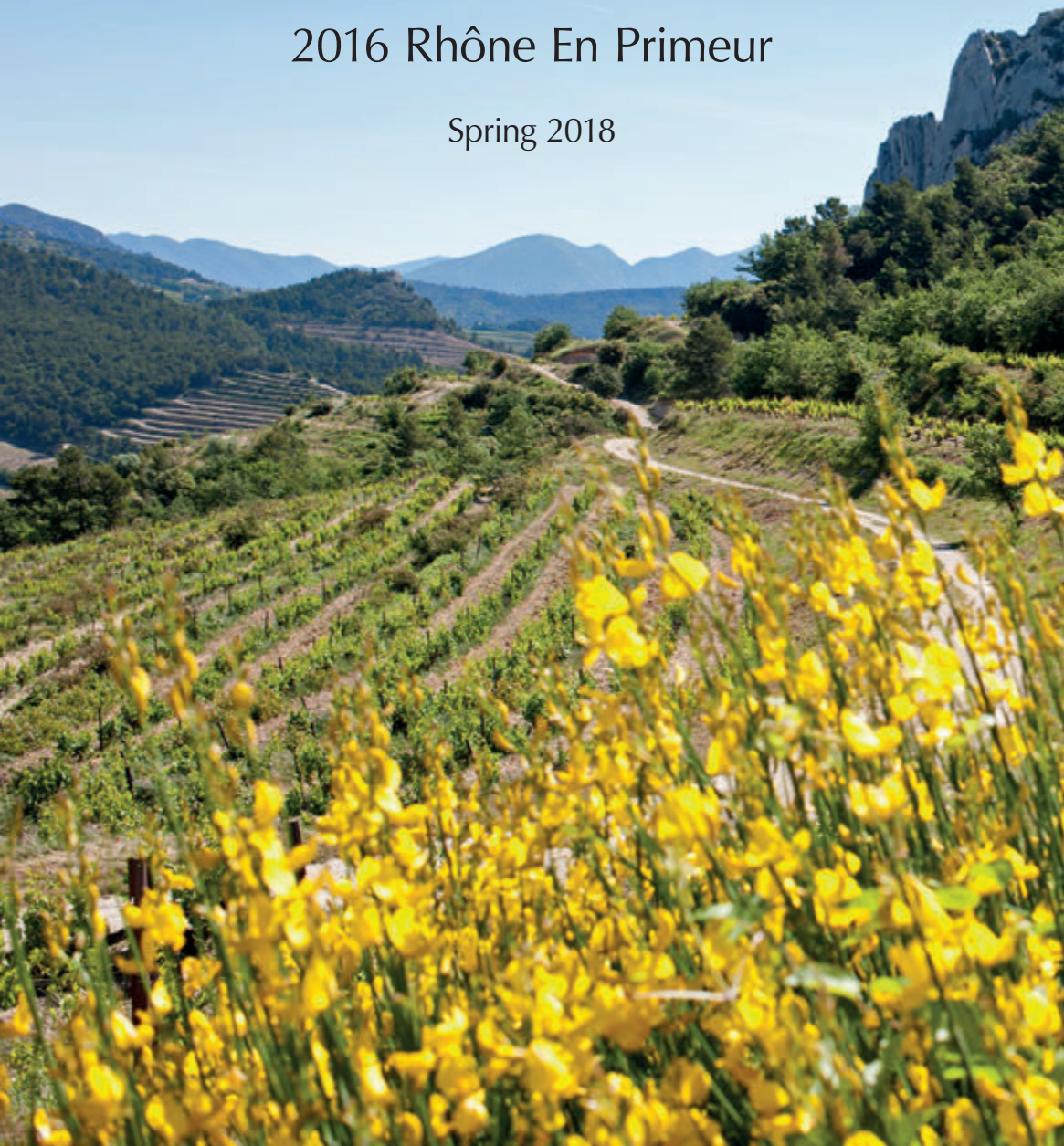




*Haynes Hanson & Clark*  
WINE MERCHANTS

2016 Rhône En Primeur

Spring 2018



# 2016 Rhône En Primeur

2016 is a beautiful vintage in both the northern and southern stretches of the Rhône Valley: it has produced many intricately concentrated wines of real beauty and finesse. Just as we have seen in Burgundy and Bordeaux, we are fortunate in having two consecutive years – 2015 and 2016 – with exceptional quality, both with their very distinct characters. 2015 produced wines with great intensity, flesh and powerful structures – a style we particularly relished with the northern Rhône Syrahs. In contrast, the 2016s have wonderful purity, silky tannins, and vibrancy – giving harmonious, refreshing wines across the full length of the Rhône valley. Although it will be tempting to enjoy many of these wines young, the best have excellent potential for bottle-age, perhaps at an earlier stage than the 2015s – as indicated in our notes.

## The 2016 Growing Season & Harvest

The Rhône enjoyed near-perfect wine-making weather conditions throughout the 2016 growing season. Of particular note, the summer was steadily sunny and dry, with welcome rain falling in the warmer south in mid-September. This replenished water reserves at the last stages of the grapes' maturation, extending the ripening period, and allowing for full aromatic development before harvest. Summer night-time temperatures were also crucially low across the appellation, contrasting with hot days. As a result, the grapes had a wonderful equilibrium between sugars and acidity – a determining element of this vintage for the vitality and freshness in the wines.

These wines are offered in bond UK, for delivery during 2018

Unless otherwise indicated, prices are per case of 12x75cl bottles

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## Domaine Sainte-Anne, Saint Gervais

In the foothills surrounding the southern section of the Rhône there are several villages with well-placed vineyards, whose wines are awarded the status of “Côtes du Rhône Villages.” While they may not possess the weight and power of Châteauneuf du Pape, the best growers make sumptuous bottles at very competitive price levels. Domaine Sainte-Anne is one such address. The domaine was set up by Guy Steinmaier (a Burgundian by birth) in the early 1960s, when he moved to the tiny hamlet of Les Cellettes near Saint Gervais. Today it is run by his sons, Jean and Alain. We have followed the estate’s wines for several vintages, consistently finding them to have astonishing harmony and precision.



