

Clos Des Papes

Chateauneuf du Pape

Rhone Valley

Chateaunuf du Pape

OVERVIEW

The Avril family has been making wine at Clos de Papes since the 18th century. Paul-Vincent was trained at wine school in Dijon, as was his father. This training and philosophy in Burgundy is evident in their philosophy towards winemaking in Châteauneuf-du-Pape- the wines of the appellation are able to attain richness, power and age-ability, the Avril's also want to achieve finesse and balance. Today, the property has 32 hectares, of which 3 hectares are the white varieties. There are twenty four different parcels spread around the town which allows for the various terroirs playing a role in the expression of the wine. They practice strict selection of 50+ year old vines and have some of the lowest yields in the appellation. The Avril's also practice destemming, which they have been doing since 1991. The wine is vinified in ceramic-lined vats and spends a year in large, old foudres.

Varieties: Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Cinsault
Total Acreage: 23 acres
Average Production: 2000 cases



Paul and Vincent Avril



Accolades for Vincent, son of the late Paul Avril

"I have participated in so many exceptional tastings with Paul Avril that it is difficult for me to accept that his brilliant son, Vincent, may be eclipsing the work of his father. Vincent, trained in Burgundy, appears to be pushing things to an even higher level of quality. Nothing has changed in these cellars; everything is still as traditional as you will find. All the wines are kept in foudre, and the red Chateauneuf du Pape blend is one of only a handful in the appellation that contains increasing amounts of Muscardin, Vaccarese, and Cunoise along with 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre, and some Syrah." - Robert Parker, #179 10/08

"Clos des Papes has always been considered one of the appellation's reference-point wines. Sometimes such a reputation does not mesh with ones tasting experiences, but the Clos des Papes wines are brilliant...Clos des Papes is one of the appellation's longest lived wines..." - The World's Greatest Wine Estates, Robert Parker

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- the winemaking at Clos des Papes remains as it has for the last sixty years. It is based on meticulous vineyard work and grape selection, fermentation in tank and ageing in large, old oak casks.

WINES AVAILABLE and ACCOLADES

2009 Clos des Papes Chateauneuf du Pape \$144.99/\$96.66 (92-95 points)

I tasted through various foudres of the 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape and it is unquestionably a top-flight wine for Clos des Papes that is seductive and forward by the standards of this estate. It reminded me of the precocious style of the 2003, and Avril told me the 2009 is less alcoholic than either the 2003 or 2007, and the pH is a normal 3.75. Yields were a very small 20 hectoliters per hectare, largely because of their selection process and the drought. Every foudre I tasted was beautifully pure displaying a deep ruby/plum color, sweet kirsch and black raspberry fruit, full body, decent acidity (they never acidify here) and sweet, velvety tannins. This should turn out to be a mid-90-point wine that will take a back seat to the 2007, possibly even to their monumental 2006, but will surpass what they did in 2008, 2005, 2004, 1999 and 1998. The 2009 is a beautiful success that should drink well for 15+ years. **Wine Advocate # 191 Oct 2010**

"Deep ruby. Intensely perfumed cherry, garrigue and flowers on the nose, plus notes of licorice and smoky Moroccan spices. At once fleshy and sappy, with incisive, spicy red fruit flavors complicated by herbs and floral pastilles. Finishes spicy and with superb intensity, echoing the spice and floral notes emphatically. This sample was a blend from five of Avril's giant, mostly old foudres Avril averred that "14.5% alcohol is the jumping off point for high-quality grenache, any less and the flavors aren't complete. This should be just above that so it will be fresh and balanced." Stephen Tanzer **93 Points International Wine Cellar**

Clos du Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc 2009 \$144.99/\$96.66

95 points WS top 100 of 2010, #10

Superfresh, with blanched almond, green plum, yellow apple and verbena notes carried by almost brisk minerality. The finish is really bright and mouthwatering. There's rather stony precision and this still a touch tight. Begs for cellaring. Best from 2011 through 2020. 1,000 cases made. -JM

2009 Vintage—very limited quantities available—once a year offering



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