

Laurent Fayolle Crozes-Hermitage Les Pontaix France 2020

Selected by: Master Sommelier Evan Goldstein, Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon, and Master Sommelier Tim Gaiser



Final Deductions

VINTAGE 2019
GRAPE Syrah/Blend
GEOGRAPHY Europe
COUNTRY France
LARGER REGION Rhône Valley
SMALLER REGION Northern Rhône
SUB REGION Crozes-Hermitage/Saint-Joseph

Rationale

Crozes-Hermitage resides in the northern Rhone Valley in France and envelops a relatively large area on the eastern bank of the Rhone river, to the north and south of the town Tain L'Hermitage. Much larger than the prestigious Hermitage appellation which it surrounds, Crozes-Hermitage is much more prolific.

Mostly red grapes (90%) and made from Syrah, the wines of this appellation are called by some to be 'poor man's Hermitage' and can be outstanding if managed by the producer. Compared to some of her neighbors, tartness is a major distinction you'll find in Crozes-Hermitage, due to its position on the east bank of the river. The Syrahs here are lifted with notes of dark flowers, black pepper, savory black fruits, nuanced notes of meat, along with ample acidity and tannin. Many vineyards in the region are on pebble-covered terraces with granite-clay soils with sand.

Laurent Fayolle is the 6th generation to run this small family estate in the Northern Rhône Crozes-Hermitage village of Gervans. In 2002, when his father and uncle split up the family domain amongst their children, Laurent took control of 17 acres of prime heirloom parcels (many over 60 years old) in the granite hills located on the backside of the hill of Hermitage. The slopes found in this area around Gervans, Crozes-Hermitage and Larnage are part of the original Crozes-Hermitage classification from 1937. Pontaix is a lieu dit A 8.65 acres single vineyard on the backside of the Hermitage hill. It is a steep, terraced parcel that sits over clay and limestone with 40+ year old vines.

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Day Bright
CLARITY Opaque
COLOR DEPTH Deep
COLOR Ruby
RIM VARIATION Purple
Stained Tears: Medium

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry
ACID Med+
ALCOHOL Med+
TANNIN Med+
TEXTURE Phenolic / Astringent
FINISH Long
COMPLEXITY High

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Red Currant • Red / Sour Cherry *Condition: Ripe*
BLACK FRUIT Black Raspberry • Black Cherry • Black Currant / Cassis *Condition: Ripe*
FLORAL Lavender • Violet *Condition: Fresh, Dried*
GREEN VEGETABLE Dark Leafy Greens
OTHER VEGETABLE Mushrooms (Brown) • Fennel / Anise • Olive (Black) • Rhubarb
HERBAL Rosemary • Thyme • Tobacco Leaf • Garrique / Provence • Chicory
OTHER SPICES Black Pepper • Licorice (Black) • Green Peppercorn
ORGANIC EARTH Turned Dirt / Potting Soil
INORGANIC EARTH Mineral / Rock • Graphite
ANIMAL Meat • Blood
OAK AGING Yes *Oak Intensity: Low*
OAK INFLUENCE Blended Oak
OXIDATION/NUTTINESS Walnut
PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES Partial / Whole Cluster