine. Clean and pure red-berry fruits and rose perfume are balanced by peppery spice and chalky, firm tannins. The palate is elegant and silky in texture. The combination of primary fruit and a savoury core is carefully managed and indicative of the wine's intrinsic quality. Drink 2020-2040.

**V8212B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£444.00**

*Yves Gangloff is a hugely talented winemaker and, with no exaggeration, is a Rhône legend with rockstar credentials. For those fortunate enough to taste his wines regularly, he produces some of the best Northern Rhône wines out there. The volumes are tiny, made even smaller in 2017 due to flowering issues for Viognier. Yves releases his wines a little later than most, and as such we will be offering the 2016 reds which display a cooler profile than his 2015s.*

### White

#### 2017 CONDRIEU

This is fermented and aged in French oak barrels, of which 25% are new. The density of apricots, tangerines and lychee notes present a broader example of Yves's Condrieu. Toasted almonds and sweet spice combine with a glycerol texture and a lift of grapefruit acidity on the palate. The alcohol is on the higher side but is carefully integrated in this concentrated wine. The Viognier is sourced from two high-profile vineyards, Bonnette and Haute Chéry. Drink now to 2025.

**V7972B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£306.00**

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## Pierre Gaillard

PIERRE GAILLARD



*The younger generation, Pierre's son and daughters, have been getting more involved at the domaine over the last few years, however it is the passion and influence of Pierre that remains at the core of this impressive property situated in the hills of Malléval.*

*As well as being one of the top growers in St Joseph, he is one of a handful of producers realising the potential of the vineyards in Seysses in the north of the region. We tasted wines from over 36 barrels during our visit and each one of them had its own sense of identity and character: a commendable feat.*

## White

### 2018 ST PÉRAY

A blend of 50% Marsanne and 50% Roussanne, exotic and tropical fruit aromas work in tandem with a juicy and broad palate. The palate has an attractive phenolic grip, with a touch of spice on the finish. Ripe peach, honeysuckle and orange blossom continue on the finish. Drink now to 2022.

**V8323B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£72.00**

### 2018 ST JOSEPH BLANC

The nose is floral and spicy with honey, hawthorn and beeswax notes, and the tropical aromas kept in check for this 100% Roussanne St Joseph Blanc. The slightly glycerol, oily texture contrasts well with grapefruit-pith acidity. Verbena and camomile hints add complex layers. Drink now to 2025.

**V8322B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£87.00**

### 2018 CONDRIEU

The grapes come from several vineyards in the southern part of the appellation. There is a richness of tangerine, peach and honey that drives through the core of the wine, but it is still very light on its feet. It has a very attractive floral lift and vibrancy, despite the warmth of the vintage. Drink now to 2025.

**V8324B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£135.00**

## Red

### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, CLOS DE CUMINAILLE

This *cuvée* comes from the Cuminaille vineyard that Pierre planted in 1981 and is today regarded as one of the most notable wines produced in the region. Bright, deep ruby in colour, it offers aromas of blackberry, black cherry and pepper. Liquorice and rosemary notes combine with black olives and fennel. It is very accessible, yet the wine's mineral core defines it. Drink now to 2030.

**V7825B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£90.00**

### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE

A blend of Pierre's five hectares in Cote-Rôtie, this wine is expressive and generous. The mix of red and black fruit is well supported by savoury and sweet spice, as well as hints of smoke and tapenade. The wine displays a fleshy core with firm yet ripe tannins. Drink 2020-2030.

**V7826B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£171.00**

### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, ROSE POUPRE

Grapes for this wine are sourced from Côte Rozier – situated in a south-facing amphitheatre, this site is particularly warm and gives real concentration to the *cuvée*. Helped by the 30% new French oak, the wine displays sweet spice, supported by some savoury garrigue so typical of the region and the Syrah grape. The tannins are chewy but well-handled. Drink 2021-2040.

**V7827B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£342.00**

## Yves Cuilleron

YVES CUILLERON



*Yves now farms an impressive 70 hectares across six different appellations in the Northern Rhône. He is dynamic, energetic, inquisitive and constantly looking for new projects. Recently he has been sourcing and planting ancient grape varieties that are close to extinction, believing these will give him more flexibility in his winemaking as climate change pushes average temperatures up. Yves matures all his wines in oak barrels to avoid reduction, although these days only around 10 to 15% of the barrels are new. He is pleased with the 2017 vintage, especially with the reds, which he harvested in early September to retain a good level of acidity.*

## White

### 2017 ST PÉRAY, LIEU-DIT BIOUSSE

This big and flavoursome white is made from 100% Marsanne and is aged in barrels of which 25% are new. The result gives peach, almond and blossom aromas with plenty of citrus fruit and nectarine on the mid-palate. Rounded and structured, the finish is buttery and long. Drink now to 2022.

**V7837B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£99.00**

## Red

### 2017 CORNAS, LE VILLAGE

The fruit for this *cuvée* is sourced from three locations around Yves's three hectares in Cornas. The nose shows classic notes of blackberry, violet and bacon fat, while the palate is laden with black and red fruit. The tannins here are big, firm and grippy in their youth, but are kept in check by good fresh acidity. Drink 2020-2035.

**V8155B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£141.00**

### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, LES SERINES

"Serine" is the local name for the Syrah grape. This St Joseph is very dark in colour with a purple tint, while the nose is smoky with black pepper and bramble fruit. The palate has a concentrated core of dark berry fruit and the wine is well-structured, with a full body and firm tannins. The long finish benefits from a pleasant floral lift. Drink 2020-2027.

**V7838B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£153.00**

### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, MADINIÈRE

From a north-facing plot planted on schist, this *cuvée* includes 5% Viognier and is matured in 40% new oak. The nose is full of spice, with liquorice, pepper and wood smoke. The palate is suitably juicy and meaty, culminating in a smoky, mineral finish. The tannins are firm, boding well for a long life in the cellar. Drink 2021-2037.

**V7840B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£198.00**

### 2017 CÔTE-RÔTIE, LIEU-DIT BONNIVIÈRES

These 60-year-old vines thrive on this east-facing plot planted on schist. The resulting wine is classic in style but very elegant indeed. The bramble fruit is supported by a violet floral note, while the palate is full of fleshy fruit, smoke, spice and minerality. The firm tannins are balanced by a surprisingly high level of acidity which will carry this wine gracefully into old age. One for the cellar. Drink 2022-2040.

