



CHATEAU DE VALCOMBE



COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES RHÔNE VALLEY, FRANCE

The Costières de Nîmes region of the Rhône Valley is a study in contrasts. It is the southernmost appellation of the region, but it is simultaneously the coolest in the southern Rhône Valley. Despite its distinctly Mediterranean climate and iconic pebbled soils that most associate with Grenache, its reds are most often based on Syrah. And while it sits at the intersection of the Rhône Valley, Languedoc, and Provence, Costières de Nîmes wines are distinctly expressive of their specific, unique terroir.

If a single quality could describe the wines of Costières de Nîmes, it would be freshness. Nerve acidity carries through all of the region's styles, making them quite easy-drinking and approachable. The stress on the vines from growing and living in those rocky, relatively infertile, fast-draining soils means that the vines don't over-produce. This helps prevent flabby, unbalanced, and uninteresting wines.

DESIGNATION

GARANCE | RHÔNE VALLEY, FRANCE

VARIETY

97% Syrah, 3% Grenache Noir

VINEYARD

The oldest plot of Syrah in Nîmes, planted in 1955, is the basis of this emblematic cuvée.

Vines are rooted in deep, complex soil layers of classic Rhône rolled pebbles (galets) over underlying alluvium of clay, silt and sand from an ancient river bed. The Garance cuvée comes from a 5 acre parcel of Syrah averaging 63 years in age.

PROCESS

The grapes are hand-harvested, destemmed with no berry crushing and fermented in cement tanks. The wine remains on-skins for 12 days post-fermentation. Aged for 24 months in French barrels from Ateler Centre France, Taransaud, Radoux.

TASTING

Combining power and elegance in an astonishing way. Displays a dense nose of muddled black fruits, morello cherries and mocha. The palate is dominated by black fruits and an expansive tannic structure. The long finish is surprisingly fresh for a wine of such concentration. Hints of spice and fresh eucalyptus add complexity to the finish.

WINERY

Château de Valcombe, a family-owned property since 1749, is the southernmost estate in the Costières de Nîmes. Close to the Mediterranean Sea and planted on soils boasting the highest concentration of limestone in the region, Valcombe offers refined, concentrated wines with exuberant freshness and minerality. The vineyards planted in 1955 are still in cultivation and are, along with the entirety of the estates' vineyards, have been certified organic since 2018.