
PRESS - VINTAGES 2016 - 2021

Grenache de Bek

2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	95
2018	<i>Not released in vintage 2018</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	95
2016	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	17/20
2016	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	94
2016	James Suckling 2022	93

Syrah de Brousson

2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	94
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	95
2018	<i>Not released in vintage 2018</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	94
2017	Wine Enthusiast 2025	93 – Cellar Selection

Lou Coucardié Rouge

2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	94
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	93
2018	<i>Not released in vintage 2018</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2024	94
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	94 - Top 100 Wines
2017	Jamie Goode 2023	93
2016	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	95
2016	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	16/20

Lou Coucardié Blanc

2023	Jeb Dunnuck 2024	94
2021	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	95
2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	94
2019	<i>Not released in vintage 2019</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2018	Challenge Millésime Bio 2022	GOLD
2018	Wine Enthusiast 2022	92
2018	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	93
2017	Jamie Goode 2023	94
2017	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	15,5/20
2016	Jeb Dunnuck 2017	93
2016	Bettane & Desseauve 2019	16,5/20

PRESS - VINTAGES 2018 - 2022

Nostre País Rouge

2023	Jeb Dunnuck 2024	90-92
2022	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	89-91
2021	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	90
2021	Wine Enthusiast 2025	92 – Editors' Choice
2020	Jamie Goode	95
2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	91
2019	James Suckling 2022	91
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	93
2018	Challenge Millésime Bio 2021	SILVER
2018	Decanter - Matt Wells 2022	92
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	93 - Top 100 Wines of 2019
2017	Decanter - Matt Wells 2021	92

Nostre País Blanc

2023	Jeb Dunnuck 2024	92
2022	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	91
2021	Jeb Dunnuck 2023	92
2020	Jamie Goode 2023	94
2020	James Suckling 2022	91
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	92
2019	Challenge Millésime Bio 2021	SILVER
2019	Wine Enthusiast 2022	91
2018	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	92
2018	Wine Enthusiast 2020	91
2018	Wine Spectator 2021	91
2017	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	14,5/20
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2018	92
2017	Wine Spectator 2019	91 - Top 100 Wines of 2019



93 POINTS - CELLAR SELECTION

DOMAINE GASSIER 2017 SYRAH DE BROUSSON SYRAH

Big and bold with a commanding presence, this wine demands aeration before enjoying. The nose bursts with vanilla, oak spice, and dense black cherries. The palate follows suit, with intense clove and black cherry flavors, finishing with a touch of black licorice. After aerating, it transforms, revealing the elegance of the Rhône, balancing its heat with subtle meatiness and floral finesse. Decant or hold well through 2035+.

92 POINTS - DOMAINE GASSIER 2016 GRENACHE DE BEK

The nose is a classic expression of the Southern Rhône, with sour cherry, sanguine notes, red licorice, saffron spice, violets, and an abundance of garrigue. The palate follows suit, offering good structure that would benefit from a little aeration. A lovely balance of fruit and spice with a lingering black tea leaf finish—powerful, lifted, and elegant. A classic!

92 POINTS – EDITORS’ CHOICE

DOMAINE GASSIER 2021 NOSTRE PAÏS RED

This blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah, and 5% Carignan bursts with aromas of red fruit leather, deep raspberry, and jammy strawberries—rich and juicy, almost begging to be bitten into. The palate is beautifully balanced, delivering soft, sweet red fruit flavors with a candied edge that's incredibly easy to enjoy. Nothing about this wine feels forced— it's pure and drinks effortlessly.

91 POINTS - DOMAINE GASSIER 2021 FLEUR DE SYRAH

The nose is focused with fresh black plums, a meaty core, and a hint of violet. On the palate, its round with smooth, grippy tannins cling to flavors of licorice and black plum. Its acidity adds a refreshing lift, leading to a subtle black tea leaf finish. A wine that's both satisfying and easy to enjoy.

— *Anna-Christina Cabrales*
April 2025

JEB DUNNUCK

Producer: **Domaine Gassier**

Article: Rhône: Continuing the focus on the 2022s and 2023s

2017 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié	94
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The 2017 Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié is a classic expression of the appellation, offering smoky black fruits, ground pepper, and layers of meaty, graphite, and subtle chocolate notes. Full-bodied and deeply concentrated, it has rich, chewy, mouth-filling tannins and a bold, structured style. This is a powerful, character-filled wine that should evolve beautifully over the coming decade.

2022 Domaine Gassier Notre País	90
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The Grenache-dominated 2022 Costières de Nîmes Notre País (there's 12% Mourvèdre, 8% Syrah, and 5% Carignan) comes from older vines in the southern part of the appellation and sees plenty of stems and aging mostly in tank. Sweet red fruits, peppery herbs, potpourri, and orange blossom are some of the notes here, and it's medium-bodied, with a round, sexy, Provençal style and solid length on the finish. It's already hard to resist and should be drunk over the coming 3-5 years.

2023 Domaine Gassier Côtes-du-Rhône	91-93
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Looking at the 2023 Côtes Du Rhône as a barrel sample, it has a slightly deeper ruby/purple hue to go with a rocking perfume of ripe red, blue, and black fruits as well as loads of peppery herbs, violets, and incense notes. It's ripe, medium to full-bodied, has a plush, layered mouthfeel, and sweet tannins.

2023 Domaine Gassier Notre País	90-92
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Not yet bottled, the 2023 Costières de Nîmes Notre País checks in as 70% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah, and the rest Carignan. Black raspberries, peppery garrigue, incense, and spicy notes all shine on the nose, and it's medium-bodied, with a soft, layered, elegant mouthfeel, soft tannins, and a great finish.

2023 Domaine Gassier Fleur de Syrah	89-91
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The 2023 Costières de Nîmes Fleur De Syrah is cut from the same cloth as the 2022 yet brings perhaps a touch more density. Red and blue fruits, pepper, violets, and subtle gamey notes all shine here, and it's medium-bodied, has a round, supple, elegant mouthfeel, and ripe tannins.

2023 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié Blanc	94
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The 2023 Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc is mostly Roussanne but includes 30% Grenache Blanc and 20% Viognier that was all barrel fermented and aged in 500-liter barrels, with a small percentage new. It's medium to full-bodied and has a beautifully textured, layered mouthfeel, solid mid-palate depth, and nicely integrated acidity. It's a fabulous white to drink over the coming 2-4 years, even though it will evolve for longer.



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2023 Domaine Gassier Nostre País Blanc	92
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The 2023 Costières de Nîmes Nostre País Blanc is based on 63% Grenache Blanc, 19% Roussanne, 12% Clairette, and 6% Viognier and was just bottled prior to my visit. It has a lively medium gold hue as well as notes of ripe citrus, orange blossom, flowers, and some subtle spice. It's medium-bodied and has a pure, elegant mouthfeel, a beautiful sense of freshness, and a great finish.

2023 Domaine Gassier Embruns de Viognier	90
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Named "sea mist" in French and all Viognier, the 2023 IGP Gard Embruns De Viognier has a beautiful, mini-Condrieu-like vibe in its ripe tropical and orange fruits as well as subtle flower and spicy nuances. It's balanced, has a beautiful texture, integrated acidity, and outstanding length.

- Jeb Dunnuck (February 23, 2025)

Vertical Tasting September 2024

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JAMESSUCKLING

May 14, 2024

Michel & Tina Gassier Vin de France Blanc de Blancs Brut 90 Points

A delicious, fresh and focused sparkling wine with aromas of apples, quince peel and some cedar undertones. It's medium-bodied with fine bubbles and fresh acidity. Vivid and playful.

March 27, 2024

2019 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié 90 Points

An intense, dense and well-built blend of 55% mourvedre, 25% grenache and 20% syrah, with notes of blackberries, dark plums, black olives and cloves. Full-bodied with plush tannins, a compact core of berries and spices and a powdery finish.

2022 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié White 92 Points

This mellow, silky and juicy roussanne-based white is comforting. Notes of lemons, white peaches, anise and dried herbs on the nose follow through to a medium body with fresh acidity and blanched almond undertones. Vivid, mouthwatering finish.

2021 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs White 91 Points

A seductive, textural and focused white with a mineral frame. Aromas of sliced pears, spiced apples, dried herbs and baking spices. Round with a medium body and a caressing texture. Minerally at the center with a wet stone character in the delicious finish.





March 31, 2024

90 pts

Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes White Nostre Païs 2021

Offering yellow plum and melon notes flecked with chamomile and a hint of buttercream, this distinctive white is fresh in feel thanks to orange pith-laced acidity and a racy, bitter edge to the finish. Grenache Blanc, Clairette and Viognier.



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Regenerative Agriculture

At the conference in January, the panel discussion on regenerative agriculture gave hope in our ability to restore the health of our planet. Whether through the commitment of producers or consumers.

John Szabo MS, who moderated the panel, opened by saying "As a wine writer, I have to say that my definition of fine wine has changed a lot over my career. It used to be that it has to be delicious, representative of a place and capable of improving with age for it to be considered a fine wine, but today my definition also includes the fact that it must be produced sustainably."

According to INRAE, regenerative agriculture has the potential to sequester 41% of the CO₂ emissions in France alone. Panelists Michel Gassier of Famille Gassier in the Rhone Valley, Giacomo Piubello of Château Patache d'Aux in Bordeaux, and Joseph Brinkley of Bonterra Organic Estates in California, shared their experiences and knowledge during this inspiring panel.

"If adopted widely, by most of the world's farmers, it can have a significant impact on reducing the degradation of our climate." said Michel Gassier.

Conventional agriculture has destroyed our soils, rendering them infertile. For Michel Gassier, there's no doubt regenerative agriculture is at the core of the solution. By increasing soil's organic matter, reducing external inputs, diversifying crops, integrating animals and through community resilience, we can reverse the situation.

