



AVERYS

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RHÔNE

2020 EN PRIMEUR



A PERSONAL SELECTION FROM
THE RHÔNE 2020 VINTAGE

Rhône 2020: An introduction

After the global crisis we’ve all witnessed over the last two years, it was fantastic to visit the Rhône in September and catch up with so many old friends. They were all so generous with their time, despite us visiting at harvest, and there was a real feeling of positivity. Given the very challenging conditions of 2021 (one of the worst frosts in decades),

this may seem remarkable but there’s a definite buoyancy about the 2020s and equally about the future too. We’re really excited about the 2020 wines selected here for you and keep your eyes peeled for offers from Perrin, Saint Préfert, Rostaing and Clos du Papes, as well as the reds from Stéphane Ogier, which will follow later in the year.

DOMAINE MARTIN

Domaine Martin was established by Julien Martin in 1905 and at the time was just five hectares in Plan de Dieu. Now run by his great grandsons, David and Eric, it covers around 62 hectares in the Southern Rhône including the villages of Plan de Dieu, Cairanne and Rasteau. We’ve been really impressed by the wines at this property in recent years, in particular the value they offer.

Domaine Martin Côtes du Rhône Villages Saint Cecile Code: C4067020 12 Bottles **£70**

Saint Cecile is one of the more recent Côtes du Rhône named villages, located north of Plan de Dieu, and given AOC status in 2016. A blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah, from vines averaging 40 years, this is fruity, ripe and rounded with a touch of spice and garrigue. A very appealing style.

Domaine Martin Côtes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu Code: C3030420 12 Bottles **£75**

Plan de Dieu is often described as a ‘baby Châteauneuf’ and this certainly has that lovely mouthful of concentrated dark fruit. A blend of Grenache (60%), Syrah (25%) and Mourvèdre (15%), it has lots of forest fruit, a solid structure and spicy complexity. Lovely tannins – rich, ripe and chewy – and refreshing acidity too.

Domaine Martin Rasteau Code: C3435020 12 Bottles **£90**

A blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%). A gorgeous nose of sweet forest berries with lovely pert, fresh acidity on the palate balancing a core of dark, late summer fruit. Full-bodied with well-proportioned tannin and a long finish.

Domaine Martin Cairanne Code: C2088020 12 Bottles **£95**

The Martin brothers have some great plots in Cairanne on the slopes. The 2020 is a blend of 65% Grenache and 45% Syrah that will spend around 3-4 months in small barrels. It’s a wine of subtle power with a good core of sweet black fruit and a firm structure.

Domaine Martin Rasteau Sommets Vieilles Vignes Code: B1943220 6 Bottles **£60**

A 50:50 Grenache and Syrah blend from a plot of 65-year-old vines at the top of the hill in Rasteau. This is super-concentrated and sumptuous with rich dark fruit, lovely purity and a smooth texture. It’s balanced by fresh acidity and firm tannins with a very long finish. This is always a standout wine from the Martin portfolio and the 2020 is no exception.

DOMAINE MONTIRIUS

Eric and Christine Saurel make remarkable, wonderfully expressive wines from their vineyards located atop a stunning hilltop site in Vacqueyras. The domaine is organic and biodynamic and was the first in the region to be certified biodynamic back in 1996. They use no oak, instead ageing the wines in concrete vats, with the focus on purity, fruit and freshness.

Domaine Montirius Le Village Vacqueyras Code: C2969020 12 Bottles **£125**

Le Village comes from a selection of the youngest of Montirius’ Vacqueyras parcels (up to 20 years old) on a plot owned by the family for six generations. An elegant style with a vibrant nose, lovely purity of fruit and gentle tannins.

Domaine Montirius Jardin Secret Côtes du Rhône Code: C3031820 12 Bottles **£150**

Jardin Secret comes from a one hectare plot of old vine Grenache in the village of Sablet but declassified to Côtes du Rhône as it’s made from 100% Grenache (to be labelled Sablet, it would have to be a blend of at least two grape varieties). An attractive nose of juicy red berries and subtle spice. Concentrated but pretty and precise at the same time, with lovely freshness and focus.

Domaine Montirius Terre des Aînés Gigondas Code: C3096020 12 Bottles **£215**

Terre des Aînes comes from some of Eric and Christine’s oldest vines – averaging 95 years old – which give this incredible depth and complexity. It’s a beautiful wine, tender yet powerful, almost Burgundian in style. A 50:50 blend of Grenache and Mourvèdre, it has dense, dark fruit layered with lovely freshness.

