

# WINE News

*France's Rhône Valley offers some of the world's most exceptional wines at surprisingly affordable prices. And with the recent run of good vintages, there's something for every budget and palate.*



## NOVEMBER 18, 2013 FEATURES

- 1 Rhône Wines for Everyone
- 2 E. Guigal; Rhône Valley Old & Rare
- 3 2010 Châteauneufs; The Great Chapoutier
- 4 Rhône Valley Direct Imports

## The Rhône Valley: Wine for Everyone

By *Mulan Chan-Randel*

Whether you're looking for holiday gifts, building a cellar or stocking a wine fridge, there is a Rhône wine for you!

### Southern Rhône

2009: Whites are fulsome and rich. Reds are juicy and spicy, with medium tannins and levels of acidity.

2010: The long growing season yielded a stellar vintage for both reds and whites that are built for the cellar.

2011: Whites have bright acidity and vibrancy, while the reds, which are qualitatively more variable, exhibit a more fruity and fresh character.

### Northern Rhône

2009: The vintage resulted in rich whites and flashy reds, some with more strident tannic profiles that are built for the cellar.

2010: Whites have terrific vibrancy and focus, while the reds exhibit ripeness, finesse and fine tannin structure.

2011: The 2011 vintage was long and complicated. Delicacy and freshness for both whites and reds characterize the vintage.

**2009 Le Vieux Donjon Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$49.99)** 94 points RP: "Softer than most young vintages of Vieux Donjon tend to be... should drink well for 12-15 years."

**2009 Domaine La Roquette Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$34.99)** 91 points RP: "Medium to full-bodied, elegant, pure and well-balanced, it should drink nicely for 10-12 years."

**2010 Domaine Bois de Boursan Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$34.99)** 90 points RP: "It is perfumed, full-bodied, rich and appealing. Drink it over the next 10-12 years."

**2010 Domaine de Cristia "Cuvée Renaissance" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$79.99)** 96

points WS: "This has a lot going on...Shows great character. Best from 2015 through 2030."

**2010 Saint Cosme Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$49.99)** 94 points RP: "It exhibits a deep plum/purple color as well as sweet aromas of kirsch, cassis, licorice and lavender. Richly fruity and pure with low acidity and terrific purity, it should drink well for 10-12 years."

**2010 Courbis "La Sabarotte" Cornas (\$89.99)** 95 points RP: "This terrific Cornas will age gracefully for 20-25 years."

**2010 Domaine du Colombier Hermitage (\$109.99)** 96 points RP: "This full-bodied, tannic, muscular blockbuster Hermitage

should prove to be a classic, and age effortlessly for 25 or more years."

**2011 Raymond Usseglio "Tradition" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$34.99)** According to WA: "There's solid purity here."

**2011 Château de Saint Cosme Gigondas (\$38.99)** 89-92 RP: "This round, generously endowed, surprisingly deep and full 2011 should drink well for a decade."

**2011 Vincent Paris "Granit 30" Cornas (\$39.99)** 93-95 RP: "The fabulous 2011 Cornas Granit 30 is one of the great wines of the vintage."

## E. GUIGAL *The Best of the Best from the Rhône Valley*

The wines from E. Guigal are perhaps the best known wines from the very large Rhône Valley (though Beaucastel may argue this point). The headquarters for Guigal is in Ampuis, near Condrieu in the north of the valley, home of Côte-Rôtie wines. I never had the pleasure of meeting founder Etienne Guigal, but I did spend a few days with his son Marcel Guigal in 1989 and again in 1991, back when Robert Parker was calling Marcel Guigal the greatest winemaker in the world.

