



PRIVATE CELLAR



The Rhône - 2009 Vintage

Nowhere is the North-South divide more alive than in the Rhône, a region which, for convenience, we lump into one when it is in fact two completely separate viticultural areas whose principal uniting factor is their proximity to the river Rhône. The northern Rhône vineyards are precipitously steep with small yields of either Syrah for the reds or Viognier for the whites whilst the southern Rhône has large, expansive vineyards on the plains of the Rhône valley, producing reds with up to thirteen different varieties and whites from at least three, or more. As you would expect with a good 30 to 40 miles between the two areas, there are significant differences in weather patterns so it is by no means a given that good weather in the South means a good vintage in the North, and indeed even in good years it tends to be one or the other which appears to have had a better go of it.

2009 is one of those vintages which, in common with the rest of France, was relatively regular throughout both regions, with possibly the cap going to the Northern Rhône. It remains the case that both North and South have made fabulous wines which will be very attractive early but which also have the ingredients to improve into the future.

In brief, the Northern Rhône had a very dry spring and summer, with a particularly hot June, July and August, and even September registering higher than usual temperatures. The drought resulted in small berries, therefore a smaller than typical yield with a higher level of concentration, and harvesting took place, in general, slightly earlier than usual. The Southern Rhône had a damper start to the season with Châteauneuf seeing an irregular flower set as a result and therefore a reduced potential yield. From then on the weather was hot and dry with a strong Mistral wind blowing for much of the time, thereby drying out the vineyards further and risking desiccating the grapes. Fortunately a succession of storms in mid September followed by fine weather allowed the vines to start photosynthesizing again and ripen their fruit fully, giving a small harvest of nicely concentrated grapes.

These 2009 wines will be shipped during the course of 2011 and they really are a “must buy” for Rhône enthusiasts. We will be confirming our allocations for shipment at the end of the month so please let us have your order by Friday 25th March 2011. Many wines are in short supply and will be allocated and others are offered on a first past the post basis. Prices are per case, in bond London.

Nicola Arcedeckne-Butler MW
March 2011

Domaine Etienne Pochon

Based in Crozes Hermitage, the Pochons sold their fruit to the Cave at Tain until 1988 when Etienne began to make his own wines. With approximately 12 hectares of Syrah and 4 hectares split between Marsanne and Roussanne for the whites, each plot is handled separately to achieve its potential and then carefully blended assuming that they have reached the required standard.

Crozes Hermitage Blanc Château Curson, Domaine Etienne Pochon	2009	£108
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The Château Curson wines are the top wines from the Domaine and undergo barrique ageing. Pale gold with a nose of sweet, floral white fruits, creamy, plump yet restrained, leading to a fresh, white stone fruit palate, with grilled new oak behind, semi-tropical, fresh and long. From 2011

Crozes Hermitage, Domaine Etienne Pochon	2009	£78
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Deep purple black, not opaque, to the rim. Crushed black fruits on the nose, sloe, mulberry and some distant spice, very primary, leading to a palate of creamed, spiced black fruits with supple ripe tannins behind and a zip of acidity to balance. Fresh, pure and long on the finish. From 2013

Domaine du Colombier

With the majority of his vineyards in Crozes Hermitage, Florent Viale also owns a tiny 1.8 hectares in Hermitage itself. Within Crozes, his vineyards are dotted around with different parcels within the appellation. His principle is to allow the fruit to speak for itself and he therefore uses only large tonneaux rather than the smaller barriques, thereby reducing both the wood and oxygen influence on his wines. That said, they remain in barrel for a good 18 months to ensure a harmonious blend between the multiple vineyard sites, and his wines consistently have a freshness which can be missed by other lesser producers.

