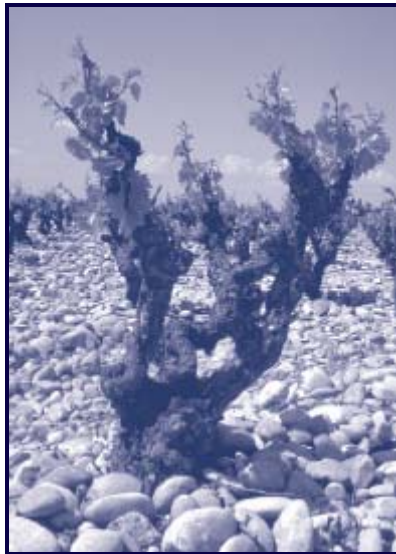


RHÔNE 2004 EN PRIMEUR



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE VINTAGE.....	3
DOMAINE PATRICK & CHRISTOPHE BONNEFOND.....	5
DOMAINE PIERRE GAILLARD	6
DOMAINE DE MONTEILLET	7
DOMAINE MICHEL OGIER.....	8
DOMAINE CLUSEL ROCH	10
DOMAINE RENÉ ROSTAING.....	11
DOMAINE BERNARD FAURIE.....	12
DOMAINE DU COLOMBIER	13
DOMAINE PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ	14
DOMAINE CAYRON.....	15
CHÂTEAU DE BEUCASTEL.....	16
DOMAINE CLOS DES PAPES.....	17
DOMAINE VERSINO	18
DOMAINE FONT DE MICHELLE.....	19
TERMS AND CONDITIONS	19

INTRODUCTION

The Rhône is a fascinating viticultural dichotomy. Attached at the hip of Montélimar, its two sub-regions form a valley of approximately 165 kilometres in length. From the steep terraced northern vineyards climbing towards the skies to the rolling slopes of Gigondas and the stony plains of Châteauneuf du Pape, these wines are inherently different yet undoubtedly linked – by varieties, philosophy and the notorious and tempestuous wind known as *Le Mistral*.

Though produced from Syrah rather than Pinot Noir, in many respects northern wines are more similar to Burgundian wines than to their southern siblings. Offering excellent minerality, noticeable purity and superb finesse, these wines range from the appealingly rustic in St Joseph to the eloquent and ethereal in Côte Rôtie to the powerful and brooding in Hermitage.

Warm, spicy and *sauvage*, the southern Rhône is a different beast. Instinctively Mediterranean, its wines are fleshy and rich with typical notes of ripe bramble fruit, *garrigue* and black pepper. Though Syrah is still grown in the south, it is here where Grenache is king. Other meridional varieties, such as Mourvèdre, Carignan and Cinsault, wrestle for representation on the low lying, stony vineyards. In the end, their harmonious blends create some of the most hedonistic wines produced in the world - from velvety and welcoming Côtes du Rhône to rich and smooth Gigondas to robust yet gallant Châteauneuf du Papes – these wines offer pleasure to wine aficionados of every level.

We are delighted to offer some of the most exceptional producers from these two regions - producers who are conscientious in the vineyard and in the *chai* leading to superb clarity of fruit, well balanced structure and discernable *terroir*. We continue to work with wonderfully traditional producers such as René Rostaing, Clusel Roch, Bernard Faurie, and Jean-Paul Versino as well as more contemporary ones such as Christophe and Patrick Bonnefond, Stéphane Ogier, Pierre Gaillard, Vincent and Paul Avril of Clos des Papes and the Gonnet family from Font de Michelle. All masters of their vineyards, they do not disappoint.

THE VINTAGE

Though cooler and less sunny than normal, the northern Rhône growing season was dry and long lasting. A couple of light, late August rains invigorated the vines while an exceptionally warm and sun-drenched September spurred on the ripening of the Syrah. Like in Burgundy, the vines had a natural tendency to produce high yields due to the severe stress that they experienced in the heat wave of 2003. In addition, the combination of rain and warmth brought on slight rot. As a result, extensive green harvesting was essential to remove excessive yields and unhealthy grapes which top producers carried out mercilessly. For this

notable group, exceptional results were produced. As they say, 2004 was a *vigneron's* vintage. Harvesting occurred at least a week later than usual helping ensure better ripening of the Syrah.

