

Rhône 2015 Special Report by Matt Walls

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Red Hermitage Les Bessards 2015

Aged for 18 months in barriques, 30% new. Violets, black cherry, ripe blackberry and integrated oak spice, sun-baked stone and Provençale herbs. Very full, rounded and sweetly fruited for this typically savoury lieu-dit. It has the straightness of style and mineral grind you'd expect from Les Bessards, and a very long finish. 3,300 bottles. 2021-2041

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Red Côte-Rotie La Landonne 2015

Aged for 18 months in large barrels, 40% new. A serious and altogether rather regal demeanour; it's immediately clear this is a serious wine. Purity and power, nothing overstretched; the oak certainly strongly discernible for now, but the fruit is the dominant force. Precision and balance are the watchwords here. This is polished, refined, well-crafted and highly promising. 2,000 bottles. 2025-2040

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Red Cornas Chante-Perdrix 2015

Lieux-dits Reynards, Champelrose and St. Romain, all destemmed and fermented in concrete. Very smoky, spicy style, brimming over with grilled bread and crispy duck skin. Full-bodied, packed full of ripe juicy fruit and piercing acidity. The tannins are relatively refined but plentiful. A polished expression of Cornas, but nonetheless authentic, with incredible concentration, freshness and length. 2019-2028

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White Hermitage Domaine des Tourettes 2015

Lieux-dits Les Bessards and Les Grandes Vignes. Lime blossom, orange blossom, green pear and white flowers - very pretty nose, without too much oak influence. Full-bodied, and flowing on the palate, with soft ripeness to the fruit and silk on the mid palate, giving a luxurious feel. Long finish, with grilled bread and roasted nuts. The acidity is a little low, but this is a really good effort from Delas this year, well-balanced and unctuous but still fresh. 2017-2025

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Red Crozes-Hermitage Domaine des Grands Chemins 2015

Touch of reduction for now, and some liquorice. Full, sweet, rich fruits and a strong tannic base. This is good - really long, and very well balanced considering its plus-size measurements. Often a good pick, this year even more so. Delas just get better and better. 2018-2022