

# FLINT WINES

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## 2007 Rhône Offer – Late update 23<sup>rd</sup> March

We have just got back from another trip to the Rhône Valley to re-assess what we had bought following our earlier tastings out there and we were blown away.

We were there for the bi-annual week long tasting known as the Découverte de la Vallée du Rhône. Various appellations housed large tastings featuring all the top domaines from the likes of Châteauneuf and Gigondas in the south to Hermitage and Côte-Rôtie in the north, providing a rare opportunity to pit all the best wines against each other. We interspersed these tastings with visits to our growers on days when they weren't presenting their wines elsewhere. We have come back even more thrilled with the vintage than we were before we left. The full offer follows this page but here are some thoughts and real highlights from last week that we just couldn't keep to ourselves.

### [Domaine la Roubine, Gigondas](#)

Based in Gigondas, Eric also produces a Vacqueyras and a Sablet. The range was simply stunning and the Sablet confirmed why it is amongst the best value wines on this planet.

### [Domaine de la Vieille Julienne, Châteauneuf-du-Pape](#)

One of the real thinkers of the Rhône has again produced a terrific CNP, which this year has all the juice of the Réserve cuvée. It will be worth the longish wait.

### [Château Saint-Cosme, Gigondas](#)

Whilst Parker does favour wines that are perhaps a bit too overpowering, not all the wines he scores highly are like that, including these, which are probably the best ever wines made at this top estate. Huge scores.

### [Château Pesquié, Ventoux](#)

We have to agree with Jancis Robinson when she raved about this property earlier this month and described their 'entry' wine, Les Terrasses, as 'lovely stuff'. But then how good was the next wine up, the fabulous Quintessence?!

### [Domaine Charbonniere, Châteauneuf-du-Pape](#)

Along with Clos des Papes this is about as Burgundian as the appellations gets; beautiful finesse and silky tannins. Maybe not extracted and black enough to win silly points but Parker is missing a trick here; the wines are gorgeous, including their top notch Vacqueyras, which, curiously, does score very highly.

### [Domaine Bosquet des Papes, Châteauneuf-du-Pape](#)

Quite simply the best wines ever made at the domaine. The tradition is a bargain and the Cuvée Gloire de Mon Grand Père is the stunning pick of the special cuvées.

### [Domaine Gourt Mautens, Rasteau](#)

Having been an hour late for the appointment we had to return post lunch to taste; but the wines were worth the wait. The 2006, the current offering, was incredibly long, unique and impressive. Tiny quantities made and available.

### [Domaine Les Bruyères, Crozes-Hermitage](#)

David Reynaud's wines just get better and better and he has already virtually run out of the vintage. The cuvée George Reynaud was just lovely and its best offering to date and the more backward Les Croix will develop into a cracker.

### [Domaine Gilles Barges, Côte-Rôtie](#)

One of the highlights of the week providing real 'wow moments'. The 2007s are just gorgeous and their evident potential was endorsed by a 1990 and a quite delicious 1998 that were opened for us. The finesse of Burgundy combined with the power of Bordeaux. Sumptuous.

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## 2007 Rhône Offer March 2009

*"2007 is the finest vintage I have ever tasted in Châteauneuf-du-Pape. In my thirty years of evaluating these wines, I don't think any vintage has achieved the heights of complexity, richness, and overall purity and balance that 2007 did. 2007 is also a terrific vintage in Gigondas, Vacqueyras, and for many of the Côtes du Rhône estates." – Robert Parker.*

For the record the wines in the north are rather good, too! Please note that for your interest some of Parker's scores are included in brackets after the price.

### Southern Rhône

#### Château Pesquié

Robert Parker succinctly sums up this large but quality driven domaine (see below), which, in our humble opinion, has no peers in the area. The state of the art winery disguises the fact that these are very classical wines that sing of their terroir and their varietals. In terms of value for money, it's hard to imagine any wine upstaging the entry wine, Les Terrasses, which is consistently wonderful and deliciously drinkable. The other two wines are much more serious, with the emphasis on longevity. Although twice the price of Les Terrasses, the cuvée Quintessence is still a steal; if you were to pop a Châteauneuf-du-Pape label on to the bottle, you would not be disappointed. Artemia was introduced in 2004 and is a very powerful wine that will need a good six or seven years to find its feet. 2007 is a huge success for the property, which traditionally enjoys much cooler temperatures, especially in the evenings, than much of the southern Rhône thanks to its altitude. This allows the vines to relax after a hard day's graft in the baking sunshine and helps retain freshness and bite in the wines.

