

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Reserve Domaine la Barroche 2004

Christian Barrot has worked his 30-acre estate in Châteauneuf-du-Pape for nearly 50 of the 300 years the property has been in the family. Spread over the northern end of the appellation, the estate includes parcels of old Grenache originally planted in the late 19th Century. The largest single holding is 8-1/2 acres in the lieu-dit, "Grand Pierre," a sandy hillside next to the lieu-dit, "Rayas." His son Julien, who studied oenology in Bordeaux and Australia, took over the winemaking in the late 1990s, while Christian continues to tend the vines. The Reserve is produced from a field blend of century-old Grenache from the Palestor parcel, Mourvedre from the lieu-dit La Mascarone, sixty-year-old Cincault from the Pierre à Feu vineyard, and young Syrah from Les Tresquos, a small hilltop holding.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Fiancée Domaine la Barroche 2004

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Châteauneuf-du-Pape Pure Domaine la Barroche 2004

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About Châteauneuf-du-Pape

The history of Châteauneuf-du-Pape begins in 1309 when the French-born Pope Clement V moved the Roman Curia to Avignon and built the "New Home of the Pope" in the commune of Calcernier north of the city. Clement's successor, John XXII is credited with establishing the Papal vineyards surrounding the castle. Until the 19th Century, wines from the town were sold simply as vin d'Avignon until reference to Papal history proved lucrative, and the reputation of "Châteauneuf-du-Pape-Calcernier" rose to match that of Hermitage in the northern Rhône. Phylloxera attacked in the 1870s, and replanting led to fraud, which, paradoxically, led to the beginnings of a strong reform movement that became the basis for the French system of Appellation Contrôlée. The appellation of Châteauneuf-du-Pape allows, in red wines, thirteen different grape varieties and, in white wines, five different grape varieties, all produced under a series of strict regulations. Curiously, one local regulation prohibits the landing of Cigares Volant, or "flying saucers", which were reportedly seen hovering over the vineyards from time to time.

