

LE CLOS DU CAILLOU

'This estate continues to make polished, elegant wines that have a slight modern edge, while never losing their Provençal character.' - Robert Parker

Year Founded: 1956

Region: Courthézon,
Rhône Valley, France

Winemaker(s): Bruno
Gaspard

Fun Fact: 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.

**-Practicing Biodynamic,
Certified Organic-**

Wines from Le Clos du Caillou wines reflect the native perfumes of the south, the "garrigue" blend of thyme, rosemary and lavender that grows wild among the estate's vines. Of all the terroir in the Côtes du Rhône appellation, the "clos" of Caillou has to be one of the most exceptional. Completely surrounded by Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyards, this walled parcel of land was intentionally left out of the appellation by the owner, following a bureaucratic spat back in 1936. What this means today is that Caillou's Côtes du Rhône wines are the qualitatively the same, with regard to terroir and exposition, as top Châteauneuf wines. Caillou's devotion to the character of the land (through bottling wines according to terroir) and its dedication to organic and biodynamic viticulture are what captivated us so many years ago when we first encountered these wines; and over the years, this fidelity to soil and soul has only intensified.



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. Importantly, the "clos," or walled portion of the estate where vines for Côtes du Rhône wines are grown, shares the same terroir with Caillou's Châteauneuf-du-Pape vineyards. The estate has been practicing biodynamic viticulture since 2003, and was certified organic as of 2010. Grapes are harvested by hand and manually sorted in both the fields and at the cellar, then partially destemmed and fermented on indigenous yeasts in cement tanks. Wines are aged in a combination of large foudre, demi-muid and barrel, depending on the wine and the vintage, for approximately 15 to 18 months in the estate's cool underground cellars, and are bottled unfinned and unfiltered.



2022 Côtes du Rhône Rouge Vieilles Vignes Cuvée Unique

A North Berkeley exclusive. With the help of winemaker Bruno Gaspard, we select the finest lots of older-vine wines from the estate's cold underground cellars for this special blend. Spicy, sultry and even age-worthy; always too easy to enjoy.

70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 5% Carignan, 5% Counoise. Hand-harvested. Destemmed; fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled tank. Aged in cement tank, stainless steel tank and older foudre (52HL). Unfinned and unfiltered. Aromas of garrigue (wild thyme, lavender and rosemary). Flavors of raspberry and black cherry.



2022 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge 'Les Safres'

The estate's silkiest, most suave Châteauneuf-du-Pape, composed primarily of older-vine Grenache. 'Safres' refers to the wine's terroir of compacted sand, which in the wine translates as a supple texture and smooth tannins. Bold red fruits and endless spice are a nod to the great old-vine Grenache cultivated by this excellent organic winemaking estate.

85% Grenache and 15% Mourvèdre. Sourced from the estate lieu-dit 'Les Bedines'. Hand-harvested. Destemmed; fermented on indigenous yeasts in upright wooden fermentation vessels. Aged in 25-year-old foudre for 14 months. Unfined and unfiltered. Aromas of ripe summer berries, wild strawberry, blueberry, licorice and blond tobacco. Ripe and smooth, fine-grained tannins; flavors of black currant jam, fresh red plums.

94+ Points - Robert Parker - *"Perfumed bouquet of dark cherries, iris, dark wild berries and garrigue. Medium to full-bodied, satiny and sappy, it's enrobing and charming, framed by velvety, delicate tannins and a violet-inflected finish."*



2020 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge 'Les Quartz'

The region's "galets roulés," or large quartz river stones, are common in Châteauneuf's finest vineyards. Left behind in the former path of the Rhone River, these stones absorb heat during the day and release it slowly in the evenings, resulting in perfectly ripe grapes that create a structured, mineral-rich wine.

80% Grenache and 20% Syrah. Hand-harvested. Destemmed; fermented on indigenous yeasts in upright wooden fermentation vessels. Grenache aged in older demimuid (600L) and Syrah in older French oak barrels for 14 months. Unfined and unfiltered.

97 Points - Wine Enthusiast - *"Fresh and floral, this wine boasts an aromatic core of violets and rose, beautifully balanced by ripe brambly fruit. Refreshing acidity elevates flavors of red cherries, licorice, saffron, and cardamom, culminating in a long, stony finish."*

96 Points - Decanter - *"Enjoyably drinkable, approachable and compact, it feels unforced and authentic, with ripe tannins, fresh blackberry acidity and a neat, precise finish."*