I will never forget the first time I met Marcel in April 1989. We had just driven from Château Palmer in Margaux, Bordeaux all the way to Condrieu. What a drive! We left mid-Bordeaux at 1 p.m. and zoomed all the way down through Toulouse and Carcassonne, east to Avignon and up to Condrieu. Normally this would be an 11-hour drive, but my good friend Mike Temple broke all records: eight hours door to door! (In France in 1989 there really was no speed limit enforcement. In fact, I don't ever remember seeing a policeman along the route.) Well, after a brief stop at a flower shop to get flowers for Bernadette, Marcel's wife, we rang the doorbell at their modest home and Marcel answered the door. We went to a small cluttered office and talked wine. Too late to taste, we went to the Beau Rivage Restaurant on the banks of the Rhône near Condrieu. Our stomachs were just settling down from the drive, but it was a great meal. What a humble man Marcel was, and so interesting to talk to—the greatest winemaker in the world, indeed.

On another meeting in 1991 Marcel drove me down (in his Porsche Targa—fast) to Avignon for an all-truffle dinner paired with vintages of his La Mouline, La Landonne and La Turquie, no less.

Below are some of the great Guigal wines we have in stock right now, these days made by Marcel's son Philippe.

**2010 E. Guigal Côtes du Rhône (\$12.99)** 89 points RP: “Supple and surprisingly intense, this delicious effort can age for 4-5 years.”

**2010 E. Guigal Gigondas (\$25.99)** 88-91 points RP: “More closed and firmly structured than I expected given the vintage, the 2010 Gigondas is impressively endowed, just tight and austere at the moment.”

**2007 E. Guigal Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$42.99)** 93 points RP: “One of the finest Châteauneufs made by Guigal... Full-bodied with lots of kirsch, blackberry, raspberry, camphor and licorice, this is a classic example of both Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Provençal viticulture. It is aged in both tank and foudre for 3-4 years prior to being released. Drink it over the next 20 years. It is amazing that Guigal can consistently produce a wine of this majesty.”

**2009 E. Guigal “Château d’Ampuis” Côte-Rôtie (\$149.99)** 96 points WS: “A broad, muscular style, with a distinctive mix of roasted mesquite and apple wood out front, followed by lush raspberry confiture, crushed plum and blackberry fruit flavors.”

**2011 E. Guigal “La Doriane” Condrieu (PA \$79.99)** 94 points RP: “This remarkably consistent blockbuster is not a single vineyard wine as much of it comes from some of the finest sites in this appellation... The 2011 is superb, offering white peach, honeysuckle, quince, peach marmalade, spring flower and subtle background oak notes. Full-bodied with good minerality and freshness, it is exceptionally well delineated for a wine of this size.”

—Clyde Beffa Jr.

## OLD AND NOT SO OLD *Rhône Values*

Some of the best values in older French wines are from the Rhône Valley. Here are some of K&L co-owner Clyde Beffa's picks.

**2007 Xavier Vins “Xavier Vignon” Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$39.99)** 94 points RP: “The 2007, which tips the scales at 15% alcohol, exhibits an extraordinary bouquet of garrigue, smoked meats, black cherries, blackberries, licorice and Asian soy. With stunning power, opulence, body, richness and purity, this brilliant Châteauneuf-du-Pape will age effortlessly for 15+ years.”

**2001 Château des Tours Vacqueyras (\$59.99)** WA: “The beautiful, elegant, seductive 2001 Vacqueyras is a serious effort. Its medium ruby color is followed by distinctive kirsch liqueur notes intermixed with freshly ground pepper, licorice, and strawberries.”

**1999 Pierre Usseglio “Mon Aieul” Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$99.99)** 93 points ST: “Impressive full ruby color. Knockout roasted aromas of raisiny red fruits, meat and truffle. A step up in concentration and sweetness from the regular bottling, with compellingly deep yet delineated flavors of red and black fruits, truffle and smoked meat.”

**2006 Château des Tours Vacqueyras (PA \$59.99)** 92 points ST:

“Light, bright red. Sexy, high-pitched aromas of candied red berries, potpourri and Asian spices, along with a subtle smoky topnote. Juicy, focused and pure, offering vibrant raspberry and cherry flavors that show surprising depth.”

