

SOUTHERN FRANCE & RHÔNE VALLEY

2019 EN PRIMEUR





ENPR



IMEUR



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REGIONAL FRANCE

HARVEST REPORT 2019

Over the past twenty years, there has been a winemaking revolution in the wine growing regions of the South of France. Once home to the European wine lake, the Languedoc Roussillon has been transformed into one of the most exciting and innovative wine producing regions, not only in France, but the entire world. It is now the source of some fantastic, individual, single and mixed varietal wines, produced by innovative and passionate winemakers, who exploit the individual terroirs of the many regions, from Perpignan in the west, to St Tropez in the east.

In recent years climate change has been no more evident than in the wine growing regions of Southern France, with temperatures rising and the lack of water causing hydric stress to the vines.

The 2019 vintage will be remembered as a “heat-wave vintage”, with a lack of water in almost all of the French wine regions. It will be remembered for its high quality, but relatively low yields, but despite the drought, the vigneron in the South of France have produced wines that are both intense and concentrated.

The climatic conditions during the growing season ensured a very good quality of the crop, despite the continuous heatwaves and drought. The first grapes were picked towards the end of August, under a brilliant bright sunshine. The grapes were in excellent condition, with plenty of fruity aromas. Thanks to the cool August nights and few welcome rainstorms at the end of the summer, they were beautifully balanced.

The vinification of the red wines was tricky, due to the relatively high level of potential alcohol, but the resulting wines are rich, concentrated and round with a high level of natural acidity providing great balance.

Happy Drinking!



JOHN C. TOWNEND
MANAGING DIRECTOR



AUBERT & MATHIEU (CARCASSONNE)



Aubert & Mathieu is the story of two friends, Anthony Aubert and Jean-Charles Mathieu, who met in school, chose different paths, but met up again and decided to further their respective passions for wine production. Their exciting new project started with the 2016 vintage, with the first wines being released in March 2019. Already their main market is the trendy Paris restaurant scene.

Setting out to produce niche wines in the best terroirs of Languedoc-Roussillon, Aubert & Mathieu focus on the best terroirs in the region, highlighting the nuances and singularities of each appellation. The DNA of their wines show the perfect mastery of freshness, balance and the search for complexity. Inspiration, carefree and a little fantasy led them on their way!




“
ANTHONY AUBERT IS
MODEST WHEN HE SAYS
...“MAKE NO MISTAKE....
THE REAL STAR IS
THE TERROIR!”
”



Terraces du Lersac

This appellation is situated to the north west of Faugères where the soils are high in limestone and schist content. The vines are planted at an altitude of 500m, the cooler climes allowing a long and slow 'hang time' for the grapes.

This wine is produced with high Mourvèdre content (50%) with the remainder of the blend consisting of 25% Syrah and 25% Grenache, and aged in old oak for 12 months. A gorgeous hibiscus and cinnamon perfume with a sumptuously ripe fruit bouquet. This is good! Vibrant fruit and spice that bowls you over with a detonation of flavour and uncoiling acidity. Orange peel and raspberry popsicles and red cherries layered over a raft of rugged but polished, dry tannins.

Drink: 2021+ 


£84.00 IB (6 x 75cl)



Corbières "Marie Antoinette"

Produced from clay and limestone soils in 200m high vineyards in the eastern extremity of the Corbières appellation. With yields of only 25hl/ha. this brilliant wine is a blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah, and is aged in concrete vats for 6 months before bottling.

Produced from very low yields of only 25hl/ha. A savoury bouquet showing toasted flavours of walnuts and rye, sourdough and tamari. The palate offers a salty tang of umeboshi plums with craggy tannins, and yet they have a sheen to them – as if the sculptor only polished part of the wood once she's finished carving. Firm, emphatic and fruit packed finish, this is an atypical Corbières that will transport you far from the beaten track.


