

## **Pre-Shipment Offer: mostly 2019s and mostly from the Rhône**

2019 was one of those magical vintages when everything fell into place and the Rhône was no exception. Good acidity levels have ensured freshness in the wines, helped by the long, drawn-out summer. Whereas the charts will assert that it was a blazingly hot summer, the reality was that it was a beautifully drawn-out season without the extreme highs of the two previous years. By late summer, growers were praying for rain but, otherwise, everything was as close to perfection as anyone could wish. The resulting wines are, in the main, gorgeous.

Many of the people we work with are not geared up for *en primeur* offers – the ever-popular Château Juvenal, for example, just offers what it has currently available (so we expect to offer their 2018 reds at some point this year) – so this offer is limited to just three estates but all of them are making fantastic wines and we have been fortunate enough to have tasted almost everything in this offer, despite all the recent restrictions. We have also included the Beaucastel/Perrin wines with the offer below although quantities of some wines are increasingly restricted.

Other vintages are included in the offer, in particular some white wines from 2020 which was a more classic vintage with less extreme weather conditions so expect the white wines to benefit from this. We have been unable to taste any of these wines, of course.

If there are any wines from any of these producers not in the offer below but which are of interest to you, please get in touch as they may be available.

### **Pierre Gaillard, Northern Rhône**



Pierre is one of the northern Rhône's most dynamic winemakers, creating his eponymous and ever-expanding estate in the 1980s and then going on to launch another estate in the region, named after and run by his oldest daughter, Jeanne, and buying estates in the Languedoc (Cotebrune, see below) and Roussillon (Madeloc, run by his younger daughter Elise) as well as creating, with two other top winemakers in the region, Vins de Vienne.

The region experienced a truly great vintage in 2019 and Pierre's red wines are his best since 2015. The white wines from 2020 will be fresher than the previous vintages.

#### **White wines**

##### **St Peray 2020 Blanc @ £72 per 6 bottles in bond**

The 50/50 blend of Marsanne and Roussanne works extremely well here with crispness and fat perfectly aligned.

**St Joseph 2020 Blanc @ £87 per 6 bottles in bond**

100% Roussanne, aged in 5% new barrels. This is a very aromatic wine that gains much with age. The red wine drinker's white wine? Drink to 2026.

**Condrieu 2020 @ £135 per 6 bottles in bond**

Pure Viognier, of course, but 10% aged in new oak so it benefits from a little bottle age for the fruit to shake off any vanilla character (the oak benefits the mouthfeel though). Tropical fruits abound.

**"Grapillage" Vin de raisins surmûris blanc (half litre bottles) @ £105 per 6x50cl in bond**

As the name tells us, this is wine made from over-ripened grapes, specifically Roussanne and Viognier, which have become botrytised following a series of hot days and foggy nights. With over 25° potential alcohol, the wine has residual sugar of 220g/l and is correspondingly rich.

**Condrieu 2020 "Jeanne-Elise" (half bottles) @ £126 per 6x37.5cl in bond**

Named after both of Pierre's daughters, this is one of Pierre's innovations for Condrieu. Grapes are dehydrated on racks for up to seven weeks to increase concentration. This makes the fermentation difficult and it stops around 10° with residual sugar at 200g/l. Because only the best grapes are used, there is good acidity giving the wine a delightful freshness alongside the sweet tropical fruit.

**Condrieu 2020 "L'Octroi" @ £165 per 6 bottles in bond**

A super-concentrated and complex version of the regular Condrieu, barrel fermented to allow a touch of oxygenation to bring out the aromas without over-extraction. Always a very fine Condrieu.

**Red wines****Cornas 2019 @ £135 per 6 bottles in bond**

A top flight Cornas from Pierre this year. From 70-year-old vines, the Cornas comes from the region's most southerly red wine appellation so there is a little more drive here. Richer fruit and more assertive tannins but this is one of Pierre's wines so everything is in check. From 2025.

**St Joseph 2019 "Clos de Cuminaile" @ £87 per 6 bottles in bond**

One of the best CdCs I have tasted, the 2019 vintage has given a little more richness to the fruit but still it tends towards the red fruit end of the Syrah spectrum. Pretty. From 2023.

**St Joseph 2019 "Les Pierres" @ £126 per 6 bottles in bond**

In many ways the antithesis of CdC, Pierres is a selection of the best St Joseph Syrah. Bolder and more structured offering plenty of black fruit. Fabulous Syrah; St Joseph at its best. Best from around 2027.

