



RHÔNE

2017 VINTAGE, EN PRIMEUR

We have already released the 2017s from our UK exclusivity Tardieu-Laurent as a standalone offer: please [click here](#) to view the release. The wines in the present offer comprise the 'best of the rest': producers with whom we have close, albeit non-exclusive relationships. The tasting notes are based on a visit in July 2018 and further tastings in London.

Of particular note here are the Côte-Rôties of the legendary René Rostaing, the phenomenal Condrieus of André Perret (who went above and beyond by helping to jump-start our colleague's car following our tasting...) and, in the south, Châteauneuf-du-Pape's Domaine Gonet.

2017 in the Rhône valley saw an abnormally cool spring, with a frost-affected flowering, the notoriously sensitive Grenache being particularly hard-hit. A very dry summer followed, meaning yields are tiny. The good news is that the few remaining grapes were able to respond magnificently to the summer warmth once it arrived, making for some very high quality wines.

THE NORTH

Deeply coloured reds, with ample natural body. A tendency towards opulence here, making sensitive winemaking key and giving the potential for some very long-lived wines.

- **Domaine André Perret, Condrieu**
- **Domaine René Rostaing, Côte-Rôtie**
- **Domaine Ogier, Côte-Rôtie**

THE SOUTH

A year of climatic extremes in the southern Rhône has made for a vintage in which old vine Grenache has thrived, although at the expense of volumes.

- **Domaine du Cayron, Gigondas**
- **Domaine Charvin, Châteauneuf-du-Pape**
- **Domaine Gonet, Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

Whereas the previous two vintages have favoured either the north (2015) or the south (2016), these 2017s are remarkably consistent the length of the valley, with an attractive clarity of fruit and aromatic finesse balancing out gratifyingly firm tannins and full bodies.

GUY SEDDON
DECEMBER 2018

NORTHERN RHÔNE

DOMAINE ANDRÉ PERRET

André Perret took control of the half-hectare family domaine in 1982, having returned to work here in 1980. With such a small domaine, expansion was vital. Soon after taking over, André purchased a number of plots of Condrieu, together with some in St Joseph, increasing the size of the holdings to over eight hectares.

The Condrieu is made with as little intervention as possible, aside from *bâtonnage*, with half the wine aged in used oak barrels. André's goal is to make fresh, structured wines, in "a sort of Burgundian style" as he says, without too much wood and with an emphasis on ageing potential. His Condrieu bottlings are reference points for the entire appellation. In the vineyard, no insecticides are used, just pheromones to ward off grape-eating moths. The soils are ploughed as much as possible, aerating them.

CONDRIEU

This is made from 1.5 hectares of vines. Production was 30% less than average in 2017, due primarily to the heat. Peach skins, pithy and substantial on the palate, with a tangible nectarine zest. Delectable juiciness, peachily fruited on the finish.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 - 2023
£150/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CONDRIEU, COTEAU DE CHERY

André Perret has almost three hectares of Chery, the vines here being up to 80 years old. There are only three owners of this vineyard (the others are Guigal and Chapoutier). Tasted in July 2018 from *cuve* and then from barrel, this was due to be bottled after the 2018 harvest. Finer and more linear than the basic Condrieu, with a power that builds on the palate rather than sitting up and begging. A beautiful crescendo on the back palate.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 18
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2020 - 2024
£190/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

SAINT JOSEPH

The domaine owns 4.5 hectares of red wine vines, all planted on terraced vineyards. 2017 was a particularly good vintage for St Joseph, according to André. Dark forest fruits, with some plusher red berry fruit fleshing out the mid-palate, which is gently smoky, with fine white pepper detailing. The domaine achieved around 13.5% abv in 2017, with good levels of acidity.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17.5
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2020 - 2024
£75/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

DOMAINE RENÉ ROSTAING

René Rostaing is one of the great names of Côte-Rôtie. He started out in 1971 with just 0.47 hectares of vines but since then, his holdings have expanded considerably. He inherited 3.5 hectares from his father-in-law in 1990 and in 1993 his uncle left him a further 1.2 hectares. Today, his estate stands at nearly 10 hectares in total, spread over Côte-Rôtie and with a much smaller 1.3 hectare plot in Condrieu.

René described 2017 as a “classic” year, less of a blockbuster than 2016 and 2015. He also noted that the colour of his wines has become progressively deeper with global warming. Winemaking here is 100% whole bunch, with the average vine age being 40-50 years old.

