

ESTD 1842



TANNERS
WINE MERCHANTS

En Primeur Offer
March 2022

Rhône 2022



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En Primeur:

What does it mean?

All the 2022 wines in this offer are offered 'En Primeur Lying Abroad'. This means that you pay for the wine itself when you place your order and the duty (currently £2.67 ex VAT per 75cl bottle) and VAT at the prevailing rates on the whole at the time of shipment and any other applicable tariffs. We anticipate shipping these wines in 2025.

Storage Wines

Wines purchased En Primeur can be stored, by the case, in our own bonded Private Customer Reserves.

More Information

For advice, please ring the Fine Wine Team: Graham, Robin, Christina or Aiden on 01743 234455.

Rhône 2022

A return to the new norm of warmer vintages, after last year's blip, has shown good to very good results in both the Northern and Southern Rhône, even if the style of wines seems slightly at odds with the "hottest, driest year since 1950"! In general, the wines are generous without being too powerful, with a purity of fresh fruit and fragrance, whilst maintaining surprisingly moderate alcohol levels, by Rhône standards at least, being around 12.5% to 14.5% in the main. Across the board they are very pleasant to drink even at this stage, so whatever you choose will provide pleasant drinking throughout their lives.



THE BIG PICTURE

As we travelled around from grower to grower, we found wines that didn't fit the narrative of a hot, dry vintage – they were full of freshness with a juicy character. We heard several theories trying to rationalise this apparent contradiction in the wines. The most common was that nearly 20 years after the shock of the 2003 vintage the vines themselves are beginning to adapt to the changing climate. Once the heat and drought hits, the vine's self-preservation system kicks in and they close down, blocking maturity. The winemakers are perhaps being a little modest as well; they too have learned new techniques to adapt to the new norm of a warming climate. In the South especially, there was much talk of the varieties; increasing the proportions of those that bring freshness to the blends (such as Counoise) and increasing the proportion of white grapes used in the red wines, as well as increased use of whole bunches, which can bring freshness in a warm year when the stalks themselves are ripe.

THE WINES

In spite of, or indeed because of, the drought conditions the wines show an attractive blend of warm sweet fruit and a surprising freshness. Some are lighter in style with crunchy red notes, whilst others are fuller and richer with darker, blacker fruits. They also show finesse, elegance and concentration. There are some tannins but amongst our growers, at least, they are rounded, ripe and any 'edges' will be smoothed off by further ageing before they are bottled next year. Increasingly growers don't like comparing vintages but 2010 and 2007 were mentioned, both years that showed good concentration but more importantly, finesse.

Once again, the whites continue to impress, they are richer and more powerful than last year, full of ripe, waxy, stone fruit and floral undertones. They should be appreciated for their generosity and ebullience; none of the whites we tried were too big for comfort!

