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Please note, Rhone 2012 En Primeur wines will arrive into the UK in Autumn/Winter 2014.

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AVERYS
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SINCE 1793

2012 RHÔNE EN PRIMEUR OFFER
AVERYS PERSONAL SELECTION FROM THE 2012 VINTAGE



Madeline Mehalko, Rhône buyer

Rhône is back, and ready to fill any gaps in your cellar. The 2012s show the power, structure, and staying power of the 2010s, the forward fruit of the 2011s, and a remarkable freshness. Undeniable quality combined with reduced yields will mean there is a great demand for these wines, especially if the critics love them as much as I did. It's not a huge blockbuster vintage like 2007 or 2009, it has much better balance.

So here's to 2012, which I personally can't wait for. They will develop perfectly while we pull the corks on first 2009 and 2011, then 2010. But just to appease the impatient, we'll of course offer some early drinkers too.

Rhône 2012

2012 Best Buys Mixed Dozen

Enjoy two bottles of each of our best buys in this terrific value mixed dozen.



Rhône 2012 Best Buys (M0000865)

12-bottles **£99**

Rhône 2012 Best Buys

There are some great value Rhônes in 2012; here are some of our favourites.

Domaine Font Sarade Vacqueyras (B1823812)

6-bottles **£60**

Situated north of Vacqueyras on the Ponche plateau, this domaine produces mostly Vacqueyras on their 35 ha. This has vibrant dark fruits and pain d'épices along with smoky and herby notes, with plenty of freshness and finesse.

Chateau Saint Jean Cotes du Rhône Plan de Dieu (C1638012)

12-bottles **£70**

Dense, rich, spicy and smooth, this reliably good cuvée hasn't failed to deliver this year. Serious and quite classic - ripe plums, redcurrants and tarry dark fruits are held in place with fine ripe tannins.

Domaine Coudoulis Lirac (C0955012)

12-bottles **£72**

Lirac is a great value alternative to Châteauneuf; the soils are nearly identical and the wines produced are of a similar style. Enjoy bright berry fruits with a spicy, savoury edge and excellent concentration but with real aromatic lift in the middle.

Domaine de la Mordoree, Côtes du Rhône (C1824012)

12-bottles **£75**

Mordoree is known for making polished Lirac, Tavel and Châteauneuf du Pape, but their Côtes du Rhône is a great introduction to the quality winemaking here. It's deep and serious with pure berry fruit and whispers of garrigue and spice.

Domaine du Valori Châteauneuf du Pape (B0996812)

6-bottles **£82**

This domaine consistently produces great value and high quality Châteauneuf with excellent typicity and drinkability. Bright fruit, sweet spices, ripe tannins and a lick of red liquorice make this everything a good Châteauneuf should be.

Domaine Etienne Barret Crozes Hermitage Rouge (C1637712)

12-bottles **£88**

Making only Crozes Hermitage, with 12 ha of red and 4ha of white, this is a tiny domaine, who do a lot of their production manually. This is a really classic offering from Barret with great depth of fruit, a sprinkle of spice, and just enough tannic structure.



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The Northern Rhône

After a harsh winter, a very rainy spring followed, meaning mildew and disease were an issue in the Northern Rhône. However, those who were able to manage this successfully were rewarded with good water reserves and a perfect sunny, dry July and August. Vegetation started early thanks to the wet conditions, so the vintage was overall a little earlier than usual, with harvest starting on 17th September and running until the 5th October. September was largely dry and sunny giving good conditions for harvesting and the resulting wines are elegant and fresh, with the whites, once again, outstanding.



Domaine Etienne Barret Crozes Hermitage Rouge (C1637712)

12-bottles **£88**

Etienne Barret is a cuvée made by Etienne Pochon of Château de Curson. Making only Crozes Hermitage, with 12ha of red and 4ha of white, this is a tiny domaine made up of 3 staff, who do most of the production manually. The wines are made in a classic style and are mostly organic, though not certified. A really classic and attractive offering from Barret this year; there is great depth of fruit, a sprinkle of spice, and just enough tannic structure.



