



DOMAINE BELLE “CUVÉE LOUIS BELLE” CROZES HERMITAGE 2012



Crozes-Hermitage is an appellation of the Northern-Rhône located at the foot of the Hermitage single steep hillside. Usually considered as a “junior version” of its illustrious neighbor, their main differences reside on the soil composition and exposure. When Hermitage soil is granitic, the one of Crozes is made of clay, sand and this rare terroir of Kaolin limestone found exclusively in the village of Larnage, where the Belle family is based.

They both benefit from the windy Rhône river corridor and the Mediterranean climate offering high number of sunshine hours per year and warm, dry summers; ideal for the maturation of the Syrah grape.

Philippe, 3rd generation of the Belle’s family, is running the family estate founded by his grandfather Louis Belle in 1930. Located 2 miles north of the 300 acres vineyard of Hermitage, its estate covers 29 acres of vines mainly in the village of Larnage. Along with his vines, Philippe cultivate, with the same organic practices, 25 acres of Apricot production, showing is attachment and respect for the local tradition and his farming roots.

SOIL TYPE _____

Clay and limestone (Kaolin - locally called “Terres Blanches”).
In the villages of Larnage and Crozes-Hermitage

VARIETAL _____

100% Syrah. 36 hl/ha

CULTURE _____

Organic manure / Working of the soil / Sustainable farming / Short pruning / Leaf removal / Green harvest if necessary / Manual harvesting.

VINIFICATION _____

Traditional vinification in thermoregulated stainless steel tanks / Partial destemming / Daily pumping over and punching of the cap / Final maceration at high temperature / 4 weeks of vatting time with natural yeast / Ageing during 20 months in French oak barrels with 15 % new oak, 25% 1 year-old barrels, 30% 2 years-old and 30% 3 years-old .

TASTING NOTES _____

A deep purplish color robe. Delicious flavors of Crème de cassis and violet. Lively spicy notes of ground black pepper and licorice. Perfectly integrated oak and smoky minerality at the finish. Sumptuous Syrah !



Other wines from Domaine Belle:

- Crozes-Hermitage Blanc “Les Terres Blanches” 2012*
- Hermitage Blanc 2012*
- Saint-Joseph “Les Rivoires” 2012*