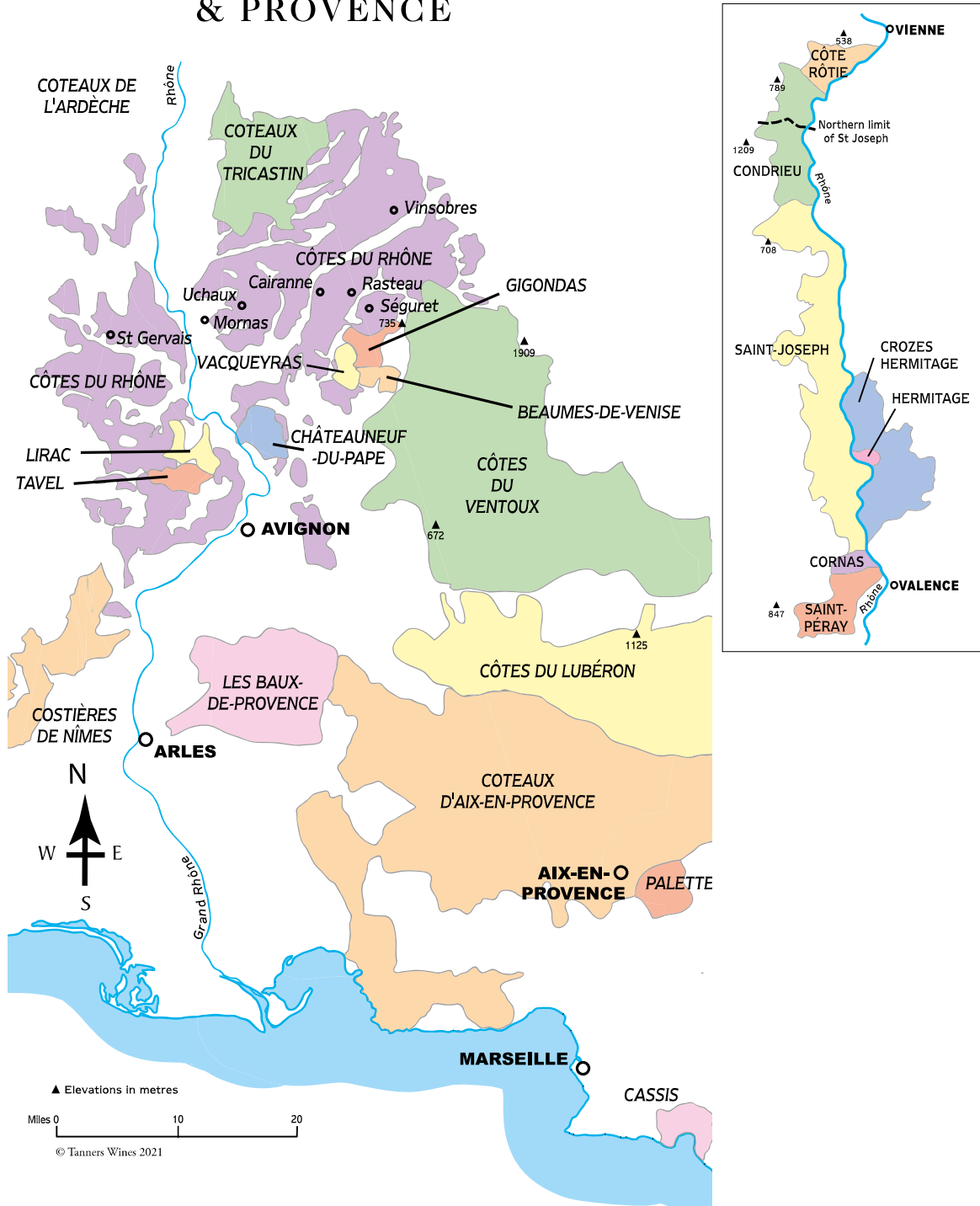
THE CONDITIONS

The hottest, driest year since 1950 (even hotter than the now "infamous" 2003) saw broadly similar weather patterns in both the South and the North. A dryish winter was followed by a warm spring which allowed early budburst. There were some worried faces in April when a cool spell looked like it might repeat the frosts of 2021, but the fears were unfounded. May was very hot with temperatures reaching in excess of 30°C. At this stage the valley had seen just a third of its average rainfall. The heat led to a quick but successful

“generous without being too powerful”

flowering. A little welcome rain was reported in June, just 90mm, but this was enough to encourage the vines to push on; by the 15th of June there was a heatwave, the earliest on record. It was also windy which exacerbated the water loss. *Veraison*, the colour change of the grapes, reportedly started early in July which is super-early. The upside of this weather was an almost complete absence of disease this year, the downside that it has reduced the yields by producing smaller berries with thick skins and a lot of pulp but not much juice. There was however some "weather" in August, but its impact was wildly different. On the 14th of August a storm hit the South; it was localised and devastating, a tornado of hail and rain tracked across the Crau plateau of Châteauneuf wiping out up to 80% of the crop, just two days before the harvest had been scheduled to start. The Bruniers at Vieux Télégraphe were the most exposed and as a result no Vieux Télégraphe red or white has been made this year. At Giraud and at Gonnet too they were affected but to a lesser degree. Elsewhere in the valley the storm provided much needed, and welcome, rain and it arrived in more benign form in the North the next day. Immediately after, the winds blew again ensuring that the increased humidity did not turn to rot. Harvest started early, around 22nd August for the whites and a few days later for the reds and was all over before the end of September.

THE VINEYARDS OF THE RHÔNE VALLEY & PROVENCE



THE RHÔNE VALLEY VILLAGES CELLAR

This cellar highlights the best examples of their kind from both the northern and southern Rhône. These are slightly lesser-known villages where, we feel, real gems can be found and the quality punches well above their relatively modest price tags. All are from top-class growers who put their respective villages on the map, and provide excellent mid-term cellaring.

- Lirac Vieilles Vignes, Les Sables d'Arène, Domaine Giraud (organic)
- Vacqueyras, Cuvée des Templiers, Domaine Le Clos des Cazaux
- Rasteau, La Fontaine, Domaine La Collière
- Cairanne Rouge, l'Ebrescade, Marcel Richaud
- 24 bottles (6 of each) for £372, average bottle price en primeur £15.50

THE RHÔNE VALUE CELLAR

The Rhône Valley represents some of the best value to be had in all of France and the wines make for wonderful short-term cellaring. These have all proved to be delicious in the 2022 vintage.

- Côtes du Rhône-Villages Signargues Cuvée Notre Passion, Gonnet
- Château Courac, Laudun Côtes du Rhône-Villages
- Rasteau, Domaine la Soumade, Frédéric Roméro
- Syrah Or Piste, Vin de France, Aurélien Chirat

24 bottles (6 of each) for £231, average bottle price en primeur £9.62



The slopes of Condrieu

“Rather than boozy behemoths, what I often found were middle-weight wines with just-ripe berry fruits and moderate alcohol levels...Never before has a vintage so confounded my expectations.”


Matt Walls, *Decanter*, November 2023

Famille Gonnet


Bédarrides, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Guillaume Gonnet was rueing what might have been with the storm reducing their crop by around 40%. He described the year otherwise as being relatively benign with an early harvest that had given rounded, fruit-forward wines. He

has also been adding to the family's holdings, buying some more vineyards in Signargues including a significant parcel planted with white grapes to try to sate the growing demand for whites from this part of the world.