**V8156B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£261.00**

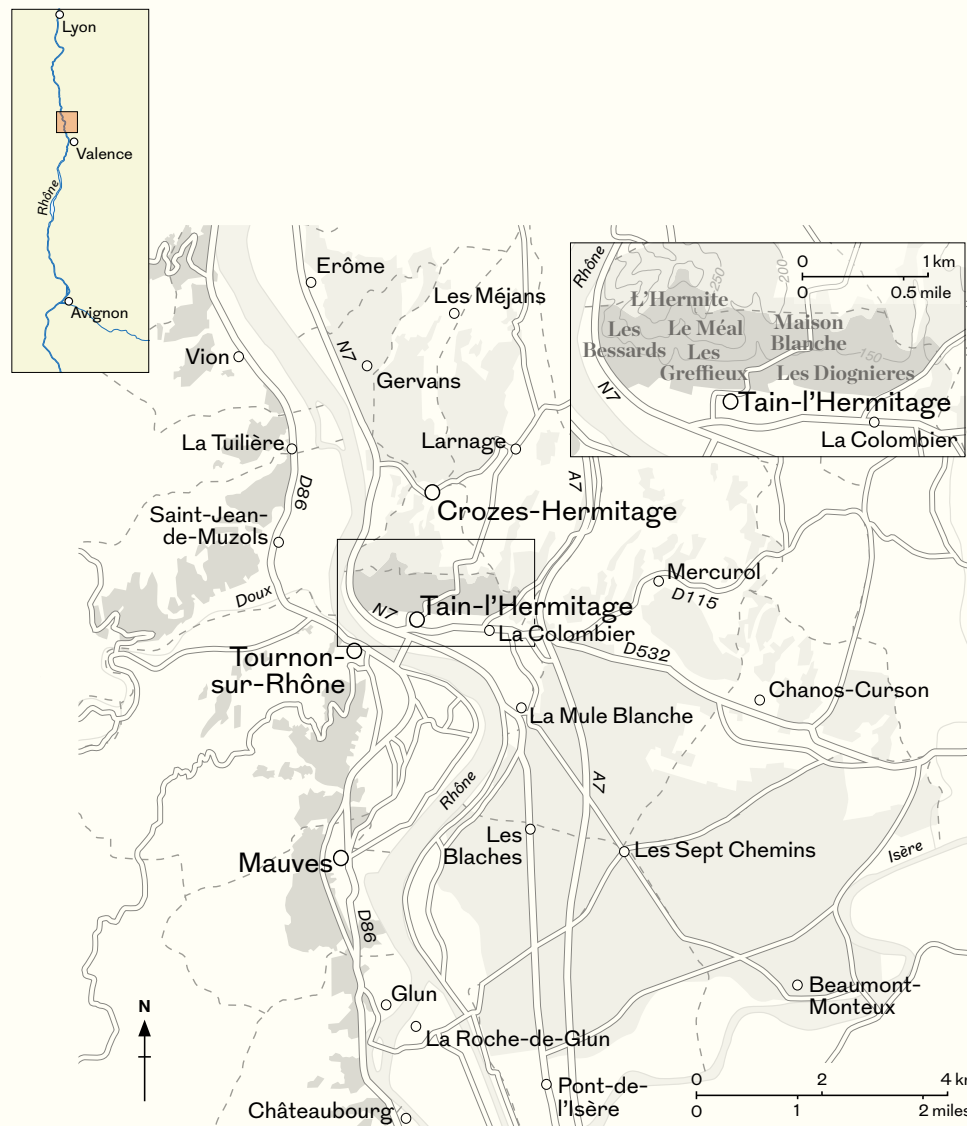
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## HERMITAGE & CROZES-HERMITAGE

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



### KEY

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

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## Maison Chapoutier

MICHEL CHAPOUTIER



*Applying his usual break-neck rigour to the presidency of professional association InterRhône has not in any way distracted Michel Chapoutier from his goal of ensuring that his range, more impressive in scope than ever, is providing the most complete dissection of the region's terroir. The seventh generation of his family to run the domaine, Michel is now farming all his vineyards biodynamically, busily investing in new winemaking projects across the globe. The domaine suffered very little from disease issues in 2017 and is pleased with both the yields and the quality of the fruit.*

### White

#### 2017 GROZES-HERMITAGE BLANC, LES MEYSONNIERS

This is the only white Crozes-Hermitage in our 2017 offering. It has a powerful nose of green fruit and peach with pleasing mineral and honeyed notes. The palate is packed with juicy fruit – lots more peach and some zesty lemon. Full-bodied and textural, the finish has a pronounced freshness. Drink now to 2023.

**V7877B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£81.00**

### Red

#### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, LES GRANILITES

This *cuvée* is mainly matured in concrete vats, with only 30% of the wine seeing oak. This brings a real focus on the purity of fruit. The nose is dark and dense with lots of blackberry fruit. A good mineral streak runs through the palate which is well-structured with firm tannins. Drink 2020-2025.

**V7878B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£105.00**

#### 2017 CORNAS, LES ARÈNES

This is a blend of three parcels from the mid-slopes of Cornas. The team has sourced the best fruit from this vintage and the plots complement each other well, giving a wine full of dark broody fruit, wood smoke and spice. The tannins here are very fine and inky black but may need some time. Drink 2020-2029.

**V7879B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£135.00**

#### 2017 HERMITAGE, MONIER DE LA SIZERANNE

One of Chapoutier's most famous *cuvées*, this red is a blend of three parcels across the steep slopes of Hermitage. Mostly these are granite soils, so the fruit from Le Méal – with its alluvial deposits – brings a lightness of touch. The nose is deep and dark, with the wine's characteristic floral lift. The palate is laden with dark berry fruit and smoky mineral undertones. Drink 2021-2035.

**V7876B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£285.00**

## Domaine Coursodon

JÉRÔME COURSODON



*Jérôme Coursodon – based in St Joseph – is very happy with his 2017s, comparing them to the '15 and '16 vintage, although considering the '15 a little richer and '16 more open than '17. Volumes were down by around 25 to 30% due to summer drought issues, but thankfully a freshness runs through his wines and careful extraction has meant that the tannins have been kept in check. The eagle-eyed will spot that the white included in our "2017" offer is in fact 2018; selected as we feel it is best enjoyed in its youth, with plenty of freshness to balance the wine's ripe fruit core.*

### White

#### 2018 ST JOSEPH BLANC, SILICE

Pure Marsanne, this offers a tropical-fruit expression with tangerine, peach and blossom aromas. There is no oak for fermentation and ageing, producing a very clean and pure style. There is breadth and weight to the wine, combined with a waxy texture and attractive grip on the palate. Drink now to 2023.

**V8321B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£204.00**

### Red

#### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, SILICE

The Silice displays a very pretty Syrah profile with bright red-berry fruits and red liquorice spice. Floral and linear in profile, the absence of any new oak makes the primary fruit the focus. The tannins are carefully managed with a juiciness and subtlety to them that mirrors the texture of the palate. Drink now to 2023.

**V7833B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£192.00**

#### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, LE PARADIS SAINT PIERRE

Jérôme uses 80-year-old vines for this *cuvée* which explains the wine's density and mineral core. The use of 50% whole-bunch creates a floral top note on the nose. The tannins are chalky, with evident grip on the finish. Dark chocolate, black olive and smoke, as well as cedar and spice, contribute to the savoury, almost rustic element of this wine. Drink 2020-2030.

**V7835B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£192.00**

#### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, L'OLIVAIE

This is a "*sélection parcelle*" coming from vines that are over 60 years old, in the northern part of St Joseph. Thanks to time in 25% new French oak, this wine displays an attractive sweet spice and cedar aroma. Rich and generous in body, its subtle smoky and meaty notes support the luxurious red and black fruit. Concentrated and complex. Drink 2020-2028.

