

LAITHWAITES
**FINE
WINE**

Rhône 2020 En Primeur Offer

“Beautiful, balanced, charming wines that have so much to love.”

Jeb Dunnuck

“These are wines that will provide huge amounts of pleasure, straight out of the gate. It is that rare thing – an excellent vintage for early drinking.”

Matt Walls, Decanter.com

“The vintage is looking very exciting, especially in the north.”

Jancis Robinson

“I suspect these wines will shine right out of the gate yet also evolve gracefully on their balance. If these wines gain weight over the course of their élevage, I suspect my barrel ratings will look overly conservative.”

Jeb Dunnuck

“Tannic structures are more substantial in the north, but quality is high in both the Northern and Southern Rhône. And not just red wines. Lovers of white Rhône will be thrilled – the 2020s have a rare fluidity and brightness. This is the freshest vintage for white wines since 2014.”

Matt Walls, Decanter.com

“Very good vintage”

Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com

“The 2020s appear to be pure, elegant, medium to full-bodied wines that excel on their balance and freshness while still showing beautiful depth of fruit.”

Jeb Dunnuck

“A reliably fresh, balanced and approachable vintage – a return to classicism after a series of powerful years. Excellent white wines.”

Matt Walls, Decanter.com on Northern Rhône 2020 (4.5/5)

“The Southern Rhône has two terrific, yet distinctly different, vintages with 2019 and 2020.”

Jeb Dunnuck

“Fresh, vibrant and deliciously drinkable.”

Matt Walls, Decanter.com

“Wines that shine for purity, freshness, and elegance.”

Jeb Dunnuck

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Unless otherwise stated, prices are quoted 'in bond' and are exclusive of duty, VAT and delivery (expected throughout the course of 2022 and early 2023). You will be notified by post once your wines have arrived. Bottle sizes are 75cl unless otherwise stated.

For full details please see our terms and conditions on Page 29.

Availability – Rhône 2020 Reds

<u>Southern Rhône Reds</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
Domaine Martin	Plan de Dieu	-	£75 per 12 IB
Famille Perrin 'Les Cornuds'	Vinsobres	16.5 JR	£80 per 12 IB
Domaine Martin	Rasteau	-	£90 per 12 IB
Stéphane Ogier 'Le Temps Est Venu'	Côtes-du-Rhône	92 JD	£95 per 12 IB
Domaine Martin	Cairanne	-	£95 per 12 IB
Domaine Martin 'Les Sommets de Rasteau VV'	Rasteau	90 DC	£60 per 6 IB
Montirius 'Le Village'	Vacqueyras	88 JD	£125 per 12 IB
Coudoulet de Beaucastel	Côtes-du-Rhône	92 DC	£145 per 12 IB
Famille Perrin 'La Gille'	Gigondas	90-92 JD	£150 per 12 IB
Domaine Martin 'Yves Martin' Syrah	IGP Vaucluse	-	£80 per 6 IB
Montirius 'La Terre des Aînés'	Gigondas	91 DC	£215 per 12 IB
Domaine Les Pallières 'Les Racines'	Gigondas	95-96 JS	£110 per 6 IB
Famille Perrin 'Les Hauts de Julien'	Vinsobres	16.5++ JR	£115 per 6 IB
Château Sixtine	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	93-95 JD	£120 per 6 IB
Montirius 'Le Clos'	Vacqueyras	16.5 JR	£250 per 12 IB
Famille Perrin 'L'Argnée'	Gigondas	95-97 JD	£215 per 6 IB
Famille Perrin 'Clos des Tourelles'	Gigondas	93-95 JD	£215 per 6 IB
Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe 'La Crau'	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	96-97 JS	£235 per 6 IB
Château de Beaucastel	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	97 JS	£280 per 6 IB
Chapoutier Croix de Bois	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	94-96 JD	£290 per 6 IB
Chapoutier 'Barbe Rac'	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	94-97 JD	£290 per 6 IB
Clos des Papes	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	98 DC	£360 per 6 IB
Famille Isabel Ferrando	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	95-97 JD	£360 per 6 IB
Clos des Papes (150cl)	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	98 DC	£369 per 3 IB
Famille Isabel Ferrando 'Colombis'	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	97 DC	£530 per 6 IB
Famille Isabel Ferrando 'F601'	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	94-97 JD	£400 per 1 IB

<u>Northern Rhône Reds</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
Domaine Yann Chave	Crozes-Hermitage	91-93+ JD	£80 per 6 IB
Domaine Courbis	Saint-Joseph	91-93 JD	£85 per 6 IB
Chapoutier 'Meysonniers'	Crozes-Hermitage	91-93 JD	£85 per 6 IB
Ferraton Père et Fils 'Pichères'	Crozes-Hermitage	91-93 JD	£90 per 6 IB
Stéphane Ogier 'Syrah de Rosine'	Vin de France	-	£180 per 12 IB
Domaine Rostaing 'Les Lézardes'	Collines Rhodaniennes IGP	89-92 JD	£220 per 12 IB
Stéphane Ogier 'Le Passage'	Saint-Joseph	-	£120 per 6 IB
Ferraton Père et Fils 'Patou'	Cornas	94-96 JD	£145 per 6 IB
Domaine du Tunnel	Saint-Joseph	92-94 JD	£155 per 6 IB
Domaine Courbis 'La Cotte Sud'	Saint-Joseph	94-96 JD	£170 per 6 IB
Domaine Courbis 'Les Eygats'	Cornas	96-99 JD	£195 per 6 IB
Domaine du Tunnel	Cornas	94-96 JD	£210 per 6 IB
Ferraton Père et Fils 'Les Miaux'	Hermitage	94 DC	£215 per 6 IB
Domaine Rostaing 'Ampodium'	Côte-Rôtie	18 JR	£250 per 6 IB
Stéphane Ogier 'Mon Village'	Côte-Rôtie	-	£255 per 6 IB
Domaine Rostaing 'La Landonne'	Côte-Rôtie	96 DC	£510 per 6 IB
Domaine du Tunnel 'Pur Noir'	Cornas	-	£525 per 6 IB

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Availability – Rhône 2020 Whites

<u>Southern Rhône Whites</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
Guigal	Côtes-du-Rhône	90 JD	£50 per 6 IB
Château Sixtine Blanc	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	94 JD	£120 per 6 IB
Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe 'La Crau' Blanc	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	95 JS	£195 per 6 IB
Château de Beaucastel Blanc	Châteauneuf-du-Pape	98 DC	£300 per 6 IB

<u>Northern Rhône Whites</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
Chapoutier 'Les Tanneurs' Blanc	Saint-Péray	90 JD	£75 per 6 IB
Stéphane Ogier 'Viognier de Rosine'	Collines Rhodaniennes IGP	89 RP	£170 per 12 IB
Chapoutier 'Deschamps' Blanc	Saint-Joseph	91-93 JD	£90 per 6 IB
Chapoutier 'Les Meysonniers' Blanc	Crozes-Hermitage	91 JD	£95 per 6 IB
Guigal	Crozes-Hermitage	89-91 JD	£95 per 6 IB
Domaine du Tunnel 'Marsanne'	Saint-Péray	95 JD	£110 per 6 IB
Domaine du Tunnel 'Roussanne'	Saint-Péray	94 JD	£145 per 6 IB
Domaine du Tunnel 'Cuvée Prestige'	Saint-Péray	96 JD	£150 per 6 IB
Stéphane Ogier 'La Combe de Malleval'	Condrieu	94 DC	£180 per 6 IB
Ferraton Père et Fils 'Les Miaux' Blanc	Hermitage	95 DC	£190 per 6 IB
Guigal 'Lieu-Dit'	Saint-Joseph	96 JD	£195 per 6 IB
Guigal 'La Doriane'	Condrieu	99 JD	£340 per 6 IB
Chapoutier 'Le Méal' Blanc	Hermitage	100 JD	£725 per 6 IB

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 Joe Czerwinski (RP) www.robertparker.com | Nick Stock (JS) www.jamessuckling.com

Availability – Roussillon 2020

<u>Roussillon Reds</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
Dom. Bila-Haut 'Vignes de Bila-Haut' Rouge	Côtes-du-Roussillon Villages	90 JD	£40 per 6 IB
Chapoutier Bila-Haut Chrysopée Rouge	Collioure	94-96 JD	£160 per 6 IB
Domaine Bila-Haut V.I.T	Côtes-du-Roussillon Villages	95-97 JD	£195 per 6 IB
Chapoutier Bila-Haut R.I	Côtes-du-Roussillon Villages	95-97 JD	£315 per 6 IB

<u>Roussillon Whites</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Price</u>
Dom. de Bila-Haut 'Vignes de Bila-Haut' Blanc	Côtes-du-Roussillon Villages	91 JD	£40 per 6 IB
Chapoutier Bila-Haut Chrysopée Blanc	Collioure	95+ JD	£175 per 6 IB

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2020 Vintage Report

2020 in the Rhône defied conventional ideas of how a vintage should turn out. For a hot, dry year that resulted in the earliest harvest since 2003 to have turned out wines of such balance, freshness and drinkability, with the whites faring even better than the reds, caused a lot of head scratching. But look beneath the surface and there are several likely explanations.