In southern appellations, it was business as usual. With excellent levels of sunshine, the region basked in warmth all summer long. As their siblings in the north, uplifting rains revitalised the vines in August and September. Nonetheless, the heat and dryness put a noticeable amount of strain on the vines creating exceptionally low yields for the second year in a row (preceded by the taxing flood in 2002). The *mistral* accompanied by cool evenings captured the vintage's natural acidity adding depth and freshness. Harvesting took place from mid-September to October ensuring an outstanding overall ripeness throughout, including Mourvèdre, the most challenging of all southern varieties.

THE WINES

It is magical when weather patterns and *terroir* merge together to enable both northern and southern Rhône wines to express their true, innate personalities. 2004 is just such a vintage and after our recent trip to both northerly and southerly appellations, we are happy to report that there are some excellent 2004s. Overall, our growers were also in high spirits regarding their results in 2004 - wines that returned to a more classical, often mineral-driven style following the atypical and ultra rich 2003s.

Nowhere is this classicism more apparent than in the northern appellations of St Joseph, Côte Rôtie, Crozes Hermitage and Hermitage. In many ways, they are similar to 2004 Burgundies, though they did not suffer from most of their misfortunes, such as rain and hail, through which the Burgundians had to persevere. The reds are focused and well sculpted, poised by a subtle backbone of refreshing acidity, while the whites are stunningly pure and elegant with a seductive restraint. Many producers compare the 2004s to the 2001s due to their minerality, purity and elegance.

Southern appellations such as Châteauneuf du Pape, Gigondas and Côtes du Rhône particularly profited from the excellent weather. Wines from every appellation brim with ripe bramble fruit fleshed out by mouthfilling tannins and lovely, fresh acidity. As a whole, they are notably more balanced than the ultra concentrated predecessors of 2003 and many, though age worthy, will be approachable when young. A fan of the vintage, Robert Parker describes the 2004s as "high quality, elegant, consistently good...fresh, lively wines." (The Wine Advocate, Issue 163)

NORTHERN RHÔNE

DOMAINE PATRICK & CHRISTOPHE BONNEFOND

Hidden in the hills above Ampuis lies the domaine of Patrick and Christophe Bonnefond. The climbing and twisting road isn't an easy one, especially in the dead of winter in icy conditions, but it is worth the trip. The two brothers took over the 3 hectares of family vines when their father retired in 1990. At that time, they sold off their grapes to négociants but over the next few years, they began slowly building up their domaine to 7 hectares and started bottling their wines under their own label.

Their philosophy lies somewhere midway between a modernist and traditionalist in that they believe in cultivating the healthiest fruit possible which is rich and dense yet which also expresses its unique *terroir*. They make three Côte Rôties - the classic cuvée as well as two specific *lieux dits*, Le Rozier and Les Rochains. They use oak barrels to age their wines, some new – 40% for the classic bottling and 100% for the single vineyard wines - though it is barely discernible due to their amazing fruit concentration and velvety structure which beautifully integrates any toasty oak flavours.

Côte Rôtie	£/cs in Bond £179.00	Drinking Dates 2009 - 2020
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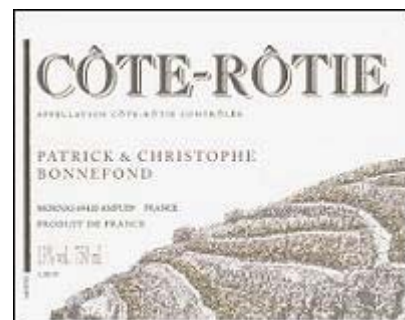
Created from a blend of parcels from Côte Brune (80%) and Côte Blonde (20%). Wonderfully pure with a sleek streak of fresh minerality, this wine balances the rich, robust dark berry fruit style typical of Côte Brune with the pretty violet and liquorice quality of Côte Blonde.

Côte Rôtie Le Rozier	£275.00	2010 – 2018+
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One of the most famous parcels in the Côte Brune, Bonnefond's Rozier blooms with violets, aniseed and dark chocolate. Silky on the palate, yet powerfully persistent with a refreshing mineral and crunchy red fruit finish.

Côte Rôtie Les Rochains	£285.00	2011 - 2020+
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Produced from a parcel located in the Côte Brune due north of La Landonne. It faces south-west towards the setting sun which creates a warmer microclimate and hence better ripeness. Deep purple and profoundly opaque, the 2004 is concentrated and brooding with intense notes of exotic spice and ripe blackberry fruit and a long powerful finish.