Côtes du Rhône-Villages Signargues, Cuvée Notre Passion (organic) DRR01022 6bts  £48

Plenty of ripe jammy red fruit on the nose, more serious on the palate with more savour character and fresh fruit character before a succulent, juicy finish of blueberries and an orange citrus note bringing freshness. 0-5 years.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine Font du Vent (organic) DRR04122 6bts  £138

Black-fruited this is rich, sweet, succulent with plenty of ripe, mouth-filling fruit, cranberries, blueberries, blackberries and strawberries all present but with notes of liquorice and allspice, fine ripe tannins and great length. 5-15+ years.

Famille Brunier

Bédarrides, Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Gigondas

It was with understandably mixed emotions that export manager Claire Latcher and Edouard Brunier spoke of the 2022 vintage. As detailed earlier, the catastrophic storm of 14th August destroyed 80% of the crop of Télégraphe both red and white, just two days before they planned to start the harvest. Mother nature can be a cruel mistress sometimes. Mixed emotions as they were justly proud of what they have

produced. Away from the Crau plateau Pallières in Gigondas performed admirably even if the yields struggled to just 13 hl/ha. Piedlong, situated to the north of the village, missed the hail and is excellent, while the "second wine" of Télégraphe, Télégramme bolstered by the remaining 20% of Télégraphe shows an extra dimension this year and is great value.

Gigondas, Les Racines, Domaine Les Pallières DRR03622 6bts  £153

Super fruit aromas with an almost liqueur-like intensity. Damson and black cherries to the fore with a red fruit character underneath. Beautifully weighted on the palate with a freshness and very fine tannins which leave a lingering finish. 5-15 years.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Télégramme DRR03922 6bts  £153

With no Télégraphe produced this year and this wine bolstered with what remained, Télégramme doesn't disappoint. Rich, ripe brambly fruit with raspberry overtones and notes of violets before a hint of strawberry and garrigue herbs on the finish. 5-10+ years.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Piedlong DRR15122 6bts  £216

Very fine, elegant cherry and strawberry fruit. Wonderfully balanced on the palate, the lovely sweet fruit character countered with freshness and supported by some super-fine tannins. 5-10+ years.

Domaine Giraud

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Marie greeted us at their cellars on the edge of the town of Châteauneuf-du Pape. Here they were affected by the storm of the 14th August so their crop has been reduced and we are sorry to report there will be no Les Grenaches de Pierre this year. This event aside Marie said it was a very good

year, there was, as others have reported, almost no disease to contend with in the vineyard this year. The younger vines suffered somewhat in the heat and drought conditions but the old vines with their deep roots were able to cope in good fashion. The resultant wines certainly bore testament to this.

Lirac Vieilles Vignes, Les Sables d'Arène (organic)

DRR13622

6bts



£81

Plenty of ripe, fresh red and black fruit aromas with an attractive note of woody herbs and spices. Plenty of chunky fruit on the palate with blueberries and strawberries to the fore, with a warm note of citrus zest lifting the finish. 3-9 years.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape (organic)

DRR11022

6bts



£168

Lovely ripe, cooked strawberry fruit on the nose, a wonderful sweetness with great depth of fruit and super, silky and attractive tannins, succulent plenty of weight with notes of orange zest, herbs and subtle rose petal note on the finish. 3-9 years.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Les Gallimardes (organic)

DRR11122

6bts



£354

Great complexity here with notes of spice, wood, rosehips amongst the ripe red and black fruit aromas. Wonderfully mouth-filling, intense more notes of coffee and cocoa nibs but with a juicy red fruit character providing balance on the finish. 5-15+ years.

Domaine Roger Perrin

Orange, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

We have worked with this domaine for a number of years, but only via our buying group and only with a single cuvée, so we thought it time to re-visit, and we are very glad we did! Since 2013 the estate has been run by Xavier Rolin, grandson of Roger Perrin who founded the domaine back in 1980. They farm 42 ha, 15.5 of which are in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, 20.5 Côtes du Rhône and 6 IGP. Having worked organically since 2010 they are now in conversion and due to be certified in 2024. The modern winery was built in 1998

and is surrounded by very old vines which were planted in 1906, all grapes are hand-harvested except for four of their hectares in IGP. Xavier uses natural yeasts in the winery and is experimenting with making compost to feed the vines and using cover crops in the vineyards. Yields for 2022 are around 20% down on the norm, but Xavier is extremely pleased with the quality and concentration of the wines produced.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc

DRW17122

6bts



£120

A blend of five varieties – Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne, Picardan and Bourboulenc. It is appealingly aromatic, packed full of apricot, nectarine and bees wax aromas. The palate is sapid with lovely spice, some leafy notes giving freshness, stone fruits and great structure and length. 3-9 years.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Classic Cuvée

DRR07922

6bts




£114

Creamy, black fruited aromas and floral notes coming through. Concentrated blackberry notes fill the palate, along with enticingly fragrant ripe, red fruits too and a lovely texture. This is big, full and long with great integration. 5-15 years.



