

## THE OTHER VILLAGES OF THE CÔTES DU RHÔNE OFFER (i.e. EVERYTHING BUT CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE, FOR NOW)



### THE VILLAGES OF THE CÔTES DU RHÔNE

With over 80 000 ha under vine and a production of over 3 million hectolitres, the Rhône valley is the second largest wine region in France, surpassed only by Bordeaux. And while the prestigious appellations of Hermitage and Côte Rôtie in the north and Châteauneuf-du-Pape in the south attract much of the attention, they represent less than 5% of the region's production. Meanwhile there are over 5000 grape growers and almost a thousand producers making Côtes du Rhône wines of one form or another. And it is here that can be found some of the best value, everyday-drinking wines produced in all of France.

Stepping up from the 'basic' Côtes du Rhône, about 80 communes are entitled to the Côtes du Rhône-Villages appellation provided the wines meet the lower yield requirement (42 hl/ha vs 51 hl/ha) and contain at least 50% Grenache (vs 40%). In addition to these communes there are today 20 villages of particular merit that are entitled to append their name to the Côtes du Rhône-Villages appellation. And at the very top of the hierarchy are the handful of villages that enjoy their own appellation. Some of these were created from the outset, like the sweet Muscat de Beaufort (1943) and Lirac (1945), whilst others were promoted from the Villages appellation: Gigondas (1971), Vacqueyras (1990), Beaufort (2005, for dry wines), Vinsobres (2005), Rasteau (2010) and Cairanne (2015).

All in all, this group of appellations produces a vast array of wines (in blanc and rosé as well as rouge) that provide outstanding value at their various price-points. And the following offer showcases some of the very best producers from this diverse region, carefully selected by Vintage and Vine.

# Vintage and Vine

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## THE OFFER



WINE	VINTAGE	LUC	Pouring or 5 doz buy
<b>AOC Côtes du Rhône</b>			
Mont-Redon <i>Reserve</i> Côtes du Rhône <b>Blanc</b>	2016 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$14.84	\$12.61
Pink Pegau <b>Rosé</b> <sup>1</sup>	2015	\$16.45	\$13.98
Mont-Redon <i>Reserve</i> Côtes du Rhône	2015 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$14.84	\$12.61
Domaine d'Ourea <i>Tire Bouchon</i> <sup>2</sup>	2015	\$15.80	\$14.62
Château Pegau Côtes du Rhône <i>Cuvée Maclura</i>	2013 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$16.45	\$13.98
Domaine Saint Damien Côtes du Rhône <i>Vieilles Vignes</i>	2013	\$18.06	\$15.35
Domaine Charvin Côtes du Rhône <i>Le Poutet</i>	2014 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$22.58	\$20.89
Domaine Charvin Côtes du Rhône <i>Le Poutet Magnum</i>	2014 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$49.99	\$46.24
<b>AOC Côtes du Rhône-Villages</b>			
Domaine Les Hautes Cances Cairanne <i>Tradition</i> <b>Blanc</b> <sup>3</sup>	2012	\$20.00	\$17.00
Château Pegau Côtes du Rhône Villages <i>Cuvée Setier</i>	2012	\$20.00	\$17.00
Domaine Les Hautes Cances Cairanne <i>Tradition</i> <sup>3</sup>	2013 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$20.00	\$17.00
<b>AOC [Village]</b>			
Domaine Saint Damien Gigondas <b>Rosé</b>	2015 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$27.09	\$23.03
Château Mont-Redon Lirac	2013	\$23.54	\$20.01
Domaine Saint Damien Gigondas <i>Vieilles Vignes</i>	2014 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$29.99	\$27.74
Domaine d'Ourea Vacqueyras	2014	\$29.99	\$27.74
Domaine d'Ourea Gigondas	2014 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$38.06	\$35.21
Domaine de La Pigeade Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise <b>Sweet</b>	2014	\$25.80	\$21.93
Domaine de La Pigeade Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise (375ml) <b>Sweet</b>	2015 <sup>NEW</sup>	\$16.13	\$13.71

## NOTES

1. Pink Pegau is labelled Vin De France, because it is 100% Cinsault. AOC Côtes du Rhône requires at least 40% Grenache.
2. Tire Bouchon is labelled Vin De France, because it includes 10% each of the ancient varieties Aramon Noir and Oeillade Noir, neither of which is authorised for AOC Côtes du Rhône.
3. Cairanne has been granted its own appellation as from the 2015 vintage.