### **Côtes du Rhône Villages Notre Dame des Cellettes**

98.00

*Domaine Sainte-Anne 2016*

This 2016, old vines, Notre Dame des Cellettes combines intensity of flavour with energy and finesse. 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre have been meticulously blended to give a wine with a mouth-watering scent of red cherries and dried rose petals. Full bodied on the palate, this is a lively Côtes du Rhône, with excellent concentration and a fine, long length (drink 2018-2021+).



### **Côtes du Rhône Villages Saint Gervais Les Rouvières**

108.00

*Domaine Sainte-Anne 2016*

There is always a high percentage of Mourvèdre grapes in Sainte-Anne’s Saint Gervais Les Rouvières: a variety whose structure and lifted, black cherry scent off-sets the more fleshy Grenache. Here, 40% Mourvèdre with 60% Grenache have given a 2016 of gorgeous complexity. Deep ruby colour, aromas are focussed and pure, recalling sweet black fruit and spun sugar. Full, richly flavoured and linear on the palate, this is a taut, well-built wine, the finish being long-lingering (drink 2019-2023+).

## Domaine Font Sarade, Vacqueyras

The Burle family of Font Sarade has well-established Vacqueyras roots, the domaine now being run by father and daughter team, Bernard and Claire. It was Bernard who initiated domaine bottling, when he took over from his father in 2002. His years of winemaking in this northern sector of Vacqueyras are complemented by Claire's more recent experiences in Adelaide. Having installed an immaculate new winery in 2015, the pair seek charm and fruit purity in their wines – a style that caught our attention with the 2015 vintage, and has wooed us once again with their 2016.



### **Vacqueyras Les Hauts de la Ponche**

12x75cl 120.00

#### ***Domaine Font Sarade 2016***

6x150cl 136.00

The domaine's flagship wine, from vines just behind the family home, located at the top of the clay-limestone "La Ponche" plateau, this 2016 is a blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (25%) and Mourvèdre (25%). The grapes were fully destemmed before fermentation and maturation in concrete tanks. Richness of body combines with juicily perfumed, dark berry flavours to give a captivating wine. Intensely concentrated, with supple texture and a fine, tight, refreshing finish, this will give enormous pleasure when young and also in the future. Great value (drink 2018-2023+).

