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## OPENING OFFER OF 2017s FROM THE RHONE VALLEY



The bridge across the Rhône at Tain

Wherever your vineyards in the Rhône Valley, the drought conditions of 2017 were impossible to escape, and it is this factor which dominated all the growers' commentaries about the vintage. There was significant rainfall in October and November 2016, but thereafter the winter months were comparatively mild and much drier than usual, with the result that ground water reserves at the beginning of the summer of 2017 were already low. February and March were unusually mild, which lead to budburst more than two weeks ahead of average – and inevitably therefore some frost damage when temperatures fell below zero once or twice in April.

Warm and humid weather during flowering, interspersed with some much cooler days, caused widespread *coulure* (poor fruit set), laying the foundations for a small crop. Then from mid-May until early November, barely any rain fell at all. In the North, it rained around the 15<sup>th</sup> August and again towards the end of the month – but only very little. In the South in July, August and September only 17mm of rain was recorded, compared with 70mm in 2016 (already a very dry year); over the whole vegetative period only 185mm fell, compared with the average of 360mm. The drought conditions, combined with very high summer temperatures even from comparatively early on (38 degrees of heat was recorded in Châteauneuf du Pape in June), meant a very small, and very early, harvest. The quality of the wines is outstanding – they have a wonderful combination of ripeness and concentration, with very soft tannins, plenty of underlying, beautifully integrated, structure and great balance. Growers are genuinely thrilled with what they have made – and correspondingly despondent about the lack of quantity.

Richard Berkley-Matthews  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2018



The Rhône Valley

# THE NORTHERN RHONE

## Domaine du Colombier



Brothers Florent and David Viale are the third generation to run this family domaine of just over 13 hectares, with cellars on the edge of Tain, and have been bottling their production since 1992 (prior to which, everything was sold in bulk to the large regional *négociants*). As well as vineyards, the Viales grow apricots and cherries – so their credentials as fruit farmers are well established. The domaine has long been regarded as one of the finest sources of Crozes and of Hermitage – both red and white. The white grapes were picked on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September, and the Syrah was begun on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Quantities were close to normal, and Florent described conditions as akin to 2009 and 2015. 40% of the crop was pressed as whole bunches.

### Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge** **£141.00**

Intense and peppery aromas, and strong on the palate. Fine tannins and lovely long finish. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge Cuvée Gaby** **£189.00**

**Per 6 magnums** **£210.00**

Very full and concentrated, with plenty of structure and excellent balance. Drink 2020-2025.

**Per Case In Bond**

**2017 Hermitage Rouge**

**£465.00**

**Per 6 magnums      £486.00**

Fresh and vibrant. Terrific complexity and intensity. Outstanding length. This is really fabulous. Drink 2020-2028.

**White Wines**

**Per Case In Bond**

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Blanc Cuvée Gaby**

**£210.00**

Mainly Marsanne, aged in one year old barrels. Lovely citrus fruit aromas and delicious mandarin orange flavours on the palate. Vibrant and racy. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Hermitage Blanc**

**Per 6 bottles**

**£270.00**

Pure Marsanne aged for 18 months in large oak barrels. Our allocation is generally 24 or 36 bottles, so this is like gold dust. Drink 2019-2026.



## Domaine Courbis

A 35 hectare family domaine which traces its origins to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but with modern winery and cellars in Châteaubourg, south of Tournon. Today it is run by brothers Laurent and Dominique Courbis, who seem to take the wines to new heights of quality with each successive vintage. The domaine produces Cornas, Crozes, St Joseph and St Péray of superb quality from south and south-east facing vineyards on the terrifically steep terraces above the villages of Châteaubourg, Glun and Cornas. All the fruit is hand-picked, and vinification techniques are broadly traditional. Picking began during the week of 4<sup>th</sup> September with the whites, and the following week for the reds.



### Red Wines

### Per Case In Bond

#### 2017 Syrah Ardèche

**£90.00**

A peppery, ripe and fine tank-made Syrah, with lovely ripe fruit and harmonious tannins. Drink 2019-2022.

#### 2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge

**£138.00**

#### Au Beau Séjour

From a 1 hectare plot of vines in the commune of Pont de l'Isère. Full of delicious blackberry and elderberry fruit. Drink 2019-2023.

