

טעימות יין באזור ה- Rhone Valley

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הביקור ביקבים באזור הרון נערך בתאריכים 6-2 במרץ 2014 על ידי נורית ואשר טישלר.

באזור הרון (צפון ודרום) נמצאים מאות יקבים איכותיים. לכן, רצוי להתחיל ביקור כזה לאחר הכנה מתאימה - קריאת חומר על האזור, יצירת רשימת יקבים המתאימים לך, התייעצות עם חברים שהיו שם, ועוד. קיימים מספר ספרים המתארים את רוב היקבים ו/או היינות של האזור. לפני הנסיעה התייעצנו עם מספר חברים שביקרו שם, עברנו על פרסומים באינטרנט ולמדנו את אזור הרון (המחולק לצפון ודרום, כאשר בכל אחד מהם מספר תת-אזורים, בעיקר כפרים) והיקבים שם מאתרים שונים באינטרנט. מידע זה עזר לנו ליצור רשימה של יקבים איכותיים. קיבלנו הסברים והפניות ליקבים מיגיל בראל (שיש לו ידע רב על אזור הרון), מדריך מקומי בשם קולין (colin.simpson@intothevineyard.com), ועוד.

ברוב היקבים באזור הרון, ובוודאי ביקבים הבינוניים והקטנים, יש לתאם פגישה מראש.

מעבר ליקבים ניתן לציין מספר מקומות שאהבנו:

- Hostellerie Chateau des Fines Roche (great restaurant in Chateauneuf du Pape).
- Restaurant L' Oustalet in Gigondas (very good restaurant. Recommended to us by the local winemakers that we visited).
- La Mule du Pape (very good and inexpensive restaurant), 2 Rue de la République, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Tel: +33 4 90 83 79 22.
- Chateau Gigognan – a monastery turned into a BB (5 rooms). We spent there 5 days and liked the place, the room and the people. Close (6-10 minutes) to Chateauneuf du Pape.

בסיוור זה ביקרנו ב- 13 יקבים. להלן תיאור של חלק מן היינות אותם טעמנו.

Chateau du Mourre du Tendre

Cotes du Rhone, 2003. 13.5% alcohol, 9 Euro. Mostly Grenache, some Carignan and Cinsault. A simple wine, somewhat balanced, strong tannins. Reasonably good wine.

Cotes du Rhone, Cuvee Paul, 2006. 13.5% alcohol, 9 Euro. Mostly Grenache, some Cinsault. A simple wine, somewhat balanced, noticeable tannins. Some (good) bitterness at the end, less than full body. Reasonably good wine.

Cotes du Rhone Villages, 2009. 14% alcohol, 12 Euro. 2/3 Grenache and 1/3 Mourvedre. Balanced, slightly noticeable tannins. Less than full body. Will taste better in 2-5 years. Reasonably good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape, 2010. 14.5% alcohol, 29 Euro. 90% Grenache, 10% Mourvedre. Balanced, noticeable tannins, somewhat complex. Some (good) bitterness at the end, full body. Good wine.

Beaucastel

Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateauneuf du Pape, (white), 2011. 14% alcohol, 60 Euro. Grenache Blanc, Picardan, Clairette. Bourboulenc, Roussanne. Balanced, elegant, somewhat complex, somewhat acidic, slightly less than full body. Some (good and refreshing) bitterness at the end. Very good wine.

Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateauneuf du Pape, Vieilles Vignes, (white), 2012. 14% alcohol, 95 Euro. 100% Roussanne. Somewhat balanced, complex, elegant. Round wine. Full body. Too low acidity. Good to very good wine.

Coudoulet de Beaucastel, Cotes du Rhone, 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 19 Euro. Cinsault, Grenache, Mourvedre, Syrah. Relatively simple wine, somewhat balanced, too acidic, slightly noticeable tannins, less than full body. Good wine.

Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateauneuf du Pape, 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 60 Euro. Consists of all the 13 grape varieties of the Rhone Valley. Balanced, slightly noticeable and soft tannins, complex, elegant, full body. Start to drink in 2-3 years. Will improve in 10-12 years. Excellent wine.

Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateauneuf du Pape, 2006 (WS 95). 14.5% alcohol, 75 Euro. Consists of all the 13 grape varieties of the Rhone Valley. Balanced, noticeable tannins, complex, full body. Start to drink now or (better) in 2-3 years. Will improve in 8-10 years. Excellent wine.

A medium-size and well-known family winery. Beautiful location. Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Domaine de la Janasse

Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc Prestige, (white), 2012. About 14.5% alcohol, 63 Euro. 60% Roussanne, 20% Grenache, 20% Clairette. Not balanced, somewhat flat, less than full body. Strange wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc, (white), 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 30 Euro. 40% Grenache, 20% Roussanne, 40% Clairette. Balanced, somewhat complex. Somewhat elegant. Some (good) bitterness at the end, full body. Good wine.

Cotes du Rhone Village 'Terre d'Argile', 2011 (RP 91). 15.5% alcohol, 15 Euro. 1/4 Grenache, 1/4 Mourvedre, 1/4 Syrah, 1/4 Carignan. A simple wine, somewhat acidic, somewhat balanced, somewhat complex, less than full body. Good wine.

Cotes du Rhone 'Les Garrigues', 2011 (RP 92). 15.5% alcohol, 22 Euro. 100% Grenache. A slight feel of (refreshing and 'young') black pepper in the taste. Somewhat simple, balanced, slightly noticeable tannins, less than full body. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Tradition', 2011 (RP 91). 15.5% alcohol, 30 Euro. 77% Grenache, 8% Syrah, 15% Mourvedre. Balanced, slightly noticeable tannins, somewhat complex, somewhat less than full body. Will improve in 2-4 years. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Chaupin', 2011 (RP 95). 15.5% alcohol, 49 Euro. 100% Grenache. Balanced, somewhat noticeable tannins, fairly complex, full body. Start to drink in 2-3 years. Will improve in 10-15 years. Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Vieilles Vignes', 2011 (RP 96). 15.5% alcohol, 69 Euro. 85% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre. Balanced, noticeable tannins, complex, somewhat elegant, full body. Start to drink in 2-3 years. Will improve in 8-10 years. Excellent wine.

A medium-size and well-known family winery. Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Domaine Usseglio Raymond & Fils

Cuvee Classique Rouge, Chateauneuf du Pape, 2011. 14% alcohol, 25 Euro. 80% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre, Syrah, Cinsault and Counoise. Balanced, slightly noticeable tannins, complex, Less than full body. Start to drink now or in 2-4 years. Very good wine.

Cuvee Imperiale, Chateauneuf du Pape, 2011. 15% alcohol, 40 Euro. 90% Grenache, 10% Melange de Vieux Cepages. Balanced, slightly noticeable tannins, complex, full body. Start to drink in 3-4 years. Will improve in 8-10 years. Very good to excellent wine.

La Part des Anges, Chateauneuf du Pape, 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 40 Euro. 70% Mourvedre, 20% Grenache, 10% Syrah. Balanced, very noticeable tannins, complex, full body. Start to drink in 2-3 years. Will improve in 10-15 years. Very good (and interesting) wine.

A medium-size family winery. Visiting this winery is recommended.

E. Guigal

Crozes-Hermitage (white) 2012. 12.5% alcohol, 8 Euro. 95% Marsanne, 5% Rousanne. Simple wine. Not balanced, not complex, no body.

Condrieu (white) 2012. 13.5% alcohol, 20 Euro. 100% Viognier. Simple wine. Somewhat balanced, not complex, no body. Acceptable wine.

Condrieu La Dorian (white) 2012. 14.6% alcohol, 40 Euro. 100% Viognier. Somewhat balanced, not complex, almost no body. Acceptable wine.

