



Rhône 2003 En Primeur Offer

November 2004



Genesis Wines

Genesis' first offering from the Rhône demonstrates its commitment to finding the very best from any one area in the world. There are 70 wines on offer from 22 growers, virtually all of whom are widely recognised as representing the very best from the Northern and Southern Rhône – those that are not yet recognised as such soon will be!

The Offer

- Prices are quoted in bond UK per case of 12 x 75cl, unless otherwise stated.
- Payment is due with order.
- Wines will be shipped between November 2004 and October 2005.

This Offer opens on 16 November.

Forthcoming events

Christmas Wine List and Champagne Offer

Published 23 November.

Xmas tasting

6 December 2004 – 5.30 pm to 8.00 pm
at The Contented Vine, 17 Sussex Street, London SW1V 2RR.
Free.

Burgundy 2003 Cask Sample tasting

17 January 2005 - 3.00 pm to 7.30 pm
at The Contented Vine, 17 Sussex Street, London SW1V 2RR.
Cost: £10 refundable on purchase of Burgundy 2003.

Burgundy 2003 En Primeur Offer

Opens 18 January 2005.

Rhône 2003 En Primeur Offer

Introduction

2003 will stay in people's memories for ever. When we first visited the Rhône to taste the vintage, we were already seeing the growers becoming increasingly excited about their wines. We tasted a few and were mightily impressed, but as with all supposed "great" vintages we decided to take on board what our producers were saying, yet reserve judgement until the wines were almost complete. We have both tasted the wines extensively and, in many cases, 2003 can be described as superlative.

Growing Conditions

It would be easy to say simply that it was very hot and leave it at that, but never before had Europe experienced a summer like it: almost no rain from March to September, record temperatures that would last for a day before being blown off the charts by the next day, sun that shone and shone, and in the Rhône valley, after the difficulties of 2002, the wine growers rubbed their hands in anticipation of the harvest. The rains, bar a couple of late summer showers in the North, finally came in September and fell on already harvested vineyards, as picking had started so early. Many growers, worried at the continuing drought started harvesting in early August, whilst others waited until later in the month and into September. However, after tasting wines that were harvested both early and late, this appears to have had no great effect on the overall levels of quality.

The Wines

The North

Miniscule quantities is the main complaint from the growers. The low acidity in many wines is often replaced by very good tannin structure and despite alcohol levels that are higher than normal, the wines are showing no signs of burnt grapes or extraction. A few late summer showers helped the ripening and even if that did not improve the volume, it certainly enhanced the general balance of the wines, especially the reds. The whites are very rich, sometimes bordering on late harvest style and will satisfy the lovers of exuberant Viognier. Syrah coped very well in the heat and despite the low yields there is hardly a huge, overblown wine to be found. Although there are similarities here to the great 1999 vintage, 2003 is unique in concentration of ripe fruit and showiness at this young stage.

The South

The principal grape varietal in the south, Grenache, thrives on warm sunshine, but even it felt the excesses of 2003. The wines are rich and concentrated with huge amounts of fruit and depth. The tannins are bountiful, but extremely ripe and juicy, with the result that the wines will be pretty

irresistible at an early age, but will drink for many years to come. The levels of alcohol are higher than normal, as would be expected after such heat during the growing season, but the wines are well balanced, because every component in the wine has a certain excess. We are delighted with the efforts of the producers in the offer, as they have all produced wines that, whilst perhaps not completely typical of the region, are perfect reflections of the year. 2003 maybe the year of excess, but in Châteauneuf du Pape and Gigondas the excess is glorious in virtually every case and exceptional wines have been made.

Languedoc/Roussillon

This part of France has long been associated with Rhône-style wines and the top Domaines are rightly considered to be in the same league. The new millennium has seen the region finally realising its full potential with great wines being made more consistently. Due to the sheer size of the region there are still huge discrepancies between the bulk Vins de Pays from the high yielding varietals, and the hand crafted, highly individual wines from the best estates. There have been excesses with some 'garage' wines reaching astronomical prices, but the greater volume of high quality wines available means that their days are numbered as the consumer is now spoilt for choice of superb wines that are great value.

Prices

The low volume has forced many growers to increase their prices although most have been reasonable and despite a reduction in production of 25% to 50%, the majority of increases from the growers are below 15%.