- 2017 Syrah L'Aube** **£141.00**  
**Vin de Pays des Collines Rhôdaniennes**  
From vines close to Les Royes, just outside the St Joseph appellation limit. Big and ample on the palate, with lovely plum fruit character. Drink 2019-2023.
- 2017 St Joseph Rouge** **£168.00**  
Very impressive fruit character, supple and ripe. There's a seductive sweetness on the front of the palate, followed by savory and spicy notes on the finish. Drink 2020-2024.
- 2017 St Joseph Rouge Les Royes** **£249.00**  
30% ageing in new oak gives a lovely touch of toast to the aromas. Tremendous concentration and depth on the palate with gorgeous layers of fruit and great length of flavour. Drink 2020-2025.
- 2017 St Joseph Rouge La Cotte Sud** **£318.00**  
A new cuvée from 25 year old vines growing on granite soil. 50% of the wine is aged in new oak. There seems to be an extra layer of ripeness to the fruit here, and even more texture on the palate.
- 2017 Cornas Champelrose** **£255.00**  
No new wood used here. Terrific concentration and complexity. Succulent and ripe on the palate, with lovely balance and length. Drink 2020-2026.
- 2017 Cornas Les Eygats** **£384.00**  
50% aged in new wood. Tremendous concentration and powerful structuring tannins. Full of fruit too, giving excellent balance. Drink 2021-2027.
- 2017 Cornas La Sabarotte** **£498.00**  
75% aged in new wood. Very big and powerful wine, with enormous extraction. Fabulous ripe fruit and terrific length. Drink 2022-2028.



Dominique (left) and Laurent Courbis

## White Wines

Per Case In Bond

### **2017 Viognier Ardèche**

**£TBC**

Only 3,000 bottles produced of this delicious floral-scented Viognier. A lovely saline tang on the long finish. Drink 2019-2021.

### **2017 St Péray Le Tram**

**£141.00**

15% Roussanne, 85% Marsanne. The wine spends 4 months in 6 year old barrels which rounds it out beautifully. Fleshy, ripe and balanced. Drink 2019-2021.

### **2017 St Joseph Blanc**

**£177.00**

Mainly Marsanne with 2.5% Roussanne, fermented in barrel and aged in wood for 8 months prior to bottling. Most attractive lemon zest character to the fruit. Drink 2019-2021.

### **2017 St Joseph Blanc Les Royes**

**£258.00**

Only 250 cases produced of this pure Marsanne, two thirds vinified in new oak. Straw gold colour. Fabulous aromas combine smoke and toast with the precise, mineral fruit. Intense, concentrated and hugely long lasting on the palate. Drink 2019-2023.

## **Delas Frères**

Originally called Audibert & Delas, the company was founded by Charles Audibert and Philippe Delas in 1835. In 1924, when it was taken over by brothers Henri and Florentin Delas, it was renamed Delas Frères. In 1960, the company was taken over by Michel Delas who considerably expanded its vineyard holdings. Significant changes began when Champagne Deutz bought into the company in 1977 and production was moved to the current winery in St Jean de Muzols, and further in 1993 when the Rouzaud family (owners of Louis Roederer) bought Deutz and Delas. Jacques Grange, the winemaker, arrived in 1997, and further vineyards were purchased in 2006. Jacques was joined by Claire Darnaud-McKerrow in 2010, and they now work together on all aspects of vinification. In 2015, premises were purchased in Tain, and production will move to these newly renovated premises probably with the 2019 vintage. Delas has a well established reputation for producing very fine wines, particularly from its large holdings in Hermitage, and we are delighted to add them to our portfolio.



## Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge** Per 6 bottles £123.00  
**Les Grands Chemins**

30 year old vines are used for this cuvée. Ripe, well balanced and with good complexity. Drink 2019-2023.

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge Le Clos** Per 6 bottles £174.00  
Very dark ruby colour. Soft, plump and ripe, with really seductive fruit on the palate. Long finish. Drink 2019-2023.

**2017 Côte Rôtie La Landonne** Per 6 bottles £780.00  
Fine, complex and harmonious, this is wonderfully classic Côte Rôtie. Drink 2021-2029.

**2017 Hermitage Rouge** Per 6 bottles £318.00  
**Domaine des Tourettes**  
From the highest plot on the hill of Hermitage, and aged 30% in new oak. Complex, elegant and refined with lots of complexity and length. Superb balance. Drink 2020-2028.

**2017 Hermitage Rouges Les Bessards** Per 6 bottles £699.00  
From 80 year old vines, this is the flagship of the house. Intense, dense and wonderfully textured. Tremendous depth of flavour, and seriously impressive long finish. Drink 2021-2030.



## White Wine

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Hermitage Blanc** Per 6 bottles £315.00  
**Domaine des Tourettes**

Very long, mineral and complex. Superb freshness. Drink 2019-2026.

