



DOMAINE BELLE HERMITAGE BLANC 2012



Hermitage is a dramatically steep single hillside of 333 acres with carefully terraced south-facing vines overlooking the Rhône River. The soil here is made predominantly of heat-retaining granite offering an optimum maturity potential. This exceptional Terroir, being usually considered as Syrah's spiritual home, also produces a confidential proportion of white wines exclusively from Marsanne and Roussanne grapes. Hermitage is, without discussions, one of the most remarkable of the French wine appellations.

Philippe, 3rd generation of the Belle's family, is running the family estate founded by his grandfather Louis Belle in 1930. Based in Larnage in the heart of the Crozes-Hermitage appellation, Philippe also own a tiny parcel of Hermitage. His entire estate is farmed with the best organic practices.

But let's give the last word to Thomas Jefferson who praised white Hermitage as "The first wine in the world without exception...it is exactly to our taste, neither too dry nor too sweet"

SOIL TYPE _____

Granit and pebbles with vein of limestone.
1.2 acres in the village of Tain l'Hermitage – Plot called "Les Pélées"

VARIETAL _____

60% Marsanne, 40% Roussanne. 37 hl/ha

CULTURE _____

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

VINIFICATION _____

Fermentation with natural yeasts at cold temperature (60 °F) in new (75%) and 1 year-old French oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation is made in the same barrels followed by 20 months ageing on fine lees.

TASTING NOTES _____

Very refine flavors of honeysuckle and white peach Balanced by an elegant spine of acidity. Lifted with texture and power the fruit stay bright and lively. The persistence of this wine is impressive with aromas of honey, vanilla and a deep long lasting minerality.



Other wines from Domaine Belle:

- Crozes-Hermitage Blanc "Les Terres Blanches" 2012*
- Crozes-Hermitage Blanc "Cuvée Louis Belle" 2012*
- Saint-Joseph "Les Rivoires" 2012*

