



DOMAINE BELLE "LES RIVOIRES" SAINT-JOSEPH 2012



Saint-Joseph appellation cover a long strip of 25 miles of steep granitic hillsides, carved with terraces, along the western bank of the Rhône River. Starting from just south of Côte-Rotie to Hermitage, this wine takes a lot of characteristic from its illustrious neighbors that are as well exclusively made of Syrah with a small allowance for white grapes in the blend. The southern part, facing Hermitage, has the most exciting Terroir of the appellation.

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 and Saint-Joseph. His entire estate is farmed with the best organic practices.

"Les Rivoires" means "Oak tree forest" from the old latin "Robur" meaning "Oak". A common name from the local dialect referring probably to the only flora that was populated these hillsides before the vines were planted in this region called the "Mauves" in 12th century.

SOIL TYPE _____

Rich granitic soil – Single parcel of 1.2 acres in the city of Tournon in the southern part of the appellation facing Hermitage.

VARIETAL _____

100% Syrah. 35 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 18 months in French oak barrels with 30 % new oak, 30% 1 year-old barrels and 40% 2 year-old.

TASTING NOTES _____

A delicate and very refine Syrah. A lot of flowery character with predominantly violet. The black pepper notes in the finish remind us that we are in the Northern Rhône. Tannins are smooth and velvety.



Other wines from Domaine Belle:

Crozes-Hermitage Blanc "Les Terres Blanches" 2012

Hermitage Blanc 2012

Crozes-Hermitage Blanc "Cuvée Louis Belle" 2012

