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# RHONE 2012 EN PRIMEUR

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2012 was a testing year climatically for many French wine producers but one region which most definitely covered itself in glory is the Rhône Valley.

This time last year, visiting many of our favourite domaines immediately after the harvest, their optimism was obvious and 12 months on it is clear to see why. This was not vigneron's hype but a true and genuine confidence for what was in store. At almost every winery, comparisons were being made to the great 2010 vintage, not necessarily in style, but certainly in quality.

The 2012 vintage is a return to the true values of wine and, as a style, is a long distant memory from the big alcoholic sometimes over extracted wines of certain years. These wines are wonderfully fruit driven, with great poise, harmony and freshness. This is a vintage which will be approachable quite early but has all the component parts to age with real style.

## **The Growing Season**

Whilst not the easiest year in the vineyard, everything fitted in well and, where difficulties did appear, they were not too detrimental but seemed to strengthen the vines positively helping them to create wines of individuality and style.

After an initially mild autumn the winter months of 2011/2012 were extremely cold. So much so that in Châteauneuf du Pape at Vieux Télégraphe they lost up to 15,000 of their old Grenache vines due to the severity of the cold. In general though a hard cold snap favours the following harvest as it allows the vine a strong and healthy dormant period before the spring budding and vegetative development.

At the end of winter many growers were commenting on the low levels of the water table so the relatively wet spring was a positive, replenishing the land and setting it up well for the hot and dry summer months to come. Depending on appellation, the harvest took place from the second week in September and all growers had comfortably gathered their grapes in ideal conditions by early October.

## **The Wines**

2012 was not a year of excess in any one department and this contributed to a style of wine as natural as any I have tasted in recent years. There is nothing forced or false about these delicious 2012s. No one character dominates another. The tannins whilst undoubtedly there are very restrained and the acids can be described as average rather than high.

Finally, one of the most appealing factors of all is that in general we have returned to old time alcohol levels; the 2012s are not big and alcoholic, they are beautifully pure, balanced and refined.

Comparisons vary from grower to grower but as one respected producer said to me, he thinks his 2012s are a "utopian marriage between the freshness of the 2004 vintage and seriousness of 2005". Whatever they are, the most important thing is that 2012 is a very serious vintage indeed, having produced as uniformly high quality of wines across the board as any recent vintage in the Rhône Valley.

**David Roberts MW**




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**Under £250**

 £/cs In Bond
 

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Coudoulet de Beaucastel Château de Beaucastel	£135.00 per 12
Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Gaby Domaine du Colombier	£165.00 per 12
St Joseph Cuvée du Papy Domaine de Monteillet	£165.00 per 12
Gigondas Terrasse du Diable Domaine Les Pallieres	£198.00 per 12
Châteauneuf du Pape Domaine Font de Michelle	£198.00 per 12
Cornas Les Chailles Domaine Alain Voge	£220.00 per 12
Mas de Daumas Gassac Rouge	£115.00 per 6

**£250 – £350**


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Côte Rôtie Colline de Couzou Domaine Clusel Roch	£270.00 per 12
Vin de Pays des Bouches du Rhône Domaine de Trévallon	£280.00 per 12
Condrieu Clos Chanson Domaine André Perret	£310.00 per 12

**Over £350**


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Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc Domaine Clos des Papes	£177.00 per 6
Châteauneuf du Pape Bois de Boursan Cuvée Félix Domaine Versino	£180.00 per 6
Côte Rôtie Les Rochains Domaine Patrick & Christophe Bonnefond	£185.00 per 6
Côte Rôtie Ampodium Domaine René Rostaing	£395.00 per 12
Hermitage Domaine Bernard Faurie	£235.00 per 6
Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge Château de Beaucastel	£240.00 per 6
Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge Domaine Clos des Papes	£270.00 per 6

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**BUILDING A CELLAR**


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For those clients who are interested in starting or developing their cellar, Rhône 2012 is the perfect addition for its excellent value and diversity. Goedhuis Cellar Plans are an easy, affordable route to a bespoke collection of outstanding wines built at your own financial pace whether for yourself, your children or godchildren. The minimum recommended

monthly payment is £50-£100 to build a drinking cellar. If you are looking to build an “investment” cellar we recommend a minimum monthly payment of £300 or more. For more information contact our sales team on sales@goedhuis.com tel: 020 7793 7900 or go to [www.goedhuis.com/courses-gifts-other-services/cellar-plans.html](http://www.goedhuis.com/courses-gifts-other-services/cellar-plans.html).