DOMAINE PIERRE GAILLARD

Nestled in the hills above the picturesque medieval village of Malleval stands Pierre Gaillard's contemporary cellar. After years of working for other producers such as Vidal Fleury and then Guigal, Pierre decided to create his own domaine wines in the mid-1980s to almost instant acclaim.

A modernist of sorts, he relishes pure, vibrant fruit backed by new oak structure and spice. Though he still follows a less traditional path, after tasting his 2004s Pierre seems to be slightly stepping away from his more renowned style and moving towards a more classical approach, producing excellent fruit concentration but with better oak integration.

As with all high quality, conscientious producers, he performed a severe green harvest in 2004 to concentrate ripeness and fruit flavours. In addition to his renowned Condrieu and wonderful Côte Rôtie, his St Josephs are some of the most noble of the appellation.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Condrieu	£225.00	2006 – 2009

Fermented at cool temperatures to retain its primal fruit character, this medium-bodied white offers up ripe pear and abricot, toasted almond and pretty floral notes. It is rich and fat with noticeable levels of glycerol on the palate and a moderately lengthy finish.

St Joseph Clos de Cuminaille Rouge	£120.00	2009 - 2014
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Fairly closed on the nose but on the palate, this wine displays notes of blackberry, aged spicy cedar and black pepper. Wonderfully savoury, yet fleshed out with sweet fruit, it has good balance with noticeable structure that will soften with time.

St Joseph Les Pierres	£159.00	2010 - 2016
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Les Pierres is Pierre's super selection of his best barrels. This wine is not produced in every vintage, but only in exceptional years. A definite step up on the St Joseph ladder, this wine is aged in 100% new oak barrels, though practically undetectable due to its superb richness. A fine example which expresses the potential of this highly underestimated appellation.

Côte Rôtie	£225.00	2010 – 2016+
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Composed of 90% Syrah and 10% Viognier, this medium to full-bodied wine has pretty notes of toasty spice, violets, liquorice and black cherry. Lighter in style than Rose Pourpre, it nonetheless has wonderful concentration and a long finish. Svelte and fine.

Côte Rôtie Rose Pourpre	£330.00	2010 – 2020+
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Similar to Les Pierres, Rose Pourpre is a selection of top barrels. It is mostly produced from grapes grown in Le Rozier, next to Guigal's La Landonne vineyard. Though its lineage is Côte Brune, it is silky and refined with exceptional purity and focus offering intriguing aromatics of bacon fat, violets and cedar.

DOMAINE DE MONTEILLET

The dynamic and young Stéphane Montez marks the 10th generation of *vignerons* in the Montez family. Rising out of stony and rugged, brush covered hills, his family domaine is a pocket of Mediterranean bliss tucked away above the village of Chavanay.

We were warmly greeted by his mother who is famous in the region for making artisanal goat cheese. Unfortunately, none was on hand due to the timing of our tasting, but some lovely wines were patiently waiting our arrival.

Known for his St Joseph, Stéphane also makes perfumed Condrieus and exceptional Côte Rôties from vineyards comprised of decomposed granite soils. He believes, like many people in the new order of Rhône winemaking, in the reductive style of vinification in order to naturally extract and preserve all the fresh aromatics his grapes. Oak ageing depends on the concentration of the wine and the grape. With his mastered techniques, he ensures that it never dominates but adds warmth and texture to his handcrafted wines.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Condrieu Les Grandes Chaillées	£169.00	2006 - 2008

Delicately perfumed with notes of apricot and peach, its medium-bodied palate is plump yet with a backbone of zingy minerality. Produced from 3 different parcels of vines. Robert Parker called this wine "profound" and gave it 94 points making it one of his top Condrieus in 2004.

St Joseph Cuvée Papy	£129.00	2007 - 2013
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Cuvée Papy is a selection of old vines within the domaine. Once fermented, it was aged for 24 months in new demi-muids. Ripe plum and spice fill out this medium-bodied wine while textural tannins characteristically denote its telltale St. Joseph rustic charm.

Côte Rôtie Fortis	£225.00	2010 – 2020+
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The addition of 20% Viognier gives this wine a particular elegant and feminine style. Medium to full-bodied with balanced acidity and a pronounced, yet velvety structure provide the framework for its flavours of dried peach and dark fleshy fruits.