**V7836B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£135.00**

# NORTHERN RHÔNE

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

**bbr.com/rhone-2017**  
**finewine@bbr.com**  
**020 3301 2883**

## Emmanuel Darnaud

EMMANUEL DARNAUD



*Emmanuel is one of the most engaging and enthusiastic winemakers producing polished and generous wines. His winery is in La Roche de Glun, on a rather peculiar peninsular which cleaves the mighty Rhône river. Most of his vineyards are located in this alluvial sector, or a little further to the west in Mercurol. He found 2017 good – his vineyards lacking only a little water maybe. The yields were high, the fruit ripe and in beautiful condition, allowing Emmanuel to produce inviting wines full of dark fruit and fine tannins. In the cellar, a lot of work is done to control the temperature during fermentation and limit maceration times, ensuring the wines are not over-extracted. Emmanuel uses minimal oak to keep a pure expression of the fruit.*

### Red

#### 2017 CROZES-HERMITAGE ROUGE, LES TROIS CHÊNES

This is very much in keeping with Emmanuel's dynamic style of winemaking. As the name indicates, the fruit from three different plots are aged differently, in *barrisques* and *demi-muids*. The result produces a dark and smoky nose. On the palate, bramble fruit is intertwined with very silky, polished tannins and a rich but well-balanced finish. Drink now to 2024.

**V7842B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£150.00**

#### 2017 ST JOSEPH ROUGE, LA DARDOUILLE

This south-eastern-facing vineyard on granite soils was passed down to Emmanuel by his father-in-law, Bernard Faurie. The nose shows lots of berry fruit, with a touch of blueberry and a classic black pepper twist. The generous fruit continues on the palate where it is kept in check by good acidity. The tannins are very fine. The wine is rounded off by a lovely mineral note. Drink now to 2024.

**V7843B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£252.00**

## Domaine Combiér

LAURENT COMBIÉR



### Red

#### 2017 CROZES-HERMITAGE ROUGE

An approachable wine in its youth, the nose exudes black cherry and cassis notes with a hint of savoury olive and black pepper. The palate offers generous fruit, with an attractive floral lift, very silky tannins and good levels of acidity giving a refreshing finish. Drink now to 2022.

**V7831B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£78.00**

#### 2017 CROZES-HERMITAGE ROUGE, CAP NORD

A very intense nose reveals both black and red berry fruit with plenty of spice. Minimum use of oak maintains a fruit-driven style, but one with plenty of meaty and spicy notes bringing complexity. The tannin is very fine and ripe, leading to a lovely fresh finish. Drink now to 2024.

**V7832B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£114.00**

#### 2017 CROZES-HERMITAGE ROUGE, CLOS DES GRIVES

This *cuvée* sees 10 to 15% new oak making it the more serious of the three wines, the fruit sourced from the eponymous 10-hectare walled vineyard (*clos*). Despite the fuller body and firm tannins, it retains Combiér's textbook freshness, with plenty of blackcurrant fruit and a lovely mineral sensation on the finish. Drink 2020-2025.

**V7830B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

*Laurent Combiér is viewed by some as the leading winemaker in Crozes-Hermitage. His vines are mainly located around Mercurol and his beautiful Clos des Grives is now nearly 70 years old. The vineyard is entirely de-mechanised, worked only by man and horse. His *cuvée Cap Nord* comes from the more granitic slopes of Gervans, and as a result is bolder and more fruit-forward than his other wines. Laurent is now supported by his two sons who are split between the winery and vineyard, helping him produce wonderfully pure and fruity wines from not demonstrably auspicious terroir. They work with minimal oak, allowing the fruit to express itself purely and keeping the tannins fine and soft. They describe their 2017s as combining the power of '15 and the finesse of '16.*

# NORTHERN RHÔNE

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**020 3301 2883**

## Bernard Faurie

BERNARD FAURIE



*Monsieur Faurie has been making wines in the unassuming backstreets of Mauves for over 40 years, and will sadly be hanging up his overalls for the last time in 2019. He kept his prized Hermitage (two hectares) for the last couple of vintages, having previously given some St Joseph to his son-in-law, the talented Emmanuel Darnaud. Rather astonishingly, Bernard wasn't always going to make a career out of winemaking, but the energy and intrigue provided by the Hermitage vineyard was enough of a pull to keep him making wine, perfecting his trade. Bernard described 2017 as a very hot year, with a combination of drought pressures and hail leading to losses of 25% for him.*

### Red

#### 2017 HERMITAGE ROUGE, LES GREFFIEUX-BESSARDS

This combines floral opulence with Côte-Rotie-esque red-berry purity; it has notes of mulberries, violets and savoury subtleties of pepper and thyme. The acidity is beautifully pronounced, demonstrating the benefit of granitic soils in a warm vintage. Bernard's ability to showcase such density and concentration while maintaining poise and elegance in the wine is divine. Drink now to 2040.

**V7893B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£273.00**

#### 2017 HERMITAGE ROUGE, BESSARDS-LE MÉAL

Coming from the Méal and Bessards communes, this *cuvée* is dark and inky, with graphite and dark-berried fruit on the nose. The tannin structure is much chalkier and firmer than Greffieux-Bessards, but the same elegance and mineral core persists. Very tightly wound, this offers breath-taking complexity and finesse. Drink 2020-2040+.

**V7894B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£330.00**

## Domaine Marc Sorrel

MARC SORREL



*Marc had been talking about retiring for a while, and has now officially retired as of 1st January this year. His son Guillaume, who has already proven his winemaking credentials in the region, has been ready and waiting in the wings for some time and has taken the reins. Marc was very happy to finish on what he calls two "great" final vintages. They weren't without their challenges, however, with cold weather during budding impacting yields in 2017, and one of the warmest vintages he can remember in '18. Marc compares '17 to '15, which he thought was one of his greatest vintages thanks to its combination of elegance and concentration.*

### White

#### 2017 HERMITAGE BLANC

The grapes here come from a parcel of 1990s Roussanne in Les Greffieux, which is only aged in old oak barrels. Rich and ripe stone-fruit drives the wine's aromatic expression, but grapefruit pith and chalky mineral notes underpin it. Drink now to 2026.

**V8330B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£390.00**

#### 2017 HERMITAGE BLANC, LES ROCOULES

The step up here is immediately apparent in terms of the wine's greater concentration, texture and length. Thanks to vines that are over 60 years old, with southern exposition on limestone soils and *élevage* in old oak barrels for 18 months, this wine's generosity and persistence on the finish is exquisite. The notable beeswax character is thanks to the small addition of Roussanne (8%). The *cuvée* has a nervy and mineral edge despite its broad and ripe character. Drink 2020-2030.

**V7805B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£612.00**

### Red

#### 2017 HERMITAGE ROUGE

Yields were exceptionally low this year (15hl/ha) with only five of the usual 10 barrels being filled. Grapes come from two vineyards, the majority from Plantier in Tain (85%) and the rest from Bessards. Deep purple in colour, the nose offers violet, dark plum and black cherry notes. The rich mouth-feel has powdery tannins and a vibrant, refreshing core. Drink 2020-2035.

