

BERNARD LATOUR DOMAINE DE L' ESPIGOUETTE RASTEAU 2019/\$24.99



DESCRIPTION

Domaine de l'Espigouette is now run by Bernard Latour, his wife, and two sons, Julian and Emilien. The estate vineyard is located in the Rhone Valley of France: including Gigondas, Vacqueyras, Rasteau, Plan of God, Violes, Jonquieres. They carefully work the vineyard according to the climatic characteristics of vintage and different terroirs. The palate is full and generous. The tannins are present but do not dominate. The sensation of sweetness typical of this appellation is easily noticeable. The balance is perfect between freshness, alcohol, and structure.

The Côtes du Rhône is famous for its winemakers' ability to blend three prominent red grapes: Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre. Those grapes make up the bulk of a Côtes du Rhône red blend, but winemakers also choose between twenty other authorized grapes. It's that combination — of 23 grape varietals — that determines a Côtes du Rhône wine's final character.

Like a Russian nesting doll, Côtes du Rhône is an appellation, with a smaller appellation inside, and an even smaller appellation inside of that. For the largest appellation, "Côtes du Rhône," the labels simply says "Côtes du Rhône" along with other winery information. The next-largest appellation, "Côtes du Rhône Villages," comes from a smaller number of villages that must adhere to stricter production standards. (If you see "Villages," capitalized like that, it's from this region.)

Within the Côtes du Rhône Villages appellation, there is an extra tier that allows some villages to add their name on the label. This is where you find the most terroir-centric

production in the region. In fact, only 22 villages enjoy the privilege of having their names on the bottle. Not only does that mean the wine is made with ultra-strict production standards, but winemakers within the appellation are passionately expressive. In any bottle within this appellation, you'll find as much personality as exquisite blending technique — and you get the fun of deciding which you like best.

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The vineyard is located on the heights of the appellation. The stony clay soils give the wine aromas of wild blackberry, licorice, and cocoa; while sandy, clay soils provide elegance, finesse and depth. The vines have an average age of 45 years for the Côtes du Rhône and Plan de Dieu vines. The family works in the vineyards and select the grapes for maximum ripeness and concentration when harvested mechanically then carefully sorted before harvest. This is a blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 10% Mourvedre.

Tasting Notes

Nose:

Ruby-red cherry color. Fruity aromas dominate: blackberry, candied cherry, and crushed strawberry. Then, complexity is expressed and sweet spices combine with scents of black olives and cocoa bean.

Palate:

If you decide to open today, decanting will expand the enjoyment of its aromatic palate; otherwise it will keep between 3 and 6 years.

Pairing:

Côtes du Rhône wines pair beautifully with light fare — fish (fatty, crustaceans, battered and fried) as well as all manner of vegetables (grilled, roasted, pureed, pickled). In fact Côtes du Rhône reds have that fleshy berry flavor, plus carefully dialed-in acidity and restrained tannins, making them highly pairable with a variety of cooking styles.

Pair wild game or marinated meat to take full advantage of its potential.

Winery Website: [Home \(espigouette.com\)](http://espigouette.com)

Fun Facts

Roasted black plums are etched by char and black spice in this full-bodied, richly textured blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Sourced from stony clay and sandy soils, it's intensely fruity but dusted by subtle shades of earth, stone and fiery black spice. A certified organic red with soft but penetrating tannins, the wine is approachable young but should improve through 2029. —**Wine Enthusiast 92 Points**

Rasteau A.O.C., Rhone Valley, France