## Domaine Les Florets, Gigondas

Domaine des Florets is a relatively recent success story in Gigondas, having been revived in 2007 with the arrival of new ownership and winemaker Jérôme Boudier. The domaine's location is stunning, lying in the tiny commune of Les Florets at the foot of the eye-catching Dentelles de Montmirail. Whereas most Gigondas is made from lower-lying, more sun-drenched vineyards, we are in the mountains here, the vines perching precariously above the winery on north-east facing, mountainside terraces, reaching up to 500 metres above sea level. Freshness and finesse, counterpointing power and depth, are core to the domaine's high altitude Gigondas style.



### **Gigondas Les Florets**

155.00

#### *Domaine Les Florets 2016*

A blend of 80% Grenache with 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, colour of this 2016 is bright, mid ruby-purple, aromas being tightly woven and lifted, leading to a palate that is full and beautifully intense, flavours recalling ripe raspberries, spiced orange peel and a hint of darker cassis. This is concentrated, fleshy and silkily textured, being tauter and brighter in acidity than the 2015 we enjoyed last year. The finish is elegant and lively (for drinking 2018-2023+). Stocks are very limited, so we encourage you to move quickly to secure a case.

## Domaine Font de Courtedune, Châteauneuf du Pape

Brother and sister, Frédéric and Caroline Charrier run this domaine, with Frédéric in the vines and Beaune-educated Caroline in the winery. Their vines lie on the Rayas / Courthézon side of Châteauneuf du Pape, extending into the neighbouring Côtes du Rhône appellation. Here, sandy soils give naturally fine, elegant, lighter-of-step wine styles, which Caroline harnesses with her gentle, traditional winemaking approach. There is no destemming or punching down (“just a little pumping over”), the wines being aged entirely in concrete vats.

### Côtes du Rhône Vieilles Vignes

75.00

#### *Domaine Font de Courtedune 2016*

From 60-100 year-old co-planted Grenache (predominantly) and Syrah vines, which border the family’s Châteauneuf vineyards, this 2016 Côtes du Rhône has a lovely, open, red cherry-scented nose. Palate is full bodied and suavely textured, with red berry and mandarin peel flavours that open up over the palate. This is an attractive, airy wine, the finish being pure, clean and bright (for drinking 2018-2020).

### Châteauneuf du Pape

12x75cl 199.50

#### *Domaine Font de Courtedune 2016*

6x150cl 212.00

Vine age is an important contributory factor in the production of high quality Châteauneuf du Pape: a great number of the Charrier’s Grenache vines are centenarians, these gnarled vines giving richly concentrated juice, contributing complexity and depth of flavour to their wine. A field blend from 5 plots, predominantly comprising Grenache (95%) with the other 12 grape varieties authorised for Châteauneuf production (most red, some white), this wine is very much of the elegant rather than muscular Châteauneuf school. Deep ruby-purple colour, aromas are floral and tightly woven, with notes of sweetly-spiced raspberries. Palate starts full and grows in the mouth; it is well-structured, multi-layered, with admirable underlying power. Texture is silky, the finish being lively, fine and fresh (for drinking 2018-2025+).

## Domaine Laurent Habrard, Crozes-Hermitage

Last year, we were thrilled to introduce the wine of Laurent Habrard to our selection. “Un Vigneron Heureux” (a happy winemaker), as declared on his wine labels, here is a man who is 100% committed to his life and work in the vines of the northern Rhône. The Habrard family has been cultivating vines in Crozes-Hermitage for 5 generations. Laurent owns 14 hectares here, split between two distinct zones: 1/3 in the south of the appellation, in the commune of Pont de l’Isère; 2/3 to the north, in the communes of Gervans and Erôme. A large number of his Syrah vines are between 40 and 60 years old, all of which are cultivated organically. Working the vines and wines as gently as possible is in Laurent’s DNA: the results are a transparent expression of Crozes-Hermitage Syrah.



