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#### En Primeur:

#### What does it mean?

All the 2021 wines in this offer are offered 'En Primeur Lying Abroad'. This means that you pay for the wine itself when you place your order and the duty (currently £2.23 ex VAT per 75cl bottle) and VAT at the prevailing rates on the whole at the time of shipment and any other applicable tariffs. We anticipate shipping these wines in 2023.

### Storage Wines

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Wines purchased En Primeur can be stored, by the case, in our own bonded Private Customer Reserves.

#### More Information

For advice, please ring the Fine Wine Team: Graham, Robin, Aaran or Aiden on 01743 234455.

# Rhône 2021

After four hot vintages, 2021 generated much needed coolness, bringing about an elegance and finesse to the wines. It wasn't smooth sailing though; much like vintages in the rest of France, 2021 proved challenging for many growers throughout the Northern and Southern Rhône. A black frost descended in April, meaning some areas suffered big losses. However, all was not lost, the overriding consensus amongst the growers was relief and pleasure: relief that the super-hot vintages of the past four years had broken, and pleasure in the resulting wines.



#### THE BIG PICTURE

Many growers saw big losses this year, such as the Perrets who lost 80% of their Condrieu. Marie Perret, André's daughter, rather underplays it saying, "it was not an easy year". Domaine Giraud lost 50% of their Châteauneuf fruit, so have chosen to make a single wine, instead of the usual cuvées; fortunately, their Lirac was untouched and a normal yield resulted. Clos des Cazaux in Vacqueyras lost 30%. Losses were not across the board; some growers reported a healthy yield and, crucially, the wines tasted great! It would have been easy to make a mediocre wine this vintage, but the growers we work with and support are all passionate and committed individuals who have put the hours in, both in the vineyard and cellar, and made enticing, aromatic wines. The localisation of frosts means that it's hard to generalise, even between North and South, therefore we've given a brief overview for each grower later in the document.

#### THE WINES

The cooler weather has given wines of elegance and energy, rather than the power of previous years. A "more classical style, back to the 2000s," says Pascal Jamet, whilst the Bruniers go even further back comparing it to those of the 1980s! Edouard Brunier calls it, "a vintage of finesse – the sort that keeps the personality of the vintage."

Stylistically, the reds are full of aromatic complexity, some almost ethereal, they have an enticing delicacy and silky tannins. These aren't blockbuster wines, many are already approachable and open now, but they have the structure, fruit and acidity to see the mid to long term ageing potential. This is an impressive vintage for whites, they are full of finesse with a lovely tension and are enticingly aromatic.

#### THE CONDITIONS

A mild, dry winter with budburst in the second half of March caused worry amongst growers – was it or was it not going to be another hot, dry summer? Those fears were quickly allayed but, for some, on the night of 7th-8th April, temperatures fell as low as minus 8 degrees in some areas. The frost had been forecast, so those that could, set up candles or wood fires to stave off the cold weather – this

# "a vintage of finesse..." – Edouard Brunier

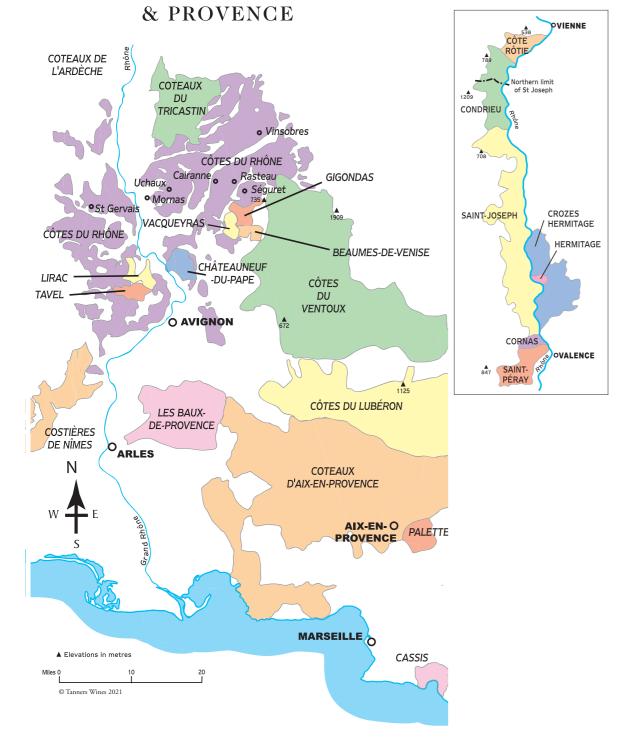
was particularly beneficial on the hill of Hermitage. Some areas were particularly badly hit, for example, Condrieu, Côte-Rôtie and Châteauneuf-du-Pape all took big losses, whilst other areas, such as Saint-Joseph, escaped the 'black' frost. Even within these areas the spread of frost and affected areas was sporadic. Seemingly, in Châteauneuf the southern section of vineyards was the most badly affected whilst those in the north remained relatively unscathed. A period of around three weeks left the frost-affected vines dormant, with rains in May bringing them back to life.

