

CHÂTEAU DE NAGES

PRESS - VINTAGES 2015 through 2020

VOX

2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	93-95
2018	<i>Not released in vintage 2018</i>	N/A
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	95
2016	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	17/20
2016	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	96

Cuvée JT Rouge

2020	Jeb Dunnuck	92-94
2019	Jeb Dunnuck	93
2018	<i>Not released in vintage 2018</i>	N/A
2017	Jeb Dunnuck	92+
2017	Wine Advocate - Joe Czerwinski 2018	90
2016	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	15,5/20
2016	Decanter - Andrew Jefford 2018	91
2015	Jeb Dunnuck 2017	94
2015	Wine Advocate - Joe Czerwinski 2017	91

Cuvée JT Blanc

2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	94
2020	Challenge Millésime Bio 2022	SILVER
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	93
2018	Wine Spectator 2021	91
2018	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	92-94
2017	Wine Spectator 2019	92
2017	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	14,5/20
2016	Bettane & Desseauve 2019	15/20
2016	Wine Advocate - Joe Czerwinski 2017	92
2015	Wine Advocate - Jeb Dunnuck 2017	93
2015	Wine Spectator - James Molesworth 2017	92 - Smart Buy

PRESS - VINTAGES 2015 through 2020

Héritage Rouge *(Vieilles Vignes up until the 2018 vintage)*

2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	92-94
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	91
2018	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	89-91
2018	Challenge Millésime Bio 2021	SILVER
2017	Wine Advocate - Joe Czerwinski 2018	91
2017	Jeb Dunnuck 2018	91
2016	Bettane & Desseauve 2020	15
2016	Wine Advocate - Joe Czerwinski 2018	92
2015	Jeb Dunnuck 2017	92
2015	Bettane & Desseauve 2019	14/20

Héritage Blanc *(Vieilles Vignes up until the 2019 vintage)*

2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	91
2019	Challenge Millésime Bio 2021	Silver
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	90
2018	Wine Spectator 2021	90
2018	Bettane & Desseauve - Prix Plaisir 2020	Bronze
2017	Wine Advocate - Joe Czerwinski 2018	92
2017	Challenge Millésime Bio 2019	Silver
2016	Jeb Dunnuck 2017	91
2016	Wine Enthusiast 2018	90
2015	Challenge Millésime Bio 2018	Gold
2015	Wine Spectator 2017	91 - Smart Buy

Héritage Rosé *(Vieilles Vignes up until the 2020 vintage)*

2020	Wine Enthusiast 2021	90
2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2020	91
2018	Jeb Dunnuck 2019	91
2018	Wine Enthusiast 2019	90
2017	Wine Advocate - Joe Czerwinski 2018	91
2017	Wine & Spirits 2018	90 - Best Buy
2016	Jeb Dunnuck 2017	91 - Top 10 rosés
2015	Wine Advocate - Jeb Dunnuck 2016	90
2015	Bettane & Desseauve 2017	14/20

PRESS - CURRENT VINTAGES

Effervescent Extra Brut

NV	Challenge Millésime Bio 2022	Silver
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Buti Nages

Red - 2020	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	90
Red - 2019	Jeb Dunnuck 2022	90
White 2020	International Organic Awards 2021	Silver
Rosé 2020	International Organic Awards 2021	Gold

Liberty (Non Vintage)

Red	International Organic Awards 2021	Gold
Red	RVF - Spécial Vin de France 2020	Gold
White	International Organic Awards 2021	Gold
White	Concours Anivin de France 2019	Gold
Rosé	International Organic Awards 2021	Silver
Gourmandi	Concours Anivin de France 2018	Gold

JEB DUNNUCK

Producer: Château de Nages

Article: Southern Rhone's 2019s and 2020s: Part 2

2019 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes VOX

93-95

Lastly, the 2019 Costières De Nîmes VOX is a tiny production cuvée and is 75% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and 5% Carignan. It reminds me of a great Volnay with its darker cherry, spice, floral, and earthy aromas and flavors. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has silky, ultra-fine tannins, no hard edges, and is a gorgeous Grenache in the making. Still aging in 500-liter French oak, it should benefit from a year or two of bottle age and have 10-15 years of overall longevity.

2019 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes JT

93

One of the flagship releases, the 2019 Costières De Nîmes JT is a Syrah-dominated cuvée that incorporates 5% Mourvèdre. It too saw one-third stems and was raised in 50% used barrels and 50% concrete tanks. Silky, finesse-driven, elegant, and medium-bodied, it has a floral bouquet of black raspberries, blueberries, smoked game, and orange blossom, with more pepper notes emerging with time in the glass. It's one classy Syrah to enjoy over the coming 10-12 years.

