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Domaine Belle 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 – 2017 Domaine Belle Crozes-Hermitage Les Pierrelles (Organic)

Les Pierrelles is Domaine Belle's most accessible cuvee. Made from grapes grown in the alluvial red clay and galets soils of Pont D'Iserre and Mercuriol, the wine is meant to be enjoyed young and features a classic syrah flavor profile of dark fruits and spice with a medium body. Recipient of multiple 90+ point scores, the wine offers an extraordinary quality-to-price ratio.



– 91-93 points (Oct 31, 2018)

JEB DUNNUCK - 92 points (Dec 12, 2019)

Technical Specifications

Varietal Composition:	100% Syrah
Vineyard Region:	Crozes-Hermitage (Pont D'Iserre / Mercuriol)
Vine Age / Yields:	30 years on average, 40 hl/ha
Production Volume:	4,200cs
Vineyard Characteristics:	Rounded pebbles (galets) on top of alluvial soils
Wine-Making / Vinification:	ECOCERT Certified Organic farming, hand-harvested, fully destemmed grapes Cold-maceration, temperature-controlled fermentation on skins for 3 weeks with native yeasts, daily pumpovers and punchdowns 14 months of aging in oak barrels (25% each 2-5 years old)
Alcohol / Volume:	14.0%
Residual Sugar:	0.3 g/L
pH:	3.90
Acidity:	3.1 g/L

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Tasted from barrel, the 2017 Crozes Hermitage les Pierrelles looks destined to surpass the 2016 (and maybe even the 2015 as well). Plummy but fresh and vibrant, it's full-bodied, taut and powerful, showing attractive hints of licorice on the long finish.

Philippe Belle and his son, Guillaume, continue to turn out some of Northern Rhône's best-kept secrets from their small estate in the hills behind Hermitage. Their Larnage sector of Crozes-Hermitage benefits from having a strong concentration of white clays, which imparts more power to the wines than the typical alluvial deposits found in much of the appellation. Additionally, their hillside has the same southerly exposure as Hermitage itself, making it in effect, a mini-Hermitage. The family also farms small parcels in Hermitage (Péléat for the white, Les Murets for the red) and Saint-Joseph. "I like '16 a lot," said Philippe, during my visit. "We picked a bit late. It's a vintage with balance and freshness." Yields were off by 15% to 20% in 2017, but, he allowed, "It was good for the quality.

91-93 Points