"It's an outcome based system that restore soil's health and fosters our natural resources. It's a pragmatic approach. It's not dogmatic." Gassier said, adding that it does not exclude other certifications. Château de Nages and Domaine Gassier in Costières de Nîmes are Certified Regenerative by AGW, the first regenerative viticulture certification in France.



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In order to meet tomorrow's environmental challenges, such as reducing carbon in the atmosphere, improving water management and preserving the richness of our natural habitats, the Gassier family applies three principles: Improve soil structure and life, increase biodiversity and restore the ecosystem.

Understanding the soils

At Château Patache d'Aux, in the northern Médoc, action plans have been in place for eight years. Giacomo Piubello mentioned that from the beginning it was necessary for them to understand the soils in order to act properly.

They took soil samples throughout the vineyard to measure, collect data and understanding the granulometry and the percentage of each soil type. "We started with cover crops. We sowed barley in the fall and mowed it in the spring, depending on water availability and hydric stress. We made a good mulch and left it. This was our first approach to regenerative viticulture" he mentioned.

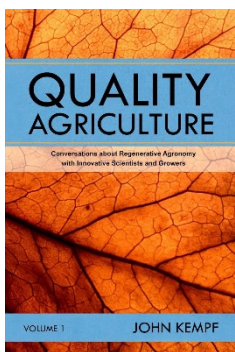
In 2021, we planted a small test block with different rootstocks and clones, all mixed together as a predictive tool for a long lasting production.

Social aspect

Regenerative agriculture adds the social element. "I think that we cannot expect a fundamental and systemic change to the system, which is clearly needed, if we continue to separate people from the land" said Joseph Brinkley.

In 2021 Bonterra Organic Estates achieved Regenerative Organic Certified®, the leading credential for regenerative farming and social responsibility. "The certification requires that there's a social audit so this is inclusive of how you treat your workers. This includes providing shade and water for workers and paying them a living wage." Brinkley said.

If agriculture is part of the problem of climate change, Joseph Brinkley points out that "regenerative agriculture is uniquely positioned to provide the solution."



Recommended reading by Michel Gassier

"As a leading agronomist and teacher, John Kempf has implemented regenerative agricultural systems on millions of acres across many different crop types and growing regions with his team at Advancing Eco Agriculture. In Quality Agriculture, John interviews a group of growers, consultants, and scientists who describe how to think and farm differently in order to produce exceptional results in the field. Their remarkable insights will challenge you, encourage you, and inspire gratitude and joy for the rewards of working with natural systems."

JEB DUNNUCK

Producer: **Domaine Gassier**

Article: **Southern Rhône: The 2021s From Bottle and the 2022s from Barrel**

2021 Michel & Tina Châteauneuf du Pape	92
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Coming from La Crau, Bedines, and Pignan, the 2021 Châteauneuf Du Pape checks in as 75% Grenache, 15% Syrah, and 10% Mourvèdre that was raised in old demi-muids. It's a beautiful wine with both red and black fruits as well as classic garrigue, flowers, and incense/spicy nuances. Medium-bodied, soft, supple, and balanced, it's one hell of a successful 2021 that has tons to love.

2022 Michel & Tina Châteauneuf du Pape	91-93
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Not yet bottled and based on 75% Grenache, 15% Syrah, and the rest Mourvèdre, the 2022 Châteauneuf Du Pape reveals a semi-translucent medium ruby hue to go with an incredibly floral, up-front, perfumed style in its red fruits, spring flowers, orange tea, and spicy, peppery aromas and flavors. It's textured, medium to full-bodied, has supple tannins, and outstanding length.

2020 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Syrah de Brousson	94
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All Syrah, the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Syrah Brousson comes from a single lieu-dit and was 50% destemmed and aged in 600-liter demi-muids. Crozes-Hermitage-like with its round, concentrated, sexy profile, it has lots of smoky black fruits, notes of tapenade, peppery herbs, and violets, medium to full body, and a great finish.

2021 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié Blanc	95
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While not made in 2022, as they didn't feel they had the acid structure, the 2021 Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc is terrific and based on 45% Viognier, 25% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, and 10% Clairette. It reminds me of a beautiful white Burgundy with its orchard fruits, honeyed flowers, and spicy notes to go with a layered, medium-bodied, focused, incredibly impressive style. This might be the finest white I've tasted from this estate, and it needs to be tasted to be believed.

2020 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié	94
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Mostly Mourvèdre with about a quarter each Grenache and Syrah, all from the estate Bec lieu-dit, the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié was mostly not destemmed and spent two years in 500- and 600-liter barrels. It has lots of classic Mourvèdre darker, meaty, iron nuances as well as spice, peppery garrigue, and violet nuances. A big, rich, textured, concentrated, and medium to full-bodied 2020, it has a great mid-palate and ripe tannins. It will evolve for 10-12+ years in cold cellars.

2022 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs Blanc	91
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Coming all from the estate Bec Vineyard and a blend of 80% Grenache, 15% Clairette, and the rest Viognier, the 2022 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs Blanc has a fresh, chiseled, medium-bodied style as well as bright citrus, lemon curd, white flower, and chalky, mineral-driven aromas and flavors. I love its balance, it has a seamless, layered mouthfeel, and a great finish.



2021 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs	90
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Sweet red and black cherries, peppery garrigue, and flowery violet notes all emerge from the 2021 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs, a medium-bodied, supple, elegant 2021 offering good ripeness, fine tannins, and outstanding length. A blend of 75% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, and the balance Syrah and Carignan, it was fermented with one-third whole clusters and raised in a mix of used barrels and concrete.

2022 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Nostre Païs	89-91
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Wild strawberries, framboise, candied violets, and peppery notes all define the aromatics of the 2022 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs, a medium-bodied, soft, supple, elegant red with fine tannins and a great finish. It has outstanding potential. As normal, this Cuvée is mostly Grenache and was fermented with a touch of stems, and the élevage is in older barrels and concrete tanks.

2021 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes fleur de Syrah	91
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The 2021 Costières De Nîmes Fleur De Syrah (there's 5% Grenache, as well as some stem inclusion) is up-front and perfumed with vibrant plum and wild strawberry-like fruit as well as classic, almost Northern Rhône-like, violets, bouquet garni, and gamey nuances. This complex, medium-bodied, incredibly satisfying effort should be snatched up by Northern Rhône lovers.

2022 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes fleur de Syrah	89-91
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Not yet bottled and a blend of 95% Syrah with a dose of Grenache, the 2022 Costières De Nîmes Fleur De Syrah has lots of up-front dark fruit, smoked meat, and violet notes in its medium-bodied, fresh, elegant, juicy style. This has solid mid-palate depth, ripe tannins, and a great finish.

2021 Michel & Tina Côtes du Rhône	90
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Starting off the reds, the 2021 Côtes Du Rhône is 80% Grenache and 10% each Mourvèdre and Syrah that was raised in concrete for 12 months. Ripe blackberries, raspberries peppery garrigue, and spicy, floral, Provençal notes all define the bouquet, and it's medium-bodied, supple, and elegant on the palate, with good ripeness yet the fresher style of the vintage.

2022 Michel & Tina Côtes du Rhône	91
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Lots of up-front Grenache red and black fruits, flowery incense, and Provençal herb notes emerge from the 2022 Côtes Du Rhône, a medium-bodied, round, supple, sexy wine that has an incredibly charming, front-loaded style that will put a smile on your face any time over the coming 4-5 years. This is 80% Grenache and 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre, and it was completely destemmed and aged in concrete tanks.

2022 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Embruns de Viognier	90
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Meaning "sea mist," the 2022 IGP Gard Embruns De Viognier Blanc (100% Viognier) tastes like a mini-Condrieu with its tart apricot, chalky mineral, citrus oil, and sappy flower-like aromas and flavors. Nicely textured, medium-bodied, and balanced, it has good acidity, plenty of richness, and a great finish.

- Jeb Dunnuck (November 03, 2023)

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JAMES SUCKLING

April 24, 2023

Michel & Tina Gassier Vin de France Blanc de Blancs Brut 90 Points

This juicy and lively sparkling Rhone is brimming with white peach and ripe pear fruit, although the palate is barely medium-bodied. The garden herb aromas and lemony acidity make it very nimble. Not bone dry, but very well balanced. Pure grenache blanc.



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93 - #20 Top 100 Best Buys

POINTS

2019 Côtes du Rhône

The nose of this wine reveals richness with deep dark plums, blackberries and wild thyme balanced by earthy topsoil. The wine exudes the essence of a freshly picked basket of fruit, demonstrating its purity. On the palate, herbaceous notes lead, followed by a burst of fresh cherry fruit, lightly framed by olive and green peppercorn. The tannins coat the front of the mouth as the acidity resets the palate. — Anna-Christina Cabrales

October 2023

91 - 2019 Nostre Païs Red

This focused wine is a blend of 50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre, 5% Carignan and 5% Cinsault. The palate offers fresh potpourri mixed with fleshy black cherries, blood orange pith, rhubarb mulled with kirsch liqueur, baking spice and rosemary. Balanced and accessible in its youth, this bright blend can be enjoyed immediately with grain salads with a citrus base. — Anna-Christina Cabrales - *April 2023*

90 Best Buy - NV Blanc de Blancs Cru Grenache Blanc

This bottling shows enticing aromas of fleshy green apple and toasted brioche. It's rounded on the palate, with creamy bubbles that deliver flavors of pear, apple and lemon pith. — Anna-Christina Cabrales

December 2023

JEB DUNNUCK

Producer: Domaine Gassier

Article: Southern Rhône Part 2: The 2020s and 2021s

2019 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Syrah de Brousson	95
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The 2019 Costières De Nîmes Syrah de Brousson (100% Syrah aged in demi-muids) showed beautifully, with a gorgeous, Côte Rôtie-like nose of darker, smoky fruit as well as violets, ground pepper, bacon fat, and spring flowers. It's medium to full-bodied, has a seamless texture, ultra-fine tannins, and a great finish. This is legit great Syrah. Enjoy bottles over the coming decade.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Grenache de Bek	95
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All Grenache from a single vineyard in the southern part of the appellation, the 2019 Costières De Nîmes Grenache Bek offers a great perfume of mulberries, cherries, dried herbs, and pepper. These carry to a medium to full-bodied ripe, elegant, terrifically balanced Grenache with fine tannins and perfect balance. It's another incredible effort from this estate that readers will love.