Crozes Hermitage, Domaine du Colombier	2009	£112
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Vibrant red black to the rim, with a nose of crushed blackcurrants and dusty black stone fruits - plum, damson. Fresh, clean pure red fruits on the palate, tarry and spiced with fine, ripe tannins behind. From 2013

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Gaby, Domaine du Colombier	2009	£150
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Blended from a selection of the best vats and aged in barrels, this is deeply coloured right to the rim with dense, dusty black fruits on the nose, mineral, creamy and intense. Concentrated on the palate with grilled, creamy red fruits behind, spiced and succulent, this is a deliciously pure wine. From 2014

Hermitage, Domaine du Colombier	6 per case	2009	£210
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Dense red black, semi-opaque, with a richly spiced nose of ultra fresh black fruits and grilled, creamy new wood leading to a palate of crunchy, fresh black fruits, smoky with hints of thyme and wild herbs, already appealing but really should be left judging by the length of the finish. From 2014

Domaine Bernard Burgaud

Having taken over the Domaine in 1980, Bernard Burgaud has remained staunchly traditional, some might say old fashioned, in his methods, however he makes classic, long lived Côte Rôtie with true typicity reflecting the soils. No cold maceration here, but traditional hot fermentation of his Syrah before transfer into large foudres to undergo malolactic fermentation. Once this rush of activity is over, the wines are transferred into barriques, very few of which are new, to mature for between one and two years. His style is intense, classic Côte Rôtie.

Côte Rôtie, Domaine Bernard Burgaud	6 per case	2009	£135
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Very deep red black with an intense nose of black fruits, myrtle, spice and dried herbs. Densely fruited on the palate, spiced and almost musky black fruits masking the substantial super ripe tannins with a very long, evolving finish. From 2016

Domaine Vincent Paris

Vincent Paris works just 8 hectares of vines, part his own, inherited from his grandfather, alongside vines belonging to other members of his family, notably Robert Michel, one of Cornas' top growers. By careful vineyard management in the early season he tames his vines so that they produce less fruit but of a higher quality than other vines which may be allowed more freedom, and he vinifies his fruit at relatively low temperatures in order to preserve freshness and vivacity. Of the three Cornas wines offered here, the 30 and the 60 are references to both the age of the vines and also the steepness of the slope – as in many of the top Cornas sites, these vineyards are not suitable for vertigo sufferers! His wines are superb examples of an appellation which doesn't get the airing it deserves.

St Joseph, Domaine Vincent Paris		2009	£112
Deep red black, not opaque but vibrant. Tight, black fruit on the nose with some floral notes, pure and primary, leading to a fresh, almost zingy palate of vibrant, citrus red fruits, floral with hints of roses, incredibly elegant and fresh going to a long, smooth finish with lush tannins behind. Wonderful texture. From 2013			
Cornas Granit 30, Domaine Vincent Paris	6 per case	2009	£90
Deep red black right to the rim, semi-opaque, with a tightly fruited nose of spiced black fruits, floral with hints of violets behind, very intense, leading to a firm palate of succulent fresh fruits, again almost zingy with incredibly fine, racy tannins behind, mineral, elegant and sublime on the finish. From 2014			
Cornas Granit 60, Domaine Vincent Paris	6 per case	2009	£120
Dense, dark right to the rim, opaque, with crushed, spiced black fruits on the nose, crème pâtissier and hints of smooth black chocolate, with a light rock rose note. Firm, pure, dusty black skinned fruits on the palate, with substantial yet ripe tannins behind, mineral, linear and pure with a highly fruited, long finish. Spectacular. From 2015			
Cornas la Geynale, Domaine Vincent Paris	6 per case	2009	£145
Deep purple black right to the rim, opaque, with a superbly opulent nose of crushed black fruits, spiced and oriental with hints of cocoa behind. Impressive black fruits on the palate with substantial ripe tannins behind, this is gorgeous with spice, fresh fruit, cocoa and a distant floral note. Long and developing on the finish. From 2015			

Les Vins de Vienne

Les Vins de Vienne joins together the talents of Pierre Gaillard, Yves Cuilleron and François Villard, all top winemakers, who were looking to resurrect a selection of old vineyards in the most northern reaches of the region, where the vines were said to have been planted in Roman times. Whilst renovating this ancient vineyard area they have also indulged in some négociant business, buying top quality fruit from proven appellations and pooling their not inconsiderable talents to make négociant wines like no other.