My first visit of the week and introduction to the 2012 vintage. The only disappointment was that sadly Christophe Bonnefond could not be with me as they were in the middle of picking their Côte Rozier grapes for 2013 so I was beautifully looked after by his delightfully charming mother. Three stunning cuvées, their Colline de Couzou is a blend of Côte Brune and Côte Blonde fruit and therefore

in Christophe's view a classically representative style of Côte Rôtie. His two single vineyard "lieu dits" are both from the Côte Brune, with the Rozier being a little more feminine in style and the Rochains the more powerfully structured wine. The complete balance of the 2012 vintage reflects these styles beautifully.

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● **Côte Rôtie Colline de Couzou**

£270.00.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

Rich, ripe and sweet summer pudding fruit aromas. This is a beautifully concentrated wine with depth and structure. The rounded tannins are supported by subtle freshness to create a wine of balance and length. Drink 2015 – 2025

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● **Côte Rôtie Les Rochains**

£185.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond



In the heart of the appellation, this is a very fine example of Côte Rôtie, with its striking aromas of dark Bourneville chocolate. In the palate it is broad and intense, possessing reserved black flavoured fruit. This has all the makings of a very special wine indeed. Drink 2017 - 2030

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● **Côte Rôtie Côte Rozier**

£185.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

A very poised and elegant style. This is full of sweet, black berried fruits. A ripe and concentrated wine, with vibrant freshness and a long harmonious finish. Drink 2017 – 2030





Having only created their domaine in 1989 it is amazing how quickly Brigitte Roch and husband Gilbert Clusel have risen to stardom. Tasting with Brigitte is an absolute treat, their wines are almost Burgundian in style focusing on grace and poise. Vineyard management is of paramount

importance, following organic practices and only the finest fruit enters the winery for vinification. The lower alcohol levels and delicate acidity in 2012 reflects the domaine's style beautifully and these are undoubtedly some of the finest in the appellation.

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● **Côte Rôtie La Petite Feuille**

£260.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

Made from the younger vines planted in the lieu-dit of Champan, this is a brilliantly open and giving wine, full of raspberry fruits with subtle hints of spice and pepper. An elegant, fresh style with masses of flavour. Drink 2015 – 2025

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● **Côte Rôtie La Viallière (limited)**

£250.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

The chalky soil structure at La Viallière helps to create a wine of great balance. This is fresh and lively, full of red fruits, almost Burgundian, with its fine purity. This is intense and direct with lovely bright fruit flavours. A delicious wine. Drink 2017 – 2030

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● **Côte Rôtie (limited)**

£320.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond



A blend of 3 parcels from the hillside of Côte Rôtie, this delicious 2012 is the complete example of the balance between femininity and power that this great appellation can achieve in the best years. Brilliant purple in colour, this is a rounded and full bodied wine with slatey, schistous mineral undertones. A wine of great balance and harmony. Drink 2015 – 2026

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● **Côte Rôtie Les Grandes Places (very limited)**

£295.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

Very intense spiced, dark berry fruit aromas. This is a rich and concentrated wine with strong broad fruit flavours and a long powerful finish. Drink 2017 - 2030



René Rostaing is the grower to whom all young vigneron in the appellation of Côte Rôtie should and do aspire. His wines are rightly legendary amongst his peers but also in markets around the world. He in turn was fortunate in his early days to learn his trade and then inherit the vineyards from father in law Albert Dervieux and uncle Marius Gentaz two equally respected vigneron. His wines whilst in no

means lacking power always have beautifully layered fruit flavours with great purity and seem to possess the same levels of comfort and charm that he has as a man. He says with characteristic humility that it is hardly surprising his 2012s are more akin to the greats of the Côte de Nuits than Châteauneuf, we are of course much closer to Beaune than we are to Avignon!

