



"Terroir"

- **Vineyards:** these are spread over 3 communes on the right bank of the Rhône: Saint-Cyr-sur-Rhône, Ampuis and Tupin-Semons in the French Department of the Rhône.
- **Soil types:** very steep granitic terraces covered with a layer of sand-lime on the "Côte blonde" (pale slopes) and clay and iron oxide on "Côte brune" (brown slopes).
- **Climate:** moderate continental, dry and hot in the summer, regular rainfall during the other seasons.
- **Background:** one of France's oldest vineyards, the Côte-Rôtie was greatly developed by the Romans and was consecrated Local Appellation in 1940.

Production

- **Area under cultivation*:** 234 hectares, annual production: 9769 hl; basic yield: 40 hl/hectare.
- **Grape variety mix:** at least 80% Syrah, with an authorised maximum of 20% Viognier.
- **Pruning:** long pruning for the Syrah (formed into a pyramid of 2 vine plants on 4 props). Viognier pruning can involve a long stem called an "arçon", with the other spurs being pruned to no more than 2 eyes.
- **Wine making:** natural alcohol content by volume 10% minimum; fermentation: 2 to 3 weeks; matured in casks for 18 months to three years.

Tasting and drinking

- **Appearance:** deep red, with violet fringe during early years.
- **Nose:** raspberry, spices with a nuance of violet. Later on, vanilla and kernels.
- **Palate:** notes of truffle, notes dried fruits, leather, mocha, chocolate, cinnamon.
- **At the table:** depending on age, uncork 1 to 3 hours before serving. If desired serve in a carafe with lamb, guinea fowl or waterfowl, not forgetting that it also marries well with asparagus, truffles, etc.
- **Laying down:** slow to ripen, this wine needs a long time to mature (5 to 15 years). A few exceptional vintages: 1983, 1991.
- **News:** a national Syrah conservatory has been set up to retain its genetic heritage. More than 650 clones will be studied over the next decade.
- **Famous patron:** the Latin poet Martial.



The words to express it

If the Côte Blonde and the Côte Brune are called the Côte-Rôtie, this is because once upon a time, the powerful lord, Maurigon d'Ampuis had two daughter, both beautiful to behold, alike in form, poise and grace, except that one was dark haired and the other blonde.

* Source: harvest statement 2006

