

PRIVATE CELLAR



2007 Vintage Rhône

After successful vintages in 2005 and 2006, growers in the Rhône realised that it would be incredibly lucky, and rather unlikely, for 2007 to be yet another good year. In the event, it was not just good but spectacular, the latest in a run of superb vintages in the area, extending from the very northern appellations right down to the south. Unusually for the Rhône, there was no summer heatwave and after a damp, cool start the season was marked by long, sunny days and cool nights. In the north, this led to the very real threat of rot, necessitating many extra man-hours in the vineyard, until the Mistral came to their aid in August, along with warmer temperatures. Additionally, the north suffered from hail which strafed some vineyards in Côte Rôtie whilst leaving others virtually unscathed. In the south, the weather was kinder, allowing growers to be more relaxed in their vineyards, with fine, long sunny days and cool nights without the dampness found in the north. Indeed, some growers in the south feel they have harvested their best fruit in over 25 years.

It would appear that, unusually, the Southern Rhône has taken top place in the league table this year, with the most stunning, consistent wines represented by Châteauneuf du Pape, whilst the North has made intense, broadly structured wines which will require more time to come round. Both regions have combined the elegance of 2006 and complexity of 2005 to produce wines with charm, extract and body, making them approachable early as well as having the structure to age in the long term. They are highly recommended.

Private Cellar
June 2009



NORTHERN RHÔNE

Pierre Gaillard

One of four innovative, young winemakers who are responsible for the group Les Vins de Vienne, Pierre Gaillard also makes wines under his own name. Buying his first vines in 1981, he set up as a vinegrower and winemaker in 1987 concentrating on Côte Rôtie, Cornas and St Joseph. He believes passionately that wine is made in the vineyard and rightly concentrates most of his efforts there in order to bring in perfectly ripe, healthy fruit.

Cornas, Pierre Gaillard	2007	£240
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Vibrant red black, with tight, tarry black fruits on the nose, leading to an even tighter, denser palate of ripe black fruits, intense but fresh and pure, with a surprisingly elegant finish. From 2016

Côte Rôtie, Pierre Gaillard	2007	£290
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Deep red black, with a very tight, closed black fruit nose, smoky and intense, leading to a gorgeous palate of red fruits with hints of incense and green spices. Rich, ripe and very concentrated, with a refined finish. From 2016

Les Vins de Vienne

In 1996, three established and well-respected vigneron from the Northern Rhône decided to resurrect a neglected but ancient vineyard area on the left bank of the Rhône around the communes of Seyssuel and Vienne. Using classic Rhône varieties but outwith of any appellation, they qualify as Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes yet the wines they produce are of a similar quality level to their right bank counterparts.

St Joseph Archevêque, Les Vins de Vienne	2007	£205
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Dense black red in colour, with a tightly fruited, almost austere, nose with distant hints of crème pâtissier, leading to a dense, expressive palate of red fruits with hints of green tea, again floral and some lightly grilled notes, underscored by sweet, ripe tannins and a long, developing finish. From 2015

Sotatum, Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes Les Vins de Vienne	2007	6 per case	£160
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Sotatum is named by Pliny as one of three crus close to Seyssuel famed for its wine in his time. 100% Syrah, these vines are more recent, being planted in 1996 and 1997, but despite their youth make a wine of intense concentration. Deep red black, with spiced floral fruit on the nose and hints of green tea, the palate is ripe and dense with firm yet masked tannins right to the end. From 2014

Côte Rôtie les Essartailles, Les Vins de Vienne	2007	£330
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Deepish red black, with tarry, leafy red fruits on the nose, lovely and expressive, leading to a densely fruited palate of black fruits with fresh floral overtones and underscored by ripe, present tannins and a long, floral finish. Very approachable now but with the ability to age. From 2014

Stéphane Ogier

Young and gifted, this is Stéphane Ogier's tenth harvest since he took over the family property in 1997. He is a firm believer in the local dictum that the wine 'is made in September', when the weather can make or break the vintage, and 2007 was a textbook example of this. Traditionally a late harvester, he looks for maximum maturity in his fruit before picking, and follows a very traditional vinification process, culminating in up to 18 months in barrel.