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● **Condrieu La Bonnette (limited)**

£395.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

A lovely pure style of Condrieu. This wine receives no barrel ageing at all and therefore reflects both the appellation and the Viognier grape variety, in its most natural form. Initially reserved on the nose, it has lovely opulent viscous apricot fruit flavours. This is a mouth coating wine, with great weight and a lovely full concentrated finish.

Drink 2014 – 2020

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● **Côte Rôtie Ampodium (limited)**

£395.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

£410.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond



Tasting this delicious wine with its fine balance, pure red fruit flavours and lively freshness, I commented to René that this is more Burgundian than Rhône in style. René, with a wry smile, says this is only normal, as they are closer to the Côte de Nuits than Châteauneuf du Pape, so what should we expect! Drink 2015 – 2025

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● **Côte Rôtie La Landonne (limited)**

£425.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£435.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

A lovely, showy style, with open and generous red fruit flavours. This has lovely breadth and volume, with a silky tannic texture. A fine blend between harmony and power, this is a real beauty with a fine long classy finish.

Drink 2017 - 2030

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● **Côte Rôtie Côte Blonde (limited)**

£435.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£445.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

A real stunner, with its deep, dense purple colour and strong, dark berry fruit aromas. In the mouth the sweet, black fruit flavours are supported by a good, grippy tannic core. A weighted and direct style with huge complexity and length. Drink 2016 – 2030





Stéphane Montez must count his blessings as one of the luckiest wine producers in France. His strikingly modern winery 300 metres high on the top of the hillside of Côte Rôtie has one of the finest views of all looking down on the Rhône river as it flows through the valley. The wines he has made in 2012 are equally breath-taking as one would expect from one of the most energetic producers in the

region. Tasting all his wines in their individual parcels and cuvées from specific casks highlighted both his passion and brilliance. He is also one of the most forward thinking producers I know with a wine making team including Kiwis, Americans and even a young Englishman on his road to learning how to make wine. A visit here is an absolute breath of fresh air.

#### ● St Joseph Blanc

£175.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

A delicious blend of Roussanne and Marsanne, this is a brilliant golden yellow colour, with beautiful white peach fruit aromas. A wine of real opulence and depth with a long and concentrated finish. Drink 2014 - 2019

#### ● Condrieu Les Grandes Chaillées

£250.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

From 7 different parcels in the northerly section of the appellation, this is a full and powerful style of Condrieu, with masses of flavours of apricots and peaches. A big and weighty style with a complete and full finish. Drink 2014 - 2019

#### ● St Joseph Cuvée du Papy

£165.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond  
£180.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond



From mature St Joseph vines ranging between 20 and 70 years old, this is full of deep dark cassis aromas and flavours. A wine of strong concentrated flavours, with lovely freshness and balancing tannins providing length and personality. Drink 2015 - 2022

#### ● Côte Rôtie Fortis

£355.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond  
£370.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond

A strong and structured Syrah based wine, this is a deep and concentrated style with aromas of cocoa and vanilla. A very balanced wine with subtle finesse supporting the noticeable power and grippy fruit on the finish. Drink 2016 - 2024

#### ● Côte Rôtie Les Grandes Places 2010

£415.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

Côte Rôtie's most central vineyard, Grandes Places is as fine as it gets. Sweet full black fruit aromas, this is a wine of real substance and layered forest fruit flavours. Hugely intense with uplifting freshness and a lovely full finish. Drink 2017 - 2029



During my visit here I wasn't quite sure which made me salivate more, his stunningly beautiful 2012s or the blackboard at the end of the grape pickers' dining table with the menu du jour beautifully hand written by his great friend who closes his restaurant for the two weeks of harvest to cook the team lunch and dinner. "A happy team is a good team and you must remember this is the fruit of a year's very hard work so it is vital they are well nourished!" says André with a beaming smile.