Domaine Courbis Cornas Champelrose (B0925212)

6-bottles **£110**

Run by two brothers whose family have been in the village since the 16th century. The steep hills of Cornas make organic farming difficult, but the brothers strive to be as attentive as possible to the vines, rendering treatments rarely necessary. The 2012 Champelrose is rich and spicy with subtle notes of violets. Excellent depth and purity, with firm structure and savoury, black olive notes.



Domaine Rostaing Côte Rôtie 'Ampodium' (B1433812)

6-bottles **£185**

Rene Rostaing is deservedly well-known for his Cote Rotie; his practice of whole bunch fermentation and judicious use of oak means the wines are always balanced and refined; this year there is a delicate, feminine nose of raspberries and redcurrants, with a hint of blackcurrant leaf and stony minerality peeking through. Fresh and lifted on the palate, it is fine-boned but there is underlying power, with plenty of structure for the cellar.

Vins de Vienne

Vins de Vienne is a collaboration between three stars of the region – Yves Cuilleron, Pierre Gaillard, and Francois Villard. They have resurrected a forgotten vineyard site at the the northernmost tip of the Rhône at Seyssuel, which dates back to Roman times. In addition to the domaine wines from Seyssuel, they also produce a superb collection of negociant wines from various Northern appellations, all with typicity and class. The team first got together in the 1990s and since then have rapidly developed a reputation for producing benchmark wines of the region.

Les Vins de Vienne Crozes Hermitage (B1819812)

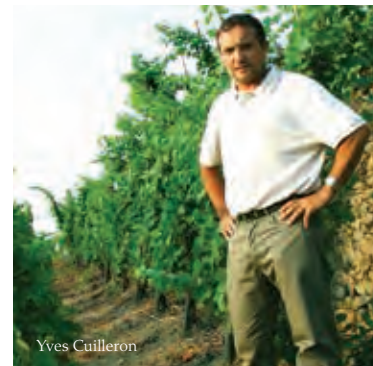
6-bottles **£64**

Impressive density of dark fruit with overtones of liquorice pastilles. Sturdy in its youth but it has excellent freshness and energy with well-handled tannins. The potential longevity of this wine more resembles an Hermitage than a light and easy Crozes.

Les Vins de Vienne Condrieu 'la Chambee' (B1819912)

6-bottles **£160**

This is a very grown-up Viognier - linear and saline with a good underlying core of pear and anise, excellent texture and a very classy, long finish.



Yves Cuilleron



Pierre Gaillard



Francois Villard

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Michel Chapoutier



M.Chapoutier

Michel has labelled the 2012 vintage ‘Pure Rhône Classicism’ and it’s hard to disagree. Harvest began at quite a normal time - approximately mid-September - but unusually the tannins ripened before the sugars, so ripe tannins are a near certainty for this vintage. Chapoutier likens the vintage to 2000 in terms of density and tannins but with the 2012s displaying a more mineral profile.

The whites are again fantastic – mineral, elegant and poised. After a lean vintage in 2010 and fruity in 2011, the whites are back to something more serious, with great structure.

Chapoutier Hermitage Rouge ‘la Sizeranne’ (B1637412) 6-bottles **£285**

Using just 20% new oak, this cuvée has a whiff of sweet spices on the nose above boysenberry, blueberry, violet and white pepper notes. There is superb density and depth on the palate, with a vein of smokiness and a well structured finish. This is long, deep, and complex with all the makings for greatness in 10-15 years time.



M.Chapoutier

Chapoutier Luberon La Ciboise (C1636712) 12-bottles **£47**

Luberon, in the far south of the Rhône Valley, is one of Europe’s oldest wine regions with a history stretching back to 750BC. Chapoutier’s Luberon is a blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah with a vibrant colour and bags of sweet strawberry and cherry fruit. The overall impression is smooth and succulent with pretty redcurrant fruit and a touch of bitter graphite complexity.

