



Château de Rouanne - "Vinsobres" AOP Vinsobres - red - 2019

Château de Rouanne – Red 2019 Vinsobres

50% Grenache - 40% Syrah – 10% Mourvèdre

Pliocene marl and limestone

Average vine age 50, farmed organically

Traditional co-fermentation in concrete tanks. Wild ferments.

12 months' ageing in tanks, Burgundy casks and demi-muids.

When I took over Saint Cosme, in 1992, I had to wait until my fourth year (1995) to experience the joy of a great vintage. I was rather unfortunate because it isn't often you get four challenging vintages in a row (from 1991 to 1994). At Rouanne, I was lucky enough to experience a great vintage in just my second year – 2019. The magnificent Rouanne hillside fully demonstrated its boundless potential, akin to a race horse whose energy needs to be channelled. After a wonderful spring and flowering season that produced small berries, the dry summer helped express its intensity – a feature which all great vintages have in common. The incredible salinity, which is Rouanne's hallmark characteristic, instils that vital freshness in an absolutely magnificent whole. The depth of the fruit, the length and the complexity make this a consummate age-worthy wine. There is no doubting its extensive scope, great structure and huge potential. Rouanne is right there up in the big league and we will be talking about the low-cropping 2019s for many years to come. I am gradually unravelling the mysteries of this terroir, but it has to be said that greater understanding brings with it as many new questions. Crucially, though, my intimate connection with this site grows daily.

Cinnamon, liquorice, black pepper, gingerbread and salinity.

Bottled unfiltered."