



Château de Rouanne - "Les côtes" - red - 2019

Chateau de Rouanne 'Les Côtes' – Red 2019 Vinsobres

Syrah - Mourvèdre - Grenache

Pliocene and Messinian marl, clay and limestone

Average vine age 50, farmed organically

Traditional co-fermentation in concrete tanks. Wild ferments.

12 months' ageing in demi-muids and Burgundy casks. 15% new – 50% used for one wine – 35% used for two wines

The Les Côtes vineyard site, located right at the top of Rouanne hill, has been renowned for producing outstanding wines since time immemorial. The clay soils have good drainage and were influenced by the Messinian, a stupendous geological age when the Mediterranean Sea completely dried up then re-filled in less than three years when the present-day Strait of Gibraltar suddenly opened up. It was at that time that all the major canyons around the Mediterranean rim were formed, including the famous Verdon gorges. There is no denying that Les Côtes is one of Rouanne's three prime vineyard sites. Here, the yields are low and the clusters have tiny berries. It has all the requisite ingredients – intensity, concentration and structure. The cold winds relentlessly buffet the vineyards and constantly dry the vines and their fruit, promoting healthy grapes. The word 'terroir' takes on its full meaning here. The fauna and flora seem to live in harmony with the vines, in inimitable tranquility. The 2019 Les Côtes encapsulates all this and more. The wine is so impressive that it seems to forbid us from tasting it and judging it too hastily and too young. It took 2,000 years to shape the geography of Rouanne – surely a few years' patience before enjoying Les Côtes are not too much to ask.

Liquorice, black pepper, gingerbread and salinity.

Bottled unfiltered in August 2021.

NB: Site-specific label available in September 2021