White Wine

Condrieu, Stéphane Ogier	2007	£280
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Our plan was to offer just red wines, however this Condrieu is so extraordinary in its first vintage that it would be an injustice not to offer it. Very pale gold, with fabulous white stone fruits on the nose, ripe, dense with some distant toasty oak, going to a floral, plump yet racy palate. Exceptional balance, very approachable yet with the ability to age if given the chance. From 2013

Red Wine

Côte Rôtie, Stéphane Ogier	2007	£348
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Bright red black with a dense, perfumed nose of black fruits and a floral hint. On the palate deliciously expressive but also restrained, with notes of incense and some hay, underscored by incredibly supple, ripe tannins. Sublime wine. From 2017

Domaine Vincent Paris

Another rising star in the Northern Rhône, Vincent Paris has been making wines under his own name only since 1997. The majority of his vines were inherited from his grandfather, however he also rents vines from family members in order to produce these wines of extraordinary concentration. The designations '30' and '60' on the Granit wines refer to the age of vines as well as the degree of inclination of the slopes – vertiginous in the best parcels!

St Joseph, Domaine Vincent Paris	2007	£120
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Deep, vibrant purple black, dense right to the rim. Tarry black fruits with a hint of spice on the nose, leading to a palate of fine black fruits with creamy, spiced notes, sappy and pure with good depth and a long finish. From 2013

Cornas Granit 30, Domaine Vincent Paris	2007	£175
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Deep black in colour, dense, with a more evolved earthy nose of black olive, spice, herbs and some sweet oak. Rich on the palate, with hints of exotic tea, spiced, with musky fruits de bois. Lovely depth and length, with tannins present but not standing out, rich and long on the finish. From 2015

Cornas 'La Geynale', Domaine Vincent Paris	2007	£300
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Inky black to the rim, almost tactile. Juicy, rich, sappy and appealing black fruits on the nose with hints of new wood behind, leading to a densely extracted palate of black fruits, smoky and spicy with fine depth and a great finish, with super ripe tannins only just discernible behind the full bodied fruit. Lovely wine. From 2015

SOUTHERN RHÔNE

Château Beauchêne

The Bernard family have been vigneron around Orange since just after the French Revolution, buying their first vines in 1794, and now owning some 80 hectares in the Châteauneuf du Pape, Côtes du Rhône Villages and Côtes du Rhône appellations. When the Châteauneuf appellation was officially defined in 1933, some of the vineyards which had traditionally used the title were inevitably on the wrong side of the boundary – a road – and were only allowed to be called Côtes du Rhône Villages, despite being every bit as good as those just a few metres away.

Château Beauchêne Premier Terroir, Côtes du Rhône Villages	2007	£69
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One of the vineyards from the “other side of the road”, with vines ranging from 30 to 95 years old. Deep red black, with a gorgeous nose of luscious, spiced black fruits with a hint of mulberry. Tarry and rich on the palate with fine ripe tannins, dense black and red fruits, going to a long, spiced finish. From 2012

Châteauneuf du Pape Vignoble de la Serrière, Château Beauchêne	2007	£144
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A blend of 90 year old plus Grenache and 30 year old plus Syrah and Mourvèdre this is deep red black with rich, black skinned fruits – sloe – on the nose, a distant hint of floral and again the mulberry note, leading to a stunning palate of dense red and black fruits, spiced and tarry going to a long finish with tannins just discernible. Very elegant wine. From 2014

Daniel & Frédéric Brunier

Towards the end of the 19th century, the first Brunier planted some vines in the Châteauneuf area, and because one of the earliest signal towers for the optical telegraph was in the vineyard the cru was promptly named ‘Vieux Telegraphe’. It was surely inevitable that the second wine should be called Télégramme. The Brunier family now also own a large estate in Gigondas, Domaine des Pallières, as well another Châteauneuf vineyard, la Roquette, not to mention being part owners of Massaya in Lebanon.

