



Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2013)

BERTHET-RAYNE 2012 CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE BLANC WHITE (88)

The only white produced, the light gold-colored 2012 **Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc** (40% Clairette, 40% Bourboulenc, 10% Grenache, 10% Roussanne) dishes out fresh, lively notes of citrus, lime juice, flowers and hints of mint to go with a medium-bodied, fresh and nicely balanced profile on the palate. Lightly textured and geared for near-term drinking, it should be consumed over the coming year or two. Drink now-2015.

BERTHET-RAYNE 2012 CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE CUVÉE TRADITION RED (88-90)

Moving on to the 2012s, the straight 2012 **Châteauneuf du Pape Tradition** is a borderline outstanding effort with pure, clean berry fruit, mineral and underbrush aromas and flavors flowing to a medium-bodied, traditionally-styled palate feel. Showing solid underlying structure and good fruit, it should have over a decade of longevity. Drink 2014-2022+.

These solid efforts come from the northern part of the appellation and, aside from their traditionally styled base cuvee (which is very good), show varying degrees of oak and relatively modern characters. The slightly richer and more concentrated 2012s seemed to handle this elevation more successfully than the more up-front 2011s. Nevertheless, these are all solid, well made efforts. In addition to the wines reviewed here, they also produce a 100% Grenache bottling called the Elixir des Papes.

BERTHET-RAYNE 2012 CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE FÛT DE CHÊNE RED (89-91+)

A step up from the 2011, yet still showing a relatively heavy hand on the oak, the 2012 **Châteauneuf du Pape Fût de Chêne** has solid aromatics (spice-box, licorice, sweet oak and blackberry fruit), medium body, solid richness and plenty of character. There's a touch of dry tannin on the finish, yet it should still be a very good effort with over a decade of longevity. Drink 2015-2022.

BERTHET-RAYNE 2012 CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE CUVÉE CADIAC RED (89-91+)

The most impressive of the lineup, the tiny production 2012 **Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Cadiac** (an even split of Grenache and Mourvedre) has rocking aromatics of potpourri, dried flowers, violets and sweet black raspberry and cassis.

Medium to full-bodied, rich and nicely textured, with solid concentration and depth, it should benefit from a couple years of bottle age and have 12-15 years or so of total longevity. There's still some noticeable oak here, yet it has the fruit and richness to handle it. Drink 2016-2027.

BERTHET-CAPEAU 2012 CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE ELIXIR DES PAPES RED (88-90+)

The 2012 **Châteauneuf du Pape Elixir des Papes** has loads of promise! A blend of 100% Grenache, it offers up beautiful plum, black cherry, licorice and assorted herbs, pepper and violet qualities as well as a medium-bodied, rich and beautifully textured palate. There's a vibrancy and freshness here, as well as ample chewy tannin, all suggesting it will benefit from short-term cellaring once released. It should have over a decade of longevity. Drink 2016-2022.

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Dom Berthet-Rayne, 2012 Châteauneuf du Pape 16.5 Drink 2018-30

Vineyard soil: galets, chalk. Lieu-dit: Chapouin and Coudoulet. Grape varieties: 65 % Grenache, 5 % Syrah, 20 % Mourvèdre, 10 % Cinsault.

Dark crimson. Blackish. Overripe notes. A bit sour and uncomfortable. Exaggerated for me, although some will like the sheer intensity. Certainly dramatic.

Dom Berthet-Rayne, Vieilli en Fût de Chêne 2012 Châteauneuf du Pape 16.5 Drink 2018-28

Vineyard soil: galets, chalk. Lieu-dit: Gardiole. 65% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 5% Counoise.

Barriques and demi-muids for 12 months.

Dark crimson. Rich and broad just a little dull. Fermented blackcurrant gums, Solid but not lift.

Dom Berthet-Capeau, ELIXIR DES PAPES 2012 Châteauneuf du Pape 18 Drink 2020-2034

Vineyard soil: galets, chalk. Lieu-dit: Coudoulet. Grape varieties: 100 % Grenache.

Meaty and transparent. A real lightness of touch in the winemaking here. Bravo! Solid ingredients are given a freshness and spin. The rich fruit is transparent and somehow refreshing.

Tannins are very definitely present.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine cellar

Domaine Berthet-Capeau

2012 Châteauneuf du Pape ELIXIR DES PAPES

Vivid ruby-red. Smoky raspberry and blackcurrant aromas are complemented by Asian spices and mocha. Spicy, sharply, defined red fruit flavors give way to sweeter dark berries with air, with a hint of lavender in the background. The lively finish is sharpened by zesty acidity and a hint of white pepper. **89-91**

Domaine Berthet-Rayne

2012 Châteauneuf du Pape

Ruby-red. A fragrant bouquet evokes red berry preserves, violet and vanilla, along with smoke and anise topnotes. Sappy, sweet and expansive, offering intense black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors enlivened by a tangy mineral nuance. Fine-grained tannins give grip to the finish, which leaves floral and allspice notes behind. **90-92**

Domaine Berthet-Rayne

2012 Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvee Fut de Chene

Ruby-red. Liqueur-like blackberry and cherry aromas are complicated by notes of smoke, mocha and white pepper. Broad, lush and round but focused, offering seamless flavors of dark berries, vanilla and floral pastilles. Finishes long, with supple tannins adding shape and grip. **90-92**