

RHÔNE

The third of France's greatest wine regions alongside Bordeaux and Burgundy and still surprisingly the most under-rated and undervalued. Indeed, were it not for Chateauneuf-du-Pape, many lists might not carry a Rhône representative. This is despite the Northern Rhône wines being made almost 100% from Syrah, better known elsewhere as the very popular Shiraz. Another example perhaps of the French wine industry losing out because of the illegality of showing the grape variety as part of the front label.

CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

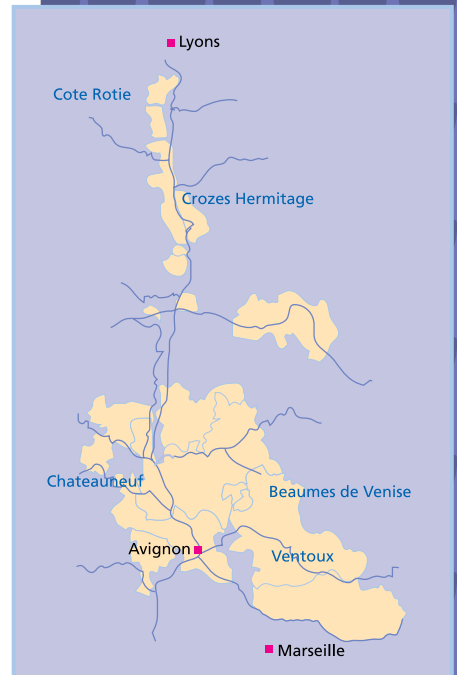
The Southern Rhône's best known wine region, Chateauneuf is very famous not least for the crossed keys of St. Peter which must appear on every bottle. Forty years ago, the wine was much abused as a huge variety of grapes were used, many of them from outside the region. Now there is more quality control and we have been very careful to choose wines showing the strong, ripe fruit flavours appreciated by lovers of this wine which matches most cuisine's meat dishes.



PAUL JABOULET AINE

£125,000 for twelve bottles of wine- yes, more than £10,000 a bottle. That was the price paid at auction for Jaboulet's Hermitage La Chapelle 1961. The 1978 vintage of the same wine was chosen in a book as one of the wines to be tasted by winelovers before they die.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the firm of Paul Jaboulet led the way in raising awareness of Rhône wines both abroad and more surprisingly in France. As well as the La Chapelle, their Crozes Hermitage Domaine Thalabert is very well regarded for showing off the best of Syrah's bramble fruit and spice. So good is it and such good value for the quality that Hugh Johnson, author of a very well-known annual Pocket Wine Book chose it as the wine at his daughter's wedding.



RED

££

Côtes du Rhône La Combes D'Art

Clean, robust fruit and proper Rhône flavours make this attractive drinking and outstanding value.

Taste Guide

B

Trade Sales Price

£4.91

Côtes du Ventoux les Traverses, Jaboulet

Not only does this have ample fruit, it has "plenty of stuffing" to quote Oz Clarke.

C

£5.65

Côtes du Rhône Parallèle 45

Spicy, deliciously full red from Jaboulet which ages very well and is excellently made.

C

£6.14

Côtes du Rhône Valvigneyre

Made from 100% Syrah grapes by the award-winning wine maker Alain Paret. Robust, full-bodied and will compliment most red meat dishes.

Also available in 37.5cl bottles

D

£7.29

D

£4.18

Crozes Hermitage Les Jalets

Deep, enticing colour and a strong, rich flavour that shows the best of Syrah from an exceptional cuvee containing fruit from the Domaine de Thalabert.

D

£7.84



Crozes Hermitage Thalabert, Jaboulet

Delicious medium-bodied Syrah which manages to combine drinkability with charm. Great wine.

C

£11.34

Chateauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Remparts

Once one of the most abused of all wine names, Chateauneuf's wines are much improved now they come from single Domaines. The Remparts has plenty of ripe cherry fruit with a spicy finish.

D

£14.99

Chateauneuf-du-Pape Les Cèdres, Jaboulet

Jaboulet's Les Cèdres shows ripe, fresh fruit and rich flavours which can be enjoyed comparatively young.

D

£17.15

Côte-Rôtie, Jaboulet

Only small quantities available of what is possibly the least expensive of the world's great wines; it has the advantage of showing rich softness and finesse when young.

D

£21.64

WHITE

Muscat de Beaumes de Venise

The Rhône's pudding wine is popular because it combines the natural fruitiness and sweetness of Muscat grapes with enough acidity to make you want a second glass. Serve very cold.

5

£15.15

