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OPENING OFFER OF 2018s FROM THE RHONE VALLEY



The bridge across the Rhône at Tain

The 2018 growing season got off to a very promising start with growers, particularly in the south, looking forward to a generous crop to compensate for the very small 2017 harvest. Alas, the early promise was not to last. The warm, wet and windless weather of May and early June provided perfect conditions for mildew, with the southern Rhône especially severely hit. For the first time in more than forty years, the mildew spread from the leaves to the bunches, and in the space of three or four days, the grapes were devastated. Jean-Paul Versino told us that in some parcels – especially Grenache – up to 90% of the crop was lost. Damage was worse in some

areas than others, with flat and lower-lying ground more susceptible than higher slopes, and while some growers seem to have treated with some success, most found it impossible as the spray treatment was so quickly washed away by the rain. By the middle of June, growers in the south appeared to be facing disaster – but from mid-June onwards, matters improved sharply, with broadly good weather for the rest of the season. Several commented that on 15th June they could never have imagined achieving the outstanding quality levels that resulted from what had survived the mildew. In the north, damage was far less, and what began as a precocious year continued in very much the same vein. René Rostaing described 2018 as the perfect season for fruit growing – with plenty of sun, good heat levels, and sufficient rain. Picking in both the north and the south took place in excellent conditions, with just the necessity in the north to resist the temptation to pick too early. Overall, the wines are soft, fresh and balanced, with great ripeness of both fruit and tannins, and good potential for ageing.

Richard Berkley-Matthews
11th November 2019



The view of Côte Rôtie vineyards from Ogier's winery

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. Picking began with the whites on 4th September and the Syrah was picked the following week. Conditions were excellent and volumes were good.

Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Crozes Hermitage Rouge £147.00
Full of delicious soft fruit. Intense, supple and fleshy. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Crozes Hermitage Rouge Cuvée Gaby £198.00
Per 6 magnums £225.00

Also very generous and ripe in style, with a sweetness to the fruit on the front of the palate which is incredibly seductive. Drink 2021-2026.

Per Case In Bond

2018 Hermitage Rouge

£474.00

Per 6 magnums £498.00

Big, powerful and with huge intensity of flavour on the palate. Very fine structure. Long, fresh and balanced finish. An outstanding Hermitage. Drink 2021-2029.

White Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Crozes Hermitage Blanc Cuvée Gaby

£225.00

Mainly Marsanne, aged in one year old barrels. Especially attractive floral aromas. Intense, ripe and fresh. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Hermitage Blanc

Per 6 bottles

£255.00

Pure Marsanne; a very long, slow fermentation, and aged for 18 months in large oak barrels. The wine is very serious – in quality terms undoubtedly at Grand Cru level, such is its complexity and length. Our allocation is generally 24 or 36 bottles, so this is like gold dust. Drink 2020-2027.



Domaine Courbis

A 35 hectare family domaine which traces its origins to the 16th 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 on 4th September and, after a brief and welcome interruption from rain on 6th, resumed on 7th. The crop size was close to average.



Dominique (left) and Laurent Courbis

Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Crozes Hermitage Rouge

£144.00

Au Beau Séjour

From a 1 hectare plot of vines in the commune of Pont de l'Isère. Lovely strawberry and raspberry fruit. Fine dusty tannins and good long finish. Drink 2020-2024.

2018 Syrah L'Aube

£144.00

Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes

From vines close to Les Royes, just outside the St Joseph appellation limit. Terrific value. Drink 2020-2024.

2018 St Joseph Rouge £174.00
Ripe, soft and succulent, this is very seductive. Drink 2021-2025.

2018 St Joseph Rouge Les Royes £255.00
30% ageing in new oak gives a lovely touch of toast to the aromas. Gorgeous ripe fruit with a velvet-soft richness on the palate. Outstanding balance and length. Drink 2021-2026.

2018 St Joseph Rouge La Cotte Sud £324.00
A new cuvée from 25 year old vines growing on granite soil. 50% of the wine is aged in new oak. Full of generous fruit, with a firmer backbone of tannin. Drink 2021-2027.