This estate focuses on its whites which are always some of the strongest examples of Condrieu in the appellation. Whilst the Côteau de Chéry is a broader and richer wine, the house style is more for restraint and subtlety and across the board I found it hard to name a favourite as they each maintained a stunning typicity to their individual sites.

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● **St Joseph Blanc (very limited)**

£150.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

The perfect blend of 50:50 Marsanne/Roussanne, this is full of bright plump peach fruits. A beautifully harmonious wine with generosity and class. Drink 2014 - 2020

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● **Condrieu Côteau de Chéry (limited)**

£325.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

One of the appellation's finest vineyards, this is a wine of weight and breadth with its ripe plump fresh apricot flavours. It is a full and creamy wine but has balancing freshness to uplift the palate on the finish. Drink 2014 - 2020

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● **Condrieu Clos Chanson (very limited)**

£310.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond



Produced from a single walled vineyard, this is a bright and harmonious wine with fabulous purity of fruit. A very classical Condrieu, bright and fresh with a long and very complete finish. Perfect for early drinking. Drink 2015 - 2020

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● **St Joseph Rouge**

£140.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

Based within the commune of Condrieu on steep terraced slopes, this has open sweet chocolate and vanilla oaked aromas. In the palate it is full and concentrated with a lively fresh finish. Drink 2016 - 2023

As apricot farmers as well as vigneron, brothers David and Florent Viale understand the importance of high quality fruit being picked at the optimum time. David looks after the 16 ha of vineyards whilst Florent makes the wine itself and they are a very happy team. With only 1.7 ha of this in the appellation of Hermitage volumes here are very small, but their breadth of Crozes Hermitage vines allows them

to be at the very top level in the appellation. The Cuvée Gaby is their finest cuvée selected from specific casks and parcels highlighting the rising reputation for the region's finest wines. As is seen so often in this vintage the slightly more refined levels of alcohol in 2012 really allow for a true expression of vineyard origin and these are delicious examples.




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● **Hermitage Blanc (very limited)**

£210.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

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With only 2 rows of Hermitage this is a wine of very limited quantity. A white wine of huge class, big full and concentrated, this has broad nutty almond flavours and coats the mouth with its moreish long finish. Drink 2015 - 2023

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● **Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Gaby**

£165.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

£177.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond



An excellent cuvée with subtle aromas of vanilla and bright fresh berries. This has great breadth of fruit and coats the mouth with its natural richness. It has a lovely sweet juicy finish. Drink 2015 - 2022

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● **Hermitage**

£215.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£221.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

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A tremendous Hermitage with a lovely full palate, sweetly intense black fruit flavours, with gentle spiced layers. The great depth of textured flavours support the pronounced masculine tannins to provide real length and age worthiness. Drink 2017 - 2030



It is difficult to know what more one can say about Bernard Faurie, quite simply he is the Master of Hermitage. Almost oblivious to his worldwide reputation, the quiet and reserved Bernard Faurie is at his happiest either nurturing his vines and wines or contemplating the beauty of the Swiss Alps. In fact he has created a mini Alpine garden outside his cellar complete with miniature windmill to remind him of them. There is nothing modern or high tech in his cellar and walking through for the first

time one could be forgiven for prejudging his wines. The proof though is in the glass, never the most ostentatious wines, but always hugely layered, balancing power and restraint. Every year Bernard tells us that this is his final year sadly this is certainly case for the St Joseph with the vines having been passed on to his son in law for the 2013 harvest and the plans are for his daughter to take on the Hermitage vines. If 2012 really is his last year, he can retire a happy man finishing in such a fine year.

