



Rhône 2017

En Primeur Offer

March 2019



Foudres at Domaine du Cayron, Gigondas



Davy's Fine Wine 2017 Rhône report

2017 follows two outstanding vintages in the Rhône, but does that mean 2017 will live in the shadows of two potential greats?

'Most of the wines that I tried looked quite fresh, à la 2016, but with more weight, structure and flavor impact, so in some ways a bit suggestive of 2015. Based on what I saw, and although it is admittedly still early, my first impression is that 2017 looks like a cross of the previous two vintages. Longtime northern Rhône lovers don't need to be reminded that the best wines of the region are getting tougher and tougher to find. Prices of many wines that are serious objects of desire have also been on a steady and ongoing upward trend that are positively dizzying. The simple fact is that these wines that have developed a world-wide audience are seldom made in significant quantity.'

Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media

Despite challenging conditions that led to lower yields, 2017 might still deliver the Rhône a trilogy of fine back-to-back vintages. Quality in the Rhône is good to very good, a hot vintage that was extremely sunny, led to early picking, making it more like the 2015 vintage, with wines likely to be more approachable earlier than the much-vaunted 2016 vintage.

The year is a story about continued quality but lower yields across both sub-regions.

Northern Rhône

Despite difficult conditions in the Northern Rhône; where an early start was followed by a sudden cold snap that slowed growth; a very good quality seems to have prevailed. Hot and sunny conditions led to more ripe darker fruit, silky tannins and a savoury character (rather like in 2015, and potentially to be seen again in 2018).

Syrah, the grape the region is most famous for, looks to be concentrated and in balance, and is likely to be more approachable earlier, but some fine examples could still age well for a decade, or longer. Alcohol in reds should remain at average levels of 13%, due to the lower yields, although Cornas might be the exception to this rule.

In Condrieu the story of lower yields is likely to hit producers hardest with some producers highlighting a loss of as much as 60% of their crop. Of what remains there is extremely ripe fruit in viognier driven white wines, but with high alcohol levels. Despite this, the 2017s still offer drinkers a lovely freshness that is not normally associated with hot vintages.

Côte-Rôtie, which benefitted from consistent rainfall, has produced wines that are comparable to the stellar wines of 2015, showing ripe fruit and no signs of greenness. St-Joseph saw yields down by 20%, but from mid-May it enjoyed a straight forward, yet dry and healthy growing season. Crozes-Hermitage, Hermitage and Cornas saw very little rain during the summer.



Southern Rhône

In the Southern Rhône, the weather proved more difficult, throwing frost, rain and high heat at growers that led to an early harvest that is one of the smallest in recent years. Cold weather in the spring led to vines falling behind with a later flowering than in 2015 and 2016. To quote Richard Hemming MW: “It was all the right weather, but not necessarily in the right order.”

Hot weather that came on quickly in May made the vines work more vigorously than they should, resulting in the issue of Coulure (a failure of grapes to form properly following flowering), particularly prevalent in the South in 2017. The grenache grape can be more susceptible to this, but all varieties were affected in both the North and South in 2017. This issue in hot early-picked vintages often leads to smaller berries and thus to the lower yields seen. Interestingly Coulure has led: “some winemakers to have had to recalibrate their blends to include higher proportions of other grape varieties”, noted Matt Walls for Decanter.

Early picking began in the last two weeks of August, with yields as low between 30 to 50% down, but winemakers that waited into September, for optimum maturity fared best.

Despite the difficult hot weather conditions most winemakers rallied well, seemingly producing wines (particularly reds) with concentration that are ideal for aging. In the South some producers have gone too far with over-extraction and the over use of oak, the best wines are the ones where there has been a semblance of control.

In Châteauneuf-du-Pape some favourite top cuvées have not been made in 2017, with the grapes now destined for other blends, but the production of *Tradition* wines was down due to winemakers wanting to maximise their returns.

Other areas in the South to look out for, in terms of value for money are Cairanne, Gigondas and Vacqueyras. On the eastern side of the Rhone, Cairanne, at its higher elevation and with clay soils, has excelled in 2017 and offers great value according to Joe Czerwinski, of Wine Advocate, while Gigondas wines offer a natural freshness. Vacqueyras too gets special mention, as an often overlooked neighbour of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.



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Harvest at Clusel-Roch, Côte Rotie



Northern Rhône

Domaine du Colombier, *Mercuriol, Tain*

Winemaker Florent Viale continues to grow the reputation of his family's domaine, ageing the Hermitage wines for up to a year and a half before release in larger oak barrels (tonneaux) which allows the terroir to express itself. Never using more than 20% new oak, Florent's wines are elegant despite their power and concentration.