Domaine Montirius Le Clos Vacqueyras Code: C1533320 12 Bottles **£250**

Christine describes Le Clos as a marriage of the Northern and Southern Rhône. It’s a 50:50 Grenache and Syrah blend from a plot just behind the winery. Rich and savoury with a dark, spicy, salty liquorice nose. Really serious and complex with harmonious fruit, minerality and a fine, saline finish.

Domaine Montirius Confidential Gigondas Code: C3122020 12 Bottles **£315**

From a corner plot of the same vineyard as Terre des Aînes, this is a small production cuvée from old vine Grenache and Mourvèdre. Heady and vibrant with deep funnelled concentration and a touch of spice on the nose. It has lovely purity of fruit and saline minerality with a long and poised finish.



DOMAINE DE MOURCHON

Domaine de Mourchon was well-placed to cope with the high temperatures of 2020, thanks to its cooler, north-east facing vineyards and higher altitude. This was the first vintage officially certified as organic, although they've been practising organic farming for some time. They've also started on the path towards biodynamic certification too. As always, lots to get excited about at this property.

Domaine de Mourchon Tradition Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret

Code: C1030120 12 Bottles **£95**

Mourchon's 'Tradition' has a large following at Aveyrs, and Jancis Robinson MW is a fan too. "My favourite, certainly in terms of value, is usually the 'Tradition'. We expect the 2020 to go down just as well with pronounced ripe fruit on the nose – summer-pudding berries – and great purity.

Domaine de Mourchon Grande Réserve Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret

Code: C938120 12 Bottles **£145**

There's no Family Reserve this year because of low yields but it means there's a higher proportion of Grenache in this year's Grande Réserve (80% instead of the usual 65%) with a touch more new oak used. Superb concentration but with great freshness too.



CHATEAU SIXTINE

Jean-Marc Diffonty
winemaker



Château Sixtine has been owned by the Diffonty family since 1673 and is currently run by 4th generation Jean-Marc. Jean-Marc's delighted with his 2020 wines and rightfully so. The Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc has already won two gold medals plus 'Best Wine in the Show' at the Grand Prix International.

Château Sixtine Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Code: B2122720 6 Bottles **£120**

Château Sixtine is the flagship Châteauneuf-du-Pape of the estate and the big brother to the popular Cuvée du Vatican. It has more Mourvèdre (40%) than the Vatican with a much fuller structure, serious dark fruit, background oak and spice.

Château Sixtine Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc

Code: B2137220 6 Bottles **£120**

Made from 95% Roussanne with 5% Clairette. The Clairette is a new addition which Jean-Marc's looking to increase for even greater freshness and lower alcohol. Vinified in 30% oak but older barrels, it's a crisp, elegant style with bright stone fruit, hints of honeysuckle and white flowers, and a fresh minerality.

DOMAINE DU TUNNEL

Domaine du Tunnel is run by Stéphane Robert and his wife Sandrine in the village of Saint-Péray. This fabulous, small domaine has quickly established itself as one of the finest in the region, both for its reds and whites. These wines shone brighter than ever this vintage and we can honestly say were among the best we tasted all week.

Domaine du Tunnel Saint-Joseph

Code: B2494820 6 Bottles **£155**

From vines averaging 50 years, this has delicious dark tones with a touch of liquorice. Really tender on the palate with bright forest fruit and excellent spice intensity on the long finish. Very harmonious with a sleek texture.

Domaine du Tunnel Cornas

Code: B2519620 6 Bottles **£210**

This comes from a selection of different plots which we were able to taste. The younger vines give beautiful purity of fruit and an elegant, almost floral profile. Whilst older vines give great concentration, dark fruit and a more savoury profile.

Domaine du Tunnel Vin Noir Cornas

Code: B3097020 6 Bottles **£255**

Vin Noir comes from plots over 100 years old. It's a wine of serious depth with intense spice note and pin-point fruit purity. The fruit is balanced by a fresh minerality and fine grained tannin. Very polished with a super-long finish.

Domaine du Tunnel Pur Noir Cornas

Code: B3469720 6 Bottles **£525**

Pur Noir comes from a selection of the best one or two barrels of the vintage and from vines over 100 years old. The components had yet to be finalised when we visited but from those we tasted, this is set to be a wine of incredible intensity.

Domaine du Tunnel Saint-Péray Marsanne

Code: B3030620 6 Bottles **£110**

100% Marsanne, this is fresh and mineral with notes of nectarine and honey. With a fine, sleek texture, bright fruit, savoury complexity and fresh, breezy acidity, it's simply delicious!

