

## DOMAINE DES PIERRES SÈCHES

### Saint-Joseph Rouge '1930' 2020

After wine studies in Beaune, winemaker Sylvain Gauthier decided to explore native Rhône grapes first with Michel Chapoutier and then with Stéphane Robert, before he was ready to start his own project in the true center of the Saint-Joseph appellation. He founded his micro-domaine in the village of Cheminas in 2007, the name "pierres sèches" inspired by the hand-built, ancient stone walls that support vineyard terraces on the steep slopes of the northern Rhône. Farming organically and using little sulfites at bottling, Sylvain's wines are vibrantly flavored and energetically spiced—in sum, serious northern wines that have quickly become a must-have from an up-and-coming talent.

**WINERY:** Domaine des Pierres Sèches

**WINEMAKER:** Sylvain Gauthier

**ESTABLISHED:** 2007

**REGION:** FRANCE • Northern Rhône • Cheminas

**APPELLATION:** Saint-Joseph AOC

**BLEND:** 100% Syrah

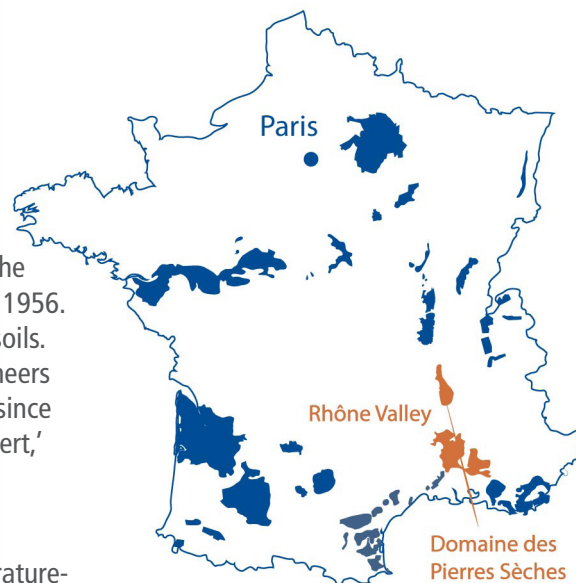
**VINEYARDS:** The lieu-dit 'Aubert' is in Saint-Jean de Muzols, one of the original three communes selected for the Saint-Joseph appellation in 1956. Vines face southeast, on decomposed granite and grainy, schist-rich soils. For decades, 'Aubert' was worked by Raymond Trolat, one of the pioneers of traditional Saint-Joseph wines; 'Aubert' has been planted to vines since World War I. Winemaker Sylvain Gauthier has but a few rows in 'Aubert,' which were planted in 1930, which inspired the wine's name.

**AGE OF VINES:** 90 years, on average

**WINEMAKING:** Hand-harvested. Full-cluster fermentation in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks on indigenous yeasts. Aged for 18 months in new French oak tonneaux (500L). Bottled unfiltered, with minimal added sulfites. Less than 1,000 bottles made each vintage.

**TASTING IMPRESSIONS:** Aromas of black fruit, black pepper, smoke, tobacco, licorice. Full-bodied and finely textured, with ripe, structured tannins and a long finish. Spiced plums, black cherry, great balance

**PAIRING SUGGESTIONS:** Pork terrine; grilled sausages with herbs; roasted chicken



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