

ROTEM AND MOUNIR SAOUMA

(Above) One of the eight vineyards across five villages of the appellation that Mounir has been able to acquire, allowing for 100% estate fruit.



Châteauneuf-du-Pape Omnia 2019

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France

ESTATE

Burgundy meets the Rhône. An utter respect for tradition, and in some ways a total break. We have watched as Mounir and Rotem Saouma, of Burgundy producer Lucien Le Moine, slowly developed their estates and wines in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and the results today are too extraordinary and distinct to ignore. The wines are stunning: precise, intense, complex, expressive visions of Châteauneuf. They somehow speak to the past, but also to the present (and we would guess, the future), all in their own voice.

WINE

Mounir Saouma likes to describe Châteauneuf-du-Pape as a mosaic, with all the wild traditions and differences together making for very different interpretations. Omnia, Latin for "all," is his attempt to encompass the entire region's terroir and winemaking history (and perhaps future) in one glass. The fruit comes from 9 vineyard parcels encompassing 6 lieu-dits across 3 of the 5 Châteauneuf communes, vinified in a variety of vessels. The results are wines of beguiling fruit and savory richness, powerful yet extraordinary finesse and detail.

VINEYARD

Soils: Unique rocky alluvial vineyards (the famous "galets") and red clay soils of the area. Some parcels (Pignan) are sandy-loam, and Esquillons boast pure, exposed limestone.

Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 75 years.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre

Fermentation: The grapes are not destemmed and are lightly crushed and left in tank to macerate at cool temperatures for 8 days. They are pressed hard and transferred to a variety of vessels, where fermentation takes place over many months.

Aging: Unique combination of barrels, foudres, cement, and eggs. Two years aging in barrels with only stirring of the lees, the wine is not racked, pumped, fined or filtered.

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2019 is another excellent vintage for the Rhône Valley, with exceptional potential quality in both the North and South. A dry spring was followed by a moderate summer featuring three distinct heat spikes; harvest occurred normally in mid-September. The grapes were ripe and concentrated with excellent natural acidity, and the wines are rich but balanced and expressive. Another superb vintage for the region.

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Wine Spectator

"Very refined, with silky and fine-grained structure carrying alluring bergamot, rooibos tea, incense, dried cherry and lightly mulled raspberry notes along. A long sanguine thread weaves through the finish. Hard to resist now with so much charm, but this will benefit from cellaring. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. - J.M 4/22

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James Suckling