



CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE

ROUGE 2011

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

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

42% Grenache Noir, 39% Syrah, 15% Mourvedre, 4% Cinsault

WINEMAKING & VINTAGE NOTES

After a rainy autumn, and a cold winter, spring continued to be windy, cold, and rainy. Vines evolved slowly throughout spring, flowering started on June 5th with the first heat. The significant differences between day and night temperatures resulted in a large coulure, particularly on Grenache. Summer was hot with large dry and windy periods without excessive temperatures. The harvest was delayed due to storms in July and September. Nearly three weeks late, the first harvests of white grapes began on September 13th, followed by the black grapes on September 24th. Hand harvesting is done early in the morning to take advantage of the cooler temperatures. The whole grapes are brought to the press for the premium juice to be slowly extracted.

AGEING

Aged 63% in oak barrels and 37% in casks & wooden vats, blending takes place shortly before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Dark red, with a purple border. The nose is rich, pure, and complex, with notes of black fruits and sweet spices. On the palate, lots of roundness, with soft refined tannins. Finish is long, with notes of black cherry, black berry, and a silky texture. A feeling of youth and freshness emerges. Some aromas from the oak ageing are visible with hints of spices and roasting, but they will be soon integrated into the wine to add complexity. A wine with great cellaring potential and with an impressive aromatic expression.

WINEMAKER

Christian Voeux

TECHNICAL DATA

Acidity
3.6 g/L

Alcohol
14.5%

Residual Sugar
1.6 g/L

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:
\$62.99

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90 ROBERT PARKER'S
POINTS WINE ADVOCATE
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