



## Maison Les Alexandrins

TAIN L'HERMITAGE - FRANCE



### Maison Nicolas Perrin Syrah Viognier - 2011

Vin de France, VSIG, France

When Syrah is blended with Viognier, you obtain a wine with more aromatic elegance and finesse. On the granite terroir of the Northern Rhône Valley, this blend gives freshness and body to the wine. The rather dry and hot 2011 vintage was characterised by a full-bodied wine with great maturity.



#### DESCRIPTION

It is in its French birthplace, between the towns of Vienne and Valence, that Syrah fully expresses itself. For some people, Syrah originates from Shiraz in Iran and was brought back by the Crusades. For others, Syrah appeared in the third century during the Roman Empire, at the time of Emperor Probus. As for Viognier, the latest scientific research proved that it originates from the Northern Rhône Valley.

#### TERROIR

The substratum of the right bank of the Rhône River is composed of primary rocks such as Gneiss and granite from old volcanic rocks from the Massif Central. Its sandy-clay soils are also composed of granite elements. The important amount of granite gives the wine a powerful and rustic character as well as minerality. The geological components of the left bank of the Rhône are more varied. There is granite soil as well as some plots covered in pebbles remaining from the glaciers. The pebbles have been rounded and polished by the Rhône and keep the heat of the day and give it back at night. This helps the concentration of sugars and aromas.

Situated between the semi-continental climate of Burgundy and the Mediterranean climate of Provence, the winters are continental: cold, wind and little rain. The summers are Mediterranean: hot with storms and little wind. Thanks to the contrast in the climate, this Syrah reveals intense aromas of red fruit and spices and a beautiful minerality.

#### THE VINTAGE

After 2010 (a very balanced vintage) and 2009 (a powerful vintage), 2011 offered plenty fruit, freshness and body. Besides a hot spring and early flowering, the summer was relatively cold and wet and the advance made was caught up. During the month of September, the sun dominated most of the time and the maturity was progressive. The crop came in continuously up until the first days of October for the plots of higher elevation and needed more time to reach perfect maturity. The crop was healthy, the grapes of good quality and the quantities were plentiful.

#### LOCATION

The vineyard, composed of young vines of an average age of 15 years, is planted on terraces. It covers the hinterland of the Northern Côtes du Rhône. It is situated on localities of the Southern Rhône, Loire, Isère, northern Drôme and north Ardèche.



## PROCESS

The grapes are cold-macerated before fermenting to develop the fruit. Maceration and fermentation for a fortnight with pumping over the first few days and then pumping down towards the end. Part of the wine is aged for 5-6 months in stainless steel tanks. This type of tank helps keep the freshness and fruit. The other part is aged in oak tanks for the same amount of time to help extract the tannins.

## VARIETALS

Syrah 92%, Viognier 8%

## TASTING

Colour: Bright Ruby in colour with purple undertones

Nose: Red fruit, full-bodied and very harmonious with aromas of blackcurrant, blueberries along with notes of spice.

Mouth: the attack is fresh, the wine is lively and mineral. The tannins are soft and round and give immediate pleasure. The balance between alcohol and acidity reveals a harmonious wine. The softness and finesse of Viognier allows to create a wine that is more powerful and full bodied than a simple Syrah.

## SERVING

This wine is to be drunk now at a temperature of 16°C.

Our food match: This wine will match simple, convivial meals such as grilled meats, cheeses or even an exotic or spicy cuisine.

## REVIEWS AND AWARDS

"A tag team effort between legendary Rhône families, Jaboulet from the north and Perrin from the south, has resulted in a collaboration focussed on small-batch wines sourced from top growers and sub-appellations around the region. The Syrah offers classic earthy, meaty character loaded with spice, while the Viognier fleshes things out with a splash of stone fruit. Grill up some lamb and go to town."

Kurtis Kolt, WE Vancouver

"The entry-level range is labelled by grape variety rather than appellation. Touch of white pepper, blackcurrants, accessible, hugely enjoyable."

Jane Anson, South China Morning Post



90/100

"This is dense yet agile, the prickle of stems dancing through the dark, chewy fruit, leaving space and floral notes in its wake. It's dark and guarded, a black rose with thorns."

Wine & Spirits, 01/02/2014