**IGP 2019 "Asiaticus" @ £144 per 6 bottles in bond**

A hidden treasure but more people are discovering the delights of wines from Seyssuel, the vineyard replanted by Pierre with his Vins de Vienne colleagues. Pierre has his own plot there from which Asiaticus hails. Côte Rôtie in style – elegant and refined – but with a sense of the schist soils. It is anticipated that the area will soon be granted Côtes de Seyssuel status so expect prices to rise fairly sharply. For now, this is the equivalent of prestige Côte Rôtie for less than the entry level wines.

**Côte Rôtie 2019 @ £165 per 6 bottles in bond**

Co-planted with a little Viognier (about 10%) which contributes to the aromas and also brings a little added fat to the wine. Very smooth tannins and plenty of delicious, ripe fruit.

### **Côte Rôtie 2019 “Esprit de Blonde” @ £285 per 6 bottles in bond**

As the name suggests, this comes from the Côte Blonde so, reasonably enough, it tends towards the elegant, pretty side of Côte Rôtie wines. Best from five or six years after the vintage when the fruit will take centre stage.

### **Côte Rôtie 2019 “Rose Pourpre” @ £360 per 6 bottles in bond**

Côte Rozier is known for power and finesse and Pierre has certainly achieved these with this wine. The richness and ripeness of the fruit is apparent when you consider that 50% of the wine is aged in new barrels but these barely register on the palate. A remarkable Syrah to enjoy from 2025 to 2035+

## **Jeanne Gaillard**

Pierre’s daughter Jeanne oversees another set of holdings in the area from which she (under the watchful eye of Pierre), produces some increasingly good – and good value – wines, mostly mono-varietal. The St Joseph “La Relève” is particularly good this year.

### **Red wine**

### **St Joseph 2019 “La Relève” @ £75 per 6 bottles in bond**

The black Syrah fruit has a distinctive smoky character reminiscent of Côte Rôtie. Good acidity, this will drink well until the end of the decade.

## **Domaine Brusset, Gigondas and Cairanne**



Laurent is understandably upbeat about things despite having few visitors in the last year. His latest releases are sublime. As always, alcohol levels here are more restrained than at most estates thanks in the main to earlier harvesting which also helps to achieve attractively perky acidity. There is a relatively new Cairanne cuvée, “Sans sulfites ajoutés” which will appeal to anyone who has allergies. Otherwise, the range remains the same: if it ain’t broke...

### **White wines**

### **Cairanne 2020 Blanc “Les Travers” @ £45 per 6 bottles in bond**

A field blend of southern Rhône white grapes, the *Travers* bottling is pure and classic in style. A wine that is constant.

### **Cairanne 2019 “Esprit de Papet” @ £69 per 6 bottles in bond**

Predominantly Roussanne, this is a wine that benefits from a few years in the bottle to shake off the

oak (so useful for structure but it detracts from the fruit too much during the wine's adolescence) to develop its potential nutty character. A big step up from *Les Travers*, this promises to be a gorgeous wine at 5 to 10 years old.

### Red wines

#### **Cairanne 2019 Rouge "Les Travers" @ £45 per 6 bottles in bond**

This is a wine that needs three or four years from the vintage to reveal its worth as a wine that

#### **Cairanne 2020 "Sans sulfites ajoutés" @ £45 per 6 bottles in bond**

Similar in style to *Les Travers* but the lack of added sulphites means the fruit is purer and, at times, a little funky. This is one to drink relatively young, certainly within five years of the vintage.

#### **Rasteau 2019 "La Bastide" @ £54 per 6 bottles in bond**

Just Grenache and Mourvèdre in this wine which has a lovely black fruit character and plenty of spice accompanied by smooth tannins. Best from 2024.

#### **Cairanne 2019 "Vieilles Vignes" @ £60 per 6 bottles in bond**

Formerly "Les Chabriles" after the vineyard, the 80-year-old Vieilles Vignes are Syrah and Grenache aged in vats and previously used barrels to give a powerful expression of the region's two main grapes working together harmoniously (a 2013 was rather good in February 2021 so the far better 2019 vintage promises great things). With the Gigondas costing only a little more, this Cairanne is all too often overlooked and, as such, offers fantastic value.

#### **Gigondas 2019 "Le Grand Montmirail" @ £69 per 6 bottles in bond**

Always a reliable wine (a half bottle of the 2010 was drinking extremely well at the start of 2021) and one of the best values in Gigondas, Laurent's LGM is a classic GSM blend with a little Cinsault thrown in. The wine is modern in style which means it is fruit forward and very drinkable from a couple of years after the vintage but it ages well for over a decade.

#### **Cairanne 2016 "Hommage à André Brusset" @ £102 per 6 bottles in bond**

Probably Cairanne's top wine, this was first made in 1999 to celebrate the life of Laurent's grandfather who founded the estate and it is only made in the very best vintages. Made from old vine Grenache and Mourvèdre, it is a wine that benefits from ageing and will be at its best from ten years after the vintage.