Gigondas Vieilles Vignes Domaine des Pallières	2007	£150
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Red black, not opaque, to the rim. Sweet red fruits on the nose, floral and slightly perfumed, restrained. On the palate deliciously cool on entry, with pure red and black fruits, some spice but very tight. Lovely balance and a long, evolving finish. From 2013

Châteauneuf du Pape Télégramme, Vignobles Brunier	2007	£170
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Medium black red to a fragmented rim. As with the Gigondas, similar floral notes on the nose, and again very restrained with some spiced herb and currant notes, almost musky. Rock rose too. Dense black red fruits on the palate with some oak behind, going to a fine, tarry finish. Tannins very ripe and supple, masked by fruit at this stage. From 2014

Châteauneuf du Pape Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe, Vignobles Brunier	2007	6 per case	£180
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Tight and inexpressive on the nose at present, some meaty red fruits and distant oak and butterscotch. On the palate gorgeous rich red and black fruits, again a floral touch, with substantial ripe tannins behind the impressively dense fruit, wonderfully held in with a really long, evolving finish. From 2017

Domaine Font de Michelle

Etienne Gonnet founded Font de Michelle in 1950 with a 30 hectare block in the Châteauneuf appellation and, more recently, his sons have added a further 20 hectares of vines in the Côtes du Rhône appellation. Following broadly organic principles, no chemical fertilisers have been used at this domaine for over twenty years, and the Gonnets set great store on the intrinsic health of the vineyard, reducing yields to reduce the stress on the vine. Of the 13 permitted Châteauneuf grape varieties, at Font de Michelle over 70% of the vineyard is planted with Grenache and this includes some blocks of 100 year plus vines, which are used for the Etienne Gonnet cuvée.

Châteauneuf du Pape Tradition, Domaine Font de Michelle	2007	£190
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Deep red black with a supple, juicy black fruit nose, intense and spiced, leading to a plumply fruited, very expressive palate of spicy, black fruits, rich and tarry with a fine, long finish. Deceptively approachable. From 2014

Châteauneuf du Pape Etienne Gonnet, Domaine Font de Michelle	2007	£345
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Only made in exceptional vintages, this is dense red black in colour, with sweet, tarry black fruits on the nose, with hints of straw and spice. On the palate intensely fruited, with again spice but no floral notes this time, dense, rich and extremely long on the finish with very ripe tannins behind. From 2015

Terms and Conditions for En Primeur Purchases

Wines purchased “en primeur” i.e. prior to being bottled and shipped, will be delivered up to 18 months after release, depending on the region. Our anticipated shipping date for 2007 Rhône is Autumn 2009, depending on the property.

Prices for wines sold en primeur are quoted “in bond London”, exclusive of UK Duty and VAT but including shipping. Payment terms are 30 days from date of invoice. Unless otherwise stated, prices quoted are per case of 12 bottles.

Cancellation of an order for en primeur wines will be accepted by Private Cellar only if made within seven working days from receipt of your invoice, in writing, to 51 High Street, Wicken, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5XR.

Wines are offered subject to availability and may be subject to allocation. Please confirm your eventual delivery instructions at the time of your order. When shipped, your wines can be delivered to you and you will be invoiced for Duty, delivery and VAT at the prevailing rate. Alternatively, your wines can be stored in bond in the Private Cellar Reserves Ltd account at the specialist wine storage facility, Vinothèque, for an annual storage fee.

Larger format bottling may be available for a supplement. If you would like your wine bottled in a format other than 75cl please request this at the time of order and we will enquire if this is possible with the château.

Orders for en primeur wines may be made by telephone, e-mail or post and confirmation of your order will be on the issue of our invoice.

E&OE



Order Form: Rhône 2007 Vintage

Wine	£ per case under bond	No. of cases required	£ Total

Payment Details

I enclose a cheque for the amount of £ _____ made payable to Private Cellar Ltd.

Please charge my credit card number: _____
(Visa, MasterCard, Switch, Maestro)

Start Date: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Security No: _____

Issue No: _____ Signature: _____

Delivery and Account Address Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

These wines will be shipped during the Autumn of 2009. Please indicate what you would like us to do with your wines when they arrive:

Please store my wines under bond with Private Cellar Reserves Ltd

Please deliver my wines to my account address*

* Please note that Duty and VAT are payable when your wines are released for delivery to your home address.