

Hermitage Rouge, Domaine du Colombier

Rhône Valley, France



Product code	DC09ZZRC
Grapes	Syrah
Country	FRANCE
ABV%	13.5
Case Size	12
Closure Style	Cork
Producer	Domaine du Colombier
Vintage	2018



Producer

Established by Gaby Viale in 1939, this 17 hectare estate is today run by his charming son Florent. The vineyard holdings in Crozes-Hermitage are close to the domaine on the eastern side of the hill of Hermitage. Syrah is planted primarily around Mercurol on an alpine soil of clay/sand/gravel over limestone whilst the whites are grown on steeper, poorer soils closer to the hill. The Viale's are also proud owners of 1.8 hectares of Hermitage vineyard in the lieux-dits of Beaumes, Diognieres and Torras et les Garennes. In the cellar, he likes to ferment using some whole bunches, depending on the parcel and has turned to using 600 litre demi-muids for maturing his more concentrated wines; Gaby and Hermitage whereas the earlier drinking cuvées are aged 50-60% in wood. The white is 80% fermented in tank with 20% in oak.

Tasting Notes

Deep bright ruby colour; complex and aromatic nose. fruity with roasted tones. Flavourful, well rounded with good structure, long tannins with a liquorice finish.

Viticulture

This 17 hectare estate's vineyard holdings in Crozes-Hermitage are close to the domaine on the eastern side of the hill of Hermitage. The Viale's own 1.8 hectares of Hermitage vineyard in the lieux-dits of Beaumes, Diognières and Torras et les Garennes. The latter three are in the most easterly part of the hill and therefore less exposed to the sun whilst Beaumes is in the shape of a small amphitheatre running east through west. The soil in Beaumes is clay/sandstone with aluvial deposits from the Alps. Diognières has a sandy, siliceous soil, covered with stones whilst Torras et les Garennes' soil is alluvial over limestone. The vineyard approach is minimum intervention and harvesting is done by hand.

Winemaking

18 months in oak barrels 1/3 new and 2/3 used.