Chapoutier Granges de Mirabel Viognier (B1819712) 6-bottles **£48**

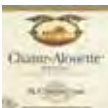
Mirabel is the name of a town in the Ardeche, situated at 300 metres altitude on volcanic soils. The wine sharing its name is a coppery gold colour, with apricot, white peach, quince and some green fruit notes. Heady and perfumed in the mouth with a lovely texture, but really restrained and reined in. Saline minerality and a twist of orange peel finish off this elegant, poised wine. An excellent alternative to Condrieu.

Chapoutier Saint Peray Blanc ‘les Tanneurs’ (B1637112) 6-bottles **£56**

Rich and golden, both in colour and character. Gingerbread, apricot, yellow peach and broad richness are balanced by crisp apple notes and subtle minerality. This is a wine with plenty of immediate charm.

Chapoutier Hermitage Blanc ‘Chante Alouette’ (B1637212) 6-bottles **£190**

Mealy, nutty and savoury marmite aromas resulting from 18 months in barrel deliciously round out this tightly wound, citrus fruit-packed little number, with a rich creamy texture. This will get even better with age.



The Southern Rhône

2012 was a fairly straight forward vintage in the South – it was largely dry and sunny right up until early September when rain fell at just the right time. After a hot summer a cool September followed, so acidities were maintained alongside the beautiful ripeness of fruit that had been achieved. It also meant the ripening was slowed down and the vintage turned out to be a slightly late one – starting on 2nd October - rather than early as in the North. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre were all very successful, with the wines showing good colour throughout, and a more serious tannic structure than in 2011.



Côtes du Rhône & Côtes du Rhône Villages

Domaine Fond Croze Côtes du Rhône Cuvée Confidence (C1034912) 12-bottles **£56**

Three generations of the Long family have put their heart and soul in to this domaine. It is now certified organic and run by brothers Daniel and Bruno along with their father Raymond. Earning numerous medals and mentions in wine guides, their winery near Rasteau consistently turns out top quality wines. ‘Cuvée Confidence’ is a serious wine, tightly knit, with fine but firm tannins and plenty of herby dark fruits.

Chateau Husson Côtes du Rhône (C1459012) 12-bottles **£60**

Château Husson can always be depended upon to produce well made wines with great purity; this is no exception, with juicy dark cherry fruit marrying with leather, liquorice, mocha and spice. Structured, rich and fresh, and just serious enough to be tucked away in the cellar for a few years.

Chateau Saint Jean Cotes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu (C1638012) 12-bottles **£70**

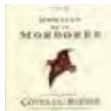
Dense, rich, spicy and smooth, this reliably good cuvée hasn’t failed to deliver this year. Serious and quite classic in style with plums, redcurrants, and tarry dark fruits held in place with fine ripe tannins.

Domaine de la Mordoree Côtes du Rhône (C1824012) 12-bottles **£75**

Mordoree is known for making polished Lirac, Tavel and Châteauneuf du Pape, but their Côtes du Rhône is a great introduction to the quality winemaking here. Marrying tradition and modernity, their only goal is to produce the best wine possible each year. Deep and serious on the nose with liquorice and red fruit aromas. Pure berry fruit with whispers of garrigue and spice with finely knit tannins giving a good grip on the finish.

Domaine Clos Romane Cotes du Rhône Villages Cairanne (C1823912) 12-bottles **£95**

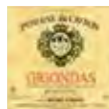
Stéphane and Nadine Charancon made their first vintage in 2011 and the results are already impressive. Their 50+ year old vines, many of which are at high altitude, produce concentrated and complex wines made up of 50% Grenache, 25% Mourvedre, and 25% Syrah. Dark fruits, cinnamon spice and rye bread on the nose, with dried strawberries, white pepper and allspice berry notes on the palate; a refined effort.



Southern Rhône Crus

The Southern Rhône is the ideal place to turn for those who like big, rich, spicy reds. We are all familiar with Châteauneuf du Pape, but there are so many more appellations to explore which offer similar styles of wines, often at great value. These ‘crus’ are wines which have been deemed special and distinctive enough to have been elevated above the Cotes du Rhône Villages appellation. The 2012 vintage has produced some especially serious examples.

