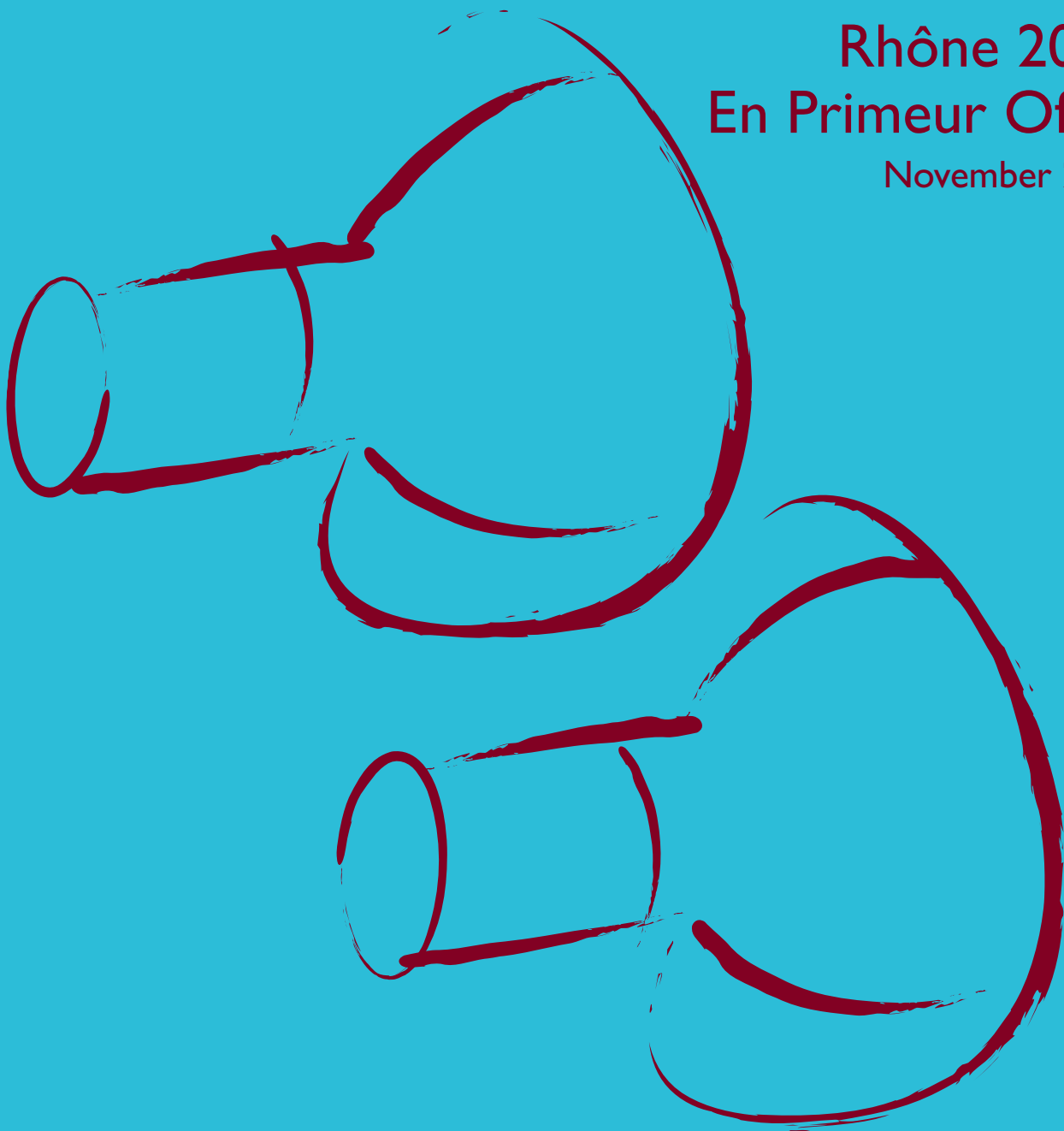


GENESIS
WINES

Rhône 2008
En Primeur Offer
November 2009



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For those new to 'en primeur' offers, it is essentially the 'first offering' of the wines when they are still in preparation for bottling at the wine makers. Wines are offered at an in bond price, i.e. excluding duty and VAT, all of which become payable once the wine is delivered.

