



# DOMAINE FRANÇOIS ET FILS, YOANN FRANÇOIS

## CÔTE RÔTIE 2017



“Côte Rotie is the bridge between Burgundy and the Rhône” this quote, from British wine writer David Livingston-Learmonth, sums up perfectly the Rhône Valley’s northernmost appellation: the power and opulence of the south and the delicacy and nuance of the North. It is here, on the steep terraced slopes rising sharply from the banks of the Rhône River, that Syrah display its most subtle expression. Over the years Côte Rôtie, “roasted slopes” in French, has become an icon of the French vineyards with some single vineyards selling for the same prices as First growth Bordeaux or Grand Cru Burgundy.

Fourth generation of the François family, Yohann joined the estate in the year 2004. On his small 10 acres estate he produces roughly 1,300 cases of Syrah and Viognier, but their main activity is making farmhouse cheeses from the milk of their twenty-five cows, which they sell at local farmers market across the Rhône valley.

2017 is the year of the recognition, the “Revue du Vin de France” placing him on the top three of the Côte Rotie producers in front of the star of the appellation Cuilleron, Villard and Clusel Roch.

### SOIL TYPE

5 parcels called " les Rochins ", " le Bourrier ", "Fongeant ", " Janet " & " Rozier " all located in the Côte Brune (North of the Appellation). The Soils are not much deep and very stony with Mica schist rocks. South-east to south-west exposure depending of the plot.

### VARIETAL

97% Syrah, 3% Viognier – 40 years-old vines

### CULTURE

Due to the steepness of the plots all the works are done by hand. The low vigor of the vines, the leaf thinning and the green harvest allow a perfect aeration and the healthiest conditions possible. Organic practices are applied in the vineyard. Harvest is made entirely by hand and grapes are partially destemmed.

### VINIFICATION

3-4 weeks of maceration in thermoregulated stainless steel vats. Each plot is vinified separately allowing a more precise approach of the Terroir expression. 18 months ageing in mostly old 228l & 400l French oak barrels (15% new). Light filtration before bottling. 900 cases production.

### TASTING NOTES

“Pungent dark berry, violet and licorice aromas... suggestions of smoked meat and cracked pepper. Palate-coating black and blue fruit, floral pastille and baking spice flavors show very good depth, and a hint of cola builds in the glass. Silky and broad on the persistent finish, which is shaped by gentle, even tannins.”

**91pts Vinous by Josh Reynolds March 2020**

*Other wines from the same estate:*  
Côte Rôtie "Rozier" – Côte Brune 2017 Vinous 93pts  
Condrieu "Les Veauvignère" 2018