2019 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes Heritage

91

The 2019 Costières De Nîmes Heritage (formerly Vieilles Vignes) is mostly Grenache but includes 15% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah, and 5% Carignan, and it saw one-third whole clusters and 25% used barrels, with the balance in concrete. It's another beautifully Provençal, spice, cedar, and garrigue-filled wine offering lots of raspberry fruits, medium body, silky tannins, and a great finish. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.

2019 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes Butinages

90

Lots of red and blue fruits, peppery herbs, and sappy flower notes emerge from the 2019 Costières De Nîmes Butinages, a Crozes Hermitage look-alike that's medium-bodied, elegant, and balanced. A blend of 50% Syrah, 30% Grenache, and 20% Mourvèdre, it over-delivers at the price and will evolve for 3-4 years.

2020 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes JT

92-94

The 2020 Costières De Nîmes JT is mostly Syrah yet includes 10% Mourvèdre and 5% Grenache. Brought up in equal parts French oak and concrete tank, it offers up lots of red and blue fruits as well as lifted orange blossom, violet, and floral nuances. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it's another silky, balanced vintage for this cuvée that has loads to love.

2020 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes Heritage

92-94

As with the white, the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Heritage was formerly released under the Vieilles Vignes label. Mostly Grenache blended with 15% each of Mourvèdre and Syrah, it has rocking levels of black and blue fruits as well as notes of smoked meats, violets, and spring flowers. Concentrated and mouthfilling on the palate, it should be another gem of a wine from this talented team.

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2020 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes Butinages 90

Moving to the reds, the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Butinages is one heck of a wine for not much buck. A blend of 60% Syrah, 20% Grenache and 20% Mourvèdre, it has perfumed red and blue fruits, notes of ground pepper and violets, a plump, rounded mouthfeel, and a great finish. All destemmed and brought up in tank, drink this pure, balanced, total charmer over the coming 2-3 years.

2020 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes JT Blanc 94

A blend of 85% Roussanne and the rest Viognier and Clairette, I'd put the 2020 Costières De Nîmes JT Blanc in a blind lineup of Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc on its quality level. Stone and orchard fruits, honeysuckle, toasted bread, and white flower notes are just some of the nuances, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a fleshy, up-front texture, good acidity, and terrific overall balance. This cuvée shows less overt oak than in the past and is slightly more accessible. Drink it over the coming 4-6 years.

2020 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes Heritage Blanc 91

A step up, the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Heritage Blanc (which was previously releases under the Vieilles Vignes label) is 50% Grenache Blanc, 30% Roussanne, 15% Clairette, and the rest Viognier. Beautiful crushed citrus, toasted spice, sappy herbs, and a kiss of white flowers emerge on the nose, and it's medium-bodied, with a building, layered texture and bright acidity. Brought up eight months in a mix of barrels and concrete, it's going to shine for 2-4 years, although there's no need to delay gratification.

2020 Chateau De Nages Costieres De Nimes Butinages Blanc 89

A blend of 70% Grenache Blanc and 30% Roussanne, the 2020 Costières De Nîmes Butinages Blanc is a clean, pretty, incredibly lively white delivering bright citrus and mint-laced aromas and flavors. It's a refreshing, balanced white to drink over the coming year or three.

- Jeb Dunnuck (January 26, 2022)

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TASTING REPORTS

North and South

Both regions of France's Rhône Valley share in the success of the 2018 vintage

The Rhône Valley covers a large and diverse swath of eastern France, starting just south of Lyon and running down to Avignon, yet it is one of the most consistent winegrowing regions in the world. Save for a very rare rain-plagued harvest, the valley benefits from near-constant sunny and dry conditions in summer that are ideal for growing grapes.



Feb 28, 2021

The 2018 growing season, however, was no walk in the park. Early-season rains led to severe mildew pressures through the start of summer, before the more typical weather pattern finally kicked in, yielding the beneficial conditions vintners needed to ripen their crop.

In the end, producers in both the northern and southern portions of the region delivered another outstanding group of wines. The Syrah-based reds of the north and the Grenache-based reds of the south each offer velvety, low-acid profiles, with ripe, stylish fruit, while the whites are juicy and opulent....

...“The key weather story about the 2018 vintage is the rain pattern,” says **Michel Gassier, whose family domaine in Costières de Nîmes is one of the region's top sources for values.** “Overall, we received more than 1,000 millimeters [39 inches] of rain, with three-fourths of it either before budbreak or after the harvest. And as opposed to previous vintages, hydric stress was very limited.”

