



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

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



The Cellars at Roche-Audran

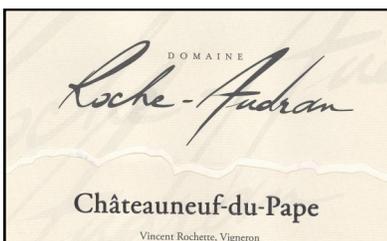
One of the most fascinating aspects of this domaine is its unique terroir. In Buisson the vineyards lie on hillsides covered with gravelly soil composed of chalky pebbles, with an underlying strata of rocks that push up almost vertically. The vertical substrata causes the soil to change composition into 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



90 to 100 year old Grenache vines at Roche-Audran used for his "Cuvée César"

and allows him more blending flexibility from 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.

Châteauneuf du Pape Rouge



Grenache 100%

Technical Notes: This micro-cuvée of only 1800 btls comes from Vincent's tiny plot of Châteauneuf located in the prestigious *lieu dit* of La Cristia. This area of La Cristia borders the vines of Château Rayas. Consequently, the sandy terroir gives Vincent's Châteauneuf a similar delicate character. This vineyard is planted entirely with Grenache vines which are now all 40 to 50 years old. Vincent is now in the process of converting these vineyards to organic and biodynamic farming practices. The vines should be certified organic for the 2012 vintage. All of the grapes are harvested by hand, de-stemmed, and fermented in large oak (*tronconic*) fermenters. The wine is then aged in 1 to 3 year old oak barriques before bottling.

Only 150 Cases Produced

Tasting Notes: This wine is a beautiful example of pure Grenache. The incredible combination of elegance, power found in this wine is what has given Châteauneuf du Pape its renown for centuries. The color of this wine is deep garnet. Aromas of red cherry fruit dominates the nose. In the mouth, rich fruit flavors of red cherry, raspberry, and plum are complimented by delicate garrigue spice notes. Given power of this wine, it remains deceptively elegant and light on the tongue all the way through to its exceptionally long finish.