

CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE

May 2019



Typical "Terroir" of Châteauneuf du Pape

Bonjour!

It's very easy to get "blasé" about the weather in the south of France, for us Kiwis it always seems pretty good, in fact January-February-March in NZ this year was about as close as we will ever get to Mediterranean weather. However even for the Rhône Valley the 2015, 2016 and 2017 vintages looked something out of the ordinary.

We go to France twice a year to taste and what we saw in the South had us salivating- intense flavours, sweet tannins, fantastic structure and balance. Phenomenal!

Even the vigneron were excited, three vintages as good as this in a row are very rare, in fact comparisons are being drawn to either 1989-1990-1991 or 1998-1999-2000. We think this latest trio could eclipse them all.

Santé!

Jean-Christophe, Scott et Will



TROIS MILLESIMES EXCEPTIONNELS 2015 - 2016 - 2017

The wines

From our many barrel tastings and also the early arrival Côtes du Rhône, it's easy to see why so many people have been going ga-ga ever since they were just grape juice. Despite their youth they are accessible and captivating wines with pure, sweet fruit and harmonious tannins. Most wines finished with relatively high pHs, which produces this early seductiveness, and also supple tannins with no leathery hard edges. Adorable from day one, yet possessing the balance and freshness necessary to maintain structure and focus, it will be almost impossible to keep your hands off them.

2017 - Frost then rain then heatwaves didn't make things easy, and the harvest was early and small. The small berries however have given wines of great concentration and power. These will be longlived.

2016 - Certainly one of the all time great vintages. Warm conditions throughout the year resulted in wines with exceptionally concentrated colour, tannins and flavour. The vintage of a generation! Michel Chapoutier thinks better than 1990!

2015 - The Grenache suffered from coulure at flowering, meaning yields were down, the plus side is that the concentration is up. A monster vintage!

It might be global warming but Châteauneuf-du-Pape has had an unprecedented run of superlative vintages going on twenty years now. However this latest trio could very well be the icing on the cake. These are monumental wines that should be in every wine lovers cellar. And while you wait for these to mature don't overlook the lesser appellations, the trickle down in quality means Southern Rhône have never been better.

OUR PRODUCERS...

PEGAU

Domaine du Pegau is an old name in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, in fact the Feraud family is able to trace their roots all the way back to the middle of the 17th century.

It was Paul Feraud, the father of Laurence Feraud that brought Domaine Pegau into the modern age when he began to bottle his own wine from the production of a small 5 hectare parcel of vines that he inherited.

In 1987, we noticed a second big change when Laurence Feraud joined her father. Today, Domaine du Pegau owns 21 hectares of vines in Chateauneuf du Pape. Laurence continues to use traditional processes, a light pressing followed by whole-bunch fermentation as was done in the 17th century.

Chateauneuf-du-Pape "Cuvée Reservée" 2016 **\$140.00**

"...even more impressive than it was last year. It's still firmly tannic, but the fruit seems to be growing in stature, adding volume and richness sufficient to round out the tannins." 93-95/100 RP Wine Advocate