## Domaine Garon

Carmen and Jean-François Garon began bottling their own production with the 1995 vintage – prior to that, everything they made from their 2 hectares of vines was sold in barrel to Guigal. From these small beginnings, one of the outstanding domaines of Ampuis has developed: the family now has 8.5 hectares under vine, and a newly built winery. However, none of the charm has been lost – the domaine may be run by their sons Fabien and Kévin (below left and right), but the generations work together, and Fabien’s and Kévin’s children run through the winery too at harvest time, adding to the sense of excitement which always accompanies the arrival of freshly harvested fruit in a cracking year. When we visited on 13<sup>th</sup> September, about two thirds of the grapes had been picked.



### Red Wines

### Per Case In Bond

**2017 Côtes du Rhône Syrah, La Part des Vivants**      **£93.00**

So named to distinguish it from *'la part des Anges'* – the Angels' share. A blend of 70% Syrah (of which 10% comes from the northern Rhône), 20% Grenache and 10% Carignan, which spends 8 months in barrel prior to bottling. Supple, succulent and ripe, with a lovely northern Rhône feel to it. Drink 2019-2022.

## Per Case In Bond

**2017 Côte Rôtie Sybarine**      **Per 6 bottles**      **£156.00**  
Particularly long and pure, this is a lovely fine, ripe style of Côte Rôtie.  
Drink 2020-2026.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Les Triotes**      **Per 6 bottles**      **£177.00**  
**(Côte Blonde)**

The wine includes a portion of the production from Lancement. 20% of the production comes from whole bunch pressing. Superbly aromatic, with a lovely sappiness to the fruit. Long and balanced. Drink 2020-2028.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Les Rochins**      **Per 6 bottles**      **£297.00**  
**(Côte Brune)**

Especially complex, this is dense, concentrated and tightly packed, with super-fine tannins on the finish. Drink 2021-2029.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Lancement**      **Per 6 bottles**      **£459.00**

Only 4 barrels produced from these 30+ year old vines in the Côte Blonde, aged in 50% new wood. Full of superb red fruit character, with powerful, ripe, integrated tannins. Drink 2021-2029.

## White Wine

## Per Case In Bond

**2017 Condrieu La Vieille Maison**      **Per 6 bottles**      **£159.00**

The Garon's first vintage of Condrieu. 30% of the wine comes from their own fruit (0.2 hectares), with the balance purchased as grapes. The wine is aged in 50% new oak, and production is just 2,400 bottles. Deep gold green colour. Floral aromas. Really delicious on the palate, with fine acidity on the finish. Drink 2019-2023.



## **Domaine Niero**

This domaine, now with 7 hectares, was established in 1973 by Jean Pinchon, who was succeeded by his son-in-law, Robert Niero, in 1985. In 2004 Robert's son Rémi began working at the domaine, and he is now fully in charge, though Robert remains very much involved. When not looking after the vineyards and making his wine, Rémi manages a company which manufactures winemaking equipment. He is assisted at the domaine by Jean-François Young who takes care of everything on a day to day basis. An impeccable small operation run from the cuverie and cellars in the middle of Condrieu, this is an outstanding source both for Côte Rôtie and for Condrieu. Picking began on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and finished on 13<sup>th</sup>.



Robert and Rémi Niero

### **Red Wines**

**Per Case In Bond**

#### **2017 St Joseph Bois Prieur**

**£TBC**

The first vintage of this cuvée, produced from 5 and 6 year old vines. The wine is stunning – full of dark red fruit character, plush, ripe and with a lovely long, generous finish. Drink 2020-2024.

#### **2017 Côte Rôtie Eminence**

**£339.00**

5% Viognier is added to the Syrah for this cuvée. Wonderful intensity and complexity. Very fine and long-lasting. Drink 2020-2028.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Serine**

**£TBC**

A Côte Rôtie of exceptional aromatic intensity and intense concentration on the palate. Long, complex and fine-grained on the finish. Drink 2020-2029.

**White Wines**

**Per Case In Bond**

**2017 Condrieu, Les Ravines**

**£294.00**

From five separate parcels of vines, vinified in tank. Very attractive hint of onion skin to the colour. Fresh and floral with hugely seductive intensity on the palate. Great length and very good freshness. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Condrieu Chéry**

**£366.00**

Staw gold colour. Full and rich on the palate, this is Condrieu for those who like it with real weight and richness. Well balanced on the long finish. Drink 2019-2025.



## Domaine Stéphane Ogier

In 1997 Stéphane Ogier joined his father Michel to work on the family domaine in Ampuis – the seventh generation of the family. They no longer produce apples commercially as Stéphane has greatly increased their vineyard holdings (he now has 11 hectares of Côte Rôtie alone), and overseen the construction of a magnificent new winery just outside Ampuis. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious, and there seems to be no limit to his drive to produce great wines from the fascinatingly varied terroirs of Côte Rôtie. When we visited on 14<sup>th</sup> September, about half the crop was picked – and while the quality was looking excellent, the size of the crop was low, and the smallest ever for his white wines.



### Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

#### 2017 Le Temps Est Venu, Côtes du Rhône

Per 6 bottles £49.50

From vineyards around Plan de Dieu and Vizan in the southern Rhône, this is a blend of 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Ripe, succulent and full of juicy red fruit. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Syrah La Rosine, Per 6 bottles £TBC**  
**Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes**

Very plump and generous – this has really lovely ripeness, and an excellent long finish. Drink 2020-2023.

**2017 St Joseph Per 6 bottles £TBC**

Very intense, this is big, classic Syrah with hints of smoked bacon and lovely supple fruit. Drink 2020-2024.

**2017 Syrah L’Ame Soeur Per 6 bottles £TBC**

From the slopes above Vienne, around Seyssuel. Seductive sweetness to the fruit, and very fine-grained tannins. Drink 2021-2026.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Mon Village Per 6 bottles £TBC**

A Côte Rôtie designed for relatively early drinking, this has gorgeous generous fruit and plenty of concentration. Good complexity on the palate too, and a long finish. Drink 2020-2025.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Réserve Per 6 bottles £TBC**

A very fine and complex wine, with real mineral character and lots of intense red cherry fruit flavours. Great power and length, but always refined and balanced. Drink 2021-2028.



## White Wines

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Viognier de Rosine, Per 6 bottles £78.00**  
Intense floral bouquet. Delicious fleshy apricot fruit flavours, and lovely mineral backbone. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Condrieu La Combe de Mallevall Per 6 bottles £165.00**  
Ripe and honeyed, this has lots of weight, and also very fine balancing acidity giving the wine remarkable freshness. Superb. Drink 2020-2023.

## Etienne Pochon

The self-effacing Etienne Pochon owns this estate centred on the Château de Curson. As well as 15 hectares of vineyards, there are also 20 hectares of hazelnuts. This is a fine source of high quality, mostly tank made, Crozes designed for easy and early drinking. The 2017 crop is very small here because of the chronic lack of rainfall from the end of May. The whites had been picked before our visit on 12<sup>th</sup> September, and the Syrah was coming in as we were there.



## Red Wine

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge £120.00**  
Dark ruby purple colour. Intense fruit aromas. Lovely ripeness to the fruit and the well-integrated tannins, giving a long, supple finish. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Blanc**

**£117.00**

A blend of 50% Roussanne and 50% Marsanne, bottled without malolactic fermentation to preserve the freshness. Lemon gold colour. Floral and aromatic, tight and fresh, with delicious fleshy fruit and good mineral length. Drink 2019-2021.

**Domaine René Rostaing**

René's first cuvée of Côte Rôtie was made in 1971, when he had just 1.5 hectares of vines (part in the Côte Blonde and part in La Landonne). Over the years, René took over the vineyards of his father-in-law (Albert Dervieux) and his uncle (Marius Gentaz) and also made some purchases – so the domaine, today run by his son Pierre, now extends to 7 hectares in Côte Rôtie and 1 hectare in Condrieu. A new cellar has been dug to provide much needed additional space and, under Pierre's direction, this great estate goes from strength to strength. The 2017s were picked from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September, and production was a rather modest 27.5 hectolitres per hectare.



**2017 Syrah Les Lézardes**

**£219.00**

Produced partly from young vines planted near the village of St Cyr, south of Condrieu. Seriously good: lovely ripe fruit and soft, textured tannins. Drink 2020-2023.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Ampodium**

**£480.00**

The fruit for this cuvée comes from 24 different parcels of vines. Terrific concentration, and great balance and length. Drink 2020-2027.

**2017 Côte Rôtie La Landonne**

**£1,050.00**

Huge power and extraction here with lots of structure and a wonderful weight of fruit. Drink 2021-2029.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Côte Blonde**

**£1,152.00**

Also big and powerful, with a beautiful quality of fruit, and perfectly integrated ripe tannins. Drink 2021-2029.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Côte Brune**

**Per 6 bottles £888.00**

Vines planted in 1999. Muscular, intense, and tremendously long lasting on the palate. Drink 2021-2029.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Viallères**

**Per 6 bottles £TBC**

From 80 year old vines planted by Pierre's maternal grandfather. A wine of incredible complexity and length. Drink 2021-2029.