The prime benefits of buying en primeur are to secure highly sought-after wines that are often impossible to find later and at a price that is expected to be less than their market value on release

The Offer

- Prices are quoted in bond UK per case of 12 x 75cl, unless otherwise stated
- Est: estimated guide price; please contact the Fine Wine Team for confirmed price
- POA prices: please contact the Fine Wine Team for allocation and pricing details
- Payment is due with order
- Wines will be shipped between November 2009 and February 2011

This offer opens on 19 November.

www.genesiswines.com

The Rhône offer and vintage report will be on the website from 19 November. Due to the limited allocations of some of the wines, we regret that orders cannot be placed online. Please call or email us with your requests..

Forthcoming Events

11 January 2010 Burgundy 2008 Cask Sample Tasting
12 January 2010 Burgundy Offer Opens

Please let us know if you would like to receive further details or book tickets to any tastings. Tel: **020 7963 9060**

Email: sales@genesiswines.com

Rhône 2008 En Primeur Offer

Introduction

We had been led to believe by the doom merchants that 2008 was a catastrophe in waiting, well I am pleased to report that this is not the case. Sure the wines are not stellar but they are not to be written off either. Many of the growers who would usually produce two or three cuvées are going to produce just one; others are happy to keep to the norm; and some are still undecided. Production however is well down in all instances with 30% the average drop off.

The Vintage

A wet and cool start to the year meant that the growing season was hampered from the beginning, particularly around the crucial time of flowering then fruit set. The summer that followed was below average in temperature and the skies appeared to be permanently grey, resulting in humid weather that promoted rot and disease. All of this kept yields very low. Then in September the winds picked up, helping to dry out the vineyards and concentrate the grapes. Growers still had to leave it late – some picking in mid-October – to achieve full ripeness and had to be extremely fussy with what fruit they kept. This natural then grower-induced selection means that some wines in 2008 are in fact very good. However it is not a vintage for across the board statements of quality.

Stylistically these are lighter wines than the recent norm – the theme being more about vineyard work put in than extraction and force in the winery – without the high alcohols of recent years, nor the overripe flavours. They are far more classical and will provide good drinking whilst one waits for the 2005s to unfurl and 2007s to mature.

The Wines

The North

A story of very good whites and much better than anticipated reds here. From Hermitage **Domaine du Colombier's** Florent Viale was more than satisfied with his 2008s, the stand-out wine being the Cuvée Gaby, but all the wines possess purity and good minerality. **Natacha Chave** has maintained her early track record and has again made wines with feminine charm and persistence. Our old friend **René Rostaing's** will not be offering his wines until next year, but be assured that they are miles better than his 2002s. **Stéphane Ogier** as usual will release much later than the rest, but the tasting here was as good as anywhere; he really is an incredible talent. The whites made by **François Villard** are again exemplary with the three Condrieus showing opulence and minerality in equal measure.

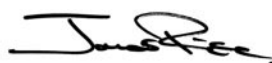
His reds are more toned back than usual and the hidden gem was the normally un-heralded Mairlant. Chez **Gaillard** we tasted from barrels of the as yet un-assembled reds, with all the constituent parts showing purity and minerality to the fore and some with decent structure beneath.

The South

Stylistically the 2008s are little different to the last few years in that they have juice and flesh aplenty, what is not the same is the concentrated structure and their potential for decades of cellaring. They are however, going to bring a lot more pleasure considerably earlier than any 2005, 2006 or 2007. Highlights of the trip included the delicious Châteauneuf du Pape from **Marcoux**, maybe not that surprising when you consider the Vieilles Vignes has all gone into the straight cuvée this year. At **Clos du Caillou** the decision to just produce single bottlings of Côtes du Rhône and Châteauneuf appears to be the right one, as the wines are classy if not powerful. Christophe Delorme's Lirac Reine des Bois stood out for us this year at **Domaine de La Mordorée**. Outside of Châteauneuf du Pape, Yves Gras is justifiably pleased with his Gigondas and has produced a wine that has much more concentration than many of his peers'. Two stand-outs further afield are the wines at **Domaine de La Monardière** and, yet again, **Domaine de Fondrèche**, in Damien Vache and Sébastien Vicenti I believe we have two of the most exciting producers in the Rhône Valley.