### **Crozes-Hermitage**

145.00

#### *Domaine Laurent Habrard 2016*

Given the consistent high quality of his crop in 2016, Laurent has made just one Crozes-Hermitage cuvée, rather than two separate barrel selections (it was his “Cuvée Marcel” we listed with the 2015 vintage). 100% destemmed, with 80% of the blend having aged in small, old oak barrels, 20% in concrete tank, colour is deep ruby purple, aromas being taut and pure: black cherry and violets, with a hint of black pepper. Palate is medium bodied, linear and refreshing. Fruit is ripe yet not jammy, singing to a background of smoke and spice, the finish being long and well-balanced (for drinking 2018-2022+).

## Domaine Courbis, Cornas

We have secretly been admiring the wines of this domaine for nearly a decade, having enjoyed mature bottles at Le Mangevins restaurant in Tain l'Hermitage: an address we highly recommend to anyone travelling in the northern Rhône. Drinking their stunning 2010 Cornas Les Eygats this February was the crucial tipping point, and it is with great delight that we present the domaine's trio of Cornas to you, with this thrilling 2016 vintage. Located at the most southerly point of the appellation, where the rivers Rhône and Isère meet, Domaine Courbis has been in the family since the 16th century, with brothers Laurent and Dominique Courbis currently at the helm. They have put Cornas firmly on HH&C's map, and we encourage you not to miss out on the small availability we have of the following.



### **Cornas Champelrose**

6x75cl 114.00

#### *Domaine Courbis 2016*

From Syrah vines located in the foothills, colour is deep ruby-purple, aromas being attractive and open, combining black cherries with more savoury grilled bacon and olive tapenade character: classic Cornas. Palate is full and velvety, with good concentration of spiced fruit flavours, precise frame, and a line of fresh minerality from start to finish. This is an elegant, approachable Cornas (for drinking 2018-2023+).



### **Cornas Les Eygats**

6x75cl 170.00

#### *Domaine Courbis 2016*

The vines for Les Eygats perch on granite terraces at 250 metres above sea level, giving a wine that has been ageing 50% in vats and 50% in new oak casks. Deep purple-ruby colour, the nose is splendid and captivating: very pure dark berries, violets, dried rose petals. Palate is full, generous and multi-layered, with a gorgeously mouth-coating texture, and a ripely tannic, refreshing, long-flavoured finish. A wine of fine harmony and brightness (for drinking 2020-2025+).





## **Cornas La Sabarotte**

6x75cl 225.00

### *Domaine Courbis 2016*

La Sabarotte is a deeper more powerful Cornas style, from terraced vines planted in 1947, the wine being aged 80% in new oak barrels. Nose is currently closed and focussed, with notes of cassis and black cherry. Full, ripe and densely-flavoured on the palate, this is linear, complex and creamily-textured, with mineral underlay and a long, concentrated finish. This will reward bottle age (for drinking 2020-2028+).

## **Domaine Marsanne, Saint-Joseph**

Jean-Claude Marsanne lives and works in Mauves in the southern part of the Saint-Joseph appellation, where he makes a single, beautiful, age-worthy Saint-Joseph. With most of the wine maturing in old oak demi-muids, the remainder in tank, Jean-Claude's focus is on allowing the terroir and vintage character to sing. This is the 6th vintage that we have shipped from this domaine – for those of you who may still have some bottles of the 2010 tucked away, it continues to be delicious.



## **Saint-Joseph**

12x75cl 190.00

### *Domaine Marsanne 2016*

6x150cl 205.00

Deep ruby-purple colour, aromas are refined and super-pure, being floral, full of dark berries, with some black pepper spice. Full-bodied, broad and with a good frame, this has rich, compact concentration, supple, luscious texture and a finely tannic, long lingering finish (for drinking 2020-2028+).

## Domaine Vallet, Saint-Joseph

Anthony Vallet is an energetic young wine-maker who exudes passion for his work in the vines of Saint-Joseph. He farms 11.5 hectares on the granite slopes surrounding the riverside town of Serrières, which lies at the middle-point of the Saint-Joseph appellation, to the south of Condrieu. Purity, vibrancy and charm are key features of his whites and reds.

