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# Decanter

## Piedmont: buy, buy, buy!

### 134 Barolo 2010s rated & beautiful Barbaresco

### Rhône 2013

North to south, our guide  
to the new vintage with  
the 50 best reds & whites

### Brunello's baby brother

Our tasters go  
mad for Rosso

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### Asset or flaw? Can wine 'faults' add character?



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## VINTAGE REPORT: RHONE 2013

### Domaine St-Gayan, In Nomine Patris 18 (93)

POA **Yapp Bros**

Clean and honest, the Grenache (almost exclusively) very evident. Juicy and fresh on the palate, the finish long and firm. Clearly has ageing potential.

**Drink** 2017-2030 **Alc** 14%

### Domaine Les Semelles de Vent 17.5 (91)

N/A UK **+33 4 90 12 39 10**

Powerful wine with the stamp of the terroir. Subdued, dark fruit nose with a steely edge. Palate structured and firm with long, fresh tannins. **Drink** 2017-2028 **Alc** 14.5%

### Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières, La Font de Notre Dame 17.5 (91)

£13.95 **Robert Anthony**

Elegant wine with fine but firm tannins. Fragrant cherry nose leading on to a palate of juicy and redolent of red fruits. Fresh and finely honed.

**Drink** 2017-2027 **Alc** 14.5%



### Château de St-Cosme 17.5 (91)

£10.95-14.84(ib) **Bibendum, Hawkshead Wines, Slurp, The Wine Society**

Atypical but well done. Lots of Mourvèdre (30%) and Syrah (20%). Dark fruit,

spice and mineral notes. Palate round, sweet and fleshy but firm finish. **Drink** 2016-2027 **Alc** 14%

### Domaine de la Tourade 17.5 (91)

N/A UK **+33 4 90 70 91 09**

Dense and firm if slightly muted on the nose. Dark fruit and spice notes; Syrah (only 10%) noticeable. Fresh and focused on the palate, the tannic frame present but refined. **Drink** 2016-2027 **Alc** 14%



### Domaine Raspail-Ay 17 (90)

£20-£27.50 **Harvey Nichols, Noel Young, Thorman Hunt, Vin Cognito, Vine Trail, The Wine Society**

Spicy, dark fruit nose with more than a hint of cassis.

Palate is juicy and fresh. Good structure and length with a touch of minerality that is appealing.

**Drink** 2016-2025 **Alc** 14.5%

## Vacqueyras

### Domaine Le Colombier, Vieilles Vignes 17 (90)

£15.50 **Le Bon Vin**

Good depth of fruit and a firm tannic frame. Fresh and balanced. Shows presence in the glass.

**Drink** 2016-2022 **Alc** 14%

### Domaine La Fourmone, Le Poète 17 (90)

N/A UK **www.domaine-la-fourmone.com**

Grenache and Syrah with the latter coming through strongly. Lots of dark fruit with spice, pepper and leafy cassis notes. Firm, fresh finish. **Drink** 2016-2022

**Alc** 14.5%

are fresh and appealing (pear, citrus, floral), there is good acidity (for Châteauneuf) and plenty of fat and glycerol on the palate. Either drink on the fruit now or wait for the more evolved aromas of honey and dried fruits which will appear in five to six years. Producers to look for include Clos des Papes, Font de Michelle, Clos du Mont-Olivet, La Nerthe, Solitude and Vieux Télégraphe.

## Gigondas & Vacqueyras

Later-ripening Gigondas is perhaps the pick of the southern Rhône in 2013. There was more consistency across the board, the wines showing a little more substance and structure as well as a lovely freshness and fragrance. With alcohol degrees relatively moderate, these are not powerful wines but there's balance and enough fruit to suggest an ageing potential of up to 15 years. Blends are atypical with the Syrah and Mourvèdre augmented to compensate for the shortfall in Grenache. Other than the wines recommended here, look out for Domaines La Bouscatièrre, Brusset, Cayron and La Roubine.

With Mourvèdre anecdotal, it's Syrah that has taken up the slack in Vacqueyras. This is underlined by the dark colours, spice and pepper notes in the wines. Vacqueyras is more variable than Gigondas in 2013 and overall lighter and earlier maturing. 'It was an easy vintage to vinify but the wines are less powerful and tannic than usual,' confirms Maxime Bernard of Domaine La Garrigue.

## Vinsobres, Rasteau & Beaufort-de-Venise

Altitude in Vinsobres ranges from 200m to 450m and in 2013 the higher, later-ripening vineyards came off better than those lower down. These had difficulty ripening whereas those further up the slope had concentrated fruit and were less affected by coulure. The percentage of Syrah, however, has increased in all blends.

Yields were down in Rasteau but the quality is respectable. The wines have a lighter tannic structure but decent fruit and colour. 'They are somewhere between the more powerful 2011s and fruit packed 2012s,' says Robert Charavin of Domaine des Coteaux des Travers.

Beaufort-de-Venise reds are fruity, flattering and early drinking. Syrah again compensates for the lower volume of Grenache. The Muscat harvest was consistent with previous years, and the wines full and aromatic.

## Lirac & Tavel

As throughout the southern Rhône, yields here were down – 30% in Tavel and 50% in Lirac – due to the shortfall in Grenache. The reds have less volume and sucrosity and are fresher and more linear in style with Syrah and Mourvèdre playing a bigger role. 'I have the impression I'm in Crozes-Hermitage when I taste our 2013 reds,' exclaims Richard Maby of Domaine Maby. It's a good vintage for the whites and rosés, with freshness again the theme. The whites have attractive fruit and balance while the Tavel rosés have more vivacity



**Above:** Richard Maby, owner of Domaine Maby, with vineyards in Tavel. **Lirac, commencing 2013's fresh, linear style with Syrah and Mourvèdre dominant. 'I have the impression I'm in Crozes-Hermitage when I taste our 2013 reds.'**

*James Lawrence  
Decanter  
editor, author  
and tour guide*