Condrieu la Chambée, Les Vins de Vienne	6 per case	2009	£140
Pale gold with a restrained classic nose of flowers, white peaches, green tea and distant dried herbs. Semi-tropical fruit on the palate with a lovely creamy texture, fresh acidity, floral and plump with a long, fresh finish. Lovely. From 2013			
Cairanne la Perdendaille, Les Vins de Vienne		2009	£116
Where in the North Les Vins de Vienne mainly use their own fruit, in the Southern Rhône they buy fruit from carefully selected vineyards. Dense red black to the rim, semi opaque, with a nose of creamy red and black fruits with light spice and tar. Gorgeously sweet fruit on the palate, spiced, ripe with lovely density underscored by ripe tannins. Satisfying on the finish, this wine will drink early and well. From 2012			

Crozes Hermitage les Palignons, Les Vins de Vienne	2009	£154
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Intensely deep colour right to the rim, with a nose of sweet grilled black fruit overlaid by cedary new wood, mulberry and black cherry, very overt. Gorgeously spiced red berries on the palate, loganberry, fleshy and layered with ripe tannins just discernible behind for structure and a lovely fresh fruit finish. From 2014

St Joseph l'Arzelle, Les Vins de Vienne	2009	£168
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Vibrant red black with a lovely brambly nose of primary hedgerow fruits, spiced and feral. Spiced dried herbs on the palate, lovely dense black fruits with present but ripe tannins and lovely purity on the finish. From 2014

Cornas les Barcillants, Les Vins de Vienne	6 per case	2009	£128
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Dense red black right to the rim. Tight, primary black fruits on the nose with a hint of crème pâtissier and a very distant oak note leading to a really intense palate of black and red fruits, plum and redcurrant, linear and pure with substantial, ripe tannins and a long, evolving finish. Very fine. From 2015

Côte Rôtie les Essartilles, Les Vins de Vienne	6 per case	2009	£168
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Intense red black right to the rim with a nose of sweet, grilled red and black fruits, mulberry and spiced, very alluring. On the palate supple red fruits, plums and damsons, smooth and creamy with firm, ripe tannins and a lovely long finish. Delicious. From 2016

Domaine Pierre Gaillard

One of the founders of Les Vins de Vienne, Pierre Gaillard is at the forefront of the new generation of young producers. Bitten by the wine bug at a very young age, after stints at university in Beaune and Montpellier Gaillard went to work in Côte Rôtie and in 1981 bought his first vineyards in St Joseph, including the Clos de Cuminaille which was an ancient wine estate dating back to Roman times. Vineyards are worked according to lutte raisonnée practices (with intervention only when absolutely necessary) using organic products whenever possible rather than chemicals. Vinification is very much in the modern mould with a cold maceration before fermentation to extract pure fresh fruit flavours and then with the wine run into barrels before malolactic fermentation in order to allow the oak and wine to integrate fully.

St Joseph Clos de Cuminaille, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	2009	£156
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Intense red black to the rim with a nose of sweet, ripe, hot fruits overlaid with caramel and grilled notes. Lovely herbal, spiced palate with opulent red fruits underscored by substantial tannins, tarry yet fresh, starting to pull together nicely and with a good finish. From 2015

Cornas, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 per case	2009	£120
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This is just the second vintage of this wine from Pierre Gaillard, who bought the vines in 2007. Dense red black right to the rim, with a seductively perfumed nose of violets and blackcurrants, fresh and enticing, leading to a supple, densely layered palate of crushed black fruits, distant grilled notes and beautifully integrated tannins. Long, intense and satisfying on the finish, this is a fabulous wine. From 2016

Côte Rôtie, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 per case	2009	£145
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Dense red to the rim, vibrant but not opaque with jammy red fruits on the nose, spiced, concentrated and appealing. Supple, spiced red and black fruits on the palate laced with wild herbs - thyme, marjoram - with dry stone notes, concentrated but ripe tannins behind giving a fine structure and a good, long finish. From 2016

Côte Rôtie Rose Pourpre, Domaine Pierre Gaillard	6 per case	2009	£280
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Despite the somewhat purple prose-like name, this is a real step-up from Pierre Gaillard's quotidien Côte Rôtie. Dense red black right to the rim, verging on the opaque, with a heady nose of crushed black fruits - mulberry, loganberry - violets and a very distant hint of oak spice. Dense again on the palate with supple black fruits sustained by notes of tar, spice and herbs, smooth with light floral notes and a hint of mocha on the extremely long finish. Wow! From 2017

Domaine Michel & Stéphane Ogier

Sadly when we went to taste with Stéphane Ogier, the Côte Rôtie had just been racked and he was not allowing anybody access to it so as not to form an incorrect opinion. He did, however, let us taste the 2008 which was absolutely gorgeous – intense, fresh, sweet and tarry – which only whetted our appetite further for the 2009. Now into his second decade at the helm of the family Domaine, he continues to make waves with his incredibly concentrated, late harvest wines.