The dryness of the beginning of the season was quickly forgotten North – the ensuing months brought more than twice the amount of rain that fell in the South. By mid-August the rains had ceased and the remainder of the season brought much needed warmth to both the North and South, leading to pleasant harvest conditions in the middle of September.

As in any challenging year, it's the most dedicated and hardworking vignerons who produce the best wines, and there will undoubtedly be outstanding wines made in 2021."

Jeb Dunnuck, jebdunnuck.com

THE VINEYARDS OF THE RHÔNE VALLEY







### Famille Gonnet

### Bédarrides, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

2021 saw uneven flowering, particularly in Châteauneufdu-Pape, where coulure, brought about by the frost, reduced the yield. For Guillaume balance is the key this vintage and he feels, "organics make our vines stronger preventing disease, as the vines go deeper into the soils." He is also at pains to point out that this is no blockbuster vintage, but it will bring much pleasure – we are certainly in agreement.

#### Gigondas, Le Vin du Léonard

DRR11821 6bts

Intense aromas of black fruit, spice and herbs lead through to more of the same on the palate. There is a lovely intensity here with a little smoke and plenty of juicy black fruits. Really delicious. 5-10 years.

#### Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine Font du Vent (organic)

£123

Another CNdP where quantity is down, all the *lieux-dits* have gone into making this one wine, so there are no separate cuvées this year. The vines are mostly planted around La Crau in 25 separate blocks, some planted as long ago as 1900! Wonderfully enticing smoky, bramble and spice aromas. Leading through to silky, elegant, velvety red fruits and sweet spice. A hit of black pepper rounds it off nicely. Great. 5-15+ years.

### Famille Brunier

### Bédarrides, Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Gigondas

Many of the Brunier's vineyards were hit by the frost, meaning no Mégaphone has been made this year, Le Pigeoulet is 80% down and 20% was lost in Gigondas. The vintage overall makes Daniel think of the 1980s, or perhaps 2014 – cooler, with a longer ripening process, good balance and pure fruit. Edouard says this is, "a vintage of finesse

- the sort that keeps the personality of the vintage." The grapes have also taken a battering in 2022, when a tornado in August decimated the vineyards of La Crau. No Vieux Télégraphe 2022 has been made, so the limited quantity of 2021 (40% down on 2020) will be all there is for the next couple of vintages.

#### Gigondas, Les Racines, Domaine Les Pallières

DRR03621

£150

With a yield of just 12 hl/ha, there wasn't an awful lot produced this year! Dried herbs and blue fruit aromas followed by dark chocolate warmth with cassis, damson, blueberries and plenty of spice. Highly Recommended. 5-15 years.

#### Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Piedlong

Plenty of cherries and red plums fruit, there is a really appealing freshness here, along with plenty of ripe, red fruits, a milk chocolate creaminess, charcuteries. This oozes appeal and has a real drinkability. 5-10+ years.

#### Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe

£294

£210

Lifted red fruits, with a touch of black in there too, along with some herbal, savoury aromas. Lots of juicy, redcurrant fruit with sweet, dried raspberry and garrique. Wonderfully long and indulgent. Very limited availability. 5-15+ years.

### Domaine Giraud

### Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Châteauneuf-du-Pape suffered particularly from the frost at the beginning of the season. The night of 7th April saw vineyard temperatures fall to minus 5 degrees! Domaine Giraud lost 50% of their Châteauneuf fruit, meaning they

have only made a single wine this vintage. Fortunately, Lirac was unaffected by the frosts and a full harvest was had. Marie is pleased with the results, calling it "fresh and drinkable, perfect dinner wines!"

