



# CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE

## ROUGE 2012

### 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

44% Grenache Noir, 37% Syrah, 14% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault

#### WINEMAKING & VINTAGE NOTES

2011-2012 winter was very cold and dry. February started with two weeks of freezing temperatures and a strong mistral wind gusting up to 62mph. This weather negatively impacted the vineyard, with many buds being partially or totally destroyed and numerous old vine stocks freezing. Spring was cool and humid with rain that restored the groundwater levels. Summer was very dry in the region unlike the rest of France. The two very hot weeks during mid-August helped finish ripening the grapes and harvest began at the end of August. This was another early harvesting year and the volume harvest was small due to the winter frost, coulure in the Grenache and the dry summer. The winemaking process went smoothly, and the grapes had high concentration of delicate tannins.

#### 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.

# CHÂTEAU LA NERTHE

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE



**91** WINE SPECTATOR  
POINTS  
September 2015

**91** PTS VINOUS 4/15



#### WINEMAKER

Christian Voeux

#### TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol  
14.5%

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:  
\$64.99