

1824



2024

THE
ATHENÆUM
PALL MALL LONDON

CELEBRATING THE CLUB'S
BICENTENARY YEAR

The Wines of the Northern Rhone

7th March 2024



Hercules Brabazon, The Rhone Valley, a Storm, 1821-1906, Tate (T08587) Photo: Tate released under Creative Commons CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 DEED

Prof. James Crabbe, Chairman

Prof. Frank Larkin

Alistair Cliff Esq.

Charlie Miller Esq., Justerini and Brooks

Menu and Dinner Wines

Apéritif

St Peray, Fleur de Crussol, Alain Voge, 13.5% ABV, 2021



Smoked haddock Quenelle, leek and chive cream sauce

Hermitage Blanc, Blanche, Jean-Louis Chave Selection, 15% ABV, 2019

Condrieu, Coteau de Chery, André Perret, 14.5% ABV, 2020



***Loin of Woburn Abbey venison, Anna potatoes,
braised red cabbage, seasonal vegetables,
wild mushrooms, juniper sauce***

St Joseph, L'Instinct, Domaine Jolivet, 14% ABV, 2019

Cornas, Jana, Johann Michel, 14.5% ABV, 2020

Hermitage, Farconnet, Jean-Louis Chave Selection, 15% ABV, 2019

Côte Rôtie, Les Jumelles, Paul Jaboulet Aine, 13% ABV, 1999



Papillon Noir Roquefort, walnuts, grapes and celery



Strawberry Pavlova

*Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise, Domaine des Bernadins,
15% ABV, 2022*