**V7804B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£390.00**

#### 2017 HERMITAGE ROUGE, LE GRÉAL

This wine's innate quality is easy to comprehend, even in its relative youth. Violet and rose perfume top notes are supported by wild strawberry and cranberry fruit. The palate is dense and silky, creating a sense of luxury that extends onto the finish. The wine has a mineral core with subtle herbal scents. Firm, chalky tannins provide the main structural support. A wine which is built for the long term. Drink 2021-2040.

**V7806B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£612.00**

## Domaine des Lises

MAXIME GRAILLOT



*Maxime Grailot has inherited his father's viticultural and vinifying skills, although is undoubtedly making his own mark with the wines at Domaine des Lises, notably with his tendency to de-stem. These are his own vineyards, which he has worked organically for a number of years, and the domaine will receive accreditation next year. Thomas Schmittel, who works with Maxime, described 2017 as a great surprise, similar in profile to '11, with its accessibility.*

## Red

### 2017 CROZES-HERMITAGE ROUGE

This is fleshy, concentrated and generous in both flavour and body. Juicy dark plums, bramble and purple fruit combine with some kirsch notes. Liquorice and sweet spice sit on top of subtle herb and *sous-bois* elements that will in time take more of a leading role. The tannins are evident but subtle. Drink now to 2025.

**V8189B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£174.00**

## Domaine du Tunnel

STÉPHANE ROBERT



*The magnificent railway tunnel that gives its name to the estate has now been excavated and converted into a photogenic and naturally temperature-controlled winery. Although Stéphane is more vocal in his appreciation for both the 2016 and '18 vintages, he regards the '17s as juicy in profile with an accessibility. Heat and drought conditions in 2017 have reduced quantities by up to 50% here, and as a result he made no *Pur Noir* this vintage.*

## White

### 2017 ST PÉRAY, CUVÉE PRESTIGE

This is 100% Roussanne this year, leading to a more citrus-driven profile. Honey and quince aromas are supported by a waxy core and full body. Richness defines this vintage, but the acidity remains crisp and its glossier style doesn't detract from the wine's energy. Drink now to 2025.

**V7798B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£117.00**

## Red

### 2017 CORNAS

This displays perfect typicity, with its rustic charm. Originating from 15 parcels within Cornas, the vines' age ranging between 20 and 80, the wine has layers of complexity and mid-palate concentration. Primarily savoury, it offers smoke, tar and graphite notes as well as the traditional bramble fruit one would expect. Garrigue herbs are evident in the glass and the tannins are complementary in their grip. Drink 2020-2029.

**V7799B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£162.00**

### 2017 CORNAS, VIN NOIR

This wine is unapologetic in its bold and assertive exterior. It is insanely powerful – with a density of black berry and plum fruit, overt pepper and liquorice spice, combining with iodine and tapenade aromas. There is so much to say about its flavour profile that it currently takes centre stage, but its significant tannin structure and juicy acidity will ensure its longevity. Drink 2020-2035.

**V7800B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£210.00**

# NORTHERN RHÔNE

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## Vincent Paris

VINCENT PARIS



*Thanks to Vincent's work at the head of the Syndicat of Cornas, the region is very much back in fashion and he has now left this role to focus on his vines. Having started as a vigneron in 1997, he is now the proud owner of eight hectares across the appellation, some of which are situated on the perilously steep slopes at the top of the hill, looking down on the village itself. His wines are always very well balanced, offering both freshness and concentration, and the 2017 vintage played to his advantage, fitting his style neatly while also providing excellent yields. His first two cuvées are made with almost entirely de-stemmed fruit, but his prestigious La Geynale is made entirely with whole-bunch, giving it more body and "crunch" – promising a long, rewarding life in the cellar.*

### Red

#### 2017 CORNAS, GRANIT 30

This *cuvée* is made with fruit from Vincent's vines based on the lower slopes near the village as well as some from the Patou *lieu-dit*. The wine is very generous, with bramble and blueberry fruit. The vintage plays well to Vincent's house style, with fine tannins and good acidity producing a wine of elegance and charm. Drink 2020-2026.

**V7862B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£114.00**

#### 2017 CORNAS, GRANIT 60

The fruit for this, as its name indicates, comes from much steeper slopes, which are at an average gradient of 60 degrees. The wine itself is dark in fruit, with a prominent mineral character and good floral lift. Some whole-bunch (30%) provides richer, more structured tannins but they are kept in check by lovely acidity. Drink 2020-2028.

**V7863B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£162.00**

#### 2017 CORNAS, LA GEYNALE

Here the fruit is from a single plot, where the vines average over 100 years in age, and it sees 100% whole-bunch fermentation. Low yields provide a wonderful concentration of fruit set against a structured tannic background, and yet more elegance from the vibrant acidity. Along with generous fruit, the finish has delightful notes of fresh herbs and violets. Drink 2020-2030.

**V7864B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£210.00**

## Domaine Dumien Serrette

NICOLAS SERRETTE



*Owner/winemaker Nicolas Serrette has taken over from his father, who is still very much involved in this small estate – with only 1.5 hectares, total production is around 5,000 bottles. Only one wine is produced, from the Patou vineyard from 1925 plantings, and with production down 15% in 2017, volumes are even more limited this year.*

### Red

#### 2017 CORNAS, PATOU

Nicolas de-stemmed 20% in 2017 (compared to 50% in '16) and there is definitely a floral top note that can be distinguished in the wine as a result of the 80% whole-bunch fermentation. Raspberry and red liquorice notes are heavily supported by a more earthy and rustic element, with meaty, graphite and cedar aromas. The tannins are powdery, almost Italian and dusty in character. Drink 2020-2028.

**V7900B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£144.00**

## Franck Balthazar

FRANCK BALTHAZAR



*Nephew of the great Noël Verset, Franck Balthazar made his first vintage in 2002 and produces around 4,000 bottles. His smallholding is next to the ever-expanding Colombo, his winery built directly behind his home in the heart of the village. He works with 100% whole-bunch, minimal sulphur and Ecocert (organic) accreditation, producing wines that are cool and well-measured. April's cold-snap cut his volumes by 40%, but 2017 has nevertheless provided some excellent-quality fruit with which to work his magic.*

### Red

#### 2017 CORNAS, CUVÉE CASIMIR BALTHAZAR

From a blend of organic grapes from three plots across the appellation, this red is a fine example of Franck's softness of touch. Despite the use of 100% whole-bunch, the nose offers cool red and black fruit with a lick of thyme and a gentle floral note. The palate has a lovely core of fruit which sits well next to the gentle tannins. The finish is long with savoury notes of tapenade and bacon rind. Drink 2020-2028.

**V7898B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

#### 2017 CORNAS, CHAILLOT

This is the darker and more structured of Franck's two *cuvées*. Despite there being no new oak, the tannins are very dense and structured, but the wine remains in balance with a huge mouthful of brambly fruit, a savoury note and well-managed acidity. This will reward patient cellaring, evolving beautifully over the next decade. Drink 2020-2030.