Drink: 2021+ 

£39.00 IB (6 x 75cl)

Côtes du Roussillon Villages Caramany

Planted on the foothills of the Pyrenees, these cool climate vineyards help produce a delicious freshness and an astounding complexity of flavours. A blend of 40% Syrah, 30% Grenache and 30% Carignan, it is aged for 12 months in 3 and 4 year old barrels.

Leather and dried cranberries on the nose. The palate is explosive, and so intense that it tastes as if the fruit has been on LSD! Catherine Wheels of flavour – black cherries, cinnamon, menthol, cumin, red dust, cranberry sherbet poppers. Fabulous acidity, freshness and the tannins have infused perfectly with the fruit. Superb

Drink: 2021+ 

£84.00 IB (6 x 75cl)

PIERRE CROS (BADENS)



Pierre Cros
Inside his shop in France



“ I neither pretend to teach you how you should taste my wines... nor when... or why... or (even worse) with whom. I would just like to outline certain reflexions and ideas, which in my opinion are important for today's wine world. I would like to tell you, for example, that above all I am a peasant, a hillbilly if you like, with all my knowledge and all my doubts. And I am surely a full man, proud about his roots and proud to rrrrole the R's like people do in my country. ”

- Pierre Cros

Pierre Cros, an ex rugby player, is a genuine maverick winemaker from the Languedoc wine region. Above all he is a great character. His domaine is situated in the small village of Badens in the Minervois, surrounded by the Canal du Midi to the South and the Montagne Noire to the North. It is here in the intense heat of the southern sun that little else grows except the vine and the olive tree...and it is here that Pierre Cros cultivates his 20 hectares of vines including the classic Southern French varieties of Grenache, Carignan and Syrah as well as some very interesting Touriga Nacional and Nebbiolo.

Low yield and vines dating from 1905 contribute to the production of some extremely fascinating and popular wines which are deep and structured and very enjoyable.



'Le Barthas' 2018, Minervois

A blend of 75% Syrah and 24% Mourvèdre, this is a beautiful and expressive wine with crunchy fresh raspberries, blackberries, a touch of cinnamon and spice. A delicious, succulent mouthfeel is followed by a charming round finish.

“Entre la vigne et la mer, entre ma mère et mon père, entre Syrah and Mourvèdre, non pas les raisins de colère mais les raisins de l'amour.” (Between the vine and the sea, between my Mother and my Father, between Syrah and Mourvedre, not the grapes of anger but the grapes of love.....) – Pierre Cros.

Drink: 2021+



£48.00 IB (6 x 75cl)



Minervois Vieilles Vignes

This wine is produced from 100% Carignan vines planted in 1905. Aged for 8 months in 1 year old oak barrels, used the previous vintage for the prestige Les Aspres. An element of carbonic maceration enhances the aromatics.

Deep and intense, this is a tightly knit wine laden with black fruits and firm but suave tannins. Layer upon layer of persistent, ripe black cherry flavours dominate with a dash of garrigue as well. Great finesse and complexity. This is quite outstanding.

Drink: 2021+



£50.00 IB (6 x 75cl)

Les Mal Aimés

Literally translated as “The Unloved”! This wine is produced from the forgotten and unfashionable grapes found in the Languedoc-Roussillon – a blend of Aramon, Picpoul Noir, Alicante Bouschet, Morrastel, Rivairenc and Carignan. Together, and with the care and devotion of Pierre Cros, they have been transformed into a delicious and alluring wine, smooth with aromas of sour cherry, strawberry jam, dried apricots and smoke, coupled with spice and garrigue. On the palate the wine surprises with its aromatic freshness and elegant tannins.

Drink: 2021+



£39.00 IB (6 x 75cl)






LES VIGNOBLES BRUNIER (BÉDARRIDES)

As well as producing the famous Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe, the Bruniers also produce a couple of superb wines from more minor appellations – “our everyday house wines!” quips Daniel Brunier. Some house wine!! They offer a great insight into the Brunier winemaking style at an affordable price.