#### **Gigondas 2019 "Les Hauts de Montmirail" @ £114 per 6 bottles in bond**

For a long time, this was one of a handful of wines that was regularly a contender for wine of the vintage. It remains in that league although the Perrins of Beaucastel and one or two others have joined the race. That said, Laurent now makes another prestige *cuvée* which takes Gigondas to yet another level (see below). HdM is made from grapes grown high in the hills above Gigondas and aged in a blend of old and new barrels (gone are the days of almost all new oak, thankfully) so elegance and finesse combine with power to make a heady wine. Drink from 2025 at the earliest.

#### **Gigondas 2019 "Secrets de Montmirail" @ £186 per 6 bottles in bond**

Given the pricing of some other top *cuvées* from Gigondas, SdM is quite modest. The Grenache and Syrah are from the very highest parts of the hills, just below the ridge of the Dentelles de Montmirail, harvested at low yields and aged in 30% new oak. This wine exudes power and finesse along with the sweet fruit and smooth tannins but needs 10 years to show at its best.

## **Raymond Usseglio/Stéphane Usseglio, Châteauneuf-du-Pape**



Stef Usseglio continues to develop as a winemaker and to experiment with techniques. In the last few vintages he has, along with others in the region and beyond, introduced amphora for ageing some of his new cuvées, in particular the religiously themed spectacular “Les Apôtres” Châteauneuf and “La Création” Côtes du Rhône. Other new wines include a remarkable 100% Clairette and a 100% Cinsault cuvée.

All wines in this offer are certified organic and biodynamic.

### **White wines**

#### **Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020 Blanc “Tradition” @ £114 per 6 bottles in bond**

Grenache and Roussanne dominate the blend which is aged in barrels giving it structure to age well over a decade.

#### **Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2018 “Pure Clairette” (magnums only) @ £210 per 3 magnums in bond**

From north-facing vineyards, this pure Clairette, aged in *demi-muids* is a revelation.

#### **Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2020 “Pure Roussane” @ £222 per 6 bottles in bond**

Always one of the appellation’s greatest whites, Stef’s Roussanne has power and elegance in equal measure.

### **Red wines**

#### **Côtes du Rhône 2019 “Les Claux” @ £48 per 6 bottles in bond**

60% Grenache with the balance equal parts Syrah and Mourvèdre from the opposite side of the river at St Genies de Comolas. But made with the same care as the Châteauneufs. As so often is the case, this is one of the region’s outstanding bargains.

#### **Lirac 2017 “Charles 1<sup>er</sup>” Stéphane Usseglio @ £54 per 6 bottles in bond**

Stef has been adding to the family’s portfolio of holdings with this vineyard in Lirac which comprises 70% 80-years-old Grenache along with 20% Syrah (45 years old) and the rest 25 years-old Mourvèdre. Red fruits dominate along with some super-smooth tannins.

#### **Vin de France 2018 “La Création” @ £84 per 6 bottles in bond**

Pure old-vine Grenache from some exceptional *terroirs* with *elevage* in amphora which emphasises the smooth, rich texture of the variety.

#### **Vin de France 2020 “Le Pêche Originel” @ £90 per 6 bottles in bond**

100% Cinsault from vines planted in 1961-62, aged in concrete and with no added sulphites so what you taste is the wine and nothing else.

**Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019 Rouge “Tradition” @ £114 per 6 bottles in bond \***

Mostly Grenache, the *Tradition* cuvée can be drunk decanted on release but, bottled unfiltered and unfiltered, it has structure to last, particularly from the 2019 vintage.

\* 2017 and 2018 available in magnum (please let us know if you are interested).

**Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019 “Impériale” @ £222 per 6 bottles in bond \***

100-year-old vines, mostly Grenache, yielded at just 16 hl/ha make for a fabulously concentrated yet elegant wine which will last for decades. As with any wine of this calibre, it will have highs and lows so we recommend decanting in the first decade or so.

\* 2017 and 2018 available in magnum (please let us know if you are interested).

**Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019 “La Part des Anges” @ £222 per 6 bottles in bond \***

In so many ways, this is an outsider wine: 70% Mourvèdre isn't usual in Châteauneuf, the northern limit for this varietal. Rich and meaty, this has oodles of black fruit and, in its youth, vanilla spice from the barrels. It ages well although it is difficult to know precisely how long for since the first vintage was 2007 (which is still a baby).

\* 2018 available in magnum (please let us know if you are interested).

**Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019 “Les Apôtres” @ £300 per 6 bottles in bond**

The label shows the Last Supper, with each diner representing one of the 13 permitted varietals in Châteauneuf, all of which are used in this amazing wine which starts with manual de-stemming, berry by berry, then left for four months in amphora without any sulphites before the skins are removed and the wines aged a further 18 months in amphora. Only a minimal amount of SO2 is used at bottling. The wine is very intense, velvety and fine. A bottle of the 2017 was enjoyed recently: young but quite astonishing. The better 2019 vintage has great promise.