The preceding winter was wet, recharging water tables that would be much needed during the summer. A very warm March saw the ripening process off to a flying start, but this also caused a potential vulnerability to frosts, which thankfully did not occur. The summer was hot, but consistently so, without spikes. Overall, it was dry too, but a combination of the aforementioned reserves of ground water and some well timed showers helped to keep the vines healthy and photosynthesis going, with only the rare exception in Crozes-Hermitage and with some parcels of young vines. The Mistral wind played its traditional role of drying the grapes and blowing away any disease threats that might have been found elsewhere in France at the same time. The harvest was early, with only a short window of opportunity to pick at optimum ripeness levels, but we saw no examples of anyone having missed the boat and having produced jammy over-ripe wines in 2020.

The wines themselves were remarkably consistent both between North and South and between the different appellations within these sub-regions. They were even consistent between reds and whites. I am as guilty as anyone of always wanting to hang a label on a Rhône vintage as either being a year for the North or the South, but things really were on a level playing field in 2020.

In terms of style, we tasted a lot of fresh, balanced wines of very high quality. Fruit and tannins were ripe, but not excessively so and the textures lend themselves to early enjoyment or moderate ageing potential. These are not behemoths that need locking away for decades before becoming approachable. Instead, they are delightful wines for those with no or minimal patience. Wines to enjoy while some of the more structured recent vintages come round.

For me, the stand out estates at which we tasted were Domaine du Tunnel in the North where Stéphane Robert can seemingly do no wrong, and the newly renamed Famille Isabel Ferrando range at Domaine Saint Préfert. Isabel called 2020 “a dream vintage” and tasting her range it is hard to disagree. A new estate cuvée that combines the fruit that formerly went into ‘Collection Charles Giraud’ and ‘Réserve Auguste Favier’ joins Clos des Papes and Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe in the elite of Châteauneuf-du-Pape’s estate red bottlings, while the 100% Cinsault F601 ranks as the greatest wine we tasted in our week out in the region.

My biggest regret around the Rhône is that the wonderful quality and value wines of Cornas and Saint Joseph are often overlooked by UK drinkers. The wines at Domaine Courbis absolutely shone in 2020 and I heartily recommend adding some of these to your cellar if you wish to broaden your tastes and to experience some of the most exciting wines in the Northern Rhône today.

Finally, a note on 2021. A pandemic-enforced schedule change meant we were out in the Rhône while the grapes were being harvested. It is pretty clear that 2020 marks the end of a golden run of years stretching back to 2015 or arguably even 2009. 2021 was much more problematic. Volumes will be down substantially due to frost and mildew. It is too early to assess quality, but even if it hits the mark, getting hold of the stuff will be nigh-on impossible given how little will be made. With this in mind, we will be stocking up as much as we can on the excellent 2020s while this is possible and I would suggest that this is a good buying strategy too for all fans of Rhône wines.

Stewart Pryce, Laithwaite’s Fine Wine
20th December 2021

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The Best Buys of the Vintage

Although our Rhône En Primeur selection is more focused than our Bordeaux and especially Burgundy offers, a little guidance through the range can come in handy nonetheless. I hope that putting forward the wines that I would like to buy personally gives the most genuine stamp of recommendation possible. While my eyes are bigger than my wallet and I won't be able to buy them all, below is my shortlist of the Rhône 2020 En Primeur wines that I'd most like to add to my cellar.

For the Cellar

The red Châteauneuf-du-Papes of **Château de Beaucastel (£280 per 6)** and **Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe (£235 per 6)**. Flagship Châteauneufs from a pair of the appellation's finest and best-known estates in a top vintage. Not original choices perhaps, but you are unlikely to regret buying either of these two in years to come.

Famille Isabel Ferrando Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'F601' (£400 per 1). No, it's not cheap, but it is truly stunning. The best wine we tried all week.

New Discoveries

Domaine Martin 'Yves Martin' (£80 per 6). Eric's Dad loved Syrah and so this homage is 100% Syrah, even though it is grown in the South. Makes me wish more producers did the same. Delicious.

Famille Perrin, Vinsobres 'Les Hauts de Julien' (£115 per 6 IB). Maybe not a brand new discovery for some of our customers, but a perfect example of how some of the cooler, fresher sites in the South are making some of the most exciting Rhône reds these days.

Famille Isabel Ferrando Châteauneuf-du-Pape (£360 per 6). What happens when you take a fine 'estate' Châteauneuf and add in all of the fruit that previously went into not one, but two 'supercuvées'? This. Unsurprisingly excellent and pretty restrained when it comes to price, all things considered.

'On Fire' Producers – Where You Can't go Wrong in 2020

Domaine du Tunnel. Stéphane Robert's idyllic Domaine is producing some of the most wonderful reds and whites made in the Northern Rhône today. Everything was on top form in 2020.

Château Sixtine. Once again, Jean-Marc Diffonty's wines compete with Châteauneuf-du-Pape's most expensive wines in terms of quality and ageability yet offer such immediate appeal and equally appealing price tags.

Michel Chapoutier's whites. From top to bottom of the range, Chapoutier is able to imbue his whites with a freshness and vibrancy rarely matched elsewhere in the region. A passion both for granitic soils and the Marsanne grape no doubt help, but there's an extra magic at play too.

Domaine Courbis. The appellations may be unfashionable in the UK at present and the address a little under the radar, but the Cornas and Saint-Joseph wines produced here are truly magical. More so in 2020 than ever before.

Outstanding Value for Shorter-Term Drinking

Pretty much anything from **Domaine Martin**, but especially the **Rasteau (£90 per 12)**. The **Plan de Dieu (£75 per 12)** comes a close second.

Domaine Yann Chave Crozes-Hermitage (£80 per 6). Although it would benefit from 1-2 years after arrival, this offers a lot of wine for the money and won't take an age to hit its peak.

Stewart Pryce, Laithwaite's Fine Wine
20th December 2021

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Domaine Martin

A big customer favourite and it's no surprise why; the reds produced here are out and out delicious and are offered at exceptionally good prices. This makes them ideal house wines to keep in stock throughout the year.

A love for both Syrah and Mourvèdre is behind the success of so many of the wines here, these varieties holding up well versus pure Grenaches as the climate warms, adding herbal, savoury notes and dark fruit.

Eric Martin calls 2020 "an excellent vintage for both quality and quantity", which was great to hear and even greater to taste for ourselves. Old favourites such as the Plan de Dieu and Rasteau were on great form, but we tasted a new 100% Syrah that we simply had to introduce to the range for the first time this year. Don't miss it.



Domaine Martin 2020 Plan de Dieu



£75 per 12 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving Mid-2022

"God's plain" is Domaine Martin's home turf and one only has to set foot outside the winery itself to immediately be in these vineyards, blessed not only with a good view of the Mont Ventoux looming ominously in the background, but also with a pebbly soil very similar to that of many parts of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The grape blend, with good proportions of both Syrah and Mourvèdre is reminiscent of some of Châteauneuf-du-Pape's finest estates too, Château de Beaucastel springing immediately to mind. Plenty of dark fruit, plus big, ripe tannins make this an excellent wine for a very modest price tag.

Domaine Martin 2020 Rasteau



£90 per 12 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving Mid-2022

Domaine Martin's Rasteau is on particularly fine form in 2020. A beautiful floral note hits the palate right from the word go, then follows all the way through to the finish. This is Grenache at its charming best... Yet the wine also has a serious side, with 25% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre in the blend. This will age for five years, but don't feel guilty if you pull the cork straight away, as it will deliver right from the off.