2021 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Lou Coucardié Blanc	94
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The 2021 Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc had just been bottled the week before this tasting, but it certainly wasn't showing any adverse effects. Gorgeous caramelized peach, brioche, white flowers, and honey, nutty nuances define the aromatics, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a layered, pure mouthfeel, vibrant acidity, and a great finish. A blend of 45% Viognier, 25% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, and the rest Clairette, it will easily stand beside a top Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Lou Coucardié	93
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A more Mourvèdre-dominated wine, the 2019 Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié checks in as 55% Mourvèdre, 25% Grenache, and 20% Syrah that saw one-third whole clusters in the fermenter. Beautiful red and black fruits, spices, dried herbs, cured meats, and peppery notes give way to a medium to full-bodied, impressively balanced 2019 with fine tannins and outstanding length.

2021 Domaine Gassier Costieres de Nimes Nostre Pais Blanc	92
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Another beautiful white, the 2021 Costières de Nîmes Nostre Pais Blanc is 80% Grenache Blanc, 15% Clairette, and 5% Viognier. White peach, apple blossom, and floral nuances all flow to a medium-bodied, clean, vibrant, refreshing white that displays a distinct sense of minerality on the finish. This versatile, textured, incredibly satisfying white will evolve for 3-5 years, although I like it today.



2020 Michel & Tina Gassier Côtes du Rhône**92**

The 2020 Côtes du Rhône (which used to be released under the Cercius label) is outstanding, with a medium to full-bodied, plush, round, seamless profile that's a joy to drink. Based on 80% Grenache and 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre, it has ample red, blue, and black fruits, some Provençal garrigue and peppery, spicy notes, ripe tannins, and a great finish. It's a smoking value to enjoy over the coming 4-6 years.

2020 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs**91**

As always, the 2020 Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs is all about elegance and finesse as opposed to power and opulence. A blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah, and the rest Clairette, it has a spicy, red and black-fruited, leather, and dried flower-driven bouquet as well as medium-bodied richness and depth on the palate. With fine tannins and a terrific sense of purity and elegance, enjoy bottles over the coming 4-6 years. It's a year-in, year-out, smoking value.

2020 Domaine Gassier IGP Gard Embruns de Viognier**90**

Also all varietal but from estate fruit, the 2021 IGP Gard Embruns de Viognier is more complex and has perfumed citrus, tart apricot, flowers, spice, and even a touch of minerality in its medium-bodied, vibrant, perfectly balanced profile. You could put this beside a Condrieu (which would probably cost 3-4 times the price) and it would do just fine.

2021 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs**90-92**

Coming mostly from the Bec Vineyard in the southern part of the appellation, the 2021 Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs has a perfumed, elegant style in its kirsch and black raspberry fruits as well as licorice and flowery incense nuances. Medium to full-bodied, ripe, and textured, it's a seriously good 2021 that will drink nicely right out of the gate. This cuvée is 75% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, and 5% Syrah and Carignan that was fermented with one-third stems and will spend a year in equal parts used barrels and concrete.

2021 Michel & Tina Gassier Côtes du Rhône**89-91**

What should be another terrific value, the 2021 Côtes du Rhône has a pretty, elegant, medium-bodied profile that carries lots of sweet raspberry and blackberry fruits, notes of ground pepper, iron, and Provençal garrigue, good overall balance, and a great finish. It's a complex, juicy, up-front, and charming wine to drink on release and over the following 3-5 years.

2022 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Brise de Grenache**92**

Here's a deliciously juicy and refreshing rosé from the South of France. Bursting with ripe melon, nectarine and red berry aromas. Excellent balance at the long, pristine finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.

- Jeb Dunnuck (March 16, 2023)

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93/100

Lou Coucardié Rouge 2017- Costières de Nîmes

Mourvèdre-centric, from the south. Two years of élevage. Taut, structured and quite peppery with grippy tannins and notes of tar and dried herbs. Such density and structure: very Mourvèdre with an edgy personality. Really impressive in a distinctive style.

93/100

Lou Coucardié Rouge 2013 - Costières de Nîmes

This was a late year, making austere, high-acid wines. So this was put in old barrels and left for a year. It was OK, but today it is one of Michel's favourite wines. This is supple and fresh with firm tannins and nice juicy red fruits. It's expressive with dried herbs and iodine with a lovely juicy quality. This has developed really nicely in an austere way.

94/100

Lou Coucardié Blanc 2017- Costières de Nîmes

Roussanne and Viognier with a bit of Grenache Blanc. Toast, peach, spice and some lovely ripe citrus here. Has nice density with lovely expansive fruit, showing pear and melon. This has lovely density. A rich, complex wine with nice density.

94/100

Lou Coucardié Blanc 2011 - Costières de Nîmes

Yellow gold colour. Fine pastry and toast on the nose with some spice. Complex and crystalline on the palate with some pith, ripe peach and pear, and a touch of apple. Opulent and delicious with lovely weight and complexity.

95/100



Nostre Païs Rouge 2020 - Costières de Nîmes

Southern end, Grenache and Mourvedre, both 50% whole cluster, plus Syrah. Wonderful floral red fruit/cherry perfume with lovely green hints. This is so juicy and fine with lovely freshness: balanced, fine, floral with lovely raspberry and cherry fruit. Very fine and detailed.

92/100

Nostre Païs Rouge 2010 - Costières de Nîmes

At the time they didn't use native yeasts or whole cluster. Ripe aromatics with some appealing evolution, showing a touch of malt. The palate is ripe and supple with nice freshness and some ripe strawberry and raspberry. It's still very much alive in a mellow, smooth place but with good acidity. Lovely fresh finish.

94/100

Nostre Païs Blanc 2020 - Costières de Nîmes

This is a wine that has an interesting evolution, like Alsace Riesling, says Michel. This is from the high calcium soil in the south, with Durance pebble deposits. Fresh, linear and slightly chalky with a touch of salinity. It shows pear, apple and some ripe citrus. So textural with nice finesse. There's a delicacy here as well as some intensity.

93/100

Nostre Païs Blanc 2012 - Costières de Nîmes

Full yellow/gold colour. Crystalline mandarin fruit with some petrol hints: this smells very like an old Riesling. This has a tapered palate with nice sweet pear and apple fruit with a nice mandarin edge and some pleasant development. Some marmalade and toast too. Very interesting.

« Exploring Costières de Nîmes - Michel Gassier and family, adopting regenerative viticulture » [Article](#)

Jamie Goode, January 19, 2023





91 points– Editor's Choice

2021 Brise de Grenache

Pristine yellow peach, apricot and strawberry flavors abound in this delightfully fruity yet thirst-quenching rosé. An ode to Grenache nurtured by the sun and breeze of the Mediterranean, it's etched by hints of salt and sun-scorched garrigue. Ideal young but concentrated enough to drink well past this summer season. Anna Lee C. Iijima

June 2022

92 points

2018 Lou Coucardié White

A core of mouthwatering white grapefruit and tangerine flavors extends throughout this voluminous yet vibrant blend of four traditional Rhône white grapes. While bold in body and ripeness, it accents citrusy flavors with smoky tones of anise, nutmeg and toasted hazelnuts. At peak now–2026. Anna Lee C. Iijima

91 points

2019 Nostre Païs White

Bright yellow-plum and pear flavors are leesy and silken on the palate of this full-bodied yet fresh blend of Grenache Blanc (53%), Clairette (22%) and Viognier (11%). It's a pure-fruited dry white anchored by crisp lemon acidity and a finish dusted with hints of white pepper and nutmeg. — Anna Lee C. Iijima

April 2022





91 - Domaine Gassier Costières de Nostre Païs white 2019

Inviting, with a shortbread note leading off, followed by verbena, white peach and star fruit flavors. Offers a caressing feel along with good brightness and zip. Tasty. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Viognier and Roussanne.

90 - Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs red 2019

Stylish, with red tea and sandalwood hints leading the way for red currant and raspberry coulis flavors, finishing with a light chalky minerality. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Carignan and Cinsault.

90 - Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Fleur de Syrah 2019

Ripe and direct, featuring a fun blast of raspberry and plum puree flavors laced with red licorice and black tea accents through the finish. Syrah and Grenache.

April 2022



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JAMESUCKLING

2016 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Grenache De Bek 93 Points

Not only does this ripe and mellow red have impressive concentration, it also has remarkably full and elegant tannins for the grenache grape. Tons of terra-cotta character, plus gentle spice and a positively dusty, dry finish that reminds me of hot summer days in the South of France.

2017 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Syrah de Brousson 92 Points

Deep, balsamic nose with some leather and ash character to this powerful and rather uncompromising southern red that has tons of character. Very solid, tannin base at the weighty finish. A mourvedre-based blend.

2017 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardie 91 Points

Deep, balsamic nose with some leather and ash character to this powerful and rather uncompromising southern red that has tons of character. Very solid, tannin base at the weighty finish. A mourvedre-based blend.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs 91 Points

A warm, spicy red with underlying earthy depth, this is full-bodied, but very well balanced, the generous supple tannins and healthy acidity pulling everything together very neatly. Long finish.

2020 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs Blanc 91 Points

It's hard to believe that this refreshing white wine, with its orange-blossom nose and lively medium-bodied palate, has 14% alcohol. Positive touches of tannin and minerals give clear contours to the supple finish.

2020 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Fleur de Syrah 90 Points

Brimming with wild blackberries, but with a nice smoky overtone, this is a very vivid Cote-du-Rhone! Wonderful mineral freshness pushes the generous alcohol brusquely into the background of this joyful, southern red. Very lively finish.