Recommendation

2003 is a one-off, a vintage where the elements combined to give wine of enormous depth and concentration. The wines will be immensely enjoyable from an early age, but will age well and, in certain cases, will drink for 30-40 years. It is a vintage that is a must for the Rhône lover and is a must for anyone interested in a balanced cellar. These are wines that will have people talking for many years. It is one of the great vintages and due to the size of harvest should be bought early whilst stocks are available.



James Price & Christian Honorez
November 2004

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Northern Rhône

Domaine Colombier, Tain l'Hermitage

Florent Viale has been producing some of the finest wines in the northern Rhône for some years now. In 1991 the family decided to start making their own wine rather than selling to the big negociant firms. The results have been outstanding and Colombier is now widely recognised as one of the best sources of Crozes Hermitage, and their Hermitage, from a 1.5 hectare plot of the Beaumes vineyard on the hill of Hermitage, is a benchmark.

Red

Crozes Hermitage

£78.00

Very low yields – 25 hectolitres per hectare – gives a plump, rich palate with good concentration. 70% aged in barrels, the tannin structure compensates the low acid level. Nice ripe fruit with a lot of cassis and some spiciness. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Gaby – Limited

£111.00

Even more concentration for this selection of the best cuvées, aged entirely in small barriques. The firm tannins are a good indication of ageing potential but the ripeness is helping the wine show well early on. Drink 2005 – 2010.

Hermitage – Very limited

£312.00

Warmer and sweeter fruit reveals the vintage but the great concentration and good winemaking help the balance and harmony of the wine. Coming from a cooler part of the hill, this Hermitage has not suffered from the hot summer like some of the more illustrious vineyards. It's very appealing young, but its intensity will guarantee great longevity. Drink 2007 – 2025.

Pierre Gaillard, Malleval

Pierre is one of the great ambassadors of the Rhône, to such an extent that he seems to spend almost as much time overseas, preaching his message, as at the Domaine. However, he is still very much in charge, and despite a new property in Banyuls, he recently oversaw the completion of the new cellar in Malleval. The magnificent new barrel room helps with the ageing of the reds. When we visited Pierre he was slightly less effusive than usual as the 2003 vintage was so small that it barely filled half of the cellar!

White

Condrieu – Limited

£199.00

Some honeyed fruit on nose. Massive concentration of tropical fruit flavours, warm, but not hot. Big weighty wine that grows on finish. A blockbuster Viognier. Drink 2004 – 2008.

Red

Vin de Pays Syrah des Collines Rhodaniennes – Limited

£46.00

Blackcurrant and pepper nose. Very good fruit for a simple Vin de Pays. Unfortunately very limited quantity in 2003. Drink 2005 – 2008.

St Joseph Rouge

£90.00

Good colour with deep Syrah nose. Ripe flavours underlined by a very good structure and sweet tannins. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Côte Rôtie Brune et Blonde

£225.00

Another very good example of great Syrah from the northern Rhône. A little toast and black fruit aromas. Very complex this year with great intensity and flavours of roasted meat and spices. Drink 2006 – 2012.

Côte Rôtie Rose Pourpre – Very Limited

£350.00

A minuscule cuvée in 2003. A sumptuous wine with a nose of great complexity and hints of chocolate, black cherries and black olives. The fabulous concentration reveals a multilayered wine that will age very well. Drink 2007 – 2014.

Francois Villard, St Michel

Francois is young and very ambitious. In 10 years he has gone from being unheard of to being one of the top producers in the Rhône. The 2005 Revue du Vin de France has given the property 2 stars, rating it, alongside Georges Vernay, as the best in Condrieu. His approach is quite simple, with no room for compromise. He likes concentration, and a long "elevage" in oak results in rich, intense, sweet and velvety reds. The whites are made with the same, exacting care and each perfectly reflects the different terroir.

White

St Joseph Mairlant – Very Limited £136.00

Stylish, almost tropical fruit on nose, but restraint evident. Warm and ripe fruit dominates the palate, giving it more richness than normal, but with classic Villard minerality. Drink 2005 – 2010.

Condrieu Les Terrasses du Palat £204.00

Typical of the vintage, rich and powerful, not for the faint hearted! A very impressive wine with a hint of late picked flavours. Drink 2005 – 2010.