Gigondas



Domaine du Cayron Gigondas (B1823712)

6-bottles **£92**

Established in 1840, Domaine du Cayron is something of a classic in the region and they only produce one wine. Their old vines, practice of hand harvesting and traditional vinification methods, (they are one of the few wineries that still use an old vertical press) all ensure that this is Gigondas at its big, voluptuous best. An incredibly pure and focussed nose of wild strawberries, redcurrant, tarragon and raisin; the purity carries through to the palate - this wine really sings.



Perrin Gigondas 'les Tourelles' (B1823612)

6-bottles **£160**

The old Grenache vines at Domaine du Clos les Tourelles are north-west facing, making for a cool micro-climate and the possibility to harvest later than others in the appellation, giving great aromatic complexity. Luscious blackberry and blueberry fruit with a dollop of coconut and tropical fruits; this is certainly big and concentrated but nicely balanced with minerality and freshness.

Lirac



Domaine Coudouli Lirac (C0955012)

12-bottles **£72**

Lirac is a great value alternative to Châteauneuf du Pape; the soils are nearly identical and the wines produced are of a similar style. 2012 was the first vintage produced in Coudouli's shiny new winery, with a brand new pneumatic press and temperature controlled vinification for the first time. The resulting purity of the wine is clear to see. Enjoy bright berry fruits with a spicy, savoury edge and excellent concentration but with real aromatic lift in the middle.

Southern Rhône Crus

Vacqueyras

Domaine Font Sarade Vacqueyras (B1823812)

6-bottles **£60**

Situated north of Vacqueyras on the Ponche plateau, this domaine produces mostly Vacqueyras on their 35ha. They believe in 'la lutte raisonnée', using treatments only when necessary, and are constantly trying to learn and improve while still remaining traditional. This has vibrant dark fruits and pain d'épices along with smoky and herby notes, with plenty of freshness and finesse.



Vinsobres

Famille Perrin Vinsobres 'Les Hauts de Julien' (C1598612)

12-bottles **£225**

Formerly a Côtes du Rhône named village, Vinsobres was promoted to a stand alone appellation in 2006. The Perrin family (of Château de Beaucastel fame) own 125 acres in Vinsobres including a single plot of 90 year old vines used to make 'Les Hauts de Julien'. Blended from 50% Syrah and 50% Grenache, this ageworthy cuvée is tightly knit, but there are opulent rays of fruit shining through. Toasty and a touch brûlée, with firm tannins and balancing freshness.



Domaine de Mourchon

“The reference point for the wines from the idyllic hilltop village of Seguret” Robert Parker

Domaine de Mourchon is one of our favourite Rhône estates – an English family named McKinley bought the estate in 1998 and have been very ably making wines in the village of Seguret ever since, with the assistance of their son-in-law Hugo Levingston and talented winemaker Sebastien Magnouac. Though the vines were already established when the land was purchased (and some old ones at that), the winery and living quarters had to be built from scratch – Walter McKinley was never one to shy away from a challenge, however, and Domaine de Mourchon was born.



Domaine de Mourchon

“One of the reference point estates in the southern Côtes du Rhône” Robert Parker

It’s not surprising that the family chose Seguret for their operation - the terroir must be seen to understand just how special it is. The vines are set in a secluded valley at 300m altitude, making harvest up to 2 weeks later than their neighbours and giving the grapes precious hang time on the vine for long, slow ripening. A grey marl base which allows the roots to penetrate deep in the ground is topped by a rocky, limestone topsoil – having a similar warming effect on the vines as the ‘galets ronds’ of Châteauneuf du Pape. So the grapes get sufficient water, warmth, and long ripening – nearly perfect conditions (not to mention the eyewateringly stunning views). These wines are big, modern, and fruity, but the Grande Reserve is capable of great complexity with age – the critics love them, and so do we.