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## VINTAGE SNAPSHOTS

**2015** – *‘This is certainly a very, very good vintage for the entire Southern Rhône ... The reds are full-bodied and show beautiful purity of fruit, good concentration and notable, yet ripe and rounded tannin structures.’* **Jeb Dunnuck, RobertParker.com.**

*‘Ideal spring conditions ... later-ripening Grenache and Mourvèdre excelled; reds are marked by sometimes heady ripeness. Looks to be the best vintage since 2010, in a decidedly more powerful style.’* **Wine Spectator.**

**2014** - *‘The 2014 vintage yielded forward, open knit and charming wines that are geared for relatively near-term drinking ... This is an ideal vintage to order off wine lists and to buy as cellar savers while you wait on the larger, more structured wines to acquire bottle age.’* **Jeb Dunnuck, RobertParker.com.**

*‘2014 emphasizes enjoyment, the wines carrying bundles of fruit and mild tannins.’* **John Livingstone-Learmonth, The Cradle of the Rhône.**

**2013** – *‘A vintage that delivered ridiculously low yields - up to 75% below average - of fresh, sharply delineated wines that are approachable yet balanced to age.’* **Vinous.**

*‘Cool but dry growing season, with Grenache yields drastically reduced once again ... wines buttressed with Syrah and Mourvèdre are fresh, pure and floral-edged.’* **Wine Spectator.**

**2012** – *‘Deeply flavored wines with round, gentle tannins and expressive fruit character. The best wines will age slowly but even they show plenty of forward character and can be drunk with pleasure after decanting.’* **Vinous.**

*‘Small crop ... but the wines are fine-grained and lengthy, with deliciously ripe flavors; well-balanced and should cellar well.’* **Wine Spectator.**

## WINE NOTES AND REVIEWS

	LUC	Pouring/ 5 Dozen
<b>2016 Mont-Redon Reserve Côtes du Rhône Blanc (screw cap)</b>	\$14.84	<b>\$12.61</b>
A blend of Grenache Blanc and Clairette, with a touch of Viognier, pressed immediately and cold settled before a slow, cool fermentation in stainless steel for about four weeks. To maintain natural acidity and freshness, the wine does not go through malolactic fermentation, but is kept on fine lees over the winter to build texture. The result is a vibrant, perfumed wine showing floral accented fruit notes, lovely volume and texture in the mouth and finishing with good length and fresh acidity. Drink now and over the next 3-5 years.		
<b>2015 Pink Pegau Rosé</b>	\$16.45	<b>\$13.98</b>
100% Cinsault. After a few hours skin contact, the grapes are pressed and cold settled before a slow, cool fermentation in stainless steel for about 15 days. Racked off lees and bottled in November to retain freshness.		
<i>‘Yeasty pear, white peach, jasmine and yellow apple scents are sharpened by a suggestion of white pepper. Highly floral and spicy in the mouth, offering round red berry and pit fruit flavors that show red-wine-like weight and texture. In a fleshy, broad, creamy style that reminds me of a Poulsard from the Jura. Closes on a candied lavender note, with blood orange and fennel notes lingering. Intriguing stuff...’</i> <b>90 points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, June 2016.</b>		

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2015 Mont-Redon *Reserve* Côtes du Rhône (screw cap) \$14.84 **\$12.61**

*'The 2015 Côtes du Rhône Réserve Mont-Redon is about as charming and gulpable as they come. Made from 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah, it's loaded with notes of strawberries, cherries, dried flowers and garrigue, and this medium-bodied beauty is ideal for drinking over the coming 3-4 years (if not longer).'* **88 points, Jeb Dunnuck, RobertParker.com, October 2016.**

2015 Domaine d'Ourea *Tire Bouchon* \$15.80 **\$14.62**

*Tire Bouchon* translates as *cork-puller!* Made from 60% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Carignan, 10% Aramon Noir and 10% Oeillade Noire. The fruit is all co-fermented with indigenous yeasts in whole bunches and undergoes a semi-carbonic maceration for about 10 days. Matured on fine lees in concrete tanks over the winter, before bottling with minimal sulphur. A bright, fruit-forward wine of impressive elegance and lovely balance.

The Aramon Noir and Oeillade Noire are both very old varieties, yet they are not approved for inclusion in the Côtes du Rhône appellation. Nonetheless they create an element of distinction that sets *Tire Bouchon* apart from the many 'regular' Côtes du Rhône wines on the market.

2013 Château Pegau Côtes du Rhône *Cuvée Maclura* \$16.45 **\$13.98**

*'Bright ruby-red. Spicy red berries and cherry on the incisive nose and in the mouth. Fresh and focused, with a peppery element adding refreshing back-end cut. The peppery note defines the finish, which lingers with good persistence and gripping tannins. Drink 2016-2020.'* **88 points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, June 2016.**

2013 Domaine Saint Damien Côtes du Rhône *Vieilles Vignes* \$18.06 **\$15.35**

*'Vivid ruby. Deep-pitched dark berry and floral pastille scents show very good clarity and become livelier. Sappy and penetrating on the palate, offering intense black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors and a touch of cracked pepper. The peppery note sharpens the finish, which lingers with very good persistence and building tannins. This vineyard is in Plan de Dieu, so the wine could be labeled as a Côtes-du-Rhône Villages, but isn't. Drink 2016-2020.'* **90 points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, June 2016.**