Condrieu Le Grand Vallon £204.00

Very aromatic, sweet apricot and honey aromas with a nice fresh feel on the palate. Relatively delicate for the year. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Condrieu De Poncins – Limited £226.00

Quite rich and a bit closed at present. A slightly squarer structure needing more time but will reward patience. A classic Villard mineral Condrieu. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Red

Vin de Pays Syrah £70.00

Intense blackberry and cassis nose. Rich, neat fruit flavours; simple, but very precise and appealing fruit. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Vin de Pays Grue Glacée – Limited £95.00

A Bordeaux style wine dominated by Merlot. Ripe plum and blackcurrant with a touch of spices. Very good crunchy fruit with quite a bit of class. Drink 2006 – 2010.

St Joseph Les Reflets – Very Limited £204.00

Very intense nose, with spices and a little vanilla. Deep and rich fruit and incredible length. A superstar, unfortunately produced in very limited quantity. Drink 2006 – 2012.

Côte Rôtie Le Galet Blanc – Limited £240.00

A simpler, pure style of Syrah. Aged in a mix of new and older barrels. A very good expression of this appellation showing finesse and perfume even in this powerful vintage. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Côte Rôtie La Brocarde – Very Limited £384.00

A miniscule cuvée this year (2 barrels). Intense and concentrated but not overblown. Will keep very well despite the low acidity that is aided by great tannin structure. Drink 2007 – 2015.

René Rostaing, Ampuis

"Rostaing is one of the most masterful growers and bottlers in Côte Rôtie. Sadly there is not much made" Robert Parker. We are pleased to get an allocation of the great man's wines, thanks, mainly, to René and Christian going back for almost 15 years. Be very quick, these wines will not hang around.

Red

Côte Rôtie Classique £300.00

Strangely, except for the low yields, Rene Rostaing doesn't seem to have been too affected by the heat and drought. The Côte Rôtie Classique, a blend of several vineyards, has an almost surprising freshness and shows classic characters. Aromas of violet and ripe black fruits. The lower than average acidity has not hampered the balance and harmony of the wine. Drink 2007 – 2012.

Côte Rôtie La Landonne – Very Limited

£400.00

Great concentration and finesse are the hallmark of the Landonne and this year is no exception. As always it's very appealing and shows polished flavours of blackberries and truffles. Not huge, it will age beautifully, gaining complexity, but it is going to be attractive in its youth. Drink 2007 – 2025.

Côte Rôtie La Blonde – Very Limited

£440.00

Not the blockbuster we were expecting, though typical Rostaing style. Richer and spicier than the Landonne, it has sweet spicy aromas and ripe, almost luscious, tannins. Unfortunately the quantities are very small and the demand will, as always, outstrip the production of this gem. Drink 2008 – 2030.

Southern Rhône

Domaine Fondrèche, Côtes du Ventoux

Sebastien Vincenti's wines are a new introduction. Already favourably reviewed by a number of American journalists - the wines have a surging following stateside, so it took all of Christian's persuasive charms to get our hands on these brilliant wines that will certainly change peoples' perceptions of Côtes du Ventoux. This is as exciting a range of new wave southern Rhône wines as you will find.

Red

Côtes du Ventoux Sud Absolu £44.00

A Syrah and Grenache blend vinified to capture all the juicy fruit of this sunny vintage. Best young, it will keep well for two to three years. Drink 2004 – 2006.

Côtes du Ventoux Fayard £54.00

50% Syrah, 30% Grenache and 20% Carignan. A touch of oak on the nose dominated by huge ripe red fruit aromas and some spices too. Very impressive for the price. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Côtes du Ventoux Nadal £71.00

50% Syrah, 50% Grenache. Very rich with ultra-ripe blackberry and hints of mocha and chocolate. Round and fat palate with a lot of glycerol. Already extremely appealing. Drink 2005 – 2010.

Côtes du Ventoux Persia £90.00

90% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre. A little less alcohol but still the same very ripe black fruit dominated nose. Fat and unctuous palate with a little more grip brought by the Mourvèdre. Very intense finish. Drink 2005 – 2011.

