M. Chapoutier

M. Chapoutier Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Bernardine is a classic Rhône blend that highlights the elegance and richness of this historic appellation, offering layers of ripe fruit, spice, and silky tannins.

Chateauneuf-du-Pape La Bernardine 2022

Southern Rhône, France

Alcohol :15,00 %

Composition: 90% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre

Region and Vineyards

The **Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Bernardine** is sourced from the **Quaternary terraces** of the Rhône Valley, characterized by **large, round pebbles** left by the ancient Rhône riverbed. These stones, known as **galets roulés**, retain heat during the day and radiate it back at night, ensuring optimal ripening conditions for the Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre vines.

The soils also include **Miocenian safres** and **Villafrancian terraces with clay matrix**, contributing to the wine's complexity and balance. The Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and cooling mistral winds, is ideal for producing bold yet refined wines.

Winemaking

The grapes are **carefully hand-sorted** during the harvest to ensure only the highest-quality bunches are used. The vinification process is **traditional**, carried out in **closed concrete tanks** to preserve the authenticity of the fruit.

Fermentation is maintained at **high temperatures**, with a vatting period lasting **around three weeks**, ensuring optimal extraction of color, tannins, and flavors. The wine is then aged for **15 months in concrete tanks**, allowing for gentle oxygenation, which preserves the wine's freshness and aromatic integrity.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Intense crimson-red with a vibrant clarity.
- **Aroma**: A complex and elegant bouquet of **blackcurrant**, **plum**, and roasted **coffee**, evolving into hints of **cinnamon**, **cherry**, and **morello cherry**.
- **Palate**: Opens with spicy notes of **liquorice**, followed by layers of fruitiness. The silky tannins create a smooth and long-lasting finish.

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Did you know?

The name **La Bernardine** reflects the rich history of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and its connection to the papacy. In 1308, Pope Clement V moved the papal court to Avignon, and under Pope John XXII, the region's wines became known as "Wines of the Pope." This legacy continues to define the identity of the appellation today.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck Confit with Red Wine Reduction**: The wine's fruity and spicy notes balance the richness of the duck.
- **Grilled Lamb Chops with Garlic and Rosemary**: The savory and herbal flavors of lamb complement the wine's structure and elegance.
- **Ratatouille with Thyme and Olive Oil**: The Mediterranean profile of the wine enhances the vegetable-driven flavors.
- **Aged Gruyère or Comté Cheese**: The wine's fruit and spice notes pair beautifully with the nuttiness of these cheeses.

92

Robert Parker (RP) : 92 Points (2022)

The 2022 Chateauneuf du Pape la Bernardine, a blend of Grenache Noir, Mourvèdre and Syrah in unknown proportions, offers up aromas of cardamom, garrigue, spices and pepper. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated and generously extracted, with plenty of youthfully chewy tannins, it's framed by a muscular, rather dense palate with a firm, slightly dry finish.

93 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 93 Points (2021)

The 2021 Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Bernardine was matured for 15 months in concrete vats. It is a fleshy wine revealing pronounced aromas of rose petals, garrigue, cardamom, strawberry, raspberry and licorice. Moving seamlessly across the palate, the 2021 Le Bernardine is a delicious, full-bodied red with polished tannins, ending with a savory finish. I actually prefer this one to its 2020 sibling due to the increased freshness. Rting: (91-93)

93 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2021)

A textural, refined and velvety Chateauneuf-du-Pape with aromas of forest berries, wet stones, roasted meat, wild herbs and some bark. It's medium- to full-bodied with fine, firm tannins. There is a refined texture here, silky at the center, with a delicate core of dark cherries challenged by an intense array of spices that provide verve and energy.