2018 Cornas Champelrose £258.00
Very fine aromas. Fleshy and ripe on the palate with excellent structuring tannins. Drink 2021-2027.

2018 Cornas Les Eygats £390.00
50% aged in new wood gives an added intensity and a hint of toast to the aromas. Very long and complex on the finish. Drink 2022-2028.

2018 Cornas La Sabarotte £510.00
75% aged in new wood. This is really superb – fresh, ripe, powerful and complex with superb balance and length. Drink 2023-2029.



White Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Viognier Ardèche

£117.00

A small cuvee of only 5,000 bottles. Floral, fresh and citrus in character; a lovely combination of freshness and flesh. Drink 2020-2022.

2018 St Péray Le Tram

£147.00

15% Roussanne, 85% Marsanne. The wine spends 4 months in 6 year old barrels which rounds it out beautifully. Fresh and mineral, and full of ripe peachy fruit. Drink 2020-2022.

2018 St Joseph Blanc

£180.00

Mainly Marsanne with 2.5% Roussanne, fermented in barrel and aged in wood for 8 months prior to bottling. Floral fruit and well balanced freshening acidity. Drink 2020-2022.

2018 St Joseph Blanc Les Royes

£273.00

A small production of pure Marsanne, two thirds vinified in new oak. A wine of spectacular complexity and intensity. Great fruit, very good balance, and impressively long lasting on the palate. Punches way above its weight. Drink 2020-2024.



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 an extraordinary new winery has been built. The 2018s are ageing in the new cellars, and the 2019s will be the first wines vinified here. The scale of this investment demonstrates the commitment of the Rouzaud family, and the ambition to take Delas to new heights of quality.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Crozes Hermitage Rouge Per 6 bottles **£129.00**
Les Grands Chemins
Produced from 30 year old vines. Fine, intense, concentrated and ripe.
Drink 2020-2024.

2018 St Joseph Rouge, Per 6 bottles **£147.00**
François de Tournon
Classic and focused on the nose. Complex flavours and a great finish
dominated by ripe red fruit character. Drink 2021-2025.

2018 Cornas Chante Perdrix Per 6 bottles **£171.00**
Wonderful richness with a touch of chocolate. Textured and generous
length of flavour. Drink 2021-2027.

2018 Hermitage Rouge Per 6 bottles **£330.00**
Domaine des Tourettes
From the highest plot on the hill of Hermitage, and aged 30% in new oak.
Incredibly intense aromas. Structured and superbly balanced. Great
length. Drink 2021-2029.

2018 Hermitage Rouges Les Bessards Per 6 bottles **£720.00**
From 80 year old vines, this is the flagship of the house – but the quantity
produced is small as the old vines produce only 20 hectolitres per hectare.
Plush, complex and with a lovely sweetness to the ripe fruit. Drink 2022-
2031.

2018 Côte Rôtie La Landonne Per 6 bottles **£789.00**
Powerful, complex and very concentrated. Very fine and polished on the
finish. Drink 2022-2030.

White Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Condrieu, Clos Boucher Per 6 bottles **£255.00**
From vines still owned by the Delas family. Ripe and rich, with lovely
acidity which freshens the finish beautifully. Drink 2020-2024.

**2018 Hermitage Blanc
Domaine des Tourettes**

Per 6 bottles £324.00

Pure Marsanne vinified 50/50 in new and one year old barrels. Honeyed, ripe and generous – lots of fruit, and fine acidity. Drink 2020-2027.



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 10 hectares in production, and a winery to match. They have achieved this by the generations working together as a real team. The domaine is now run by their sons Fabien and Kévin (below left and right), whose children run through the winery too at harvest time, adding to the sense of excitement which always accompanies the arrival of freshly harvested fruit. Picking of the 18s began on 10th September in very favourable conditions, and the quantities produced were good.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Côtes du Rhône Syrah , La Part des Vivants £90.00

So named to distinguish it from '*la part des Anges*' – the Angels' share. A blend of 80% Syrah from the northern Rhône), and 20% Grenache from Cairanne. Gorgeous red fruit character, with layers of wild strawberries. Seriously seductive. Drink 2020-2023

2018 Syrah Les Grandes Parcelles Per 6 bottles £75.00

Fine, pure and fresh, with silky tannins and lovely long finish. Drink 2020-2024.

