

PATRICK ALLEN SELECTIONS

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Domaine Roche-Audran Côtes du Rhône, Visan, & Châteauneuf du Pape

The Domaine at-a-glance

Owner/Winemaker: Vincent Rochette
Year Est. 1998 (Winery); Vines are 20 to 100 yrs old
Soil: Alluvial deposits, Limestone and Clay
Size: 20 Ha **Location:** Buisson, Southern Rhône Valley
Appellations Produced: Côtes du Rhône, Châteauneuf, Côtes du Rhône Villages - Visan

Domaine Roche-Audran consists of two vineyard zones separated over the communes of Visan and Buisson. The first area, located in AOC Visan, consists of 8 hectares. The vineyards are situated on garrigue covered terraces in very rocky soil of red-brown and red-black alluvial deposits. These vineyards have been in Vincent Rochette's family since the time of his great, great grandfather.

The second area consists of 12 hectares of hillside vineyards near the village of Buisson in AOC Côtes du Rhône. Vincent's grandfather purchased these vineyards in 1962. The winery is located here in a beautiful shady, wooded area, one of the few places in the region not covered with vines. The vines average 40 to 45 years in age, with one parcel of 100 year old vines.



Vincent Rochette in front of one of his tronconic oak tanks



Mixer for preparing biodynamic treatments

vintage to vintage. Due to Vincent's ever increasing commitment to quality, he has converted his vineyards to both organic and biodynamic farming. He was fully certified organic and biodynamic at the end of 2008.

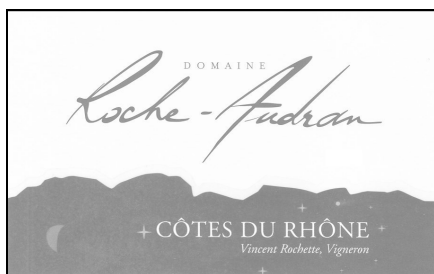
One of the most fascinating aspects of this domaine is its unique terroir. In Buisson the vineyards lie on hillsides covered with gravelly soil composed of chalky pebbles, with an underlying strata of rocks that push up almost vertically. The vertical substrata causes the soil to change composition into three distinct and radically different zones within the space of 250 meters: marl (limy, bluish clay of Pliocene age deposits); yellow sand with mica; and sandy-clay. The complex soil means more work for Vincent because the care needed by the vines varies according to the soil in which they are planted. However, this also lends more complexity to the wine and allows him more blending flexibility from



90 to 100 year old Grenache vines at Roche-Audran



Certified Organic & Biodynamic



**Grenache 70%, Carignan 15%,
Syrah 15%**

Côtes du Rhône Rouge

Technical Notes: The Grenache vines for Vincent's Côtes du Rhône range from 55 to 100 years old. His Carignan vines are 82 years old, while his Syrah vines range from 30 to 50 years old. Vincent keeps the yields to a very low 38 hectoliters per hectare. The grapes are crushed and de-stemmed before they undergo a several week long maceration. The free-run juice and press juice are matured separately by parcel. The wine is aged for 12 months in a combination of: 20% small oak barriques, 35% oak "tronconic" tanks (pictured above), and 45% concrete tanks.

Tasting Notes: This is an unusually rich and complex Côtes du Rhône. Each year Vincent has incrementally increased the percentage of Grenache in his Côtes du Rhône. This year the wine is now 70% Grenache. This blend further accentuates the bright red cherry fruit in the wine. His old vine Carignan adds a complex peppery spice component, while the adds rich black fruit flavors. Though this is Vincent's "entry-level" wine, it is made with the same rigor and eye for quality as