**2006 Château de Beaucastel (PA \$69.99)** 95 points RP.

**2008 Château de Beaucastel (PA \$69.99)** 93 points WS: “Ripe and very sleek, with a dense core of cassis, blackberry and anise framed by violet and spice. The long finish drips with juicy fruit and subtle toast, with a flash of iron boding well for cellaring. Shows great freshness and balance for the vintage.”

**1999 M. Chapoutier “La Mordorée” Côte-Rôtie (PA \$169.99)** 95 points RP: “The color is an inky purple, and the wine is dense and powerful, with notes of smoky blackberries, creosote, and espresso. Concentrated flavors reveal high levels of tannin... and a rich, long, 45-second finish. This impressive 1999 will take longer to reach its plateau of drinkability than I thought last year.”



## 2010 Châteauneufs

The 2010 vintage from the Rhône Valley is one of the greatest vintages since 1998, and there are numerous Châteauneuf-du-Papes available that offer a thrilling experience.

One of the great qualities of Châteauneuf-du-Pape is that it tastes great young *and* ages marvelously. These wines rarely ever seem to close down and traditionally pair very well with grilled red meats. The other great quality of Châteauneuf-du-Pape is its relative affordability compared to the world's other classic wines. You can drink wines from many of Châteauneuf-du-Pape's benchmark producers for less than \$100 a bottle, and many are even more budget-friendly than that. Here are some of our favorite Châteauneufs—both in-stock and pre-arrival—for purchase.

**2010 Château de Beaucastel Châteauneuf-du-Pape (PA \$99.99)** 96 points and #8 on *Wine Spectator's* Top 100 Wines of 2013; 95 points WA. This amazingly consistent producer's 2010 has tons of elegant red fruit. It's a classically-styled wine that will age gracefully and always over-delivers given its modest price point.

**2010 Domaine du Pégaü "Cuvée Réserve" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (PA \$99.99)** 98 points WA; 97 points and #7 on *Wine Spectator's* Top 100 Wines of 2013. A great blend of Old and New World, this wine is packed with deep, rich fruit but retains its earthy, tobacco, fig and plum flavors as well. A wonderful wine that tastes great now in its youth and will age seamlessly for 20+ years.

**2010 Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe "La Crau" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (PA \$89.99)** 97 points WA, 96 points WS and 93-95 points ST. This domaine is on a roll! They are able to get such a beautifully pure core of red fruit, with subtle spice, that the wine feels light and elegant even though it is powerfully endowed with silky tannins, deep red fruit and rich oak nuances.

**2010 Domaine Grand Veneur "Les Origines" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$59.99)** 95 points WA, 93 points ST and 92 points WS. Big and bold, with rich flavors of blackberry, roasted coffee and minerals. This is an awesome New World-style of CdP.

**2010 Domaine Ferrand Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$69.99)** 96+ points WA, 94 points ST and 93 points WS. A beautifully complex wine that offers up a multitude of flavors including licorice, roasted meats, cherry liqueur and spice. This exotic beauty is everything you'd ever want in a Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

**2010 Bosquet des Papes "À la Gloire de Mon Grand-Père" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$99.99)** 98 points WA, 94 points WS and 93 points ST. Stunning concentration and power, this wine has it all: dark fruit, incredible purity and a graceful balance thanks to its racy acidity and fine tannins.

—Alex Pross

## 2011 CHAPOUTIER *Long Live the King!*

Michel Chapoutier took over his family's winery in 1990 and immediately began the huge undertaking of overhauling how they were farming and vinifying their wines. He quickly switched over to biodynamic viticulture, and was one of the first to fully embrace these techniques. Chapoutier quickly garnered fame for his outstanding Northern Rhône wines. Robert Parker has called him "one of the world's greatest winemakers" and a "genius." The wines of Chapoutier are uniformly great. In modest vintages they outperform expectations and in good-to-great vintages they are truly legendary, among the greatest wines in the world. If you have a cellar or want to experience the heights that Rhône wines are capable of reaching, you need to own and consume some wines by Chapoutier!