2018 Côte Rôtie Sybarine **Per 6 bottles** **£159.00**
Lovely red fruit scents. Ripe, gently structured and with good length.
Drink 2021-2027.

2018 Côte Rôtie Les Triotes **Per 6 bottles** **£180.00**
(Côte Blonde)
The wine includes a portion of the production from Lancement and is 20% whole bunch pressed. Full of red fruit. Terrific length of flavour. Drink 2021-2029.

2018 Côte Rôtie Les Rochins **Per 6 bottles** **£315.00**
(Côte Brune)
Fabulous intense aromas. Densely textured and superb length. Drink 2022-2030.

2018 Côte Rôtie Lancement **Per 6 bottles** **£489.00**
Only 4 barrels produced from these 30+ year old vines in the Côte Blonde, aged in 50% new wood. Very tightly wound, with massive complexity and concentration. Drink 2022-2030.



2018 Viognier, Les Grandes Parcelles Per 6 bottles £75.00

Aromatic, concentrated, ripe and rich. Very long and fine on the finish. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Condrieu La Vieille Maison Per 6 bottles £159.00

The Garon's second 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. The wine is full of intense, fleshy fruit – truly delicious. Drink 2020-2024.

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 5th September, with good quantities picked in ideal conditions.



Robert and Rémi Niero

Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Syrah Les Agathes

£117.00

From vines abutting Condrieu. Very bright and intense, with lovely fresh acidity. Drink 2020-2024.

2018 Côte Rôtie Eminence

£345.00

5% Viognier is added to the Syrah for this cuvée. A wine of beautiful concentration, ripe red fruit character, and long balanced finish. Drink 2021-2029.

2018 Côte Rôtie Vires de Serine

£588.00

Intense, firm and very well balanced. Seriously long lasting. Drink 2021-2030.

2018 Côte Rôtie Les 400 de la Viallière

Per 6 magnums

£720.00

Produced in magnums only. Deep ruby, and intense wild berry aromas. Gorgeous soft, plush attack on the palate. Supply tannins, fresh, and incredibly long lasting. Drink 2021-2030.



2018 Viognier A L'Origine **£132.00**
Floral and mineral, with delicious freshness. Lovely. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Condrieu, Les Ravines **£294.00**
From five separate parcels of vines, vinified in tank. Intense, vibrant and succulent fruit. This is really superb, and very long, bright finish. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Condrieu Chéry **£375.00**
A wine of enormous intensity and power. There is good freshness too, providing balance to the exceptionally long finish. Drink 2020-2026.

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. Picking began on 5th September, paused for the welcome rain on 6th, resumed on 7th and finished on 25th. The weather was perfect, and quantities were good.



**2018 Le Temps Est Venu,
Côtes du Rhône**

Per 6 bottles £51.00

From vineyards around Plan de Dieu and Visan in the southern Rhône, this is a blend of 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 5% each of Mourvèdre and Cinsault. The wine is seriously seductive on the palate – ripe, generous and also with good freshness. Tremendously good value. Drink 2020-2023.

**2018 Syrah La Rosine,
Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes**

Per 6 bottles £81.00

Classic fruit character and well integrated structure. Drink 2021-2024.

2018 St Joseph Le Passage

Per 6 bottles £108.00

From vines in the village of Limony. Very long and fine. Drink 2021-2025.

2018 Syrah L’Ame Soeur

Per 6 bottles £180.00

From the slopes above Vienne, around Seyssuel. Gorgeous ripe fruit, and beautiful length. Drink 2022-2027.

2018 Côte Rôtie Mon Village

Per 6 bottles £210.00

A Côte Rôtie designed for relatively early drinking, this is complex, fresh and beautifully balanced. Drink 2021-2026.



White Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Viognier de Rosine,

Per 6 bottles £84.00

Fresh, floral and complex. Good minerality on the finish. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Condrieu La Combe de Mallevall Per 6 bottles £168.00

25% vinified in new oak. Soft and fleshy, lovely ripeness, long and complex, stunning balance. Drink 2020-2024.