Domaine Martin 2020 Cairanne



£95 per 12 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving Mid-2022

Succulently fruited and showing some lovely bright acidity, this is the freshest wine in Domaine Martin's line up of reds. Given 3 to 4 months in barrique after fermentation in concrete, this 65% Grenache, 35% Syrah blend from hillside vineyards is perfectly poised to pair with food.

Domaine Martin 'Les Sommets de Rasteau' 2020 Rasteau



£60 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Mid-2022

90 Decanter

"Weighty, concentrated and tannic expression of Rasteau. This will take a year to soften, then will be enjoyably weighty for a 2020 Rasteau. Has depth and length."
90 Pts Matt Walls, Decanter.com, October 2021

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Domaine Martin
'Yves Martin' Syrah 2020
IGP Vacluse



£80 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Mid-2022

This 100% Syrah cuvée was first made in 2004 in homage to Eric's father Yves who loved this grape variety. Planted in the Plan de Dieu zone, but ineligible to take that appellation due to the lack of Grenache, I must admit I am with Yves here and not the authorities! Aged in barrique, this shows more oak than the rest of the range, but boy does it take it well. Rounded, spicy and packed full of dense black fruit, this is the pinnacle of Domaine Martin's range, one of my new favourite Rhône reds, and a great advert for not leaving 100% Syrahs to the Northern Rhône estates.

Montirius

"One of my favorite southern Rhone estates, Montirius, which is run by the passionate Christine and Eric Saurel, fashions classic Gigondas and Vacqueyras from their roughly 143 acres under vine"
Jeb Dunnuck

There is a lot to like about Montirius and the wines that are produced there. Run by the charming couple Christine and Eric Saurel and their daughters Justine and Manon, they adopted full biodynamics in 1996 and none of the wines see any oak ageing. No sulphur is added at bottling either, so these are wines where the fruit sings solo, unadulterated by other influences.

The whole range is impressive, showcasing the meticulous attention to detail that is found at many biodynamic estates, but at the top of the tree is the Vacqueyras 'Le Clos' whose clay soils have been analysed and found to be identical to those at Château Petrus (something Petrus's neighbours would kill for) and the Gigondas 'Terre des Aînés'.



Montirius
'Le Village' 2020
Vacqueyras



£125 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Mid-2022

88 Jeb Dunnuck

'Le Village' was showing very well in our tasting and is a good candidate for relatively early drinking. I could have sworn there was some old oak on used on this wine from how well rounded it is, but there is not. As with all of the estate's wines, the fruit is allowed to express itself unencumbered by wood. From younger vines planted on the Vacqueyras plateau.

Montirius
'La Terre des Aînés' 2020
Gigondas



£215 per 12 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Mid-2022

91 Decanter

"Full-bodied and remarkably concentrated for what can be a lighter style in this vintage. Not terribly deep or long perhaps, but this does deliver some classic Gigondas pleasure. Smooth, bold, muscular."
91 Pts Matt Walls, Decanter.com, October 2021

Montirius
'Le Clos' 2020
Vacqueyras



£250 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Mid-2022

16.5 Jancis Robinson

"50% Grenache, 50% Syrah. Aged in concrete. Tank sample.
Rich and meaty with a hint of spice and red fruit. Zesty palate with a generous depth of fruit. Tannins firm, tightening on the finish to give length and focus. Some ageing potential."
16.5 Pts James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com, November 2021

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Château Sixtine

“Jean-Marc is an innovative visionary”
Robert Parker

The Diffontys are old timers in Châteauneuf-du-Pape it is fair to say, having been settled in the area since the 17th century. They were one of the first to bottle their wine at the estate back in 1902 and in 1992 the property's modern era began when Jean-Marc and his wife Karine took over the reigns. They gradually changed the Domaine's style to suit their tastes, in particular with the introduction to the range of the 'Réserve Sixtine', later renamed simply 'Château Sixtine' – a supercuvée that always offers masses of upfront fruit and body in a framework of exceptionally rounded tannins. Unsurprisingly, this style proved popular with Robert Parker too.



Jean-Marc called 2020 “a good straightforward vintage with no problems with frost”. His wines were on fine form. I just love how the red manages to simultaneously be a very serious fine wine and also a hell of a lot of hedonistic fun, while the Roussanne-dominated white was fresh, rounded and mineral. With half the fruit coming from the cool Rayas zone, this is perhaps the secret to the freshness.

Château Sixtine 2020 **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**



£120 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Mid-2022

93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

93 Decanter

“The grand vin of the estate is the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Château Sixtine, which checks in as 55% Grenache, 25% Syrah, and 20% Mourvèdre. It too is deep ruby/purple-hued and offers a spicy, peppery, red and black-fruited style that carries medium to full-bodied richness, ripe, polished tannins, wonderful mid-palate depth, and a great finish. This seriously impressive 2020 is going to deliver the goods over the coming 10-15 years.”
93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Château Sixtine Blanc 2020 **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**



£120 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving Mid-2022

94 Jeb Dunnuck

“Almost all Roussanne (there's 5% Clairette), the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Château Sixtine Blanc sports a light gold hue as well as beautiful honeyed pineapple, orange blossom, white flower, and spice-driven aromas and flavors. The balance is spot on, it's medium-bodied, has good concentration, and integrated yet bright acidity. This beauty is geared for the dinner table and well worth seeking out.”
94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

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Clos des Papes

*"This is one of the great estates in Chateaufeuf du Pape, with a history that dates back to the mid-1700s."
Robert Parker*

For such a big estate with such a big reputation it is surprising to learn that everything is done here by one man – Paul Avril, although he does admit to getting in a helper at harvest time!

Avril eschews the concept of Supercuvées, with just a single red and white wine produced, so the very best grapes go into the Grands Vins. The results are spectacularly good, age-worthy Châteaufeufs.

Avril's mother is from Burgundy, he studied there and he looks to emulate that region's finesse in his wines, something he succeeds in doing, despite the obvious fact that these are much bigger boned wines than anything found in the Côte d'Or.

Trying to produce a style he prefers, rather than chasing critical acclaim, he nonetheless gets it. Frankly, anyone with anything more than a fleeting acquaintance with Châteaufeuf-du-Pape can taste that this estate produces some of the appellation's very finest wines.



Clos des Papes 2020 Châteaufeuf-du-Pape



£360 per 6 IB
£369 per 3x150cl IB
Drink to 2036+
Arriving Autumn 2022

98 Decanter

94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

17.5 Jancis Robinson

"Looking at the reds, the 2020 Châteaufeuf Du Pape is a silky, elegant wine that shows the vintage to a T. I was able to taste through all the foudres of the cuvée as well as one that's a final blend, with all showing beautiful red and black fruits, peppery garrigue, and floral nuances. The purity of fruit is remarkable, and this will be a medium to full-bodied, finesse-driven, yet still concentrated vintage for this cuvée that readers will love."
94-96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

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Château de Beaucastel / Famille Perrin

"Purchasing a wine from this family is about as close to a guarantee of authenticity and high quality as one can expect."

Robert Parker

The Château de Beaucastel estate forms a single 100 hectare+ block right where the Mistral wind funnels into the corner of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation. Unusually, there are large plantings of the Mourvèdre grape, shunned by many in Châteauneuf in the past as being unsuitable for the appellation's climate, but increasingly coming into its own with global warming. All 13 permitted grape varieties are grown in fact, vinified separately and then blended to form three of the reference point wines of the Southern Rhône valley – the red and white Grands Vins, plus the separate Roussanne Vieilles Vignes bottling. Part of the estate, but falling on the 'wrong' side of the road that separates the Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Côtes-du-Rhône appellations is the vineyard where the fruit for the outstanding value Coudoulet is grown.



In recent decades the Perrin family have extended their holdings beyond the confines of the Château de Beaucastel estate itself, with wines from Gigondas a particular strength. 2020 was another strong vintage at this estate and JancisRobinson.com's Julia Harding says of the line up, "there are some lovely wines in this collection, led by the fragrant yet minerally Beaucastel. The reds are typically aromatic, full of fresh, lively fruit, yet well built for the medium term."

**Famille Perrin
'Les Cornuds' 2020
Vinsobres**



£80 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Late 2022

16.5 Jancis Robinson

"Grenache/Syrah, the latter fermented in oak with some whole bunch. Cask sample.