Domaine Daniel & Denis Alary, Cairanne

Christian, our buying Director, believes that this Domaine is the best pound for pound offering in the Rhône, period. Denis is now totally in charge and he has quietly gone about raising the quality year after year. Careful selection, a measured introduction of new oak and gentle, but more active, extraction have given an extra dimension to his wines. They remain extraordinarily good value.

Red

Côtes du Rhône £38.00

A very powerful Côtes du Rhône. Intense and ripe fruit already developing into some jammy plum flavours. Drink 2005 – 2007.

Côtes du Rhône Villages Cairanne £54.00

75% Grenache, 25% Syrah. Quite traditional nose of spices and garrigues. Lots of glycerol and richness with spicy, complex flavours. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Côtes du Rhône Villages Cairanne Font D'Estevenas £78.00

60% Syrah, 40% Grenache. Very Syrah dominated with a smoky sausage, meaty nose. Intense colour and rich, deep fruit and ripe tannins. Already impressive but will improve with time. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Côtes du Rhône Villages Cairanne Jean de Verde £104.00

100% Grenache Vieilles Vignes. Very perfumed, with a sweet and ripe blackberry nose. The round and fat palate is helped by a very good tannin structure giving it great ageing potential. Drink 2006 – 2012.

Domaine d'Antonin, Cotes du Luberon

Guillaume Gros is another of our new, ultra passionate young growers. He is totally dedicated to quality, without compromise. Aided by his friend and mentor, Yves Gras of Domaine Santa Duc he has, over the last few years, built up this small Domaine which produces the finest wines of the Appellation. The wines are deep and full without too much extraction or overt use of oak; they show purity and a good expression of terroir.

Red

Côtes du Luberon Pourquoi Pas £68.00

60% Carignan, 30% Grenache and 10% Syrah. Very spicy with some oak and toast. Ripe black cherry, very good structure and firm grip. A wine with good tannins that needs at least a year to open up. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Côtes du Luberon Coté Terroir £92.00

60% Carignan, 30% Grenache and 10% Syrah. 50% aged in 600 litre barrels. Very rich and spicy. Blackberry jam with some cinnamon and a lot of complex flavours. Not a lot of acidity, typical of the vintage. Very long. Drink 2005 – 2010.

Domaine Gramenon, Monbrison

It was a relief to taste the 2003 vintage at Domaine Gramenon. Michele Laurent, after the untimely death of her husband in 1999, suffered two difficult vintages in 2001 and especially 2002. The 2003s are back to form; rich, long with the amazing purity that is the trademark of Gramenon. Don't expect hugely extracted dark wines, but finesse and elegance with an underlying freshness due to the altitude and the cool micro-climate. The wines are bio-dynamically produced and little or no sulphur is used. Quantities available are tiny, as usual.

Red

Côtes du Rhône Sierra du Sud – Limited £90.00

Pure Syrah vinified with very little sulphur. Deep colour and great finesse for the vintage. This is a perfect balance between the styles of the north and south Rhône. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Côtes du Rhône Villages Vinsobres – Limited £90.00

A more classic southern style with all the spices expected but with the same purity, Gramenon's trademark. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Côtes du Rhône La Sagesse – Limited £102.00

Less exuberant, this Grenache based wine is remarkable for its finesse and delicacy. The structure is present but much understated. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Côtes du Rhône A. Pascal. S – Very Limited £224.00

Made only in the very best years, the cuvée Pascal expresses the very best of the old vines of Grenache in this northern part of the southern Rhône. Picked extremely late and with miniscule yields, it's a wine for the Rhône lover. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Domaine de Marcoux, Châteauneuf du Pape

One of the foremost bio-dynamic estates in France. Sophie and Catherine Armenier have a bit of tradition to follow, as the family has been making Châteauneuf du Pape, for the not insignificant number of 700 years! Their cuvée Vieilles Vignes has been awarded 100 points on no less than three occasions. The standard Châteauneuf is always exemplary and the essence of purity. The new Lirac is a worthy addition to the Marcoux portfolio.

Red

Lirac, Domaine de la Lorentine £84.00

The first vintage of this wine, not yet bio-dynamic like the rest of the Estate, has the Marcoux hallmark of purity, clean and direct fruit with more than a hint of spices. Very good first effort. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Châteauneuf du Pape £192.00

Quite full, rich and spicy nose, very Grenache. Pure fruit, ripe but not extracted with flavours of bramble, pepper and thyme. One of the best 'classique' Chateauneuf we have tasted here. Drink 2006 – 2015.