Saint Joseph, 2012. 13% alcohol, 12 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, somewhat complex, some body. Young. Drink now. Acceptable wine.

Cote Rotie, 2009. 13.5% alcohol, 30 Euro. 96% Syrah, 4% Viognier. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body. Some tannins. Drink now (better to wait 1-2 years). Somewhat strange taste. Good wine.

Hermitage, 2007. 14% alcohol, 35 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body, light wine. Drink now (better to wait 1-2 years). Good wine.

Cote Rotie Chateau D'Ampuis, 2010. 13.5% alcohol, 60 Euro. 93% Syrah, 7% Viognier. Balanced, somewhat complex, full body. Noticeable tannins. Drink now (better to wait 1-2 years) or in 5-10 years. Somewhat strange taste (possibly the Voignier). Very good wine.

Several of the (cheap as well as more expensive) red wine contain small quantities of white wine (Voignier) in order to give the 'aggressive' Syrah a more feminine flavor. We felt uncomfortable with the aftertaste of such blends. Our guide explained that this process is common in the area. We did not see a similar blend elsewhere (we visited only four wineries in this (north Rhone Valley) area.

This is a huge winery which produces about 6 million bottles a year using various modern (automatic) production lines. Visiting the winery is interesting, particularly its caves and production facilities. The wines that we tasted were not outstanding. The winery produces at least three great (and very expensive) wines that were not available for purchase at the winery (for example: 2005 and 2009 E. Guigal Cote Rotie *La Turque* received a 100 from RP and cost about \$600). The *La Landonne* (2009 received a 100 from RP) and *La Mouline* (2009 received a 100 from RP) are also high quality varieties.

Domaine Jamet

Cotes du Rhone, 2012. 12.5% alcohol, 15 Euro. Syrah. Young and fresh wine. Balanced, not complex, less than full body. Drink now. Good wine.

Jean-Paul Jamet Cote Rotie 'Fructus Voluptas', 2012. 12.5% alcohol, 35 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Some tannins. Drink now or within one year, then store for 5-6 years (taste deteriorates) and drink again afterwards (up to 5-8 years). Very good wine.

Domaine Jamet Cote Rotie, 2011. 13% alcohol, 55 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Noticeable tannins. Drink now (better to wait 2 more years) and stop drinking within 5 years from now. Then store for 5-6 years (taste deteriorates), and drink again afterwards (up to 8-10 years). Very good wine.

Note that the stems are not removed during fermentation (or later). This is a traditional way, used by many producers, to craft good wines in the region (the same procedure is used by Pegau). It does not add yeast (uses only natural yeast).

A small family winery. Beautiful location (on the top of a mountain). Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

M. Chapoutier

Invitare Condrieu (white), 2012. 14% alcohol, 33 Euro. 100% Voignier. Young and fresh wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, less than full body. Somewhat elegant. Noticeable minerality. Drink now or within 2 years. Good wine.

Chante Alouette (white), 2012. 13.5% alcohol, 44 Euro. 100% Marsanne. Young and fresh wine. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Elegant. Drink now or within 10 years. Very good wine.

Croix de Bois, Chateauneuf du Pape, 1998. 15.5% alcohol, 94 Euro. 100% Grenache. Balanced, complex, full body. No noticeable tannins. Already declining (should be drunk 1-2 years earlier). Good wine.

Cote Rotie La Mordoree, 2001. 13.5% alcohol, 138 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body. Soft but noticeable tannins. Drink now (preferably in 3-5 years) or within 15 years. Excellent wine.

Les Greffieux, Ermitage, 2001. 14% alcohol, 212 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body. Noticeable tannins. Some good bitterness at the end. A spicy aftertaste. Drink now (preferably in 5-8 years) or within 15 years. Excellent wine.

Le Meal, Ermitage, 2001. 14% alcohol, 244 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, (very) complex, full body. Very noticeable tannins. Some good bitterness at the end. Drink later (in 5-8 years) or within 15-20 years. Excellent wine.

