

Rhone Valley - באזור ה-

אשר טישלר

הביקור ביקבים באזור הרון נערך בתאריכים 11-7 בדצמבר 2014 על ידי נורית ואשר טישלר.

בביקור זה ביקרנו במספר יקבים בהם היינו כבר בביקור הקודם שלנו במרץ 2014 ובמספר יקבים בהם ביקרנו עכשיו בפעם הראשונה. ככלל, באזור הרון (צפון ודרום) נמצאים מאות יקבים. 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 חלק ניכר מהיקבים 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. מידע זה עזר לנו ליצור רשימה של יקבים איכותיים.

ברוב היקבים באזור הרון, ובוודאי ביקבים הבינוניים והקטנים, יש לתאם פגישה מראש. בעיירה Chateauneuf-du-Pape ישנן מספר חנויות יין בהן ניתן לרכוש יין מסוגים שונים – מהפשוט ביותר ליקר ביותר. סוגי יין, בעיקר ותיקים יותר, שאינם נמצאים ביקבים עצמם ניתנים לעתים לרכישה בחנויות אלה. גם בעיר Avignon, שבה שהינו בנסיעה זו (Avignon Grand Hotel), ישנן מספר חנויות יין טובות, זולות יחסית, ועם מלאים סבירים. העיר העתיקה של Avignon היא יפה, יש בה הרבה מסעדות מעניינות, חנויות יפות, אתרים עתיקים וחדשים, ופעילויות מעניינות. כיף לטייל בה בערב.

מסעדות בהן נהנינו:

- Hostellerie Chateau des Fines Roche (an excellent restaurant very close to Chateauneuf-du-Pape; offers many high quality wines). Route de Sources, 84320 Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Tel: +33 4 90 83 70 23.
- La Mule du Pape (a very good and inexpensive restaurant), 2 Rue de la République, 84230 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Tel: +33 4 90 83 79 22.
- La Fourchette (a very good restaurant in the old city of Avignon; the only surprise – it did not have very good wine), 17 Rue Racine, 84000, Avignon, Tel: +33 4 90 85 20 93.
- Restaurant L'Essentiel (a very good restaurant in the old city of Avignon), 2 Rue Petit, Fusterie, 84000, Avignon, Tel: +33 4 90 85 87 12.

בסיוור זה ביקרנו ב-12 יקבים. להלן תיאור של חלק מן היינות שטעמנו.

Pegau

Maclura, Cotes du Rhone, 2012. 14% alcohol, 8 Euro. 60% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre, 5% Cinsault. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, some body, fresh, simple. Drink now. A reasonably good wine (a good wine for 8 euro!).

Setier, Cotes du Rhone Villages, 2012. 14% alcohol, 10 Euro. 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvedre. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, some body, fresh, simple, heavy. Drink now. A good wine (a very good wine for 10 euro!).

Plan Pegau, 2012. 13.5% alcohol, 8 Euro. 30% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 20% Merlot, 20% Carignan, Mourvedre, Cinsault, Danlas, Alicante and Cabernet. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, some body, fresh, simple, spicy. Drink now. A reasonably good wine (a good wine for 8 euro!).

Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reserve, 2011. 14% alcohol, 25 Euro. 80% Grenache, 6% Syrah, 4% Mourvedre, 10% other varieties. Balanced, fairly complex, full body. Round. 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 Reserve, 2012. 14% alcohol, 40 Euro. 80% Grenache, 6% Syrah, 4% Mourvedre, 10% other varieties. Balanced, complex, full body. Round. Elegant. Some soft tannins. Drink now or (better) in 2-3 years. Keep for up to 15 years. Very good wine (better than the 2011).

Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Laurance, 2008. 14% alcohol, 55 Euro. 80% Grenache, 6% Syrah, 4% Mourvedre, 10% other varieties (the blend is identical to the Chateauneuf-du-Pape Cuvee Reserve, but aged two more years). Balanced, complex, full body. Elegant, 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 years (when the quality of the grapes is judged to be very high). The last vintage of this wine is 2010 (210 Euro; unavailable now) which received 100 points from RP. We tasted the 2008 da Capo – it was excellent. The stems are not removed during fermentation (or later). This is a traditional way, used by many producers in the region (the same procedure is used by Jamet) in order to produce good wines. The wine maker 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 only organic processes at the vineyards.

Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Chateau la Nerthe

Chateau la Nerthe Blanc, (white), 2013. About 14.5% alcohol, 33 Euro. 38% Roussanne, 31% Grenache, 16% Clairette, 15% Bourboulenc. Balanced, no body, somewhat complex, simple. Reasonably good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Rouge, 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 31 Euro. 47% Grenache, 29% Syrah, 22% Mourvedre, 2% Cinsault. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body, elegant. Drink now or in 2-10 years. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Rouge, 2010. 14.5% alcohol, 33 Euro. 42% Grenache, 39% Syrah, 15% Mourvedre, 4% Cinsault. Balanced, complex, full body, somewhat elegant. Drink now or in 2-10 years. Very good wine.

Cuvee des Cadettes, Rouge, 2009. 14.5% alcohol, 70 Euro. 32% Grenache, 37% Syrah, 31% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, full body, somewhat elegant, noticeable soft tannins. Drink now or in 2-10 years. Very good wine.

A nice newly built winery. Visiting this winery is recommended.

Chateau de Beaucastel

Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateauneuf du Pape, (white), 2013. 14% alcohol, 60 Euro. 80% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, Picardin, Clairette. Bourboulenc. Balanced, elegant, somewhat complex, somewhat acidic, less than full body. Refreshing bitterness at the end. Good to very good wine.

Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateauneuf du Pape, Roussanne Vieilles Vignes, (white), 2013. 14% alcohol, 95 Euro. 100% Roussanne. Somewhat balanced, complex, elegant. Round wine. Full body. Too low acidity. Good to very good wine.

Chateau de Beaucastel, Chateauneuf du Pape, 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 60 Euro. Consists of all the 13 grape varieties of the Rhone Valley. Balanced, slightly noticeable and soft tannins, complex, somewhat elegant, full body. Start to drink in 2-3 years. Will improve in 10-12 years. Very good wine.

A medium-size and well-known family winery. Beautiful location. Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended. A new store in the center of the village Chateauneuf du Pape sells many of the wines (and vintages) produced by this winery.

Domaine Pierre Usseglio & Fils

Chateauneuf du Pape Rouge, 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 23.5 Euro. 75% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 6% Mourvedre, 5% Cinsault, 2% Counoise, 2% Muscardin. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body, fresh, somewhat elegant, fruity. Drink now or in 2-4 years. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Rouge, 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 23 Euro. 75% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 6% Mourvedre, 5% Cinsault, 2% Counoise, 2% Muscardin. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body, fresh, somewhat elegant, fruity. Drink now or in 2-4 years. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Rouge 'Cuvee de mon Aieul', 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 43 Euro. 100% Grenache. Balanced, complex, full body, fresh, somewhat elegant. Drink now or in 2-10 years. Very good wine.

A nice family winery. Visiting this winery is recommended.

Clos des Papes

Chateauneuf du Pape, 2011. 15% alcohol, 56 Euro. 65% Grenache. 20% Mourvedre, 10% Syrah, 5% de Counoise, Vaccarese and Muscardin. Balanced, complex, full body. Drink now or (better) in 1-2 years. Then do not drink during 5-6 years (the taste deteriorates) and start drinking again later on (up to 5-6 years). Some bitterness at the end. Very good wine (we tasted it last April, it was then a good wine, but the time elapsed until December improved this wine substantially).

Chateauneuf du Pape, 2012. 15% alcohol, 56 Euro. 65% Grenache. 20% Mourvedre, 10% Syrah, 5% de Counoise, Vaccarese and Muscardin. Balanced, complex, full body. Drink now or (better) in 1-2 years. Then do not drink during 5-8 years (the taste deteriorates) and start drinking again later on (up to 10 years). Some bitterness at the end. Excellent wine (better than the 2011).

Visiting this winery is recommended.

Domaine de la Janasse

Vin de Pays la Principaute d'Orange Viognier, (white), 2013. 14.5% alcohol, 10 Euro. 100% Viognier. Not balanced, somewhat complex. No body. Strange wine. Reasonably good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc Prestige, (white), 2013. About 14.5% alcohol, 63 Euro. 70% Roussanne, 15% Grenache, 15% Clairette. Balanced, less than full body, somewhat complex. Good wine.