Le Pigeoulet des Brunier, Vaucluse

This wine is produced from two separate vineyards. The first is a 7ha parcel in the municipality of Caromb in the Côtes de Ventoux, while the second is a 3ha vineyard situated right on the boundary of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The average age of the vines is 25 years old. The grapes are picked by hand and fully destemmed. 50% of the wine underwent its malolactic fermentation in large oak foudres with the remainder in stainless steel tank. The final blend was then aged for a further six months in foudres. Packed with ripe fruits and a smattering of herb, this is an immensely gluggable glass of red and delivers stupendous value for money.


Drink: 2021 + 

£90.00 IB (12 x 75cl)

Mégaphone des Brunier, Ventoux

Produced from a single plot in the area of Caromb, nestling on the southern slopes of the Dentelles de Montmirail. It is a little paradise. Just three hectares of vines, but their situation and aspect prompted the Bruniers not to include these grapes in the classic Pigeoulet blend and to make a wine in its own right. The vines are on average 25 years old, harvesting is by hand and the grapes are de-stemmed before being gently pressed. Vinification in temperature controlled cement cuves for 15 to 20 days. The wine goes through a full malolactic fermentation and is then aged in (50 hectolitre) oak vats for 10 months.

A blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah, the bouquet is rustic with a hint of smoke and leads to a delicious spicy palate with juicy, ripe red fruits. Excellent concentration with a white pepper finish.

Drink: 2021 + 

£114.00 IB (12 x 75cl)

NORTHERN RHÔNE

HARVEST REPORT 2019

The Northern Rhone has produced its 5th consecutive high quality vintage, producing wines of superb balance and freshness, despite the extremely hot summer growing season.

The winter months of 2018/2019 yielded an excellent rainfall, replenishing the water table, thereby contributing to the production of excellent quality grapes at harvest time. Springtime saw both frost and a few hailstorms, but nothing too concerning and no effect on the final crop.

The only major event was a huge hailstorm which will go down in history, that hit parts of Crozes-Hermitage on June 15th. The summer months were extremely hot with no rainfall at all until the end of August when temperatures cooled. Vine canopy was crucial, protecting the grapes from the burning sun. The danger of mildew was not a problem given the hot dry weather.

After the well timed rains at the end of August and the beginning of September, temperatures rose again. The cooler and fresher evening temperatures ensured that fruit freshness was maintained, and the grapes were harvested in perfect condition, with super alcohol and acidity balance.

The Northern Rhone has produced rich and opulent wines in 2019, with real depth of flavour, which will provide real enjoyment. There is a surprising freshness and precision to the wines, not often seen in such hot vintages, with perfectly ripe and succulent tannin structures.

DOMAINE COMBIER (TAIN-L'HERMITAGE)

If you love pure, unadulterated, concentrated Syrah, look no further. We have followed this domaine for many years after a successful buying trip to the Rhône Valley and Laurent Combiér's wines have proved immensely popular. 2018 was an outstanding vintage at this domaine.


The modern winery, built in 1990, is situated on the busy N7 between Tain-l'Hermitage and Pont de l'Isère. It is here that Laurent Combiér, a very practical, open minded winemaker produces his lush exuberant and rich style of wine. Farmed organically, his 13 hectares of vineyards are situated on the 'Les Chassis' plateau.



Crozes-Hermitage 'Cuvée L'


This is a delicious introduction to the Combiér style. The grapes are fully destemmed, before a 20 day fermentation with twice daily pigeage and pumpovers. The wine then spends 8-10 months in 6hl concrete oeufs (eggs), the equivalent of 2 ½ barrels.

A stunning, fruit driven wine. Scented aromas of raspberry, the palate is succulent with red berry fruits, black pepper and super soft tannins.

Drink: 2022 + 
£59.00 IB (6 x 75cl)

Clos des Grives, Crozes-Hermitage

Produced from a 9 ½ hectare Clos (walled vineyard) this is Laurent Combiér's top cuvée. The oldest 4 hectares of the Clos are planted with vines that date back to 1952 and yield very small quantities. Aged for 12 months in oak casks, of which 40% are new. This is a quite sensational wine that will repay ageing. Intense, cassis concentrate is rounded by careful oak ageing and overtones of wood smoke, with beautiful finely woven tannins giving added support.