Condrieu Cuvée les Vieilles Vignes de Jacques Vernay, Domaine Michel & Stéphane Ogier	6 per case	2009	£165
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Having no successors, Jacques Vernay has allowed Stéphane Ogier to work his vines on the condition that he is remembered on the label - a fair deal! This is the first vintage of this outstanding cuvée. Pale gold shot with green, with tropical fruits on the nose, sweet, succulent with a hint of blossom and oranges, lovely yet restrained too. Floral with white peaches on the palate, a very distant touch of white pepper too, with fresh, bright acidity on the palate balancing the plump fruit beautifully, going to a delicious, spectacular finish.

Côte Rôtie, Domaine Michel & Stéphane Ogier	6 per case	2009	£150
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Please see above. We do not have a tasting note at present but if the 2008 is anything to go by, the 2009 is well worth buying. We hope to have a tasting note shortly.

Domaine Alain Voge

Based in Cornas and with vines in St Péray, Domaine Alain Voge's vineyards are on some of the most precipitous slopes in the Cornas appellation, where the work has to be carried out by hand and mechanisation means employing a horse. A well established Domaine, they are nonetheless looking to the future and have recently begun the conversion to biodynamic viticulture in their St Péray vineyards.

St Péray Harmonie, Domaine Alain Voge		2009	£130
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100% Marsanne. Gold in colour with fresh white fruits on the nose, almond blossom and hazelnuts, leading to a palate of creamed white fruits, soft and supple with distant grilled notes and a lovely fresh, intense finish. From 2012

Cornas Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Alain Voge	6 per case	2009	£165
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Dense red black right to the rim with a very primary red fruit nose - redcurrant, raspberry - underscored with toasty oak and a faint meaty touch. Fresh black fruits on the nose, again very primary, with super ripe tannins behind giving a lovely structure with delicious fresh, black-skinned berries on the finish. Very subtle and elegant. From 2016

Cornas les Vieilles Fontaines, Domaine Alain Voge	6 per case	2009	£230
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From a single, 80 year old parcel. Truly dense purple black right to the rim with a tight, primary red fruit nose and notes of crème pâtissier - redolent of red fruit crème brûlée - spiced and alluring yet also restrained. Supple, fumey red fruits on the palate with substantial, very ripe tannins masked by the spiced black fruits, sloe and damson, going to a mouth-coating, long finish. From 2016

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Château Courac

Run by Frédéric Arnaud and his Italian born wife Pina, Château Courac is close to Laudun, the other side of the Rhône river from Châteauneuf and making a name for itself as one of the better Côte du Rhône Villages locations. Majoring on Syrah with Grenache and Cinsault for the reds, these are wines which are delicious now and yet will mature for a few years to come. The wines are made in tank with only occasional forays into barrel in exceptional years.

Côtes du Rhône, Château Courac

2009

£48

Dense purple black right to the rim, with creamy black fruits and light, distant spice on the nose, tight and closed at present, leading to a plumply fruited palate, ripe and rich with nice density and freshness in the mid palate and a soft tannic structure behind. The lovely fresh creamy red fruits on the finish will tempt you to enjoy this sooner rather than later. From 2011

Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun, Château Courac

2009

£56

Dense red black right to the rim with a spiced, smoky and dusty black fruit nose, tight and alluring, leading to sweet, tarry black fruits on the palate plump, grilled and creamy with noticeable ripe tannins behind and a very fruit-intense finish. Very stylish. From 2013

Château Beauchêne

Château Beauchêne is just outside the town of Orange, on the border between Châteauneuf du Pape and Côtes du Rhône – the border consisting of little more than a departmental road. Formerly head of Inter-Rhône, the body charged with raising the profile and quality of Rhône wines, Michel Bernard knows a thing or two about the region and makes absolutely stunning examples of both Châteauneuf and Côtes du Rhône from either side of the infamous road. Using sustainable methods in the vineyard (lutte raisonnée) and traditional methods in the cellar, with no fashionable but untried schemes, these are wines which, in 2009 at least, will be approachable early but which will continue to drink well, in the case of the Châteauneuf in particular, for a good further ten years.

