



## Château de Rouanne - "Rouanne et les Crottes" - red - 2019

Chateau de Rouanne 'Rouanne et les Crottes' – Red 2019 Vinsobres

Grenache - Syrah

Pliocene and Messinian limestone marl

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

This is the historic, geological and viticultural heart of the property. It is here that stood the Villa of Rugius, Rouanne's first resident under the Roman Empire. When we plough the soils, we find as many tiles as those found on the site of Herculaneum, buried in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. 'Les Crottes' from the Latin Crypta is mentioned as early as the 18th century on the famous Map of Cassini and refers to the vaulted cellars and caves. The configuration of the buildings and the many springs at Rouanne lends credence to this designation. At the 'Rouanne et les Crottes' named vineyard, located half way up the hill, the soils are impeccably balanced – the gradient provides good drainage; the gentle nature of the slope prevents organic matter from drying out; the proportions of the clay are perfect; and there is sufficient limestone to produce finesse. In many hilly regions, and primarily in Burgundy, the middle of the hill is often the 'Holy Grail' for quality, both for physical and mechanical reasons. And 'Rouanne et les Crottes' is certainly a kind of Holy Grail – it is here that the heart of Rouanne beats flamboyantly. The wines display unrivalled majesty and a breadth and depth that does not prevent the verticality of the limestone and the freshness of the salinity from shining through. Its captivating nose of gingerbread and stewed strawberry fully reflects the nobility that can gush forth from a stellar wine in the finest vineyard sites of the southern Rhone Valley. 2019 expresses all of this with the brilliance of a great vintage.

Gingerbread, ripe strawberry, tar and salinity.

Bottled unfiltered in August 2021.

NB: Site-specific label available in September 2021