CONDRIEU, LA BONNETTE

Green apple and zesty lemon rind, with the marked aromatics of Viognier on the nose. The palate is broad and giving, with a persistent phenolic grip. René thinks that this will be best drunk between two and five years of age.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 - 2022
£245/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

VIN DE PAYS LES LEZARDS DES COLLINES RHODANIENNES

This has quite lovely rose petal perfume and white flowers on the nose. Very fine, supple tannins guide the fresh, vibrant blackberry fruit. An upbeat style, which will likely repay early drinking.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2020 - 2023
£105/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CÔTE-RÔTIE, AMPODIUM

René Rostaing’s Ampodium comes from 13 *lieux-dits*, comprising a total of 17 different parcels. Taut and tightly-packed, with violets, blueberries and savoury spices. The tannins are muscular yet very finely extracted. Notes of liquorice persist on the finish. A fabulous wine and a textbook example of Côte-Rôtie.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17.5+
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2020 - 2030
£245/CASES OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CÔTE-RÔTIE, LA LANDONNE

Reticent and brooding on the nose, this feels like a slumbering powerhouse. Much bigger and more tannically assertive on the palate, on which it shows its colours as a big wine which will need patience. There is a wonderful crunchiness of red berry fruit on the mid-palate and a high line of acidity which lifts the aromas and gives a lightness of touch. A long, tapered finish gives a glimpse of the finesse which will emerge with time.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 18
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2022 - 2032
£510/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CÔTE-RÔTIE, CÔTE BLONDE

“A beautiful woman dressed in Dior”, according to René! Although the stereotype of Côte Brune being masculine and Côte Blonde “feminine” is not necessarily the case here – René’s ‘Blonde’ is his most long-lived, most assertive wine. Grilled meats and spices on the nose. The palate is similarly animalistic, with huge concentration, countered with arching acidity and a fine residual perfume on the back-palate.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 18.5
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2023 - 2033
£600/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

DOMAINE OGIER

Domaine Ogier is one of the newest estates in Côte-Rôtie. Although the Ogier family has grown grapes in the region for generations, Michel Ogier only began to sell his own wines commercially 15 years ago and previously the entire crop was sold to Chapoutier and Guigal. Since then, Michel has invested significant time and capital in his 2.5 hectare vineyard and has now handed over to his son Stéphane.

Sam, the winemaker with whom we tasted at the domaine, described 2017 as an early harvest, like 2015, but stylistically closer to 2016, with ripe tannins, high pHs (3.9 - 4.0) and fairly high alcohol (around 14% abv).

VIIGNIER LA ROSINE, IGP COLLINES RHODANIENNES

A joyously fruity and open Viognier, prettily floral and approachable early, with a fresh backbone of acidity (only partial malolactic fermentation). Fermented in a mixture of 600 litre *demi-muids*, 1,600 litre Stockinger wooden vats and stainless steel vats.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 16.5
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 - 2021
£75/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CONDRIEU LA COMBE DE MALLEVAL

A spicy, floral nose, very aromatic. Delicate and fresh on the palate, with an infusion of soft stone-fruit. Nicely weighted, with hints of spice and a long, precise finish.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 - 2023
£160/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

SYRAH LA ROSINE, IGP COLLINES RHODANIENNES

This comes from a plot just above Côte-Rôtie on the slope. Intensely savoury, with good immediacy of fruit, not as plush or as pliant as some, with an impressive stark definition. Give this some time to soften. 100% destemmed.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 16
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2021 - 2025
£70/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

VIN DE PAYS DE SEYSSUEL L'ÂME SOEUR

From an early-ripening vineyard, originally planted by the Romans and rediscovered by Stephane Ogier, among others. A dense, high-extract style, with very fine tannins. Lovely violets (not the shy retiring kind though...) and aromatic detailing.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2019 - 2023
£140/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CÔTE-RÔTIE MON VILLAGE

The dominant portion of this wine comes from the 1.5 hectare *lieu-dit* Le Besset, with minority contributions from Montmains (100% whole bunch and just down the slope from Besset) and Cognet (powerful and blue-fruited, with 60% whole bunches). A wine of abundant character and meaty notes, combining with freshness from whole bunch vinification. Supple tannins, excellent depth and weight. Fabulous wine.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17.5 - 18
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2023 - 2031
£175/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

SOUTHERN RHÔNE

DOMAINE DU CAYRON

Domaine du Cayron was founded in 1840 and has now been managed by the Farraud family for four generations. The tranquil town of Gigondas sits at the foot of the imposing Dentelles de Montmirail. Some look on Gigondas as a poor man's Châteauneuf-du-Pape and although prices are frequently lower than its renowned neighbour, Gigondas can produce wines that equal if not surpass it. This is undoubtedly the case with the wines of Michel Farraud.

Michel produces just one *cuvée*. Plantings here are 78% Grenache, 14% Syrah, 6% Cinsault and 2% Mourvèdre. Soils are clay-limestone, ranging from sandy to very stony. Vinification is traditional, consisting of destemming, crushing and fermentation with natural yeasts for around 21 days, with daily pump-overs. The wine is aged in 100% old oak *foudres* for 12 months.