Chateauneuf-du-Pape "Cuvée da Capo" 2016 **\$690.00**

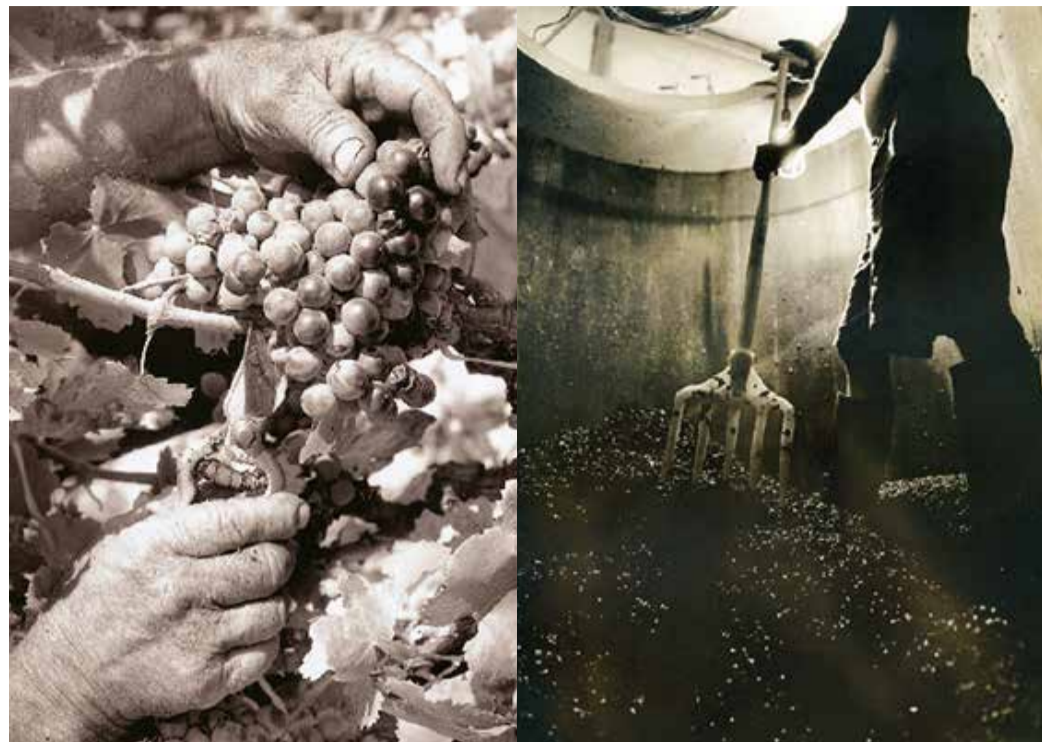
"Only made in great years and from at least 100 year old vines." 95-98/100 RP Wine Advocate 95-97/100 Vinous



Laurence Feraud in Domaine du Pegau



Jean-Christophe and Thierry Usseglio



Grape (Grenache) Vine

Cleaning out the vats

VIEUX TELEGRAPHE

One of the most famous and largest land holders in Châteauneuf, Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe has been run by the Brunier family, for six generations - since 1891 to be precise. They have 60.5 hectares of vines with an average age of 60 years, the majority planted on the celebrated Plateau of La Crau, arguably the best lieu-dit in Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

A blend of 65% Grenache, 15% Mourvedre, 10% Cinsault and 10% Syrah, the wines year on year speak of the site where they were grown. To maintain the quality Frédéric and Daniel Brunier bottle the wines from the younger vines under a separate label, Télégramme. Less structured and more approachable it still has the essence of this great Domaine.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape "Télégramme" 2016 **\$72.00**

Hard to beat for drinkability. 90-92/100 Vinous

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016 **\$150.00**

"...classy notes of crushed stones and black tea to go along with ripe raspberries and black cherries." 96/100 RP Wine Advocate 93-95/100 Vinous

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc 2017 **\$120.00**

Always one of the best whites. 94/100 RP Wine Advocate

PIERRE USSEGLIO

Francis Usseglio moved to the Rhône from Italy in 1931 and became a vineyard worker in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Eventually he purchased some land and his first crop came out of the press in 1949. Today the estate covers 39 hectares and is run by his grandsons Jean-Pierre and Thierry. For us this is one of our favourites, there is a rare purity of expression that you seldom see anywhere, top Domaine.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016 **\$70.00**

Classic Châteauneuf that will never disappoint. 91-93/100 Vinous

Châteauneuf-du-Pape "Cuvée Mon Aieul" 2016 **\$160.00**

"...vibrant floral and tea-like notes, raspberry fruit and hints of licorice. It's full-bodied, rich and velvety, with overtones of spice cake on the long, crisp finish." 97/100 RP Wine Advocate.

