



CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE

ROUGE 2004

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

Library Release in 2016 direct from the estate and never before released in the United States.

BACKGROUND

Archives affirm Château La Nerthe's existence as early as 1560, while suggesting an even more distant past dating to the dawn of the region's wine culture in the 12th century, making it one of Châteauneuf's oldest estates. Located in the heart of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape AOC region of southern France, the 225 acres of Château La Nerthe vineyards are located in a single block around the Château and have been certified organic since 1998. The *terroir* is typical for the region: vineyards runs along a slope, at the top of which the vines dig their roots into soils of sandy-clay. On the surface there is a layer of the famous *galettes* (large, round, well-worn stones that originated in the Alps) having been carried down to the Rhône by the glaciers of previous ice ages. The further down the slope of the vineyard you travel, the more these stones dominate. All 14 of the permitted primary varietals are planted. Grenache dominates 62% of vineyards and the vines average over 40 years old.

APPELLATION

Châteauneuf-du-Pape (Rhône Valley), France

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

50% Grenache Noir, 31% Syrah, 12% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault, 2% others

WINEMAKING & VINTAGE NOTES

The 2004 growing season was marked by drought, but with far less heat. Yields were less than normal, down as much as 40 percent resulting in small, concentrated berries. With sugar ripeness assured, phenolic maturity was obtained thanks to a bout of rain in August. Despite the drought and reduced yields, all the varietals performed well in 2004. The grapes were hand harvested from September 6th to the 28th. The winemaking process went smoothly, and the grapes had high concentration of delicate tannins.

AGEING

Aged for 18 months, 42% in oak barrels and 58% in casks & wooden vats, blending takes place shortly before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Dark red with plum hints on the border. Ripe black and red fruits, showing lots of raspberry, blackberry and licorice flavor. On the nose, notes of tobacco, roasted herb, pepper and minerality. The long, fleshy, smoky finish shows fine acidity.

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93
POINTS

WINE & SPIRITS
June 2016

WINEMAKER
Christian Voeux

TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol
14.5%

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:
\$69.99