Recommendation

This time last year we were bemoaning the fact that the pound's slide had eroded, but not erased entirely, the value that the Rhône shows in comparison to its fine wine brethren from Burgundy and Bordeaux. Twelve months later and sterling is still at sea. Coupled with the low yields that the growers experienced across the board and their need to recoup investment with less wine at their disposal, 2008 cannot be called a bargain vintage. Especially if one then directly compares the opening prices with those of the "vintage of a lifetime" 2007s. Genesis as the importer of these wines has tried to be as fair as possible, and we have pleaded your case as the end consumer of the wines to the growers. Most, where they could, have been understanding – they are not unreasonable people. So please do not allow your cynical side to overcome you. These are early drinking wines from the best that the region has to offer, priced at a level that reflects the circumstances that we are all in together.



James Price, November 2009

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The North

Aléofane (Natacha Chave), Mercuriol

Natacha is the younger sister of the prominent winemaker Yann Chave, and though her cellar backs onto the family's main winery she struck out on her own a couple of years ago to found the garage-sized Aléofane. She started with a Saint Joseph from a small 1.3 hectare plot, followed up last year by the addition of an old vine Crozes. She is an exciting grower that has already got significant praise from the Wine Journal and better value wines from the Northern Rhône you would be hard pressed to find.

Red

Saint Joseph

130.00

100% Syrah. Quite a perfumed and seductive nose of cherry fruits and blossom. Delicate and floral in the mouth too, this is a very feminine nuanced wine (half was aged in barriques and half in demi-muids) with nice concentration on the finish and a beautifully textured mouthfeel. Drink from 2011.

Crozes Hermitage

125.00

100% Syrah. Lovely elegant nose with a distinctive minerality and spicy pepper edge. Darker than the Saint Joseph, black cherry flavours and cassis are evident with, again, a great crunchy pepper texture – almost cereal like – and a very juicy finish that leaves a lasting impression of freshness. Drink from 2011.

Domaine Colombier, Tain l'Hermitage

Domaine Colombier, with its cellars based at the eastern foot of the Hermitage hill, goes back three generations with a history of mixed farming: cattle, poultry, apricot and cherries, plus vines. Indeed only since grandson Florent Viale took the helm of the wine operations do they now vinify and bottle their own 15 hectares of grapes, which until the early 1990s they used to sell on to big names of the northern Rhône (Hermitage to Guigal, Crozes to Ogier & Jaboulet Aîné). The superior Crozes cuvée, Gaby, is named after Florent's father and surpasses many growers' wines from the more illustrious straight Hermitage.

White

Crozes Hermitage Blanc Cuvée Gaby

150.00

100% Marsanne. Lovely nose of white flowers and hazelnut skins with a touch of warm, almost honeyed, wood. The creamy palate shows soft peach flavours with a pure yet toasty touch of chewy structure. Drink from 2010.

Hermitage Blanc

385.00

100% Marsanne. Gentle feminine nose infused with aromas of cinnamon, citrus zest and stone fruit – very sexy. Round, mineral and very attractive on the palate it has good mouthfeel with an intense and nervy pith flavoured finish. Drink from 2011+.

Red

Crozes Hermitage

100.00

100% Syrah. Very purple and fruit intense nose with an enticing perfumed note. In the mouth there are fresh cassis overtones with juicy palate-lifting acidity. Not big but attractive and very drinkable. Drink from 2010+.

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Gaby

150.00

100% Syrah. The red berry and currant nose shows hints of wood (20% new barrels used) with an added savoury animal note too. Lovely ripe impact in the mouth, quite textured with noticeable juiciness of dry red cherries. Much more serious than the straight Crozes which was good in its own right. Drink from 2011.

Hermitage

385.00

100% Syrah. Intense, spicy and gamey nose with peppery mouthfeel – a poster boy for Northern Rhône. Intense and very pure cassis flavours on the palate with some nervosité too. Great mineral streak all the way through to the lovely finish. Drink from 2013.

Pierre Gaillard, Malleval

Pierre Gaillard is one of the greats of the Northern Rhône. Located in Malleval to the south of Condrieu with a relatively new (completed 2002) bells and whistles winery, he makes a wide range of wines from his 16 hectares of vineyards. Saint Joseph is his largest holding of which 10 hectares are situated in his original Clos de Cuminaille (a site he located with Guigal back in the early 1980s); his Côte Rôties then have up to 15% Viognier in them and a good dollop of new oak. Such is the success of Pierre's 2008 whites that only the round and full Condrieu will be offered as the Saint Joseph has already sold out; and he will not be making La Rose Pourpre Côte Rôtie.

