



TANNERS

WINE MERCHANTS



The remains of Pope Clement V's famed 'Châteauneuf'

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Superstars

Mixed Half Dozen

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps one of the most evocative and familiar wine names in France, Châteauneuf-du-Pape is a byword for full-bodied, quality, red wines.

Situated in the southern Rhône Valley in southeastern France, the recognition of this historic region dates back to the 1300s when Pope Clement V relocated from Bordeaux to Avignon, at the south end of the region, and built a new castle (or Châteauneuf – the remains of which are pictured above). In 1923 Châteauneuf-du-Pape became the first region to introduce a quality assurance program that became the prototype for the AOC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée) system which has been adopted across the whole country and more widely. Famous for allowing 13 different grape varieties to be used, the reds are usually a base of Grenache Noir with Syrah and Mourvèdre, the rest providing a palette for the winemakers, and mother nature, to stamp their individuality on the wines.

In the last 30 years, the wines have gone from strength to strength, becoming far more refined and elegant. Today, the best wines are a match for anything produced across the globe. Producers, such as the Bruniers at Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe; the Perrins at Château de Beaucastel and the Girauds at Domaine Giraud, are highly regarded globally.

Télégramme (1) is the Brunier family's entry into their range of Châteauneufs, made from young vines and anything that didn't quite make the cut for the top wines. It gives an essence of the excellent wines produced here. At Domaine Giraud (2), Marie and her brother François, produce wines on a smaller scale, all produced organically with great care. Their Grenache vines are over 100 years old producing small yields with incredible intensity. Their more famous near neighbours at Château de Beaucastel (3) look after 110 ha putting them in a different league, but here too they farm following organic methods and manage to produce some of the finest wines found in the region. Their Coudoulet de Beaucastel (4), a humble Côtes du Rhône, comes from 30 ha of vines just to the east of Châteauneuf with very similar soils and is often dubbed "baby Beaucastel".

Making up only 5% of the region's production, the rather less well-known white counterpart, Châteauneuf-du-Pape blanc, is a rare beast indeed, but it would be remiss of us to overlook it as put simply, they are delicious! The fabulously aromatic Domaine Roger Perrin example (5) is made by Véronique Perrin-Rollin and son, Xavier, from predominantly Grenache Blanc grapes blended with Clairette, Roussanne, Bourboulenc & Picardan.


THE WINES

1. **Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Télégramme, Famille Brunier x 2** Bin No: RR039
Lovely soft fruit with spice, plums, herbs and a touch of leather behind. Quite forward in the mouth with soft, ripe tannins, great length and a luscious finish. This is the second wine of Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe.
2. **Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Domaine Giraud (organic) x 1** Bin No: RR110
A very silky and seductive wine with wonderful fruit, smooth and rich with good tannins and spice on the finish. There is good structure but this is a superbly balanced wine that will age well.
3. **Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Château de Beaucastel, Famille Perrin x 1** Bin No: RR045
Black fruits with plums and cherries abound. There is a creamy, almost chocolate-like texture packed full of ripe fruit black cherries and plums. This is already delicious but looks set for a long life. 5-15+ years.
4. **Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes du Rhône Rouge x 1** Bin No: RR021
Very intense with sweet juicy, plum and blueberry fruit an attractive elegance on the palate with some fine, rounded, tannins in support followed by a long finish. Serious Coudoulet this year.
5. **Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, Roger Perrin x 1** Bin No: RW079
Appealingly aromatic, packed full of apricot, nectarine and beeswax aromas. The palate is sapid with lovely spice, stone fruits and some leafy notes giving freshness, supported by great structure and length.

Ordering from Tanners

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