### Saint-Joseph Blanc Les Méribets

145.00

*Domaine Vallet 2016*

A new addition to our line-up from Vallet, this white Saint-Joseph caught our attention for its lovely, stony, citrus-apricot scent, and its fine, intense, precise palate. A blend of 80% Roussanne (aged in not-new oak barrels) and 20% Marsanne (aged in stainless steel tank), colour is pale lemon-green, palate starting full bodied and ripe, the finish being clean, silky and wonderfully fresh (for drinking 2018-2020).



### Saint-Joseph Rouge Les Méribets

12x75cl 145.00

*Domaine Vallet 2016*

6x150cl 155.00

Les Méribets comes from 8 Syrah parcels (some based on granite, others on clay), aged for 10 months in a mixture of not-new barrels (80%) and tank (20%), to guard the bright fruitiness that Anthony aims for with this wine. Deep ruby colour, the nose is incredibly attractive, recalling freshly picked red cherries. This is medium-to-full bodied, with ample flesh, crunchy fruit flavours and good structure. Everything is perfectly placed here: it has vibrancy, finesse and a gentle bite of ripe tannins to finish (for drinking 2018-2022+).



## **Saint-Joseph Muletiers**

175.00

*Domaine Vallet 2016*

Muletiers comes from 2 parcels of 30 year-old vines planted on pure granite soils. It aged for 14 months in oak barrels, of which 20% were new. Deep ruby-purple, aroma has dark fruit character with floral, sweetly spiced nuances. This is fuller, more tightly concentrated and has more power than the Méribets (above), but has equal finesse and harmony. Middle-palate is juicy, the finish being fine and freshly tannic (for drinking 2020-2026+).

## **Pierre Gaillard, Saint-Joseph**

Producing wines that are harmonious and give wonderful drinking pleasure is what Pierre Gaillard strives for at his family domaine. Established in 1981, Pierre started out with 3 hectares in Saint-Joseph's Clos de Cuminaille; he now makes wines from 70 hectares, spread across the northern Rhône. He is a true northern Rhône expert, understanding the minutiae and complexities of each parcel of vines he tends, and translating these details into the wines he makes. We were thrilled to introduce the wines of his domaine to our list last year, and once again whole-heartily recommend the following selection.



## **Saint-Joseph Clos de Cuminaille**

165.50

*Pierre Gaillard 2016*

The wine for which Pierre is best known, from his original vineyard in the walled, sandy-granitic Clos de Cuminaille, this 2016 is deep ruby-purple colour, the nose having pure, perfumed, smoky red berry aromas. This is an energetic, vibrant Saint-Joseph, with good depth of ripe fruit flavours, supple texture, taut structure and a fresh finish (for drinking 2018-2025+).



## **Côte Rôtie**

6x75cl 160.00

### ***Pierre Gaillard 2016***

This Côte Rôtie has the most wonderful, entrancing fragrance, explained by the 10% Viognier that complements and enlivens the rich Syrah component. Coming from vines on both the Côte Brune and Côte Blonde sides of the appellation, the Syrah and Viognier are co-planted, and the varieties subsequently treated as one throughout the wine-making process, allowing for a harmonious marriage of the two in the final wine. Medium-to-deep purple colour, aromas are lifted, combining sweet black cherry fruit with notes of fragrant apricots and violets. The palate is full and complex, with elegant, silky texture, and a powerful, fresh, perfumed finish (for drinking 2020-2028+).



## **Côte Rôtie Esprit de Blonde**

6x75cl 245.00

### ***Pierre Gaillard 2016***

90% Syrah with 10% Viognier, from vines located exclusively in Côte Rôtie's southern, granite-schist Côte Blonde, aromas are incredibly intense and multi-layered: violets, black cherries, fresh mint, grilled bacon. Palate is gorgeous: full, deep, richly concentrated and beautifully fine. There is a line of freshness here too, the finish being long, linear and with charming, suave tannins (for drinking 2024-2032+).