Deep crimson. More like the Vacqueyras on the nose, that sweet oak and chocolate impression. More red-fruited aroma than the preceding wines. Prettily peppered and sweet spice. On the palate, the tannins are more prominent, more powdery, undermining that sweetness in a good way, bringing the wine to a drier and more elegant and fragrant finish. Still quite chewy but all set for harmony."

16.5 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com, November 2021

**Coudoulet de Beaucastel 2020
Côtes-du-Rhône**



£145 per 12 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Late 2022

92 Decanter

90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

92 James Suckling

"A year-in, year-out winner, the 2020 Côtes Du Rhône Coudoulet De Beaucastel offers outstanding quality as well as classic notes of darker fruits, roasted herbs, truffle earth, and some meaty, peppery, gamey nuances. With wonderful purity of fruit, ripe tannins, and a balanced, elegant mouthfeel, it will have over a decade of longevity."

90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

**Famille Perrin
'La Gille' 2020
Gigondas**



£150 per 12 IB
Drink to 2029
Arriving Late 2022

90-92 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson

"Moving to the reds, the 2020 Gigondas La Gille is the base Gigondas and has a medium-bodied, supple, seamless style as well as classic spice, peppery herbs, and red and black fruits. It's well worth seeking out and should easily be an outstanding wine."

90-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

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Famille Perrin
'Les Hauts de Julien' 2020
Vinsobres



£115 per 6 IB
Drink to 2029
Arriving Late 2022

16.5++ Jancis Robinson

"Made in a very traditional way – the Syrah and the Grenache co-fermented. Cask sample.

Very dark, almost black at the core. Rich black fruit, with a slight red lift as it opens in the glass, so concentrated in aroma it is almost savoury/meaty. Marked by the oak at the moment. Thick, chewy, smooth and rich on the palate, thick velvet. Big wine, a bit blocky at the moment. Just fresh enough."

16.5++ Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com, November 2021

Famille Perrin
'L'Argnée' 2020
Gigondas



£215 per 6 IB
Drink to 2034
Arriving Late 2022

95-97 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson

"A vineyard of less than 1 ha planted with pre-phylloxera vines in sandy soils, giving very low yields. Located at the south-western end of the appellation, at the heart of the historic village of Gigondas. Only 1,500 bottles. Manual harvest, 100% whole bunches, pumping over, aged in oak for a year. Almost 100% Grenache. Cask sample.

Mid to deep crimson. Distinctive garrigue – wild scrubland – aroma (the influence of the whole bunches, perhaps). Wild flowers too. But also a richness of blackberry and mulberry. Velvety, generous while the tannins give refinement to the fruit. Firm, like many layers of paper."

17 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com, November 2021

Famille Perrin
'Clos des Tourelles' 2020
Gigondas



£215 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Late 2022

93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

17 Jancis Robinson

"The 2020 Gigondas Clos Des Tourelles should be a step up. Medium to full-bodied, pure, and remarkably well-balanced, it has a terrific mix of red and almost blue fruits as well as peppery herbs and flowers. Already complex and nuanced, yet concentrated and rich, it's a serious effort from the Perrin family that's going to have 15+ years of overall longevity."

93-95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Château de Beaucastel 2020
Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£280 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving Late 2022

96 Decanter

93-95 Jeb Dunnuck

97 James Suckling

"30% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah, 10% Counoise, 10% Vaccarèse, Terret Noir, Muscardin, Clairette, Picpoul, Picardin, Bourboulenc, Roussanne and 5% Cinsault. Aged in foudres for 12 months. Cask sample.

Deep crimson. Fabulously aromatic with an intense and entwined combination of dark-red fruits, peony (which I more often associate with the northern Rhône), and a light sweetness of oak spice. Also a quiet, dark mineral/dusty quality that reins in all that lovely fruit. Compact but succulent, refined tannins. Already quite complex and a lot more to come. Fresh, elegant finish. Embryonically impressive."

17.5 Pts Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com, November 2021

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**Château de Beaucastel
Blanc 2020
Châteauneuf-du-Pape**



£300 per 6 IB
Drink to 2027
Arriving Late 2022

98 Decanter

94+ Jeb Dunnuck

94 James Suckling

"Looking at the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Blanc, which is 80% Roussanne and the rest Grenache Blanc and Clairette, it has a rocking nose of apple blossom, melon, honeyed minerality, and spice as well as medium to full-bodied richness on the palate. It picks up a terrific green almond-like nuances with time in the glass, and it's textured, balanced, and just another brilliant white from this team."

94+ Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Domaine Yann Chave

"I continue to love these wines from Yann Chave. Owning a small four acres in Hermitage (all in Beaume and Peleat) and just over 37 acres in Crozes Hermitage, most around the village of Mercurol, he makes a rock-solid white and two reds from Crozes Hermitage (the le Rouvre being the top cuvee) and a small amount of Hermitage. They're all loaded with character and highly recommended."

Jeb Dunnuck

An organic Domaine, based in Crozes-Hermitage and focussing on the production only of this appellation and neighbouring Hermitage itself, Yann Chave has been a mainstay of our Rhône range for several years now. The elegance that is necessary in the Northern Rhône is very much in evidence here, with trademark black pepper in abundance. In short, if you want to introduce a Rhône newcomer to the wines of Crozes-Hermitage, start with these well-made, textbook examples.

Each year it seems to be the turn of a different appellation to shine at this estate. In 2020 it was actually the entry-level Crozes-Hermitage red that most impressed. Despite seeing no oak, it is a muscular, spicy Crozes packed full of flavour, with some wonderful dark violet aromatics to boot.



**Domaine Yann Chave 2020
Crozes-Hermitage**



£80 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Spring 2022

92 Decanter

91-93+ Jeb Dunnuck

"You can't go wrong with the Crozes Hermitage from Yann Chave, and the 2020 reveals a deep purple hue as well as a medium to full-bodied, round, wonderfully textured style that gives up classic darker Syrah fruit as well as peppery herbs, new leather, and hints of bouquet garni. I'd be happy to own bottles."

91-93+ Pts, Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

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Domaines du Vieux Télégraphe & Les Pallières

"This venerable estate, long run by the Brunier family, is a consistent source for fabulous wines."
Robert Parker

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe's 2020s were once again on impressive form, even if these are clearly wines that need a little time in the cellar to fully express themselves. The red and white flagship 'La Crau' bottlings each showcasing this special terroir in the East of the appellation. Old vines help that expression enormously.

The Brunier's other property is Domaine Les Pallières, slightly further East in Gigondas. Two cuvées of a qualitative par are produced and it was Les Racines from 100 year old vines around the property that most impressed us this year. It showed truly amazing freshness, helped by the addition of 5% of the white Clairette in the blend, and also an extraordinarily long finish. Wow!



Domaine Les Pallières
'Les Racines' 2020
Gigondas



£110 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Autumn 2022

95-96 James Suckling

91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

"Enormously deep and powerful, but the full and fine tannins hold this mighty ship on course straight into the sunset. Great forest-berry aromas, but at the finish the wild-herb character expands and expands. Excellent aging potential! A blend of 80% grenache, 8% syrah, 7% cinsault and 5% clairette."
95-96 Pts Stuart Pigott, JamesSuckling.com, March 2022

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe
'La Crau' 2020
Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£235 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035+
Arriving Autumn 2022

96 Decanter

96-97 James Suckling

92-94+ Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape should be a gem of a wine as well as age-worthy. Lots of red and black berry fruits, licorice, wild herbs, and pepper define this medium to full-bodied, ripe, yet very classic, focused, elegant 2020. I love its underlying structure as well as its balance. Give bottles 4-5 years and enjoy over the following two decades."
92-94+ Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe
'La Crau' Blanc 2020
Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£195 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032+
Arriving Autumn 2022

95 James Suckling

94 Decanter

93+ Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Blanc is more tight and backward, with medium-bodied aromas and flavors of pear, white flowers, licorice, and crushed stone. Nicely concentrated and balanced, it's going to benefit from 3-5 years of bottle age and keep for two decades. It's a classic, age-worthy, regal white from this estate."
93+ Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

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Domaine du Tunnel

“Stephane Robert continues to fashion some of the most impressive, concentrated and unctuously textured Syrahs in the northern Rhône... You can't wrong with this estate.”
Jeb Dunnuck

Although Stéphane Robert has a small shop front in the centre of Saint-Péray, to get to the cellars themselves you have to go up... and up... and up! Following the route of a former narrow-gauge freight railway up the steep hills that rise dramatically from the Rhône river, when you reach the point at which the railway gave up on climbing the hill and instead went into it, today you find the cellar where Stéphane works his magic.

