

Alain Graillot Crozes-Hermitage Rouge Rhone France 2021

Selected by: MTW Tasting Panel



Final Deductions

VINTAGE 2021

GRAPE Syrah/Blend

GEOGRAPHY Europe

COUNTRY France

LARGER REGION Rhône Valley

SMALLER REGION Northern Rhône

SUB REGION Crozes-Hermitage/
Saint-Joseph

Rationale

Alain Graillot Crozes-Hermitage Rouge Rhone France 2021

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.

From Skurnik.com:

"In France's Northern Rhone Valley, there are few names as revered as Graillot. It was in 1985 that the late, legendary Alain Graillot, who after working with the venerable Jacques Seysses at Domaine Dujac, came back to his home in Crozes-Hermitage to start his own domaine. Alain's sons Maxime and Antoine have been in charge since 2008, continuing the legacy set forth by their father. All the work is still completely the same as it ever was: hand-harvesting, organic farming, whole-cluster fermentation, and aging the wines primarily in 1-to-3 year old barrels purchased from some of the top estates in Burgundy."

Sight

BRIGHTNESS Bright

CLARITY Hazy

COLOR DEPTH Medium

COLOR Ruby

RIM VARIATION Purple
Stained Tears: Medium

Structure

RESIDUAL SUGAR Dry

ACID Med+

ALCOHOL Medium

TANNIN Med-

TEXTURE Lean / Tart

FINISH Med+

COMPLEXITY Med+

Aroma & Taste

RED FRUIT Cranberry • Red Plum • Red Currant *Condition: Under Ripe / Tart, Fresh*

BLUE FRUIT Huckleberry *Condition: Under Ripe / Tart, Fresh*

BLACK FRUIT Black Raspberry *Condition: Under Ripe / Tart, Fresh*

FLORAL Violet *Condition: Fresh*

OTHER VEGETABLE Olive (Black) • Mushrooms (Brown) • Fennel / Anise

OTHER SPICES Chinese Five Spice • Black Pepper • Soy

ORGANIC EARTH Compost • Barnyard

ANIMAL Meat

OAK AGING Yes *Oak Intensity: Low*

OAK INFLUENCE Neutral / Large Oak

CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS Volatile Acidity • Brettanomyces

PERCEIVED WINEMAKING CHOICES Partial / Whole Cluster