

VIN DE PAYS DES COLLINES RHODANIENNES VIOGNIER 'LE PIED DE SAMSON'

Style
Aromatic, dry white.

Region
Northern Rhône.

Producer
Christine Vernay.

Appellation
Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes.

Cépage
100% Viognier.

Tasting Note
An alluring and beautifully balanced Viognier with classic honeysuckle scents and a palate of white peaches and apricots preceding a dry, elegant finish.

Serve
Arguably best served chilled on its own as an aperitif although diverse food recommendations include asparagus, griddled scallops, truffled eggs and Thai crab cakes.

Cellarage
Best drunk when young within in its first 3 years.

Vinification
Low yields (circa 30 hl/ ha) of hand harvested grapes (gathered in the morning only, to ensure a cool start to fermentation) are brought in as late as possible to maximize ripe fruit flavours. A malolactic fermentation is normally permitted as it enhances both bouquet and stability. The wine is vinified in modern thermo-regulated stainless steel vats and is bottled in the early Spring to preserve its fresh fruity character. This charming, up-market Vin de Pays hails from the upper slopes, above the climats of La Caille and Mirebaudy, which are not classified as Condrieu as they lie over 300 metres above sea-level.

History
The Vernay name is synonymous with quality Viognier. Christine's father Georges (formerly president to the Condrieu growers' syndicat & who was born in 1926) was instrumental in keeping the Condrieu appellation from extinction in the 1960s when there were only 8 hectares left under vine! The Vernays have worked tirelessly to promote Viognier and are largely responsible for its current renaissance and newfound global popularity. Christine Vernay took over wine-making responsibilities here in 1997 and is assisted in the management of the estate by her husband Paul Amsellem.

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