

CÔTE RÔTIE: JASMIN

Style

Full-bodied, dry, red.

Region

Northern Rhône

Producer

Patrick Jasmin.

Appellation

Côte Rôtie, on the west bank of the Northern Rhône above the town of Ampuis.

Cépage

100% Syrah.

Tasting Note:

A classic Côte Rôtie that reveals its traditional roots in a bouquet of raspberries and violets and a palate of dense black fruit flavours and ripe tannins. Cautious modernisation is evident in more consistent concentration, improved colour and deft deployment of oak adding a little more polish to this justly celebrated Côte Rôtie. The Jasmin Côte Rôtie is always fruit accentuated and has been described by Robert Parker as “the most Burgundian of the appellation”. Commendably no 'special' cuvees are made.

Serve

Decanted with simple grills, small game or hard cheese.

Cellarage

Approachable at 3-5 years of age this is a wine for medium-term consumption (between 5 & 10 years from vintage) although superior vintages can age well for 20+ years.

Vinification

Hand harvested grapes undergo a very traditional fermentation and 3 week cuvaision in cement vats (since 1996 the grapes have been de-stemmed which has improved colour). The grapes from Patrick's 8 different lieu-dits are vinified separately prior to blending at the end of December. The wine is then aged for up to 2 years in oak barrels (with up to 25% being new, originating from France, Russia & the USA). Half of the wine is racked into 228 litre barrels and half into 590 litre demi-muids. There is no fining and only a light filtration. Approximately 23,000 bottles are produced in a typical vintage.

History

Wine has been made on the 'roasted slopes' of Côte Rôtie since Roman times. Pliny the Elder referred favourably to the local wine as pictatum because of its concentrated pitchy characteristics.

Patrick is a fourth generation wine maker, who took over from his father Robert (after his sudden death) in 1999. Patrick's Great-Grand father, Alexandre, was the chef at Château Ampuis and he was awarded some vines for services to the estate in the early 1900's. Today Patrick farms 5.3 hectares of vines located in 11 parcels in 8 separate climats or lieu-dits spread across both escarpments of Côte Rôtie the Côte Brune and the Côte Blonde.