LA CHARBONNIERE

Since its purchase in 1912, Domaine de la Charbonnière has been the singular passion of the Maret family. Recently though it has been the young and charismatic sisters Veronique and Caroline Maret who have overseen the meteoric rise of Charbonnière to the top echelon of producers. Huge investment in the chai as well as a complete conversion to organic viticulture has seen the accolades start to flow to such an extent that they are now the darlings of the press.

Domaine Charbonnière is a contender for the best value wine in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, a rare combination of high quality and fair pricing, something all Rhône lovers should take advantage of.



Grape picking

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016

“...sweet raspberry and cherry flavours sharpened by a jolt of spicy white pepper.”
90-92/100 Vinous

\$67.00

Châteauneuf-du-Pape “Cuvée Mourre des Perdrix” 2016 \$90.00

“...it was singing when I tasted it, featuring red raspberries and cherries, floral and spice notes and a plump, velvety texture. Just delicious stuff.” 94-96/100 RP Wine Advocate

PASCAL LAFOND

The Lafond family has a long history in the Southern Rhône Valley that dates all the way back to 1780. Based in Tavel directly across the river from Châteauneuf where Jean-Pierre’s great uncle Pascal Odoyer was governor. Although the majority of their production hinges around Côtes du Rhône, Lirac and Tavel, the small parcel of vines they own in Châteauneuf-du-Pape are the jewel in their crown.

Châteauneuf-du-pape 2016

80% Grenach 10% Syrah 10% Mourvedre
“Full-bodied, supple and lush, it’s also concentrated, rich and velvety in texture, with notes of clove and cinnamon lingering on the finish.” 95/100 RP Wine Advocate

\$70.00



Lafond Family

LA ROQUETE

Also owned by the Brunier family, Domaine la Roquete was acquired in 1986 from the estate of René Laugier. The property takes its name from one of the lieux-dits where their vines are planted, Roquete.

Frédéric and Daniel Brunier have put their stamp on the wines which have terrific elegance and finesse that while they can be enjoyed young, will easily hold their own in the cellar.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc 2017

An equal blend of Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Roussanne.

\$85.00

“... with aromas of gently toasted brioche, tangerine and lime. Plump, rich and silky on the palate, it’s wonderfully long and elegant on the finish.” 92-94/100 Vinous



Worker at Senechaux

SENECHAUX

An old domaine that has been revitalised by a change of ownership in 2006. Under the guidance of the Cazes family, owners of Château Lynch-Bages in Pauillac, there has been significant renovation both in the chai and the vineyard. The estate produces robust reds and fleshy, aromatic whites that reflect the rich characters of their respective terroirs.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015

\$79.00

“The 2015 Châteauneuf-du-Pape is a full-bodied, supple but richly tannic blend of 61% Grenache, 22% Syrah and 17% Mourvèdre that spent time in foudres, old barriques and concrete, maturing into a strong, concentrated effort loaded with cherry fruit and spice.” 93/100 RP Wine Advocate

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc 2017

\$69.00

“Fresh orange, pear and succulent floral qualities on the energetic nose, along with deeper candied ginger and honey flourishes.” 92/100 Vinous

CUVEE DU VATICAN

For many years the wines were sold in bulk to the negociants but from 1952 Félicien Diffonty began bottling the wines at the Domaine. Today his son Jean-Marc Diffonty has continued what has been a steep improvement in quality and in 2010 he decided to rename their top cuvée and bottles it as Château Sixtine. What has to be said though is that both the standard and deluxe cuvees offer terrific value.

It was in 2010, that the estate was officially renamed Sixtine, to compliment their top wine.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016

\$55.00

"Smoke-accented red and dark berry aromas are complicated by hints of smoky minerals and garrigue, and a spicy white pepper note develops with air." 90-92/100 Vinous

Sixtine Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016

magnum only (1.5 L) \$155.00

"Shows impressive delineation and finishes supple and impressively long, leaving a sexy floral note behind." 93/100 Vinous

BEAURENARD

The first mention of Beurenard was in 1695, at the time it went under the name of "Bois Renard". It is what we can call a true, family affair, the vineyards have been in the same family for 7 generations. Today the estate is managed by brothers Frédéric and Daniel Coulon but you can expect that in the near future the next generation, Daniel's sons, Antonin and Victor, will take the reins.

