

CLOS DU MONT-OLIVET

- Exclusively imported by North Berkeley Imports -

'Clos du Mont Olivet is one of the great estates of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. They have been estate bottling for over 80 years, and readers looking for classic, old-style, traditional as well as long-lived Châteauneuf-du-Papes have a beacon of reassurance with the Sabon family, who have run this domaine so impeccably well.' -The Wine Advocate

'For years we've sung the praises of Clos du Mont-Olivet. This iconic address is the destination for lovers of meaty, elegant, old school, Southern Rhône masterpieces that offer incredible value to boot. Mont-Olivet is the equivalent of a Châteauneuf winemaking museum.' -Master Somm Ian Cauble

Year Founded: Mid-16th Century

Region: Rhône, France

Founder: The Sabon Family

Winemaker: Thierry Sabon

Known For: The family estate of Clos du Mont-Olivet is the collector's choice for traditional, aromatic and age-worthy Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

-Sustainable-

The Sabon family's ancient, three-story stone house looks directly upon the ruins of the papal "châteauneuf" that gives the town its name. Their cellars are stacked high with dusty bottles—many without labels—stashed by winemaker Thierry Sabon's grandfather when he first started making wine. Clos du Mont-Olivet was one of the first wineries North Berkeley partnered with in the south of France, and since then, the estate has come to symbolize both what we seek out in wineries in the Rhône Valley (and beyond) and importantly, what we hold true and dear in great wine. We have shared many a meal in this old stone house with the family and have watched the changing of generations—from the grandfather's last harvest to his grandson's first—yet the extraordinary terroir and talent that defines Mont-Olivet wines has remained as eloquent and exceptional as when we first experienced it so many years ago.



Mont-Olivet's some 15 vineyard parcels are found mostly in the northern and eastern part of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation (Côtes du Rhône parcels are north of Orange), with a patchwork of soils—galets roulés, sand and clay—typical to the region. The estate cultivates all nine allowed red grape varieties for its Châteauneuf-du-Pape blend. As such, Mont-Olivet wines present a unique look at the harmony of terroir and grape in this historic region. In recent years, the estate has expanded its holdings into the Lirac appellation, due west across the Rhône river from Châteauneuf-du-Pape. While the estate follows sustainable farming practices, there is no "dogma," says Thierry Sabon, who prefers to let the vintage conditions and health of his grapes guide his decisions each year. In general, vine rows are plowed to control weeds; no pesticides are used. Grapes are harvested by hand and sorted both in the fields and at the cellar, and then fermented on indigenous yeasts in cement tanks. Wines are aged in a combination of older foudre, demi-muid and barrel, depending on the wine and vintage, and are bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

2021 Clos du Mont-Olivet Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge Cuvee Unique



"A stunning monument to the classic Châteauneuf balance of spice, power, and elegance. It's delicious now, and will be even better in five to 10 years, so stock up!" -Master Somm Ian Cauble

80% Grenache, 10% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre. Estate vineyards represent a perfect cross-section of Châteauneuf terroir, unique in its complexity and variety. The lieu-dits 'Montalivet,' 'La Crau,' 'Blachieres,' 'Coste Froide,' 'Bois Seneseau,' 'Palestor,' 'Bois Dauphin,' 'Pied de Baud,' 'Les Bosquets,' 'Les Parrans' and 'Les Marines' are found in the north/northeast of the appellation. Soils range from clay and sand to alluvial gravel and 'galets roulés,' the large quartz stones characteristic of Rhône Valley vineyards. 30-40-year-old vines. Hand-harvested. Partially destemmed; fermented on indigenous yeasts in cement tank. Aged exclusively in older foudre. Bottled unfinned and unfiltered. Aromas of blackberry, red cherry and baking spices. Smooth, concentrated yet balanced with flavors of tart cherries, red plums and light licorice.

93 Points – James Suckling – *"Wonderful red fruit aromas and a very satisfying harmony. Lots of gentle tannins give this a pleasantly mellow mouthfeel that's very easy to enjoy, but also sophisticated. Graceful finish."*

92 Points – Wine Spectator – *"This medium-weight red offers notes of red currant and snappy cherry, backed by singed cedar and smoked black tea flavors, with iron bolts grounding fruit and perfume notes. Starts off very smooth, with straight tannins that make for a firmly structured finish."*