**2017 Viognier Les Lézardes**

£TBC

Floral, peachy and ripe – very seductive. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Condrieu La Bonnette**

£TBC

René described his 2017 as one of the three of four great vintages of Condrieu produced by the domaine. The wine is fermented in cuve (not oak) and the malolactic fermentation was blocked to preserve acidity. Pale lemon colour with a hint of onion skin. Huge mineral intensity on the palate, and tremendous length. Drink 2019-2022.

**Domaine Semaska**

Christophe Semaska hadn't intended to become a winemaker – but his passion for fine wines and for history led to the discovery of the Château de Montlys at St Cyr sur Rhône which had ceased production during the Great War when the men went off to fight, and the vineyards were subsequently ravaged by phylloxera. Christophe began replanting in 1988, built his new winery in 2011, and now has 6 hectares of Côte Rôtie (growing to 10 hectares as new plantings come into production over the coming years) and 0.7 of a hectare of Condrieu. The 2017 harvest was completed on 14<sup>th</sup> September – the day we visited – with quantities down by about 20% due to the dry conditions during the summer which particularly affected the younger vines. Christophe locates the quality somewhere between 2015 and 2016, regarding it as better than both 2009 and 2010.



## Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Côte Rôtie  
Château de Montlys** Per 6 bottles **£183.00**

Aged 50% in new wood. Inky dark colour and lovely ripe plum fruit aromas. Succulent and seductive; fine, soft tannins. Delicious. Drink 2020-2027.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Lancement** Per 6 bottles **£339.00**

100% whole bunch pressing and aged in 100% new oak. A wine of impressive power, complexity and length of flavor. Firm structure and excellent balance. Drink 2021-2029.

**2017 Côte Rôtie  
Fleur de Montlys** Per 6 bottles **£339.00**

Here the fruit was entirely de-stemmed. Ageing also in 100% new oak. Sweet attack of fruit on the front of the palate. Ripe and beautifully fine-grained. Very persistent finish. Drink 2021-2029.

## White Wine

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Condrieu, Lys d'Or** Per 6 bottles **£177.00**

Production was down from 6,000 bottles to 5,000 bottles. Aged 50% in new oak. Deep gold colour. Rich, powerful and ripe, and very long lasting. Drink 2019-2022.



## Domaine Pierre-Jean Villa

Pierre-Jean began his life in wine when he worked at Domaine du Clos de Tart in Burgundy in 1992, and he first came to our attention in 2003 when he was wine-maker at Les Vins de Vienne in the northern Rhône. In 2009 he established his own domaine with just 3.5 hectares, and now has 14 hectares across the principal appellations of the northern Rhône. In addition, he acquired a further 10 hectares in July 2017, so from this vintage has an even further expanded production. This promises to be an exciting source for the future.



### Red Wines

### Per Case In Bond

**2017 Syrah Confluence, Vignobles de Boisseyt**  
Drink 2020-2023.

**£117.00**

**2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge Horizon**  
**Vignobles de Boisseyt**  
Drink 2021-2025.

**£162.00**

**2017 St Joseph Rouge Les Garipelées,**  
**Vignobles de Boisseyt**  
Drink 2021-2025.

**£177.00**

**2017 St Joseph Rouge Préface**  
Drink 2021-2025.

**Per 6 bottles**

**£117.00**

**2017 Côte Rôtie Carmina**                      **Per 6 bottles**                      **£219.00**  
From vines more than 50 years old vines in the Côte Brune. Drink 2021-2026.

**2017 Côte Rôtie Côte Blonde**                      **Per 6 bottles**                      **£369.00**  
**Vignobles de Boisseyt**  
Drink 2021-2026.

**Whites Wines**

**Per Case In Bond**

**2017 St Joseph Blanc Les Garipelées,**                      **£189.00**  
**Vignobles de Boisseyt**  
Drink 2019-2021.

**Domaine Vogé**

The Vogé domaine was established by Alain's great-grandfather, Henri Vogé, who settled in Cornas in what is today the domaine's cuverie. Alain joined his father at the small family domaine in 1958 and, as a young man worked on the farm – while others were tasked with cutting hay and the like, Alain was given responsibility for looking after the vines. During the tough years of the 1960s and 1970s, when many decided to sell their vineyards, Alain remained convinced of their long-term future; over the years he was able to increase his holdings to 12 hectares, establishing the domaine as one of the finest producers in Cornas. Now retired but still very much in the background, he has gone into partnership with Alberic Mazoyer who is part owner and runs the domaine with real flair, making these wines among the most sought-after of Cornas. In addition, the exceptional quality of the domaine's whites has done much to re-establish the reputation of the once widely known appellation of St Péray: where plenty of wine was available to us in the early days, we now find the allocations getting smaller every year as the renown of the wines spreads. When we visited on 13<sup>th</sup> September, the whites were picked, and the Syrah harvest was expected to be finished by the middle of the following week. Production was half the norm because of the dry conditions.