The wines from the 2011 vintage in the Northern Rhône are superior to those from the Southern Rhône and are close to rivaling those from the renowned 2010 vintage. Many of the 2011s are poised to receive identical scores as their 2010 counterparts and several have already rated in the high 90s; one even scored 100 points.

We have a small sampling of 2010 Chapoutier wines still in stock (check [KLWines.com](http://KLWines.com)) as well as good quantities of the 2011s listed below on Pre-Arrival. Note: These wines are scheduled to arrive in April 2014. (Watch your email! We will soon be offering the 2012 Chapoutiers on Pre-Arrival, too.)

### 2011 Chapoutier Pre-Arrivals

**Chapoutier "Les Varonniers" Crozes-Hermitage Rouge (\$44.99)** 93-95 points WA and 91-93 points ST.

**Chapoutier "Les Granits" St-Joseph Rouge (\$44.99)** 92-95 points WA and 91-93 points ST.

**Chapoutier "Les Granits" St-Joseph Blanc (\$54.99)** 96 points WA.

**Chapoutier "Croix des Bois" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$59.99)** 92 points WA and 91-93 points ST.

**Chapoutier "Barbe Rac" Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$64.99)** 93 points WA and 91-93 points ST.

**Chapoutier "Le Clos" St-Joseph Rouge (\$79.99)** 94-97 points WA.

**Chapoutier "Coteaux du Chery" Condrieu (\$99.99)** 97 points WA.

**Chapoutier "Le Méal" Ermitage Blanc (\$139.99)** 99 points WA: "... Offers up notes of wet rocks, tangerines, peaches and a striking scent reminiscent of the famous New Orleans dish, bananas Foster. I know that sounds weird, but that's what it smelled like when I first put my nose in the glass. This exuberant, exotic, ostentatious white Hermitage may be controversial, but for me, it was over-the-top perfection."

**Chapoutier "Le Méal" Ermitage Rouge (\$139.99)** 94-97 points WA.

**Chapoutier "De l'Orée" Ermitage Blanc (\$199.99)** 100 points WA: "This stunning, honeyed, flamboyant white is perfection in a glass. Drink it over the next half century."

**Chapoutier "L'Ermité" Ermitage Rouge (\$229.99)** 95-98 points WA.

—Alex Pross

# Rhône Direct Imports

by *Mulan Chan-Randel*

**Our current Rhône inventory includes a great selection of wines from producers from whom we buy directly.** In addition to representing great quality for the price, we feel that the folks making these wines represent the heart and soul of the region. For these reasons, K&L Wine Merchants is very proud to feature their wines.

## Château de Montfaucon

The 88-acre Château de Montfaucon estate sits just across the Rhône River from the esteemed vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It is owned and operated by Rodolphe de Pins, a UC Davis graduate and former member of the winemaking staff at Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe. Over the years, Château de Montfaucon has developed a *huge* following among both our staff and customers, and their current releases are no exception.

The **2011 Château de Montfaucon Côtes du Rhône\*** (\$11.99) is a blend of 50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Cinsault and 10% Carignan. The wine has been fermented and aged in concrete tanks for 18 months, allowing the beautiful freshness of red berry fruit nuances to shine through. Hints of violets and pepper are also in evidence. 14% ABV. The **2010 Château de Montfaucon “Baron Louis” Lirac\*** (\$18.99) is produced from 50- to 90-year-old vines from select vineyard parcels in the right bank appellation of Lirac. This substantial yet elegant red can be enjoyed now, but it will be superb with several years more cellar time. Try it with heartier fare like sirloin steaks dusted with fresh herbs. 14% ABV.

## Montirius

Montirius is the name of the fifth-generation domaine owned by the Saurel family, located in the southern Rhône Valley appellation of Vacqueyras. The Saurels produce a range of deeply-scented and flavored wines imbued with Provence’s spice and structure. In addition, the estate has been certified biodynamic since 1999. These are sensual wines with unusual finesse, possessing penetrating minerality and length.