In addition to being one of the leading exponents in the revival of the once almost-extinct appellation of Saint-Péray, Stéphane produces a range of brilliant reds and whites, each showing a precision and purity that sets them apart.

Stéphane was very happy with pretty much every aspect of the 2020 vintage – a warm, sunny year that led to an early harvest. While demand grows and grows for his wonderful wines, he has no desire to expand beyond the 11 hectares he currently works; “pour nous, c'est top”. For us however, we need to move fast to secure our shares of the beautifully textured reds and whites produced at this idyllic domaine.



Domaine du Tunnel 2020 Saint-Joseph



£155 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving early 2022

92-94 Jeb Dunnuck

“I always love this wine from Robert, and his 2020 Saint Joseph is medium to full-bodied and incredibly elegant, with a fresh, lively, yet still concentrated style. Offering both red and black fruits, some obvious minerality, and hints of violets, it's going to drink nicely right out of the gate and have 10-15 years of prime drinking.”
92-94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Domaine du Tunnel 2020 Cornas



£210 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving early 2022

94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2020 Cornas shows the vintage's ripe yet fresh style. Lots of red and blue fruits, a kiss of minerality, medium to full body, and ripe tannins all make for a beautiful, impeccably made Cornas that will have two decades of longevity.”
94-96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Domaine du Tunnel 'Pur Noir' 2020 Cornas



£525 per 6 IB
Drink to 2035
Arriving early 2022

The estate's flagship red, the parcel chosen for this label varies from vintage to vintage depending on which one performed best in a given year. The barrel chosen for 2020 was one of the most outstanding reds we tried during our whole week's tasting. So concentrated, it is given a good dose on new oak, which is needed to stand up to the sheer intensity of the wine and to enhance its flavours, setting it up perfectly for the long haul. Mightily impressive length too. A real stunner.

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Domaine du Tunnel
'Marsanne' 2020
Saint-Péray



£110 per 6 IB
Drink to 2023
Arriving early 2022

95 Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2020 Saint-Péray Marsanne also has plenty of tropical fruits as well as hints of celery seed, crushed rock, and honeyed, sappy flowers. Beautiful on the palate, with full-bodied richness, it shows the fresh, focused, elegant, yet concentrated style of the 2020 vintage beautifully."

95 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Domaine du Tunnel
'Roussanne' 2020
Saint-Péray



£145 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving early 2022

94 Jeb Dunnuck

"Gorgeous tropical fruits, honeyed peach, and toasted spice notes all emerge from the 2020 Saint-Péray Roussanne. This medium to full-bodied beauty has a dense, rich mid-palate, beautiful freshness, and a great finish."

94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Domaine du Tunnel
'Cuvée Prestige' 2020
Saint-Péray



£150 per 6 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving early 2022

96 Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2020 Saint-Péray Cuvée Prestige is also flat-out gorgeous. White flowers, white currants, pineapple, honeysuckle, and sappy flower notes all develop with time in the glass, and it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, flawless balance, integrated acidity, and a great, salty finish that keeps you coming back to the glass."

96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

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Famille Isabel Ferrando (Domaine Saint Préfert)

“Proprietress Isabel Ferrando has taken her Saint Préfert estate to France’s highest level, and she’s unquestionably making some of the most profound wines on earth today.”
Jeb Dunnuck

The ‘Queen of Châteauneuf’ (as referred to by James Molesworth) ruffled a few feathers when she arrived in the area in 2002 and started producing some brilliant wines at the historic but arguably underperforming Domaine Saint Préfert, which she converted to full biodynamics in 2013. 2016 is likely to be looked back upon as the year in which Isabel Ferrando’s qualitative transformation of this Domaine was fully complete, the estate since then standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the appellation’s greatest producers.

2020 sees the disappearance of flagship reds ‘Collection Charles Giraud’ and ‘Réserve Auguste Favier’, as well as the ‘classique’ cuvée and in their place a new estate wine simply called ‘Famille Isabel Ferrando’. This brave move has paid dividends, with the new wine an instant reference point more than able to hold its own against established stars such as Clos des Papes and Château de Beaucastel.

Colombis and F601 continue to be bottled individually, however. These single-variety, minute quantity bottlings (of Grenache on sand and Cinsault on blue clay respectively) are two of the finest expressions of both terroir and grape variety in the entire appellation.



Famille Isabel Ferrando 2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£360 per 6 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving Autumn 2022

95-97 Jeb Dunnuck

95 Decanter

94-95 James Suckling

“The first vintage for this single cuvée, which in the past would have made the two special cuvées of Domaine Saint-Préfert, the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape checks in as a blend of 75% Grenache and the rest Cinsault, Mourvèdre, and a splash of Syrah. Its deep ruby/plum hue is followed by a more reticent, full-bodied, powerful wine offering serious black fruits as well as notes of crushed stone, roasted herbs, licorice, and graphite. It’s another stunning wine from this estate that savvy readers will snatch up. It’s going to need 3-5 years of bottle age to show its true potential, but it’s a brilliant wine.”

95-97 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Famille Isabel Ferrando ‘Colombis’ 2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£530 per 6 IB
Drink to 2037
Arriving Autumn 2022

97 Decanter

94-97 Jeb Dunnuck

95 James Suckling

“Very fragrant, with sweet-plum and cocoa-powder notes, but not a hint of overripeness, this is a spectacular Chateauneuf! Very rich and sensual, this rolls over your palate and before you know it you’re lost in its warm embrace. The fine tannins at the expansive, spicy finish are spot-on. A single-vineyard wine that’s 100% grenache. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold.”

95 Pts Stuart Pigott, JamesSuckling.com, March 2022

Famille Isabel Ferrando ‘F601’ 2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£400 per 1 IB
Drink to 2038+
Arriving Autumn 2022

94-97 Jeb Dunnuck

“Also all Cinsault from the same parcel planted in 1928, the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape F601 reveals a healthy ruby/plum hue to go with a beautiful perfume of black raspberries, toasted spices, dried flowers, and sandalwood. Possessing one of the best mid-palates in the vintage, it’s medium to full-bodied, has gorgeous tannins, and a layered, seamless, elegant style that’s already hard to resist.”

94-97 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

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Famille Isabel Ferrando
'F601' 2020
Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£400 per 1 IB
Drink to 2038+
Arriving Autumn 2022

94-97 Jeb Dunnuck

"Also all Cinsault from the same parcel planted in 1928, the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape F601 reveals a healthy ruby/plum hue to go with a beautiful perfume of black raspberries, toasted spices, dried flowers, and sandalwood. Possessing one of the best mid-palates in the vintage, it's medium to full-bodied, has gorgeous tannins, and a layered, seamless, elegant style that's already hard to resist."

94-97 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Stéphane Ogier

"One of France's most brilliant small artisanal wineries is that of the Ogier family in Ampuis"
Robert Parker

Visiting this Domaine one gets the clear impression of a man, Stéphane Ogier, with a laser-like focus on the quality of his wine. His cellar is a treasure trove of different parcels separately vinified, some to be blended later, and others to be released alone.

2020 had a hot summer, but Stéphane was impressed by the balance of the wines nonetheless. He compares the vintage to 2016, but with more depth and of course, picked a lot earlier. Interestingly, he also shared the view that a high production level is good for Viognier, in order to keep it balanced. Overall then, another successful year at this increasingly popular estate.



Stéphane Ogier
'Le Temps Est Venu' 2020
Côtes-du-Rhône



£95 per 12 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving early 2022

92 Jeb Dunnuck

"Moving to the reds, the 2020 Côtes Du Rhône Le Temps Est Venu has a round, seamless, incredibly pretty style as well as assorted red and black cherry fruits, notes of peppery spice and flowers, soft tannins, and a great finish. A blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah brought up in tank and concrete, it's a delicious Côtes Du Rhône to enjoy over the coming 5-6 years or so."

92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Stéphane Ogier
'Syrah de Rosine' 2020
Vin de France



£180 per 12 IB
Drink to 2026
Arriving mid-2022

Ogier's 'mini-Côte-Rôtie' really delivers in 2020. An impressive tannic structure gives way to succulent fruit. A serious wine, but fun at the same time, this is once again one of the Northern Rhône's best value for money reds.