They have 32 hectares of vines in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape on four separate terroirs - stony (galet roubles), rocky, sandy and clay/limestone, with a remarkable 25 separate parcels in the north western sector. The wines are very textural and elegant, with the capacity to improve in the cellar effortlessly.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016

\$83.00

"Complex, full-bodied and supple, it finishes long and silky." 93/100 RP Wine Advocate

Châteauneuf-du-Pape "Cuvée Boisrenard" 2016

\$130.00

"All 13 of the permitted grape varieties are used here including some vines so old they're not sure of the variety. Terrific." 96/100 RP Wine Advocate

Châteauneuf-du-Pape "Cuvée Boisrenard Blanc" 2017

\$130.00

"...suggestions of buttered toast and peach nectar that build steadily on the back half. Shows impressive floral thrust and finishes silky and very long," 93/100 Vinous



Coulon family

CHATEAU LA NERTHE

One of the oldest estates in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Château la Nerthe was also one of the first, if not the first estate in Châteauneuf-du-Pape to export their wines outside of France.

Over the centuries, the Château changed hands numerous times until in 1986 it was bought by the Richard family. It is the most beautiful property in the Appellation, and a visit to their cellars under the Château is a wonderful experience. All thirteen varieties permissible in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape Appellation are grown here, nevertheless the majority of the vineyard is Grenache.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016

\$94.00

"A highly perfumed nose displays ripe red fruit, lavender and woodsmoke scents that pick up licorice and allspice accents with air." 92/100 Vinous

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc 2017

\$89.00

"Offers juicy, concentrated citrus and orchard fruit flavors." 92/100 Vinous

Châteauneuf-du-Pape "Cuvée Cadettes" 2016

\$230.00

"Sappy and deeply concentrated yet energetic as well, offering palate-staining blackberry and cherry compote flavors that are given spine and focus by a core of juicy acidity." 94/100 Vinous

Châteauneuf-du-Pape "Cuvée Beauvenir" Blanc 2016

\$198.00

"Smoky, mineral-accented citrus and orchard fruits on the nose, along with a suave floral nuance and a touch of iodine. Sappy, concentrated and lively on the palate." 94/100 Vinous