**V7899B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£198.00**





# SOUTHERN RHÔNE

## Report

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*This was a warm vintage with summer temperatures easily hitting above 40°C. But – while there is a density and core concentration that oozes generosity – the wines are remarkably balanced, with a vibrancy and alcohol levels kept in check. Growers made comparisons with 2015 and '16, with '17 being more concentrated than '15 but less powerful than '16. Vincent Avril suggested his 2017 has similarities to other rich and highly regarded, age-worthy years such as 1990 and 2010.*

*Although Grenache's susceptibility to "coulure" was the biggest factor in reduced yields, some isolated areas suffered from hail damage – something mentioned specifically at Vieux Télégraphe. Switched-on winemakers picked early enough to retain acidity and – especially for the whites – blocked malolactic conversion taking place.*

*Tannin management was spoken about by many winemakers in the South, with a need to manage the thicker skins of 2017. Minimal extraction helped to achieve a finer tannin structure, something that Domaine de Marcoux's Châteauneuf-du-Pape displays particularly well. Notably less Grenache, combined with typically more Mouvèdre and Syrah in the wines, as well as a warm year has resulted in wines that offer firmer tannins, more garrigue, spice and dark berry fruits, a deeper colour and a broader, juicier mouth-feel.*

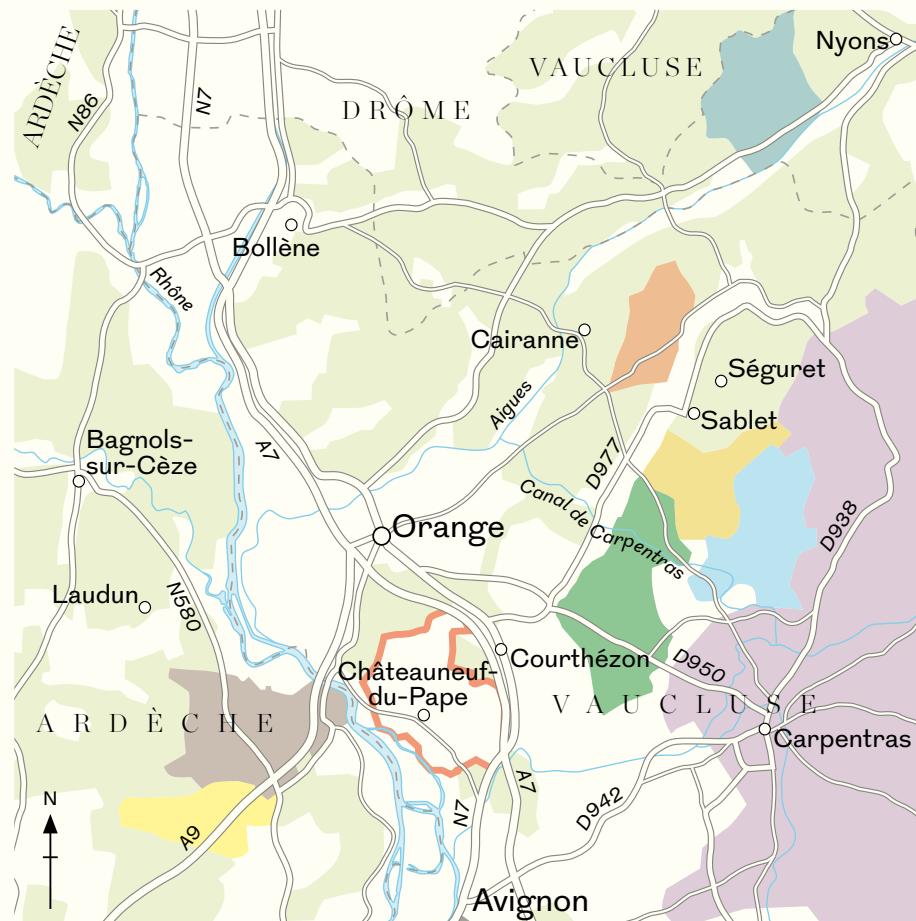
# SOUTHERN RHÔNE

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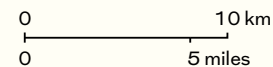
## SOUTHERN RHÔNE VILLAGES

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



### KEY

- Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages
- Tavel
- Lirac
- Vacqueyras
- Beauges-de-Venise
- Gigondas
- Rasteau
- Vinsobres
- Côtes de Ventoux
- Châteauneuf-du-Pape, see detailed map
- ARDECHE Département name
- - - Département border



## Domaine la Cabotte

ERIC AND MARIE-PIERRE PLUMET



*Purchased in 1981 and family-owned ever since, the domaine has grown from 10 to 30 hectares of vines planted around the estate, as well as 1.5 hectares in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It is certified organic and farmed biodynamically.*

*The mainly limestone and sand soils of the plateau of the Massif d'Uchaux are very poor in nutrients, producing wines of real finesse and elegance in comparison to those from neighbouring appellations. The Plumet family believes that managing the trees and hedges surrounding the vineyard is essential for a site's health, from regulating water and the influence of winds to promoting biodiversity. They try to avoid making over-oaked wines, maturing some in amphorae.*

*Sadly due to "coulure", the domaine was unable to make their Gabriel cuvée in 2017, but the wines it did produce are fine and elegant, with a soft texture and the estate's trademark acidity.*

*This dynamic and exciting producer is exclusive to Berry Bros. & Rudd in the UK.*

## White

### 2017 CÔTES DU RHÔNE BLANC, COLLINE

This well-made white has an expressive nose of green apple, white peach and sage. The palate is textured and rounded, with plenty more fruit and herb notes. The most important element here is the wonderful fresh acidity, boosted by the Clairette which makes up a third of the blend (along with a third each Grenache Blanc and Viognier). The finish is surprisingly long with a cool mineral note. Drink now to 2021.

**V7854B** 12x75cl bottles in bond **£66.00**

### 2017 CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES BLANC, SAUVAGEONNE

This unique *cuvée* is made entirely from Clairette, spending 10 months in old oak barrels – not to impart oak flavours, but rather to allow micro-oxygenation which stabilises the wine and allows it to develop additional complexity. The resulting wine has a very mineral nose, with herbs and a hint of camomile. The palate starts gently with more mineral notes, but builds to very pure stone and citrus fruit notes, all in balance with the crisp acidity. Drink now to 2022.

**V7855B** 12x75cl bottles in bond **£108.00**

## Red

### 2017 CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES ROUGE, MASSIF D'UCHAUX, GARANCE

The nose of this wine is very pure, with cool dark berry fruit aromas with plenty of garrigue. The palate reveals more concentrated blackberry flavours complemented by fresh rosemary and thyme. The abundant tannins are well-managed, fine and ripe, framed by Cabotte's signature elegant acidity which makes its wines both refined and *digeste*. This is one for the dinner table. Drink now to 2023.