Stéphane Ogier
'Le Passage' 2020
Saint-Joseph



£120 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032+
Arriving mid-2022

Le Passage 2020 shows a cool, stony minerality on the palate, along with a touch of mint. Ripe tannins support the good density of fruit. Seriously impressive, this should age wonderfully.

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Stéphane Ogier
'Mon Village' 2020
Côte-Rôtie



£255 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving mid-2022

There is serious intensity in this wine not least in the fruit on the mid-palate. The tannins are beautifully supply, enveloping the dark fruit perfectly. A strong vintage for Ogier's bottling from home turf.

Stéphane Ogier
'Viognier de Rosine' 2020
Collines Rhodaniennes IGP



£170 per 12 IB
Drink to 2023
Arriving early 2022

89 Robert Parker

89 Jeb Dunnuck

"Tasting like a mini-Condrieu, the 2020 Collines Rhodaniennes La Rosine Blanc has lots of white peach and tangerine notes in a medium-bodied, fresh, lively, undeniably delicious style. It's perfect for enjoying over the coming year or two."
89 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Stéphane Ogier
'La Combe de Malleval' 2020
Condrieu



£180 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving early 2022

94 Decanter

94 Jeb Dunnuck

16+ Jancis Robinson

"he 2020 Condrieu La Combe De Malleval is terrific, offering gorgeously pure notes of grilled peach, white flowers, and crushed stone. Vibrant and racy, yet also concentrated on the palate, it has everything I look for in a great Condrieu. I like this today, yet it's going to benefit from a year in bottle and evolve nicely through 2030."
94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

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Michel Chapoutier

"These wines are for true connoisseurs, as they are expensive and meant for long, long evolutions, but they capture the essence of a vintage and terroir as well as any wines in the world."
Robert Parker on Chapoutier's Sélections Parcelles

Producer portfolios rarely offer as much choice or as many critics' points as the diverse range offered by one of the legends of the Rhône Valley. Michel Chapoutier is one of a kind – headstrong and often contrary, his bold opinions and decisions have helped move his family firm from one of the Northern Rhône's finest producers, to one of the world's. Passionate about biodynamics and a particular fan of granite soils, the quality of the obsessive winemaking shows throughout the large range, from the great value wines at the bottom of the price scale, through to some of the Rhône's (and France's) finest wines that form the 'Sélections Parcelles' range.

The 2020s here were successful once again, with standout value to be had with whites such as Les Tanneurs and Deschants. That said, the excellence is consistent across the price range, and in both red and white.



Chapoutier 'Les Meysonniers' 2020 Crozes-Hermitage



£85 per 6 IB
Drink to 2026
Arriving Mid-2022

91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

90 James Suckling

16+ Jancis Robinson

"The 2020 Crozes-Hermitage Les Meysonniers is bright and juicy, with some peppery blue fruits as well as notes of bouquet garni. Medium-bodied on the palate, it has ripe tannins, good acidity, and a clean finish. It's another wine that should easily be outstanding and drink well right out of the gate."

91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Chapoutier 'Barbe Rac' 2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£290 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving mid-2023

94-97 Jeb Dunnuck

93 Decanter

"I loved the 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Barbe Rac, a 100% Grenache that was all destemmed and will spend 18 months in concrete tanks. Loads of kirsch liqueur, blackberries, peppery herbs, and spicy notes define the nose, and it brings plenty of Grenache richness and depth, with medium to full body, ripe tannins, and the pure, focused style of the vintage."

94-97 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Chapoutier 'Croix de Bois' 2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape



£290 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving mid-2023

94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

91 Decanter

"The 2020 Châteauneuf Du Pape Croix De Bois is more up-front (which is common), with lots of red, blue, and black fruits as well as violets and pepper. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and structured on the palate, it's another brilliant wine. Like the Barbe Rac, it's going to benefit from just short-term bottle age and have 15-20 years of overall longevity."

94-96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, November 2021

Chapoutier 'Les Tanneurs' 2020 Saint-Péray



£75 per 6 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving Mid-2022

90 Jeb Dunnuck

This wine typifies everything that Michel Chapoutier likes in a white and also everything that is good about the kinds of whites he makes. Made with 100% Marsanne on Michel's favourite type of soils, granitic, Les Tanneurs is a blend of parcels from across the cool Saint-Péray appellation. Put all this together and you get a lip smackingly fresh wine of real class, with a length that belies its modest price tag. Saint-Péray is turning out some of the most exciting whites in the Northern Rhône at the moment and it should come as no surprise that Chapoutier's effort is excellent.

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**Chapoutier
'Deschants' Blanc 2020
Saint-Joseph**



£90 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving Mid-2022

91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

The Deschants blanc has all of the Chapoutier trademark pithiness and freshness, as well as minerality and salinity. Like the Tanneurs Saint-Péray, this is a wine against which to benchmark all others from their appellations. You will need to go a long way up the price spectrum to find rivals that better them.

**Chapoutier
'Les Meysonniers' Blanc 2020
Crozes-Hermitage**



£95 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving Mid-2022

91 Jeb Dunnuck

91 James Suckling

16 Jancis Robinson

"The 2020 Crozes-Hermitage Les Meysonniers Blanc is charming and textured, with some ripe tropical and peach-like fruits as well as white flower notes. Medium-bodied and nicely concentrated, with a great mix of richness and elegance, drink it over the coming 4-5 years."

91 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

**Chapoutier 'Le Méal'
Blanc 2020
Hermitage**



£725 per 6 IB
Drink to 2038
Arriving mid-2023

100 Jeb Dunnuck

96 Decanter

"I was blown away by the 2020 Ermitage Le Méal Blanc, which is certainly the finest vintage of this cuvée I've tasted. From the pure south-facing Méal lieu-dit (which is the warmest terroir on Hermitage), it was vinified and aged 70% demi-muids (10% new) and 30% in stainless steel. Straight-up heavenly notes of white currants, powdered rock, celery seed, honeysuckle, and toasted almonds all define the bouquet, and it's full-bodied and concentrated on the palate, with that rare mix of richness and freshness. Hermitage Blanc doesn't get any better. I love this today, yet it will certainly benefit from a year or two of bottle age, drink well for 3-5 years, at which point, it's probably best to wait until a solid 15 years after the vintage."

100 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

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Domaine de Bila-Haut

“Any project Michel Chapoutier is involved with seems to excel, and his Roussillon Bila Haut domaine is no exception.”
Jeb Dunnuck

Michel Chapoutier's portfolio extends beyond his native Rhône valley, encompassing outposts in regions as diverse as Alsace and Victoria. It is the rugged hills of Roussillon where the wines are most similar to those of Michel's beloved Northern Rhône. Jeb Dunnuck points out as much, highlighting the parallels between these wines and those of Hermitage and St Joseph. There is no doubt of the quality of the terroir in this corner of France and with such an obsessive perfectionist as Chapoutier in the driving seat, these wines express it to the full.



These are some of the finest expression of this Catalan terroir made, the top with the R.I., V.I.T and Chrysopée taking their place alongside the likes of Le Méal and L'Ermite as part of Chapoutier's élite 'Sélections Parcelaires' range. These are true terroir-expressive fine wines, sold at a fraction of the prices of their peers from more established regions.

Domaine de Bila-Haut 'Les Vignes de Bila-Haut' 2020 Côtes du Roussillon-Villages



£40 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving late 2022

90 Jeb Dunnuck

“Bottled in April, the 2020 Côtes Du Roussillon Villages Bila Haut (55% Syrah and 45% Grenache) offers lots of jammy black and blue fruits as well as peppery herbs. It's ripe, medium to full-bodied, and opulent while still holding onto a terrific sense of purity.”

90 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, January 2022

Domaine de Bila-Haut 'Chrysopée' 2020 Collioure



£160 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving mid-2023

94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

“One of my favorite wines from this incredibly beautiful appellation, the 2020 Collioure Chrysopée is 85% Grenache and 15% Mourvèdre, always from the same parcel, that's brought up 80% in concrete tanks and 20% in demi-muids. Offering lots of red and blue fruits as well as spice, exotic flowers, and some flinty mineral notes, this beauty is medium to full-bodied, has ripe tannins, and a seamless, incredibly elegant profile. It should drink well right out of the gate, and while I don't think Collioure are particularly age-worthy, I see no reason this shouldn't easily have 7-8 years, if not a decade of longevity.”