White

Condrieu 260.00

100% Viognier. Good nose of citrus and stone fruit that has lovely definition behind the well balanced weight (10% new oak). Lots of purity here with a bit of tropicality too that is kept in check by an intriguing mandarin note. Good acidity and freshness with a big and bold finish. Drink from 2010+.

Red

Saint Joseph 125.00

100% Syrah. Ripe and juicy red cherry and cassis flavours with a spiced herbal edge. The palate shows nice freshness and some good mineral grip too that adds a level of seriousness. Drink from 2010+.

Saint Joseph Le Clos de Cuminaille 150.00

100% Syrah. Lovely nose with lots of seductive wood spice aromas combining with cassis and flowers. In the mouth it is fresh and punchy with cassis and black cherry flavours. Good all-round creamy structure. Drink from 2011.

Saint Joseph Les Pierres 200.00

100% Syrah. Bags of cassis and crème de mûre on the nose with generous dried flower aromas. Juicy palate with great texture and balance, the long black cherry finish leaves lingering minerality to boot. Drink from 2012.

Cornas 220.00

100% Syrah. Lots of structure and grip with more black fruits than the Saint Josephs and extra minerality. Less floral, this is the most masculine of the line up. Drink from 2013.

Côte Rôtie 275.00

85% Syrah, 15% Viognier. Very sexy and seductive nose that just stays the right side of elegant. Pure and very polished on the palate there are beautiful feminine top notes with a floral and gentle minerality flowing over a deeper and denser core and bitter chocolate, kirsch and morello cherry. Drink from 2014.

Michel & Stéphane Ogier, Ampuis

If Stéphane is the new face of Côte Rôtie, which we most definitely believe he is, then what an exciting future this classic appellation has. Having taken over the domaine from his father Michel, he has expanded the vineyard holdings to 11 hectares. These include clever plantings the other side of the river from Vienne that are labelled as Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes. The portfolio as a whole, reds and whites, over delivers up and down the scale, showing not just the polished depth and concentration of a young winemaker in his stride, but with added finesse and delicacy that reveals his rare talent. It will not be long before Ogier junior has a reputation that equals, if not surpasses, that of Monsieur Rostaing.

White

Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes Blanc La Rosine 129.00

100% Viognier. Very pure and lifted; this is a racy citrus infused interpretation of the Viognier grape with gentle white flower and jasmine notes. Light and refreshing on the palate this is very good with not a hint of blousy oiliness at all. Impressive. Drink now.

Condrieu 350.00

100% Viognier. A rich and honeyed nose suggests a weighty wine but an impressive mineral streak and citrus acidity keeps the flavours of peach nectar, mango and cinnamon from becoming too heavy. Impressive again. Drink from 2012.

Red

Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes La Rosine 115.00

100% Syrah. Very Ogier on the nose, this has fruit depth but is overlaid with meatier flavours of animal skin. The palate has a huge mineral component that is more broadsword than streak, layered with fresh crunchy cherries and redcurrants. Long and interesting. Drink from 2010+.

Please note that Ogier is due to release his 2007 Côte Rôties, not 2008, at the end of this year.

Contact your salesman if you would like to express an interest in these highly sought after small batch wines.

René Rostaing, Ampuis

Though a bit of a maverick himself, René's wines have come to epitomise Côte Rôtie and as such they have a fanatical following: with or without point scores. Not from a winemaking family himself, he inherited the majority of his vines through his wife's family (the Rhône royalty Dervieux clan), and now has over seven hectares in some of the most lauded parts of the appellation. He also has an impressive estate in the Languedoc, Domaine de Puech Chaud, where he produces equally polished Syrah-based wines.

Red

Côte Rôtie Classique POA

100% Syrah. Lovely polished and pure nose of deep cassis and redcurrant. Good fruit on the palate too with added purple floral notes. Some mid-palate crunch but lots of cassis to go with it. Very pure. Drink from 2012.

Côte Rôtie La Landonne POA

100% Syrah. Almost an opulent OTT nose for the vintage with sweet perfumed top notes and dried flowers. Delicious freshness and elegance in the mouth with some power (though not as much as the Blonde) but this is by no means a bruiser. Feminine in profile with persistent sweet berry fruit. Drink from 2013+.