Cotes du Rhone 'Les Garrigues', 2012. 15.5% alcohol, 23 Euro. 100% Grenache. Balanced, close to full body, somewhat complex, some noticeable tannins, less than full body. Drink now up to 5-7 years. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Chaupin', 2012. 15.5% alcohol, 50 Euro. 100% Grenache. Balanced, somewhat noticeable tannins, 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. 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.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Vieilles Vignes', 2012. 15.5% alcohol, 70 Euro. 85% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre. Balanced, noticeable tannins, complex, somewhat elegant, full body. Start to drink now or within 2-3 years. Will improve in 8-10 years. Better than the 2011. Excellent wine.

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

Domaine de la Vielle Julienne

Cotes du Rhone rouge, 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 13 Euro. 70% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre. A simple wine, somewhat complex, somewhat full body. Noticeable soft tannins. Drink now or within 5 years. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'le Trois Sources', 2011. 15.5% alcohol, 34 Euro. About 75% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Elegant. Some soft tannins. Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'le Trois Sources', 2012. 15.5% alcohol, 34 Euro. About 75% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Elegant. Some soft tannins. Drink in 1-2 years (not now). Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'le Hauts-lieux', 2011. 16% alcohol, 48 Euro. About 75% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, full body. Somewhat elegant. Some soft tannins. Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'le Hauts-lieux', 2012. 15.5% alcohol, 48 Euro. About 75% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, full body. Somewhat elegant. Some soft tannins. Excellent wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape, 2005. 14.5% alcohol, about 80-100 euro (unavailable). About 75% Grenache, 10% Cinsault, 10% Syrah, 5% Mourvedre. Balanced, complex, full body. Somewhat elegant. Some soft tannins. Excellent wine.

An interesting and impressive winery. Produces wines from several locations in and around Chateauneuf du Pape. We did not taste the reserve line which gets very high marks from critiques. Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Roger Sabon

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Les Olivets', 2012. 15% alcohol, 17 Euro. Mostly Grenache, some Syrah and Cinsault. Balanced, somewhat complex, less than full body. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Reserve', 2012. 15% alcohol, 23 Euro. Mostly Grenache, some Syrah, Mourvedre and Cinsault. Balanced, fairly complex, close to full body. Drink now or up to 5 years. Good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'Prestige', 2012. 15% alcohol, 34 Euro. Mostly Grenache, some Syrah, Mourvedre, Cinsault, Terret, Cournoise, Vaccaresse and Muscardin. Balanced, complex, full body. Drink now or up to 10 years. Very good wine.

Chateauneuf du Pape 'le Secret des Sabon', 2010. 15% alcohol, 130 Euro. Mostly Grenache. Balanced, complex, full body. Drink now or up to 20 years. Excellent wine.

An interesting and impressive winery. Visiting this winery (only with appointment) is recommended.

Vieux Telegraphe

Telegramme Rouge (Chateauneuf du Pape), 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 24 Euro. 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 6% Mourvedre, 4% Cinsault. Young wine. Balanced, not complex, simple, less than full body, no noticeable tannins, somewhat fruity. Some sweetness at the end. Drink now up to 5 years. Good wine.

Piedlong Rouge (Chateauneuf du Pape), 2011. 14.5% alcohol, 36 Euro. 90% Grenache, 10% Mourvedre. Young. Somewhat balanced, somewhat complex, somewhat less than full body,

somewhat fruity, somewhat noticeable tannins. Drink now up to 10 years. Some sweet aftertaste. Good wine.

Vieux Telegraphe Rouge (Chateauneuf du Pape), 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 57 Euro. 65% Grenache, 15% Mourvedre, 15% Syrah, 5% Cinsault, Clairette and other. Balanced, complex, full body, some soft tannins. Drink now up to 10-15 years. Some sweetness at the end. Very good wine. The same wine from 2011 was somewhat better than this year's wine.

An impressive winery. We enjoyed the tasting in March 2014 more than in December 2014, although the wines did not change by much. Visiting this winery is recommended.