94-96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, January 2022

Domaine de Bila-Haut 'V.I.T.' 2020 Côtes du Roussillon-Villages



£195 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving mid-2023

95-97 Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2020 Côtes Du Roussillon Villages Latour De France Visitare Interiore Terrae is a slightly more Grenache-driven release since 2019, and I think it shows more elegance and purity because of it. All destemmed and aged in a mix of concrete tanks and once-used demi-muids, it offers a beautiful perfume of kirsch and black berry fruits intermixed with more subtle pepper, garrigue, and floral notes. Ripe, medium to full-bodied, and elegant on the palate, it's going to have plenty of up-front appeal as well as 10-15 years of prime drinking.”

95-97 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, January 2022

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Domaine de Bila-Haut
'R.I.' 2020
Côtes du Roussillon-Villages



£315 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving mid-2023

95-97 Jeb Dunnuck

"The other flagship release is the 2020 Côtes Du Roussillon Villages Lesquerde Rectificando Invenies, a more Syrah-dominated blend of 60/40 Syrah to Grenache. Medium to full-bodied, pure, and incredibly well-balanced on the palate, it has a complex nose of dark fruits, peppered meats, and violets to go with a terrific, crushed rock-like sense of minerality. As with the VIT release, the purity of fruit is about as good as it gets."
95-97 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, January 2022

Domaine de Bila-Haut
'Les Vignes de Bila-Haut'
Blanc 2020
Côtes du Roussillon-Villages



£40 per 6 IB
Drink to 2023
Arriving late 2022

91 Jeb Dunnuck

"Based largely on Grenache Blanc, with 20% Roussanne and 10% each of Grenache Gris and Macabeu, the 2020 Côtes Du Roussillon Bila Haut Blanc offers up a terrific sense of minerality as well as notes of ripe pear, melon, and crushed citrus. It's fresh and elegant, with bright acidity and outstanding length."
91 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, January 2022

Domaine de Bila-Haut
'Chrysopée' Blanc 2020
Collioure



£175 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving mid-2023

95+ Jeb Dunnuck

"Just bottled 10 days before this tasting, the 2020 Collioure Chrysopée Blanc ranks with the finest whites coming from the South of France. A blend of 90% Grenache Gris and 10% Grenache Blanc raised in 30% demi-muids, it offers a vibrant, medium-bodied, fresh, almost chiseled style as well as beautiful melon, honeyed mineral, and pear-like aromas and flavors. I love its mid-palate, and it has a bright, crystalline texture followed by a great finish. Hide bottles for a year of two and enjoy over the following decade."
95+ Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, January 2022

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Ferraton Père et Fils

“The quality at this tiny Hermitage-based estate continues to increase in almost every vintage. Run by the team at Chapoutier since the early 2000s, they release a large number of cuvees (mostly negociant), yet their estate releases are made in tiny quantities, are all extremely high quality, and continue to represent screaming values.”

Jeb Dunnuck

He's a good chap, Michel Chapoutier. When family friends the Ferratons fell on hard times and started to sell-off parcels of land, in stepped Chapoutier with an injection of cash and just as importantly, winemaking talent. Ferraton Père et Fils has been kept as a separate entity rather than subsumed into the Chapoutier holdings, but what is arguably the best winemaking team in the Rhône applies its expertise to these wines just as they do to those featuring Chapoutier's own name.

The result today is a range of wines that, like Chapoutier's, performs right across the quality spectrum, but at prices that are scarcely believable given the out-and-out quality being produced here. As Jeb Dunnuck puts it: "The only drawback to these wines is that, by and large, they're made in tiny quantities".

2020 sees a slight stylistic change with the reds as Ferraton dabble with the partial use of whole bunch fermentation. This should make the wines even better ageing candidates, even if they were trickier to decode from barrel. Our selection represents the pick of the bunch.



Ferraton Père et Fils 'Pichères' 2020 Crozes-Hermitage



£90 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving Mid-2022

91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

15.5 Jancis Robinson

"The 2020 Crozes-Hermitage Lieu Dit Les Pichères is juicy and up-front, as are all of the 2020 Crozes from Ferraton. Blue fruits, pepper, and bay leaf notes give way to a medium-bodied barrel sample that has ripe, pure fruit, good balance, and supple tannins."

91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Ferraton Père et Fils 'Patou' 2020 Cornas



£145 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving Mid-2022

94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

94 Decanter

"I think a solid step up at this point, the 2020 Cornas Lieu-Dit Patou comes from a single vineyard of granite soils and was destemmed and is still aging in 15% new barrels. Bouquet garni, bay leaf, iron, and both red and blue fruits emerge on the nose, and it's medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and beautifully balanced. I love its tannins as well as its purity of fruit."

94-96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Ferraton Père et Fils 'Les Miaux' 2020 Hermitage



£215 per 6 IB
Drink to 2034
Arriving Mid-2022

94 Decanter

92-94 Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2020 Hermitage Les Miaux has a ripe, rounded, pure style that certainly has lots to love. Offering classic blackberry and cassis fruit (maybe even some black cherry) as well as spice and loamy earth, it's wonderfully textured, has ripe tannins, and a great finish."

92-94 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

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Ferraton Père et Fils
'Les Miaux' Blanc 2020
Hermitage



£190 per 6 IB
Drink to 2026
Arriving Mid-2022

95 Decanter

94+ Jeb Dunnuck

"Beautifully perfumed, so pure, with a floating floral aroma. Apricot and pear on the palate, this has power, definition and a focused, long, tapered finish with an intensely saline, mineral skein. Typically a well-priced Hermitage cuvée and the quality is very good this year."

95 Pts Matt Walls, Decanter.com, October 2021

Domaine Rostaing

"Young Pierre Rostaing has been on a roll, making some of the best wines in Côte Rôtie from his family's choice parcels in La Landonne, La Côte Blonde and Côte Brune. It's my impression that the quality of the blended Ampodium is also reaching new heights, although it cannot compete with the near perfection achieved by the single-vineyard wines"

Joe Czerwinski, RobertParker.com

There are three key things to know about the wines of Domaine Rostaing. The first is that only a very small proportion of new oak is used, allowing the purity of the fruit to shine through. Secondly, high proportions of whole bunch fermentation are used, giving structure to the wines and making them 'vins de garde' rather than ones to drink immediately upon release. Finally and most importantly, they are truly excellent, with René's son Pierre crafting to perfection the fruit of some of Côte-Rôtie's most enviable vineyard holdings. Rostaing's Côte-Rôties are not the cheapest on the market, but when the quality is compared with others both within the appellation and more widely in France, the prices are more than justifiable.



Domaine Rostaing 'Les
Lézardes' Syrah 2020
Collines Rhodaniennes IGP



£220 per 12 IB
Drink to 2026
Arriving Late 2022

89-92 Jeb Dunnuck

"Lots of violets, pepper, and blue and black fruits emerge from the 2020 Vin De Pays Des Collines Rhodaniennes Les Lezardes, a medium-bodied, nicely balanced, charming Syrah that's ideal for enjoying over the coming 7-8 years."

89-92 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com February 2022

Domaine Rostaing
'Ampodium' 2020
Côte-Rôtie



£250 per 6 IB
Drink to 2030
Arriving Late 2022

93 Decanter

18 Jancis Robinson

91-93 Robert Parker

"The 2020 Côte Rôtie Ampodium is well worth seeking out, and it's been a great value now in just about every vintage I've tasted. Medium to full-bodied, pure, elegant, and balanced, it has lots of textbook Côte Rôtie red and black fruits, violets, and peppery herbs, with some graphite and minerality as well. It's clearly an outstanding wine, and I'd be happy to drink a bottle any time over the coming 10-12 years or more."

91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com February 2022

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**Domaine Rostaing
'La Landonne' 2020
Côte-Rôtie**



£510 per 6 IB
Drink to 2036+
Arriving Late 2022

96 Decanter

95-97 Jeb Dunnuck

94-96 Robert Parker

"Classically dark, brooding fruits, this has length and depth, with good balance even though the acidity is quite low. With its intense and muscular tannins, this is for the long term. Four weeks in tank, 18 months in oak (limited newoak), with natural yeasts and as many stems as possible."
96 Pts Matt Walls, Decanter.com October 2021

Guigal

"This is a huge lineup, yet the theme across the entire range is incredible quality"
Jeb Dunnuck

What can be said about Guigal that hasn't been said already? Despite a large production, the focus on quality is truly impressive, with the winemaking team always winning out over the accountants if a parcel ought to be rejected for quality reasons, despite the many thirsty clients around the world that need satisfying. At the top end of the Guigal tree when it comes to whites is the Condrieu supercuvée 'La Doriane' and Saint-Joseph 'Lieu-Dit Saint Joseph' and it is these we feature along with the excellent value Crozes-Hermitage and the stupendous value Côtes-du-Rhône, both unbeatable in terms of value, as ever.



