

LE CLOS DU CAILLOU Côtes du Rhône Rouge 'Quartz' 2017

Wines from Le Clos du Caillou are Rhône blends at their most intense. Concentrated and richly textured, these organically raised wines capture the spice of older-vine Grenache as grown on the region's finest terroirs. The estate in Courthézon, in the northeastern part of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation, boasts a mix of terroirs with a predominance of sand, which gives Caillou wines their silky elegance and fine-grained texture. The estate has been practicing biodynamic viticulture since 2003, and was certified organic in 2010. Caillou's devotion to the character of the land (through bottling wines according to terroir) and its dedication to organic viticulture has only intensified over the years; this is what makes Caillou one of the leading estates in the southern Rhône.

WINERY: Le Clos du Caillou WINEMAKER: Bruno Gaspard ESTABLISHED: 1956 REGION: FRANCE • Rhône Valley • Courthezon APPELLATION: Côtes du Rhône AOC BLEND: 85% Grenache and 15% Syrah

VINEYARDS: A mix of estate vineyards within the estate's "clos" or stone walls, with large quartz stones (galets roulés) on the surface and sandy subsoils. This terroir is similar to 'Les Cassanets,' the lieu-dit from which the estate makes its Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'Quartz.'

AGE OF VINES: 50 years, on average

WINEMAKING: Hand-harvested. Destemmed; fermented on indigenous yeasts in cement tanks. Aged for 14 months in a combination of upright, tapered oak cask, foudre and demi-muid. Unfined and unfiltered.

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Aromas of raspberry, baking spices, licorice. Juicy and textured, mouth-coating; flavors of black cherry, hints of chocolate powder.

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Grilled pork sausages with herbs; roasted lamb; ribs with smoky chipotle glaze

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