2007 Côtes-du-Ventoux « Les Terrasses »

£54ib

*"This is the benchmark estate for fabulous wine in the Côtes du Ventoux" - Robert Parker*

2007 Côtes-du-Ventoux « Quintessence »

£105ib

2007 Côtes-du-Ventoux « Artemia »

£175ib

#### The Rhône Gangsters

This is an interesting and exciting operation that we are delighted to be involved with. The domaines of Pesquié, St Cosme (see below) and Château Montfaucon (see below) were spending so much time together at various wine fairs and importers' tastings around the world that they decided to pool their expertise and set up The Rhône Gangsters. Uniquely, using a small amount of each of their best juice (Valbelle from St Cosme, Artemia from Pesquié and Cuvée Baron from Montfaucon), they have crafted a tiny quantity of this special cuvée, which has the potential to evolve in to something really quite special. The wine is dense and very powerful but it has excellent acidity and grip and lots of structure. So long as you are not in your '90s, this is a wine well worth indulging in, although as you might imagine quantities are minute (there are only 240 bottles for the UK) so we may have to allocate.

2007 « Wanted »

Per 6 bottles

£105ib

## Domaine La Roubine

We were originally recommended to knock on Eric and Sophie Ughetto's door by none other than Louis Barroul of Saint Cosme. They came highly touted and it was immediately easy to see why. Eric has a real passion for his vineyards and working closely alongside his wife, the two of them put a real emphasis on the quality of their fruit. Their vineyards in Gigondas, much like those of Saint Cosme, are quite high up in the hills overlooking the village which means they ripen more slowly and thereby retain an appealing freshness. Their Vacqueyras is a little less powerful but no less concentrated, whilst their Sablet has just been selected by sommelier and wine writer Matt Skinner for his new book about his top 100 wines from around the world. Great range and great value, too.

2007 Sablet Côtes-du-Rhône Villages	£68ib
2007 Vacqueyras	£104ib
2007 Gigondas	£120ib

## Château Saint Cosme

This domaine has been at the forefront of quality in Gigondas for a while now but these 2007s will blow everyone away. We don't think we have ever seen such scores for wines from this appellation. This is the second vintage in which owner, Louis Barroul has split his vineyards up into minute cuvées, all of which have recorded remarkable scores in the mid-nineties or higher. Although La Poste and Hominis Fidelis scored the highest, we actually preferred the two cuvées that scored a point less as they showed more finesse and fragrance. Please note that because of very limited quantities of these wines we will have to allocate a six bottle case with every case of the straight Gigondas. This shouldn't be too much of a hardship, mind, as that is a wonderful wine in its own right.

2007 Gigondas	£135ib (91-93)
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*"The brilliant young Louis Barroul (produces) fabulous estate wines from Gigondas, among the best two or three wines of the appellation" – Robert Parker*

2007 Gigondas "Valbelle"	Per 6 bottles	£120ib (94-96)
2007 Gigondas "Le Claux"	Per 6 bottles	£145ib (94-96)

## Domaine de la Vieille Julienne

Jean-Paul Daumen needs little introduction these days, having firmly established himself as one of the finest winemakers in the Rhône. Old vines and an unrivalled passion for his métier seem to be the key elements to the high quality of his wines, which avoid over manipulation. It is interesting that they score such high scores from Parker as they are much purer and more refined than some of the over-extracted offerings that seem to excite him. The humble Côtes-du-Rhône comes from 100 year old vines and you won't find a better example of the appellation. Normally Jean-Paul makes a special cuvée of his Châteauneuf-du-Pape (he used to make 2!) called Cuvée Réserve, but this year he felt the difference between the juice was less significant than usual so it all got blended together, resulting in a terrific 'basic' CNP.

2007 Côtes-du-Rhône 'Clavin'	£108ib
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*« One of my favourite Châteauneuf-du-Pape estates to visit, proprietor Jean-Paul Daumen has made Domaine Vieille Julienne a brilliant reference point for this appellation » - Robert Parker*

2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Per 6 bottles	£165ib (93-95)
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## La Ferme du Mot

Situated between the vineyards of Beaucastel and Clos du Caillou, this domaine produced its first vintage under the ownership of Stéphane Vedeau as recently as 2003. Just 2.5 hectares in size, the domaine produces a mere 700 cases, a large proportion of which has our name on.