GIGONDAS

A brightly red-fruited nose, of raspberries and violets, with some darker fruits behind – blueberry, black cherry – and milk chocolate. The palate is open-knit and accessible, with soft raspberry fruit underscored by that gratifying kick of the southern Rhône. Characterfully grippy tannins add good grunty personality. Drinkable early.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17

RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2020 - 2026

£95/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

£205/CASE OF 6 MAGNUMS, IN BOND UK

£65/CASE OF 1 JEROBOAM, IN BOND UK

DOMAINE CHARVIN

Domaine Charvin is an historic Châteauneuf-du-Pape estate, established in 1851. Now in its sixth generation, it is headed by Laurent Charvin. Since taking control at the age of 21 in 1990, Laurent's vision and expertise have taken the estate to a new level, producing refined wines of purity and complexity. Located in Châteauneuf, Domaine Charvin focuses on an exemplary Côtes du Rhône and a Grenache-dominated (typically 80%) Châteauneuf-du-Pape, from vines with an average age of 45 years.

CÔTES-DU-RHÔNE

A lovely nose of violets, raspberries, blueberries and Provençal herbs. The palate is endearingly upbeat on the entry, Parma violets and succulent red cherries. Firm tannins kick in on the mid-palate, providing body and muscle, but without detracting from the lightness of touch which is what all good Côtes-du-Rhône should deliver. Peppery spice persists on the finish. Brilliant value.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2021 - 2024
£55/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK
£110/CASE OF 6 MAGNUMS, IN BOND UK

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

An intense nose, of dark fruits of the forest and kirsch, with a red-fruited lift and a tomato leaf herbaceousness behind. Liquorice and pepper too. The fore-palate is juicy and inviting, greeting you with bright raspberries, before darker, more raisined fruit emerges. The mid-palate is weighty and powerful, the muscular tannins demanding bottle age. Ferrous and really nicely defined on the finish, showing that a big wine can also be precise.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17.5
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2022 - 2030
£155/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK
£315/CASE OF 6 MAGNUMS, IN BOND UK

DOMAINE GONNET

The **Gonnet** family has been in Châteauneuf-du-Pape since 1600, with the domaine buildings constructed by Etienne Gonnet in the 1950s. Etienne's sons, Jean and Michel Gonnet, have in turn handed over to their sons, Bertrand and Guillaume. Guillaume's Australian wife, Kelly Gonnet, is a brilliant ambassador for the domaine and seems central to the energy which pervades this domaine.

Today, the estate has thirty hectares of vineyards running up to Le Crau (arguably the most revered plot in Châteauneuf). The slopes are south/south-east facing and soils are clay-limestone with heat-reflecting *galets roulés* (pudding stones) and low-yielding 110-year-old vines. The Gonnet hallmark is freshness and aromatic vivacity: this is the southern Rhône at its most elegant. Or as Kelly Gonnet describes it, "the signature Gonnet style is lots of pleasure."

Charles Blagden, longstanding Rhône resident, has made the Châteauneuf-du-Pape *cuvée* Le Bois Pointu – the second wine below – in collaboration with Guillaume Gonnet, since the 2010 vintage.

In 2017, some coulure resulted from rapid temperature change from cool to hot at flowering – as Kelly said, "there was no spring", which led to low quantities in Châteauneuf-du-Pape and a need to do "a lot of gardening" in the vineyards. The bunches were 80-90% destemmed. In the gravity-fed winery, manual pump-overs are carried out three times a day.

CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE TRADITION, DOMAINE FONT DU VENT, FAMILLE GONNET

The Gonnet family have "about 10 or 11 of the 13 varieties" permitted by the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation. This is 70% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre and "10% field blend". A lovely perfumed nose of Parma violets and crushed roses. The palate has firm but fine tannins, soft blackberry and blueberry fruit and a crisp line of acidity. Benchmark Châteauneuf. The wine was bottled in August.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 17.5
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2022 - 2035
£110/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE LE BOIS POINTU

75% Grenache, 15% Cunoise, 10% Mourvèdre. This is produced from two plots: a 1.2 hectare plot opposite the Gonnets and Le Pointu, a 0.5 hectare plot in Cortezon, planted entirely to Cunoise. Lifted purple and red fruited aromatics on the nose, leading into a palate of zesty blueberry and red cherry, with flashes of grapefruit. Fine tannins and freshness thanks to the Cunoise, tapering to a long finish. This is aged for just over a year in 3-4 year old *demi-muids*.

CORNEY & BARROW SCORE 18
RECOMMENDED DRINKING FROM 2023 - 2035
£220/CASE OF 6 BOTTLES, IN BOND UK

TASTING GUIDE

Our tasting notes provide full details but, at your request, we have also introduced a clear and simple marking system. We hope these guidelines assist you in your selection. Wines are scored out of 20; it has the benefit of simplicity. We will often use a range of scores (e.g. 16.5 to 17) to indicate the potential to achieve a higher mark. When a '+' is shown it adds further to that potential. Wines from lesser vintages will, inevitably, show a lower overall score. Wines are judged, in a very broad sense, against their peers. Why? Well, you cannot easily compare a Ford with an Aston Martin, other than they are both cars and have wheels. It is not that different with wine. A score is a summary only. The devil is in the detail, so please focus on the tasting notes and, as always, speak to our sales team.

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