2017 Crozes-Hermitage

12 bts £145

2017 Hermitage

6 bts £250



*Florent Viale,
Domaine du
Colombier*



Domaine Niero, *Condrieu*

Domaine Rémi Niero is a small family owned estate producing traditional wines with great concentration of flavours in both Condrieu and Côte Rôtie's appellations. With only 40% of the wine spending 12 months in oak barrels, 'Les Ravines' shows pure and delicate stone fruit aromas with hints of honey and mint. Rich on the palate with great concentration of fruits and mineral notes.

2017 Condrieu 'Les Ravines'	6 bts	£140
2017 Condrieu 'Heritage'	6 bts	£210
2017 Côte-Rôtie 'Eminence'	6 bts	£160
2017 Côte-Rôtie 'Eminence' en Magnum	3 mgs	£170



Remi & Robert Niero, Domaine Niero



Domaine Rostaing, *Ampuis*

Rene Rostaing has owned 2 hectares in Côte Rotie since the 1970s, but in later years has inherited more, now owning a substantial 7.4 hectares. He destems his fruit and ages the young wines in no more than 15% new oak, without filtration. One of the great names of Côte Rotie, the wines are always highly sought after.

2017 Côte Rôtie 'Ampodium'	6 bts	£245
2017 Côte Rôtie 'Ampodium' en Magnum	3 mgs	£255
2017 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne	6 bts	£515



Pierre & Rene Rostaing



Domaine Garon, Ampuis

This domaine owns 5 hectares of vines in Côte Rotie. The wines are aged on average in 30% new oak barrels for 18-24 months, but exact figures vary from cuvee to cuvee. The Lancement lieu dit is on the Côte Blonde and here the wines see up to 50% new oak, for up to 36 months. Les Triotes receives a little less time, 18-20 months in up to 25% new barrels. Les Rochins is from parcels of vines on Côte Brune soils.

2018 Condrieu La Vieille Maison	6 bts	£140
2017 Côtes du Rhone La Part des Vivants	12 bts	£90
2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Triotes'	6 bts	£170
2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Rochins'	6 bts	£290
2017 Côte Rôtie 'Lancement'	6 bts	£440



*Vineyards of Cote Rôtie behind outbuilding of
Domaine Garon, Ampuis*



Domaine Clusel-Roch, Ampuis

The Clusel-Roch family own 5 hectares in Côte-Rotie which they farm organically, working in the steep vineyards by hand and using donkeys. Yields are some of the lowest in the region and the fermentation and extraction is very gentle (using naturally occurring yeasts) to give elegant, complex wines.

2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Schistes'	6 bts	£185
2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Schistes' en Magnum	3 mgs	£195



Harvesting on the steep Côte Rôtie slopes at Domaine Clusel-Roch



Domaine Etienne Pochon, *Crozes-Hermitage*

Etienne Pochon farms almost 16 hectares of vineyards in Crozes-Hermitage, 12 of which are dedicated to Syrah, with the remaining 4 planted with white grapes. Farming has been organic since 2014. All grapes are carefully hand-harvested and the Crozes-Hermitage Blanc is vinified from 50% each of Roussanne and Marsanne. The red Crozes-Hermitage is vinified in oak vats for 6 months.

2017 Crozes-Hermitage Blanc	6 bts	£55
2017 Crozes-Hermitage Rouge	6 bts	£55
2017 Crozes-Hermitage Rouge en Magnum	6 mgs	£120



Domaine Etienne Pochon, Crozes-Hermitage



Domaine Villard, *Condrieu*

Francois Villard was previously a chef but changed course to winemaking, planting his first vines in Condrieu in 1989. Since then he has become a star of the Northern Rhone, crafting wines of great complexity and intensity with a potential to cellar extremely successfully. The Condrieu wines are matured for 11 months on lees in barrel, a proportion of which (30-35%) is new, while the whites from Saint Peray and Saint-Joseph are matured in old oak barrels for 11 and 18 months respectively. The red wines are vinified largely using whole clusters and aged in oak barrels, a small proportion of which are new.

2017 Condrieu, 'Grand Vallon'	6 bts	£170
2017 Condrieu, 'Deponcins'	6 bts	£190
2017 Saint Peray, 'Version'	6 bts	£85
2017 Saint-Joseph 'Mairlant' Blanc	6 bts	£110
2017 Saint-Joseph 'Refllet' Rouge	6 bts	£150
2017 Cornas 'Jouvet'	6 bts	£160
2017 Côte-Rotie 'Le Gallet Blanc'	6 bts	£200



Tasting with François Villard



Southern Rhône

Domaine du Cayron, *Gigondas*

Michel Faraud has handed over the running of this domaine to his 3 daughters, Delphine, Sandrine and Rosaline. They produce one of the benchmark wines of the appellation, rich and with a great lifespan. Yields from the 40-year-old vines are kept very low – just 30 hl/ha. The wines are unfinned and unfiltered, simply resting for a year in large wooden casks. 78% Grenache, 14% Syrah, 6% Cinsault, 2% Mourvedre.