The wine is made from a blend of Grenache (80%), Syrah (10%) and the wonderful Mourvèdre (10%). The Syrah is aged in large oak (not new) foudres but the Grenache and Mourvèdre in big, traditional concrete vats. There is no new oak here. Consequently the wine is not at all flashy (a good thing) but wins you over with its innate concentration, depth of flavour and complexity. Jancis Robinson awarded the 2006 18 points and went even higher for this 2007, allotting it 19 points and thereby placing it in her top three wines of the vintage, alongside the mighty Château Rayas and Beaucastel's legendary Hommage à Jacques Perrin. At the respective prices this looks something of a no-brainer.

*"Another very successful wine from this newcomer from the Côtes Capelan. Very dense and rich and commanding. Majestic wine" – Jancis Robinson*

2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape	£225ib
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## Domaine Charbonniere

Robert Parker describes these wines as Burgundian in style which is probably why we like them so much! At a huge Châteauneuf tasting in France 18 months ago, the wines stood out for their purity, finesse, length and complexity and lack of over-extraction! There were so many multi-point-scoring super cuvées that on the surface appeared impressive but in practice were just overwhelming and in a vintage like 2007 such sentiments are merely exaggerated. These 2007s are really nice. They don't make much Vacqueyras but what they do make is first-rate whilst the CNPs are a delight. The Hautes Brusquières is more Syrah dominated than the Vieilles Vignes and consequently more taut and backward, a little more patience required.

2007 Vacqueyras	£114ib (91-93)
2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape	£180ib
<i>"This is one of the most well-run estates in Châteauneuf-du-Pape" – Robert Parker</i>	
2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes	£250ib
2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Hautes Brusquières	£250ib

## Château Beaucastel

Beaucastel has been at the top for so long now it's very easy to almost take them for granted. Vintage after vintage they continue to produce fantastic Châteauneuf and 2007 looks to be amongst their finest. The Coudoulet is always worth seeking out, providing very stylish drinking whilst the main is snoozing away in the cellar.

2007 Coudoulet de Beaucastel	£110ib
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*"I have been visiting this estate for nearly thirty years, and over that time I have seen all the elements of what makes wines great" – Robert Parker*

2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape	Per 6 bottles	£225ib (93-95+)
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## Domaine Bosquet des Papes

Under the care of the talented Nicholas Boiron, this domaine continues to progress its way up the pecking order of properties. 2007 has definitely been the vehicle for his best wines to date and with prices remaining very fair they look excellent value. The straight CNP is predominantly Grenache, although there is a good dose of Mourvèdre in it, a feature of the vintage. The Gloire de Mon Grand Père (also known sometimes as Cuvée Grenache) has a much higher Grenache content (as the name might suggest!) at 98% and shows a lovely voluptuous quality in youth but no will no doubt go to sleep before re-emerging triumphantly. The Chant le Merle has less Grenache but older vines (90 years old) and benefits from a decent dollop of Mourvèdre. Lets hope that the high scores don't go to their accountant's head with regard to future vintages.

2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape	£148ib (90-92)
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*« This is one of the appellation's most consistent and brilliant producers of Chateauneuf du Pape » - Robert Parker*

2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Gloire de Mon Grand Père	£210ib (91-93)
2007 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Chant le Merle	£250ib (92-95)

## Domaine Gourt Mautens

Jerome Bressy is a perfectionist. He runs this small family domaine with such attention to detail and such ambition. Yields are tiny and production miniscule. Since the millennium his wines have taken on a purer and more natural quality, although their immense concentration (yields vary between 10 and 20 hectolitres per hectare) still ensures that they need plenty of time before uncorking. These are powerful wines but with hidden complexity and great length. Very limited quantity. Please note that this is 2006; 2007 is not yet released.

*"This is one of the sensational estates in Rasteau" – Robert Parker*

2006 Rasteau	Per 6 bottles	£145ib (93)
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## Domaine La Soumade

Andre Romero sits alongside Jérôme Bressy as the star of Rasteau. He makes a much wider range of wines than Jérôme though, beginning with relatively early drinking wines all the way through to some long-living gems. His 'basic' Rasteau offers great value for money and shows the telltale freshness and grip that seem a feature of his wines. The top two cuvées are terrific and impressively concentrated but, as always, are in limited supply.

