



Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 2BT

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Wine Notes

These wine notes were created on 11-Aug-2020.

Cotes du Rhone Villages Reserve Wine Society Paul Jaboulet Aine 2016

An exclusive blend from the Plan de Dieu, perfect for earlier drinking. Mostly grenache but with syrah and mourvèdre too, this is full-flavoured and delicious. 2019–2025. Magnums available.

Product Code	RH49001	Dominant Grape	Grenache Syrah Mourvedre
Product Type	Red Wine	Drink Dates	2019 to 2025
Origin	Other Southern Rhone Wines	Alcohol Level	14.5%
Style	not applicable	Closure type	Cork, natural
Vintage	2016	Price £	No longer for sale

Producer : Paul Jaboulet Aîné - See next page.



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The man credited with starting the family firm was Antoine Jaboulet in the early nineteenth century. Antoine had twin sons, Henri and Paul. Both expanded the business but it was the elder (*aîné*) brother who had the business named after him giving the full title of the firm: Paul Jaboulet Aîné. The generations passed until Louis and his brother Jean arrived on the scene. Louis was the brains and marketing genius and it was he who, by some accident, made the very first contact with The Society some 40 years ago. Among the first wines ever bought would have been La Chapelle 1961, probably one of the greatest wines ever made.

Louis Jaboulet remained in charge for some time until his son Gérard was rightly put in charge. Gérard, brilliant and outgoing like his father, was a worthy successor and became the driving force behind the firm. Sadly, a succession of calamities in the 1990's were about to endanger the firm's survival. In the early 1990s Gérard's equally talented brother Jacques, who had overseen winemaking, was involved in a scuba-diving accident which left him in a coma for months and from then on unable to recover his influence. Then, tragically in 1997, Gérard died suddenly, aged just 55. Gérard was not just the driving force of Jaboulet; he also had the authority that held the family together. Following his passing, the next generation, young and inexperienced, struggled to cope. The baton was passed between several members of the family, who never quite managed to restore the harmony and success of old in the wines as much as in family relations.

In 2005 news came that the entire family business had been sold to Franco-Swiss financier, Jean-Jacques Frey, who also owns Château La Lagune in Bordeaux as well as having a large holding in Champagne house Billecart-Salmon. His daughter, Caroline Frey, is in charge of winemaking. Much has changed, with Frey's considerable wealth allowing Jaboulet to invest heavily in new cellars as well as more vineyards in Côte-Rôtie and Châteauneuf-du-Pape, for example. The wines themselves are certainly more convincing than those made during the tumultuous period following Gérard's death, but it is still early days for the new regime.

At the heart of the estate is Hermitage where Jaboulet own 22 hectares, a little less than Chapoutier. The vineyards, in descending order of size, are Méal, Maisons Blanches, Bessards, Diognieres, La Croix and Rocoules. It is the blend of syrah grapes from these vineyards that make La Chapelle, which is a brand name and not a vineyard. Indeed, though the chapel itself, from where the wine takes its name is owned by Jaboulet, the vines around belong mostly to Chapoutier and Chave.

As impactful as La Chapelle, and certainly more affordable, is Crozes-Hermitage from the Thalabert vineyard, an original Jaboulet planting. Another important area for Jaboulet is Cornas, where they make some of the appellation's best wines, from fruit grown on their own estate at Saint Pierre, and from grapes purchased from other growers.



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Jaboulet also has excellent relations with suppliers in the southern Rhône, enabling them to make The Society's Exhibition Cairanne, exclusively for us.

