

# PIERRE USSEGLIO

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

**P**ierre Usseglio and his two sons Jean-Pierre and Thierry are among numerous Usseglios in Châteauneuf. Their ancestors came from around Asti so, but for accident of history, one could imagine the family today giving the Rivettis a run for their money. In view of both estates' rapid rise to fame and spectacular quality, the comparison is not at all far-fetched.

Furthermore - like the Rivettis in this respect as well - Pierre and his sons have taken their recent fame as an opportunity to further ratchet-up their quality (and further hold down their yields). The profits (if not a fortune) have been invested in the purchase or rental of some superb new sites.

At present, the Pierre Usseglio Châteauneuf represents an assemblage of separately vinified wines from parcels in La Crau, Les Serres, and La Bedine, the last-named a next-door neighbor of Rayas. There is also since 1998 a special cuvée named "Mon Aïeul". The meaning is much like that of the Sabons' "Papet" except that in this instance, it seems to be homage to Usseglio's own "grandpa" rather than to "grandpa vines"! The younger generation receives recognition in another cuvée begun this year, and named "Reserve des Deux Frères", a wine whose varietal composition may change from year to year and which is raised in a combination of older fûdres and new barrique.

The transition from selling their wine to négociants to virtual stardom as estate bottlers has been accomplished at this address within a generation. How many other great Châteauneuf terroirs and talented visionaries, one wonders, will turn up in the early twenty-first century to give us superb new wines?



**“Wine Personalities of the Year:** These brothers have taken a well-known estate and pushed the envelope of quality. Their three cuvés of Châteauneuf du Pape are riveting wines of multiple dimensions and complexity. This is one of the undeniable superstar estates of France.”

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate**  
12/01; 2/04

Rhône

## **Pierre Usseglio Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

Variety: *Grenache, Mourvedre (6% in “regular”), Syrah (10% in “regular”), a little Cinsault, Counoise and Muscardin. “Aïeul” is 95:05 Grenache; Cinsault; “Deux Frères” 50:50 Grenache* Syrah.

Total acreage: 79 acres

Average production: 5,500 cs.

Vinificatory details: *Aging is split between older ovals and new small barrels, the latter especially for the “Deux Frères”*

## **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

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**“Cuvée de mon Aïeul”**

### **Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

**“Réserve des Deux Frères”**