Côte Rôtie Grandes Places	£195.00 per 6	2010 – 2020+
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Stéphane's top cuvée, Les Grandes Places spends 33 months in oak barrels before being bottled. Deeply purple and opaque with distinguishable concentration and power, it was the quintessential barrel sample. Notes of smoky bacon, plum and spicy oak weave throughout its full-bodied, complex structure. A subtle addition of 2-3% of Viognier adds an ethereal lift that finishes pure and intriguing.

DOMAINE MICHEL OGIER

Like many people of the region, the Ogier family were polycultural farmers for generations. Included in their repertoire were exceptional grapes planted on the steep slopes of Côte Rôtie. For many years they sold off their production to local winemakers until the day that Michel Ogier decided to eliminate the other crops in order to make and bottle his own wine. Now 20 years later, he has established a reputation that rivals even the grandest, most established producers in the region.

His son, Stéphane, began taking over winemaking responsibilities from his father in the late 1990s after finishing oenology school in Burgundy. Following his father's philosophy, he has relentlessly taken great care to produce the best wines possible. This is no more apparent than by a quick domaine visit. Whether one passes through his established barrel aging room faintly scented of crisp, clean apples (a storage facility of yesteryear) or steps into his new state-of-the-art barrel room, glacial temperatures are high on his priority list. The ambiance is cool, calm and collected. Likewise, his wines turn out no other way.

However as he is the first to admit, viticulture is the root of all success. In 2004, he spent two weeks on green harvesting alone in order to eliminate the redundant bunches which had been brought on by the stressed preceding vintage. A difficult year which he savoured as he believes it enabled the *vigneron* to take control and challenge the difficult conditions that Mother Nature laid out. This work had paid off as they are indeed brilliant.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
La Rosine, Syrah, Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes	£95.00	2007 – 2011

A deep purple opaque colour envelops a primal, fleshy Syrah that exhibits notable notes of blackberry, liquorice and granite. Wonderful balanced of acidity and tannin. Produced from a hillside vineyard located 300 metres outside of the Condrieu appellation.

L'Âme Soeur, Syrah, Vin de Pays de Seyssuel	£145.00	2008 - 2012
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Produced from a steep and ancient Roman vineyard located north of Côte Rôtie. With an exceptional planting density of 9,000 – 10,000 vines per hectare on dense schiste and yields of only 30 hl/ha, L'Âme Soeur understandably resembles a miniature Côte Brune. Offering undertones of dark berry fruit, spice and roasted meat, it is a wine you easily want to sink your teeth into. 2004 marks its debut release.

Côte Rôtie	£225.00	2010 – 2020+
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Produced from 7 parcels comprised of 50% Côte Brune and 50% Côte Blonde. This full-bodied wine offers pronounced notes of cedar, black cherry and dried peaches accompanied by a palate of fine silky tannins, uplifting acidity and crystal-cut minerality. Wonderfully concentrated, yet linear and focused.

New Releases:

Côte Rôtie En Bruns 2003 £195.00 per 6 2007 - 2018
Created from various vineyards within the Côte Brune boundaries, this wine is exceptionally rich with chewy tannins and notes of dark bramble fruit, molasses and roasted game. Full-bodied, it has excellent concentration and complexity with underlying minerality so expressive of the vintage. Its flavours say "drink me" but its structure says not quite yet.

Côte Rôtie Belle Hélène (limited) 2003 £395.00 per 6 2007 - 2020
Produced from the oldest vines of the domaine, this exceptional cuvée was named after Michel Ogier's wife, Hélène. Warm, toasty notes of cedar, maple syrup and meat dominate the wine's aromatics while its ample, yet gloriously elegant tannins flesh out the palate with ripe blackberry and black cherry. Fresh acidity and minerality give this full-bodied wine a lift. Very long finish.



Ogier's Cellar

DOMAINE CLUSEL ROCH

One of the most sought after northern Rhône domaines, the 3.5 hectare domaine of Clusel Roch began in 1989 with the merging of the existing Domaine René Clusel and Brigitte Roch, the new wife of René's son, Gilbert.

Traditional in many ways from their viticulture to vinification, they believe that Côte Rôtie should be smooth and elegant yet with enough structure to age well gaining complexity over time. Their wines follow these principles to a tee. Yet in order to create the quality for which they have long been known, discipline and creativity are key. For example, they have long been pioneers with massale selection that is, choosing the best vines from within their own vineyards - such as those that are the least vigorous and those with the smallest berries. When needed, they then replant with these vines. The results are wines with better concentration and more perfume. Officially organic since 2002, the soil tilled by hand and medicinal herbs are used to treat the vines.