**Guigal 2020
Côtes-du-Rhône**



£50 per 6 IB
Drink to 2024
Arriving mid-2022

90 Jeb Dunnuck

90 Robert Parker

"The Viognier-dominated 2020 Côtes Du Rhône Blanc has a pretty, honeyed, white flower, and peach-driven style as well as medium-bodied richness on the palate. The consistency and quality this family gets in these larger production Cotes du Rhône (both red and white) never ceases to amaze me. Drink this impeccably made white over the coming year or two."
90 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com February 2022

"The 2020 Cotes du Rhone Blanc is even more floral and expressive than usual, fresh and vibrant, with a touch of ripe apricot flavor as well. It's medium to full-bodied, plump, silky-textured and long on the finish. Drink it over the next couple of years."
90 Pts Joe Czerwinski, RobertParker.com February 2022

**Guigal 2020
Crozes-Hermitage**



£95 per 6 IB
Drink to 2025
Arriving mid-2022

89-91 Jeb Dunnuck

16 Jancis Robinson

85-87 Robert Parker

"The 2020 Crozes-Hermitage Blanc should be outstanding, offering a fresh, focused, nicely balanced style. Some classic peach and stone fruits dominate the bouquet, and it's going to drink nicely right out of the gate."
89-91 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com February 2022

"The plump, gently honeyed 2020 Crozes Hermitage Blanc showed a touch of enlivening carbon dioxide when tasted from tank. Medium to full-bodied, it offers ripe melon and pear notes, plus a hint of bitterness on the finish."
85-87 Pts Joe Czerwinski, RobertParker.com February 2022

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**Guigal 'Lieu-Dit' 2020
Saint-Joseph**



£195 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving mid-2022

96 Jeb Dunnuck

93 Decanter

91-93+ Robert Parker

"One of the whites of the vintage in the appellation, the 2020 Saint Joseph Lieu-Dit Saint Joseph Blanc has awesome notes of quince, grilled peach, honeysuckle, and spicy wood. With medium to full-bodied richness, the balance is perfect, its oak is nicely integrated, and it has a great finish."

96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com February 2022

"Intense, tangy pear and almond nougat, preserved lemon and oak spice. Full-bodied but not as massive as some years, this is very well-balanced, the oak riding in with a toasty fanfare on the finish. Guigal has 5.5ha of this lieu-dit, 2.5ha of which are white varieties and these are planted at the top of the hill. Aged in oak barriques, 50% new, 50% one-year-old. Picked before the Viognier this year."

93 Pts Matt Walls, Decanter.com October 2021

**Guigal 'La Doriane' 2020
Condrieu**



£340 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving mid-2022

99 Jeb Dunnuck

95 James Suckling

95 Decanter

"Just about pure perfection and one of the finest Condrieu to pass my lips, the 2020 Condrieu La Doriane offers an insane bouquet of grilled pineapple, charcoal, crushed stone, acacia flowers, and white peach. It picks up an incredibly sense of salinity on the palate and is full-bodied, has blockbuster concentration, remarkable purity and focus, and a great finish. I like this beast/beauty today, but it will keep for a decade."

99 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com February 2022

"What a fascinatingly smoky and flinty nose this Condrieu has! I love the touches of vanilla bean, mandarin orange peel and jasmine that emerge as you swirl the glass. It masters a remarkable balance on the expansive and subtle palate, a hint of bitterness helping to balance the softness and creaminess of the long finish. Drink or hold."

95 Pts James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com March 2022

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Domaine Courbis

“An estate that readers need to have on their radar is that of Brothers Laurent and Dominique Courbis, in the village of Châteaubourg. The entire lineup is a treasure trove of quality wines, which can generally be found at reasonable prices”

Jeb Dunnuck

Situated on the opposite side of the Rhône from the point of its confluence with the Isère, Domaine Courbis is the southernmost independent estate in the Saint-Joseph appellation. It has been in family hands since the 16th Century.

Laurent Courbis, who today runs the estate with his brother Dominique calls 2020 “a perfect vintage” and it is hard to disagree with this assessment given the quality of the wines on show.

There is only one problem – Saint-Joseph and Cornas are perhaps two of the least known and appreciated red Rhône appellations with UK drinkers. We feel we would be doing a massive disservice to our customers to simply pass these wines by for that reason. Instead, we are listing them and recommend wholeheartedly that you find a space for them in your cellar! You will not regret it.



Domaine Courbis 2020 Saint-Joseph



£85 per 6 IB
Drink to 2028
Arriving late 2022

91-93 Jeb Dunnuck

“The appellation 2020 Saint Joseph sports a dense purple color as well as a terrific bouquet of ripe black (and some blue) fruits supported by lots of peppery herbs, wet stone, and graphite-like nuances. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, concentrated, and beautifully textured, it's another brilliant wine from this team that's going to deliver the goods.”
91-93 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Domaine Courbis 'La Cotte Sud' 2020 Saint-Joseph



£170 per 6 IB
Drink to 2032
Arriving late 2022

94-96 Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2020 Saint Joseph La Cotte Sud offers a more opulent, expansive, full-bodied style as well as rocking levels of black raspberry fruits, camphor, dried herbs, and peppery aromas and flavors. I love its texture, and while it's going to be more approachable than the more structured, inward Les Royes, I suspect it will evolve for just as long given its balance.”
94-96 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, February 2022

Domaine Courbis 'Les Eygats' 2020 Cornas



£195 per 6 IB
Drink to 2034
Arriving late 2022

96-99 Jeb Dunnuck

16.5+ Jancis Robinson

“From a cooler terroir in the northern part of the appellation, the 2020 Cornas Les Eygats is inky purple and gives up a powerful, full-bodied, concentrated style offering loads of minerality as well as blue fruit, pepper, pen ink, and graphite aromas and flavors. Reminding me of the 2010, this dense, rich, massive Cornas is going to require bottle age, but it's insanely good.”
96-99 Pts Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com February 2022

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- Our En Primeur prices are the 'in bond' cost. The first instalment covers the cost of the wine itself, and when the wine is ready, you can decide whether to keep the wine in bond, or pay the Duty and VAT or other taxes or import tariffs (including but not limited to the imposition of any new or replacement duty or tariff by the WTO or any other competent authority domestic or international).
- No discount or vouchers shall apply to En Primeur wines.
- When we place your order we will send you a reservation certificate to the address provided by you. You will not receive any wine at this time. Although should you be a Premiere or Charter Plus member and order 12 or more bottles, we will send you your usual complimentary bottle(s).
- Wines ordered through our En Primeur service can only be cancelled within 14 days of placing the order. A full refund of any payment made up to this point will be given on receipt of written notification of the cancellation of the order. Due to the nature of the En Primeur sales we regret that orders cannot be cancelled after this time.
- When the wine arrives with us in the UK, we will send you the final invoice. This invoice will include the delivery cost to a UK address, duty (currently £2.23 per 0.75l bottle excl VAT for wines 15% abv and under and £2.98 for those above), plus the VAT applicable on the day of the final invoice (currently 20%). Upon payment of the appropriate amount we will action your despatch instructions.
- If you do not contact us with instructions within 6 weeks of your wines being ready, we will place the wines into bonded storage on your behalf and at your cost. For further details please refer to our full Ts & Cs.
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- We can store your wine (both 'duty paid' or 'in bond') in ideal, long-term cellar conditions. Please contact us for further details.
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- All wines are insured by us at the original invoice value until your delivery and/or storage instructions have been completed.
- All goods are offered subject to availability. If the wines you have selected are unavailable we will contact you to advise you of this. If the producer fails to supply us with the wine we will contact you with available alternatives or offer a refund of monies paid.
- Force Majeure – Direct Wines Ltd/Laithwaite's Wine will not be liable for failure to meet agreed obligations due to prevailing circumstances including but not limited to any act of God, war, strike, lock-out, industrial accident or other event beyond its reasonable control.
- All disputes arising out of this contract shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
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15.07.22

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