Domaine de Marcoux cont....

Châteauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes – Very Limited

£595.00

Wow! Same style but with an even deeper and more intense nose. Lots of spices and complexity, still keeping the purity perfected by this Domaine. Extremely good this year. Drink 2007 – 2030.

Domaine Grand Veneur (Alain Jaume), Châteauneuf du Pape

Alain Jaume's two sons are gradually expanding the family Domaine. They have added their new vineyard in Lirac and their first vintage is exceptional, more proof, if any were needed, that this is where many of the very best producers believe there is massive potential. That has not distracted them from continuing to improve the quality of the Châteauneuf estate. The Domaine's reputation is growing with every vintage as one of the best producers of modern Châteauneuf du Pape at reasonable prices.

White

Châteauneuf Cuvée La Fontaine

£180.00

Roussanne Vieilles Vignes, barrel fermented. Very aromatic with notes of honey and blossom. Some peachy aromas soften a quite powerful and intense palate. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Red

Lirac Clos de Sixte

£68.00

From a newly acquired vineyard. Neat and stylish nose and full, crunchy fruit and spices in the mouth. A very successful attempt that will keep but is already very good. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Châteauneuf du Pape

£108.00

A classic Châteauneuf nose of sweet red fruit with notes of Provençal herbs. Good structure even if the acidity is quite low and the sweet ripe fruit makes it very appealing already. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Châteauneuf du Pape Les Origines

£168.00

More serious and a bit restrained on the nose. Some austerity on the palate too, brought by the Mourvèdre that promises good ageing potential. A superb wine at a very reasonable price. Drink 2007 – 2020.

Domaine Clos du Caillou, Châteauneuf du Pape

Owner Sylvie Vacheron, together with winemaker Bruno Gaspard, have been working hard to retain the prestige of Clos du Caillou, following the death of Jean-Denis Vacheron almost three years ago. The 2003s have more than repaid their efforts, with massive concentration and the classic dark, brooding fruit that so reflects the property. No Reserve cuvée this year, but a welcome return to the cuvée normale that has been held back from international markets since 2000. Fans of the Bouquet des Garrigues (there are many) will not be disappointed.

White

Cotes du Rhône Bouquet des Garrigues

£69.00

A classic blend of Grenache blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc and a little Roussanne. Rich, anis and flowers' aromas. Quite fat on the palate, well in tune with the nose. Drink 2004 – 2007.

Châteauneuf du Pape – Very Limited

£216.00

Quite a bit of Roussanne in the blend and some oak ageing. Very impressive, full blown Chateaneuf, not trying to hide its origin. Will age too. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Red