Domaine du Tunnel Saint-Péray Roussanne

Code: B2255720 6 Bottles **£145**

100% Roussanne, this has intense notes of ginger with tropical fruit and apricot on the nose. Very concentrated and weighty with a creamy texture but with great freshness too

Domaine du Tunnel Saint-Péray Cuvée Prestige

Code: B3910120 6 Bottles **£150**

Cuvée Prestige is a blend of Marsanne from 100-year-old vines with around 20% Roussanne. Extremely weighty and rich with sumptuous fruit yet also lifted and elegant with incredible brightness and energy.

Domaine du Tunnel Condrieu

Code: B2494720 6 Bottles **£215**

A very fresh, elegant Condrieu with lemons, nectarines and a touch of fresh herbs that bring a savoury note. Well defined and precise with a sensual, plush texture and a spicy, tremendously long finish.

Domaine du Tunnel Saint-Péray Pur Blanc

Code: B3469620 6 Bottles **£250**

From a single parcel of 100-year-old Marsanne vines in the centre of Saint-Péray, it has a featherlight, lifted mineral nose with lots of gorgeous ripe citrus fruit. Rich and weighty but with extraordinary harmony and elegance.



Stephane Robert
in the 'Tunnel'

FERRATON PÈRE ET FILS



Damien Brisset
winemaker

Ferraton Père & Fils is based in Hermitage with excellent vineyard holdings which are farmed using organic and biodynamic practices. The winemaker here is Damien Brisset and it was fascinating to talk to him about the 2020 vintage.

'Nature awoke the moment the world was confined' he told us '2020 will remain for the most beautiful wine season as we have been able to focus on what is the essence of our job as a wine grower.'

Without the distractions of the outside world – no visits from buyers! – Damien and his team could devote all their attention to the vines, working closer than ever before with nature and on a plot-by-plot basis.

The main challenge was the heat in July and August, but nature was on their side again and the cool nights helped the grapes retain acidity. Damien likens it to recent strong vintages such as 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019, with the wines showing both great structure and freshness.

Ferraton Père et Fils Crozes-Hermitage Les Pichères

Code: B2490920 6 Bottles **£90**

From south-facing vineyards on the terraces of the highly regarded village of Beaumont-Montoux. It's full of creamy berry fruit with bright fresh acidity and firm, fine, mouthcoating tannins.

Ferraton Père et Fils Saint-Joseph Lieu-Dit Saint-Joseph

Code: B2491820 6 Bottles **£160**

Production is still tiny on this cuvée – just three barrels from the vineyard that this region is named after. It's deeply concentrated with a core of spicy dark fruit, hints of leather and a mineral, saline finish.

Ferraton Père et Fils Ermitage Les Dionnières

Code: B2491920 6 Bottles **£255**

This tiny production, old vine Syrah is a beautiful expression of Hermitage with impressive density and whole bunch freshness. Full and fragrant with late summer berry fruit framed by firm tannins.

Ferraton Père et Fils Les Oliviers Saint-Joseph Blanc

Code: B2988120 6 Bottles **£155**

The vineyard for this has been extended to a new area of granite which brings extra intensity and freshness to the wine. Now a blend of 70% Marsanne and 30% Roussanne, it's a mix of peaches and apricots with a lick of creamy oak.

Ferraton Père et Fils Ermitage Blanc Le Reverdy

Code: B2493820 6 Bottles **£260**

This comes from two sites in Hermitage – Le Méal and Les Beaumes – and is a 50:50 blend of Marsanne and Roussanne. Complex aromas with peaches, honey, mineral and nutty nuances. Silky and very long.

DOMAINE YANN CHAVE

Yann Chave is a relatively new domaine, having been founded by Yann's parents in 1970. He joined them in 1996, converting to organic viticulture in 2000. The estate now extends to 20 hectares in Crozes-Hermitage and Hermitage, and the wines are among the most sought after in the appellation.

Yann Chave Crozes-Hermitage Blanc

Code: B3030820 6 Bottles **£90**

A blend of 2/3 Marsanne and 1/3 Roussanne, and entirely unoaked, this is wonderfully fresh and elegant with lovely precise stone fruit. The mid palate oozes apples and cream with a crisp, wet stone finish.

Yann Chave Le Rouvre Crozes-Hermitage

Code: B3958120 6 Bottles **£105**

Le Rouvre is Yann's top cuvée from Crozes-Hermitage, selected from old vines grown on the stony terraces of Les Chassis. It opens with a gorgeous nose of prickly hedgerow fruit and spicy, herbal notes. Rich and well-structured, with firm oak and a long finish.