In 2004, they had one of the healthiest vineyards on the Côte. Wind quickly dried any lingering precipitation from August preventing any rot from forming and allowing a slow ripening to take place. As a result, their wines are clean and pure with intricate aromatics. Some of the most suave and stylish of the vintage.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Côte Rôtie	£225.00	2008 – 2018+

Though not yet blended, the different barrels tasted from the three vineyard sites produced results that were medium-bodied with elegant flavours of red cherry, dark chocolate and spicy earth. Lovely balance of slightly chewy, fleshy tannins and crisp acidity. Finishes moderately long with a soft mineral tang.

Côte Rôtie Grandes Places (limited)	£190.00 per 6	2010 – 2020+
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Produced from a single vineyard site, les Grandes Places offers notes of rich brambly fruit, grapefruit, clove spice and pronounced minerality that are enveloped in this tightly wound, full-bodied and complex wine.



DOMAINE RENÉ ROSTAING

Réné Rostaing is a man of many words. Insightful and well-measured, he is like the Socrates of winemakers. In his reasoned search for truth, he was able to learn from such Rhône Valley greats such as his father-in-law, Albert Dervieux and uncle, Marius Gentaz. Upon their retirements, René eventually took over the majority of their vineyards giving him superb parcels of exceptionally old vines such as those in La Vallière and La Landonne in Côte Brune.

A pure traditionalist, he uses 50-60% stems during fermentation depending on the vintage and employs Burgundian barrels (228 litres) and demi-muids (600 litres) - of which very few are new - so that his wines express the soul of their unique *terroirs*. In his words, “They are the way Côte Rôties should be.”

Over the years, his natural winemaking methods have earned him an excellent reputation and have created such a loyal following that disciples from all over the world seek out his unique bottlings.

Though many winemakers view their 2004s as similar to their 2001s, he deems them even better having all the minerality yet even more fruit.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Condrieu La Bonnette	£275.00	2006 - 2008

“One of Rostaing’s offerings that tends to be overlooked is his Condrieu la Bonnette. Fashioned from grapes grown in decomposed granite soils, the 2004 exhibits a liqueur of stone-like character along with notes of litchi nuts and tropical fruits in a full-bodied, well-delineated, mineral and floral style. It is best consumed over the next two years. **95 points.**” Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, February 2006

Côte Rôtie (limited)	£240.00	2008 – 2016+
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Fairly closed on the nose, but on the palate it is alive with its crunchy fruit flavours of red currant and cranberry, crisp acidity and minerals. Exceptionally pure and Burgundian-like, it is reminiscent of a Côte de Nuits grand cru but with more meatiness and power.

Côte Rôtie La Landonne (limited)	£395.00	2011 – 2020+
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The domaine’s most powerful cuvée from the iron-rich soils of Côte Brune. This full-bodied wine is deep and brooding with focused flavours of meat, dried cherry, and herbs. Its chalky, yet fine tannins are powerful but velvety. A stereotypical *vin de garde*, this wine will require some aging before its true essence reveals itself.

Côte Rôtie Côte Blonde (limited)	£420.00	2010 – 2020+
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Réné’s favourite cuvée for its consistently silky yet profound palate. He inherited this vineyard from his maternal grandfather who also used to work its ancient, rocky soil. Two to four percent Viognier had been blended into this wine adding delicate notes of rose petals and a roundness to the palate. Finishes with a refreshing salty tang and lingering flavours of exotic spice.

DOMAINE BERNARD FAURIE

Modest and warmly welcoming, Bernard Faurie is always a pleasure to visit. His *chai*, possibly the smallest in all of the Rhône Valley, is tucked away underneath his house resembling a hobbit's lair than an actual cellar.

He also makes some of the best old world-styled wines. Robert Parker describes him as one of the “up-and-coming stars of Hermitage for over a decade”...and whose “winemaking style comes closest to that of Gérard Chave”, yet admits that few collectors know of him. It is hard to say why but perhaps it is the quantity of wines produced. Even for this artisanal region, the sheer quantity is minute.

