



Domaine du Colombier, 2021
Crozes-Hermitage, Cuvée Gaby - £150 per 6 IB
Hermitage - £290 per 6 IB

Wines from "the talented Florent Viale ... shine for their purity as well as character."

"one of the standouts in the vintage for Crozes"

.Jeb Dunnuck

*"Florent Viale produces a small range of consistently excellent wines" **Vinous***

Greetings from Farthinghoe,

These wines had us all excited and we have been tasting these for years. It's not a blockbuster vintage but refreshing in every sense: there's charm and so much to love in these freshly-styled yet complex wines.

Domaine du Colombier is little-known gem of an estate with rightfully growing renown. They are now recognised as one of the region's best producers since starting to estate-bottle their own wine in 1991. It's widely accepted the estate has been on a real roll since 2010.

We were all pretty astounded with the intensity of Florent Viale's wines compared to many other 2021s we've tasted. The vintage freshness was present yet with beautifully delineated fruit and mineral intensity. A very very good effort.

We visited the estate in 2018 and have been buying ever since. You can find much more expensive Hermitage from longstanding names, but, for us, these wines really tick the box. Our recommendation: **Buy these!!**

Do let me know if you'd like a case or two and I'll be happy to put aside to your account.

I look forward to hearing and best as ever,



Crozes-Hermitage, Cuvée Gaby, Domaine du Colombier 2021

£150 per 6 Bottles IB

Drink: 2023 - 2029

The purity of fruit here on the nose is excellent. A lot of charm with blueberry, raspberry and a sense of crunchy freshness.. The palate is very fine, silky tannin with pleasing tartness to balance the ripe raspberry fruit. The is complex and deep and surely one of the finest in the appellation.

*"The 2021 Crozes-Hermitage Gaby has more depth and richness, with a supple, rounded style carrying plenty of darker cherry and red plum fruits, spice, and flowery incense notes. **It's going to be one of the standouts in the vintage for Crozes.**" - Jeb Dunnuck*



Hermitage, Domaine du Colombier 2021

£290 per 6 Bottles IB

Drink: 2025 - 2038

*This had us all excited for its charm, complexity and finesse. It's fine and pure on the nose, with an alluring sweetness of fruit, delicious aromas and leading onto the palate it is pure, fine, saline and mineral with pencil lead and sweet tart fruit. Very very good indeed. **Farthinghoe Tasting Note***

*"quite a full red; the bouquet has a core of sweetness, a raspberry-mulberry fruiting, a touch of blood-iron, a hint of reduction. The palate is suave and easy toned on the debut, retains that smooth feel all through, accumulates its red berry fruits in a live finale, lift there. The tannins have a gummy nature, are mild. It doesn't have great structure, but can be pleasing, cosy, and is best drunk in its first 15 years. 13.5°." **John Livingstone-Learmouth***

Estate Background

The Viale family planted their first vines on the Hermitage hill in 1929; now the representative of the third generation Florent, owns over 13 hectares of vines liberally scattered on some of the best sites over the communes of Mercurol and Tain, including 1.5 hectares of vineyards in the renowned Beaumes vineyard on the famous Hermitage hill. Before 1992 the entire production was sold to local negociants (Guigal in particular) and so only reasonably recently have the Viales been estate bottling and marketing their own wines. They are going from strength to strength.

2021 Vintage Report

“The wines show good ripeness and more elegant, medium-bodied profiles with solid character.” **Jeb Dunnuck on the Rhone 2021 Vintage**

It's been described as 'classic' or 'cool' across France's main wine regions. As a warmer region, the Rhone benefits from this wave of freshness. Particularly in the south, Grenache-based wines in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas and Vacqueyras have to struggle to keep alcohol below 15%. They, and we, were delighted to see a cooler ripening period with fewer heat spikes as well as a little more water than usual. In the north, the transparency of terroir at such an early stage is a joy.

The resulting wines are blessed with good acidity levels, lower alcohol and will be approachable earlier than the '20s and '19s. This is not to say that they won't also age gracefully in the cellar, as wine making techniques improve, they are becoming more and more long lived. We highly recommended this vintage to top up your cellar with some heady top-quality reds for aging, as well as excellent value wines for earlier drinking.

The yields are slightly lower than usual due to some frost issues in the spring, so our allocations do vary: please do let me know your interest. We have a great selection of growers across the region and we will be releasing the wines over the coming weeks.

FARTHINGHOE

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