Le Pavillon, Ermitage, 2001. 14% alcohol, 244 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body. Noticeable (not too strong) tannins. Somewhat elegant. Some good bitterness at the end. Drink now (preferably in 3-5 years) or within 15 years. Excellent wine.

You can visit the vineyard (nothing special) and the store in Tain L'Hermitage (a very large selection of varieties for tasting and for purchase). The tasting should be reserved in advance. A very nice and interesting location to visit. The famous chocolate factory (nice to visit) is 10 minutes away (on foot). Visiting the wine store is recommended.

Vieux Telegraphe

Vieux Telegraphe Blanc (Chateauneuf du Pape) (white), 2012. 13.5% alcohol, 48 Euro. 40% Clairette, 30% Grenache, 15% Roussanne, 15% Bourboulenc. Dry, close to full body, balanced, complex, fresh. Some (right) bitterness at the end. Excellent wine.

Domaine les Pallieres (Gigondas) 'Terrasse du Diable', 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 28 Euro. 90% Grenache, 5% Mourvedre, 5% Clairette. Relatively simple wine, balanced, not complex, less than full body. Very little tannins. Good wine.

Domaine les Pallieres (Gigondas) 'Les Racines', 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 28 Euro. 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and Cinsault, 5% Clairette. Balanced, complex, full body. Some tannins. Some (right) bitterness at the end. Keep up to 10 years. Very good wine.

Telegramme Rouge (Chateauneuf du Pape), 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 24 Euro. Mostly Grenache, some Syrah and Cinsault. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, elegant, close to full body, no noticeable tannins. Drink now up to 5 years. Very good wine.

Piedlong L'accent de la Roquett Rouge (Chateauneuf du Pape), 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 36 Euro. About 90% Grenache, 10% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, full body, somewhat noticeable tannins. Drink now up to 10 years. Some sweet aftertaste. Very Good wine.

Vieux Telegraphe Rouge (Chateauneuf du Pape), 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 55 Euro. 65% Grenache, 15% Mourvedre, 15% Syrah, 5% Cinsault, Clairette and other. Balanced, complex, full body, somewhat noticeable tannins. Drink now up to 15 years. Some (right) bitterness at the end. Excellent wine. Visiting this winery is recommended.

A nice and exclusive winery. Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Pegau

Chateauneuf du Pape (white), 2012. 14% alcohol, 24 Euro. 60% Clairette, 20% Grenache, 10% Roussanne, 10% Bourboulenc. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body, fresh. Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reserve, 2011. 14% alcohol, 25 Euro. 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre, 5% the other 10 varieties. Balanced, complex, full body. Rounded wine. Very little (soft) tannins. Drink now or (better) in 2-3 years. Keep for up to 10 years. Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Laurance, 2009. 14% alcohol, 65 Euro. 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre, 5% the other 10 varieties (the blend is identical to the Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reserve, but aged two more years). Balanced, complex, full body. Too low acidity, less elegant than Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reserve, very little tannins. Somewhat unusual, but interesting, taste. Drink now or (better) in 1-2 years. Keep for up to 10 years. Very good wine.

Pegau's top wine is Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee da Capo which is produced only in selected (very high grapes quality) years. The last vintage of this wine is 2010 (210 Euro) which received 100 points from RP.

Note that the stems are not removed during fermentation (or later). This is a traditional way, used by many producers, to craft good wines in the region (the same procedure is used by Jamet). In fact, the winery adds the grapes to the fermentation tanks according to the order of the harvesting (prior to or during the fermentation). It does not add yeast (uses only natural yeast) and employs organic processes at the vineyards.

Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Clos des Papes

Chateauneuf du Pape (white), 2012. 15% alcohol, 47 Euro. 20% each of Clairette, Grenache, Bourboulenc and two more varieties. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body. Mineral, too acidic. Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape, 2011. 15% alcohol, 56 Euro. 65% Grenache. 20% Mourvedre, 10% Syrah, 5% of several other varieties. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body. Drink now or (better) in one year. Then do not drink during 5-6 years (the taste deteriorates) and start drinking again later on (up to 5-6 years). Some (right, but strange) bitterness at the end. Good wine.