Le Clos de Cazaux, Vacqueyras

A scenic view of a vineyard with a black barrel in the foreground and a forested hill in the background. The vineyard is lush green with some red leaves, and the background is a dense forest of trees. The sky is clear and blue. In the foreground, there is a black barrel and some tall grasses. A metal railing is visible in the lower left.

“I expect this to be a vintage that will
shine over the coming decade”

Alistair Cooper MW, jancisrobinson.com

Famille Perrin

Courthézon

Family Perrin are the people behind the famous Château de Beaucastel in addition to which they look after near 200 ha of vineyards in the wider southern Rhône region including some fantastic parcels in Gigondas and Vinsobres. Those looking for Beaucastel itself will have to be patient, as the

estate has decided to release the whites in the summer and the reds in the Autumn two years after the vintage. Please let us know if you wish to be added to the wish lists for these wines.

Vinsobres, Les Cornuds

DRR12622 12bts  £96

This is a sumptuous blend of Syrah and Grenache with plenty of black fruit and ripe tannins. The vineyards here are fairly high, so cooler and fresher than many other Vinsobres. 3-7 years.

Vinsobres, Les Hauts de Julien

DRR10422 6bts  £132

From a cooler vineyard co-planted with Grenache and Syrah, this gives the wines lots of fresh sappy fruit, plenty of damsons, cassis and blueberry character with intensity and spice. 3-9 years.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge, Les Sinards

DRR17022 12bts  £270

A forward, aromatic nose with plenty of ripe fruit flavours, on the palate it is fresh with a succulent note amongst a good depth of fruit, a hint of liquorice and a lovely red fruit finish. 3-9 years.

Gigondas, Domaine du Clos des Tourelles

DRR13722 6bts  £249

Rich, sweet concentrated fruit on the nose and palate with a fresh herbal note added on the palate with a note of menthol and liquorice, very deep, very concentrated, very fine indeed. 5-15 years.

Château Courac

Tresques

A cross country drive over the west bank of the Rhône River, takes in many pretty villages and eventually leads us to the edge of Tresques. We were met at Château Courac by Frédéric, Josephine, their son, Cyril, and eight-week-old Golden Retriever puppy, Ulysses, for a tasting of the 2022s and several back vintages. The château and vineyards are surrounded by pine forest which hide lots of underground

springs which help keep the vines slaked in the drought, in addition the 200 metres altitude has been hugely beneficial in the very hot 2022 vintage. They only use concrete tanks, no oak or stainless steel. Different plots and grape varieties are vinified separately meaning they have up to 70 separate tanks on the go at any one point!! The quality to price ratio is excellent.

Laudun, Côtes du Rhône-Villages

DRR01122 6bts  £42

Packed with black fruits and enticing *garrigue* notes with a just a nod to liquorice. Despite the heat there is great freshness with appealing concentration. This wine always provides serious value and drinkability – this vintage is no exception. 2-7 years.

Domaine le Clos des Cazaux

Vacqueyras

Jean-Michel Vache is a wonderfully energetic and informed host. He runs this 48 ha domaine alongside his brother Frédéric. Grapes are all hand-picked in the cool of the morning, all wines are made in stainless steel vats, and they are entirely chemical free. Jean-Michel is passionate about sustainable agriculture and the domaine holds an HVE 3 certification (Haute Valeur Environmental, French agricultural certification that recognises a high level of

commitment to protecting and enriching the environment). He is a great believer in agroforestry to aid with the increasing temperatures and increase biodiversity and is undertaking a project to replant forests around their vineyards to help mitigate against the continued rise in temperatures. “Nature is more powerful, we must help her”, he says of his approach.

Vacqueyras, Cuvée des Templiers

DRR03422

6bts



£78

This is big, bold, juicy and mouthwatering. Red fruit flavours abound with notes of milk chocolate, a little spice and an alluring umami, soy sauce note. 80% whole bunches which gives the wine a lovely texture and fragrant quality. 3-9 years.

Gigondas, Cuvée de la Tour Sarrasine

DRR03522

6bts



£87

This has inviting dark chocolate and mocha notes entice on the nose, whilst the palate is bold and driven with a silky, suppleness. There is great concentration here with an appealing fresh, fragrant quality too. 3-9 years.

Domaine du Cayron

Gigondas

We tasted with sisters Roseline and Cendrine, first thing in the morning. Always a fascinating tasting here, as they only make the one wine, you get to taste all the different “components”, the different varieties aged in different medium (some tank, some in big *foudres*, and a small amount

in *demi-muids*) from the different plots, it is a great way to get a handle on the vintage and the village. Other than the low yields, just 28 hl/ha, the season was straight-forward, and the final representative blend was excellent.

Gigondas

DRR03722

6bts



£117

Intense notes of black and blue fruit with a lovely floral character and even a hint of citrus keep it fresh and appealing. On the palate the fruit is rich, concentrated with plenty of supple, ripe tannins before a note of black pepper spice to finish. 5-15 years.