Le Pavillon du Château Beauchêne

2009

£45

Limpid red black with lovely pure black fruit on the nose and a peppery note which follows through on the palate, overlaid by a combination of dusty black fruit and red berries, spice and dried herbs with pure ripe fruit on the finish. Vibrant. From 2011

Premier Terroir, Côtes du Rhône, Château Beauchêne

2009

£70

Deep red black with a dense, inviting nose of spiced plum and black cherry with hints of allspice behind, leading to an ultra ripe palate of blackberry and Autumn fruits, underpinned by spice and herby, earthy, forest floor notes. The substantial supple tannins and smooth, velvety texture lead to a long, harmonious finish. From 2012

Châteauneuf du Pape Vignoble de la Serrière, Château Beauchêne

2009

£144

Intense black red, semi-opaque in colour with a nose of dusty black fruits with a hint of violets and rose petals leading to a fabulously concentrated palate of subtle, spiced black fruit, ripe, round, floral and spectacular. Powerful and rich with very integrated tannins going to a very long, fluid finish. Wow! From 2014



Domaine Font de Michelle & Gonnet Rhône Sélection

Visiting Font de Michelle on a cold, foggy December morning we hoped for an uplifting tasting of 2009s and that was precisely what we got, including the superb *Elégance de Jeanne*. With their main vineyard sites based in the prime La Crau vineyard, and with some of their vines over 100 years old, their style is very much concentrated, old vine flavours, very classic and intense. Latterly the Gonnet brothers have also set up a form of *négociant* business buying in fruit from top terroirs where they don't have their own vines and the result is a lovely range of supple, easy drinking wines.

Châteauneuf du Pape Tradition Blanc, Domaine Font de Michelle	2009	£180
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A blend of several different varieties, at least 6 at the last count, of which just one, Roussanne, is fermented and matured in oak whilst the rest are fermented in tank. Pale gold with sweet, warm honeyed fruit on the nose leading to a plump white fruit palate with a light citrus hint, fine balancing acidity and a medium finish. From 2012

Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc Cuvée Etienne Gonnet, Domaine Font de Michelle	2009	£330
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Made from 55 year old Roussanne vines, this is barrel fermented and matured, and is seen by the Gonnet family as their white equivalent of the Cuvée Etienne Gonnet, made only in top years. Deep gold in colour, the nose is sweet and ripe with plump, floral grilled fruits, leading to a steely, mineral palate of white stone fruits, rich and toasty whilst maintaining a refreshing zip of freshness. Delicious now, if left for ten years or so it will develop into a richly honeyed wine which partners foie gras and cheeses beautifully. From 2012

Côtes du Ventoux, Gonnet Rhône Sélection	2009	£40
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Deep red black with rich, creamy black fruits on the nose - blackcurrant, blackberry - leading to a juicy, crisp creamed black fruit palate with hints of Christmas spice and a long, mouth-watering finish. A wine for (almost) instant gratification. From 2012

Châteauneuf du Pape Tradition, Domaine Font de Michelle	2009	£196
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Vibrant red black with jammy, tarry red and black fruits on the nose, quite tight (it was blended the week before we tasted which always mutes the nose). Tight red and black fruits on the palate, spiced, warm and jammy again, with supple tannins almost entirely masked by the fruit going to a really long, smooth finish. Delicious. From 2015

Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Etienne Gonnet, Domaine Font de Michelle	2009	£330
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Usually a blend of old vine Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, in 2009 the Mourvèdre didn't make the cut. Dense red black to the rim, semi opaque, with a gorgeously spiced nose of black fruit, creamy and smoky with grilled oak notes, dried herbs and liquorice. Equally expressive on the palate with juicy redcurrant and loganberry notes and violets, underpinned by substantial succulent tannins and going to a really long finish of creamed black fruits. Quite outstanding. From 2016