The **2011 Montirius “La Muse Papilles” Côtes du Rhône\*** (\$13.99) is produced from 25-year-old vines. Comprised of 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah, the wine is fruit-forward and fresh. The wine sees no oak

and is aged in cement vats until bottling in order to emphasize its lively profile of cherry, raspberry and earth. 14% ABV. The **2010 Montirius “Garrigues” Vacqueyras\*** (\$19.99) hails from a specific plot with an average vine age of 55 years. The wine is composed of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah and is vinified and aged in concrete vats. This medium-bodied red is classic Rhône Valley, with nuances of deep red berry fruits, roasted Provençal herbs and a touch of black olive. 14.5% ABV. The **2010 Montirius “Le Clos” Vacqueyras\*** (\$24.99) comes from a unique 8.5-hectare parcel in Vacqueyras. Surrounded by oaks in a microclimate yielding less rain than neighboring areas, the vineyard is planted on a gently rising slope comprised of garrigues and blue clay. This robust red is composed of 50% Grenache and Syrah and is vinified and aged in concrete vats. Notes of dark cherry, spice and licorice are complemented by just a hint of roasted meat. 14.5% ABV.

## Moulin de la Gardette

The famed southern Rhône appellation of Gigondas is home to a group of dedicated vigneron who produce traditionally-styled and hearty Rhône blends based on the Grenache varietal. Jean-Baptiste Meunier is one such vigneron, representing the fourth generation of his family born into the winemaking tradition. After finishing his college studies in viticulture and oenology, Jean-Baptiste traveled to California and worked at various wineries, including Diamond Creek in the Napa Valley. He later returned to establish his own domaine just down the road from the picturesque village of Gigondas. Surrounding the cellar are JB’s choice Grenache vines, as well as smaller parcels of Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault.

The **2010 Moulin de la Gardette “Tradition” Gigondas\*** (\$24.99) is composed of 80% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre and 10% Cinsault. The grapes are de-stemmed but fermented whole, which allows for a more gentle fermentation. Bright red cherry nuances and just a touch of mineral make for a vibrant and delicious Gigondas to enjoy tonight! 14% ABV. The **2010 Moulin de la Gardette “Ventabren” Gigondas\*** (\$34.99) 90+ points RP: “...Reveals a lighter color than some of its peers in addition to a sexy, open-knit, evolved bouquet of kirsch liqueur, licorice, roasted herbs and loamy soil. Plush and velvety textured with ripe tannin as well as a full-bodied mouthfeel, it will offer delicious drinking now and over the next 7-8 years.”

## K&L REDWOOD CITY

3005 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94061  
**P** (650) 364-8544 **F** (650) 364-4687  
**HOURS** M-F 10-7, Sat 9-7, Sun 10-6  
**LOCKERS** M-S 10-6, Sun 11-5

## KLWINES.COM

Toll Free (877) KLWINES (877) 559-4637  
Email: [Wines@KLWines.com](mailto:Wines@KLWines.com)

## K&L HOLLYWOOD

1400 Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90028  
**P** (323) 464-WINE (9463) **F** (323) 836-0853  
**HOURS** M-S 10-8, Sun 11-6

## K&L EVENTS & TASTINGS

We host regular evening and Saturday tastings at each K&L store as well as many special events throughout the year. For the complete calendar go to [KLWines.com/Local-Events](http://KLWines.com/Local-Events).

## K&L SAN FRANCISCO

638 Fourth Street, San Francisco, CA 94107  
**P** (415) 896-1734 **F** (415) 896-1739  
**HOURS** M-F 10-7, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-6

**We accept American Express, Discover, Visa and Mastercard.**

**For Order Inquiries, Shipping Information, Local Events, Policies and Up-to-the-Minute Inventory, visit [KLWines.com](http://KLWines.com)**

** FOLLOW OUR BLOG UNCORKED FOR THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS, AND UPDATES FROM K&L STAFF **