## **Côte Rôtie Rose Pourpre**

6x75cl 325.00

*Pierre Gaillard 2016*

This is 100% Syrah from the iron-rich, south-facing, schist slope of the Côte Rozier vineyard, located on the Côte Brune side. The resulting wine is a mightier, more substantial Côte Rôtie style, colour being opaque purple, aromas being very deep and taut: smoky black cherries. Freshness accompanies the power here, however, palate having generous flesh, with sweet fruit core and a richly textured, long-lingering finish. A wine that will reward time in bottle (for drinking 2025-35+).

## **Domaine Stéphane Ogier, Côte Rôtie**

Following in the footsteps of his father Michel, who set up this domaine in 1981, Stéphane Ogier has carved himself a reputation as one of Côte Rôtie's most highly respected winemakers. Precision and attention to tiny details are paramount here, and the domaine's new, state-of-the-art winery allows them to vinify and mature even the smallest of their parcels separately. Stéphane's work has a wonderful lightness of touch, producing silky, seductive styles of reds and whites.



## **Condrieu La Combe de Malleval**

6x75cl 142.00

*Domaine Stéphane Ogier 2016*

From Viognier vines that skirt the southerly tip of Condrieu, colour is pale lemon-gold, aromas being tight and pure, recalling floral apricots. Palate is full bodied and satin-like in texture, having intensity and richness, off-set by lift and poise. This is an elegant Condrieu with beautiful mineral underlay and an harmonious, clean finish (for drinking 2018-2020+).



## Syrah La Rosine

12x75cl 142.00

*Collines Rhodaniennes, Domaine Stéphane Ogier 2016*

The vines for La Rosine grow just beyond the southern edge of Côte Rôtie, in the Collines Rhodaniennes. In Stéphane's hands, you could be forgiven for calling this pure Syrah a "mini" Côte Rôtie. Aged for 12 months in 1-5 year-old oak barrels, colour is opaque ruby-purple, aromas being very pretty and perfumed. Palate is full and taut, with abundant pure cassis flavours that gracefully coat the mouth. Tannins are fine and fresh, the finish being long and bright. Outstanding value (for drinking 2018-2021+).



## L'Ame Soeur

6x75cl 145.00

*Vin de Pays de Seyssuel, Domaine Stéphane Ogier 2016*

Just north of the town of Vienne, on the opposite bank of the Rhône from Côte Rôtie, the little known Seyssuel appellation has a history as long as any other in the Rhône Valley. Vienne was an important town in Roman Gaul and according to Pliny the Elder, the Romans enjoyed the local Seyssuel wines. In the region's more recent history, whereas the vineyards on the Côte Rôtie side of the river were re-established after decimation by phylloxera in the 1880s and neglect during the First World War, Seyssuel was all but abandoned. It was in the 1990s that a group of northern Rhône winemakers decided that the time had come to resurrect these overgrown vineyards. Among them were Michel and Stéphane Ogier, who – along with their fellow winemakers – believe that this area has the potential to produce wines to rival its neighbour's. We were delighted to discover this truth for the first time last year with the 2015 vintage, and once again the 2016 L'Ame Soeur is stunning. 98% Syrah with 2% Viognier (co-planted), colour is deep ruby-purple, aromas being beautifully floral. Palate is seriously seductive: full bodied, rich and velvety in the mouth, there is lovely depth of juicy black cherry and blueberry flavours, the finish being fresh and full of finesse (for drinking 2020-2028+).



## **Côte Rôtie “Village”**

6x75cl 155.00

### *Domaine Stéphane Ogier 2016*

The Ogiers own 10 hectares of well appointed vines in Côte Rôtie, split into no fewer than 35 different parcels. These are picked, vinified and aged separately – before being blended 18 months after harvest. Tasting through the different barrels that make up this “Village” cuvée, we were wowed by the complex perfume of the 2016 wine: an abundance of sweet cassis, violets, dried rose petals, maple cured bacon. Full bodied on the palate, textures are satin-like: this is at-once mouth-filling and refreshing. Flavours are compact and perfumed, tannins sweet and fresh, the finish being energetic and long (for drinking 2022-2030+).

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