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● **St. Joseph**

£235.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

The old techniques are very much the best in Bernard Faurie's eyes and therefore this wine is fermented 100% as whole bunches and it hits every spot. Pure white peppered aromas with strong direct black cherry flavours, this is a full and intense wine with lovely purity and freshness. High class and a very long, lingering finish. Drink 2016 - 2026

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● **Hermitage (limited)**

£235.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond



A tremendous wine highlighting the warmth and breadth of layered flavours that this great appellation can achieve in the finest years. This is a classic in the making, full of damson and cherry fruits. Intense, full and rich with subtle peppery characters. This fine wine has excellent ageing potential. Drink 2016 - 2030

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DOMAINE ALAIN VOGÉ, Cornas

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After 40 years of producing some of the finest wines of Cornas at the time of his retirement Alain Vogé very astutely selected Albéric Mazoyer, formerly general manager at Chapoutier to take over the helm of this great estate. Albéric's passion for the wines of Cornas is positively catching and leaves you wondering why this great appellation's reputation is not even greater. As Albéric

explains the prominent levels of schist in the soil allow the wines to both represent the heat and richness of top Northern Rhône Syrah whilst retaining a great line of natural acidity giving the wines freshness and balance. The 2012s at Vogé are beautifully composed and as good a reflection of this fine appellation as any vintage in recent times.

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● **St Péray Fleur de Crussol**

£230.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

The classically broad and plump Marsanne fruit characteristics really shine through in this richly open wine, full of almond and vanilla aromas. A big weighty wine whilst retaining the characteristic freshness that the schistous soils of St Peray naturally provide. Drink 2014 - 2018

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● **Cornas Vieilles Vignes**

£350.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

£362.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond

A brilliant old vine cuvée, deep purple in colour, it exudes sweet ripe dark berry fruit aromas and flavours, with hints of Valrhona dark chocolate. A tremendously intense and structured wine with depth and complexity on the finish. Drink 2018 – 2030

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● **Cornas Les Chailles**

£220.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond



Wonderfully perfumed aromas of violets and wild berry fruits. This is very classic example of Cornas, balancing a depth of dark fruits with classy freshness and texture. Powerful and yet restrained, this is delicious and highlights why the appellation deserves much greater recognition than it normally receives. Drink 2016 – 2027

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● **Cornas Vieilles Fontaines**

£298.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£304.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

Only produced in the very finest of vintages, from the oldest parcels of vines on the estate averaging 70 years in age this has an incredible balance between harmonious freshness of fruit and fine weight and power. A wine which will reward patience and is destined to be very special indeed. A wine of real breeding. Drink 2018 – 2030



There can be no greater vote of confidence in a vintage than when one of region's most respected growers compares his 2012s to the celebrated 2010 vintage and then goes further to say that they have even greater quality potential in terms of finesse and fruit complexity. Even more so when his 2010s were placed at the top of the Wine Spectator Top 10 Wines in the World, but that is very much the view of Vincent Avril from Clos des Papes.

Vincent is one of the most committed wine producers I know, so much so that he initially refused a visit in mid harvest to taste the 2012s. Fortunately, after some gentle

persuasion, a tasting at 7.30 am was agreed and thank goodness it was. Tasting these stunning wines was most definitely one of the highlights of my week in the Rhône.

Vincent vehemently disagrees with the concept of prestige cuvées. His view is that the Clos des Papes estate is a single entity and Châteauneuf's uniqueness comes from the range of different terroirs across the appellation and the blend of unique and diverse grape varieties. The estate's red wine therefore is possibly as complete an example of Châteauneuf du Pape that you can find and the great balance and harmony of his stunning 2012 is exemplary.

#### ● Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc

£177.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond



Vincent Avril aspires to a very classical Châteauneuf Blanc, with a blend of the 6 classic varieties, Clairette, Bourboulenc, Picpoul, Grenache Blanc, Marsanne and Roussanne and it is a great success. Full of almonds, peaches and fresh kiwi fruit, this is a broad and beautifully layered wine, with a hint of firm nuttiness and great complexity on the finish. Drink 2015 – 2025

#### ● Châteauneuf du Pape (limited)

£270.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£550.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond



Whilst Grenache forms the basis of the finished blend of this outstanding 2012 at 70%, Vincent is keen to point out the importance of the Mourvèdre which he feels is particularly suited to some of his more humid soils at Clos des Papes. Deep purple in colour, this has sweet rich opulent dark berry fruit flavours, a wine of real breadth, whilst retaining an underlying tannic core and great freshness. This is a very special wine this year. Drink 2017 – 2030

Originally from Piedmont in Italy, after generations of making wine the Versinos finally had the opportunity to buy vineyards in Châteauneuf in the mid 80s. Their choices of sites were exemplary accumulating 27 different parcels each with different soil types and micro climates but none with vines younger than 40 years old and going up as far as 80 years (at the time) at the other extreme.

The result is as complete an example of Châteauneuf as anywhere in the appellation. His top cuvée the Felix is only produced in the very best vintages with an increased proportion of Mourvèdre in the final blend. Jean-Paul's wines are sometimes referred to as having a Burgundian touch and the 2012s highlight these characteristics.

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● **Châteauneuf du Pape Bois de Boursan**

£195.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

£207.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond

£85.00 per Jeroboam In Bond

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A very appealing and approachable style of Châteauneuf balancing the ripe juicy flavours of the Grenache with additional layers of complexity provided by the Syrah, Mourvèdre and a small proportion of Cinsault. Open and generous, without excessive weight, a wine which will have real appeal from a very early stage. Drink 2016 – 2024

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● **Châteauneuf du Pape Bois de Boursan Cuvée Félix**

£180.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£186.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

£145.00 per Jeroboam In Bond

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A deeply intense and structured wine as one would expect from the fruit of vines some as much as 90 years old of masculine power. A full and complex wine with a long concentrated finish. Drink 2017 – 2027







The names Châteauneuf du Pape and Château de Beaucastel go hand in hand with quality. This great estate bought by Jacques Perrin over 100 years ago was one of the Rhône Valley's very first estates to practice organic and more recently biodynamic practices and so it is not surprising that naturalness and purity are very much the family's mantra.

The 2012 vintage is made for their style of wines and they have excelled across the board hence we have decided to include this year for the first time their Vacqueyras Les Christins. This is a fine selection which will sit very comfortably in any wine lover's cellar.

#### ● Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc

£250.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

With 80% of Roussanne in the blend of this delicious Châteauneuf Blanc, it is a classic example balancing bright nutty almond aromas, with fresh forward white peach fruit flavours. A very serious white wine with tremendous depth and structure and appealing firmness of fruit on the finish. Drink 2015 – 2020

#### ● Coudoulet de Beaucastel Rouge

£135.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

£145.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond



A delicious blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah and Cinsault, this is a wine full of opulence and richness. A very rounded style supported by broad tannins, deep blackcurrant flavours and gentle freshness on the finish. Drink 2015 – 2024

#### ● Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc Vieilles Vignes Roussanne (limited)

£395.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

One of the Rhône Valley's most iconic white wines, the vines for this were famously planted between 1920 and 1925, so yields are extraordinarily low with only 2-3 bunches per vine. The result is a hugely concentrated wine, deep golden in colour with stunning opulent ripe fruit aromas and a layered textured finish. A wine of complexity and class. Drink 2015 – 2022

#### ● Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge (limited)

£240.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£490.00 per 24 Halves In Bond

£490.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond



This brilliant wine hits all the spots in this fine vintage. A wine of huge balance focusing on restrained power and harmony. Very perfumed violet fruit aromas, in the palate it has wonderful charm with its velvety texture and vibrant dark berry fruit flavours. A very giving style which I suspect will be very approachable when young, but has the ability to age long term. Drink 2016 – 2030

#### ● Vacqueyras Les Christins Famille Perrin

£99.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

The high proportion of Grenache in this blend creates a very generous wine full forward cherry fruit flavours, supported by a hint of spicy peppery Syrah and a subtle liquorice finish. A fine example of the excellent value from this famous southern Rhône village. Drink 2014 – 2019





The Gonnet family have been based in the village of Bédarrides since 1600 but Font de Michelle was fully established by current incumbents' grandfather in 1950. Bertrand and Guillaume's vineyards are located in 6 key areas of the appellation with the largest parcel on the alpine alluvial soils of La Crau contributing to the very open and generous fruit flavours that the Font de Michelle wines always possess.

