

CUVÉE DU VATICAN

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

www.cuveeduvatican.fr



Jean-Marc Diffonty



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France

RHÔNE VALLEY
Châteauneuf-du-Pape

OVERVIEW

The Diffonty family can trace its roots in the Châteauneuf-du-Pape back to 1673. At that time, they were already involved in agriculture, cultivating not only vines, but olive and cherry trees as well. Gradually, the vines became the dominant culture. There is a typically rich French history at this estate: in 1900 the Diffonty family owned a mere 2 hectares of vineyards and over the years grew their holdings steadily. In 1958, the Cuvée du Vatican trademark was created and blessed

by the Pope. Felicien Diffonty, father of current owner Jean-Marc, was mayor of Châteauneuf-du-Pape for thirty years from 1965-1995. Apparently politics of some sort runs The following year, Jean-Marc was made president of the Young Winemakers of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Shortly after the turn of the Millennium, Jean-Marc built a new ageing room to house their cache of barrels. More recently, Jean-Marc bought his brother's portion of the estate and now runs it with wife Karine. The property currently owns 23 hectares of AOC Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

Varieties:

Red: Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault

White: Roussanne, Grenache Blanc

Total Acreage: about 23 acres

Average Production: 4,000 cases

VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- Organically farmed and hand-harvested
- Yields controlled through green harvesting and canopy management.
- Hand-sorted de-stemmed before long fermentation in stainless steel vats

WINES

Cuvée du Vatican Châteauneuf-du-Pape

A velvety-smooth, fine-grained Châteauneuf that always possesses good backbone for cellaring, but is always ingratiating in its youth. It acquires this cushion of succulence over the course of a year in neutral oak before bottling.

Cuvée du Vatican Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve Sixtine

One of Châteauneuf-du-Pape's great exponents, and one of the Rhône Valley's most dependably luxurious wines. Its pronounced fruitscape is a testament to careful farming and winemaking in off-vintages, and is a thrill to look forward to when the wine reaches maturity in great vintages.

ACCOLADES

2009 Cuvée du Vatican Châteauneuf-du-Pape (70% Grenache, 25% Syrah, and the rest Mourvedre, Cinsault and other grapes). Its dark ruby/plum color is followed by sweet aromas of raspberries, black cherries, forest floor and Provençal herbs. Attractive & soft with light to moderate tannin as well as medium to full body, it should drink nicely for 10-12 years. **(90-92 pts)**

Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, #191

Far more structured, with significant minerality, power & tannin is the dense ruby/purple-colored **2009 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve Sixtine** (45% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 25% Mourvedre). This cuvee is always aged in 100% small barrels, of which 9-10% are new. A backward wine for the vintage, it reveals serious structure, powerful tannin and abundant mineral notes backed up by full body and impressive layers of fruit and structure. It requires 4-5 years of cellaring, and should last 15-20 years thereafter. **(91-94 pts)**

Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, #191