His winemaking style could not be more traditional. No destemming is carried out and the grapes have 2-3 weeks of skin contact during and after fermentation before they are pressed. The wine is then aged in old wood some of which are large oak foudres. As a result of his non-interventionalist style, his wines are elementally pure, complex and incredibly elegant. Like most great wines, they are not designed for immediate drinking but are intended to reward those that are patient. (Robert Parker, *Wines of the Rhône Valley*, 1997)

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
St Joseph	£149.00	2010 – 2016+

A wonderful old styled St Joseph, this wine has exceptional purity which displays Syrah's innate sweetness but also its structure. Brimming with crunchy black berry fruit, natural spice and earthy notes. Tannins pack a punch in the end but are fine and silky. A Rhône lover's wine.

Hermitage	£275.00	2010 – 2020+
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Bernard's Hermitage is produced from three lieux dits – Bésards, Gréffieux and Le Méal. Very old fashioned in style, it has wonderful concentration and amazing transparency of fruit and *terroir*. Powerful with notes of black cherry and tar. Utterly complex and intriguing.



DOMAINE DU COLOMBIER

If Florent Viale had not become a winemaker, he may have had success in America as a player for the NBA. Fortunately for us wine aficionados, his interests were not in basketball, but rather of vinous pursuits. Since his first vintage in 1991, his wines have gone from strength-to-strength capturing the attention of international wine critics and collectors alike.

Very clean and pure, his style falls halfway between traditional and modern. Valuing fresh flavours, he destems all of his grapes before vinification and prefers larger demi-muids for the aging of his more prestigious wines. For him, oak should never dominate but rather integrate nicely emphasizing the natural fruit quality.

He produces Crozes Hermitage of two distinct qualities – a straightforward cuvée and his Cuvée Gaby, a more concentrated, age worthy offering. In addition, he produces a small amount of red Hermitage, and for the first time, a white Hermitage - a wine created from a recently purchased parcel of 60-year old vines.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Hermitage Blanc (limited)	£160.00 per 6	2008 - 2018

Only a minute quantity of wine was produced for this first vintage - the equivalent of three barrels to be exact. Full-bodied with superbly ripe pear laced with toasted brioche, exotic spice and minerals, this is wine that you can sink your teeth into, yet is so ethereal, you'll go back for more. This wine will require a minimal amount of cellaring but can be enjoyed for several years to come. Excellent.

	£115.00	2008 - 2014
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Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Gaby

Cuvée Gaby is this domaine's "tête de cuvée" which is produced from the first pressing of the grapes. Well focused with notes of liquorice, black currant and cloves this medium to full-bodied wine is fresh and clean with a sumptuous, inviting palate. Always consistently and attractively made even in the most challenging vintages, this wine never disappoints.

	£315.00	2010 – 2020+
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Hermitage

Florent ages this wine in demi-muids of which 50% is new which allows for better oak integration yet continued softening of the wine's natural tannins. Full-bodied with deep and brooding aromatics, on the palate it is rich and suave with notes of blackberry and black cherry liqueur, crunchy red fruit and subtle toasty spice which is further buttressed by 2004's zingy minerality. Finishes long and velvety.

DOMAINE PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ

One of the most famous names of the Northern Rhône, this company was originally founded by Antoine Jaboulet in 1807 and later expanded by his elder son Paul in the mid-1800s giving it its modern day name.

La Chapelle, their flagship wine, was named after the small St. Christophe chapel that stands high above the terraced plots that are used in its creation. Produced from relatively small yields of 30-35 hl/ha, La Chapelle tends to express a more hedonistic side to Syrah – warm and spicy with undeniable nuances of grilled game and leather which surface with age.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Hermitage La Chapelle	£550.00	2008 – 2020+

“Deep, saturated ruby. Pungent, spicy aromas of cassis, blackberry, leather, tobacco and green Chartreuse. Very rich, dense and chewy, offering a powerful dark fruit and wild game character complicated by tobacco and licorice root. As sweet and lush as this is, it's solidly framed by powerful tannins. This has serious extract and impressive muscle, finishing on a note of hot asphalt. 92-94 points.” Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar, Jan/Feb 06



La Chapelle, Hermitage

SOUTHERN RHÔNE

DOMAINE CAYRON

Unusual in this multi-wine region, this well-established domaine only specializes in one...Gigondas. Its cellar is inconspicuously located behind a large door off of a residential winding road that leads to the hilltops overlooking the valley. Once opened, its porthole transports the unexpected to yesteryear – somewhere in the 1950s for its vinification room and perhaps the late 19th century for its aging chamber. Traditional is an understatement.