2014 Domaine Charvin Côtes du Rhône *Le Poutet* \$22.58 **\$20.89**

*'Brilliant ruby-red. A complex bouquet evokes fresh red berries, potpourri and smoky minerals, and an intriguing suggestion of blood orange emerges as the wine opens up. Juicy and precise, offering sweet raspberry and lavender pastille flavors underscored by a suggestion of peppery spices. The mineral quality comes back strong on the finish, which features silky tannins and impressive persistence. This bottling always outperforms its humble origins and that's especially the case in this vintage. Drink 2017-2022.'* **91 points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, June 2016.**

2012 Domaine Les Hautes Cances Cairanne *Tradition Blanc* \$20.00 **\$17.00**

30% Grenache blanc, 30% Viognier, 25% Bourboulenc and 15% Clairette. Cool fermented in stainless steel and bottled early to keep its freshness and perfume, this exotic, textured white shows wonderful depth and freshness allied to its generous palate displaying pear and orchard fruits with clean citric notes and hints of minerals on the long finish.

2012 Château Pegau Côtes du Rhône Villages *Cuvée Setier* \$20.00 **\$17.00**

*'A step up over the Côtes du Rhône, the 2012 Côtes du Rhône Villages Setier is a rock-solid effort with classic Southern Rhône character in its saddle leather, wild herbs, dried flowers and pepper-driven aromas and flavors. Made from 60% Grenache and 20% each of Syrah and Mourvedre, aged all in tank, buy this delicious, fabulously Provencal 2012 by the case and drink it over the coming 2-4 years. Drink 2015-2019.'* **88 points, Jeb Dunnuck, RobertParker.com, October 2013.**

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**2013 Domaine Les Hautes Cances Cairanne Tradition**

\$20.00

**\$17.00**

*'(cask) full robe; this has a sleek aroma led by blackberry fruit with a smoky, smoked tea inlay and a cut grass element. The palate is fluid, tasty, leads on suave black fruit with a touch of spicing. Good, direct appeal here. The tannins are quite brisk. It ends clearly. 47% Grenache, 28% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre, 10% Carignan, 5% Cinsault. Drink 2015-2020.'* **3.5 stars, John Livingstone Learmonth, drinkrhone.com, April 2015.**

**2015 Domaine Saint Damien Gigondas Rosé**

\$27.09

**\$23.03**

80% Cinsault, 20% Syrah.

*'Brilliant orange-pink. Fresh red berries, orange zest, pungent flowers and white pepper on the intensely perfumed nose. Juicy and mineral-driven on the palate, offering sappy raspberry and bitter cherry flavors and a touch of blood orange. Shows excellent focus and vivacity on the long, mineral-laced finish, which leaves a juicy red berry note behind. Drink 2017-2021.'* **91 points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, June 2016.**

**2013 Chateau Mont-Redon Lirac rouge**

\$23.54

**\$20.01**

From vineyards located just across the river from Chateauneuf du Pape on sandy soils this wine shows the perfumed and supple side of Grenache grown on sandy soils.

*'Brilliant ruby-red. Spice-accented dark berry, cherry pit and succulent flowers on the perfumed nose. Fleshy and broad in the mouth but lively as well, offering sappy black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors that become sweeter with air. Closes gently tannic, with very good energy and persistence, leaving a spicecake note behind. Drink 2017-2021.'* **90 points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, June 2016.**

**2014 Domaine Saint Damien Gigondas Vieilles Vignes**

\$29.99

**\$27.74**

*'Vivid ruby. Fresh raspberry and cherry scents complicated by notes of white pepper and allspice. Juicy and focused, offering bitter cherry and red berry flavors that show a hint of medicinal bitterness. Becomes sweeter and deeper with air and shows very good energy on the finish, which is shaped by fine-grained tannins that fold quickly into the sappy fruit.'* **(90-92) points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, May 2016.**

**2014 Domaine d'Ourea Vacqueyras**

\$29.99

**\$27.74**

*'(raised for 18 months in concrete vats): Ruby-red. Lively aromas of fresh red berries, candied flowers and smoky minerals, complemented by a bright, peppery nuance. Juicy and nicely concentrated, offering vibrant raspberry and bitter cherry flavors that become sweeter with air. In a graceful style, with fine-grained, firming tannins sneaking in late on the very long, zesty finish. Drink 2020-2025'* **91 points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, April 2016.**

**2014 Domaine d'Ourea Gigondas**

\$38.06

**\$35.21**

*'(raised entirely in concrete vats): Brilliant ruby-red. Vibrant, mineral-tinged cherry and red berries on the fragrant nose. Subtly sweet raspberry, cherry and floral pastille flavors tighten up slowly and show excellent clarity. Picks up a hint of spicecake with aeration and finishes nervy and gently tannic, emphatically echoing the floral note.'* **(90-92) points, Josh Raynolds, Vinous, May 2016.**

**2015 Domaine de La Pigeade Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise Sweet**

\$16.13

**\$13.71 (375ml)**

*'The lightly colored 2015 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise offers lots of peach, tangerine and exotic spice and sappy green herb notes in a medium-bodied, supple and balanced package. It's a solid, delicious effort that won't break the bank.'* **87 points, Jeb Dunnuck, RobertParker.com, December 2016.**