



Maison Les Alexandrins

TAIN L'HERMITAGE - FRANCE

Maison Les Alexandrins Hermitage Blanc - 2023

AOC Hermitage, Vallée du Rhône, France

Maison Les Alexandrins, a signature modern in approach and contemporary in style. A perfect balance between the two grape varieties – Marsanne and Roussanne –, this wine boasts a fine mineral signature. Delicate from start to finish, it is a subtle blend of fat and acidity in a vintage noted for its freshness.

DESCRIPTION

A partnership between two winegrowers from the Rhône Valley – Nicolas Jaboulet and Alexandre Caso – Maison les Alexandrins produces northern wines in a style at once contemporary and timeless, always from exceptional vineyards unearthed by Alexandre Caso, a specialist in the terroirs of the northern Rhône Valley. Classics with a twist, these wines and how they are aged and blended are guided by the quest for perfect harmony from a very young age.

TERROIR

Our grapes come from vines planted in the localities of Rocoule and Maison Blanche, where the loess and chalky soils are ideal for white wines.

THE VINTAGE

2023 was a year full of contrasts, which required great composure and experience to deal with the climatic hazards. The winter was mild followed by a wet spring then a summer oscillating between hailstorms and drought, before a complicated harvest period, between August 17 and September 20. A permanent risk of rain and unpredictable weather forecasts required us to constantly adapt our plans in order to harvest our grapes, of good quality and well concentrated in sugars, at their optimal phenolic maturity. At the end of the harvest, the meticulous work was more than rewarded: this very unusual vintage proved to be very promising, perfectly well balanced across all quality indicators. In the cellar, we are pleasantly surprised by the freshness of the whites. The terroirs resisted drought and offer magnificent balance. Low temperature fermentations helped preserve the aromatics. The reds required long macerations in order to extract all the essence of the vintage. The wines from the lowlands are crisp and delicate, the wines from the hills stand out for their density and the radiance brought by the granite. The aging period has now started, the wines will improve and the textures will slowly become more complex in the cellar.



LOCATION

This Grand Cru's classic reputation has been built over the centuries around one hill and a history steeped in legend. Appreciated as far back as Roman times when they were called "Vienne wines" (like those from Côte-Rôtie), Hermitage wines then became known as "wines of the slopes of Saint-Christophe", named after the local chapel dedicated to the saint. It would seem that the name Hermitage first appeared in the 17th century in memory of the knight Henri Gaspard de Stérinberg who, in the 13th century, on his return from the Albigensian Crusades, decided to live as a hermit on this hill, granted to him by Blanche of Castile, Queen of Spain. He is said to have replanted a vineyard which went on to take the name of Ermitage, and then Hermitage. This was only the beginning of the vineyard's success; it is said that under the reign of Louis XIV, Hermitage was the favourite wine of the Russian tsars. The list of Hermitage enthusiasts is as long as it is illustrious, including as it does Henry IV, French poet Boileau, Louis XIII, Louis XIV, Nicolas II and Alexandre Dumas.

PROCESS

- Vinified in barrels.
- Aged in barrels for 12 months.

VARIETALS

Marsanne 50%, Roussane 50%

TASTING

Superb gold colour with shiny reflections. All in finesse and elegance, the nose reveals a beautiful personality, offering a complex aromatic bouquet with aromas of citrus fruit associated with toasted, smoky and grilled almond notes, reminiscent of barrel vinification. Full bodied, powerful and spicy, the mouth shows a beautiful silky texture with a nice fattiness, well balanced by a delicate freshness. The depth of this wine, that very nice aging potential, will develop further with aging.

FOOD PAIRINGS

This wine will go wonderfully with Bresse poultry with morels.

SERVING

Serve between 12°C and 14°C. Can be opened today. Its dried fruit flavours come through after it has been laid down for a few years.

REVIEWS AND AWARDS

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

93/100

"A well-rounded, seductive and supple Hermitage white. It has notes of white peaches, sliced apples and sweet spices. Medium-bodied with fresh acidity. Good volume and freshness on the palate with balance and a delicious, vivid finish. Drink or hold."

James Suckling, 17/06/2024