**2017 Côtes du Rhône Syrah Les Peyrouses****£138.00**

Really attractive ripe fruit, fine tannins, lovely balance. Delicious. Drink 2020-2023.

**2017 St Joseph Les Côtes****£258.00**

These vineyards suffered particularly from the dry, so the quantity is very limited. The wine is stunning, with wonderful strawberry fruit character. Drink 2020-2024.

**2017 Cornas Les Chailles****£327.00**

Powerful and with lots of extraction and weight. Very long and expressive. Drink 2021-2025.

**2017 Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes****£480.00**

Cropped at only 20 hectolitres per hectare. This also includes the 'Vieilles Fontaines' of which there was insufficient quantity to bottle separately this year. Fresh, silky and with really stunning fruit. Drink 2021-2026.



## White Wines

### 2017 St Péray Harmonie

£177.00

100% Marsanne. Fine and fresh with good clean acidity and an attractive touch of minerality. Drink 2019-2021.

### 2017 St Péray Ongrie

£255.00

The cuvée formerly known as Terres Boisées. Pale gold colour. Ripe apricot fruit aromas. Good flesh and weight on the palate, and lovely fresh finish. Drink 2019-2022.

### 2017 St Péray Fleur de Crusol

£312.00

Deeper gold colour. Intensely concentrated aromas, this is full, fleshy and rich on the palate with excellent balance and a hint of toast on the finish. Drink 2019-2024.



# THE SOUTHERN RHONE

## Domaine du Cayron

Michel Faraud's daughters Delphine, Cendrine and Roseline produce just one wine from their 14 hectares of vines – a Gigondas of outstanding personality. The winery has been gently modernised in recent years: the old vertical press has been replaced by an up-to-date pneumatic press, and the ancient large oak foudres are gradually being renewed – but one at a time to ensure that there is no hint of new oak in the wine. At 26 hectolitres per hectare, the 2017 crop was a little more generous than 2016 (20 hl/ha). Picking began on 18<sup>th</sup> September.



**Red Wine**

**Per Case In Bond**

**2017 Gigondas**

**£207.00**

**Per 6 magnums**

**£240.00**

Very deep ruby red. Fresh, balanced and long with lovely ripe tannins and really charming fruit. Drink 2020-2025.

## Domaine Charvin

Laurent Charvin seems to take the wines of this 23 hectare estate to a new level each year. He combines enormous energy with unshakable self-belief and also articulates brilliantly what it is that he believes to lie behind the success of any particular vintage. While he is rightly famous for his exceptional Châteauneuf du Pape, the Côtes du Rhône here is wonderful, and offers truly outstanding value for money. Production in 2017 was very low – at 20 hectolitres per hectare, only 60% of a normal crop. Laurent worked the soil so the last of the rain in late March and early April, before the exceptionally dry summer, was well absorbed rather than running off as it did with those who had not broken up the surface of the ground. Picking began on 25<sup>th</sup> August and finished on 15<sup>th</sup> September – 2 weeks earlier than normal.



### Red Wines

### Per Case In Bond

#### 2017 Côtes du Rhône Rouge

£117.00

Per 6 magnums

£132.00

Very dark colour. Huge intensity on the palate with lots of dark red berry fruit. Fresh acidity and a very long finish. Drink 2019-2023.

#### 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge

£360.00

Per 6 magnums

£375.00

85% of the blend is Grenache, with the remainder Syrah, Mourvèdre and Vaccarèse. The wine is fabulously complex. Drink 2021-2030.

## Château Courac

Frédéric & Josephine Arnaud have run this 88 hectare estate since 1995. Courac is in the hills, high up above the village of Tresques, north-west of Châteauneuf du Pape, and benefits from extremely well drained soils and very good exposure to the Mistral. Since taking over the property, the Arnolds have worked with remarkable energy to restore the vineyards and winery. They produce largely tank-made wines which show maximum purity of fruit, and their prices are extraordinarily reasonable, making these among the best value wines in our portfolio.



