

ROTEM AND MOUNIR SAOUMA

(Above) One of the eight vineyards across five villages of the appellation that Mounir has been able to acquire, allowing for 100% estate fruit.



Châteauneuf-du-Pape Omnia 2016

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France

ESTATE

Burgundy meets the Rhône. An utter respect for tradition, in some ways a total break. We have watch as Mounir and Rotem Saouma, of Burgundy producer Lucien Le Moine, slowly developed their estates and wines in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and the results today are too extraordinary and distinct to ignore. The wines are stunning: precise, intense, complex, expressive visions of Châteauneuf. They somehow speak to the past, but also to the present (and we would guess, the future), all in their own voice.

WINE

Mounir Saouma likes to describe Châteauneuf-du-Pape as a mosaic, with all the wild traditions and differences together making for very different interpretations. Omnia, Latin for "all," is his attempt to encompass the entire region's terroir and winemaking history (and perhaps future) in one glass. The fruit comes from 9 vineyard parcels across all 5 of the Châteauneuf communes and then vinified in a variety of vessels. The results need to be tasted to be believed, it is a wine of beguiling fruit and savory richness, yet extraordinary finesse and detail.

VINEYARD

Soils: Unique rocky alluvial vineyards (the famous "galets") and red clay soils of the area.
Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 75 years.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre
Fermentation: Firmly pressed, followed by tank maceration at cool temperatures for 8 days.
Aging: Unique combination of barrels, foudres, cement, and eggs
Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

2016 will go down as one of the greatest vintages the Southern Rhône has experienced. Crop set was large but even, and the summer was hot and dry, with perfectly timed rains preserving freshness in the wines. Harvest occurred with little difficulty from late September through mid-October, and the reds are structured, concentrated, ripe and yet fresh. The whites are successful across the board. Mounir's 2016 Rhône wines are the essence of purity and concentration, with burgeoning aromatics and a structure that promises low, slow development in the cellar. The whites are dazzling.

Wine Spectator

97

"Sublime, with a beguiling mouthfeel to the layers of cherry puree, steeped plum and warmed raspberry coulis fruit flavors, melded with rooibos tea, bergamot, incense and jasmine notes. The long finish features subtle minerality and remarkable persistence, seeming to move with grace" - JM, 9/2019

96

Vinous