

Domaine Rousset 2016 Crozes Hermitage Blanc

Varietal(s)	Marsanne
Region	Northern Rhône, France
Short Summary	Stéphane Rousset's vineyards are in Crozes-Hermitage's northern communes of Erôme, Gervans and Crozes-Hermitage, including the legendary Les Picaudières. The hill structures and soil types differ significantly throughout the appellation with various exposures on moderate to very steep rock terraces. Rousset's Marsanne grows mostly on loess topsoil and granite bedrock. The Crozes-Hermitage red wine terroirs are largely on granite with some variations of igneous and metamorphic rock. Across the river, in Tournon, two adjacent blocks of St. Joseph grow on extremely steep granite slopes. Whites are whole cluster pressed, fermented in concrete, mostly aged in steel without malolactic with remaining in oak. The reds are partial stem inclusion and are fermented in steel and then racked to barrel or tank where they age for about a year.
Terroir	Bright and seductive, this medium weight Marsanne comes from an average of 70 year-old vines on the loess dominated hills of Erôme, just north around the bend from Hermitage on the Rhône River. It's all on granite bedrock, but often too deep beneath the sometimes meters high loess deposits that in some sections the vine roots may not at all contact with granite. The creamy, off-white sandy loess soils are thick, reflective and strongly structured, due to its crystalline makeup. While Stéphane crafts some of the most well-made and complex reds from Crozes-Hermitage, many local vignerons give him the nod as the top in whites.
Cellar Notes	These hand-picked Marsanne grapes are whole cluster pressed upon arrival to the cellar, tank settled overnight and racked into stainless steel vats and a 40-hectoliter foudre (about 20% of the blend). The fermentation is natural and the malolactic fermentation is inhibited to maintain more freshness in the wine.
Farming	Sustainable—Organic Certified—Biodynamic Certified—Uncertified Naturalist
Total SO2	None Added—Very Low—Low—Medium—High