M. Chapoutier

M. Chapoutier Côte-Rôtie Neve is an exquisite Syrah, showcasing the elegance and complexity of this iconic Rhône appellation with a focus on purity, structure, and remarkable ageing potential.

Cote Rotie Neve 2020

Northern Rhône, France

Region and Vineyards

The **Côte-Rôtie Neve** originates from a **single lieu-dit** located in the commune of Ampuis, in the northern Rhône Valley. This hillside vineyard benefits from a **south-southeast exposure**, which maximizes sunlight and warmth while maintaining balance through cool breezes.

The soils are composed of **schist and mica-schist**, interspersed with pockets of ground soil in the mid-slope. This challenging terrain forces the vines to work hard, resulting in **low yields** and concentrated, high-quality Syrah grapes. The vineyard is **certified biodynamic**, reflecting M. Chapoutier's commitment to sustainable viticulture and terroir-driven wines.

Winemaking

This **vintage** was harvested by hand at peak ripeness to ensure optimal grape quality. The vinification process began in **rough concrete tanks**, with the grapes **fully destemmed**. Native yeasts were employed for the alcoholic fermentation, allowing the wine to express the natural character of the vineyard.

The fermentation temperature was gradually increased to **30–32°C**, with a maceration period lasting **4 to 5 weeks**. This included regular **pumping-over** early on, followed by gentle **cap punching** and **lees stirring** during the final weeks. Daily tastings of the wine allowed for precise adjustments, tailoring the vinification to the nuances of the vintage.

After fermentation, the wine was transferred to **228-liter Burgundian barrels**, 25–30% of which were new. The wine was aged for **14–18 months**, depending on the vintage, with a single racking after winter. This careful maturation process enhances complexity and integrates the tannins while preserving the wine's purity.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Syrah

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: A deep, inky black hue with satiny reflections.
- **Aroma**: Initial notes of **graphite** and **cold smoke**, evolving into nuances of **bramble leaves** and **mixed berries**.
- **Palate**: Compact and powerful on entry, with **chiselled tannins** and flavors of **black pepper** and **roasting** that culminate in a **saline, vertical finish**. The wine's purity and structure define its character.
- **Ageing Potential**: Over 20 years, with the ability to gain additional complexity and refinement.

Did you know?

The name **Neve** reflects the vineyard's unique terroir and Chapoutier's dedication to crafting wines that showcase the individuality of their origins. This cuvée is made exclusively from Syrah, the hallmark grape of Côte-Rôtie, known for its elegance and longevity.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast Pheasant with Truffle Sauce**: The wine's black pepper and earthy notes harmonize with the gamey richness and truffle flavors.
- **Grilled Lamb Chops with Herbs**: The tannins and roasted spice notes complement the lamb's smoky, savory profile.
- **Mature Comté or Beaufort Cheese**: The wine's saline finish balances the nutty, aged complexity of these cheeses.
- **Duck Confit with Berry Reduction**: The wine's mixed berry and bramble aromas echo the fruitiness of the dish.

Robert Parker (RP) : 96 Points (2020)

The 2020 Cote Rotie Neve is really pretty stuff this vintage. Starting with a lovely mix of violets, menthol, cedar, raspberries and blueberries, it has fantastic perfume and lift on the nose, a fine, elegant, medium-bodied palate and a long, silky finish. Bravo.

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 96 Points (2018)

A deeply perfumed bouquet displays ripe red and blue fruits, exotic spices and incense, along with a strong mineral overtone. Alluringly sweet, penetrating black raspberry, blueberry, cherry, floral pastille and spicecake flavors show impressive focus and vivacity. Shows firm, spicy thrust on the persistent finish, which features smoothly integrated tannins and clinging floral and mineral notes. (JR) (5/2020)

Cote Rotie Neve 2020

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 96 Points (2018)

Coming from more mica-schist soils, the 2018 Côte Rôtie Nève was all destemmed and spent 18 months in 30% new French oak. Incredible notes of black raspberries, incense, acacia flowers, camphor, and a marine-like minerality all emerge from the glass of this beauty, and it turns more earthy, darker, and even more mineral-laced as it sits in the glass. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has a seamless, weightless texture, ripe yet firm tannins, nicely integrated acidity, and just a classy, elegant, age-worthy style. I'd give bottles 3-5 years in a cold cellar and it should evolve for 20+. 96+ (11/2020)