

DISCOVER COTES DU RHÔNE

winecentral

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY



Côte du Rhône has a warm sunny Mediterranean climate, which the heat-loving grape variety Grenache absolutely loves!

The Mistral, French for Master, is a wind that rips through the Southern Rhône like the Roaring Forties does through the Cook Strait. It can cause damage to young grape vines but also has a benevolent side. The wind helps moderate the warm temperatures of the region and wards off any fungus or mildew that would otherwise spoil the grapes.

KEY TO INTENSITY SCALES

Guide to each wine variety's intensity notes.





WHERE TO FIND THEM








Côtes du Rhône,
Côtes du Rhône Villages

SOFT FRUITY REDS

Grenache is the Dominant grape in these blends. Friends include Syrah, Mouvèdre, Cinsault, Carignan



LOOK FOR

-  Strawberry
-  Raspberry
-  Blackberry
-  Violets
-  Lavender
-  Rosemary
-  Spice



WHERE TO FIND THEM

Côtes du Ventoux,
Gigondas,
Vacqueryas,
Châteauneuf-du-Pape

POWERFUL REDS

If you enjoy the flavour of Côtes du Rhône but are looking for a fuller bodied red, consider wines from these neighbouring regions. You may think that since they're all made from a blend of Grenache with Syrah, Mouvèdre, and Cinsault they must all taste the same, but nothing could be further from the truth!




Gigondas (*g - gone - das*).....is known for structured wines with firm grippy tannins

Vacqueryas (*vac - ah - ras*).....for its floral aromas

Châteauneuf-du-Pape (*sha-toe-noof doo pop*).....or intensely flavoured, full-bodied, savoury reds



LOOK FOR

-  Strawberry
-  Blackberry
-  Currants
-  Fig
-  Spice
-  Leather
-  Violets
-  Lavender
-  Toast
-  Cigar

FUN FACTS



Herbs de Provence is a popular blend of marjoram, rosemary, thyme, oregano, and occasionally lavender. It is used in dishes in Southeast France - especially grilled meats. The wines of Côtes du Rhône and Vacqueryas smell subtly of these herbs, which compliments the generous fruit the wines are known for.



In 1954 Châteauneuf-du-Pape passed a law banning UFOs from flying over, landing, or taking off amongst the grape vines. If any aliens do not comply, they will be taken into custody immediately. It's unclear how the local police would handle such a situation. Fortunately, it has never come up.



Châteauneuf-du-Pape literally translates to Castle of the Pope. In the 14th century, the Pope decided to move from Rome to Avignon, a city south of this region. To this day the papal crown and St. Peter's keys are embossed every bottle to acknowledge this history.

CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE



GRENACHE
SYRAH
MOURVÈDRE
BOURBOULENE*
CINSAULT
CLAIRETTE BLANCHE*
COUNOISE
GRENACHE BLANC*
MUSCARDIN
PICARDAN*
PIQUEPOUL BLANC*
ROUSSANNE*
TERRET NOIR
VACCARÈSE

*white grapes

13 grapes - including white varieties - are permitted in Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines due to vineyards originally being planted rustically with everything all in one vineyard vs. separate like you see in NZ. Few people use all 13 varieties