

PRIVATE CELLAR



Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cuvée Etienne Gonnet



Despite being able to trace its viticultural roots in Châteauneuf back to the 1600s, the estate of Font de Michelle as we know it today wasn't established by Etienne Gonnet until 1950. Mayor of Bédarrides for some twelve years, Etienne Gonnet was passionate about Châteauneuf and its ability to make fabulous wines and was a tireless ambassador for the region and its wines during his lifetime.

The estate is now run by his grandsons, Bertrand and Guillaume, who continue to look to the future, concentrating on making top wines and investing in new vineyards as opportunities arise. In honour of their founder, in 1988 Font de Michelle created the Cuvée Etienne Gonnet, a wine which is produced only in outstanding vintages. The grapes come from the famous La Crau vineyard and are a blend of old Grenache (100 years old plus) with some Syrah and Mourvèdre in varying quantities depending on the vintage.

We are very excited to have been offered a small parcel of 2005 and 2006 vintages by the Gonnets, both exceptional vintages in the Rhône. Where 2005 is a powerful and concentrated vintage (in common with the wines of that year from many other regions of France) and destined for long keeping, 2006 is a more classic year, elegant and restrained. Both wines are superb, beginning to drink now if decanted and will continue to drink well for a further five to fifteen years and probably more, if anyone can resist them for that long.

Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Etienne Gonnet 2006

£290 per case, in bond London

Dense red black with a gorgeous nose of spicy blackcurrant, sunbaked stones and a hint of white pepper. On the palate full, ripe and floral with rose petals and herby notes, pure and spiced with fine, supple, silky tannins behind, beautifully integrated, leading to a long, fresh-fruited finish. Already drinking well and will continue to drink for a further 5-8 years plus.

Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Etienne Gonnet 2005

£290 per case, in bond London

Deep red black right to the rim, with a concentrated, super-ripe nose of grilled autumn fruits, spice, oak and polished wood. Intensely spiced on the palate, dense and dark, almost compote-like in its intensity, with rich, pure black fruits and substantial ripe tannins which are beginning to evolve, leading to a fabulous finish of smoky black fruits, intense and incredibly long. Drinking from 2011 to 2020+.

As a footnote - in Japan, a comic strip (manga) about wines, 'Les Gouttes de Dieu', has been generating a cult following for any wine mentioned in its pages, and alongside some obvious candidates such as Bordeaux first growths features none other than Cuvée Etienne Gonnet 2003. Kapow!

Prices are per case of 12 bottles, in bond London. The wine is offered on a first come, first served basis subject to remaining unsold. Wines offered will be subject to allocation and an offer does not constitute a guarantee of supply.

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