2017 Gigondas	6 bts	£100
2017 Gigondas en Magnum	3 mgs	£110



Domaine du Cayron, Gigondas



Domaine du Grand Tinel, *Châteauneuf-du-Pape*

Domaine du Grand Tinel have been producing wine since 1972 and have 53 hectares of vineyards within Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Grapes are hand picked and sorted at the winery prior to destemming and crushing. Red wines are aged in a mix of old and new oak. The Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc is a blend made mainly of Grenache Blanc, with smaller proportions of Clairette, Roussanne and Bourboulenc, with some of the vinification in new barrels and some in stainless steel. The wine does not undergo malolactic fermentation to help preserve freshness. The Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition Rouge is a blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mouvedre, Cinsault and Cunoise, whereas the Alexis Establet Rouge is 100% old-vine Grenache.

2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc	6 bts	£130
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition Rouge	6 bts	£125
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Alexis Establet Rouge	6 bts	£160



Beatrice of Domaine du Grand Tinel talking Châteauneuf-du-Pape



Domaine Font de Michelle, *Châteauneuf-du-Pape*

Guillaume Gonnet is a frequent visitor to Davy's in London, showing his wines at our annual Vintners' Hall tastings and elsewhere. His winemaking is a return to the style of wines favoured by his father, showing tremendous purity of fruit with very low intervention. 70% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre, 10% Cinsault, aged in a myriad of cement vats, old foudres and demi-muids (600-800 litre barrels). The Cuvee Etienne Gonnet is named after Guillaume's grandfather, a one-time mayor of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Made from very old vines, some more than 110 years of age. 70% Grenache, 15% Mourvedree, 15% Syrah.

2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'Font de Michelle'	6 bts	£125
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Bois Pointu - Blagden - Gonnet	6 bts	£245
2017 Châteauneuf-du Pape-Cuvée Elegance de Jeanne	6 bts	£265



Guillaume Gonnet, Domaine Font de Michelle



Domaine Le Bosquet des Papes, *Châteauneuf-du-Pape*

The Boiron family have made wine at this domaine since 1860. They have 40 distinct parcels of vines, spread across 32 hectares. Average vine age is 50 years but a parcel of 100-year-old vines is used for the Chante le Merle. Nicolas Boiron makes wines for long aging, to reach maturity at around 6-7 years. The cellar has a mixture of foudres and demi-muids.

2017 Côtes du Rhone 'Nicholas Boiron'	12 bts	£75
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape	6 bts	£120
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape en Magnum	3 mgs	£130
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvee 'Chante le Merle'	6 bts	£190



Nicolas Boiron of Bosquet des Papes



Château des Roques, *Vacqueyras*

Château des Roques lies on the rocky plateau of 'Des Roques', a hamlet on the outskirts of Vacqueyras. Owned and run by the Seroul family since 1997, the estate is managed traditionally using natural fertilizers, tailored treatments and harvest is done by hand. Eclipsed to some extent by the wines from its more illustrious neighbours, Gigondas and Châteauneuf, Vacqueyras has plenty to offer and deserves to be much better known. The vineyard covers 38 hectares and vines are an average age of 40 years old. It is planted with Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre for the reds.

2017 Vacqueyras Blanc	6 bts	£60
2017 Vacqueyras	6 bts	£60
2017 Vacqueyras en Magnum	3 mgs	£70



Château des Roques, Vacqueyras



Domaine les Hautes-Cances, *Cairanne*

The family estate was created in the 1890s. The following successions fragmented the property, and with the creation of the Cairanne cooperative cellar, the wine production was abandoned at the estate until 1995, when Anne-Marie (daughter of Odette and Arnaud Achiary) and Jean-Marie Astart created the Domaine les Hautes Cances. They have chosen to follow environmentally friendly farming methods and use a varied collection of very old oak barrels in order to produce wines with a fabulous expression of the terroir.

2017 Cairanne Blanc	6 bts	£60
2017 Côtes du Rhone 'Tradition'	12 bts	£115
2017 Cairanne 'Col du Debat'	6 bts	£90



Monsieur Jean-Marie Astart showing our team the Foudres of Domaine Haut-Cances



Domaine des Carabiniers, Lirac

The domaine has been within the Leperchois family for many generations with the current generation practicing organic viticulture since 1997. In 1920, the family developed the old stable walls into a cellar in which the horse emblem for the wines was founded. Their 40 hectares of vineyards can be found on the right bank of the Rhône river, taking advantage of the sun exposure and drainage from the sandy and stony soils. Biodynamic practices, strictly no oak, and a passion for winemaking allow Domaine des Carabiniers to produce some of the best wines of the region. Certified 'Demeter' biodynamic.