Modern tradition is very much the thinking at this estate with brand new large wooden foudres from two of Burgundy's finest coopers recently installed and, following the lead at Château Cheval Blanc, Guillaume has just put in three modern cement fermentation vats for his 2013 harvest. Forward thinking whilst always respecting the traditional values steeped with the name of Châteauneuf du Pape.

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● **Châteauneuf du Pape**

£198.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond  
 £210.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond  
 £105.00 per Jeroboam In Bond



Guillaume Gonnet is adamant that the key component in this their benchmark wine is that the natural expression of the fruit and its origins must do the talking. As a result the core of the juice is matured in classic cement vats and only 30% in wood and most definitely no new oak. A plump and open juicy fruit style with soft rounded tannins and an appealing full finish. Drink 2016 – 2026

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● **Châteauneuf du Pape Élégance de Jeanne**

£225.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond  
 £231.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond  
 £205.00 per Jeroboam In Bond

Created in memory of Jeanne Gonnet, wife of Font de Michelle's founder Etienne. Produced in very unique vintages from 100% destalked Grenache vines this is a very refined whilst naturally concentrated style of wine. Pure damson fruit aromas, this is discreet and harmonious, with huge amounts of finesse. Lovely and long and very classy. Drink 2017 – 2030

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● **Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Etienne Gonnet**

£195.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond  
 £201.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond  
 £180.00 per Jeroboam In Bond

70% of this superb blend is made from 100 year old Grenache vines. Open and generous with hints of chocolate vanilla oaked aromas, this is a very intensely flavoured wine with a long lingering finish of dark summer pudding fruits. Drink 2017 – 2030

Vieux Télégraphe owned by the Brunier family is unusual for a Châteauneuf du Pape estate in that not only is it sizable at 70 ha of vines but all its vines are situated in a single location on the plateau of La Crau. The pebbly soil is ideal for the growing of the three principal grape varieties, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah and produces a very

refined style in comparison to some of their neighbours. Famed for their excellent balance the wines of Vieux Télégraphe have a superb ability to age. A recent tasting of the 1995 highlighted this and whilst showing maturity remains incredibly youthful.

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● **Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc**

£190.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

A fine blend of Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Bourboulenc and Roussanne, this is an elegant and refined style, with delicious peach fruit flavours. Clean vibrant and beautifully forward in style. Drink 2014 – 2020

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● **Mégaphone du Vieux Télégraphe**

£113.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

This tiny 1 hectare vineyard in the Ventoux is a lovely addition to the Brunier family's portfolio. A sweetly intense wine with a silky tannic structure. An open wine with bags of fruit which will give a huge amount of pleasure almost immediately. Drink 2014 – 2019

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● **Châteauneuf du Pape**

£195.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£205.00 per 12 Halves In Bond

£205.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

£165.00 per Jeroboam In Bond

An exquisite wine from the Bruniers. This is balanced and harmonious with no signs of excess. The subtly rich fruit aided by gently grainy tannins creates a wine of harmony and finesse. A beautiful example of this fine vintage. Drink 2017 – 2028

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## DOMAINE LES PALLIERES, Gigondas

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Domaine les Pallières, purchased by the Bruniers in 1998, is a stunning 62 ha terraced vineyard situated in the most northerly reaches of the appellation of Gigondas. The Terrasse du Diable cuvée is selected from 45 year old Grenache vines planted at altitudes between 250 – 400

metres high and is a fine balance between minerality and approachability. The 2012 shows the rewards of 15 years of work in the vineyards by Daniel and his brother making this one of the outstanding estates in Gigondas.