Côte Rôtie La Blonde POA

100% Syrah. More concentrated and blacker nose than the Landonne – this is comparatively more masculine but is still quite delicate and fine. Elegant black fruit flavours with added power and drive from fine tannins and grippy minerality gives a more dense impression. Very cassis with chew and grip. Drink from 2014.

François Villard, Saint Michel

Having started out in 1989 François is still a relative youngster – he has that sparkly keenness and zeal in his eyes – but with nearly twenty vintages under his belt, has enough experience to draw on when perfecting some of the Northern Rhône's best appellations. His 26 hectares of vines are split roughly fifty-fifty red and white from which he crafts several cuvées of Condrieu, each from a separate commune, and Saint Josephs of both colours. As well as these his La Brocarde Côte Rôtie is from a single lieu-dit while the Le Gallet Blanc is from multiple sites. François' wines keep improving year after year.

White

Saint Joseph Blanc Fruit d'Avileran est 135.00

85% Marsanne, 15% Roussanne. A fresh and straightforward nose of subtle white flowers with a touch of oak. The palate is quite rich and structured with flavours of grilled lemons and almond paste. Good perky acidity to finish with. Drink from now.

Saint Joseph Blanc Mairlant est 165.00

60% Marsanne, 40% Roussanne. Very aromatic on the nose with scents of honeysuckle, stone fruits and almonds. The palate shows more yellow fruits from the extra Roussanne plus lots of mid-palate weight. Drink from 2010.

Condrieu Terrasses du Palat est 275.00

100% Viognier. Very typical Villard nose of white peach and hints of juicy pear. The palate is richer (30% new oak) than the nose suggests but not forced or OTT. Grilled peaches and a lemon pith kick are complimented by nice acidity. Pretty long for the baby cuvée of the line up. Very good. Drink from 2010.

Condrieu Le Grand Vallon est 290.00

100% Viognier. Fuller nose with more toast (third new oak barrels) and weight than the Terrasses. The well-defined citrus and stone fruit flavours in the mouth add just a hint of restraint that matches up well with minerality and fine acidity that appear in the mid-palate. Good length. Drink from 2010.

Condrieu De Poncins est 320.00

100% Viognier. Extra floral notes make this almost Marsanne-esque. Very mineral but extremely rich at the same time (40% new oak) with concentration and savoury power to balance the overt inner mouth perfume. The very long finish has mineral grip as well as resulting in the wine being serious yet tarty at the same time. Very good and a great example of the undoubted success of 2008 whites. Drink from 2010.

Red

Saint Joseph Mairlant est 170.00

100% Syrah. Lovely, lovely nose of ripe fruits and flowers with mineral lift too. Blackcurrant and mineral overtones in the mouth with touches of sweet oak (15% new barrels) and nice framing grip. Very good for its level. Drink from 2012.

Saint Joseph Les Reflets est 250.00

100% Syrah. Attractive creamy nose of black fruits and crème de mûre. Very ripe and rich in the mouth, this has big concentration (40% new oak) of more black fruits and a mineral kick at the end. Lots of length with big but well integrated wood. Drink from 2012.

Côte Rôtie Le Gallet Blanc est 300.00

100% Syrah. Very mineral nose with good purity; nothing forced. Lovely mouthfeel with pretty inner mouth perfume and huge cassis power coming through. Some grip and hint of greenness on the wood (40% new oak) comes through towards the end. Still very good with mineral finish. Drink from 2013+.

Côte Rôtie La Brocarde est 500.00

90% Syrah, 10% Viognier. Only four barrels made. The nose is very meaty and sensual with kirsch, bacon fat and clove aromas. Wow! In the mouth it is very ripe and pure with cherry cough sweet, creosote and wet stones. It is much bigger and more oakly than other top cuvées but carries it off with style. So much going on! Excellent. Drink from 2014.

The South – Châteauneuf du Pape

Le Clos du Caillou, Châteauneuf du Pape

Widow Sylvie Vacheron, along with winemaker Bruno Gaspard and larger than life consultant Philippe Cambie, year after year make some of the finest Châteauneuf du Papes and Côtes du Rhônes around. The Bouquet des Garrigues is the earliest drinker in the Caillou line up and is a perennial best seller of ours that belies its humble Côtes du Rhône appellation. This year the number of Châteauneuf cuvées is reduced from the usual three to one straight bottling without the Les Safres moniker.