2021 Domaine Gassier Gard Embruns de Viognier 90 Points

Very peachy and floral viognier nose, then juicy and lively on the medium-bodied palate. Not so complex, but very nicely balanced and rather refreshing, too!

2021 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Brise de Grenache 92 Points

A super-fresh and bright dry grenache rosé with the floral and red-berry effusiveness we expect from this category. So vibrant and clean, it makes you feel glad to be alive, then the nectarine and mineral character come through at the very precise and long finish.

- January & February 2022



JEB DUNNUCK

Producer: Domaine Gassier

Article: Southern Rhone's 2019s and 2020s: Part 2

2019 Michel & Tina Gassier Châteauneuf-du-Pape	94
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The 2019 Châteauneuf Du Pape is 75% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre that comes from a mix of sandy and pebbly soils and was destemmed and brought up in demi-muids. Beautiful kirsch and dried cherry fruits as well as notes of Provençal garrigue and sandalwood define the nose, and it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, silky tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish. If you see a bottle, buy it.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Grenache De Bek	93-95
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Tasting like the Nostre País, only richer, the 2019 Costières De Nîmes Grenache De Bek (99% Grenache and 1% Mourvèdre) comes from an estate vineyard of safre and chalky, limestone soils located in the southern part of the appellation. Beautiful blackberry and savory cherry fruits as well as dried herbs and licorice notes emerge from this beauty, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a seamless, layered texture and ultra-fine tannins. It will stand up to any Grenache out there.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Lou Coucardie	92-94
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The 2019 Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié is a bigger, richer wine based on 55% Mourvèdre, 25% Grenache, and 20% Syrah, all from more pebbly soils. It was two-thirds destemmed, saw malolactic fermentation in barrel, and is still resting in used demi-muids. A poor man's Beaucastel Hommage à Jacques Perrin, this medium to full-bodied, meaty, peppery, Provençal red has a concentrated, mouth-filling texture, building tannins, some background oak, and a great finish.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Nostre Pais	93
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The 2019 Costières De Nîmes Nostre País is largely Grenache yet includes 15% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre as well as a splash of Carignan. As always, it's more about purity and elegance than power and offers medium-bodied aromas and flavors of black raspberries, kirsch, ground pepper, and flowers. While it's not a blockbuster, it has enough structure to warrant a year in bottle and should drink nicely through 2029. It's another incredible value.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Syrah De Brousson	91-93+
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The 2019 Costières De Nîmes Syrah De Brousson comes from the northern portion of the Costières De Nîmes appellation (which is more Rhône-like in regard to its terroir) and a single parcel of 40-year-old vines. Almost all Syrah, it has a Saint-Joseph-like vibe in its darker, almost blue fruits as well as violet and smoky, meaty nuances. Nicely textured and medium-bodied, it's another beautiful Syrah from this team that has serious potential.

2019 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Fleur De Syrah	90
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The 2019 Costières De Nîmes Fleur De Syrah comes from the southern part of the appellation, which is cooler, as it's closer to the Mediterranean Sea. A blend of 95% Syrah (all Serine) and 5% Mourvèdre, it has lots of red and blue fruits as well as a liquid violet character, medium to full body, outstanding ripeness, and a seamless texture. As with the 2020, it saw a touch of stems and was brought up all in concrete tank.

2019 Michel & Tina Gassier Cotes Du Rhone	90
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What was previously released as the Cercius Cuvée, the 2019 Côtes Du Rhône from the Gassiers is a ripe, round, Provençal, sexy red that's undeniably delicious. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has the vintage's round, fruit-filled style while staying impeccably balanced. It will drink nicely for 4-5 years.

2020 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Nostre Pais	91-93
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Violets, framboise, hints of blue fruits, and ground pepper all emerge from the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs, and this perennial over-achiever looks to deliver the goods again in 2020. Already complex and medium to full-bodied, with silky tannins and considerable elegance, it should last for 4-6 years. The 2020 is based on 60% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah, and 5% Carignan that was two-thirds destemmed and is still resting in a mix of used oak and concrete tank.

2020 Michel & Tina Gassier Cotes Du Rhone	90-92
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The 2020 Côtes Du Rhône should be stunning stuff and compete with any Côtes Du Rhône out there. Based on 60% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and 20% Syrah, it has lots of ground pepper and sappy flower notes as well as a great core of blackberry and black cherry fruit. It's pleasure bent but still has elegance and complexity.

2020 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Lou Coucardie Blanc	94
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The flagship white from this talented family is the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc, a richer, serious, age-worthy white based on 40% each of Roussanne and Viognier and the balance Grenache Blanc. Brought up in 500-liter barrels, it has beautiful white currant and tangerine fruits, a terrific floral character, a touch of background oak, and medium to full-bodied richness on the palate. It's still tight and closed on the palate and needs 6-12 months of bottle age, but it's going to shine on the dinner table over the following 4-6 years.

2020 Domaine Gassier Costieres De Nimes Nostre Pais Blanc	91
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Also terrific, the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs Blanc is 65% Grenache Blanc, 20% Clairette, and the rest Viognier and Roussanne. Clean, crisp citrus and stone fruits as well as floral nuances define the bouquet, and it's medium-bodied, balanced, and elegant on the palate, with good acidity. I'd be thrilled to drink a bottle any time over the coming couple of years and certainly wouldn't be surprised to see it evolve nicely for longer.

2020 Domaine Gassier IGP Pays D'Oc Embruns De Viognier	91
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Tasting like a mini-Condrieu (at a fraction of the price), the 2020 IGP Pays D'Oc Embruns De Viognier has lots of tangerine and citrus fruit, medium-bodied richness, a beautiful, fresh, yet still rich and classic Viognier texture, and a touch of spice and minerality on the palate. It's well worth seeking out and should be enjoyed over the coming year.

- Jeb Dunnuck (January 26, 2022)

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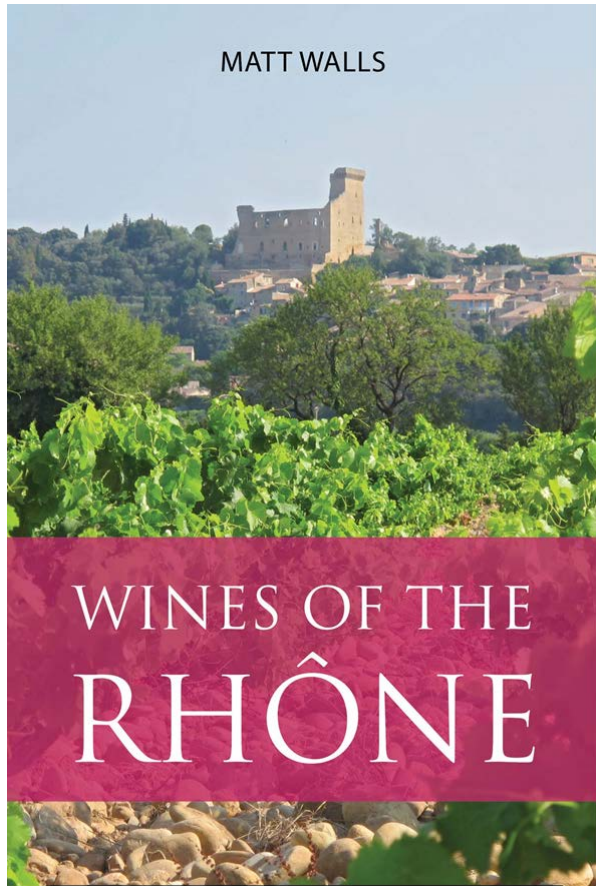
91 points– Editor's Choice

2020 Brise de Grenache

Sourced from chalky limestone soils, this varietal Grenache rosé offers zip and vitality that stand out among its peers. Pale pink in the glass, it's a moderately full-bodied but lifted wine studded with crisp red-cherry and raspberry flavors and lingering mineral finish. — Anna Lee C. Iijima

September 2021

MATT WALLS



Publication date : January 25, 2021

**Château de Nages
and Domaine Gassier**
Caissargues
www.domainegassier.com
www.chateaudenages.com

A winemaker who has done more than his fair share to raise the profile of Costières de Nîmes, Michel Gassier makes wines under two different estates in the appellation. Château de Nages is the family domaine, in which he represents the fourth generation, and recently he has also established a separate domaine under his own name, Domaine Gassier. Both are farmed organically. He has a particularly sensitive touch both in the vineyard and the winery, and makes authentic, balanced wines that deliver real satisfaction. Unusually, he makes a sparkling wine, and it's one of the best in the Southern Rhône.



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TASTING REPORTS

North and South

Both regions of France's Rhône Valley share in the success of the 2018 vintage

The Rhône Valley covers a large and diverse swath of eastern France, starting just south of Lyon and running down to Avignon, yet it is one of the most consistent winegrowing regions in the world. Save for a very rare rain-plagued harvest, the valley benefits from near-constant sunny and dry conditions in summer that are ideal for growing grapes.

The 2018 growing season, however, was no walk in the park.

Early-season rains led to severe mildew pressures through the start of summer, before the more typical weather pattern finally kicked in, yielding the beneficial conditions vintners needed to ripen their crop. In the end, producers in both the northern and southern portions of the region delivered another outstanding group of wines. The Syrah-based reds of the north and the Grenache-based reds of the south each offer velvety, low-acid profiles, with ripe, stylish fruit, while the whites are juicy and opulent....

...“The key weather story about the 2018 vintage is the rain pattern,” says **Michel Gassier, whose family domaine in Costières de Nîmes is one of the region's top sources for values.** “Overall, we received more than 1,000 millimeters [39 inches] of rain, with three-fourths of it either before budbreak or after the harvest. And as opposed to previous vintages, hydric stress was very limited.”

...Michel Gassier's Costières de Nîmes... Costières de Nîmes White Nostre País 2018 (91, \$23) show the ripe, plump yet detailed profile of the 2018 whites, as well as the type of excellent values that abound in the region. All told, there are 95 wines in this report that rate 88 points or higher while costing \$25 or less per bottle.