Domaine de Mourchon Côtes du Rhône Villages Seguret Tradition (C1030112) 12-bottles **£84**

Well-framed this year, with ripe but youthfully chewy tannins enveloping the mouthfilling, rich cherry fruit. There is an appetising savoury edge of olive tapenade and rich saddle leather. This is consistently good year after year.

Domaine de Mourchon Côtes du Rhône Villages Seguret Grand Reserve (C0938112) 12-bottles **£126**

Domaine de Mourchon Côtes du Rhône Villages Seguret Grand Reserve Magnum (B1151812) 6-Magnums **£130**

A real sleeping tiger; it is densely knit together, revealing little in its infancy. Brooding dark berry fruits and liquorice, black olive tapenade, woodsmoke and spice with pretty hints of violet peeking through, this is best not touched for 5 years at least, and a great alternative to a mid to top end Châteauneuf du Pape.



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Ogier

We're really excited to bring you a new offering this year, something really unique and intriguing. The main point of difference here is the 4 terroir-based cuvees; the wines are made with exactly the same blend, with exactly the same winemaking processes - the only differing variable is the soils. To further add to the intrigue of the estate, the winery boasts an original 70m-deep medieval well right in the middle of the floor, cooling and giving humidity to the air - meaning there is no need for air conditioning or temperature control.

All twelve bottles in the mixed case will be a blend of 95% Grenache, 3% Mourvedre and 2% Cinsault, but to really experience the difference the terroir makes there will be 3 bottles of each of the following cuvees:

- Eclats Calcaire is the 'oldest' terroir, producing wines which are mineral, spicy and fresh
- Safres (sandy soils) is the next oldest, producing wines with elegance and finesse
- Grès Rouge, with a blend of fluvial and marine soils, gives power and depth to the wines
- Galets Roulés, the most typical and also the youngest terroir, makes for the ripest and most hedonistic wines



Ogier



Ogier Expression de Terroir Collection 12-bottle case (M0000866)

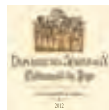
12-bottles **£240**

Includes three bottle each of Ogier Châteauneuf du Pape Eclats Calcaire, Ogier Châteauneuf du Pape Safres, Ogier Châteauneuf du Pape Grès Rouges & Ogier Châteauneuf du Pape Galets Roulés.

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Domaine de Senechaux

One of the oldest vineyards in Châteauneuf du Pape, this prestigious estate has been owned by the Cazes family of Lynch Bages fame since 2006. The combination of know-how from Jean-Charles Cazes and very well-positioned vineyards, including 12ha on a plateau in Bois Seneseau and 15ha near the sought-after terroir of Chateau Rayas, make for a truly classy wine, approachable yet highly structured.



Domaine de Senechaux Châteauneuf du Pape (C0957312) 12-bottles **£240**

The domaine was blessed with near perfect conditions in the vineyard in 2012 ; the harvest dates were similar to 2011 but there was greater maturity and healthier grapes. Volumes are small, but quality is great - complex, rich and balanced.

Clos des Papes

As ever, one of the first things mentioned by Vincent Avril was the low yield. There is less Grenache than but nearly double the Mourvedre in the blend – an exciting change. This is a vintage for the cellar, with the finesse of 2005 and the structure of 2010. Complex, deeply coloured, plenty of sweet ripe tannin, and fresh. The white is richer than last year with an emphasis on floral notes.



Clos des Papes Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc (B1049312) 6-bottles **£180**

This is an especially floral vintage, with good acidity, and notes of confit lemon, baked apple, pear and anise. It's broader than the 2011, with ripe peachy fruits and a salty tang on the palate. As usual, this will provide pleasure in all stages of its life.



Clos des Papes Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge (B0946812) 6-bottles **£270**

Clos des Papes Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge Magnum (B1159812) 6-Magnums **£540**

The wine is deeply coloured with a deep nose of dark fruits, herbes de Provence and liquorice. The tannins are typically sweet and ripe, though a greater proportion of Mourvedre means that they are stricter than the past few vintages, setting up the wine for a long life ahead. An incredible core of kirsch, spice, and wild strawberry fruit seems to go on endlessly.