André and Marie Perret







Simon Jones with Edouard Brunier at Vieux Télégraphe

Domaine Marcel Richaud NEW!

Cairanne

Domaine Richaud is in the heart of the Cairanne cru in the southern Rhône valley. Marcel Richaud, a fifth-generation vine grower boldly decided, back in 1974 at the tender age of 20, to leave the local co-operative and start to produce his own wines. Today, as he considers retirement, he has been joined by his three children, Edith, Claire and Thomas. The estate is now some 75 ha including a small amount they rent. The vineyards have been certified organic since 2008 and they also follow some biodynamic principles though they are not accredited. Their winery was built in 1998 of stone construction eschewing the use of concrete. The harvest is all done by hand, quite an undertaking for an estate this size.

The grapes sorted twice, once in the vineyard then again when they arrive at the winery. This is an estate that uses minimal intervention, only natural yeasts, the wines are un-fined and un-filtered and only see a small amount of sulphur just before bottling. They also do a much shorter extraction as Marcel believes that a long extraction masks the terroir and makes for unnecessarily big wines. The results are a very pure expression of their terroir and vintage. The domaine also champions the use of less widely planted varieties, such as Counoise as they believe its natural freshness and lower alcohol levels make for better drinking wines.




Cairanne Blanc	DRW08022	6bts		£87
A blend of classic southern Rhône white varieties offering an approachable style with some peach and apricot fruit on the nose and palate, a great texture and mouthfeel with lovely weight and an elegant, zesty finish. 0-5 years.				
Côtes du Rhône, Terre de Galets	DRR17222	6bts		£57
A wonderfully rich mouth-filling style with plenty of dark plum and raspberry fruit but also much elegance and super balance on the palate with fine ripe tannins and a soft and juicy finish. 0-5 years.				
Cairanne Rouge	DRR17322	6bts		£72
Deep, intense and brooding on the nose. Rich, dark fruit flavours with notes of liquorice and fresh tobacco, some tannins, this is part aged in wooden vats and casks which bring substance and depth to the wine, before a bright uplifting finish. 3-7 years.				
Cairanne Rouge, l'Ebrescade	DRR17422	6bts		£105
This wine spends 22 months in large oak barrels to bring roundness and complexity. It remains fresh and succulent but with plenty of weight, hints of vanilla and spice are found amongst the rich fruit before a long and concentrated finish. 3-9 years.				

Domaine La Soumade

Rasteau

Our first visit of the week, and first taste of the new vintage, we weren't disappointed: the wines were tasting as well as they ever have. We tasted with Régis who helps Frédéric and André Roméro, but all three were there. They described

2022 as a nice, classic vintage but not too powerful with the wines showing an extra level of finesse, likening the wines to those of 2010 or 2007. Here they are in conversion to organic with certification due for the 2024 vintage.

Rasteau	DRR02222	6bts		£63
Wonderfully floral on the nose with violets amongst the fruit, plenty of ripe plum fruit on the palate with some present but rounded tannins but the finish is fresh with crunchy fruit and decent length. 0-5 years.				
Rasteau, Cuvée Prestige	DRR02822	6bts		£78
A fine mix of fruit, flowers and spice on the nose with plums, cassis and damson fruit, some typically present tannins but ripe and rounded in feel, the finish is fine and long with a note of bergamot amongst the ripe fruit. 3-7 years.				
Rasteau, Cuvée Confiance	DRR09522	6bts		£96
Rich and meaty on the nose from the old vines. Dark fruit on the palate with notes of Pruneaux d'Agen, coffee and bitter chocolate. Some fine tannins on the palate with spice and a lovely sweetness to the fruit, the finish is surprisingly elegant. 5-15 years.				

Domaine La Collière

Rasteau

A remarkable delicacy can be found in the wines of Georges Perrot for the 2022 vintage, which is at odds with the hot weather! Yields are 20% down, they cultivated clean healthy grapes, but thicker skins and more pulp has reduced the amount of juice. Gentle pumping over is used so as not to over-extract. Each vintage sees a reduction in the amount of oak used with the focussed use of their bespoke Italian-

made concrete tanks to promote the purity of terroir. With Georges away, we met Sébastien, George's right hand cellarman for past 15 years. He told us that having worked the land organically since the beginning, they have now decided to take the plunge and go for certification. We'll see this on the 2024 labels.

Rasteau, Esprit d'Argiles

DRR13122

6bts



£75

From 60 years-old vines showcasing the blue, red and yellow clay soils. A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre that is showing damsons and violets, great structure without tightness, and a juicy acidity. Tapenade and blossom notes on the finish. 3-7 years.

Rasteau, La Fontaine

DRR15822

6bts



£108

A small 2.5 ha site centred around a natural spring, 98% Grenache (whole bunch), 1% Syrah, 1% Mourvèdre aged for 9 months. Wonderful fragrant notes with a mélange of pure fruit flavours, this is both delicate and concentrated, and very fine indeed. 3-9 years.