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. Picking took place in lovely conditions beginning with the white on 5th September and the Syrah the following week. The quantity produced was good – unlike in 2019 when so much damage was done by the hail storm on 15th June.



Red Wine

Per Case In Bond

2018 Crozes Hermitage Rouge

£120.00

Dark, intense and full of raspberry fruit. There is depth, ripeness and very good length here too. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Crozes Hermitage Blanc

£120.00

A blend of 50% Roussanne and 50% Marsanne, bottled without malolactic fermentation to preserve the freshness. Ripe apricot fruit scents, nice flesh on the palate, and good freshness on the finish. Drink 2020-2022.



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. René described 2018 as a perfect season for fruit growing – plenty of hot weather, and good periodic rainfall. The whites were picked during the week beginning 3rd September, and the reds mostly the following week.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Syrah Les Lézardes

£219.00

Produced partly from young vines planted near the village of St Cyr, south of Condrieu. Drink 2021-2024.

2018 Côte Rôtie Ampodium £480.00

Per 6 magnums £495.00

The fruit for this cuvée comes from 24 different parcels of vines. It is absolutely superb this year – bursting with soft, generous, succulent fruit, and with a long finish supported by beautifully ripe tannins. Drink 2021-2028.

2018 Côte Rôtie La Landonne £1,050.00

A wine of power and incredible balance. Drink 2022-2030.

2018 Côte Rôtie Côte Blonde £1,152.00

Drink 2022-2030.

2018 Côte Rôtie Côte Brune Per 6 bottles £888.00

Vines planted in 1999. Drink 2022-2030.

2018 Côte Rôtie Viallères Per 6 bottles £TBA

From 80 year old vines planted by Pierre's maternal grandfather. Drink 2022-2030.



2018 Viognier Les Lézardes

£234.00

Great zesty aromas and superb complexity on the palate. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Condrieu La Bonnette

£495.00

The wine is fermented in cuve (not oak) and the malolactic fermentation was blocked to preserve acidity. Freshness and minerality are the hallmarks here, but with lots of intensity and length too. Drink 2020-2023.

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. Picking began with the Viognier on Monday 3rd September, and the earliest ripening reds on Friday 7th. Most of the Syrah was picked over the following days, finishing on 19th September.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

**2018 Côte Rôtie
Château de Montlys** Per 6 bottles £189.00

Powerful, ripe and extracted. A very impressive wine. Aged 50% in new wood. Drink 2021-2028.

2018 Côte Rôtie Lancement Per 6 bottles £345.00
100% whole bunch pressing and aged in 100% new oak. Huge structure and weight here, with stunning intensity. Drink 2022-2030.

**2018 Côte Rôtie
Fleur de Montlys** Per 6 bottles £345.00

Here the fruit was entirely de-stemmed. Ageing also in 100% new oak. Gorgeous ripeness, structured and integrated, superbly balanced. Drink 2022-2030.

White Wine

Per Case In Bond

2018 Condrieu, Lys d'Or Per 6 bottles £180.00

A very long and slow fermentation was only just nearing its end when we visited on 6th September 2019! The wine is honeyed and wonderfully fresh. Drink 2020-2023.



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; he now has 17.5 hectares across the principal appellations of the northern Rhône, of which 15 hectares are planted and 13.5 are in production. For the 2017 vintage, Pierre-Jean linked up with Vignoble de Boisseyt – but things didn't work out satisfactorily, so with 2018 vintage he has back on his own. This may not be a bad thing in the long run as although it denies him the speed of growth for which he had hoped, it does ensure that his talent and flair for making brilliant wine remains focused on the fruit for which he is directly responsible. Viognier was picked on 4th September, and Syrah over the following ten days.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2017 Crozes Hermitage Rouge

£195.00

Accroche Coeur

Beautifully fresh and focused. Long fruit on the finish. Drink 2020-2024.

2017 Syrah Esprit d'Antan

£330.00

Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes

Bright red fruit aromas. Fresh and vibrant on the palate. Generous, supple and long. Drink 2021-2024.

