

Christophe Pichon 2020 Viognier (collines Rhodaniennes)

WineWise Code	FCP-VIO20
Country	France
Region	Rhone
Color	White
Alcohol by Volume	13.21
Destemming	Complete
Residual Sugar	1.2
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	670
Varieties	100% Viognier
Fermentation vessel	Stainless Steel
Fermentation duration	3 weeks
Aging method	Used Barrique 100%
Aging duration (months)	12
Filtered?	Yes
Fining agents	Bentonite
Yeast	Spontaneous
Lees Contact or Stirring	Yes
Malolactic	Yes
Added Sulfur	Yes, 6 g/L
Soil Type(s)	Granite
Elevation (meters)	300
Vineyard Aspect	Southeast
Vine age (years)	40
Vine Yields hl/ha	43
Farming practices	Conventional
Grape Picking	Hand-Harvested

WineWise Notes:

The vines lie just to the north-west of Condrieu, planted on gentle granitic slopes. The resulting wine has an unmistakable honied nose that melds with the oak as a hand fits in a glove. The glossy texture of the fruit could distract you from the wine's surprising mineral charge. At 13% alcohol, it passes for moderate in today's world. Exceptional class for the modest tariff.



Notes from the producer:

It has always been a family affair. I took over the estate from my father, then in 1991 I bought some more vineyards. Two years later, I invested in an abandoned hillside so as to plant some Saint Joseph vines. Today, the estate owns 5 hectares of Condrieu, 4 hectares of red Saint Joseph, 2 hectares of white Saint Joseph, 3.9 hectares of Côte-Rôtie, 0.5 hectares of Cornas, 1 hectare of white Vin de Pays Collines Rhodaniennes and 0.5 hectares of red Vin de Pays in Seyssuel. After finishing his studies in viticulture and oenology, Corentin joined the family estate in 2012. In 2014, he spent 6 months vinifying Syrah in Australia, in the well-known Barossa Valley region. On his return to France, he began vinifying his second vintage for the same year! As a result of his broad experience, he has refined the vinification style in complete harmony with the estate's way of thinking and maintains the respect of the vines and the wines. As an example, he is now making white wines without sulfites.

WineWise Notes on Christophe Pichon:

We continue our careful exploration of the northern Rhône with the addition of this stellar producer of Côte Rôtie, Condrieu, St. Joseph and Cornas. Now in the third generation of the Pichon family, the estate covers 16 hectares split between the four appellations above and a small quantity of vin de pays. The domaine offers elegant, perfumed wines that punch way above their weight when their modest cost is considered – the WineWise paradigm! Christophe himself is a man of seriousness and commitment who is now in his second term as president of the Condrieu appellation, a job previously held by the legendary Georges Vernay. His elder son Corentin has taken over most of the winemaking responsibilities at this point.