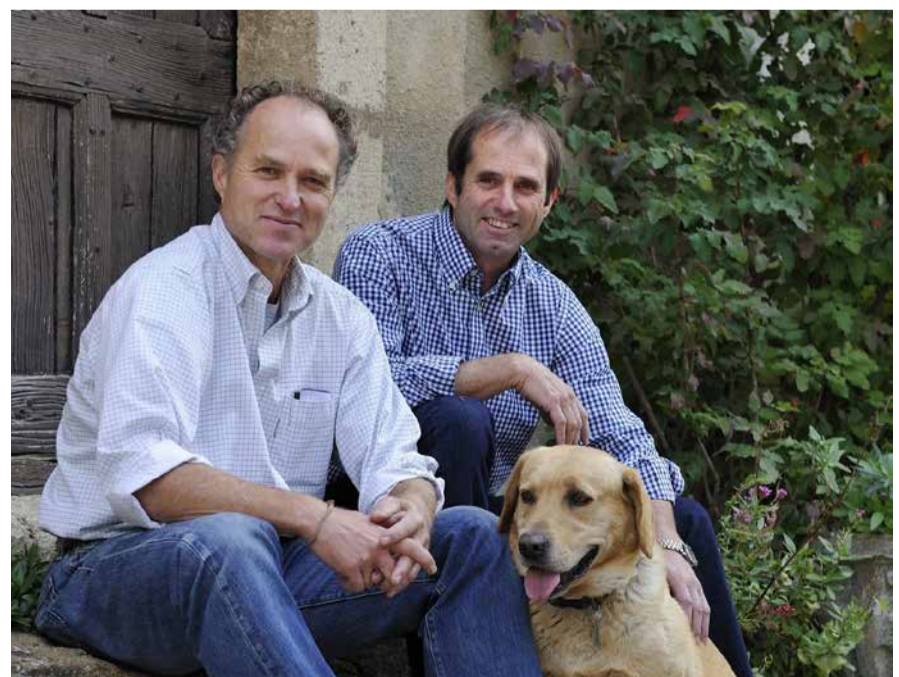
PIEDLONG

This 29 hectare Domaine, is another acquisition of the Brunier family. The estate lies on the Piedlong and Pignan plateau, the highest point in the Appellation, and one particularly exposed to the fierce Mistral winds, which serve both to concentrate and 'lift' the profiles of the wines produced here. This, and the stony, barren soils give wines that combine velvety richness, a marked minerality and bright elegance to alluring effect. The blend comprises some 90% 70 year old, Grenache from Piedlong soils, and 10% 50 year old Mourvèdre from the sandier soils of Pignan to the East.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2016

\$95.00

"Sappy, seamless and precise on the palate, offering intense raspberry and floral pastille flavors and a touch of candied lavender. Finishes on a bright mineral note." 91-93/100 Vinous



Brunier brothers

RHONE SUD — OTHER APPELLATIONS...



Serge Ferigoule - Domaine Sang des Cailloux

VACQUEYRAS

Nestled at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail, on the left bank of the Ouvèze, the AOC is located around the town of Vacqueyras between the prestigious vineyards of Gigondas and Beaufort-de-Venise.

Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras "Floureto" 2016 \$48.00

"Pungent, spice- and mineral-accented red berry preserve and floral scents are complemented by suggestions of incense and garrigue." 92/100 Vinous

Montvac Vacqueyras 2016 \$37.00

"Smooth and spicy on the palate, offering lush raspberry and cherry preserve flavors that spread out steadily on the back half." 92/100 Vinous

Bouissiere Vacqueyras 2016 \$49.00

"Appealingly sweet black raspberry and lavender pastille flavors are sharpened by an exotic touch of blood orange. The berry and floral notes repeat strongly on a very long, silky finish." 92/100 Vinous

GIGONDAS

Between Carpentras, Orange and Vaison la Romaine, nestled at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail. This dramatic landscape is really worth a detour as is a village with its beautiful tree lined main square. Often referred to as poor mans Châteauneuf, these Grenache dominant beauties have some serious mouthfilling flavours and structure.

Espiers Gigondas 2016 \$48.00

"Scents of garrigue strewn over ripe cherries and stone fruit. Full-bodied, supple, creamy and concentrated, it's another winning Gigondas, an appellation that seems to have excelled in the 2016 vintage." 92/100 RP Wine Advocate.

Pallieres Gigondas 2015 \$69.00

"Heady aromas of ripe black and blue fruits, potpourri and licorice are complemented by smoky mineral and spice nuances that emerge with air." 92-94/100 Vinous

LIRAC

Lirac, forever the bridesmaid, looks directly across the river at Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Although the soils are similar, the wines don't have the same body and structure. However they represent incredible value as the quality far exceeds the prices.

Lafond Lirac 2016 \$29.90

"... hints of clove and allspice accenting ripe cherries and blueberries. It's creamy-textured and supple, with softly dusty tannins on the lingering finish." 91/100 RP Wine Advocate

RASTEAU

Although it gained AOC status for its sweet wines in 1944 it wasn't until 2010 that the reds were also promoted. What for many years had been an insiders secret was now in the open.

Beaurenard Rasteau 2017 \$43.00

Nice freshness on the nose with garrigue and wild blackberries notes. Fruity and spicy mouth with wild raspberry notes, rosemary and thyme. Its balance and its minerality show a bright future.

CAIRANNE

Another village that for many years has been an insiders secret. The wines are full-bodied with gorgeous spicy fruit, and silky structure. The consistency was finally rewarded with promotion to AOC status from 2016.