Domaine du Valori

Owned and operated by the Meffre family, a veritable powerhouse in Southern Rhône winemaking, Domaine de Valori makes one of the most consistently good quality and value Châteauneufs on the market (not unlike the family's Cotes du Rhône counterpart, Chateau Saint Jean). Gabriel Meffre is known for his 'hands on approach' in all his vineyards in the region, and though it must make his schedule incredibly hectic, it really pays off.

Situated in Courthezon, in the heart of the Châteauneuf appellation, the estate grows mainly Grenache vines with some Syrah and Mourvedre at a relatively high altitude for the appellation of 110 metres - the terroir is the same as that found at renowned Chateau Rayas. No new barrels are used, but rather a combination of older oak barrels and cement tanks, to allow the purity of the fruit and the terroir to come to the forefront. The wines are always fruit-driven, succulent, and approachable, Domaine de Valori makes one of the most consistently good quality and value Châteauneufs on the market.

Domaine du Valori Châteauneuf du Pape (B0996812) 6-bottles **£82**

We continue to follow this Domaine, with the multi-talented Meffre family at the helm, as it consistently produces good quality Châteauneuf with typicity and drinkability. Bright fruit, sweet spices, ripe tannins and a lick of red liquorice make this everything a Châteauneuf should be.



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Coudoulet de Beaucastel

Coudoulet de Beaucastel is produced from vines on the fringes of Châteauneuf du Pape and on similar soils to the Grand Vin, Château de Beaucastel. The wines are only produced in small quantities, at a fraction of the price and of a higher quality than many Châteauneuf du Papes. Consequently, these wines always sell out quickly.



Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Cotes du Rhône Blanc (B1039112)

6-bottles **£90**

30% Marsanne, 30% Bourboulenc, 30% Viognier and 10% Clairette. A complex nose of cinnamon apple and star anise. It's rich and weighty as you'd expect from Beaucastel but still mineral and fresh with lively citrus and white peach notes.



Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes du Rhône Rouge (C1035812)

12-bottles **£140**

A deep colour with very pure fruit, ripe cherries and peppery notes on the nose. There's lots of structure and power but it is also very balanced and elegant with pretty, bright fruit, lovely freshness.



Château de Beaucastel

"The first tastings of the 2012 vintage show wines with a fantastic balance, homogenous, voluptuous fruit, colour and tannins."

Marc Perrin, Château de Beaucastel

Tasting the 2012s in situ at Beaucastel was a real joy. The whites had more freshness and energy than the 2011s, with impressive power and length. Overall the vintage is richer and more concentrated. A late vintage and a small one, likened to 2006, poised and elegant.

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc (B0950212)

6-bottles **£240**

A blend of 80% Roussanne, 15% Grenache Blanc, and 5% other typical Southern varieties. A seductive tropical nose of mango and pineapple leads to a creamy and perfumed palate with a silky texture and a floral backdrop; poised and fresh, already showing beautifully but will gain even more delicious honeyed richness as it matures.

Château de Beaucastel Roussanne Vieilles Vignes (B0954912)

6-bottles **£420**

Made in tiny quantities and coming from Roussanne vines planted in 1909, this is generally picked slightly overripe, and is golden in colour with honeyed richness and well-etched minerality; there is more power and length than 2012 with delicate floral undertones. A massive wine in its youth, the Chateau recommends that it be drunk either within three years, or kept for 15 years or more.

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf du Pape (B1043612)

6-bottles **£240**

Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf du Pape Magnum (B1043712)

6-Magnums **£490**

Silky, seductive, and bursting with ripe hedgerow fruits, herbs and spices, the 2012 Beaucastel has a long and promising life ahead. Even greater than the sum of its parts - the Grenache was mineral without even a hint of jamminess; the Mourvedre incredibly refined with none of the variety's usual sauvage qualities; the Counoise pretty and succulent and bursting with red berry fruit; the Syrah rich and brooding with tapenade and pain d'épice notes... put together, they are near perfection.



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