Châteauneuf du Pape l'Elégance de Jeanne, Domaine Font de Michelle	2009	£330
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Using 110 year old Grenache vines from the plateau of Le Crau, with absolutely no oak and just one pump over per day (three would be more usual) the Gonnet's have made this wine in honour of Etienne Gonnet's wife Jeanne. It is only made in exceptional years. Vibrant red black, not intense, to the rim. Sweet, grilled red fruits on the nose, floral and spiced, with a sweet, almost jammy palate of raspberry and redcurrant fruit and incredibly supple tannins behind going to a long, exotically spiced finish redolent of red fruit compote. Extraordinary purity and elegance. From 2015

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Domaine Sainte Anne

I first came across these wines in a small restaurant in Chalon-sur-Saône where they reluctantly admitted to having something better than the local wines on their list which principally offered wines by the pichet or jug. They produced a dusty bottle of St Gervais 1995 which completely took our breath away – humbly labelled Côte du Rhône Villages, it could have been mistaken for something considerably grander. The estate was established in 1965 and now has a bit over 20 hectares in production, based around the village of Cellettes. Reds are generally blends of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre.

Côte du Rhône Villages Notre Dames des Cellettes, Domaine Sainte Anne	2009	£86
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Unusually for this part of the Rhône, Domaine Sainte Anne have a high proportion of Syrah in their vineyard. Red to the rim, with richly perfumed fruits on the nose, violets, earth and spice with a hint of new leather. Rich, chocolately black fruit on the palate, intense and sweet with gorgeously supple tannins behind, this is desperately drinkable already. Delicious. From 2012

Côtes du Rhône Villages St Gervais, Domaine Sainte Anne	2009	£102
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A heady blend of Syrah with 40% Mourvèdre as well. Dense red black, semi-opaque to the rim with a nose of intense, perfumed black fruits, tighter and more closed than the Cellettes, leading to a palate of tight dusty black skinned fruits - sloe, damson, even mulberry - verging on oriental spices with ripe tannins behind and a long, evolving finish. From 2013

Côte du Rhône Villages St Gervais les Mourillons, Domaine Sainte Anne	2009	£120
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100% barrel aged Syrah. Dense purple black right to the rim, with a very closed, floral and black fruit nose, very restrained. Lovely bitter black skinned fruits on the palate, perfumed, spiced and musky and a floral, rock rose note. Dusty, pure and very long on the finish. Wow! From 2014

Clos de Cazaux

Deep in the Southern Rhône appellation of Vacqueyras, Clos de Cazaux is well and truly in crusader country, hence the wine names – indeed, there are still the remains of an old Saracen tower in the vineyards. Jean-Michel Vache, who now runs the estate, is a great believer in both terroir and old vines, selling off the grapes from younger vines and using the more concentrated older vine fruit, with the result that his Syrah is from vines of 50 years or more and his Gigondas Grenache from vines aged between 50 and 60 years. Unusually for the area, and indeed for this level of wine, if the vintage isn't up to his standards it will either be declassified or sold in bulk rather than risk damaging the good reputation that the estate has built up over the years.

Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes Blanc, Clos des Cazaux	2009	£140
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70% Clairette, 30% Viognier, barrel fermented and matured this is deep yellow gold, with a nose of honey, flowers, hazelnut and creamed, grilled white fruits. More tropical on the palate, with white peaches and again some honey with fine balancing acidity, layered and deeply alluring. Unusual and delicious. From 2011

Vacqueyras Cuvée St Roch, Clos des Cazaux	2009	£94
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Vibrant red black to pink on the rim, with a nose of sweet, jammy red fruits, crunchy and very attractive. Supple red fruits on the palate, redcurrant and hints of raspberry, with light, ripe tannins behind for backbone going to a lovely juicy finish. From 2012

Vacqueyras Cuvée des Templiers, Clos des Cazaux	2009	£102
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Very dense black red to the rim with creamy, chewy primary black fruits on the nose, perfumed with notes of violets and liquorice. Big tarry black fruits on the palate, mulberry and sloe, again perfumed and laced with spice, hints of dark chocolate. Tannins are beautifully balanced, with a long, fresh fruit finish. From 2012