Feb 28, 2021

James Molesworth's Recommended Wines From the Rhône Valley: *Top Rhône Values*



**MICHEL GASSIER Costières de Nîmes
White Nostre País 2018**

91

Ripe and detailed, with a mix of star fruit, green melon, pear and yellow apple flavors laced with a hint of buttered brioche. Long, flattering finish. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette, Viognier and Bourboulenc. Drink now through 2022. 3,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported. — JM



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Wine Spectator

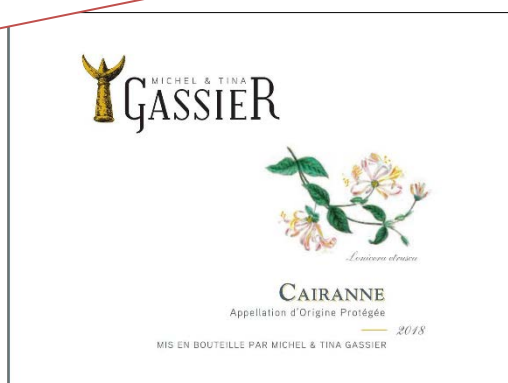
www.winespectator.com



May 31, 2021

ONE OF THE TOP RHONE
VALUES

Jan 31, 2022 - Page 71



MICHEL & TINA GASSIER

Cairanne 2018

Score: 90

Alluring, with red tea and incense notes leading off, followed quickly by racy red cherry and raspberry coulis flavors. Late mineral notes add length. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now through 2023. - James Molesworth



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VINUM-Leserpanel Côtes du Rhône

Rocking the Rhône

Vorbei an dem UNESCO
Welterbstatus Favards

Les Vignerons du Castelas

Côtes-du-Rhône AOC Les Mésanges 2020
16,5 Punkte | 2021 bis 2024
Kräuterwürze in der Nase, leichter Honigmelone-Hauch sowie Bittermandeln im Hintergrund. Erstaunlich gesetzt für das junge Alter. Am Gaumen findet sich das Bouquet aus der Nase direkt wieder. Kraft, Frische und gut eingebundene Säure. Spannend.
www.vignerons-castelas.fr

ROTWEIN

Le Clos du Caillou

Côtes-du-Rhône AOC Le Quartz 2018
18 Punkte | 2021 bis 2026
Filigranes Bouquet, Anklänge von schwarzem

Domaine Gassier

Côtes-du-Rhône AOC 2019

17,5 Punkte | 2021 bis 2025

Rhabarber, Rote Bete, im Hintergrund rote Beerenfrucht. Am Gaumen erstaunlich schlank für 15 Vol.-%, saftig, kühl, feines Tannin. Trinkig, auf Top-Niveau. Einfach Klasse.

www.domainegassier.com

9,90 Euro | www.weinkontor-freund.de

Maison Brotte

Côtes-du-Rhône AOC Esprit Barville 2018
18 Punkte | 2021 bis 2026
In der Nase dunkle Würze, Oreo-Keks, Muskatnuss und Rote Johannisbeere. Kraftvoll am Gaumen, schön ausbalanciert, mit präsentem, seidigem Tannin, ausgewogene Säure. Grüner Tee, Rote Johannisbeere, in perfekter Konzentration. Sehr lang.
www.brotte.com

Château des Coccinelles

Côtes-du-Rhône AOC Elytras 2019
17,5 Punkte | 2021 bis 2026
Feinherbe, leicht pflanzliche Aromatik mit knackigen, grünkräutrigen Aromen unterlegt - straff und gradlinig. So auch der Gaumen, straffes und noch festes Tanningerüst, kernige Säure und herbe Aromen. Charakter mit viel Lagerpotenzial.
www.chateau-coccinelles.com

Château du Trignon

Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Plan de Dieu AOC 2016
17,5 Punkte | 2021 bis 2024
Brombeere, grüner Astschnitt, schwarzes Teeblatt und Granatapfel-Kerne. Am Gaumen dezent konzentriert, mit lebendiger Säure und einem seidigen Tannin-Netz. Sehr gut.
www.familiequilot.com
11,90 Euro | www.weine-leipzig.de

Domaine de Magalanne

Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages Signargues AOC Lou Biou 2018
17,5 Punkte | 2021 bis 2025
Dunkle Beerenfrucht, Brombeere, etwas Veilchen, Brotkruste und Garrigue-Kräuter in der Nase. Am Gaumen frisch, schlank und dezent geprägt von einem sanften, körnigen Tannin. Dezent, elegante Fruchtaromen-Intensität, mit saftiger Säure-Struktur. Gute Länge.
www.magalanne.com

Domaine des Favards

Côtes-du-Rhône AOC Les grandes terres 2018
17,5 Punkte | 2021 bis 2024
Blaubeere und Sauerkirsche, schwarzer Pfeffer und Johannisbeerblüte in der Nase. Am Gaumen straff, mit feinkörnigem Tannin und elegantem Zug. Endlose Frische im Abgang. Sehr gelungen.
www.domainedesfavards.com

Domaine Gassier

Côtes-du-Rhône AOC 2019

17,5 Punkte | 2021 bis 2025

Rhabarber, Rote Bete, im Hintergrund rote Beerenfrucht. Am Gaumen erstaunlich schlank für 15 Vol.-%, saftig, kühl, feines Tannin. Trinkig, auf Top-Niveau. Einfach Klasse.

www.domainegassier.com

9,90 Euro | www.weinkontor-freund.de

English translation: Rhubarb, beetroot, red berries in the background. Amazingly light on the palate for 15% alc. Juicy, cool, fine tannins, drinkable, top level. Simply great.



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JEB DUNNUCK

Producer: Domaine Gassier

Article: Southern Rhône: The Charming, Provençal 2018s and the More Concentrated, Classic 2019s

2017 Domaine Gassier Grenache de Beck Rouge

95

I was also able to taste a number of late-release 2017s from this team. Starting with the 2017 Costières de Nîmes Grenache de Bek, this beauty comes from a single vineyard in the southern, cooler part of the Costières and is all Grenache. It reminds me of a Châteauneuf du Pape from the sandy parts of the La Crau lieu-dit and offers a gorgeous perfume of kirsch liqueur and blackberry-like fruits interwoven with lots of peppery spice, candied violets, new saddle leather, and garrigue. Hitting the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, it has beautiful tannins, no hard edges, and a finish that keeps you coming back to the glass. This unquestionably ranks with the finest wines coming from this appellation and is one of those wines that need to be tasted to be believed. I love it today, and I suspect it has a solid 8-10 years of overall longevity.

2017 Domaine Gassier Syrah de Brousson Rouge

94

A new wine for this team that was first made in 2016, the 2017 Costières de Nîmes Syrah de Brousson comes from a single parcel in the northern part of the appellation, which is warmer and consists of more pebbly, clay soils. Revealing a deep purple color as well as a masculine bouquet of crushed stone, iodine, roasted herbs, black licorice, and smoked black fruits, this beauty hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a meaty, layered, chewy texture, and incredible length on the finish. The texture here is superb, as is the balance. This beautiful wine will benefit from another year or so in bottle and should drink nicely through 2031. It actually reminds me of an old school Hermitage with its rich, powerful, mineral-laced style.

2017 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié Rouge

94

The 2017 Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié reminds me a little of a classic old school Bandol with its ripe, sexy, incredibly meaty profile. Loaded with fruit and offering lots of spiced meats, garrigue, pepper, and new saddle leather aromas as well as full-bodied richness, sweet tannins, and a great finish, this is one heck of a Costières de Nîmes. It can be drunk today, but it has enough tannins to warrant short-term cellaring and should evolve nicely for upwards of a decade. The blend is 50% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, and the rest Syrah, all of which is brought up in a mix of larger French oak barrels.

2018 Domaine Gassier Nostre País Rouge

91-93

Surprisingly, the 2018 Costières de Nîmes Nostre País had not been bottled at the time of this tasting. Nevertheless, it continues to show beautifully, with a perfumed, medium to full-bodied, finesse-driven, elegant style that I would happily drink today. Giving up lots of both red and black fruits, garrigue, candied violets, and ground pepper, it has both richness and elegance and certainly competes with any number of base Châteauneuf du Papes that sell for quite a bit more.

2019 Domaine Gassier Nostre País Rouge

91-93



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While the Côtes du Rhône from this team is made in a more Southern Rhône style, the 2019 Costières de Nîmes Nostre País comes from a cooler sector of the Costières de Nîmes region and always shines more for its purity and elegance than sheer power. In 2019, it reveals a more ruby/purple color as well as a perfumed nose of black raspberries, white pepper, sappy spring flowers, and spice. All this flows to a more medium to full-bodied, seamless red with beautiful balance, no hard edges, and a great finish. This is another beautiful wine that brings plenty of fruit as well as elegance. It will have 4-6 years of prime drinking.

2018 Domaine Gassier Fleur de Syrah Rouge 91

Beautiful Northern Rhône-like aromas of blackberries, smoked game, bacon fat, and candied violets as well as plenty of black pepper emerge from the 2018 Costières de Nîmes Fleur De Syrah. Playing in the more medium-bodied end of the spectrum, it has a layered, elegant texture, nicely integrated acidity, and soft tannins. Enjoy this upfront, charming, beautifully balanced Syrah any time over the coming 5-6 years.

2019 Domaine Gassier Fleur de Syrah Rouge 89-91

The dense purple-colored 2019 Costières de Nîmes Fleur De Syrah gives up a classy nose of blue and black fruits intermixed with lots of peppery herbs and crushed rock-like minerality. It hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness as well as a stacked mid-palate and has loads of fruit and ripe tannins yet stays nicely balanced and even elegant. It's another pleasure-bent, impeccably made wine from this team that will drink well on release and over the following handful of years.

