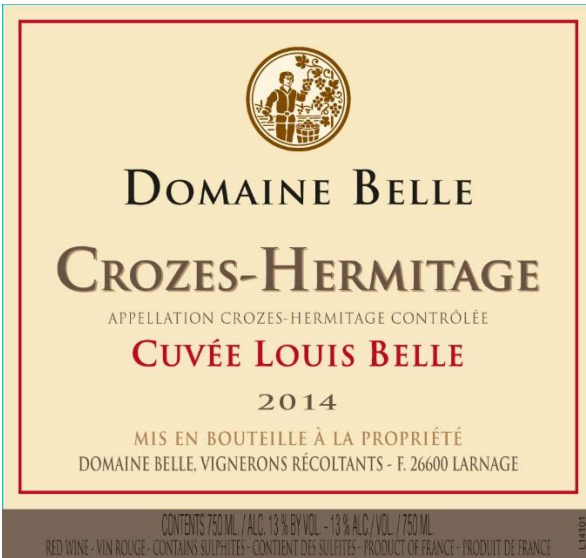


THE WINE TRUST®

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Background

Winery: Domaine Belle

Country: France

Region: Crozes-Hermitage

Founded: 1769 (wine production) / 1990 (domaine)

Annual Production: 20,000cs

Description: Domaine Belle started producing wine under its own label in 1990, although the property has been under vine since at least 1769. Guided by third-generation vigneron Philippe Belle, the domaine combines a deep understanding of its terroir with modern winemaking techniques and facilities. Domaine Belle is universally acclaimed as one of the stars of Crozes-Hermitage.

Wine Notes – 2015 Domaine Belle Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée Louis Belle

Domaine Belle's Cuvée Louis Belle is made from grapes grown in the limestone-clay rich soils of Larnage and Crozes-Hermitage. Largely destemmed fruit is fermented in stainless steel and then aged for 18 months in a 15/85 mix of new and used oak barrels to preserve subtlety and nuance. The result is a medium- to full-bodied wine with supple and smooth tannins.

Wine Advocate – 94 points / Jeb Dunnock – 94 points

Technical Specifications

Wine:	2015 Domaine Belle Crozes-Hermitage Cuvée Louis Belle
Varietal Composition:	100% Syrah
Vineyard Region:	Crozes-Hermitage (Larnage)
Vine Age / Yields:	40 years on average / 30 hl/ha
Production Volume:	1,600cs
Vineyard Characteristics:	White limestone clay (kaolin)
Wine-Making / Vinification:	Hand-harvested, 70% destemmed grapes, sustainably-farmed vineyards converting to full organic certification (2017 vintage) Temperature-controlled fermentation in stainless steel for 4 weeks, native yeasts, final warm maceration, daily pumpovers / punchdowns, 18 months of aging in oak (15% new / 85% used)
Alcohol / Volume:	14.0%
Residual Sugar:	0 g/L
pH:	3.6
Acidity:	3.18 g/L

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The 2015 Crozes Hermitage Cuvee Louis Belle is cedary and rich, full-bodied and amply endowed with dark berry fruit and velvety tannins. It does show too much oak to be truly classic, but it's hedonistically delicious in a clean, modern style. It has a decade or more of pleasure ahead of it.

Wine Advocate (Joe Czerwinski) – 94 points (Dec 29, 2017)

I also loved the 2015 Cuvee Louis Belle which saw a traditional vinification followed by 20 months in French oak. Blackberry, currants, blueberries, violets and hints of black pepper give way to a rich, expansive, opulent Syrah that has sweet tannin and a great finish. Give it a few years of bottle age and enjoy over the following decade or more.

Jeb Dunnuck – 94 points (September 2017)