Domaine de l'Amandine

Séguret

Over recent years Mathilde Suter and her father, Alex, have set this domaine on a path to higher quality production. Vineyard hectareage has reduced from 50 to around 35, they are in organic conversion and are now bottling much more of their own production rather than selling off in bulk. They have also added a huge solar PV array to the building to aid their sustainability drive. The 2022 growing season saw no

disease pressure for the estate. It was very hot and dry, the vines seemed to shut down and block maturity, bringing that great natural freshness we have seen elsewhere in the region. All reds are made in big old concrete tanks, first installed by Mathilde's grandfather when the winery was originally built in the 70s.

Séguret, Côtes du Rhône-Villages

DRR13522

6bts



£45

Ripe, blue fruits and floral aromas exude from the glass. This follows through on to the palate with wild raspberries, sweet blueberries, soft tannins and a juicy morish quality. *Très Jolie!* 0-5 years.

Domaine des Bernardins

Beaumes de Venise

Elisabeth Hall, Romain's mother, is a charming quietly spoken lady. Elisabeth explained they lost a small amount of the crop to frost early in the season and a little to hail but it was the dry summer that had the largest effect on their yields. This early reduction in the crop helped the vines to

cope in the dry weather as they were carrying a manageable amount of grapes. It was a clean harvest with no disease pressures. The domaine is currently in conversion to organics, having used the practices for over 20 years they have now decided to seek accreditation.

Beaumes de Venise Rouge

DRR14522

6bts



£72

This is super-crunchy with fresh strawberry and cranberry fruit. The palate is ripe but the lovely fresh fruit character is beautifully balanced, a black treacle note brings a darker note to the finish. 3-7 years.



Christina with Aline Colombo



Simon Jones with Guillaume Gonnet



Mont Ventoux, about to be covered in cloud



Views over Cornas from Colombo

Domaine Colombo NEW!

Cornas

Both Jean-Luc and his wife Anne were originally from the South of France, he from near Marseille where his mother was a chef, and Anne from near Béziers. They both studied for a degree in pharmacy as well as oenology. After their studies they moved to the Rhône valley to set up a wine laboratory analysing wines for other growers. At the same time they had started to buy vineyards, predominantly around Cornas, this was 1984. Their first vintage was 1987 and they went on to create Vins J-L Colombo in 1994. Anne took

charge of the vineyards; a keen gardener and beekeeper, biodiversity has always been at the heart of what they do. Jean-Luc looked after the winemaking side of the business and has been joined, since 2010, by their daughter Laure. They now have 12 ha in Cornas, 5 in St Péray, as well as vineyards near the Mediterranean, from near where Jean-Luc was born. They have been certified organic since 2015 though have practised for many years before choosing accreditation.

Côtes du Rhône Blanc, La Redonne

DRW08122

6bts



£69

Viognier from the Northern Rhône with a little Roussanne to bring added freshness, this is rich and weighty with lovely texture on the palate, very elegant and fine with fresh, citrus tones of the Roussanne enhancing the rich Viognier. 0-3 years.

Cornas, Terres Brûlées

DRR17522

6bts



£210

A very classic Cornas with dark, black raspberry fruit and liquorice, with some svelte tannins in support but never dominating, before the typical juicy, Cornas freshness comes through on the finish. 3-9 years.

Cornas, La Louvée

DRR17622

6bts



£315







The she-wolf but far from being aggressive this is intense, almost liqueur-like and complex too. Super-sweet fruit but always elegant, some present but very ripe tannins and a fruity finish of blueberry, blackberry, damson and spice. Terrific. 5-15+ years.

Domaine du Colombier

Tain l'Hermitage

This stalwart domaine has produced another stellar line up in 2022. We met Florent's bother David, who has become increasingly involved in the family business over recent years. On the day of our visit, he was overseeing the bottling line truck and very ably talking us through the wines. With 20 ha under vine, their production is relatively small, although

always of the highest quality. They work organically but are not certified. A frost in spring reduced the yield a little but other than that 2022 was a problem-free, clean vintage for them, with a little beneficial rain in August. All wines are fermented in stainless steel and aged in "demi-muids". Around 10% of their production is white.




Crozes-Hermitage Blanc, Cuvée Gaby	DRW05722	6bts		£135
Wonderfully pure with apricots, white flowers, ginger and hazelnuts. Lots of depth and body with a really pleasant touch of blonde tobacco from a year in barrel. 0-7 years.				
Hermitage Blanc	DRW01622	6bts		£270
Such intensity! Blossom, grapefruit, stone fruits, <i>pain d'épice</i> , apple tart and a little toast all leap from the glass. This concentration follows through on to the palate too with wonderful balance, depth and texture, so very long and lingering. Wow! 3-15 years.				
Crozes-Hermitage, Primavera	DRR16822	6bts		£78
A lovely rounded, supple wine with ripe tannins and long, flowing flavours. Notes of mulberry, sweet spice and pure, juicy fruit shone through in his very appealing wine. 2-7 years.				
Crozes-Hermitage	DRR10822	6bts		£99
A lovely rounded, supple wine with ripe tannins and long flowing flavours. Notes of mulberry, sweet spice and pure, juicy fruit shine through in this very appealing wine. Great length. 3-7 years.				
Crozes-Hermitage, Cuvée Gaby	DRR05422	6bts		£135
Toasty, chocolate oak with plenty of black fruits. Sweetly fruited on the palate with complexity coming from liquorice, baking spice and black pepper notes. Supple tannins round this off very well and leave a long, lingering finish. 3-9 years.				
Hermitage	DRR06722	6bts		£270
Ripe, juicy mulberries and blackcurrant with intense scents of violets and tobacco. The palate is succulent, rich and flavour packed with so much finesse. A really elegant style of Hermitage. 5-15+ years.				


