

ROTEM AND MOUNIR SAOUMA

(Above) One of the eight vineyards across five villages of the appellation that Mounir has been able to acquire, allowing for 100% estate fruit.



Châteauneuf-du-Pape Omnia 2015

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France

ESTATE

Burgundy meets the Rhône. An utter respect for tradition, in some ways a total break. We have watch as Mounir and Rotem Saouma, of Burgundy producer Lucien Le Moine, slowly developed their estates and wines in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and the results today are too extraordinary and distinct to ignore. The wines are stunning: precise, intense, complex, expressive visions of Châteauneuf. They somehow speak to the past, but also to the present (and we would guess, the future), all in their own voice.

WINE

Mounir Saouma likes to describe Châteauneuf-du-Pape as a mosaic, with all the wild traditions and differences together making for very different interpretations. Omnia, Latin for "all," is his attempt to encompass the entire region's terroir and winemaking history (and perhaps future) in one glass. The fruit comes from 9 vineyard parcels across all 5 of the Châteauneuf communes and then vinified in a variety of vessels. The results need to be tasted to be believed, it is a wine of beguiling fruit and savory richness, yet extraordinary finesse and detail.

VINEYARD

Soils: Unique rocky alluvial vineyards (the famous "galets") and red clay soils of the area.
Yields: Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 75 years.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre
Fermentation: Firmly pressed, followed by tank maceration at cool temperatures for 8 days.
Aging: Unique combination of barrels, foudres, cement, and eggs
Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

After the moderately wet 2014 vintage, 2015 was a relief, with hot, dry weather predominating. Drought conditions slowed maturity while raising sugar levels, and a burst of rain in August caused acid levels to drop. The powerful reds are rich and tannic wines that will take some time to smooth out and unfold. The white can be heady. Here again, Mounir's approach handled the vintage perfectly, and he focused on moderate extraction, producing red wines of elegance and detail. His whites are more 'Meursault' than 'Puligny' in this vintage – rich and savory.

Wine Spectator

96

"This is sublime, with beguiling rooibos tea, blood orange and sandalwood aromas out front followed by a long and silky display of lightly mulled cherry, damson plum and raspberry fruit flavors. Light shiso leaf and sanguine notes lace up the finish while the fruit echoes admirably."
-JM, 09/2019

96

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