### Red Wines

### Per Case In Bond

**2017 Mas Arnaud, Côtes du Rhône** £66.00  
A blend of Syrah and Grenache (50/50). Drink 2019-2021.

**2017 Château Courac, Côtes du Rhône** £72.00  
Drink 2017-2022.

**2017 Laudun, Côtes du Rhône Villages** £87.00  
Drink 2019-2023.

### White Wine

**2017 Laudun Blanc, Côtes du Rhône Villages** £TBC  
Drink 2019-2021.

## Domaine Font du Vent/Famille Gonnet

The Gonnet family's estate in Châteauneuf du Pape has for long been known as Font de Michelle – the name of a particular “*lieu dit*”. However, as the family's vineyard holdings in Châteauneuf have expanded, the name has become increasingly anachronistic, and so the family has decided to rename the domaine Font du Vent – a name which has been borne by a number of their wines over the years. Jean-Etienne Gonnet began the family's fortunes with his small farm in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it was Etienne Gonnet who, in 1950, established the domaine we know today. He was succeeded by his sons Jean and Michel in 1975 and, since 2006, it is their sons Bertrand and Guillaume who run this increasingly highly regarded domaine, together with Guillaume's Australian wife, Kelly. There are 30 hectares of vines, 60 to 70 years old, and 7 hectares in Le Crau – one of the finest sectors of Châteauneuf – of 100 to 115 year old vines. The crop in 2017 was extremely small – described as brilliant in quality but barely half the normal quantity. Picking was finished by 18<sup>th</sup> September.



### Red Wines

### Per Case In Bond

**2017 Ventoux La Jeannette, Famille Gonnet** **£66.00**  
80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. Tremendously good value. Drink 2019-2021.

**2017 Côtes du Rhône Rouge Villages Signargues, Notre Passion, Font du Vent, Famille Gonnet** **£84.00**  
A blend of 65% Grenache and 35% Syrah. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Vacqueyras La Joséphine, Famille Gonnet** £147.00  
80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. Soft and ripe, and really attractive on the palate. Very good length supported by ripe, supple tannins. Drink 2020-2024.

**2017 Gigondas L'Olivia, Famille Gonnet** £174.00  
90% Grenache, 7% Syrah, 3% Mourvèdre. Intense and peppery. Well integrated tannins and good balance on the finish. Drink 2021-2026.

**2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge,  
Domaine Font du Vent** £249.00  
Gorgeous ripe red cherry scents. Full of red fruit on the palate, with lots of concentration, lovely tannins, and excellent balance. Drink 2020-2024.



**2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge,  
Élégance de Jeanne** £525.00  
From a single parcel of vines, over 100 years old, in Le Crau, of which 90% is Grenache. The wine has fabulous depth, complexity and finishes with seductive ripe fruit and gently structure. Drink 2020-2028.

**2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge,  
Le Bois Pointu, Blagden & Gonnet**

**£489.00**

A blend of 70% Grenache, 15% Counoise and 15% Mourvèdre. The Gonnets make the wine with the input of the English vineyard owner Charles Blagden – one of the great figures of the Southern Rhône wine scene, who has done so much over the years to bring the region's wines to a wider appreciation. The wine is very fine indeed, with tremendous complexity and ripeness – a considerable achievement given the lack of rain. Drink 2021-2029.



Charles Blagden in his trademark 'bleu de travail'

**White Wine**

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Côtes du Rhône Blanc Les Promesses,  
Font du Vent, Famille Gonnet**

**£72.00**

40% Viognier, 40% Clairette, 20% Grenache Blanc. Pale lemon colour. Pretty floral scents. A chalky minerality on the palate gives definition, complexity and balance to the lovely fleshy fruit. Drink 2019-2021.

## **Famille Perrin**

As well as the great Château de Beaucastel (established in 1685) – probably Châteauneuf’s most famous property – the Perrins own vineyards in a number of appellations, and make wine as négociants from many more. As you might expect, this is an extremely reliable source of beautifully made wines. The Perrins told us that 2017 was the driest year for 30 years, with virtually no rain in the 6 months up to 3<sup>rd</sup> November when the weather finally turned. Picking began on 17<sup>th</sup> August with the Viognier – the earliest harvest date in the family’s records, and even some Syrah was harvested the following day. The last fruit – a plot of Mourvèdre – was picked on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The results are stunning, but very limited in quantity.



### **Red Wines**

### **Per Case In Bond**

#### **2017 Vinsobres Les Cornuds**

**£87.00**

A blend of 50/50 Syrah and Grenache from 80 hectares of vines. Drink 2020-2025.

#### **2017 Vacqueyras Les Christins**

**£117.00**

Drink 2020-2025.

**Per Case In Bond**

**2017 Gigondas La Gille** **£153.00**

A blend of Grenache (80%) and Syrah (20%). Drink 2020-2025.

**2017 Gigondas Clos des Tourelles Per 6 bottles** **£190.00**

From a single plot of 3 hectares, 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. 20% of the wine is aged in new oak. Drink 2021-2027.