Per Case In Bond

2018 St Joseph Rouge Tildé **£330.00**

Vines planted in 1965 & 1970, and the fruit 80% whole bunch pressed. Lovely toasty overtones to the aromas. Rich and beautifully integrated on the palate. Drink 2022-2026.

2018 Côte Rôtie Carmina **Per 6 bottles** **£225.00**

From vines more than 50 years old vines in the Côte Brune. 35% whole bunch pressing. Ripe and generous, this is really complex and long on the palate. Superb balance on the finish. Drink 2022-2027.

2017 Côte Rôtie Fongean **Per 6 bottles** **£420.00**

Vines planted (Côte Brune) in 1953, 80% whole bunch pressing. Expressive, concentrated and complex. Very long lasting finish. Drink 2022-2027.

Whites Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Viognier, Esprit d'Antan **£330.00**

Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes

The first vintage, produced from five year old vines. Attractive ripe floral fruit. Fresh, citrus and mineral. Lovely length of flavour. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Condrieu, Jardin Suspendu **Per 6 bottles** **£201.00**

Intense and powerful, and with very good freshness on the finish. Drink 2020-2023.



Domaine Voge

The Voge domaine was established by Alain's great-grandfather, Henri Voge, 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. Alain retired some years ago, but is still very much in the background. After his retirement, the domaine was run by Albéric Mazoyer, under whose direction these wines became among the most sought-after of Cornas. Albéric himself retired this year – so these 2018s are his last vintage. He has been succeeded by Lionel Fraisse who had been working alongside him for some time. Picking of the earliest ripening parcels of whites began on 24th August, but with most picked during the week of 3rd September. Picking of the Syrah began on Friday 7th September.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Côtes du Rhône Syrah Les Peyrouses

£144.00

Intense ripe fruit scents. Soft, supple and fresh, with gentle ripe tannins.
Drink 2021-2024.

2018 St Joseph Les Côtes

£255.00

From a 1 hectare plot, 90% destemmed. Concentrated on the palate, and beautifully textured. Drink 2021-2025.

2018 Cornas Les Chailles

£321.00

All destemmed. Gorgeous ripe fruit aromas. Big and powerful on the palate, with plenty of grip and lots of ripeness. Drink 2022-2026.

2018 Cornas Les Vieilles Vignes

£471.00

Powerfully extracted, with a magnificent structure underlying the layers of ripe fruit. A wine of outstanding potential. Drink 2022-2027.

2018 Cornas Les Vieilles Fontaines

£810.00

Incredible complexity and length. Drink 2022-2028.



White Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 St Péray Harmonie

£170.00

Soft and generous on the palate, with an attractively vibrant finish. 100% Marsanne. Drink 2020-2022.

2018 St Péray Ongrie

£255.00

Produced from 50 year old Marsanne, and all oak fermented. The cuvée formerly known as Terres Boisées. Very intense and attractive ripe aromas. Layers of fruit on the palate and terrific freshness. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 St Péray Fleur de Crusol

£309.00

80 year old Marsanne vines, and the wine spends 17 months in barrel. Masses of peach and apricot fruit, this is ripe and succulent, and also has super freshness. Drink 2020-2025.

Sparkling Wine

2014 Les Bulles d'Alain, St Péray

£198.00

“Alain’s bubbles”... we have never been sure the name works terribly well in English... but the wine is fabulous this year. 100% Marsanne, aged on its lees prior to disgorgement. Aromatic, mineral and fresh. This is what originally made St Péray famous! Drink 2020-2022.

THE SOUTHERN RHONE

L'Ameillaud

Since 1983 this 50 hectare has been run by Devonian Nick Thompson together with his wife Sabine, grand-daughter of the estate's founder, Albert Rieu. In recent years, Nick and Sabine have had a tough time – the heavily bureaucratic INAO, which regulates the *appellation* system, took the apparently arbitrary decision to de-classify a proportion of Cairanne, and as a result, they found much of their Cairanne vineyards 'demoted' to Côtes du Rhône. In 2017 the estate's production was sold mostly in bulk while they thought about the way ahead. But with 2018 vintage we are – at least for the moment – back on track, and delighted once again to be able to offer these extremely well made and remarkably inexpensive wines which represent outstanding value for money. Alas however, quantities are much reduced: 70% of the crop was lost to mildew, with Carignan the worst affected (cropped at only 11hl/ha). Picking began on 10th September – and what survived the mildew is fabulous.