Drink: 2023 + 
£150.00 IB (6 x 75cl)



SOUTHERN RHÔNE

HARVEST REPORT 2019

After a number of exhausting vintages – “At last!”, exclaimed a relieved Daniel Brunier. A traditional vintage that followed an orthodox path, fairly hot and dry, with no major climatic events and no undue pressure. For the first time in a while, the Grenache provided a healthy crop, so for the Grenache lovers, this is a welcome return to normality.

The weather in Springtime was cool and dry, which helped slow down the vine’s growth, and budburst was a week to 10 days later than normally expected. The subsequent flowering and fruit-set passed untroubled.

As summer arrived, the vines withstood the intense heat and low water levels very well, and the grapes were beautifully ripe, and also of exceptionally high quality, by harvest time. Another hot vintage style, the 2019 vintage is already being compared to the likes of 2009 and 2015 – both top vintages.

Both Châteauneuf-du-Pape and the higher altitude vineyards of Gigondas, where Domaine Les Pallières holds prime position, have produced memorable wines, that will grace your cellar, and provide great drinking pleasure in the years to come.

DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE (BÉDARRIDES)


One of the famous names of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe is the jewel in the Brunier family's winemaking crown. The estate consists of some 70 hectares of vines, with 65 hectares of red grapes (60% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre and 10% other) and 5 hectares of white (30% Grenache Blanc, 40% Clairette, 15% Roussanne and 15% Bourboulenc). The vineyards lie in a single block on the La Crau plateau. The major contributing factors to the personality of the wines of Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe are the enormous stones (galets) covering the property to an average depth of six inches.

These stones, in summer as well as winter, limit the evaporation of the soil whilst also playing their role of thermal accumulators, reducing considerably the changes of temperature between night and day. The average vine's age is rigorously maintained at over 40 years, by replanting on an ongoing basis. Each parcel of vines is given careful attention in terms of pruning and the spreading of organic fertiliser and traditional ploughing. Similarly, de-budding, carried out by hand, and the removal of surplus unripe grapes and leaves, enables each vine to obtain its own balance. Harvesting is carried out by hand and sorted twice so that the healthiest fruit possible is received at the winery.

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe "La Crau"

Produced from vineyards located on the stony plateau of La Crau in the south east of the appellation, where the villages of Bédarrides and Courthézon meet. The vines average 60 years of age and the vineyard is the hottest in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. A very hot year, yet despite the vintage starting early, the phenolic ripeness in the grapes was perfect, producing a superb result.

Intense, deep garnet in colour, the bouquet is dense, tight and deep with violet aromas, blackcurrant fruit dominance and a touch of oak that adds a smoky dimension. The palate is well structured, elegant, silky and rich with beautifully integrated tannins, liquorice, candy and garrigue. The finish is long, velvety with a hint of sea salt. A wine with great personality.

Drink: 2025+ 

£440.00 IB (12 x 75cl)

“BLENDING IS ONE OF THE DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT PUNCTUATE THE RED'S TWO YEAR SPELL BEFORE BOTTLING.”


– DANIEL BRUNIER



Télégramme

The Domaine's second wine is produced in a very different way to "La Crau". The grapes are fully destemmed before traditional 12-day fermentation in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks. A period of 9 months ageing in concrete tanks is followed by 6 months in oak foudres.

The blend is now bolstered by the addition of grapes from 45 year old vines of Château La Roquette, Vieux Télégraphe's sister property. This wine is always beautiful, exuberant and stylish, medium to full-bodied richness with a fleshy, ripe, supple profile. Drink while you wait for "La Crau" to age.

