

Wine Spectator's Insider Weekly

A First Look at Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines | October 13, 2021

France

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

A Hot and Impressive Vintage

It comes as no surprise that the 2019 vintage was marked by heat and drought in France's Southern Rhône Valley. The region is on the front line of climate change, and conditions here continue to get hotter and drier by the year.

Yet Châteauneuf-du-Pape keeps cranking out impressive wines—rich in fruit and texture, yes, but still relatively fresh, thanks to the region's bevy of healthy old vines. Their deep root systems act as a buffer against hydric stress, and they can regulate themselves under conditions that would be deleterious for younger vines or varieties that can't withstand Southern French summers as successfully as Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre.

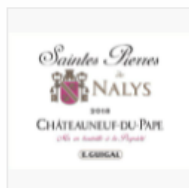
This batch of newly released Châteauneufs features some prominent names, including Clos des Papes, Domaine de la Janasse and Isabel Ferrando's Domaine St.-Préfert, three stalwart domaines that excelled in 2019. Their wines capture the essence of the vintage: Dark and luxurious fruit notes with suave textures and beguiling spice, *garrigue* and mineral elements. **Also here is the latest from Château de Nalys. Acclaimed Rhône producer Guigal purchased the winery in 2017, and 2018 was the first vintage during which the Guigals had full control over the vineyards and winemaking from start to finish.** Keep an eye out for our full analysis of the 2019 vintage, plus hundreds of scores and tasting notes, in our upcoming Rhône Valley tasting report.—*James Molesworth*

CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Stes.-Pierres de Nalys
2018

93 points | \$58 | 800 cases imported | Red

A silky yet rich and persistent offering, with leading red tea notes, mulled cherry and raspberry fruit at the core and a long, subtle mineral edge curling around the perfumed finish. Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, Muscardin, Counoise and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2032. —*J.M.*



CHÂTEAU DE NALYS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2019

93 points | \$105 | 200 cases imported |
White

Enticing, with melon and lemon curd flavors cruising through. Offers nice definition, backed by honeysuckle and acacia notes on the stylish finish. Roussanne, Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc and Picpoul. Drink now through 2024. —*J.M.*