Côtes du Rhône Bouquet des Garrigues

£71.00

From a vineyard situated between Beaucastel and Rayas, the 2003 Bouquet des Garrigues is back to the form of the 2000 vintage. Very ripe, it's closer to a Châteauneuf than a Côtes du Rhône and benefits from the same care as the more illustrious wines from the estate. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Côtes du Rhône Villages	£108.00
Like the Bouquet des Garrigues with more intensity and an even better balance. A step up and not far behind the Châteauneuf. Really top wine. Drink 2005 – 2010.	
Châteauneuf du Pape	£204.00
A Grenache dominated blend vinified in large oak barrels. Very ripe and unctuous with a lot of glycerol, very spicy too. Drink 2006 – 2011.	
Châteauneuf du Pape Les Quartz	£312.00
More colour and flesh brought by the higher proportion of barrel aged Syrah in this cuvée. The result is a very intense and more complete wine, perhaps not reaching the heights of the Reserve 2000 and 2001 but a superlative cuvée nevertheless. Drink 2007 – 2020.	
Domaine Santa Duc, Gigondas	
As many of you already know, this is the benchmark Domaine in Gigondas. As a result these wines almost always sell out on opening offer. We will, as before, be able to offer Yves Gras' negociant wines from next year. Good though the lesser wines are, the wines listed below are the cause of all the fuss and the reason why, especially in a small vintage like 2003, it is now or never to get hold of the Domaine wines.	
Red	
Vin de Pays de Vaucluse Les Plans	£34.00
A blend of Rhône varietals and a little Merlot that offers tremendous quality at a low price. Deep, quite rich wine with spices, ripe fruit and a hint of Provence. Drink 2004 – 2006.	
Côtes du Rhône Les Quatre Terres	£48.00
From 4 different villages around Gigondas. A serious, powerful wine, with warm rounded tannins needing time to be ready. Drink 2006 – 2012.	
Gigondas	£108.00
Typical Yves Gras style, generous and very powerful. A lot of spices and tannins helped by ripe fruit. This is a classic Gigondas. Needs a bit of time. Drink 2007 – 2018.	
Gigondas Les Hautes Garrigues – Limited	£171.00
A little toast and spices on the nose. Fatter with some herbs, roasted meat flavours and a very powerful structure ideal for long ageing. Drink 2007 – 2025.	
Domaine de la Mordorée, Tavel	
Christophe Delorme let us taste his 2003 Châteauneuf du Pape earlier this year. We have known him for quite a few years now, and never before had we seen such excitement from him. He believes that his 2003s are as good, if not better, than his 2001s (his 2001 Châteauneuf is a 100 point wine!). Across the board, yet again, you can see why this estate has won more awards and accolades than any other in the Rhône Valley.	
White	
Lirac Blanc La Reine des Bois	£102.00
A highly concentrated wine with honey, ripe peach and apricot flavours. Luscious and very long, it's a very appealing wine now. Drink 2004 – 2007.	
Red	
Lirac La Dame Rousse	£69.00
The 'simpler' cuvée or that's what it's supposed to be. But at La Mordorée, every wine is made with the same passion and commitment. Low yields and concentration promise a great future for the 2003 Lirac. Drink 2005 – 2010.	
Lirac La Reine des Bois – Limited	£105.00
Again, the quality belies the appellation. It is difficult not to be in admiration when tasting such a wine. It's full and rich, ripe and spicy, structured and velvety at the same time. As always, there is not going to be enough for everyone. Drink 2006 – 2012.	

Domaine de la Mordorée cont....

Châteauneuf du Pape La Reine des Bois – Very Limited

£495.00

Christophe is making some of the most impressive wines in the Southern Rhône and the 2003 Châteauneuf most certainly confirms his place at the top. It is one of the most impressive Châteauneuf we have ever tasted and should be in every Rhône lover's cellar. Unfortunately only a miniscule quantity was produced. Drink 2008 – 2020.

Domaine Font de Michelle, Châteauneuf du Pape

New to us, but not to great lovers of Châteauneuf du Pape. Font de Michelle, one of the best estates, is run by the Gonnet brothers, Jean & Michel. The vines of the 30 hectare estate are mainly located in La Crau, one of Châteauneuf du Pape's best areas. The wines are classy and rich and have great concentration helped by the age of vines, many of which are over 100 years old. This is a very exciting addition to our en primeur offering.

White

Châteauneuf du Pape

£141.00

A blend of 50% Grenache Blanc, 25% Clairette and equal parts of Bourboulenc and Roussanne. Some white flowers and anis on the nose complemented by a rich, but not heavy, palate. Despite being very good young, it will age and build complex honeyed flavours. Drink 2005 – 2010.

Red

Côtes du Rhône Les Promesses, La Font du Vent

£44.00

From Domazan in the Gard, just across the Rhône from Châteauneuf. A cuvée made to express all the fruit and the essence of this ripe vintage. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Côtes du Rhône Villages Notre Passion, La Font du Vent

£55.00

A blend of 50% Syrah and 50% Grenache. Quite modern style with a strong Syrah influence in the blend. Full and sweet black fruit and some smoked flavours. Very harmonious too. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Châteauneuf du Pape

£150.00

The Frères Gonnet are extremely pleased by their 2003 and we understand why. After a difficult 2002, the Châteauneuf is back to the quality of the 2000 and 2001 vintages. Rich and full with very ripe fruit, it's typical of all the sunshine and generosity of this region. Not to be missed. Drink 2006 – 2011.

Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Etienne Gonnet

£264.00

A great wine! Immediately proclaiming its class, the 2003 Etienne Gonnet is magnificent. Deep nose, smoky, chocolate, blackcherries, olives, the list is endless. The palate is also as stylish and generous. A great success. Drink 2006 – 2018.

