2016 Domaine Des Remizieres Crozes-Hermitage Cuvee Particuliere Blanc

Made from 100% Marsanne, the 2016 Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée Particulière Blanc is the entry-level Crozes from Remizières. It comes from clay and limestone soils and is brought up in foudre and demimuids. It has plenty of minerality as well as notes of apple peel, citrus blossom and spice, medium-bodied richness, and clean, dry finish. Drink it over the coming 3-5 years.

Unquestionably one of my favorite estates in Crozes-Hermitage, Domaine des Remizières is run by the Desmeures family, with Emilie Desmeures making the wines and her father Philippe managing the vineyards. They have 34 hectares spread between Crozes-Hermitage, Saint Joseph and Hermitage. While they make a relatively modern styled wine, these beauties never lose their Northern Rhône soul and age gracefully.

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2016 Domaine Des Remizieres Crozes-Hermitage

Leading off the reds, the clean, classic and nicely textured 2016 Crozes-Hermitage offers lots of darker fruits, peppery herbs, and dried earth. It's mediumbodied, balanced, has good acidity and a great finish. It's a good value.

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2016 Domaine Des Remizieres Crozes-Hermitage Cuvee Christophe

The top cuvée in Crozes-Hermitage is the 2016 Cuvée Christophe, which is brought up in 70% new French oak. Its inky purple color is followed by a rich, concentrated Crozes that offers lots of blackberry liqueur, crushed rock toast oak and pepper. This medium to full-bodied effort offers terrific purity of fruit and is one of the few wines in 2016 that's going to benefit from short-term cellaring.

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2016 Domaine Des Remizieres Crozes-Hermitage Cuvee Christophe Blanc

Incorporating 15% Roussanne, the Marsanne dominated 2016 Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée Christophe Blanc spent 10 months in barrel before bottling. Its medium gold color is followed by a terrific bouquet of buttered pineapple, citrus blossom and honeysuckle. Clean, pure and beautifully balanced, with good acidity and ample density and texture, it's a big step up over the base cuvée.

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2016 Domaine Des Remizieres Crozes-Hermitage Cuvee Particuliere

The 2016 Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée Particulière is cut from the same cloth and offers high-quality notes of blackberry, blueberry and peppery herbs as well as hints of background oak. It's polished, elegant and seamless on the palate, with fine tannin and good acidity.

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2016 Domaine Des Remizieres Saint Joseph

The terrific 2016 Saint Joseph (aged in 30% new barrels) has serious granite character in its dark berry fruits, peppery herbs, olive and bacon fat aromas and flavors. Medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated, elegant and lively on the palate, with solid structure and depth, it should keep for a decade or more, and drink well in its youth.

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2016 Domaine Des Remizieres Hermitage Cuvee Emilie

The flagship, yet tiny production 2016 Hermitage Cuvée Emilie shows the house style with lots of toasty oak and graphite notes intermixed with vibrant cassis, violet, crushed rock and leather aromatics. Medium to full-bodied, tight and focused on the palate, it has good acidity, firm, present tannin and outstanding purity. It's going to need 3-4 years or cellaring. This cuvée comes mostly from the granite soils of the Les Grandes Vignes lieu-dit, with a small amount from Les Rocoules, and it's aged all in new barrels.

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2015 Domaine Des Remizieres Crozes-Hermitage Cuvee Christophe

From one of my favorite estates in Crozes-Hermitage, the 2015 Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée Christophe comes from loamy (kaolins) soils and was brought up in 70% new French oak. Hermitage-like with its cassis and blackberry fruits, scorched earth and graphite aromatics, this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, terrific purity, ripe tannin and outstanding length. It's a smoking good Crozes that will drink nicely for a decade or more.

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2015 Domaine Des Remizieres Saint Joseph

Another terrific wine from this family estate is the 2015 Saint Joseph, which was completely destemmed and brought up in 30% new barrels and the balance in once-used oak. It offers a distinctly modern style yet has fabulous purity, full-bodied richness, sweet tannin, and a broad, expansive texture that keeps you coming back to the glass. With lots of cassis and blackberry fruit, licorice and toasty oak, moderate acidity, and great finish, I'd be thrilled to drink bottles anytime over the coming decade or more.

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2015 Domaine Des Remizieres Hermitage Cuvee Emilie

The 2015 Hermitage Cuvée Emilie comes from the Les Grandes Vignes region of Hermitage (a small part is from Les Rocoules) and was brought up in 100% new French oak. Its inky purple color is followed by sensational notes of charcoal, burning embers, blackberry liqueur and graphite. A huge, rich, and enormously concentrated wine, it has sensational midpalate depth and stays fresh and lively on the palate, with a firm, concentrated, age-worthy style. It's certainly not for instant gratification and is going to need time. Forget bottles for a good 7-8 years.

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