**V7853B** 12x75cl bottles in bond **£90.00**

## La Bastide Saint Vincent

LAURENT DANIEL



*"The quiet man of Violès" may not be an entirely catchy sobriquet, but it seems to capture something of the Laurent Daniel approach. We have worked with him for a long time, investing our faith because of his inherent understanding of how to get the best out of these challenging vineyards – producing wines that offer a subtle juxtaposition of sweet approachability and the darker more "sauvage" elements which have always provided the most fundamental albeit sometimes perverse appeal.*

*The 2016 vintage, which Laurent described as one of the best he has ever made, was always going to be hard to beat, but the 2017 should be commended for its vibrancy and energy. Luckily his Gigondas escaped any flowering issues, while he lost an average 40% on his other vineyard plantings.*

## Red

### 2017 CÔTES DU RHÔNE ROUGE

This has an accessible, juicy and spicy profile from the Grenache (65%) and Syrah (30%), with a savoury, meaty note thanks to the 5% Mourvèdre. The wine shows great typicity, with a ripe black-fruit character combined with slightly rustic tannins. Drink now to 2021.

**V8190B** 12x75cl bottles in bond **£60.00**

### 2017 VACQUEYRAS, PAVANE

Laurent has increased his vineyard holdings in Vacqueyras by 1.5 hectares. The eight-hectare total, spread over several parcels, makes up this blend of Grenache (65%), Mourvèdre (20%) and Syrah (15%). Dark plum and red cherry notes take on a supporting role in relation to a dominant herbal character, with hints of lavender. The rich and concentrated core is balanced by juicy acidity and firm, powdery tannins. Drink now to 2023.

**V7851B** 12x75cl bottles in bond **£102.00**

### 2017 GIGONDAS

This is a wonderful example of what good-value Gigondas can offer. The intensity of aromatics with liquorice, kirsch, rosemary and thyme is inviting and persists on the finish. While the fruit concentration is powerful, there is a touch of sweetness and spice on the mid-palate, the tannins powdery and firm, providing balance and focus. Drink now to 2024.

**V7850B** 12x75cl bottles in bond **£126.00**

## Domaine Dieu-le-fit

RÉMI POUZIN



*Demeter accredited from 2016, Rémi and Géraldine are at the top of their game, and we are delighted to be working with them for our own-label Côtes du Rhône. Rémi inherited the majority of his vineyards from the property known as Fourmente, and built his own winery in the centre of the village. There is honesty and integrity in everything the couple does, and they are worthy torch-bearers for this increasingly popular village, located in the northern half of the patchwork of named villages, not that far from Vinsobres. Their wines are given branded names because they are essentially assembled from different plots, with red clay and pudding stones at the lower altitudes, then "saffre" (sandstone) just above the village itself, and more varied garrigue-strewn soils on the plateau which heads in the direction of Rasteau. Rémi is very happy with the accessibility of the 2017 vintage.*

### Red

**2017 CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES ROUGE, VISAN, GARRIGUES**

A blend of 90% Grenache and 10% Mourvèdre, this wine is back in 2017 – not having been made in 2016 due to poor flowering. It offers a complex blend of wild strawberries, red cherries and sweet-spice undertones. There is a density and concentration to the nose, neatly balanced by a silky texture and chalky, firm tannins. Drink now to 2026.

**V8216B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£96.00**

## Domaine des Escaravailles

GILLES FERRAN



### Red

**2017 CAIRANNE, LE VENTABREN**

The Carignan here is harvested with the Syrah and Grenache. The grapes are all de-stemmed and co-fermented. The nose offers really pretty red-berry fruit alongside a meaty note. On the palate, there is more of Escaravailles's trademark earthy fruit notes, with firm medium tannins and a supple mineral finish. Drink now to 2025.

**V7883B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£51.00**

**2017 RASTEAU, LA PONCE**

The vines' reasonably high-altitude location preserves the grapes' freshness for this powerful Rasteau. The Grenache is unoaked, but the Syrah sees a little wood, adding a layer of complexity. The palate displays powerful blackberry fruit and a hint of lavender. The tannins are abundant but very fine, with a nice floral lift on the finish. Drink now to 2025.

**V7882B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£114.00**

*Escaravailles is located high in the picturesque hills behind the villages of Roaix and Rasteau. The vines enjoy a special microclimate (relatively warm despite the altitude), with exceptional exposition and soils which are dominated by red and blue clay. Gilles Ferran inherited most of his vines, which were mainly planted by his grandfather, a pioneer who understood the area's potential and great terroir. Like many, in 2017 the property had particularly low yields, translating into dark, richly tannic wines that still manage to retain their freshness.*

# SOUTHERN RHÔNE

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

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**finewine@bbr.com**  
**020 3301 2883**

## Domaine de l'Oratoire St Martin

FRÉDÉRIC & FRANÇOIS ALARY



*Having worked organically since the early 1990s and biodynamically since 2008, the Alary family firmly believes in nurturing the unique Cairanne terroir – and was instrumental in the region gaining Cru status. Frédéric highlighted that although volumes were down in 2017 (with poor fruit-set reducing yields for their Grenache by 30%), Mourvèdre really excelled and helped to lift the wines with its livelier acid profile. Expect eye-watering losses of 80% in 2018 as a result of mildew.*

### Red

#### 2017 CAIRANNE, RÉSERVE DES SEIGNEURS

The Réserve des Seigneurs has significantly less Grenache this year (40%), with a higher proportion of Mourvèdre (40%) and Syrah (20%) compared to the 2016. This has not been detrimental to this delicious *cuvée*, however, with opulent layers of pepper, violet and black fruit combined with liquorice spice. A luxurious, silky texture is complemented by fine-grained, powdery tannins and brisk acidity. Drink now to 2025.

**V7846B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£54.00**

#### 2017 CAIRANNE, LES DOUYES

This comes from a single plot of 50-year-old vines on *argile-calcaire* soils. The blend this year – 70% Mourvèdre and 30% Grenache – completely changes the essence of this wine (which was 60% Grenache in 2016). The Mourvèdre delivers a darker profile with much more spice, liquorice and dark chocolate. A grippier, earthier core and tannin profile is softened by the floral lift and softness of Grenache. Drink now to 2024.

**V7844B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

#### 2017 CAIRANNE, HAUT-COUSTIAS

Omitted from our offer last year, this wine was too good to leave out in 2017. Its intensity is thanks to the site's southern exposure. The wine's refreshing acid profile is supported by firm, chalky tannins, building to a savoury finish – all largely due to the older vines and *argile-calcaire* soils. Dark cherry and black fruits meld seamlessly with garrigue and tapenade notes. The balance of power and finesse highlight the wine's potential to age. Drink now to 2025.

**V8215B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**



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## CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

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



### KEY

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

0 1 2 km  
0 1 mile

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## Château de Beaucastel

MARC PERRIN



*Château de Beaucastel is one of the most consistently impressive properties in the South of France and a worthy flag-bearer for its famous appellation. Marc Perrin commented that harvest was very early in 2017 due to the vintage's dry conditions, with not a single drop of rain for six months during the growing season. Combined with some parcels suffering frost damage and "coulure" it was certainly an eventful year, luckily one that ended with some very good wines.*

### White

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC ROUSSANNE, VIELLES VIGNES

Pure Roussanne, this is rich but certainly not blousy or lacking definition. This wine never fails to excite; it's just a shame that so little is made. Honey, apricot, camomile and orange blossom support the spice and toasty notes (thanks to 30% spending eight months in oak). Still rather youthful, it has plenty of soul to develop in bottle for some time. Drink now to 2032.