Domaine Clos des Papes, Châteauneuf du Pape

Again, new to us, but not, we suspect, to many of you. This is one of the few Châteauneuf (along with Font de Michelle), that we felt was a necessity to bring into the fold. Paul and Vincent Avril believe that the 2003 is the finest made in living memory at this brilliant property.

Red

Châteauneuf du Pape – Very Limited

£250.00

The greatest Clos des Papes ever. The wine is explosively spicy with a warm, sensual, velvety middle palate, smooth tannins throughout, and yet it has freshness and length. Drink 2006 – 2020.

Languedoc/Roussillon

Château de La Négly, Fleury d'Aude

Jean Paux-Rosset and consultant winemaker Claude Gros have rapidly elevated Ch de La Négly to superstar status in the Languedoc. Yields are minute, often as low as 10 hectolitres/hectare, resulting in a remarkable depth of quality from the simplest Vin de Pays to the cult cuvée – "L'Ancely". The 2003's are probably their best efforts to date, look out for the reviews.....

Red

Le Pavillon Vin de Pays Côtes de Perignan, Domaine de Boède

£39.00

From a property co-owned by the winemaker Claude Gros, this wine is made with the same care and precision. A little more rustic but very intense, almost over-delivering for the price. A great wine for a peasant winter dish. Drink 2004 – 2008.

Côteaux du Languedoc Les Grès, Domaine de Boède

£72.00

Much classier, already awarded great notes by famous journalists and magazines. Not your usual Côteaux du Languedoc. Grenache based with a little Syrah and Carignan, it's a powerful but balanced wine with roasted coffee, meat, liquorice and black fruit fragrances.

Drink 2005 – 2010.

Côteaux du Languedoc La Côte

£48.00

A very stylish wine offering stupendous value. Not as powerful as the Les Grès, it offers a little more finesse and purity. A mix of red and black fruits with a solid, but not rustic, palate. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Côteaux du Languedoc La Falaise

£84.00

50% Syrah and almost equal parts of Grenache and Mourvèdre. The 2003 is curiously finer and more balanced than the 2001, perhaps because there is a bit more Grenache in the blend. Very fresh and fine with a lot of ripe red berries and a little spiciness. Drink 2006 – 2011.

Côteaux du Languedoc L'Ancely – Very Limited

£300.00

85% Mourvèdre with some Grenache and Syrah, aged for 20 months in 600 litre oak barrels. The high proportion of Mourvèdre gives a little wild character to the wine but also brings some freshness and a great structure. Very complex like a top Bandol with a richer, more luscious almost sensual palate. Drink 2005 – 2014.

Domaine de L'Hortus, Pic St Loup

The foremost property in Pic St Loup, the small sub-appellation of the Languedoc, that is widely considered the finest. Hortus has been inexorably driven forward by Jean Orliac, now helped by his son and daughter, since the first vintage in 1990. The wines are amazingly concentrated and ooze class, the red is almost a cross between a Châteauneuf and a Hermitage, whilst the white is more akin to top white Burgundy.

White

Pic St Loup Grande Cuvée

£98.00

A blend of oak aged Viognier and Chardonnay. The relative altitude of the Pic Saint Loup has preserved a good freshness to the wine in this intensely hot vintage. The 2003 is more luscious and aromatic than the previous vintages but still has great balance. Drink 2005 – 2008.

Red

Pic St Loup Grande Cuvée

£98.00

Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Very classy this year, as again the coolness of the region helped greatly in 2003. The usual polished style is a good frame for the very ripe and more exuberant fruit, making it one of the best Grande Cuvées we have tasted in years. Drink from 2007 – 2015.

Clos de l'Anhel, Corbières

Sophie Guiraudon and Philippe Matthias should be rewarded for their courage and hard work. During the working week they look after Chateau Pech Latt, a large estate in Corbières, but their love for the region and the desire to create something of their own, lead to the purchase of a small property with run down vines nearby. After work, and at weekends they continue the painstaking job of restoring the property and replanting the vineyards. This work is starting to pay off and the wines have recently been noticed by the Revue du Vin de France. They have described Clos de l'Anhel as one of the fast rising stars of the area.