Domaine Mucyn


Gervans

Jean-Pierre and Hélène were taking a well-deserved break when we visited so we met Hélène's brother-in-law, Robert, and Eric who is J-P's righthand man. We tasted in their newly completed tasting room which was only finished about six months ago. This was the final part of their new winery project, sympathetically built

in old buildings adjacent to their house. Yields here were close to normal, a little drier than ideal but here they benefitted from the rain in mid-August that did so much harm elsewhere. Harvest started at the end of August and was straightforward, the results speak for themselves.

Crozes-Hermitage Blanc, Les Charmeuses	DRW01322	6bts		£81
A blend of 60% Roussanne and 40% Marsanne, the higher proportion of Roussanne brings freshness and elegance to the pretty, white peach fruit. The palate is concentrated with intense citrus notes before a finely balanced, elegant finish of apricots. 0-5 years.				
Saint-Joseph Blanc, Les Carats	DRW06322	6bts		£99
A wonderful rich, ripe, fresh apricot aroma, plenty of freshness on the palate from 100% Roussanne grapes. Clean, fresh, very pure with great elegance and succulence followed by a saline mineral note on the finish. 0-5 years.				
Crozes-Hermitage, Les Entrecoeurs	DRR05122	6bts		£81
Plenty of attractive brambly fruit here with a welcome note of spice. There is a lovely juicy succulence on the palate which makes it incredibly easy to drink even when so young. There is a warming note of liquorice on the finish. 3-5 years.				

Saint-Joseph Rouge, Les Salamandres DRR12422 6bts  £99
Intense and concentrated nose on the dark end of the fruit spectrum but lightened by a note of parma violets. Fresher fruit character on the palate with raspberries and red cherries with some well balanced tannins and a fresh finish. 3-9 years.


Cornas, Hypsos DRR12822 6bts  £168
From a two hectare plot of granite soils on the top of the Cornas hill. Rich, black-fruited with some oak spice evident, great concentration and depth of flavour balanced by the characteristic Cornas acidity giving lovely raspberry fruit to the finish. 5-15+ years.


Domaine Pierre Gaillard


Malleval


We tasted with Pierre-Antoine who is slowly taking over responsibilities from Pierre, who is planning to retire in the next few years. As we walked round the cellars tasting various cuvées, Pierre-Antoine explained that, in spite of the dry and hot summer, and the yields being some


of the lowest they have seen, they have been pleasantly surprised at how approachable the wines are. None are particularly big and alcohol levels are moderate and we saw/tasted nothing to disabuse us of that!


Côtes du Rhône Blanc, Les Gendrines DRW18422 6bts  £93
Best thought of as mini-Condrieu this Côtes du Rhône is made with 100% Viognier aged in old oak barrels. The result is a lovely floral, tangerine skin note with good weight, excellent freshness with a touch of Earl Grey tea on a lovely, saline finish. 0-5 years.

Condrieu DRW07122 6bts  £153
Restrained on the nose but with concentrated apricot fruit. The palate is more open, almost peachy, but the characteristic freshness of the vintage brings welcome balance, a juicy finish with a hint of ginger from the oak before a long lingering finish. 3-7 years.

Syrah, Collines Rhodaniennes, Les Amis de Mandrin DRR15022 6bts  £48
A dark intense wine with notes of white pepper and a floral hint on both the nose and palate with oodles of sweet cherry fruit with a soft, approachable style and a wonderfully juicy finish. 0-3 years.

Crozes-Hermitage Rouge DRR15722 6bts  £96
A very pretty nose with plenty of violet notes, more intense on the palate with ripe raspberry and plum fruit. A lovely juicy freshness on the finish provides balance and there are ripe tannins already well integrated before a long satisfying finish. 3-7 years.

Cornas DRR14822 6bts  £168
Intense, dark and brooding blackcurrant fruit with a touch of herbal liquorice. The palate has a lovely silkiness, rich and intense but wonderfully smooth, ripe, black cherry fruit with rounded tannins and a very long finish. 5-12 years.

Côte-Rôtie DRR14922 6bts  £216
A lovely attractive wine this year, the 8% Viognier lightening the intense Syrah. Violets, dark red fruits merging with blueberries, this has lovely weight and super balance. There are plenty of tannins present but wonderfully rounded and in balance. 5-15 years.