White

Côtes du Rhône Bouquet des Garrigues Blanc 90.00

50% Grenache Blanc, 25% Clairette Rose, 20% Viognier, 5% Bourboulenc. Toasty and concentrated on the nose but with a lemon lift. The palate has some added herbal hints to the citrus core, all rounded off with a linear and mineral infused nervosité. Drink from 2010.

Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc Les Safres 275.00

70% Roussanne, 30% Grenache Gris. Rich, big and nutty on the nose. The attack in the mouth is creamy and quite sweet followed up by charming grilled peach flavours. The finish is then more taut and lively as a distinctive kick of mandarin and lemon pith kicks in. Drink from 2010+.

Red

Côtes du Rhône Bouquet des Garrigues 87.00

85% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Carignan, Counoise & Mourvèdre. Quite an opulent nose of cassis and dried fruit moves onto a richly textured palate of plum and red apple. The mouthfeel is soft and supple with no edges. A mineral and savoury herbal wave comes through on the finish. Drink from 2011.

Châteauneuf du Pape 240.00

85% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre. Darker, brooding nose of dry hay. Lovely impact in the mouth but with generous fresh fruit flavours of black cherry, red currants and raspberry coulis creaminess. Good structure and mineral grip with a fresh, almost minty, mouthfeel. Decent length and purity. Drink from 2013.

Domaine Grand Veneur, Châteauneuf du Pape

Founded by Alain Jaume in 1979 near the town of Orange, Domaine Grand Veneur has grown from its original size of nine hectares to nearly 50 today. Covering Châteauneuf du Pape, Côtes du Rhône Village Les Champavins and Côtes du Rhône appellations, the estate has some vines over 90 years old and is considered one of the top players in the area. Alain's sons Sébastien and Christophe have taken charge of the management of the estate and are driving it to greater heights.

White

Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc Cuvée La Fontaine est 246.00

100% Roussanne. A wonderful floral nose of honeysuckle and jasmine, moves onto a rich and ripe palate of almond, lemon and camomile. Underneath there is a strong mineral backbone that should stand this wine in good stead for the future. Drink from 2013.

Red

Châteauneuf du Pape est 180.00

80% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre. Floral and juicy nose with hints of cherry blossom and cassis. In the mouth it is fresh and lifted with a firm mineral streak running from beginning to end. Drink from 2012.

Châteauneuf du Pape Les Origines est 250.00

50% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah. Extra power on the nose and palate is expressed as blacker fruits with hints of coffee and dried flowers. There is tannic and mineral grip on the palate which suggests a more ageworthy 2008 than the norm. Brooding but good with it. Drink from 2014.

Domaine de Marcoux, Châteauneuf du Pape

Domaine de Marcoux is one of the illustrious producers that has managed a 100 point Parker score, and so is firmly in the Premier League of Rhône growers. That said sisters Catherine and Sophie Armenier are as grounded as they come, and their feminine-tinged wines, which are capable of ageing for years but also open up a year or two earlier than most, are true Genesis favourites. Catherine looks after the vineyards, which have been tended biodynamically since the 1990s when their brother Philippe used to run the domaine, while Sophie's realm is in the cellar, where she uses large vats and not a centimetre of new oak. In 2008 there is no Lirac (the boars ate the grapes!) nor Châteauneuf Vieilles Vignes.

White

Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc 270.00

80% Roussanne, 20% Bourboulenc. Juicy citrus nose with soft feminine overtones of almond and white flower. The palate shows a lovely balance and elegance with mandarin, nut and honey flavours that give a silky and supple mouthfeel. Drink from 2010+.

Red

Châteauneuf du Pape 275.00

Concentrated and stylish on the nose with black berried fruits and a lapsang souchong-like smokiness. The palate has creamy sweet cassis and blueberry flavours with hints of coffee, bitter chocolate and fine crunch. Again not much in the way of harsh tannins. Very feminine and drinkable, this is very good for 2008. Drink from 2012.

Domaine de la Mordorée, Tavel

Christophe Delorme's roots, from his mother's side, are in Tavel and it wasn't until 1989 that he obtained a foothold in Châteauneuf du Pape. Since then he has quickly climbed up the ladder to being one of the very best vigneron in the country, for that is most definitely how he is considered among those in the know. He now has 60 hectares of vines – some of them octogenarians – across eight districts including Tavel, Lirac and Châteauneuf, all of which he farms in an holistic manner avoiding the use of chemicals; and machinery where horses will do instead!