Yann Chave & son Gauthier

CHAPOUTIER



Working with horses



Michel Chapoutier

Chapoutier is one of the oldest producers in the Rhône with a history dating back to 1808 but it's since Michel Chapoutier took over in 1988 that quality has soared. Michel was an early pioneer of organics and biodynamics and is today regarded as one of the best producers in the world, not just the Rhône.

Chapoutier Crozes-Hermitage Les Meysonniers

Code: B1063720 6 Bottles **£85**

Aged for around 12 months, 15% in old oak barrels, the rest in concrete tanks to retain minerality and freshness. It's deep and concentrated with ripe, juicy berry fruit and lovely purity.

Chapoutier La Combe Pilate Collines Rhodaniennes

Code: B3428620 6 Bottles **£60**

100% Viognier aged entirely in stainless steel tanks, this is very aromatic and fresh with ripe pineapple and peaches. Richly textured with lovely tension and energy. Great price too!

Chapoutier Saint-Péray Blanc Les Tanneurs

Code: B1637120 6 Bottles **£75**

100% Marsanne from chalk and granite soils and aged in stainless steel on its lees. Great concentration and flow with a honeyed texture, lovely minerality and tangy freshness on the finish.

Chapoutier Saint-Joseph Blanc Les Granilites

Code: B1637320 6 Bottles **£140**

100% Marsanne from old vines on tiny grain, granite soils which give this amazing concentration and purity. 12 months oak ageing gives richness and aromatic complexity balanced by a mineral freshness.

DOMAINE COURBIS

The Courbis family estate dates back to the 16th century and is currently in the hands of two brothers: Laurent, who is responsible for the winemaking, and Dominique, who looks after the vineyard. Their vines are planted on steep hillsides on some of the most prestigious sites in Cornas and Saint-Joseph.

Domaine Courbis Syrah Vin de Pays de l'Ardeche

Code: C2216520 12 Bottles **£115**

Made from pure Syrah, hand-harvested from vines just outside the Saint-Joseph boundary, this offers great bang for your buck. Dark and smooth with ripe, plush fruit and silky tannins.

Domaine Courbis Viognier Vin de Pays de l'Ardeche

Code: C4194420 12 Bottles **£130**

From vines grown high on the plateau above Saint-Joseph, this is imbued with great freshness from the altitude and cooling breezes. Fermented in stainless steel vats, it has impressive intensity with citrus fruit and floral notes. Excellent value for money.

Domaine Courbis Cornas Les Eygats

Code: B2215620 6 Bottles **£195**

This comes from a single, one hectare vineyard at relatively high altitude and is always one of the last to be harvested. Aged in a mix of new barrels (50%) and two-year-old barrels (50%), it's intense and concentrated but also has incredible focus and freshness.

Domaine Courbis Saint-Joseph Côte Sud

Code: B3031520 6 Bottles **£170**

From a steep, granite hillside in Saint-Joseph with the same southern exposure as Hermitage, this is fresh and fragrant with notes of blackcurrants and herbs. Sumptuous silky fruit on the palate is combined with a velveteen texture and fine firm tannins.



Laurent & Dominique in the vineyards

DOMAINE MICHEL & STÉPHANE OGIER

The Ogier family used to sell their grapes to Chapoutier and Guigal but since 1987, they've been bottling their own wines. Stéphane Ogier joined his father on the estate in 1997, took over the reins in 2003, and is now firmly established as one of the most exciting winemakers in the Northern Rhône. He's only released the whites so far and plans to offer his reds later in the year - we'll keep you posted.

Domaine Michel & Stéphane Ogier Viognier de Rosine

Code: B2494520 6 Bottles **£180**

Viognier de Rosine comes from a plot of old vines on granite soils on the border with Côte Rôtie, just north of Condrieu. Often described as Stéphane's 'mini-Condrieu', it's lifted and floral with weighty, rich peach fruit and a mineral, fresh finish.

Domaine Michel & Stéphane Ogier Condrieu La Combe de Mallevall

Code: C2494120 12 Bottles **£170**

From old, low-yielding vines, this Condrieu offers an extraordinary balance between richness and freshness. Intensely concentrated but savoury and restrained, it's a very elegant, grown up Condrieu.

OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW...

BUYING EN PRIMEUR

Prices are per case in bond and exclude import taxes including duty, VAT and UK delivery which will be payable just prior to delivery. The wines in this offer will be available for delivery Autumn 2022.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to find out more about the 2020 vintage, buying en primeur or any of the wines included in this offer, please call the fine wine team on 01173 008 317.

Please see the enclosed letter for full terms and conditions of Rhône 2020 En Primeur