Red

Corbières Les Terrassettes

£52.00

A blend of Carignan, Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault. We liked the immediate purity and the direct red fruit and flowers aromas. Quite juicy, easy, sweet and delicate with great freshness. A lovely, uncomplicated wine. Drink 2004 – 2008.

Corbières Les Dimanches

£72.00

75% Old Carignan and 25% Syrah. Much tighter, needing time to open up. Some cherry and cassis on the nose. Also a much firmer structure requiring some ageing but still with the same purity and freshness, proof of very good winemaking. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Domaine St Antonin, Frédéric Albaret

Set on steep slopes of the foothills of the Massif Central, Frédéric Albaret's vineyards are planted on a terroir of schist giving earthy and mineral notes to his wines. Like many up and coming young growers, he spends a lot of time caring for his vines as he believes that great wines are made in the vineyard. There is very little intervention in the brand new cellar; the wines are vinified in a mix of tanks and a large proportion of small barrels and demi-muids.

Red

Faugères

£48.00

Very ripe, succulent red and black berries with a little minerality. Sweet cherries and smoked meat in the mouth. A very appealing wine already but with a very good backbone and freshness. Drink 2005 – 2009.

Faugères Cuvée Magnoux

£78.00

A more powerful and intense wine. Rich coffee and chocolate nose with notes of balsam. Black cherries and black berries on the palate with a more intense earthy mineral character. Very impressive. Drink 2006 – 2010.

Château Puech Chaud (René Rostaing)

Not happy with simply making some of the best Côte Rôtie, René Rostaing has invested in a small property near Nîmes and intends to make some of the best southern Syrah based wines. The Château Puech Chaud, called 'Les Combes' in lighter vintages, is already recognised as one of the references in the region.

Red

Côteaux du Languedoc

£120.00

Reasonably subtle nose of spice, herbs and bramble. Very fine on the palate too. René has handled the heat very well with the same gentle and precise touch that makes his Northern Rhône wines so famous. Very classy and rich without being overwhelming. Drink 2005 – 2010.

Mas de Daumas Gassac, Aniane

"We are not making Coca-Cola here" Samuel Guibert. Pretty unlikely at this organic property! There is little need for an introduction to Mas de Daumas Gassac, as the Estate, created by Aimé Guibert, has been the foremost domaine in the Languedoc for many years. He was one of the first to believe that the region offered great terroir and by using very natural techniques and precise winemaking, he has established Mas de Daumas as one of the great wines of the world.

Red

Mas de Daumas Gassac (6X75CL)

£75.00

Aimé Guibert declares that 2003 is a perfect vintage, the best he has seen in his thirty years as a vigneron. It's ripe and complete, ready to be cellared for many years and will reward patience but like many 2003s will be seductively pleasant in its youth. Drink 2007 – 2020.



Terms & Conditions of Sale

These terms apply to all sales transactions, unless varied in writing, and form the basis of accepting any order.

1. **Prices:** prices are quoted in £ per case (12 x 75cl, unless otherwise stated) in bond (exclusive of duty and VAT).
2. **Order and payment:** our minimum order is 1 case (9 litres) and orders must be in multiples of 1 case. All orders are subject to confirmation. Orders cannot be confirmed until payment is received in full; payment may be made by direct transfer to our bank or by Visa, Mastercard or Switch (Maestro). Wines remain the property of Genesis Wines Limited until paid for in full.
3. **Delivery:** wines will be shipped from November 2004 through to October 2005. Customers will be informed when the wine has arrived at our bonded warehouse. Delivery is free within mainland UK (except for Scottish Highlands) for orders over £250 (ex VAT) per consignment. Please enquire for delivery charges to Scottish Highlands, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and other destinations. Export customers can be put in touch with a freight forwarder.
4. **Damaged wines:** you undertake to inspect goods on delivery and notify Genesis Wines Limited in writing within 5 days of any damaged wines or other defects.
5. **Force majeure:** we shall not be liable for any failure to meet our obligations caused by events outside our control.
6. **E&OE.**

Should you have a complaint or query of any sort, please contact us by email sales@genesishines.com telephone **020 7963 9060** or fax **020 7963 9069** or write to us at 14 Denbigh Street, London SW1V 2ER and we shall aim to reply within 24 (working) hours.