#### Lirac Vieilles Vignes, Les Sables d'Arène (organic)

DRR13621

£66

This blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre is from a 15ha site of 60-year-old vines. Bright black fruits, with floral aromatics. Plenty of peppery, spice notes and bold tannin, quite a big style. Really great. 3-9 years.

#### Châteauneuf-du-Pape (organic)

£156

Around 50% of their CNdP fruit was lost this year, so the older vines that are usually saved for the top cuvées were used to make this, the only CNdP they have made this year. Lovely fresh, chocolatey nose with garrique and dark fruits - this is both intriguing and enticing. Sweet, juicy, wild blueberries fill the mouth, whilst there is loads of depth and concentration. Very appealing. 5-15+ years.

### Famille Perrin

### Courthézon, Châteauneuf-du-Pape

A massive winery renovation is currently underway at Château de Beaucastel to make it self-sustaining - it will be heated geo-thermally, all water will be recycled, solar and wind energy generated, and the architect is reusing the materials from their original winery in the project. They lost around 20% in total, due to the frost and the need to sort

only the healthiest grapes, but the cooler weather, hands-on winemaking and biodynamic viticulture has paid dividends for the Perrin Family this vintage, the wines are a joy. "The wines are superbly fresh, with elegant alcohol/acidity balance that promise a great vintage," sums up César Perrin.

#### Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes du Rhône Blanc

DRW00421

£97.50

£360

£126

£312

Floral and creamy with subtle stone fruits and lovely spice. Weighty on the palate it is long and unctuous, making it very drinkable! 0-5 years.

#### Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, Château de Beaucastel

DRW01021

80% Roussanne, 10% Grenache Blanc with the remainder a blend of the other permitted grapes. Almonds, honeysuckle and ginger on the nose, this is nutty and delicious with a great freshness which brings about super balance. 5-10 years.

#### Nutty, floral and citrus aromatics on the nose. The palate is refreshing and concentrated with honeysuckle, hazelnut, white

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Château de Beaucastel (Roussanne), vieilles vignes DRW01121

stone fruits and a wonderful saline note to leave you wanting more. Yields here are tiny. 5-10 years.

Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes du Rhône Rouge Red fruits and plum, this is a juicy, enticing and appealing glass, full of lovely, sweet fruit on the palate. Great length, this is a very well-made wine which provides excellent value. 0-5 years.

#### Vinsobres, Les Hauts de Julien, vieilles vignes

DRR10421

DRR02121

Complex nose of black and blue fruits, violets, spices and garrigue. Medium to full-bodied, elegant, and silky. Very accessible now, but also has the balance to hold for another 10 years. 3-9 years.

#### Gigondas, Domaine du Clos des Tourelles

DRR13721

6bts

Great depth and concentration with super ripeness and elegant tannins. César Perrin says this, "is probably one of the most beautiful vintages produced at this property". 5-15 years.

#### DRR04521 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Château de Beaucastel Black fruits with plums and cherries abound. There is a creamy, almost DRR04521H chocolate-like texture packed full of ripe fruit black cherries and plums.

DRR04521M

12halves

£312 6mags £630

This is already delicious but looks set for a long life. 5-15+ years.



### Château Courac

#### Tresques

Nestled in the hillside of Laudun, surrounded by forest, Château Courac was sheltered from the frosts that decimated so many vineyards this year. Over the years Frédéric and Josephine Arnaud have invested enormous amounts of time and energy renovating the house, winery and vineyards – where they work in a sustainable fashion. Having finished his studies their son, Cyril, is now working full-time at the family domaine.

#### Laudun, Côtes du Rhône-Villages

DRR01121 6bts

£3

Black pepper, plum and spice enticingly leap from the glass. The fruits are redder on the palate and very elegant with great, juicy acidity. This is such great value for a really enjoyable glass of wine. 0-5 years.

### Domaine le Clos des Cazaux

### Vacqueyras

Domaine Le Clos des Cazaux is a great place to visit if you are holidaying in the region, in fact they sell the majority of their wines straight from the cellar. The wonderfully picturesque winery is surrounded by old vines and has views over to the Dentelles de Montmirail, a striking limestone

landmark at the heart of Gigondas. There was no frost in their vineyards in 2021 for the brothers to contend with, although they did suffer from *coulure* which reduced the yields by around 30%.

