



Written by
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Rhône 2013 - Châteauneuf-du-Pape

TASTING ARTICLES RHÔNE 2013

See also our daily-updated [guide to coverage of 2013 Rhône](#) and my [overview of the vintage on Saturday](#).



As I explained some time ago on our [Members' forum](#), I decided this year that since the southern Rhône grape crop was so shrunk by coulure, I would taste only the regular, so-called Tradition bottlings of Châteauneuf-du-Pape rather than the special elite bottlings known as Cuvées Spéciales. I was delighted to be able to sound out members overnight via the forum as to whether they would prefer me to taste next day a wide range of 2005s blind or look at the 2013 Cuvées Spéciales. The 2005s proved more popular.

In an average-sized vintage (not seen for some years) there would normally be about a third as many Cuvées Spéciales as Tradition bottlings (even

La Consonnière 2013

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Châteauneuf-du-Pape

85% Grenache, **15%** Mourvèdre,

*All destemmed. Aged
for 16 months, 30% in demi-
muids and 70% in concrete.*

Pale to mid ruby. Lacks a bit of
intensity but it's pleasant
enough, ripe, round

Châteauneuf. Grenache is
obvious for once! Very nice, fresh
drink. A proper expression of
2013 Châteauneuf. Quite
persistent. 15%

Drink 2018-2030