## **Domaine Cottebrune, Faugères**

Pierre Gaillard's Faugères estate, from the part of the Languedoc producing the highest quality wines, is continuing on its path to making some truly wonderful wines at sensible prices.

### White wine

**Faugères 2020 “Le Cairn” @ £48 per 6 bottles in bond**

Having sold out of the excellent 2019 “Le Cairn”, we are looking forward to adding the 2020 to the list before the summer. A blend of Roussanne, Vermentino and Grenache in equal parts, harvested at a ludicrously low 16 hl/ha and aged in barrels, this a highly complex wine in the making. Fabulous value.

### Red wine

**Faugères 2018 “Transhumance” @ £51 per 6 bottles in bond**

The Syrah-dominated “Transhumance” is a wine that responds well to the vintage conditions and the 2018 offers some fabulously ripe fruit aged 14 months in a mix of barrels and concrete tanks. A mini-Côte Rôtie in style but one which can be enjoyed at four to five years from the vintage.



## Château de Beaucastel and Famille Perrin, Châteauneuf-du-Pape and environs

Previously offered but included here where wines are still available (in limited quantities). As the annual trade tasting was cancelled last October, italicised notes are provided by the Perrins.

### White wine

#### **Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes-du-Rhône 2019 Blanc @ £195 per 12 bottles in bond**

One of the most sought-after wines in the range, in part because it is usually impossible for merchants to get an allocation. This year we were lucky and have a (very) few cases available.

### Red wines

#### **Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Côtes-du-Rhône 2019 Rouge @ £150 per 12 bottles in bond**

*The Coudoulet de Beaucastel Côtes du Rhône 2019 is a wine with a beautiful persistent colour. The nose shows flavours of black fruit, Provençal herbs, leather and "garrigue". The palate is full-bodied and balanced, almost mineral, with very nice tannins and an impressive length! There is a beautiful affiliation with the great wine of Beaucastel...*

#### **Famille Perrin, Vinsobres 2019 'Hauts de Julien' @ £120 per 6 bottles in bond**

The Perrins have a long history of championing Vinsobres and have been working with growers here for decades. One of the best values in the prestige range, this Vinsobres is a blend of Grenache and Syrah in almost equal parts and it shows with much blacker fruit character than other wines display.

#### **Domaine du Clos des Tourelles, Gigondas 2019 @ £205 per 6 bottles in bond**

Located below the village of Gigondas, the Domaine is the last Clos still existing in Gigondas. Its historic three-hectare vineyard of very old Grenache on limestone soils with marly-sand.

*The 2019 vintage has a deep ruby colour. The nose is red fruit, violets, liquorice, and mineral touches. Deep and complex on the palate with characteristic aromas of violet and liquorice, great power and well balanced. The 2019 vintage is of great finesse.*

*A beautiful crystalline and shiny colour with green and golden reflections. The nose is delicate with an attractive bouquet on notes of citrus zest and ginger. Full and complex, the mouth reveals gourmet aromas of apricot and mango and has a long finish enhanced by a little bitterness.*

#### **Famille Perrin, Gigondas 2019 'L'Argnée, Vieilles Vignes' @ £205 per 6 bottles in bond**

A small plot of less than 1 hectare of pre-Phylloxera vines (around 100 years old). The yields are very low and production is limited to 1500 bottles a year. We are fortunate to get a small allocation!

*The wines have a black-purple colour and offer aromas of blackberry, plum and cassis with delicate hints of liquorice. The palate is full-bodied, with very good concentration, with a magnificent tannic structure; the balance between richness and acidity brings great freshness. Grenache at its best!*

#### **Château de Beaucastel, Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2019 Rouge @ £285 per 6 bottles in bond**

*This wine shows a persistent and fairly deep colour. The nose is pure and very elegant on wild black fruit, spices, floral notes with great freshness. On the palate, the wines reveal rich aromas of blueberries and blackcurrant jam with silky and delicate tannins. The finish is powerful and harmonious, with a very good length. An impressive wine full of complexity. A great vintage.*

## **IMPORTANT**

Prices quoted are for wines purchased under bond. As things currently stand, there is duty (currently £26.80 per dozen) and 20% VAT to be added to the cost of the wine, together with any delivery charges. We can store wines for you at our bonded warehouse (duty and VAT are payable prior to release) at just £7 per dozen per annum (ex VAT).

## **HOW TO ORDER**

Please email orders to [sales@bigredwine.co.uk](mailto:sales@bigredwine.co.uk) or call us on 01638 510803