Chateau Gigognan

Cotes du Rhone 'Vigne du Prieure' (white), 2012. 14% alcohol, 9 Euro. Roussanne, Clairette, Marsanne, Viognier. A simple wine, somewhat unbalanced, powerful, no body. Acceptable wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Clos du Roi' (white), 2010. 14% alcohol, 25 Euro. Roussanne, Grenache, Clairette, Bourboulenc. Balanced, somewhat complex, too low acidity, less than full body. Somewhat sweet aftertaste. Good wine.

Cotes du Rhone 'Vigne du Prieure' (white), 2012. 14% alcohol, 8 Euro. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Cinsault, Carignan. A simple wine, very young, OK to drink now or within 2 years. Not complex, not balanced. Acceptable wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Clos du Roi', 2009. 14.5% alcohol, 26 Euro. Grenache, Syrah. Balanced, somewhat complex, less than full body, noticeable tannins, somewhat simple wine. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Cardinalice', 2009. 15% alcohol, 28 Euro. 100% Grenache. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body, very noticeable tannins. Drink in 2-3 years. Can be stored for up to 10 years. Good wine.

A very nice location. A monastery turned into a BB (5 rooms). We spent there 5 days and liked the place, the room and the people. Very close (6-10 minutes) to Chateauneuf du Pape that was our main target in this trip.

Domain Saint Damien

Vin de France (white), 2012. 14% alcohol, 3.5 Euro. 50% Grenache Blanc, 50% Marselan. Very young. Simple wine. Not complex, no body. Acceptable wine.

Cotes du Rhone Vieilles Vignes, 2011. 15% alcohol, 7.5 Euro. 80% Grenache, 15% Mourvedre, 5% Carignan. A simple wine, somewhat complex, no body. Powerful. Some tannins. Drink in 2-5 years. Acceptable wine.

Gigondas Classique, 2011. 15% alcohol, 12 Euro. 80% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre. Balanced, somewhat complex, somewhat less than full body. Some tannins. Good wine.

Gigondas Classique, 2007. 15% alcohol, 15 Euro. 80% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body. Noticeable tannins. Drink in 2 up to 5 years. Good to very good wine.

Gigondas La Louisiane, 2011. 15% alcohol, 14 Euro. 80% Grenache, 10% Mourvedre, 5% Syrah, 5% Cinsault. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Some tannins. Drink now or within 5-6 years. Some bitterness at the end. Good wine.

Gigondas La Louisiane, 2009. 15% alcohol, 14 Euro. 80% Grenache, 10% Mourvedre, 5% Syrah, 5% Cinsault. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Some tannins. Drink now or within 5-6 years. Some bitterness at the end. Very good wine.

Gigondas La Souteyrades, 2011. 15% alcohol, 12 Euro. 80% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Some tannins. Drink now or within 5-6 years. Some bitterness at the end. Very good wine.

An interesting winery. The wines are cheaper than those in Chateauneuf du Pape or Cote du Rhone, but some of them are of high quality. Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Chateau de Saint Cosme

Condrieu (white), 2012. 13.5% alcohol, 32.5 Euro. 100% Voigier. Very young. Simple wine. Not balanced, somewhat complex, some body, smooth. Acceptable wine.

Cotes du Rhone Les Deux Albion, 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 9.5 Euro. Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre, Carignan, Clairette. A simple wine, flat, unbalanced, no body. Less than acceptable wine.

Gigondase, 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 17 Euro. Grenache, Mourvedre, Syrah, Cinsault. Young, light. Not balanced, not complex, no body, somewhat elegant. Some tannins. Simple wine. Acceptable wine.

A nice location. We were not impressed with the wines. Other (young) visitors seem to enjoy (and buy) the wines.