Michel Faraud with the help of his three daughters, Delphine, Sandrine and Rosaline, produces one of the most old-styled Rhône wines available – a rarity these days. The grapes are pressed in an old horizontal basket press and are then fermented in large old oak foudres with indigenous yeasts. Michel also includes the stems as he feels they help in preventing fermentation temperatures and the degree of alcohol from rising too high. In the end, his results are extraordinarily pure and balanced. In his case, “just like grandfather used to make”.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Gigondas	£115.00	2008 – 2018+

Enticing nose of freshly picked blackberries and blueberries with nuances of *garrigue* and stone. Well balanced with crisp acidity and plush, sweet fruit and a slightly rustic finish that adds texture and old world charm. Fantastic.



Cayron's cellars

CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL

Château de Beaucastel is undoubtedly one of the most famous domaines in the southern Rhône and possibly the most recognisable Châteauneuf du Pape. Created in the early 1900s, this domaine has passed down through several illustrious pairs of hands including the dynamic and philosophic Jacques Perrin and now to his two sons, Pierre and François. Since its début, their vineyards have grown to over 110 hectares to create their various cuvées – all of which are grown according to strict organic methods.

Through the Perrin's creativity, ingenuity and pioneering spirit, their wines are also some of the most atypical for the region. For example, they designed and mastered a winemaking technique called *vinification à chaud*. This unusual method heats incoming grapes to 80°C for over one minute after which they are then immediately cooled to 20°C. The benefits are tri-fold: extracting colour and aromatics, slowing down fermentation and preventing the natural oxidation of the grapes. It has no doubt greatly contributed to the longevity of their wines for which they are notable. In addition, their red Châteauneuf du Papes contain the largest percentage of Mourvèdre in the region (usually a minimum of 30%) creating notable aromatics of roasted game and chewy, powerful tannins.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc	£165.00 per 6	2006 – 2010+

"The 2004 Beaucastel Chateauneuf du Pape blanc is 80% Roussanne and 20% Grenache blanc, fermented in 80% tank and 20% barrel. It possesses dramatic notes of honeysuckle and apricot jam, beautiful full body, an expansive texture, good underlying acidity (a hallmark of this vintage), and a long, persistent finish. It should certainly drink well for 4-6 years. **92 points.**" Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, Issue 163

Châteauneuf du Pape	£148.00 per 6	2008 – 2020+
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"The 2004 Beaucastel Chateauneuf du Pape is far superior to the 2003, a wine of considerable richness, tremendous intensity, and impressive definition and length. Usually a blend of 40% Mourvedre, 40% Grenache, and the rest Syrah, Counoise, and other varietals, the 2004 shows a dense purple color to the rim and a big, sweet nose of licorice, blackberries, pepper, Asian tea, spice, and a balsamic note. The wine has fabulous richness, great freshness, full body, and sweet, velvety-textured tannins. This wine should be approachable young, but hit its peak in about 7-8 years, and last for two decades or more. **92-95 points.**" Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, Issue 163

DOMAINE CLOS DES PAPES

One of the oldest winemaking families in Châteauneuf du Pape, the Avrils began their vinous adventures in the early 17th century. Today, the domaine is run by Vincent Avril who took over from his father Paul in the early 1990s. Traditional producers with a modern twist, the Avrils no longer use stems in vinification and vinify in large ceramic-lined vats but do age their red varieties in large, old foudres in a humidity-controlled cellar. In addition, they are one of the few domaines in Châteauneuf du Pape to use all 13 recommended regional varieties in their red and all 6 varieties in their white which come from multiple parcels that span across the appellation including the esteemed La Crau. As a result, they have become masters of matching specific varieties with *terroir* and microclimates that best suit them. Needless to say, they have one of the longest harvests cultivating the grapes at the peak of perfection.

Apart from their two Châteauneuf du Papes – 1 white and 1 red - they have no interest in producing second wines because their passion and interest lies in creating the best singular cuvées. Anything that does not meet their criteria is sold off to local négociants. As a result of their meticulous selection, they consistently make excellent wines even in off vintages (their 2002 grabbed Robert Parker's attention as candidate for wine of the vintage).

