

DOMAINE CHRISTOPHE BILLON

Côte Rôtie 'Côte Rozier'

At the very top of the hill overlooking the northern Rhône town of Ampuis, you'll find the modest yet rising-star estate of Christophe Billon. Since 1991, Christophe has crafted honest, authentic Syrah wines from these steep, terraced vineyards. His family's roots go back generations in Ampuis; the family's oldest parcel of vines was planted by Christophe's grandfather in 1942. The family crafts four Côte-Rôtie cuvées, each generously structured and stunningly pure, and each a faithful representation of the power and purity of these "roasted slopes."

WINERY: Domaine Christophe Billon

WINEMAKER: Christophe Billon

ESTABLISHED: 1991

REGION: FRANCE • Rhône Valley • Ampuis

APPELLATION: Côte-Rôtie AOC

BLEND: 100% Syrah

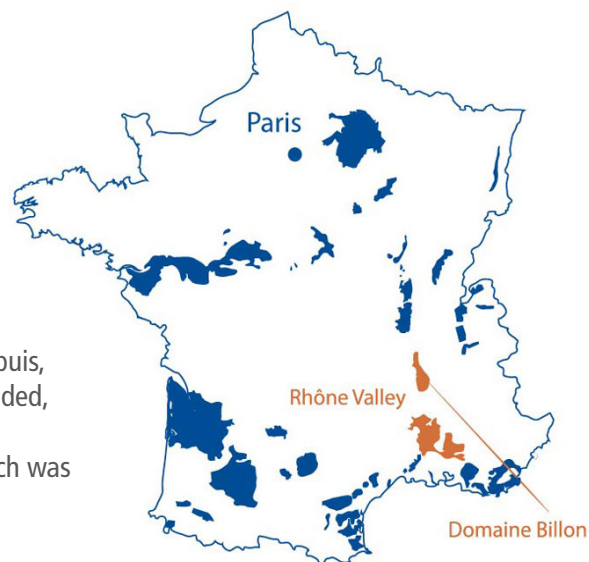
VINEYARDS: The vineyard 'Côte Rozier' sits north of the village of Ampuis, on the same, east-facing flank of hillside as 'La Landonne.' Steeply graded, the plot's soils are mostly schist, with some mica pieces; classic 'Brune' terroir. The family farms three small parcels within 'Rozier,' one of which was planted in 1942 by winemaker Christophe Billon's grandfather.

AGE OF VINES: 45 years, on average; oldest vines 80 years

WINEMAKING: Partially destemmed (70%); fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature controlled, stainless steel tanks. Aged for 26 months in French oak cask (300L; 50% new wood).

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Aromas of black fruits trending toward purple, pepper, crushed stones. Full-bodied, concentrated; structured tannins, serious depth.

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Red meat or autumn stews; aged French cheeses



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