Paul Jaboulet Aine

Hermitage La Chapelle (red) 2001. 13.5% alcohol, 155 Euro. 100% Syrah. Somewhat balanced, complex, full body, somewhat too acidic, somewhat fruity. At the end of its life (was better 1-2 years ago). Drink now. Good wine.

Hermitage La Chapelle (red) 2004. 14% alcohol, 140 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body, somewhat closed, somewhat fruity. Soft tannins are noticeable. Drink now or within 1-3 years. Good wine.

Hermitage La Chapelle (red) 2007. 14% alcohol, 190 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body, some (good) bitterness at the end. Soft tannins are noticeable. Drink now or within 1-7 years. Very good wine.

Hermitage La Chapelle (red) 2011. 14% alcohol, 150 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body, somewhat closed, somewhat elegant. Soft tannins are noticeable. Wait 3-5 years before drinking it. Can be stored for up to 20 years. Very good wine.

Hermitage La Chapelle (red) 2012. 14.5% alcohol, 155 Euro (not for sale as yet). 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body, somewhat closed, somewhat elegant. Soft tannins are noticeable. Some (good) bitterness at the end. Wait 2-5 years before drinking it. Can be stored for up to 20 years. Very good wine (better than the 2011).

This producer produces and sells many types of white and red wines. We tasted a vertical of its best known wine (Hermitage La Chapelle). The tasting room offers a very good, and inexpensive, lunch. Visiting this tasting room is recommended.

M. Chapoutier

Chante Alouette, Hermitage (white), 2013. 14% alcohol, 46 Euro. 100% Marsanne. Young and fresh wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, less than full body. Somewhat elegant. Some minerality. Some sweetness. Drink now or within 10 years. Very good wine.

Monier de la Sizeranne, Hermitage, 2011. 13.5% alcohol, 54 Euro. 100% Syrah. Not balanced, complex, somewhat full body. Old style. No noticeable tannins. Reasonably good wine.

Les Varonniers, Crozes-Ermitage, 2003. 12.5% alcohol, 49 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, somewhat complex, full body. No noticeable tannins. Somewhat sweet. Somewhat boring. Drink now or within 10 years. Good wine.

La Mordoree, Cote Rotie, 2003. 14% alcohol, 260 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, close to full body. Somewhat elegant. Soft but noticeable tannins. Drink now (preferably in 3-5 years) or within 15 years. Very good wine.

Le Meal, Ermitage, 2010. 13.5% alcohol, 226 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, somewhat high acidity, (very) complex, closed, 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, 2010. 14% alcohol, 376 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, complex, full body. Noticeable (not too strong) soft tannins. Somewhat elegant. Some good bitterness at the end. Drink now (preferably in 3-8 years) or within 15-20 years. Excellent wine.

Croix de Bois, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, 2003. 15% alcohol, 65 Euro. 100% Grenache. Somewhat balanced, slightly too acidic, complex, less than full body. Noticeable tannins. Somewhat elegant. Slightly sweet. Drink now or within 5-8 years. Good 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.

Domaine Stephane Ogier

Viognier de Rosine, (white), 2013. About 14% alcohol, 16 Euro. 100% Viognier. Balanced, no body, not complex, simple. Reasonably good wine.

Le Temps Est Venu, 2013. 14% alcohol, 9 Euro. 70% Grenache, 30% Syrah and Mourvedre. Young wine. Balanced, somewhat complex, less than full body, simple, somewhat too acidic. Drink now up to 5 years. Reasonably good wine.

La Rosine, 2013. 14% alcohol, 14 Euro. 100% Syrah. Balanced, somewhat complex, less than full body, somewhat too acidic, simple. Drink now up to 8 years. Good wine.

Cote Rotie 'Le Village', 2012. 14% alcohol, 30 Euro. 100% Syrah. Young. Balanced, somewhat complex, close to full body. Drink now up to 10 years. Good wine.

Cote Rotie 'Reserve', 2011. 14% alcohol, 42 Euro. 100% Syrah. Young. Balanced, somewhat complex, full body, noticeable soft tannines. Drink now up to 10 years. Very good wine.

A nice family winery (a new facility is being constructed now) located at D'Ampuis (about an hour north of Tain-l'Hermitage). Visiting this winery is recommended.