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc	£230.00	2006 - 2012

"One of the best white wines of the appellation is made at Clos des Papes, the non-malolactic yet full-bodied and powerful 2004 Clos des Papes Chateauneuf du Pape blanc. Notes of white peaches, pears, citrus oil, and honeysuckle are present in the medium to full-bodied, fleshy 2004. It shows good acidity and a lively, vibrant mouthfeel. Drink it over the next 4-5 years, although some vintages have an amazing ability to last much longer. **89 points.**" Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, Issue 163

Châteauneuf du Pape	£275.00	2009 – 2020+
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"The 2004 Clos des Papes Chateauneuf du Pape is a surprisingly powerful wine that actually came in at alcohol levels equivalent to the 2003 (both 15.3%.) The wine is certainly one of the top wines of the vintage, with a dense ruby/purple color and a fresh nose of black raspberries and white flowers intermixed with kirsch, licorice, and spice...This wine is a strong effort from father and son Paul and Vincent Avril, and looks to have at least 20 years of longevity ahead of it. Think of it as a richer, more intense version of the 2001. **93-95 points.**" Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, Issue 163

DOMAINE VERSINO

Jean-Paul Versino is the magic behind this domaine (which is also known as Bois de Boursan). Stemming from third generation Piedmonteses in Châteauneuf du Pape, the Versino family bought 40-100+ year old vines from retiring owners in the mid-80s after years of making wines from rented vineyards. Comprised of 27 different parcels with various soils and microclimates, Jean-Paul has become an expert on harvesting schedules making sure that each variety is at its utmost ripeness when picked.

He makes two Châteauneuf du Papes reds – Bois de Boursan and in top years, Cuvée Félix, a special bottling made from the best parcels and the oldest vines, which includes a larger percentage of Mourvèdre. In order to make the most concentrated and complex wines possible, he sells off the wines made from the younger vines and those not “typical” of his style. An excellent domaine for traditionally styled Châteauneuf.

Châteauneuf du Pape Bois de Boursan	£/cs in Bond £140.00	Drinking Dates 2007 - 2016
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Pure with exceptionally sweet, almost Pinot-like raspberry fruit. On the mid-palate additional notes of black pepper and stone unveil themselves upon its fleshy textured structure. This wine is elegant with exceptional balance...like a Stradivarius violin.

Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Félix (limited)	£125.00 per 6	2008 – 2020+
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Jean-Paul's Cuvée Félix is produced from a selection of vines from his best parcels whose yields were a mere 20 hl/ha. The palate is powerful, dense and notably wild with notes of leather and *herbes de provence* due to the higher percentage of Mourvèdre. Complex yet elegant. A wonderful old styled Châteauneuf du Pape.



Old vine Grenache in Chateaneuf du Pape

DOMAINE FONT DE MICHELLE

Jean and Michel Gonnet are some of the friendliest faces in the southern Rhône. Inspired and mentored by their uncle, Henri Brunier of Vieux Télégraphe, they are third generation winemakers who work the various parcels of vineyards mostly located around La Crau.

For them, freshness and fruit forwardness are key to their modern-styled wines. They harvest their grapes only when ripe after which they are immediately pressed. Their winemaking facility works by gravity so no pumping is needed which helps to preserve their intense fruit. The wines are aged in oak barrels some of which are new for 6 to 12 months depending on the cuvée. Their reds receive no fining or filtration allowing them to capture all of their natural flavours and textures.

We offer their two red Châteauneuf du Papes – their cuvée traditionnelle and their Cuvée Etienne Gonnet, a special wine created in 1988 and named in honour of their late father, which is only produced in the very best vintages.

	£/cs in Bond	Drinking Dates
Châteauneuf du Pape	£150.00	2006 - 2014

Chewy with flavours of liquorice, raspberry and black cherry, this is a hedonistic, flavoursome offering that is dense, fleshy and rich. The Gonnets fermented this wine with 20% stems to add some additional freshness and structure.

Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Etienne Gonnet	£276.00	2007 – 2018
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Etienne Gonnet is the domaine's top cuvée which is produced from the typical Mediterranean blend of 65% Grenache (from 90-year-old vines), 20% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre. Low in acidity and rich in alcohol, it is ample, velvety and powerful with open knit aromatics of eucalyptus, herbes de Provence and dark berry fruit. It finishes long on succulent chewy tannins.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All wines are offered In Bond England (i.e. all shipping and bottling charges are included). We will arrange shipment in autumn 2006. On arrival your wines can either be delivered directly to you or stored Under Bond at our independent storage company, Private Reserves, at a cost of £7.50 ex Vat per case per annum.

If you decide to take delivery, Duty and Vat will be payable. These charges are at present £15.50 and 17.5% respectively. Carriage will be charged at cost.

Unfortunately we are unable to split cases. Payment is due 30 days after date of invoice. We reserve the right to charge interest on overdue accounts.