Drink: 2022+ 

£240.00 IB (12 x 75cl)

DOMAINE LES PALLIÈRES (GIGONDAS)

Domaine Les Pallières, nestling in the foothills of the beautiful and brooding Dentelles de Montmirail, is undeniably one of the greatest, longest-running properties of the Southern Rhône. The vineyards range from 250-400 meters in altitude, with varying proportions of sand and clay interwoven with limestone scree descending from the Dentelles.


When the Brunier family purchased the domaine back in 1998 this great property had fallen on hard times. Years of painstaking work in the vineyards followed. Terraces were built and reinforced, allowing for better water retention. A new winery was built to receive the harvested parcels individually in gravity fed tanks. Finally, as the Bruniers began to fully understand the vineyards at Pallières the many lieux-dits, once blended into one cuvée of Gigondas, were separated into two, starting with the 2007 vintage, in an effort to best express two remarkable personalities. Cuvée “Terrasse du Diable,” encompasses the low-yielding vines from the higher altitudes that express great structure and intense minerality. Cuvée “Les Racines” showcases the vineyard parcels surrounding the winery - the origin of the domaine with the oldest vines - with the emphasis on freshness and extravagant cornucopian fruit.



Gigondas ‘Les Racines’

Produced from old vines (70 – 100 years old) around the Domaine house. The grapes are handpicked and partially destemmed before fermentation in concrete and oak tanks. After a period of ten months ageing in concrete vats, the wine is aged in large oak foudres for a period of ten months. It is then bottled without filtration. The blend comprises 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah-Cinsault complantés, 5% Clairette.

So impressive! Rich and multi-layered, the texture of this wine is sumptuous with a dominant blackcurrant fruit, underlying liquorice giving added depth and a lovely minerality and garrigue adding to its personality.


Drink: 2023+ 

£228.00 IB (12 x 75cl)

Gigondas ‘Terrasse du Diable’

Produced in exactly the same way as its sister wine, the only difference being its terroir. A blend of 90% Grenache and 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault. The grapes are grown on the higher altitude terraced vineyards, handpicked and partially destemmed, before fermentation in concrete and oak tanks. After a period of ten months ageing in concrete vats, the wine is aged in large oak foudres for a period of ten months. It is then bottled without filtration.

A bouquet of aromatic violet petals and fresh, wild red fruits. The palate is fresh and intense, taut and mineral with blackcurrant and liquorice fruits. The tannins are firm and bold, indicating an excellent ageing potential. A wine of great character and complexity.

Drink: 2023+ 

£228.00 IB (12 x 75cl)

CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL (COURTHÉZON)

“

WHEN MATURE, THE WINES OF CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL ARE QUITE SPELLBINDING. A TRUE “WINE EXPERIENCE”.

”


Run by the Perrin family, Château de Beaucastel is one of the most important in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation and was one of the first to practise organic viticulture – no herbicides, insecticides or any other chemical. It is now farmed according to bio-dynamic principles, using 13 permitted grape varieties in its final blend with the Mourvèdre variety being the most important, often accounting for a third of the final blend.

The vinification process is rather interesting in that when the grapes arrive at the winery, they are heated rapidly in order to extract colour and aroma, whilst also killing bacteria. This is known as “à chaud” and is not widely used. After maturation in large oak foudres the wine is bottled with a light fining but without filtration.

Coudoulet de Beaucastel

Produced from vineyards just across the Route N7 from the Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyards of Château de Beaucastel, this wine makes a mockery of its Côtes du Rhône appellation.

Each varietal is hand harvested and then vinified separately in cement tanks before blending. Aged for 6 months in large oak foudres. The Coudoulet de Beaucastel Côtes du Rhône 2019 is a wine with a beautiful persistent colour. The nose shows flavors of black fruit, Provençal herbs, leather and “garrigue”. The palate is full-bodied and balanced, almost mineral, with very nice tannins and an impressive length! A beautifully balanced wine, there is a beautiful affiliation with the great wine of Beaucastel.