**V6671B** 3 x 75cl bottles in bond **£285.00**

### Red

#### 2017 CÔTES DU RHÔNE ROUGE, COUDOULET DE BEAUCASTEL

This younger sibling consistently goes beyond what is expected for a Côtes du Rhône. The 2017 is much juicier and richer in style than '16. In '16, the chalky acidity was much more pronounced, which in '17 has been replaced with slightly more emphasis on tannins. Red cherries, blueberries and plums are supported by fig, cedar, fennel and sweet spice. Drink now to 2027.

**V6505B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£150.00**

**V6454M** 6 x 150cl magnums in bond **£156.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

Sweet red-fruit compôte takes centre stage, complemented by a spicy profile. Cherry liqueur and firm tannins continue on the palate, but the tannins don't stand out, offering the perfect framework for the concentration and richness at the core of this wine. Glimpses of thyme and black olive hint at the evolution to come. Drink now to 2029.

**V6668B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£240.00**



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## Domaine des Sénéchaux

JEAN-CHARLES CAZES



*Sénéchaux is an excellent example of how a large “alien” concern – in this case the Cazes family of Ch. Lynch-Bages in Bordeaux – should manage its purchase, namely by investing as and where necessary, but not forsaking the historical essence of the domaine, personified here by the long-standing régisseur Bernard Tranchecoste. Bernard believes that 2017 offers great potential, as the third in a high-quality trio of vintages, along with '15 and '16. Although they suffered extreme losses of over 45% for their Grenache, they are extremely happy with the quality.*

### White

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC

There is slightly more Roussanne in the blend this year, with roughly a third Roussanne, Clairette and Grenache Blanc, along with a small percentage of Bourboulenc. Floral acacia aromas with peach, pear and orange blossom are supported by sweet spice and exotic fruits. The richness and glycerol texture is in balance with the refreshing acidity and zesty palate. Drink now to 2023.

**V7861B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£120.00**

### Red

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

The Grenache (47%) gives aromas of raspberry, cherry and sweet spice, with Syrah (32%), Mourvèdre (19%) and Cinsault (2%) all contributing to this year's *assemblage*. The juiciness of the vintage is apparent, and the wine demonstrates a recognisable polish that has really emphasised its quality over the last couple of vintages. Drink now to 2024.

**V7860B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£129.00**

## Domaine Raymond Usseglio

STÉPHANE USSEGLIO



*Stéphane Usseglio has really come of age, his full biodynamic accreditation manifested in both a regime of earlier harvesting, and more focus and depth in his range. Stéphane speaks very highly of the 2017 vintage, feeling that the wines have great concentration, demonstrated by the notably dense colour of the Grenache this year. Although drought pressures have reduced volumes, the quality of the juice is significant and, paradoxically, the wines display wonderful freshness.*

### White

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, PURE ROUSSANNE

This 100% Roussanne fermented in barrel is quite frankly rather delicious. As you would expect from this luxurious vintage, this wine certainly isn't shy, with a weightiness derived from its waxy texture. Ripe stone-fruit combined with notes of honey provide an enjoyable contrast with its bright acidity and herbal top note. Drink now to 2029.

**V7810B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£198.00**

### Red

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

This is opulent with ripe black fruit and spice. Liquorice and meaty notes come courtesy of the Mourvèdre, but the mix of Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault and Counoise all contribute to this well-rounded wine. New French oak (30%) adds cedar spice, needing a little time to integrate fully. The rest is aged in concrete which explains the purity of fruit that underpins this wine. Drink 2020-2030.

**V7808B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£108.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, CUVÉE IMPÉRIALE

Fruit from over 100-year-old vines explains the concentration and intensity of this wine, with flowers and fresh cherries. Hints of bramble fruit and a juicy core provide a generosity and richness that can be attributed to the vintage and the sheer class of the fruit. The lack of oak used throughout the vinification allows the well-defined fruit and the high-quality, chalky but well-managed tannins to express themselves. Drink 2021-2038.

**V7809B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£207.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, LA PART DES ANGES

This Mourvèdre-dominated blend (70%) is Stéphane's most exuberant wine – and unashamedly so. It is dark and brooding, with the garrigue, black olive and meaty core lifted by some violet spice. The vanilla and robust tannin structure are symptoms of the oak maturation, but within a couple of years these will mellow graciously. Drink 2021-2038.

**V7811B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£198.00**



# SOUTHERN RHÔNE

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## Domaine de Marcoux

SOPHIE ARMENIER



*The charming sisters Sophie and Catherine Armenier have elevated Marcoux to the very highest ranks. Today Sophie diligently runs the winery, while her son Vincent looks after the vineyards – with 26 hectares in Châteauneuf-du-Pape and eight more across the Rhône in Lirac. Certified as organic by Ecocert as early as 1991, they follow rigorous biodynamic principles. The 2017s here are full of poise and true to the vintage. Their wines are both charming but serious, generous but refined, testament to Sophie's careful winemaking. Generally ripe and full-bodied, the wines have very fine tannins, backed up by a nice freshness which makes them approachable in youth, while still having great ageing potential.*

### Red

#### 2017 LIRAC, LA LORENTINE

A charming nose of bright cherry and blackberry fruit benefits from a hint of thyme. The palate is juicy, with more fleshy cherry fruit and a hint of spice from the 50% barrel-maturation. The finish has good freshness and very fine tannins, in keeping with the vintage. Drink now to 2022.

**V7791B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£63.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

This *cuvée* shows much promise. The blend includes just under 80% Grenache which is sourced from 13 plots across the appellation, but centred around the prized La Crau commune. This vintage is rich in bright red and black fruit, with plenty of signature sweet spice, building to a savoury olive and black pepper finish. The oak use is minimal which allows full focus on the top-quality fruit. This generous wine is both full of fruit and serious, with a long future ahead of it. Drink 2021-2040.

**V7766B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£180.00**

**V7766M** 3 x 150cl magnums in bond **£198.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, VIEILLES VIGNES

Marcoux's top *cuvée* is made from just two plots, where some of the vines are over 100 years old. There is 90% Grenache here, giving the wine a rich spicy nose, with oodles of black fruit and garrigue notes. On the palate, it shows great harmony and elegance. There is plenty of cool fruit to balance the plentiful but fine tannins which melt on the tongue. The finish is typically complex and lengthy. Drink 2022-2042.

**V7767B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£462.00**

## Château la Nerthe

RALPH GARCIN



*Since young and dynamic winemaker Ralph Garcin joined the estate and made his first vintage in 2016, small yet significant changes have been made here. Ralph has introduced vinification by plot, investing in smaller fermentation tanks and larger ageing vessels to showcase the quality of the fruit in the cellar. He's also been making improvements to their viticultural practices, such as introducing organic farming. He noted that 2017 was hotter than both '15 and '16, but the heat only really impacted those vineyards with sandy soils.*

### White

#### 2018 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC

Grenache Blanc makes up 40% of the blend this year, compared to only 24% in 2016, giving the wine an attractive liquorice and dill note. Roussanne (38%), Clairette Blanc (18%) and Bourboulenc make up the balance. La Nerthe's practice of blocking malolactic on the whites often gives them a lift of acidity, although this was less of an issue in 2018 with its cooler weather. The resulting wine is very saline on the attack, with pineapple and white peach aromas. Drink now to 2025.