2018 Vin de Pays de Vaucluse**£48.00**

A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Carignan. Intense, spicy and long. Drink 2020-2022.

2018 Vin de Pays Principauté d'Orange**£48.00**

Fine and ripe, with more structure than the Vaucluse. Drink 2020-2022.

2018 Côtes du Rhône**£60.00**

Very intense and full on the palate – remember, this includes fruit which until 2017 vintage went into the Cairanne. Very fine, ripe and long on the palate. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Cairanne**£84.00**

Very attractive sweetness to the fruit. Fine tannins and good complexity on the finish. Drink 2020-2024.

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. Mildew damage here was relatively limited and when asked, Laurent explained that the work in the vineyard was absolutely critical – regular and careful spraying, combined with exceptional vigilance and speed of reaction. The result was yields of around 25-30hl/ha, which were not far short of normal. Picking began on 4th September and finished on 4th October – the longest harvest in the history of the domaine. 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.

Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Côtes du Rhône Rouge £117.00

Per 6 magnums £132.00

A blend of Grenache, Syrah Mourvèdre and Carignan. The wine is ripe, intense, complex and long, with incredibly fine tannins. Drink 2020-2025.

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge £360.00

Per 6 magnums £375.00

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Vaccarèse, with Grenache still the largest portion, but less dominant this year than usual as if suffered more from mildew. The wine is powerful, sophisticated and complex with good ripe structure and superb balance. Drink 2022-2031.



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 label everything 'Famille Gonnet' with the Châteauneuf itself renamed Domaine Font du Vent. Jean-Etienne Gonnet (1864-1907) began the family's fortunes with his small farm in the first half of the 19th 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 mildew caused significant, though very localised, damage and in some areas the vines simply didn't respond to treatment. As Kelly put it, after the very small 2017 crop, it was especially heart-breaking to see such early promise wiped out.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Ventoux, Le Vin du Papé, Famille Gonnet £66.00
80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. Delicious, generous ripe fruit. Superb value for money. Drink 2020-2022.

2018 Côtes du Rhône Rouge, Les Promesses, Font du Vent, Famille Gonnet £72.00
70% Syrah, 30% Grenache. Lovely ripe, juicy character. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Côtes du Rhône Rouge Villages Signargues, Notre Passion, Font du Vent, Famille Gonnet £84.00
A blend of 65% Grenache and 35% Syrah. Lovely sweet attack of raspberry fruit. Long and fruit-dominated finish. Drink 2020-2024.

2018 Cairanne, Le Vin du Papé, Famille Gonnet £96.00
80% Grenache, 20% Syrah. Very distinctive peppery Grenache aromas. Fine-grained tannins. Drink 2021-2025.

2018 Rasteau, Le Vin du Papé, Famille Gonnet £105.00
85% Grenache, 15% Syrah. Lovely ripe fruit; soft and succulent tannins. Long, easy finish. Drink 2021-2025.

2018 Vacqueyras Le Vin du Papé, Famille Gonnet £147.00
80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. Full, lush and plump, with gorgeous seductive fruit. Drink 2021-2026.

2018 Gigondas Le Vin du Papé, Famille Gonnet £174.00
90% Grenache, 7% Syrah, 3% Mourvèdre. Very densely packed on the palate. Great ripeness to the structure. Drink 2022-2027.

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge, Cuvée Tradition, Domaine Font du Vent, Famille Gonnet £249.00
Very fine scents. Ripe, textured and lovely weight of fruit on the palate. Very good length. Drink 2021-2025.

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge, £447.00
Cuvée Etienne Gonnet , Lieu Dit La Crau, Famille Gonnet
Very big, powerful and long. Drink 2021-2029.