#### Vacqueyras, Cuvée des Templiers

DRR03421 6bts

S

£72

Vibrant bramble fruit from old vines around the domaine. The white pepper packs a punch here, on the rich palate with loads of spice. A great drinking drop. 3-9 years.

#### Gigondas, Cuvée de la Tour Sarrasine

DRR03521

6bts

£78

70% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah. A savoury, earthy nose with some raspberry notes. A rounded palate with dense black fruits, black and white pepper and integrated tannins and lovely length. 3-9 years.

# Domaine du Cayron

#### Gigondas

One might think that a tasting here would be a speedy affair, but no, it was a comprehensive tasting of 12 samples that are all different and will, in varying degrees, make up the final blend. Some are in new oak, some in tank, some ancient *foudres*, some *demi-muids*, some have a medium toast, others

are lightly toasted, some are fermented as whole bunches, others not. Some of the samples are 100% Syrah, others are a blend of grapes. If this tasting shows us anything it is how complex and fascinating it is to make the wine that is considered the benchmark for the region.

Gigondas DRR03721 6bts £111

Fresh, sweet cherries and spice with some blacker fruit aromas too. Silky, smooth, black fruits with concentrated pepper and spice. Elegant and complex this is an absolute delight! 5-15 years.

### Domaine La Soumade

#### Rasteau

André Romero is now in semi-retirement although, as with many winemakers, still keeps a close eye on things. It was André and nephew-in-law, Régis, who met with us as Frédéric was out in the vineyards. For Domaine La Soumade

the main area affected by frost was their Côtes-du-Rhône, where André describes the vintage as "catastrophic". Luckily, they were more fortunate in Rasteau and managed to avoid the frost.

Rasteau DRR02221 6bts £57 Enticing, bright cherries on the nose with a silky, elegant palate that brings through chocolate notes on top of juciy red fruits. 0-5 years.

Rasteau, Cuvée Prestige DRR02821 6bts £7

Creamier, richer nose, almost cherry compote. Lovely structure with a silky elegance and lots of ripe bramble and currant there is a light herbal touch too. 3-7 years.

Rasteau, Cuvée Confiance DRR09521 6bts £90

A restrained nose, with pleasing subtle red fruit aromas. Quite big with grippy tannins but an elegant note too. Lots of depth and character. 3-7 years.

### Domaine La Collière

#### Rasteau

Georges Perrot describes the 2021 vintage as having, "freshness, balance, acidity and energy". He lost 20% of both whites and reds. The frost stunted the vines for around three weeks, after which they started to grow back. This led

to a later harvest and with September being warm the grapes kept a great freshness along with the juicy fruit Georges does so well.

Rasteau, Touillères DRR 1472 I 6bts £48

Black pepper spice and red currants leap from the glass. Rich and cherry-edged with a savoury note too. Lovely depth, elegance and concentration. A joyful wine that is excellent value. 0-5 years.

Rasteau, Esprit d'Argiles DRR13121 6bts £66 80% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah. A wonderfully enticing, dark-fruited nose, which leads through to a ripe palate

of plums and spice. The fruits are really pure and appealing, the tannins integrated already. Great value drinking. 3-7 years.

Rasteau, La Fontaine DRR 1582 1 6bts £93

70-year-old vines from the local village, centered around a fountain. Densely fruited with an appealing violet note. Black olive and balsamic notes give way to ripe red fruits and more violet flavours. Delicious. 3-9 years.

# Domaine de l'Amandine

### Séguret

Daughter Mathilde has recently joined her mother, Sabine, and Father, Alex, on this 46ha family estate. Traditional methods and a hands-on approach ensure that top quality grapes are produced expressing the complexity of the

region's terroir. Around 50% of production was lost in the 2021 vintage due to the frosts. There was no drought, and beneficial rains fell at the crucial times, meaning the grapes that were left were healthy and of decent size.

£36

#### Séguret, Côtes du Rhône-Villages DRR13521

Rich and bold on the approach with a welcome cranberry note. Wonderfully juicy with nice spice and great concentration. This is a lovely approachable style with some creamy chocolate notes and good length. 0-5 years.









### Domaine du Colombier

Tain l'Hermitage

Florent Viale now has 18ha of vines (in Crozes and Hermitage) and 16ha of apricot trees. All the vines are around the domaine and the village of Mercurol. They have just 1.6ha of red vines on the hill of Hermitage in the

sought-after Beaume, Les Dionnières and Croix du Torras areas, plus 0.24ha of white Hermitage. Of the 2021 vintage Florent says the cooler weather has given, "softer tannins, well balanced wines with a good freshness."