2018 Michel & Tina Gassier Côtes Du Rhône 91

The Côtes du Rhône from this team is always made to have more of a Rhône-like style, and the 2018 Côtes du Rhône succeeds admirably, offering up loads of red and black fruits, roasted garrigue, melted licorice, and mineral-like aromas and flavors. These all carry to a ripe, sexy, full-bodied Côtes du Rhône with sweet tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish. This is a no-brainer purchase that's guaranteed to put a smile on your face any time over the coming 3-5 years.

2019 Michel & Tina Gassier Côtes Du Rhône 90-92

Moving to the reds and starting with the 2019 Côtes du Rhône from tank, it reveals a medium to full-bodied, plush, sexy style as well as loads of blueberry liqueur, ground pepper, violets, and candied orange-like aromas and flavors. With plenty of mid-palate depth, ripe, sweet tannins, and a great finish, this is a pleasure-bent Côtes du Rhône well worth seeking out that will keep for 3-4 years.

2019 Michel & Tina Gassier Cairanne 91-93

First made in 2018, the 2019 Cairanne is in the same ballpark and comes from hillside parcels of Grenache, Mourvèdre, and Syrah. Medium purple, it offers a beautiful perfume of black raspberries and cherries as well as notes of crushed rock-like minerality, ground pepper, and violets. It hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, sweet tannins, and a great finish. This is another classy, balanced, incredibly satisfying wine from the Gassier family that I would be happy to drink any time over the coming 5-7 years.

2017 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié Blanc 94

Moving to the flagship cuvée, the 2017 Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc is based on 40% Roussanne, 30% Grenache Blanc, 20% Clairette, and the rest Viognier that I believe is brought up in a mix of tank and barrels. It reveals a medium gold color as well as a Hermitage Blanc-like bouquet of white currants, quince, crushed stone, toasted bread, and honeyed minerality. Rich, full-bodied, and expansive on the palate, it stays beautifully balanced and has a layered texture as well as a great finish. Enjoy this soft, sexy, opulent, incredibly impressive white over the coming 2-3 years. It can age longer, if you're so inclined.

2019 Domaine Gassier Nostre Païs Blanc

92

Notably richer and deeper, the 2019 Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs Blanc reveals a vivid gold color as well as a honeyed nose of tangerine, apricot, peach, and white flowers. With medium to full-bodied richness, a beautifully balanced, elegant texture, and a solid spine of acidity, this is another terrific white from this team that has loads to love. It should keep nicely for 2-3 years. Put this in a blend lineup of top Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc and shock your friends.

2019 Domaine Gassier Embruns de Viognier Blanc

90

Starting with the 2019 Vin De France Viognier from Michel Gassier, this is a real gem of a white that offers loads of Viognier character as well as notable freshness, purity, and elegance. Notes of apricot, ripe peach, spice, and a kiss of flowers all emerge from the glass, and it has an expansive, layered texture (which is classic Viognier) and a clean, crisp, dry finish that will make this shine on the dinner table. It sells for a song and is ideal for drinking over the coming year.

- Jeb Dunnuck (10/06/2020)

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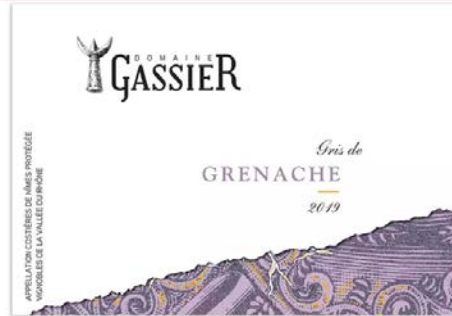
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TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

12 French Rosé Discoveries

Pink wines from Provence, Corsica, Languedoc and more for \$25 or less
By Gillian Sciaretta Jul 16, 2020

In France, rosé is more popular than white wine. So it's no surprise that French winemakers throughout the country are producing high-quality pink wines. In this week's report, we've put together 12 rosés from throughout France, all priced at \$25 or less and perfect for mid-summer sipping.



MICHEL GASSIER
Score: 89 | \$17

Costières de Nîmes Rosé Gris de Grenache 2019

WS review: A fresh, pure style, with a racy edge that lets the range of orange peel, savory, white peach and wet stone notes play out. This shows more range and length than most of its peers. Drink now. 3,000 cases made, 750 cases imported.—James Molesworth

CHÂTEAU BEAULIEU	Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence Rosé Cuvée Alexandre 2019	Score: 88 \$23
JEAN-LUC COLOMBO	Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence Rosé La Dame du Rouet 2019	Score: 88 \$22
MINUTY	Côtes de Provence Rosé M 2019	Score: 88 \$24
DOMAINE DE NIZAS	Languedoc Rosé Le Clos Terroir Basalte 2019	Score: 88 \$17
DOMAINE PETRONI	Corse Rosé 2019	Score: 88 \$25
PHILIPPE VIALLET	Vin de Savoie Rosé 2019	Score: 88 \$15
MARRENON	Lubéron Roséfine 2019	Score: 87 \$18
TERRA SANTA	Île de Beauté Rosé 2019	Score: 87 \$13
DOMAINE VETRICCIE	Île de Beauté Rosé 2019	Score: 87 \$13
M. CHAPOUTIER	Pays d'Oc Rosé Les Vignes de Bila-Haut 2019	Score: 86 \$15
DOMAINE HOUCHART	Côtes de Provence Rosé 2019	Score: 86 \$17

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Wine Spectator TOP 100

ier.com

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We've revealed the Top 100 of 2019 !

2017 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Lou Coucardié red

Interim, dec 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90-92 points

The 2017 Costieres de Nimes Lou Coucardie is 55% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache and 15% Syrah, which will spend a full two years in demi-muids of 500 and 600 liters. Scents of dried spices and cola accent bright berry fruit on the nose of this full-bodied, supple wine, which turns velvety but remains slightly open-knit on the long finish.

2018 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Lou Coucardié white

Interim, dec 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90-92 points

A barrel-fermented blend of 40% Roussanne, 30% Grenache Blanc, 20% Viognier and 10% Clairette, the 2018 Costieres de Nimes Blanc Lou Coucardie is toasty but balanced, with tropical notes, pineapple and melon flavors framed by the oak. Medium to full-bodied and round in the mouth, it turns zesty on the long, revitalizing finish.

2017 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Nostre Païs red

Interim, dec 2019 Joe Czerwinski 89-92 points

A blend of 55% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre and 5% each Carignan and Cinsault, the 2017 Costieres de Nimes Nostre Pais comes largely from sandy soils. It offers super ripe notes of black cherries and apricots. Full-bodied, rich and velvety, it finishes with plenty of flavor and length.

2018 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Nostre Païs white

Interim, dec 2019 Joe Czerwinski 89-91 points

The 2018 Costieres de Nimes Blanc Nostre Pais is a blend of 45% Grenache Blanc, 20% each Roussanne and Clairette, 10% Viognier and 5% Bourboulenc. It's half barrel-fermented in older oak (the other half goes into stainless steel), but it doesn't show any real woodiness. Instead, it's got mandarin and melon notes on the nose, a medium to full-bodied feel on the palate and a zesty-briny finish that picks up hints of anise.

2017 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nimes Fleur de Syrah red

Interim, dec 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90 points

The 2017 Costieres de Nimes Fleur de Syrah has turned out as well as I thought it might when I tasted it last year. It's 90% or more Syrah, with tiny amounts of Grenache, Carignan and/or Viognier, depending which version of the story you believe. It offers up vaguely floral and stone-fruit notes alongside blueberry and blackberry flavors. Medium to full-bodied and supple, this easy-drinking wine should be consumed over the next several years.

2018 Michel & Tina Gassier Cairanne red

Interim, dec 2019 Joe Czerwinski 89-91 points

A blend of 65% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre and 5% Syrah, the 2018 Cairanne is already delicious. Lovely floral and herbal notes accent red raspberries on the nose, while the medium to full-bodied palate is rich and supple. The wine finishes long and velvety, picking up attractive hints of green peppercorns.

JEB DUNNUCK

Top 100 Red Wines Of 2019

by JEB DUNNUCK



DECEMBER 3, 2019

The below list is a selection of the top red wines that were tasted over the past year and reviewed at JebDunnuck.com. As in 2018, 2019 has been a wealth of riches for wine lovers with great vintages in the Rhône Valley (both north and south), Bordeaux, Napa, Washington, and the **Central Coast** all hitting the market. The 2016s from **Napa Valley** and **Bordeaux** dominate the Top 100 this year, and this was a brilliant vintage for both regions. In addition, the 2017s from the **Southern Rhône** are terrific, as are the more classic, elegant 2016s from the **Northern Rhône**. The list also includes wines from Argentina, Australia, Bandol, Italy, Roussillon, Spain, **Sonoma**, and **Washington**.

The selection is based on a combination of overall quality, price, availability, and a little bit of Wow Factor, and was made by scrolling through over 10,400 reviews (which is a record number of reviews in 12 months for yours truly) and painstakingly cutting the list to these 100 wines.

20

2017 Domaine Gassier Costières De Nîmes Nostre Pais

+ \$19 93

I loved the 2017 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Pais, and I think it's a step up over the 2018. Based on 55% Grenache, 25% Syrah, and the rest Mourvèdre, Cinsault, and Carignan, from the cooler, southern part of the appellation, it offers complex notes of sweet red and black fruits, ground herbs, incense, and peppery spice. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and layered, with sweet tannins, it would easily stand beside wines running 2-3 times the price in a blind tasting. Michel Gassier's Domaine Gassier continues to be the reference point estate in the Costières de Nîmes, and this is a terrific terroir that's been unjustly regulated to larger production, so called "value" wines. Don't believe stunning wines emerge from the Costières de Nîmes? Taste these wines. In addition, they fashion an outstanding Côtes du Rhône!



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JEB DUNNUCK

Michel Gassier's Domaine Gassier continues to be the reference point estate in the Costières de Nîmes, and this is a terrific terroir that's been unjustly regulated to larger production, so called "value" wines. Don't believe stunning wines emerge from the Costières de Nîmes? Taste these wines. In addition, they fashion an outstanding Côtes du Rhône!