White

Lirac La Reine des Bois Blanc 120.00

30% Grenache, 15% Viognier, 15% Roussanne, 10% Marsanne, 10% Picpoul, 10% Clairette, 10% Bourboulenc. Lovely lifted floral notes on the nose with almost honeyed hints. Soft yet intense and lingering on the finish with a honeysuckle roundness and citrus pith liveliness. Drink now.

Red

Lirac La Dame Rousse 84.00

50% Grenache, 50% Syrah. Nice savoury notes on the nose with a touch of pepper and sour cherry. Juicy in the mouth with noticeable succulence, mineral grip and kirsch flavours. Very Grenache with good concentration on the finish. Very long. Drink from 2011.

Lirac La Reine des Bois 135.00

33% Grenache, 33% Syrah, 33% Mourvèdre. A little more oak evident than on the Dame Rousse, but not excessively so. Again noticeably savoury – white pepper plus hints of olive and tar – with an overall fuller and more structured feel. Black fruit comes through on a long a finish. Drink from 2011+.

Châteauneuf du Pape La Reine des Bois 420.00

80% Grenache, 20% combination of Mourvèdre, Cinsault, Syrah, Counoise & Vaccarèse. Very expressive Grenache-dominant nose that is noticeably more pretty and feminine than the Liracs. Lovely spice and herbal notes in the mouth with a nutty edge too. Good chew and touch of crunch to boot. Drink from 2014.

Domaine du Pegau, Châteauneuf du Pape

Though Paul Feraud's family had been making wine for four generations, Domaine du Pegau (named after the old Provençal word for a wine jug) was only created in 1987, when Paul's daughter Laurence finished her wine studies and father and daughter went into partnership. Even though this is a relatively new history, the domaine produces very traditionally styled wines from 18 organically farmed hectares and extensive use of foudres and old demi-muids in the cellar. These wines are perennial Parker point scorers, and as such the price and a scarcity of allocations reflect this pedigree.

Red

Châteauneuf du Pape

POA

Mainly Grenache. The nose is very lifted and quite ethereal with gentle lavender and fresh cherry notes. On the palate it has a creamy red fruit attack with some structured tannins evident from the start. More savoury and drier notes then come through from the mid-palate: nut skin, leather and cranberry. Drink from 2014.

Domaine de la Vieille Julienne, Châteauneuf du Pape

The word 'old' in the name of this estate is very apt: with its history in the Daumen family going back over 100 years Vieille Julienne has access to some truly ancient vine fruit in its vineyards to the north of the appellation. The man in charge of this legacy is the sage-like Jean-Paul Daumen, who oversees everything using minimal intervention. The vines themselves are farmed biodynamically and cropped at ridiculously low yields. The resulting wines are pure and intense expressions of the deep-rooted vines and their grapes.

Please note Jean-Paul is very particular about not letting people taste his wines before they are finished and bottled, as such we do not have tasting notes for the two cuvées that we are offering en primeur; prices are as follows:

Red

Côtes du Rhône Lieu-dit Clavin

108.00

80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre & Cinsault.

Châteauneuf du Pape

372.00

70% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Counoise, 10% Cinsault & Mourvèdre & Clairette.

The South – The Villages

Domaine Daniel & Denis Alary, Cairanne

Denis took over from his father Daniel around the turn of the millennium and immediately began to start decreasing yields and increasing selection. Thus exemplifying that although Cairanne may not be as sexy as some of the other southern villages with their own appellations, it is arguably one of the best Côtes du Rhône Villages. Again, Denis is another vigneron who has made the decision to cut down on the number of cuvées in 2008 (there is no Jean de Verde) but the result of this are wines that have maintained their very high standard. The Brunotte in particular is a shining success.

Red

Côtes du Rhône Villages Cairanne Tradition 68.00

70% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre & Carignan. Touch of herbal spice on the nose with attractive juicy cherry fruit. Nice and supple in the mouth with a hint of mint; this is an easy drinking style. Drink now.

Côtes du Rhône Villages Cairanne La Brunotte 84.00

33% Grenache, 33% Mourvèdre, 33% Carignan. Quite mineral on the nose with top notes of dried flowers and crème de mûre. The palate is lifted and fresh with both soft appeal and structured grip on the end. Creamy purple hints and a delightful suggestion of lavender are all contained in a supple mouth feel. This is very good for Cairanne. Drink from 2010+.