#### Crozes-Hermitage Blanc, Cuvée Gaby

DRW05721 6bts £123

A blend of 80% Marsanne and 20% Roussanne, stone fruits and citrus explode from the glass. The palate is enticing and balanced with plenty of juicy apricots and a lovely mineral streak bringing great freshness. Very good. 0-7 years.

Hermitage Blanc DRW01621 6bts £249

90% Marsanne from a single plot within Maison Blanche lieu-dit. Straight out of the glass this is smoky and bold with almonds and apricots. This is mouth-filling and textured with notes of orange blossom and acacia with a hint of honey and pear. Wonderful length. Delicious! 3-15 years.

Crozes-Hermitage Primavera DRR16821 6bts £66

Wonderfully young, fresh and juicy. This is made from the youngest vines which give an easy, youthful and very enjoyable style. Great length and structure to balance out all that fruit. 3-5 years.

Crozes-Hermitage, Cuvée Gaby

DRR05421 6bts £123

Black fruit and spice bound from the glass on the palate the tannins are smooth and silky with sweet spice and red fruits. Loads of complexity and interest, great length. A fabulous wine. 3-9 years.

Hermitage DRR06721 6bts £249

Structured and powerful with pure red fruits, wonderful concentration and energy. An enticing smoky note which leads on to ripe mulberries and a touch of fresh garrigue with peppery spice, finishing with a sweet fruit note. So elegant, so long, so delicious! 5-15+ years.

## Domaine Pierre Gaillard

Malleval

A visit to Pierre Gaillard can never be a whistle-stop tour, a full morning is required to taste through his cellar. He loves showing all the different parcels that will make up the final blends, and this can sometimes mean tasting up to 10 barrels of, for example Côte-Rôtie, where he has 10 separate plots over 6ha, which are all vinified separately.

This modern cellar can be found after trekking up some of the steepest slopes in Saint-Joseph in the picturesque village of Malleval. This is Pierre's choice spot as it had largely been abandoned in the 70s/80s due to the difficulty cultivating the steep slopes, meaning the land was affordable and available!

Syrah Collines Rhodaniennes, Les Amis de Mandrin

DRR15021

-c

£42

Robust black fruits and sweet cherries, this is generous and easy with a juicy ripeness making this wine soft, easy and appealing. 0-3 years.

Crozes-Hermitage Rouge DRR15721 6bts £90

Sweet, black cherries and plums with a lovely juiciness. The fruit does all the talking in this eminently drinkable wine. 3-7 years.

Cornas DRR14821 6bts £156

This comes from two plots, one at the top of the hill and one at the bottom, picked separately as there is around 10 days difference in ripeness between the two plots. Inviting smoky nose with robust, sweet, cherry and plum fruit. The tannins are silky and lingering. Good. 5-12 years.

Côte-Rôtie DRR14921 6bts £19

Pierre has around 6ha over 10 different plots, which includes 20% Viognier. Ripe, silky, red and blue fruits with some floral notes thrown in there too, and plenty of smoky, spice. Really lovely and elegant – an excellent Côte-Rôtie at the price. 5-12 years.

# Pascal and Catherine Jamet

Arras

Pascal's passion for wine is evident, he cultivates lesser-known varieties, such as Dureza and Bia, for experiments and has worked extremely hard to turn some very inaccessible land into successful vineyards. Upon our visit Pascal took us up to meet his wife

Catherine and the team in the vineyards, these are perched at the top of a steep hill, above the village of Arras, which yields fantastic views across to the Hill of Hermitage. Catherine describes the 2021 vintage as, "back to a more classical 2000s style".

£63

£72

£72

#### Bia Blanc, Collines de Rhodannienes DRW07821 6bts

Bia is a traditional grape variety that Pascal is experimenting with and endeavouring to save from extinction. It had got down to just 3 vines, but is now up around 1000, on a single hectare plot. The vine is a parent of Syrah and Viognier and offers floral, honeysuckle and lime flavours along with apricot and spice. A grape variety that we may see more of in the future! 0-5 years.