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge, £495.00
Le Bois Pointu, Blagden & Gonnet Per 6 magnums £540.00
The Gonnets make the wine with the input of the English vineyard owner Charles Blagden – a distinguished figure of the Anglo-French wine scene. A blend of Grenache (60%), Mourvèdre (20%) and Counoise (20%). Very fine and intense aromas, and terrific concentration of ripe soft fruit on the palate. Very attractive freshness on the finish. Drink 2022-2030.



Charles Blagden in his trademark 'bleu de travail'

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. François Perrin began his wine-making career with the 1978 vintage – and the 2018 vintage was his last before a well-earned retirement. It was also the most difficult he had ever seen, with mildew causing devastation in the vineyards. In three days, the Grenache in particular was ruined. Picking began in late August and finished in mid October.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Vinsobres Les Cornuds

£78.00

A blend of 50/50 Syrah and Grenache from 80 hectares of vines. Drink 2021-2026.

2018 Vacqueyras Les Christins

£108.00

Drink 2021-2026.

Per Case In Bond

2018 Gigondas La Gille **£144.00**
A blend of Grenache (80%) and Syrah (20%). Drink 2021-2026.

2018 Gigondas Clos des Tourelles **Per 6 bottles** **£204.00**
From a single plot of 3 hectares, 85% Grenache and 15% Syrah. Whole bunch pressing and 20% aged in new oak. Ripe, rich and layered on the palate with lovely hints of chocolate and cocoa. Long and firm finish. Drink 2022-2028.

2018 Coudoulet de Beaucastel Rouge, **£140.00**
Côtes du Rhône
Very intense aromas with powerful overtones of white pepper. Spiced, structured and balanced. Wonderful fruit on the finish. Drink 2021-2026.

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge, **Per 6 bottles** **£270.00**
Château de Beaucastel **Per 6 magnums** **£540.00**
Terrifically aromatic. Superb texture on the palate, with big, but velvet-soft, tannins. Long and luscious fruit on the finish. Drink 2023-2034.

White Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc, **Per 6 bottles** **£270.00**
Château de Beaucastel
80% Roussanne, and 25% vinified in new oak. Ripe, honeyed and floral, and deliciously succulent on the palate. Superb length. Drink 2020-2023.

2018 Roussanne Vieilles Vignes, **Per 3 bottles** **£245.00**
Château de Beaucastel
85-105 year old vines. 50% aged in oak. Ripe and layered on the palate, with superb fine citrus acidity on the finish. Drink 2020-2025.

Domaine Jean-Paul Versino

Jean-Paul Versino produces 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. More than 60% of the crop was lost to mildew, with production as low as 8hl/ha – Jean-Paul said he had never before seen mildew on the bunches. In a normal vintage, he produces 45,000 bottles. In 2018 there are just 13,000 – so one cuvee only this year – no Cuvée Félix.



Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge

£228.00

Per 6 magnums

£243.00

50% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah and 10% of other varieties, 75% destemmed (where usually it would be only 25%). The wine is beautifully supple and fine-grained. Long and ripe finish. Drink 2022-2029.

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. Production is 30% less than usual overall in 2018 vintage.

Red Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Gigondas Les Racines Per 6 bottles £111.00

Domaine Les Pallières

Mostly Grenache, with small amounts of Syrah and Cinsault. Delicious ripe red fruits. Balanced with very fine-grained structure. Drink 2022-2028.

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge Per 6 bottles £126.00

Télégramme, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe

Intense peppery aromas. Plush and ripe on the palate. Lovely flesh and balance, and fine tannins on the finish. Drink 2021-2026.

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge Per 6 bottles £210.00

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Per 3 magnums £220.00

Produced entirely from old vines in Le Crau – widely regarded as some of the finest *terroir* of the appellation. Big and powerful with masses of concentration. Lovely sweet fruit dominates the long finish. Great balance. Drink 2022-2029.

White Wines

Per Case In Bond

2018 Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc Per 6 bottles £210.00

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe

Plump, fleshy and seductive, with delicious freshening acidity on the finish. Drink 2020-2023.



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 £26.78 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 2020, 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 01747 870 001 or visit our website: www.clarionwines.co.uk

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