Côtes du Rhône Villages Cairanne Font d'Estevenas 99.00

60% Syrah, 40% Grenache. A little brooding on the nose showing earthiness and wet hay. Black forest fruit then appears on the palate with some good mid-palate weight and structure. This has persistence and a touch of gloss too. Very good. Drink from 2011.

Domaine Fondrèche, Mazan

Sébastien Vincenti is one of the country's most talented young vignerons, let alone just the Rhône. Setting up shop in the not so fashionable Côtes du Ventoux in the early 1990s (his mother Nanou left her career as a pharmacist to embark on project Fondrèche) he quickly assumed the mantle of the Best In Appellation and continues to push the bar higher and higher each year. Owing to this success (and the fact that he blended all the Nadal into the Fayard in 2008) we are only able to offer two cuvées this year.

Red

Côtes du Ventoux Fayard 58.00

33% Grenache, 33% Syrah, 33% Mourvèdre. Lovely elegant nose of sweet cherry, bacon and bitter chocolate. In the mouth there is lots of juiciness as usual balanced by some chewiness; purple plum flavours abound. Good. Drink from 2010.

Côtes du Ventoux Persia 105.00

100% Syrah. Almost Côte Rôtie like on the nose with cassis and dried flowers. Very attractive. In the mouth it is a little more masculine with a firm and grippy attack, black olive flavours followed by blackberry and black cherry. It finishes with a pepper kick and fine textured wood tannins. Drink from 2011.

Domaine de la Monardière, Vacqueyras

Founded in 1987, La Monardière is located in the heart of Vacqueyras right at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail. The ever-smiling Christian Vache has now handed the reins over to his 27 year son Damien, who though balancing winemaking with a new born baby, is one of the most talented youngsters in the Rhône. Both are Burgundy lovers and make wines of finesse and personality. His 2008s are possibly the most successful we came across having an added depth and glossiness that are not the norm in this typically early-drinking vintage. Gigondas the next in line to the Châteauneuf throne? If Monardière has anything to say about it, it will be Vacqueyras!

Red

Vacqueyras Les Deux Monardes

95.00

70% Grenache, 30% Syrah. Lovely sexy nose with touches of aromatic wood and Chinese five spice. This is very good for 2008 – showing weight and power with glycerol and lots of juicy dark hedgerow fruit. A nice serious crunch at the end too. Drink from 2010+.

Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes

150.00

60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre. Super nose – even sexier than the Deux Monardes – with hints of vanilla and potpourri. Super ripeness and juice with blackberry and raspberry coulis flavours in the mouth that are almost redolent of a 2007. Great length and crunch and power; there's even a touch of coffee bean like complexity on the finish. Wow! Drink from 2012.

Domaine Santa Duc, Gigondas

Yves Gras' wines set a standard in the Southern Rhône that has Châteauneuf producers looking at the neighbouring appellation with envy. Last year Santa Duc was responsible for one of the most talked about wines of the vintage: a limited edition cuvée of 100% Grenache. Though the Grande Grenache and Hautes Garrigues bottlings have not been produced this year, Yves has used the declassified fruit to maintain the quality and sheer power of his bread and butter Gigondas.

Red

Côtes du Rhône Villages Roaix

72.00

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah. Attractive nose of bramble jam and blackberry with a hint of animal skin. The palate is pure and round with cherry cough sweet, coffee bean and a menthol-mineral touch. Again a touch animal on the decent length finish. Drink from 2010+.

Vacqueyras

100.00

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah. Very floral on the nose with hints of sweet straw and underbrush that propel you to the autumnal countryside. Lovely dry style in the mouth that is very upfront with redcurrants and fine tannin chew to finish. Almost ready to drink already. Drink from 2010.

Gigondas

130.00

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah. Farm-yardy nose with deep crème de mûre and cassis fruit, plus grown up nuances of olive. The palate is very forceful and masculine with almost Northern Rhône style Syrah flavours of cassis and pepper; lots of tannic grip, chew and coffee bean flavours are present as well. Full square, but long and ageworthy. Yves is back to his old style it seems. Drink from 2014.

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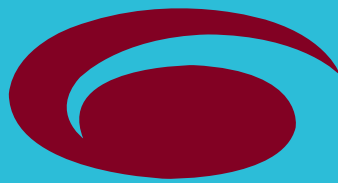
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