

# ROTEM AND MOUNIR SAOUMA

(Above) One of the eight vineyards across five villages of the appellation that Mounir has been able to acquire, allowing for 100% estate fruit.



## Châteauneuf-du-Pape Omnia 2020

Châteauneuf-du-Pape, France

### ESTATE

Burgundy meets the Rhône. An utter respect for tradition, and in some ways a total break. We have watched as Mounir and Rotem Saouma, of Burgundy producer Lucien Le Moine, slowly developed their estates and wines in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and the results today are too extraordinary and distinct to ignore. The wines are stunning: precise, intense, complex, expressive visions of Châteauneuf. They somehow speak to the past, but also to the present (and we would guess, the future), all in their own voice.

### WINE

Mounir Saouma likes to describe Châteauneuf-du-Pape as a mosaic, with all the wild traditions and differences together making for very different interpretations. Omnia, Latin for "all," is his attempt to encompass the entire region's terroir and winemaking history (and perhaps future) in one glass. The fruit comes from 9 vineyard parcels encompassing 6 lieu-dits across 3 of the 5 Châteauneuf communes, vinified in a variety of vessels. The results are wines of beguiling fruit and savory richness, powerful yet extraordinary finesse and detail.

### VINEYARD

*Soils:* Unique rocky alluvial vineyards (the famous "galets") and red clay soils of the area. Some parcels (Pignan) are sandy-loam, and Esquions boast pure, exposed limestone.

*Yields:* Average of 1.8 tons per acre, average age of the vines is 20 to 75 years.

### WINEMAKING

*Grape Varieties:* 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre

*Fermentation:* The grapes are not destemmed and are lightly crushed and left in tank to macerate at cool temperatures for 8 days. They are pressed hard and transferred to a variety of vessels, where fermentation takes place over many months.

*Aging:* Unique combination of barrels, foudres, cement, and eggs. Two years aging in barrels with only stirring of the lees, the wine is not racked, pumped, fined or filtered.

*Alcohol:* 15%

### VINTAGE

2020 is another excellent vintage for the Rhône Valley. Another dry spring was followed by a moderate summer featuring, this time without the extreme heat spikes of 2019. Harvest occurred early – particularly for whites and Rosés – but the weather was even and temperate throughout. The grapes were ripe and concentrated with superb natural acidity – superb raw materials across all AOPs. The wines are rich, balanced, and expressive.

## Wine Spectator

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"An ethereal red, with beautiful energy in spite of its power. Ripe cherry and kirsch wrap around a spine of iron and a sanguine thread of smoke and meat. Grilled cedar and mesquite smoke layer in, with very refined tannins guiding the very long and complex finish. Savory and racy, with impressive elegance. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre." - K.B., 10/23