2016 Domaine Gassier Grenache de Beck Rouge

94

A new release from the family estate's Bek Vineyard, the 2016 Costières De Nîmes Grenache De Bek is nearly 100% Grenache (there's a splash of Mourvèdre) and has Châteauneuf Du Pape-like aromas and flavors of kirsch liqueur, blackberries, peppery incense, and garrigue. With medium to full-bodied richness, silky tannins, solid mid-palate depth and a great finish, it can be enjoyed today or cellared for upwards of a decade.

2016 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié Rouge

95

Bottled earlier this year, the 2016 Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié checks in a blend of 50% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, and 20% Syrah that was 66% destemmed and aged two years in 500- and 600-liter barrels. This blockbuster beauty boasts a deep purple color as well as a smoking good bouquet of blackberries, cured meats, ground pepper, Asian spices, and flowery incense. Deep, full-bodied, and concentrated, it's still seamless, balanced, and weightless on the palate, and shows why 2016 is such a great vintage in the southern Rhône Valley. This wine just about maxes out the value scale and can be drunk with incredible pleasure today or cellared for a decade.

2017 Domaine Gassier Grenache de Beck Rouge

93-95

In the same ballpark as the 2016, if not slightly better, the 2017 Costières De Nîmes Grenache De Bek (99% Grenache and 1% Mourvèdre) is another magical, Châteauneuf Du Pape look-alike from Gassier that does everything right. Ripe, sexy amounts of black raspberries, cassis, peppery incense, violets, and spicy notes all give way to a medium to full-bodied, layered, and seamless Grenache that has ripe tannins, no hard edges, and a great, great finish.

2017 Domaine Gassier Lou Coucardié Rouge

92-94+

Not yet bottled, the 2017 Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié might just match the sensational 2016. Based on 55% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache and the rest Syrah, it will see the same two years in barrel before bottling. Loads of blackberries, chocolate, spice box, and plenty of meaty notes emerge from the glass, reminding me of a top Bandol from the likes of Tempier. Full-bodied, concentrated, and powerful, with plenty of tannins, it's another remarkable wine from this terrific estate.



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2017 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs Rouge 93

I loved the 2017 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs, and I think it's a step up over the 2018. Based on 55% Grenache, 25% Syrah, and the rest Mourvèdre, Cinsault, and Carignan, from the cooler, southern part of the appellation, it offers complex notes of sweet red and black fruits, ground herbs, incense, and peppery spice. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and layered, with sweet tannins, it would easily stand beside wines running 2-3 times the price in a blind tasting.

2017 Michel & Tina Gassier Côtes du Rhône Rouge 90

The 2017 Côtes Du Rhône (70% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and 10% Syrah) has a pretty, medium-bodied style as well as classic notes of cracked pepper, violets, garrigue, and sweet raspberry and blackberry fruit. It sells for a song yet has tons of character and is a balanced, complete Côtes Du Rhône to enjoy over the coming 4-5 years.

2018 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs Rouge 90-92

As with the 2017, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs comes from the southern, more marine-influenced part of the Costières (it's primarily from the Gassier estate's Bek Vineyard) and is 50% Grenache, 20% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre, and the rest Cinsault and Carignan, aged in equal parts used barrels and concrete tanks. It offers a pretty, finesse-drive, elegant style as well as perfumed notes of black raspberries, garrigue, and violets. Balanced, lightly textured, and seamless, it's certainly an outstanding wine and will be a great buy.

2018 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Fleur de Syrah Rouge 89-92

A slightly tweaked blend, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Fleur De Syrah checks in as 90% Syrah and 10% Grenache that saw a tiny amount of stems followed by aging all in concrete tanks. It's another blue fruited, peppery, violet-scented beauty that's medium to full-bodied, pure, and elegant on the palate. It's going to shine right out of the gate.

2018 Michel & Tina Gassier Côtes du Rhône Rouge 90-92

A similar blend to the 2017, the 2018 Côtes Du Rhône is in the same ballpark and offers loads of dark fruits, ground herbs, and peppery garrigue in its classic Southern Rhône style. Drink this medium-bodied, rich, fleshy, exuberant beauty on release and over the following 4-5 years.

2018 Michel & Tina Gassier Cairanne Rouge 91-93

A new release from this estate, the 2018 Cairanne comes all from hillside parcels and is 65% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, and 5% Syrah. It has a terrific, full-bodied, sexy profile as well as loads of blue and black fruits, licorice, and bouquet garni-like aromas and flavors. It's pure, balanced, and a terrific looking barrel sample.



2018 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc 93

A deeper, richer wine, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc is a barrel fermented blend of 40% Roussanne, 30% Grenache Blanc, 20% Viognier, and the rest Clairette. It would give many a top Châteauneuf Du Pape Blanc a run for its money and boasts loads of ripe peach, tangerine, honeysuckle, spice, and brioche aromas and flavors. Medium to full-bodied, textured, and balanced, it has subtle background oak, a great texture, and a big finish.

2018 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Nostre Païs Blanc 92

Coming all from the estate Bec Vineyard, located in the cool, southern part of the appellation, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Nostre Païs Blanc checks in as a mix of 45% Grenache Blanc, 20% Roussanne, 20% Clairette, and the rest Viognier and Bourboulenc, raised in old barrels and concrete tank. Readers looking for a superb white to drink over the coming 2-3 years should snatch this up. It offers terrific notes of white peach, rose petal, crushed citrus, and spice. With a touch of White Burgundy class, medium body, beautiful freshness, and a great finish, it was over-delivers. Don't miss it.

2018 Domaine Gassier IGP Pays d'Oc Embruns de Viognier Blanc 89

The 2018 IGP Pays D'Oc Embruns De Viognier tastes like a baby Condrieu and is well worth a multiple bottle purchase. Lots of apricot, lychee nut, and white peach give way to a medium-bodied, rounded, textured white that has classic Viognier opulence yet stays fresh and lively. Drink it over the coming year or two.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/16/2019)

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Wine Spectator

8 Vins Français to Celebrate Bastille Day

Bonjour, wine lover. July 14 is Bastille Day, France's own national holiday, and there is no better way to celebrate the spirit of the *révolution* than to indulge in some French *vin*. You may be thinking of regal first-growths and the like, but France has plenty of wines for the People made in different styles across several regions. Let's go on a little tour de France.



... Moving south to the Southern Rhône, where Grenache (both red and white) reigns supreme, try [Michel Gassier](#)'s fresh and floral Costières de Nîmes white...

91 - Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Notre Païs Blanc 2017

Fresh, featuring pear, yellow apple, melon and jasmine notes streaming through together, with a flash of lemon shortbread on the enticing finish. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette, Viognier and Bourboulenc. Drink now. 3,000 cases made, 1,200 cases imported. —*J.M.*

■ Jul 11, 2019



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JEB DUNNUCK

2018 Domaine Gassier Costières de Nîmes Gris de Grenache Rosé	91 pts
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From Michel Gassier (Chateau de Nages) and based on Grenache Gris, the 2018 Costières de Nîmes Gris De Grenache Rosé is an elegant, seamless effort that's up there with the finest Provençal-styled rosés out there. Beautiful white peach, ripe strawberries, and white flower notes all emerge from this medium-bodied effort that has a silky, rounded texture, good yet integrated acidity, and a great finish. It's another winner from an incredibly talented winemaker. It can certainly stand on its own, but its slightly richer style is going to make it shine on the dinner table.



- *Jeb Dunnuck (3/27/2019)*
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2017 Michel Gassier Lou Coucardie - Blanc

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski 92 points

Showing more of a toasty side (it's all barrel-fermented, in a higher proportion of new oak than the Nostre Pais), the 2017 Costieres de Nimes Blanc Lou Coucardie boasts hints of orange marmalade, pineapple and apricot. A blend of 40% Roussanne, 30% Grenache Blanc, 20% Clairette and 10% Viognier, it's medium to full-bodied with a plush mouthfeel, underscored by just a bit of lime zest on the lingering finish.

2017 Michel Gassier Nostre Païs - Blanc

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski 92 points

Michel Gassier's whites continue to impress for their ripe textures, fruit expression and cleanliness. The 2017 Costieres de Nimes Blanc Nostre Pais is a blend of 45% Grenache Blanc, 30% Roussanne, 10% each Clairette and Viognier and 5% Bourboulenc. Half of the blend was barrel-fermented in 500-liter oak. Honeyed tangerines give a plump, fleshy sensation on the palate without being soft or cloying. It's creamy and lush but balanced for immediate enjoyment.

2017 Michel Gassier Viognier - Blanc

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski 90 points

Showing genuine varietal expression, the 2017 Vin de France Viognier includes nuances of citrus blossom and ripe apricots. Medium to full-bodied, silky in texture and long on the finish, it's a great introduction to the variety at a bargain price.

2017 Michel Gassier Lou Coucardie - Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski (91-93) points

Still aging in demi-muids, the 2017 Costieres de Nimes Lou Coucardie is full-bodied, rich and firm, with concentrated cherry and blueberry fruit. It might need another year or two to round into form, but it should drink well for nearly a decade.

2017 Michel Gassier Nostre Païs - Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski (89-92) points

The 2017 Costieres de Nimes Nostre Pais possesses a rich, creamy texture that showcases ripe blueberry fruit. It's full-bodied and admirably concentrated, with a long finish.

2016 Michel Gassier Lou Coucardie - Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018

Joe Czerwinski

90 points

A Mourvèdre-led blend aged in demi-muids, the 2016 Costieres de Nimes Lou Coucardie features patisserie-like notes of baking spice and vanilla. It's full-bodied, oaky and plush, with forward notes of dark fruit and decent freshness on the long finish.