2007 Rasteau

£85ib

*"Few vigneron are more interesting to visit than Domaine La Soumade's Andre Romero, whose wines are longtime reference points for the wines of Rasteau" – Robert Parker*

2007 Rasteau Cuvée Confiance

Per 6 bottles

£90ib (91-94)

2007 Rasteau Cuvée Fleur de Confiance

Per 6 bottles

£180ib (94-96)

## Northern Rhône

### Domaine Les Bruyères

David Reynaud has done fantastically well in a very short space of time. His family domaine used to sell off their fruit to the co-operative but a few years ago the ambitious David decided to start bottling under his own label. To match his ambition he constructed a huge new cuverie, which would allow him the space and the equipment to produce the sort of high quality wines he was aiming for. Success has been very immediate and his cuvée "La Croix" came top in a comprehensive Decanter Magazine 2005 northern Rhône tasting, being allotted five stars and "Wine of the tasting". Rhône guru Jean-Livingstone Learmonth regularly sings the praises of his entry cuvée (George Reynaud) and all of our customers who have tasted his wines have been very impressed. The beauty of his wines is that they sing Syrah, in its purest and most fragrant form. He now makes a third more expensive cuvée, but that sees quite a lot of new oak and is less to our taste than the wonderful La Croix, which comes from a parcel of 60 year old vines and is everything one look for in a Crozes-Hermitage.

2007 Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée George Reynaud

£99ib

2007 Crozes-Hermitage "La Croix"

£132ib

### Domaine Vincent Paris

Like so many domaines in Cornas, this is a small operation, but what it lacks in size it more than makes up for in quality. These wines have a lovely bite and precision to them which is especially impressive for an appellation sometimes accused of producing big but clumsy wines. The two Cornas have a strong mineral edge to them backed up by good power and structure and stylish length. Lovely wines, albeit in short supply!

2007 Saint-Joseph

£120ib

*"One of the bright new producers in Cornas" – Robert Parker*

2007 Cornas « Granit 30 »

Per 6 bottles

£85ib

2007 Cornas « Granit 60 »

Per 6 bottles

£115ib

### Domaine Bernard Faurie

One of our wow wine moments last year was opening a bottle of the 2005 Hermitage and just being blown away. The purity, freshness, and seductiveness was just gorgeous. He makes various different cuvées, depending on the success and character of each of his parcels on the Hermitage hill. These come highly recommended and offer very good value, too, for wines of this quality.

2007 Saint-Joseph

£TBC

*"This is a producer who remains under the radar." – Robert Parker*

2007 Hermitage

Per 6 bottles

£TBC

2007 Hermitage

Per 6 bottles

£TBC

### Domaine Gilles Barges

Gilles Barges is one of the great characters of the northern Rhône and also one of the great sources of Côte-Rôtie. His wines have both charm and discipline about them, showing a strong sense of place and lacking the new oak tartness that seems prevalent in so many of the supposedly top versions. This year he has introduced a third cuvée from the slope of Le Colmar which, in style, lies somewhere between the fragrant softness of the Duplessy and the more rigid and backward Côte-Brune. We adore these wines; they are simply brilliant.

2007 Saint-Joseph

£136ib

2007 Côte-Rôtie Cuvée Duplessy

Per 6 bottles

£120ib

2007 Côte-Rôtie Cuvée Le Colmar

Per 6 bottles

£130ib

2007 Côte-Rôtie Côte-Brune

Per 6 bottles

£142ib

## Domaine Cuilleron

The name of Cuilleron is synonymous with Condrieu and great Condrieu at that, even though he doesn't make very much and produces a string of red wines. Both the wines are expensive but they are simply stunning.

*"Cuilleron continues to produce brilliant wines" – Robert Parker*

2008 Condrieu « Les Chaillets »

Per 6 bottles

£175ib

2007 Condrieu « Vertige »

Per 6 bottles

£240ib

## Terms and Conditions

1. All wines are offered under bond (ib) and are offered subject to availability
2. All prices quoted are for cases of 12 bottles unless otherwise stated (ie per 6 bottles or per 3 magnums)
3. Minimum order is 12 bottles. There is free delivery to mainland UK on all orders over £500.
4. Wines will be shipped between September 2009 and February 2010. You will be contacted on arrival for delivery instructions. Duty and VAT will be payable upon arrival.
5. The wines of certain domaines may not be exported from the UK. Please contact us for details.
6. Payment is due on receipt of invoice.
7. This list cancels all previous lists. All wines remain the property of Flint Wines Ltd until paid for in full. E & EO 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

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