2017 Lirac Blanc	12 bts	£110
2017 Tavel Rosé	12 bts	£100
2017 Lirac Rouge	12 bts	£120
2017 Côtes du Rhone 'Lunar Apogé'	12 bts	£90



The Family and team at Domaine des Carabiniers



Rhône 2017 – ORDER FORM

All wines offered on allocation, we will contact you to confirm your allocation. Prices shown exclude UK duty and VAT, payable at the prevailing rate on release from bond. Onward delivery is not included.

Quantity	Description	Quantity	Total
	2017 Crozes-Hermitage, Domaine du Colombier	12 bts	£145
	2017 Hermitage, Domaine du Colombier	6 bts	£250
	2017 Condrieu 'Les Ravines', Domaine Niero	6 bts	£140
	2017 Condrieu 'Heritage', Domaine Niero	6 bts	£210
	2017 Côte-Rôtie 'Eminence', Domaine Niero	6 bts	£160
	2017 Côte-Rôtie 'Eminence', Domaine Niero - magnum	3 mgs	£170
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'Ampodium', Domaine Rostaing	6 bts	£245
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'Ampodium', Domaine Rostaing - magnum	3 mgs	£255
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'La Landonne', Domaine Rostaing	6 bts	£515
	2018 Condrieu 'La vieille Maison', Domaine Garon	6 bts	£140
	2017 Côtes du Rhone La Part des Vivants, Domaine Garon	12 bts	£90
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Triotes', Domaine Garon	6 bts	£170
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Rochins', Domaine Garon	6 bts	£290
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'Lancement', Domaine Garon	6 bts	£440
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Schistes', Domaine Clusel-Roch	6 bts	£185
	2017 Côte Rôtie 'Les Schistes', Domaine Clusel-Roch - magnum	3 mgs	£195
	2017 Crozes-Hermitage Blanc, Domaine Etienne Pochon	6 bts	£55
	2017 Crozes-Hermitage Rouge, Domaine Etienne Pochon	6 bts	£60
	2017 Crozes-Hermitage Rouge, Domaine Etienne Pochon - magnum	6 mgs	£120
	2017 Condrieu 'Grand Vallon', Domaine Villard	6 bts	£170
	2017 Condrieu 'Deponcins', Domaine Villard	6 bts	£190
	2017 Saint Peray 'Version', Domaine Villard	6 bts	£85
	2017 Saint -Joseph 'Mairlant' Blanc, Domaine Villard	6 bts	£110
	2017 Saint -Joseph 'Reflot', Domaine Villard	6 bts	£150
	2017 Cornas Jovet, Domaine Villard	6 bts	£160
	2017 Côte -Rotie ' Le Gallet Blanc', Domaine Villard	6 bts	£200
	2017 Gigondas, Domaine du Cayron	6 bts	£100
	2017 Gigondas, Domaine du Cayron - magnum (150cl)	3 mags	£110
	2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, Domaine du Grand Tinel	6 bts	£130
	2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tradition Rouge, Domaine du Grand Tinel	6 bts	£125
	2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Alexis Establet, Domaine du Grand Tinel	6 bts	£160



2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'Font de Michelle', Domaine Font de Michelle	6 bts	£125
2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Le Bois Pointu - Blagden - Gonnet	6 bts	£260
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'Elegance de Jeanne', Domaine Font de Michelle	6 bts	£265
2017 Côtes du Rhone 'Nicholas Boiron', Domaine Le Bosquet des Papes	12 bts	£75
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine Le Bosquet des Papes	6 bts	£120
2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine Le Bosquet des Papes - magnum	3 mgs	£130
2017 Châteauneuf du Pape, 'Chante le Merle', Domaine Le Bosquet des Papes	6 bts	£190
2017 Vacqueyras Blanc, Château des Roques	6 bts	£60
2017 Vacqueyras, Château des Roques	6 bts	£60
2017 Vacqueyras, Château des Roques- magnum	3 mgs	£70
2017 Cairanne Blanc, Domaine les Hautes-Cances	6 bts	£60
2017 Côtes du Rhone 'Tradition', Domaine les Hautes-Cances	12 bts	£115
2017 Cairanne 'Col du Debat', Domaine les Hautes-Cances	6 bts	£90
2017 Lirac Blanc, Domaine des Carabiniers	12 bts	£110
2017 Tavel Rose, Domaine des Carabiniers	12 bts	£100
2017 Lirac Rouge, Domaine des Carabiniers	12 bts	£120
2017 Côtes du Rhone 'Lunar Apoge', Domaine des Carabiniers	12 bts	£90

TOTAL £