Saint-Joseph DRR16921 6bts £78

Both the Tour d'Arras and Les Traverses have gone into this singe cuvée this year. Masses of white pepper and spicy black fruits. Lovely, silky palate which is nicely integrated with the black fruits and tannin. Very appealing. 3-9 years.

# Domaine Mucyn

Gervans

Tasting with Jean-Pierre and Hélène Mucyn is always fascinating. Jean-Pierre takes a very studied look at his wines and genuinely wants to know our opinion of them: 'What do we think of the balance?'; 'is the fruit shining through enough?'; 'does this blend work or

should there be a little more Syrah?'. They are now fully organic, with 2021 marking the final year of conversion. Their range of wines is excellent, with a clear mineral quality, elegance and fruit rather than power and oak.

6bts

DRW01321

#### Crozes-Hermitage Blanc, Les Charmeuses

60% Marsanne, 40% Roussanne, 20% in barrel with lees stirring. From the north of the appellation on a mini-Hermitage-like hill. Ripe apricot and citrus fruit ahead of a pleasantly waxy, oily feel followed by stone-fruit and greengage with balanced acidity. A floral note on the finish with good length and nice texture. 0-5 years.

Saint-Joseph Blanc, Les Carats

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100% Roussanne. Honeysuckle, white peach and nectarines some citrus notes too. Sapid, showing lovely fresh and elegant almond notes, floral, citrus, mineral, demonstrating the purity of the terroir. Really lovely. 0-5 years.

Crozes-Hermitage, Les Entrecoeurs DRR05121 6bts

Invitingly fresh, herbal nose with some almond and menthol notes. Red fruits lead on the palate, this is silky and velvety with a touch of sweet spice, beautifully balanced acidity and great length. 3-5 years.

Saint-Joseph Rouge, Les Salamandres

DRR 12421
6bts

48

Mineral et also with and and black berry fruit levely freshness and acidity with a touch of iodine. Spiry belanced from elegan

Mineral style with red and black berry fruit, lovely freshness and acidity with a touch of iodine. Spicy, balanced, firm, elegant and juicy, showing great complexity and a hint of white pepper on the finish. Very good. 3-9 years.

Cornas, Hypsos DRR 12821 6bts £150

From vineyards at 380 metres, this is jam-packed with white pepper, black fruits and a touch of *garrigue*. There is a real delicacy here with pure fruit notes and even a touch of violet, lovely spice too. Translated from Greek 'Hypsos' is akin to sublime, who are we to argue? 5-15+ years.

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### Maison André Perret

Verlieu

The Perret family faced a lot of challenges in 2021. A large frost on 6-7th April, when the vines were already budding meant they lost 80% of their Condrieu crop, including 50% of Chéry. Luckily the Saint-Joseph vines weren't as developed so these were affected less. Since

2020 André has been joined by daughter Marie, after she finished five years study at agricultural school and a vintage in Cachapoal, Chile. Marie, rather understatedly says of the 2021 vintage, "it was not an easy year".

Marsanne, Collines Rhodaniennes

DRW05121 6bts

£72

The vines were less developed on this site, so didn't feel the impact of the frost as much. Inviting citrus and floral aromas with a terrific waxy, oily mouthfeel, showing good length. Great value. 0-3 years.

Saint-Joseph Blanc DRW02721 6bts £114

50/50 Marsanne/Roussanne from vines that are in Condrieu. Aromatic notes of honeysuckle and hawthorn. 100% of this goes into barrel (none are new), giving a appealing texture and weight. Great acidity. 0-5 years.

Condrieu, Coteaux de Chéry DRW02021 6bts £216

Chéry is a blend of three different plots: Grand-Mère (the family plot) yields brooding and intense wines with fresh apricots, greengage and orange blossom, used for structure; plot two, planted 40 years ago, brings an almost herbal like freshness, lemon verbena, thyme and is floral, long and juicy; at 80 years old, plot three is the oldest giving subtle honeysuckle, honey, as well as great texture, depth, complexity and length. Overall, this is a really special wine, packed full of complexity and elegance – the epitome of Condrieu. 3-7 years.

Saint-Joseph Rouge DRR 10221 6bts £8

Wonderfully classical in style with savoury and herbal notes, along with cherry and bramble fruit. Damson fruit comes through on the palate where there are balanced tannins and a hint of chocolate. Great freshness and balance. No Grisières made this year, all fruit was used to bolster this cuvée. 3-9 years.



15