Gigondas la Tour Sarrazine, Clos des Cazaux	2009	£118
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Deep red black with a nose of crushed fresh red fruits, very tight but creamy too leading to a palate of intense, tarry and perfumed black skinned fruits - sloe, damson - as well as vibrant raspberry notes and hints of dark chocolate. Long and powerful on the finish, despite sounding like a recipe this is an outstanding wine. From 2013

Domaine Versino

Originally set up by Jean-Paul Versino's Italian father, the Domaine remains a very family orientated affair, with only two employees who are not members of the family. The Domaine owns 10 hectares of vineyards with a further 5 hectares run and managed by them, spread across 27 different parcels and worked organically. Fermentation is in tank with the wines transferred subsequently to either 20-30 year old large foudres or younger 5-10 year old smaller tonneaux, very traditional with no new oak used at all.

Châteauneuf du Pape Tradition, Domaine Versino	2009	£180
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Vibrant red black right to the rim, not opaque, with a slightly muted nose at this stage followed by tarry red fruits, tightly fruited and somewhat unyielding yet leading to a completely contrasting palate of fresh red and black fruits, sweet and ripe with lovely balanced but refreshing tannins going to a long, grilled red fruit finish. From 2015

Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée des Félix, Domaine Versino	2009	£320
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Named after his grandfather, who brought the family to Châteauneuf from Piedmont, this über-cuvée is only made in exceptional years and in very limited quantities. Deep red black, vibrant, not opaque, with a nose of tarry black fruits, spiced with notes of redcurrant behind, very succulent, leading to a sweet, freshly fruited palate with noticeable but very supple, ripe tannins and a long, grilled, fresh fruited finish. Very elegant. From 2015

Vignobles Daniel & Frédéric Brunier

With one of the experimental signal towers for the optical telegraph sited in their vineyard, it was perhaps inevitable that the vineyard should be called Vieux Télégraphe, taking its name from the dominant feature. Less obvious, perhaps, but equally logical is that the second wine should be called Télégramme. The Brunier family planted their first vines at the end of the 19th Century and the property remains in the same family hands, now run by Daniel and Frédéric, who took over in 1988. The Vieux Télégraphe vineyard covers 70 hectares on the prestigious La Crau plateau, unusually in one block rather than multiple parcels, and is covered with the flat stones or galets which typify Châteauneuf. The family has expanded its holdings with the purchase of Domaine des Pallières in Gigondas, as well as other Châteauneuf vineyards and a part share of the renowned Massaya estate in the Lebanon.

Gigondas les Racines, Domaine les Pallières	2009	£158
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Dense red black to red on the rim with a nose of sweet, jammy, dense red fruit overlaid with spice and warm leather, very alluring. On the palate lovely warm red fruits again, very fresh and immediate, with beautiful precision behind, spicy, smoky going to a long finish. Deceptively drinkable already, this will keep well too. From 2012

Châteauneuf du Pape Vieux Télégraphe	6 per case	2009	£180
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Red black, deep, to red on the rim, with a nose of spiced, warm, almost oriental red fruits, very primary and tight, leading to an intensely fruited palate of blackcurrants and Christmas spices with a formidable ripe tannic structure behind, yet smooth, supple and intense at the same time. Really racy and really fine. From 2016

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Our Contact Details

to place an order or for advice and assistance in choosing your wines

Andrew Gordon	T: 01353 721 999	M: 07795 973 371	E: andrew@privatecellar.co.uk
James Naylor	T: 01353 721 993	M: 07920 096 707	E: james@privatecellar.co.uk
Amanda Skinner	T: 01353 721 608	M: 07920 080 042	E: amanda@privatecellar.co.uk
Nicola Arcedeckne-Butler MW	T: 01962 774 959	M: 07889 598 577	E: nicola@privatecellar.co.uk
Laura Taylor	T: 01844 239 333	M: 07702 905 137	E: laura@privatecellar.co.uk

Fax 01353 724 074

For more information on our suppliers, visit the “Our Suppliers” section of our website at
www.privatecellar.co.uk

Terms and Conditions for Ex-Cellar 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. The wines from this offer will be shipped before the end of 2011.

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, 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 domaine.

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