Drink: 2021 + 

£140.00 IB (12 x 75cl)




Château de Beaucastel

This is one of the iconic domaines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, one which includes all 13 permitted grape varieties.

The grapes are handpicked, carefully sorted and then destemmed, before vinification in temperature controlled vats for 15 days. Each of the 13 varieties are vinified separately before blending. The final blend is then matured in 500hl/ha oak foudres and bottled without filtration.

Beaucastel 2019 shows a persistent, deep colour. The bouquet is pure and very elegant with wild black fruit aromas, spices, floral notes along with a great freshness. The palate reveals rich aromas of blueberries and blackcurrant jam with silky, delicate tannins. The finish is powerful and harmonious, with excellent length. An impressive wine, profoundly complex, this is a great vintage of Château de Beaucastel.

Drink: 2024 + 

£270.00 IB (6 x 75cl)



WANT TO ORDER?

To purchase any of our Rhône 2019 wines En Primeur, please visit www.houseoftownend.com.

Alternatively, you can return the enclosed order form and send your payment by Bank Transfer.

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Melton West Business Park
Melton
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HU14 3BQ

Account Name: J Townend & Sons (Hull) Ltd
Sort Code: 40-25-20
Account Number: 20814660
Please use the reference: Rhône 2019

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(CAPITALS PLEASE)

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- In Bond:** Wines offered are lying in Bond in Melton, and these wines will attract a charge for the Excise Duty (currently £26.78 per case of 12 bottles) and VAT, when the wine is taken out of Bond.
- Storage:** We will be pleased to store your wines in our secure Bonded Warehouse in Melton, if you so wish. The rental is 15 pence plus VAT per case per week, which covers all charges.
- Delivery:** When shipped the wines will be automatically entered into your private reserves in bond here in Melton. Shipment dates vary but we will notify you by email when they arrive. You can either then collect from our Cellar Door or we can organise delivery on your behalf. We will advise of the cost of delivery at the time.

ORDER FORM

		Cases Req'd	Cost IB	Total
REGIONAL FRANCE				
AUBE015	Corbières “Marie Antoinette” , Aubert & Mathieu (6 x 75cl)	.....	£39.00	.....
AUBE020	Terraces du Larsac, Aubert & Mathieu (6 x 75cl)	.....	£84.00	.....
AUBE025	Côtes du Roussillon Villages Caramany, Aubert & Mathieu (6 x 75cl).....		£84.00	.....
CROS145	‘Le Barthas’, Minervois, Pierre Cros (6 x 75cl)	.....	£48.00	.....
CROS125	Minervois Vieilles Vignes, Pierre Cros (6 x 75cl)	.....	£50.00	.....
CROS140	Les Mal Aimés, Pierre Cros (6 x 75cl)	.....	£39.00	.....
PIGE075	Le Pigeoulet des Brunier, Vaucluse, Domaine Brunier (12 x 75cl)	.....	£90.00	.....
MEGA030	Mégaphone des Brunier, Ventoux, Domaine Brunier (12 x 75cl)	.....	£114.00	.....
NORTHERN RHÔNE				
CROZ480	Crozes-Hermitage ‘Cuvée L’, Domaine Combier (6 x 75cl)	.....	£59.00	.....
CROZ490	Clos des Grives, Crozes-Hermitage, Domaine Combier (6 x 75cl)	.....	£150.00	.....
SOUTHERN RHÔNE				
TELE080	Télégramme, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe (12 x 75cl)	.....	£240.00	.....
VTEL305	Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe “La Crau” (12 x 75cl)	.....	£440.00	.....
PALL120	Gigondas ‘Les Racines’, Domaine Les Pallières (12 x 75cl)	.....	£228.00	.....
PALL125	Gigondas ‘Terrasse du Diable’, Domaine Les Pallières (12 x 75cl)	.....	£228.00	.....
COUD060	Coudoulet de Beaucastel 2018, Château de Beaucastel (12 x 75cl).....		£140.00
BCAS225	Château de Beaucastel (6 x 75cl)	£270.00
			Total



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