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● **Gigondas Terrasse du Diable**

£198.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

£210.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond



Situated 400 metres up on the terraces of the Dentelles de Montmiraille hillside, the Terrasse du Diable produces a very balanced wine concentrating on richness and open fruit and whilst always retaining naturally weighty tannins. This is a very fine example and highlights why Gigondas is so highly respected amongst the growers of the Southern Rhône. Drink 2015 – 2025





Mas de Daumas Gassac needs very little introduction. Since the early 70s, this singular and quite spectacular estate has been producing some pretty remarkable wines. One reason that this estate is so special is that they have a markedly unique microclimate. Housed in a deep valley, cool air is drawn down from the mountains, particularly in the summer evenings, creating daily temperature swings ranging from 0 - 30°C. As a result, they are able to grow up to 40 different varieties successfully – all the while attaining excellent ripeness and retaining the varieties' fresh acidity.

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● **Mas de Daumas Gassac Blanc 2013**

£115.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£121.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

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This wine is produced from 20 varieties, though the majority is composed of Viognier, Chardonnay, Petit Manseng and Chenin Blanc. A late picked and small crop of very fine fruit. Drink 2014 – 2019

2012 represents the 40th vintage at the estate and as their famous advisor back when they first started Emile Peynaud said “ the month of harvesting is the one that produces the great vintages.” This was most certainly the case in 2012 according to winemaker Samuel Guibert. “September 2012 at Daumas Gassac was one of sheer pleasure; sparkling sunlight and cool nights lulled by the north winds. An idyllic month, thoroughly auspicious as the promise of a great vintage was carried into the cellars.” This is a very exciting vintage indeed for Daumas Gassac.

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● **Mas de Daumas Gassac Rouge 2012**

£115.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

£121.00 per 3 Magnums In Bond

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Strikingly powerful red fruit aromas with hints of figs and plums. This is a mouth coating wine with masses of juicy fruit, fine tannins and an explosion of truffled mature fruit on the finish. Drink 2015 - 2025





Hidden amongst the rolling hills west of St Rémy de Provence lies Domaine de Trévallon. Its origins are in 1973 when Eloi Dürrbach, an architecture student at the time, decided to toss aside his protractors, roll up his sleeves and start planting vines in the craggy limestone rock soil surrounding his parents' holiday home. His instincts told him that the domaine's well-draining, mineral-rich soil,

arid micro-climate and glorious sun would be capable of producing exceptionally powerful and expressive wines... and he was right. Following unsuccessful experiments with other varieties, he began planting 15 hectares of Syrah and Cabernet which he then followed with a smattering of Marsanne, Roussanne (from cuttings at Beaucastel), Chardonnay and most recently Grenache Blanc.



● **Vin de Pays des Bouches du Rhône Blanc 2013**

£185.00 per 6 Bottles In Bond

A beautiful blend of Marsanne, Roussanne and Chardonnay, this has balance and volume. A wonderfully fresh and textured white with a delicious uplifting feel. This is a hugely rewarding wine. Drink 2014 - 2020

● **Vin de Pays des Bouches du Rhône 2012**

£280.00 per 12 Bottles In Bond

£290.00 per 6 Magnums In Bond

£125.00 per Jeroboam In Bond



Rich, ripe, concentrated red and black fruit, with very good clean acidity and a framework of structured tannins that should see it age well. A classic Trévallon, that will be an unashamed vin de garde maturing gracefully over 10-20 years. Drink 2018 - 2035



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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

All wines are offered In Bond England. We will arrange shipment from the domaines in Autumn 2014. 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 £10.30 ex-vat per case per annum.

When you decide to take delivery, Duty and Vat at the prevailing rate will become payable. These charges are at present £24.00 per 12-bottle case and 20% respectively.

**All En Primeur deliveries will be charged at cost.**