2016 Michel Gassier Nostre Païs - Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018

Joe Czerwinski

91 points

A Grenache-led blend, the 2016 Costieres de Nimes Nostre Pais features compelling aromas of crushed stone, black olive and blueberry. It's medium to full-bodied, with crunchy, fresh fruit and silky but firm tannins. It should drink well through 2025.

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Wine Spectator

www.winespectator.com

Stirring the Lees with James Molesworth Day 6: At the End of the Rhône, Starting Something New

Posted: Nov 11, 2011 11:42am ET

After five days of tasting 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Papes at some of the Southern Rhône's top domaines, I ventured to Costières de Nîmes for something new. On the surface, Costières de Nîmes looks uniform—a mildly undulating plateau covered with the classic rolled-stone, or galets terroir, that is the archetype image of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. But if you look a little closer, there are differences.

Costières de Nîmes was formed not from just the alluvial soils left by the Rhône river, but also by those from the Durance, which left the southern portion of the appellation littered with more variegated stones, smaller and angular in size. The northern side of the appellation has the larger, rounded stones typical of the Rhône.

Similarly, on the surface, Michel Gassier looks the part of any Southern Rhône vigneron, a lightly weathered 51-year-old with purple-stained fingers. But look a little closer and the story isn't quite the same. His perfect English is thanks to a 10-year stint living in America, where he met his wife. France itself isn't Gassier's birthplace, having been born in Algeria, before moving to southern France as a child.

Born into a farming family, Gassier eventually inherited the fruit and vineyard business that his great-grandfather started in the 1940s, when Joseph Torres sensed France might lose its grip on its North African colonies. Today, Château de Nages still has its orchard business, run by Gassier's brother, Bertrand. The vineyards though, are Michel's passion, and he's taken a new approach to winemaking since he connected with consultant Philippe Cambie in 2006.

"I came back here in '93 at age 33, with two kids and a third on the way, because I wanted to make wine," said Gassier. "But after a while, I had to be honest with myself. I didn't like the wines I was making. Since meeting Philippe, my passion for wine took another leap forward. Philippe is a coach. Some things he teaches you, other things he lets you work through himself. But more than anything else, he helps you find the wines you really want to make."

Today, Gassier's operation produces 50,000 cases annually, with a hefty one-third going to the U.S. Gassier has been working organically since 2007. Here, at the end of the Rhône Valley, Gassier is making something new. Costières de Nîmes is a large AOC totaling 25,000 hectares of land, but only 5,000 hectares are currently in production. That number has slipped in recent years as growers who have been unable to survive slowly give up grapegrowing, but it's still larger than Châteauneuf-du-Pape itself. For years, it wavered in a public relations and legal limbo between the Languedoc and the Rhône Valley, until recently it was finally decided it would be considered part of the latter, which makes easy enough sense when you see the vineyards.

Today, Gassier sees the downward spiral of low prices for the wine turning into cutting corners in the vineyard, which results in low quality and a slow, steady decline. He's determined to avoid the trap, and he's on a bit of a buying spree, having recently added a 50-hectare parcel that includes some old-vine Grenache. Those soils left by the Durance produce a brighter, fresher wine, while the bigger stones in the northern end from the Rhône deliver flesh and power (see the accompanying video as Michel Gassier guides us through the two different sides of Costières).

As we toured his vineyards, Gassier ran down his checklist for acquiring new parcels. "I'm looking for vineyards that contain some limestone, which is less common than you might think here. It's an old sea bed, but the limestone can be rather deep. I'm also looking for some slope. We're not Côte-Rôtie obviously, but any degree of slope is beneficial for when the rains come at the end of the season. And I'm looking for northern exposure, which helps to mitigate the hot sun we have."

Gassier produces 25 percent white wine, a noticeable commitment in an area known for its reds.

While the wines for the Château de Nages lineup are sourced from the 50 hectares of vineyards that comprise the original estate, Gassier's other wines are sourced from the 70 hectares of additional vineyards that he has been purchasing in recent years.

"I want to make a big, rich wine that doesn't tire you. It's hedonistic but should make you want another sip. We are on Rhône soil, but we have more of a coastal influence, so we can make big wines that maintain freshness," he said. It's lush, but very pure, with an almost brisk blanched almond note along with a range of white peach, quinine and jicama notes and a touch of salted butter filling in on the finish.

I've noticed in recent vintages that Gassier's whites have taken on a purer, fresher edge here, and Gassier explained that when he started the barrel fermentation program, he had to buy all new barrels and that marked the wine. "Plus I was afraid of too much new oak, so I was pulling the wine out of barrel quickly, which isn't good because then you don't get integration either. But now I have the mix of new and used barrels I want so I can leave the wine in oak for 10 months and get the integration. I get the right amount of new oak influence and yet still have a freshly styled wine," he said.

"In 2010, I began experimenting with the idea that low yields and overripeness is overkill," said Gassier. "The heavier the crop load, the more you need to push for ripeness to get proper tannin ripeness. So when you drop crop low, there's no need to go hog wild in ripeness, or you lose the freshness. So we aim to pick on the earlier side—we'll still get good tannin ripeness, which is key, but we'll keep that freshness for balance."

It seems like Gassier has a second wind since hooking up with Cambie, and he noted how much his approach has changed in recent years. "The wines have changed a lot in recent years, in terms of vineyards, varietal makeup and winemaking. It's all a work in progress. But since '06, I finally feel like I'm making the wines I want to make. I feel like the idea of what I want to do is clearer, and that correlates in the wine. The wines themselves are telling me where to go as I look for new vineyards, and I can build from there."

"There is a general reference point for us here in Costières, if we look outside—the Rhône Valley. But in terms of inside Costières, we have no benchmarks, no reference. So we can find our way and do our own thing."



DOMAINE
GASSIER

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DOMAINE MICHEL GASSIER, COTIERES-DE-NIMES, ON DIRAIT LE SUD

Michel Gassier, l'homme du Château de Nages (et de sa tenue exemplaire) conduit avec sa femme Tina ce beau vignoble qui surplombe la Camargue, en appellation Costière de Nîmes. Deux terroirs, l'un au nord constitué de galets roulés, l'autre au sud entre craies et safres. Les vins allient une grande concentration à une fraîcheur exemplaire, résultat d'un travail méticuleux sur l'entretien des sols et sur la conduite de la vigne. Ce paysan-chercheur livre une interprétation toute personnelle de ces terroirs méridionaux, pour le meilleur.

MICHEL GASSIER



Michel Gassier, déjà renommé pour sa tenue exemplaire du Château de Nages, conduit également avec sa femme Tina un vignoble plus méridional : sur une terrasse surplombant la Camargue, ils y travaillent en agriculture biologique et y conçoivent des vins alliant une grande concentration en fruit et une fraîcheur exemplaire. C'est le résultat de ce travail méticuleux au niveau des sols, de la sélection des greffons, de la conduite de la vigne, de la récolte, de la vinification et de l'élevage qui se traduit de façon naturelle dans chaque bouteille. La nouveauté de cette année, Le Grenache de Bek, montre le potentiel considérable du terroir. Face au progrès des derniers millésimes, nous n'hésitons pas à lui accorder une troisième étoile.

Costières de Nîmes Grenache de Bek 2016 Sec 2019	17/20
Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié Blanc 2017 Sec 2019	15,5/20
Costières de Nîmes Lou Coucardié Rouge 2016 Sec 2021	16/20
Costières de Nîmes Notre Païs Blanc 2017 Sec 2019	14,5/20
Costières de Nîmes Notre Païs Rouge 2016 Sec 2019	15/20

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 10h à 12h et de 14h à 18h.

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À L'HONNEUR EN 2012

17 COUPS DE CŒUR ET NOUVEAUX TALENTS

Il s'agit de jeunes vigneron, de négociants, de propriétaires récemment installés ou encore de domaines en forte progression. Nous les avons tous sélectionnés après quatre mois intensifs de dégustations menées lors de notre onzième tour de France des vignobles. Au bonheur de chasser les bons rapports qualité/prix, nous ajoutons le plaisir de vous révéler de futurs grands des vignobles de France dont vous découvrirez dans ce guide les cuvées en avant-première.

Gerbelle & Maurange

CHÂTEAU DE NAGES

MICHEL GASSIER

Il n'y a que les imbéciles...

Nous l'avouons, nous avons nos vignobles coup de cœur, et les autres. Les autres, c'est-à-dire des lieux où l'on produit des vins en manque d'identité. Question de terroir, d'héritage ampélographique, de moyens techniques...

En Costières de Nîmes, le terroir le plus méridional de la vallée du Rhône, nous nous habituons aux syrahs mûres, assez massives... ennuyeuses. Mais dans notre métier de Sisyphe de la dégustation, nous savons que rien n'est figé. Tout est entre les mains des hommes. Et cette année, Michel Gassier, au château de Nages, nous place en dégustation aveugle une nouvelle cuvée, Notre Pais, en rouge et en blanc. Révélation ! Oui, les Costières savent faire des vins délicats. Il n'y a que les imbéciles qui ne changent pas... ► Lire page 249.



COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

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Château de Nages

Costière de Nîmes Notre Pais 2009

Vin rouge. Production : 2000 Bouteilles/an.

Ce binôme peu répandu de mourvèdre et de cinsault, âgés de 50 ans, livre des notes personnelles et fines de chocolat noir amer. Il se montre aussi doux et plein de relief dans sa finale retenue et mentholée. Nouvelle cuvée à découvrir en priorité dans la gamme du domaine.

Michel Gassier ● 04 66 38 44 30 ● Chemin des Canaux, 30132 Caissargues ● www.michelgassier.com

9,90 € 15/20

Château de Nages

Costières de Nîmes Notre Pais 2010

Vin blanc. Production : 3000 Bouteilles/an.

Sur son étiquette, une fresque animée de personnages buvant et dansant, confère un esprit de fête et de joie à ce blanc délicat et parfumé (grenache et viognier), sans être entêtant. La bouche se présente en demi-corps, légère et particulièrement digeste pour un costières. Il passe tout seul à table.

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