**2017 Coudoulet de Beaucastel Rouge,** **£140.00**  
**Côtes du Rhône**

30% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah and 20% Cinsault. Very deep ruby red. Peppery fruit scents. Big and concentrated on the palate with good firm structure and excellent ripeness. Drink 2020-2025.

**2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge, Per 6 bottles** **£240.00**

**Château de Beaucastel Per 6 magnums** **£480.00**

Very intense fruit scents. Gorgeous sweetness and ripeness to the fruit on the attack. Supple, ripe and integrated tannins. Beautifully balanced. Drink 2022-2033.

**White Wines**

**Per Case In Bond**

**2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc, Per 6 bottles** **£240.00**

**Château de Beaucastel**

80% Roussanne, and 30% vinified in oak of which a quarter is new. Drink 2019-2022.

**2017 Roussanne Vieilles Vignes, Per 3 bottles** **£255.00**

**Château de Beaucastel**

85-105 year old vines. 50% aged in oak. Fabulous complexity, this is really wonderfully good. Drink 2019-2024.

## Domaine Jean-Paul Versino

Jean-Paul Versino produced wonderfully characterful wines at this small domaine of only 16 hectares. The vines are scattered throughout the appellation, in 27 different parcels, and are farmed without pesticides. The domaine includes a wide selection of differing soils and exposures, and most of the 13 permitted grape varieties. Winemaking is traditional, with the estate wine aged in the large oak *foudres* pictured below. Only the Cuvée des Félix is aged in smaller *barrisques*. Jean-Paul described the 2017 as small (about 20 hectolitres per hectare) but very good and classic, comparing it with 2010. He began picking his white grapes on 29<sup>th</sup> August and his reds on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and finished on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.



### Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

**2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge** £234.00

Per 6 magnums £249.00

70% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah and 10% of other varieties. Ripe briary fruit scents. Supple, ripe and succulent on the palate, this is juicy, balanced and long. Drink 2021-2028.

**2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge** £447.00

**Cuvée des Félix** Per 6 magnums £462.00

Produced from 90 year old vines – a blend of 60% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre, 5% Syrah and 10% of other varieties, and only 25% of the fruit is destemmed prior to fermentation. A wine of tremendous complexity and depth. Drink 2022-2030.

## Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe

This famous estate, neighbours and cousins of the Gonnets of Font du Vent (above) produced much sought-after Châteauneuf du Pape from Le Crau – one of the finest sites of the appellation. Daniel and Frederic Brunier have established themselves among the foremost winemakers of the southern Rhône valley. Their “second wine” (Télégramme) offers exceptional value, and their Gigondas is also outstanding. In 2017 the crop was reduced by almost half, with the vines for Télégramme being particularly badly affected by the drought conditions (the underground water reserves of the Crau plateau is part of this *climat*'s magic).

Per Case In Bond

### 2017 Gigondas Racines

Per 6 bottles £111.00

#### Domaine Les Pallières

Cropped at only 17 hectolitres per hectare. Powerful wine with great balance and length. Drink 2021-2027.

### 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge

Per 6 bottles £129.00

#### Télégramme, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe

80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Dark, ripe and vibrant – and in pitifully short supply. Drink 2020-2025.

### 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge

Per 6 bottles £150.00

#### Piedlong

90% 70 year old Grenache and 10% Mourvedre from a site called La Roquette, with soils very similar to Le Crau. Drink 2020-2026.

### 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge

Per 6 bottles £259.50

#### Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe

Produced entirely from old vines in Le Crau – widely regarded as some of the finest *terroir* of the appellation. Concentrated, extracted, powerful and long. Drink 2021-2028.



## **Terms & Conditions**

All prices are quoted per case of 12 bottles (or per case of 6 bottles/6 magnums where stated) In Bond and therefore exclude duty (currently £25.98 per 12 bottles) and VAT.

The minimum order size is 12 bottles or equivalent.

For many of the wines, quantities available are extremely limited. All wines are offered subject to availability, and orders will be taken on a first come first served basis.

Orders with a value of £200 in bond or more will be delivered free of charge to any single UK mainland address. Orders below this value, or orders with multiple deliveries where individual deliveries carry a value below £200 in bond, will attract a delivery charge of £15 including VAT.

The wines will be shipped during the course of 2019, at which point you may either:

- a) have your wines delivered to your title under bond or
- b) have your wines delivered duty paid.

In Bond transfer fees and/or delivery as applicable, and duty and VAT at the prevailing rate on clearance from bond, must be settled by cheque, debit card or direct transfer (not credit card please, as these charges are passed on at cost) prior to transfer or delivery.

For a full set of our Terms & Conditions please call us on 020 8747 2069 or visit our website: [www.clarionwines.co.uk](http://www.clarionwines.co.uk)

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