Alary Cairanne 2016 \$31.00

Denis Alary just scored the highest marks ever for Cairanne wines with his Cuvee la Jean de Verde 96/100. This is his entry level cuvee which received 92/100 RP Wine Advocate

COTES DU RHONE & COTES DU RHONE VILLAGES

After Montelimar the Rhône valley spreads out into a landscape of rolling hills and alluvial plains and this is where the vast majority of the Côtes du Rhône appellation lies. It is an area steeped in history, the Romans having brought viticulture here more than 2000 years ago.

Within this large area are more than 95 communes which have superior terroir and fall under the Côtes du Rhône Villages appellation, often an area surrounding a small hilltop village. From the Drôme Provençale to the banks of the Durance in the east and the Ardèche to the Pont du Gard in the west, there is an abundance of hidden gems waiting to be discovered.

Alary Côtes du Rhône "La Gerbaude" 2016 \$25.00

Alary, one of the best producers based in the village of Cairanne, makes delicious wines.

Andezon Côtes du Rhone Villages 2017 \$28.50

Rich, round and intense from the village of Sinargues. Its like drinking summer.

Cassagne de La Nerthe CRV 2016 \$36.00

Grown on deep gravel terraces north of Orange at Serignan du Comtat. 91/100 RP Wine Advocate.

Pegau Côtes du Rhône Villages Setiers 2015 \$31.00

A Laurence Feraud project, she is well on the way to turning this property into a superstar. "... smokin' good, medium to full-bodied, concentrated, sexy beauty that's undeniably Pégau in style." 90/100 RP Wine Advocate

La Granacha Côtes du Rhône Villages 2016 \$28.00

A fantastic expression of Grenache with deep raspberry and kirsch fruit, hints of olive tapenade, pepper, licorice and garrigue all showing on the nose. This is a full-bodied, fruit-loaded effort that has outstanding purity, loads of texture and a lengthy finish.



Côtes du Rhône vineyard

MUST SEE...

Orange's Roman théâtre

At Orange is the "Ancient Théâtre d'Orange", built in the first century. Playing a major role in the life of the citizens, who spent their free time there, the théâtre was seen by the Roman authorities not only as a means of spreading Roman culture to the colonies, but also as a way of distracting them from all political activities. The entertainment offered was open to all and free of charge.

It is one of the best preserved of all the Roman théâtre in France. It is the only building of its kind which still has its impressive acoustic stage wall: 103 metres long, 37 metres high, 1.80 metres thick. It hosts "The Chorégies d'Orange"—a magnificent summer opera festival held each year in August and one of the oldest festivals in France.



Orange's Roman theatre

Le Palais des Papes and Avignon Bridge

They are both listed world heritage sites by UNESCO. Visiting them is a must! A fascinating visit of the Avignon Bridge (Saint Bénézet) tells the story of the Rhône's construction, the famous song and the role it played in the economic development of the city. In the town centre is the Popes' Palace, the largest gothic palace in the world, covering 15,000 m² of surface area, containing over twenty places to visit: including grand rooms with fresco decorations painted by the Italian artist Matteo Giovannetti.

MUST DO...

Canoeing under the "Pont du Gard"

The Pont du Gard is an architectural marvel, a slice of live history and provides a great day out. It is a masterpiece of human creative genius, an exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

The Gardon river is well known for its spectacular floods but is especially calm throughout the summer months. You can explore the gorges of this river by canoe with the fabulous highlight of canoeing under the arches of the Pont du Gard. You don't have to be hugely fit to do the basic ride. It's the best way of seeing this stunning piece of first century engineering.

Cycling in this wonderful region

Local cyclists and cyclists from around the world will all tell you that the Southern Rhône is a cycling paradise. Bicycling through this region is one of the very best ways to approach the beautiful, contrasting landscapes of the Haute-Provence. Well-marked itineraries abound—The local "Office du Tourisme" can provide you with the details of these as well as where to hire bikes etc...