**V7812B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£156.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC, CLOS DE BEAUVENIR

Made up entirely of Roussanne and Grenache Blanc this year, volumes are limited for this *cuvée* which is only produced in certain vintages. The wine is richer and denser in profile compared to the straight Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, largely due to being aged exclusively in oak (50% new) and on its lees. An exotic aromatic profile of apricot and tangerine is combined with a creamy texture, providing weight and power, but the phenolic grip on the finish provides definition and focus. Drink now to 2026.

**V8214B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£360.00**

### Red

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

Syrah takes the leading role this year, accounting for 36% of the *assemblage*, with a third each of Grenache and Mourvèdre, and Cinsault completing the blend. Ralph's strong connection to Syrah from his Jaboulet tenure has meant that this is one of the stronger wines of the vintage with real complexity and energy. A graphite core is combined with purple fruit and liquorice spice, while the generosity of the vintage comes through with a juicy breadth on the mid-palate. Drink 2020-2032.

**V7814B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£168.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, CUVÉE DES CADETTES

Coming from 80-year-old vines, in three of the oldest plots owned by the *domaine*, this *cuvée* consists of Grenache (50%), Syrah (30%) and Mourvèdre (20%). Cherry liqueur, redcurrants and juicy red plum notes are supported by savoury, meaty notes, giving the wine a dense core, as well as breadth on the palate. The chalky tannins give a layer of complexity as well as balance and the finish continues for some time. Drink 2021-2035.

**V7815B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£402.00**

## Domaine des Saumades

FRANCK & MURIELLE MOUSSET



*This small, family-run estate of less than three hectares is currently in the hands of Franck and Murielle Mousset. The new generation is increasingly involved, with their son, Thomas, having just finished his studies and joined us to taste the 2017 vintage. The domaine's limited production was reduced even further in both '17 and '18 due to unfavourable weather conditions, made even trickier by their dedication to organic viticulture. Usually their red is 100% Grenache, but "coulure" and mildew pressures have cut volumes by a third.*

### White

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC

This is an *assemblage* of Grenache Blanc, Clairette Blanc and Bourboulieu. Quince, honey and orange blossom aromatics are generously supported by toasted almonds and savoury spice. The wine has a waxy, glycerol palate with a breadth and density that is refreshed by a zesty core. Drink now to 2025.

**V7700B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£174.00**

### Red

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

This has a dark fruit profile of blackberry compôte and plums. Purple fruits open up rather dramatically in the glass, revealing wild strawberries and a red-berry perfume. Energetic, fresh acidity combined with fine-grained tannins and a silky texture mean this Châteauneuf-du-Pape is one of the more easily accessible in youth, but its structure and layers of complexity foretell its ageability. Drink now to 2028.

**V7698B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£174.00**

## Domaine de la Janasse

CHRISTOPHE SABON



*Brother-and-sister team Christophe and Isabelle Sabon continue to work wonders at Janasse, a property founded in 1973. They farm 80 hectares of Côtes du Rhône and Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the latter of which is all located in the northeast of the appellation, in the commune of Courthézon. Concrete tanks are used for the Grenache, oak for the Syrah and Mourvèdre; in other words, everything is fairly traditional. The 2017 vintage was challenging for them as they lost up to 40% of the crop to "coulure", but this allowed the remaining bunches to develop a real richness in flavour which is evident in the wines.*

### Red

#### 2017 CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES ROUGE, TERRE D'ARGILE

The fruit for this *cuvée* comes from just north of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, with equal measures of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, as well as a small portion of Carignan. Christophe Sabon's top-quality winemaking really pays off here, giving a *cuvée* that is generous with black fruit and liquorice, fine but firm tannins and a lovely fresh finish. Drink now to 2021.

**V7821B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£144.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE

True to Sabon's generous, ripe style, this *cuvée* is a blend of 60% Grenache, with the remainder split between Syrah and Mourvèdre. The nose is generous with spice and herbs, while the palate is equally rich and fruit-forward. Full-bodied, the tannins are quite polished and will provide some grip in the wine's youth. The finish is filled with yet another layer of dark fruit which lingers on the tongue. Drink 2021-2027.

**V7822B** 12 x 75cl bottles in bond **£306.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, CHAUPIN

Inspired by the more traditional style of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, this *cuvée* is pure Grenache sourced from the *lieux-dits* of La Janasse and Chaupouin at the northern tip of the appellation. One-third whole-bunch is used here and translates to a very dark, dense fruit character and firm tannins which will benefit from some bottle-age. The fruit leads on to subtle spices, a fine line of acidity and a pure mineral note on the finish. Drink 2022-2032.

**V7823B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£240.00**

#### 2017 CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE ROUGE, VIEILLES VIGNES

This is another great wine from Roger's oldest vines, which are centred around two plots of sandy and gravel soils. The nose is opulent with ripe bramble fruit and a lovely allspice note. Round on the palate, it is generous and showy with layers of red and black fruit, thyme and rosemary. Silky, ripe tannins promise a long future. Drink 2022-2035.

**V7824B** 6 x 75cl bottles in bond **£330.00**

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## Terms and Conditions

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### PRICES

Prices for the Rhône 2017 *En Primeur* offer are quoted by the case in bond, include freight and insurance, but exclude duty and VAT.

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### CLOSING DATE

The Rhône 2017 *En Primeur* offer starts at 9am on Friday 8th March 2019 and ends at 6pm on Friday 12th April 2019, subject to stocks remaining unsold.

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### AVAILABILITY AND QUANTITIES

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

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### HOW TO PAY

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

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### INSURANCE AND OWNERSHIP

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

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### SHIPPING

It is anticipated that the wines will be shipped from late spring 2019 to early 2020.

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### DELIVERY AND STORAGE

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

Once the wines are in your Private Reserve we will notify you by email. On receipt of your delivery notification email or the subsequent invoice for rent, if you would like your wine delivered straight away we can arrange this as per our normal delivery terms. Any rent charged on wines withdrawn within 30 days of the date of invoice for rent will be credited. Customers who elect to take their wine out of bond, whether for delivery or for storage duty paid, will be required to pay duty and VAT at the prevailing rates at the time of delivery. These rates are currently £26.78 per case of 12 x 75cl bottles (nine litres) for duty and 20 percent for VAT on the original cost and duty\*. Customers storing wine in bond or duty paid in Customers' Private Reserves will be required to pay rent at the prevailing rate (this is currently £12 including VAT per case per annum\*). Please note that wines bought in bond and *en primeur*, and wines stored in Customers' Private Reserves are delivered free of charge when the original purchase value of the wines is more than £100 (including duty and VAT). \*Correct as of March 2019.

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### ORDER CANCELLATION

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

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