Maison André Perret

Verlieu

We tasted at this super estate with André and then had a quick chat with his daughter Marie who has largely taken over winemaking duties here. In terms of the season there was little to report, as André described it, not enough water, no diseases, and a little rain on 15th August which rejuvenated the vines before an early

harvest starting 24th August. Yields here were about in line with their average. They now own the vineyard in Clos Chanson, which they previously rented and have worked since 1986. The wines show really well including the Condrieus which had only been bottled a fortnight earlier.

Marsanne, Collines Rhodaniennes

DRW05122

6bts



£81

From ungrafted 50 year-old vines, this is elegant and floral with plenty of white orchard fruits. There is good concentration and depth on the palate with a hint of fresh almond and a lovely fresh finish. 0-3 years.

Viognier, Collines Rhodaniennes

DRW07522

6bts



£87

A gentle wine with easy Viognier fruit of white peach, apricot and a hint of jasmine. Lovely elegance and appealing mineral note before a surprisingly long finish. 0-3 years.

Condrieu

DRW01822

6bts



£177

Such an appealing nose on such a young wine! Intense citrus and orange blossom character with notes of jasmine. The palate is fresh and elegant at the same time as being weighty and concentrated with a wonderful note of honey on the long finish. 0-5 years.

Saint-Joseph Blanc

DRW02722

6bts



£126

A very attractive nose with white flowers and sweet yellow fruits. It has a lovely silky mouth-feel, rich orangey fruit. A blend of Marsanne and Roussanne, with the latter bringing freshness and the former weight and depth. 0-5 years.

Condrieu, Clos Chanson

DRW05822

6bts



£246

Always the brooding one in the line-up, more herbal and floral in nature. It is rich, shows great texture and mouthfeel as well as great intensity of cooked orange and spice. 3-7 years.

Condrieu, Coteaux de Chéry

DRW02022

6bts



£246

A clean fresh nose, with floral tones. Very attractive on the palate with super balance, the freshness coping admirably with a rich weighty fruit and demonstrating a chalky mineral note under sweet white peach fruit and super succulence on the finish. 3-7 years.

Saint-Joseph Rouge

DRR10222

6bts



£102

The vines are now over 40 years old so bring extra depth and concentration to the wine. Brambly with a touch of damson, before some present but well balanced tannins and a very pure fruit character with just a hint of dark chocolate, long on the finish. 3-9 years.

Saint-Joseph, Les Grisières

DRR05722

6bts



£132

A welcome return of Grisières after last year's absence. 30% whole bunches were used to bring freshness to the wine which is very deep and concentrated with rich plum-laden fruit, plenty of spice and a more gentle floral note before a creamy, elevated finish. 3-12 years.

Vignobles Chirat NEW!

Saint-Michel-sur-Rhône

Aurélien Chirat is a fourth-generation family member at this domaine which is situated on the hillside village of St-Michel sur Rhône, right in the heart of Condrieu. He started working on the family estate in 2008 having studied in Dijon, completed a six-month stint in New Zealand at Te Kairanga, Martinborough and worked at various estates in the Rhône. The domaine started back in 1925, selling barrels of wine to restaurants and Aurélien's grandfather was a cousin of the late, great Georges Vernay but it was Aurélien's father, Gilbert, who started bottling their own production. Aurélien says of his father (who retired in 2023), "he was brilliant in the vineyards but just didn't have the interest in the winery." Fortunately, Aurélien was

always very interested in the winery, so they made a great team. Over recent years their focus has very much turned to quality. Instead of expanding production, they have reduced vineyard holdings from 10 to 8 ha. Vines are worked organically; they are not certified but do hold the HVE 3 accreditation. They use natural wax to seal the bottles and recyclable corks made from sucrose. With the retirement of Gilbert and his pair of hands, Aurélien will continue to focus on increasing the quality and may reduce vineyard holdings further. We think this domaine is one to watch: it is already starting to find favour in the press and as the wines continue to gain finesse and elegance, we can see this star continuing to rise.

Viognier Or' Piste

DRW08222

6bts



£87

Aromatic, floral and inviting Viognier, from a vineyard that touches the boundary of Condrieu. Around half goes into old barrels, which give a nice roundness whilst retaining a fresh, fruity style with characteristic peachy notes and a pleasant weight. 0-3 years.

Condrieu, Les Chays

DRW08322

6bts



£180

Floral, citrus, white peach and honeydew melon aromas all leap from the glass and are met on the palate with creamy lemon curd, and a wonderful juiciness. There is lovely balance here and great length. A very appealing and well executed Viognier. 3-9 years.

Syrah Or' Piste

DRR17722

6bts



£69

From the St-Joseph hillsides, the Vin de France labelling belies the quality of this cuvée. Full of black cherries and plums with notes of spice and leather, it is tightly structured yet balanced with an appealing fruitiness and silky tannins. 3-9 years.

Côte-Rôtie, La Rose Brune

DRR17822

6bts



£270

100% Syrah from a 0.25 ha plot within the lieu-dit Rozier on the Côte Brune. An elegant, fruit compote with fragrant, floral notes. The palate has fresh, red fruits with a pleasing richness, great elegance and a powerful, finessed structure. 5-15 years.



Aurélien Chirat

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