If you feel fit and brave enough you can measure yourself against mythical Mont-Ventoux (1912m)—professional riders take 1h–1h15 min to climb the 22kms from the little village of Bedouin.

WHERE TO STAY...

Le Cloître St Louis

20 Rue du Portail Boquier,
Avignon
<http://www.cloitre-saint-louis.com>

Hôtel de l'Atelier

5 Rue de la Foire,
Villeneuve-lès-Avignon
<https://www.hoteldelatelier.com>

Maria & Andreas – Chambres d'hôtes au Belvédère

25 Route de Bédarrides,
Chateauneuf du Pape
<https://www.c9dp.com>

Hôtel Crillon le Brave

Place de l'Eglise, Crillon le Brave
<http://www.crillonlebrave.com>

WHERE TO EAT...

La Table de Sorgues

Avenue du 19 Mars 1962,
Sorgues

Adrien Aumaitre Restaurant

471 Chemin de Villefranche,
Carpentras

La Table du Mas

796 Route de Cairanne,
Violes

Bistro du'O

37 Rue Gaston Gevaudan,
Vaison la Romaine

UN PEU D'HISTOIRE - FROM ITALY TO AVIGNON



Palais des Papes

The first Christian communities quite naturally settled in the former Roman cities of Vaison-la-Romaine and Orange. Christianity would eventually spread throughout all of Europe, yet its heartbeat was strongest in the "Provence of the Popes".

In the 13th and 14th centuries, turbulent times in Italy created an unstable environment for the Vatican. Provence enticed the Popes, and appealed in particular to Clement V, the first Pope to discover the region, settling here in 1309. Later, Pope John XXII chose Châteauneuf-du-Pape as the site for his summer residence.

By settling in Provence, the Popes demonstrated the will to found a Papal State. This state was bordered by the Kingdom of France, and its frontiers expanded as the Popes acquired additional territory. They first obtained the Comtat Venaissin, then Avignon, where they built the famous Palace of the Popes.

What about the "Pont d'Avignon" then? It was built during the 12th Century and was the only crossing point along the Rhône river, the natural boundary between the Kingdom of France and the Holy Roman Empire until half of it was washed away by the flooded Rhône in the 17th century. The famous song "Sur le Pont d'Avignon" dates back to the 15th century.

THE PERFECT CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE MATCH...

BLANC



Ossau-Iraty **\$9.60 per 100g**

Traditional, unpasteurised cheese from the Pyrénées that hold a fertile grazing land for the milk-producing ewes. This cheese unites two regions of France in the Western Pyrénées: Ossau and Iraty. It received an AOC protection in 1980, which requires that the cheese be produced with the milk of only two breeds of ewes - Manech and Basco-Béarnaise. It comes in the form of a tomme with generous shape and natural crust, whose colour varies depending on its ripening conditions. It has a succulent and complex flavour, developing notes of hazelnut and caramel as it matures. It tastes delicious with a glass of white Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

ROUGE



Saint-Marcellin **\$9.50 Each**

Originating from the French region of Isère, Saint-Marcellin is a soft unpasteurised, mold ripened cheese that was made exclusively from goat's milk until the 13th century. Today, cow's milk is used to make this small round, wrinkly cheese dusted with a coating of white yeast. The texture of the young cheese varies from firm to very runny and it has a mild, slightly salty flavour. When ripe, it is irresistible with slightly yeasty taste. It typically has a beige crust with a soft, creamy interior. A red Châteauneuf-du-Pape will reinforce the rustic, nutty, fruity flavour of the St Marcellin.

OUR SIX PACK SPECIAL

An introduction to the RED wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and the Southern CRUS

- Alary Côtes du Rhône
- Granacha Côtes du Rhône Villages
- Lafond Lirac
- Montvac Vacqueyras
- Vatican Châteauneuf-du-pape
- Senechaux Châteauneuf-du-pape

\$220

ORDER NOW!!!

Offer valid while stocks lasts



Dentelles de Montmirail