CÔTE RÔTIE

CONDRIEU

CHATEAU-GRILLET

O VIENNE

VERENAY

AMPUIS

CONDRIEU

CHAVANAY

SAINT-JOSEPH

SAINT-DÉSIRAT

SARRAS

SAINT-VALLIER

GERVANS

CROZES-HERMITAGE

HERMITAGE

TAIN-L'HERMITAGE

ST-JEAN-DE-MUZOLS

TOURNAI-SUR-RHÔNE

MAUVES

CORNAS

CORNAS

SAINT-PÉRAY

O VALENCE

SAINT-PÉRAY

WINE FOLLY



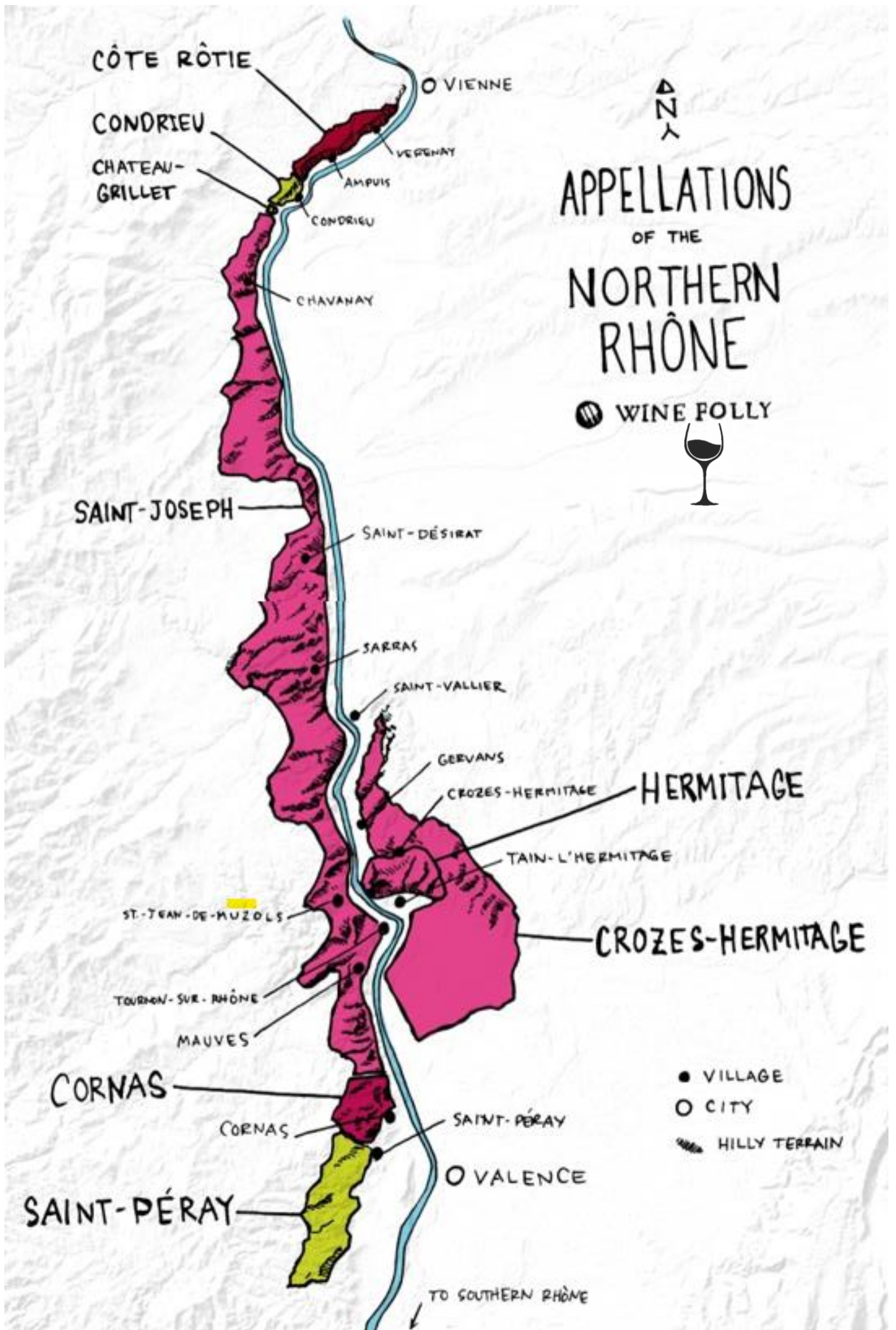
● VILLAGE

O CITY

▨ HILLY TERRAIN

TO SOUTHERN RHÔNE

APPELLATIONS OF THE NORTHERN RHÔNE



“On the banks of the Rhone, after its junction with the Saone, and in the adjacent territories, several precious wines are produced; but, although the vineyards in these departments may be regarded as among the most ancient in France, yet it is only in recent times that the merits of their choicest produce have become fully known” (The History of Ancient and Modern Wines, Alexander Henderson, 1824)

The river Rhone links wine regions as diverse as the Fendant producing Swiss Valais with Chateauneuf du Pape. The northern Rhone region, the Rhone Septentrionale in French, stretches from just south of Lyon to Valence, and is the French domain of the Syrah grape. While Rhone wines were mentioned by Pliny, until the middle of the seventeenth century no mention was made of those of Condrieu and Hermitage. Cote Rotie's fame was established later. The northern Rhone is now well established as a region producing fine wines with a strong quality to price ratio.

Many of the better vineyards of the northern Rhone cling to tall granite hills and banks, with the best vineyards so steep that grapes have to be winched up the slope after picking. Most of the vineyards are on the east facing west bank of the river. Often terraced, these vineyards enjoy full sun for most of the day, as do the south facing vineyards of the famous Hermitage hill.

The region's red wines are made from the Syrah grape, the only grape allowed in northern Rhone red wines. White wines are made from Viognier, Roussanne and Marsanne.

Yields are relatively low, with the entire production of the northern Rhone normally exceeded by the single southern Rhone appellation of Chateauneuf-du-Pape alone.

St Peray, Fleur de Crussol, Alain Voge, 13.5% ABV, 2021

St Peray is a tiny, 98 hectare appellation, immediately south of Cornas and on the outskirts of Valance, famous historically for sparkling wines but in recent years revitalised by high quality still Marsanne. Fleur de Crussol is a 1.5ha plot of 80 year old Marsanne vines, the oldest in the entire appellation. The Crussol mountain range is integral to St Peray's ability to produce the finest white wines, providing the limestone and granite elements that lend lift, poise, and detail to the wines.

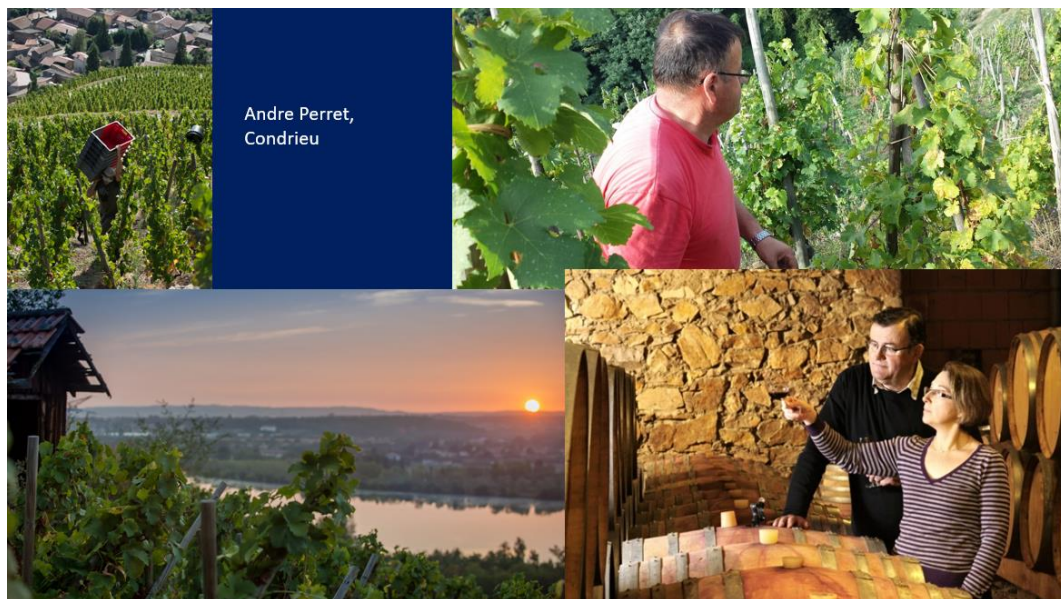


Hermitage Blanc, Blanche, Jean-Louis Chave Selection, 15% ABV, 2019

Domaine Jean-Louis Chave is one of the great historic names in all wine, established in 1481. The current Jean-Louis represents the 16th generation of his family to make wines here and he is one of the select few landowners on the famous Hermitage Hill, with 14 of the 136 hectares. Sourced primarily from the 'Maison Blanche' lieu-dit at the top of the hill, where the soil is an iron-rich clay, and the vines are 50-60 years in age. 100% Marsanne.



Condrieu, Coteau de Chery, André Perret, 14.5% ABV, 2020



Andre Perret is a quietly spoken man but one of Condrieu's true greats, and Coteau de Chery is the pearl of his fine vineyard holdings.

The vines are between 40 and 80 years of age on crumbled sandy granite which allows the roots to go deep and brings a minerality and drive in these wines. 100% Viognier.

St Joseph, L'Instinct, Domaine Jolivet, 14% ABV, 2019



Bastien Jolivet is regarded as one of the great upcoming stars of the Northern Rhone. He established the domaine only in 2014 having decided to

make his own wine rather than selling fruit to cooperatives. He has prime old vine vineyards on the vertiginous granite slope of Saint-Jean-de-Muzols, one of St Joseph's original communes. He was named Discovery of the Year in 2020 by Le Revue des Vins de France.

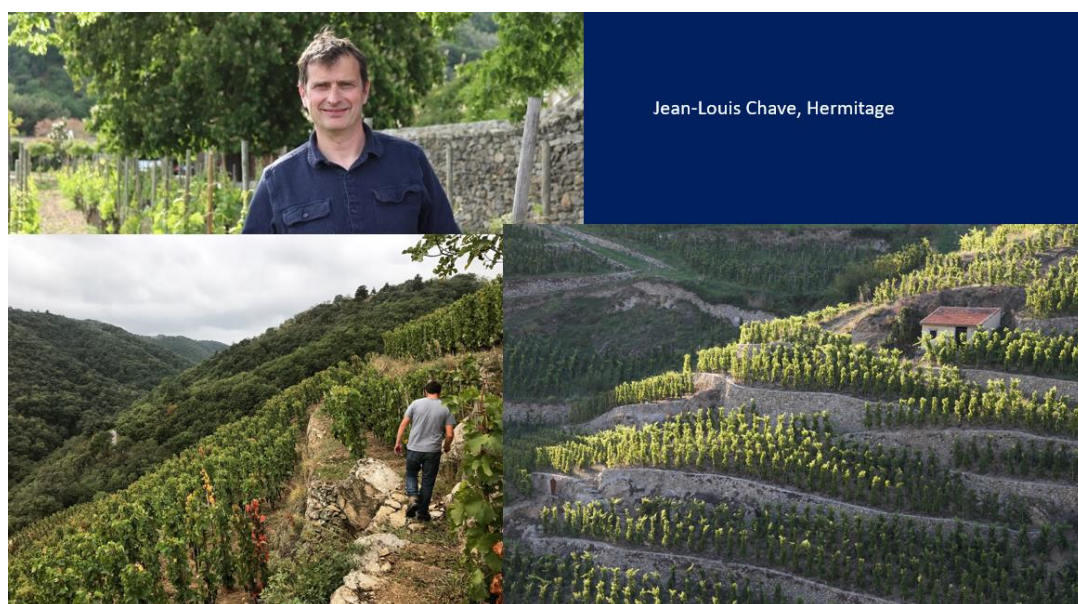
Cornas, Jana, Johann Michel, 14.5% ABV, 2020



Johann Michel began making wine under his own label in 1997 and to this day works just 5ha, a tiny operation but boasting 15 plots in some of the great

Cornas locations. His Jana cuvee is a whole bunch fermentation (stems and all) that combines polished fruit with a pot pourri of spice and fine tannins.

Hermitage, Farconnet, Jean-Louis Chave Selection, 15% ABV, 2019



Jean-Louis Chave's Farconnet, named after the original owner from whom their vineyards were purchased, combines both

declassified Domaine Hermitage and some negoce fruit from prime lieu-dits on the Hermitage hill. Aged in neutral oak for a more approachable and open-knit wine, it shows all the impeccable class of the Chave stable.

Côte Rôtie, Les Jumelles, Paul Jaboulet Aine, 13% ABV, 1999



The 'twins', this is a marriage of two great Cote Rotie terroirs, the Cote Blonde, from which a supple, elegant and rounded

fruit is harvested, and the more muscular, powerful, and deeply structured Cote Brune.

Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise, Domaine des Bernadins, 15% ABV, 2022



Domaine des Bernadins,
Beaumes-de-Venise



A brief excursion into the Southern Rhone. Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise is a "vin doux naturel", made, like port, by

introducing wine brandy during the alcoholic fermentation in order to preserve the natural sugars in the wine. Composed of 75% Muscat à petits grains blancs and 25% Muscat à petits grains noirs.

Members and Guests

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Dr Colin Barrow
Richard Borchard Esq
Dr Beatrice Brandon
Archie Breare Esq
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