... Michel Gassier's Costières de Nîmes **White Château de Nages JT 2018** (91, \$24) ... show the ripe, plump yet detailed profile of the 2018 whites, as well as the type of excellent values that abound in the region...

Alphabetical Guide to Rhône Valley

91 – Château de Nages JT White 2018

Plump and juicy, with a mix of ginger, honeycomb, melon, yellow apple and piecrust notes the drive nicely through the finish. Roussanne, Viognier and Grenache Blanc. — JM

91 – Château de Nages JT White 2018

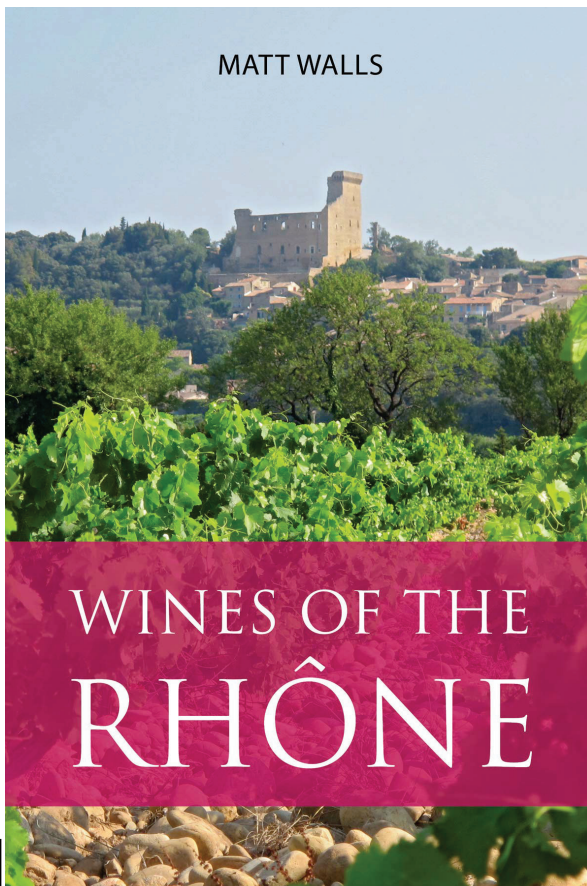
Juicy, with a mix of yellow apple, green melon and honeysuckle notes that bounce through. A subtle hint of lemon curd adds a bit of richness on the finish. Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne and Viognier. — JM

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MATT WALLS



Publication date : January 25, 2021

Château de Nages and Domaine Gassier

Caissargues

www.domainegassier.com

www.chateaudenages.com

A winemaker who has done more than his fair share to raise the profile of Costières de Nîmes, Michel Gassier makes wines under two different estates in the appellation. Château de Nages is the family domaine, in which he represents the fourth generation, and recently he has also established a separate domaine under his own name, Domaine Gassier. Both are farmed organically. He has a particularly sensitive touch both in the vineyard and the winery, and makes authentic, balanced wines that deliver real satisfaction. Unusually, he makes a sparkling wine, and it's one of the best in the Southern Rhône.

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90

POINTS

Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Héritage Rosé 2020

Made from organically grown Grenache (85%) and Mourvèdre (15%), this dry, dusty-pink rosé offers crisp apricot and white-peach flavors accented by a hint of tea leaves. Freshly concentrated and balanced in alcohol, it's a zesty summer sip that finishes on a spray of sea salt. The wine is at peak now, but should hold through the beginning of 2022. -

*Anna Lee C. Iijima**Wine Enthusiast
September 2021***90**

POINTS

Château de Nages JT Red 2015

Piquant notes of black pepper, anise and menthol lend spice to intensely ripe black cherry in this blend of 95% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre. It's an intensely concentrated, plushly textured wine edged by layers of sage and brush. The finish is marked by fine-grained but upright tannins. . -

*Anna Lee C. Iijima***90**

POINTS

BEST BUY

Château de Nages Buti Nages Red 2017

Intensely ripe black-cherry and berry flavors are highlighted by notes of violet and crushed stone in this easy-drinking but elegant wine. It's a plush, intensely fruity wine fringed by fine, supple tannins. Fresh mineral tones and a lift of acidity brighten the finish. *Anna Lee C. Iijima*

*Wine Enthusiast
July 2020*

JEB DUNNUCK

Producer: Château de Nages, Article: Southern Rhône: The Charming, Provençal 2018s and the More Concentrated, Classic 2019s

This is the home estate of the Gassier family located in the Costières de Nîmes appellation. Due to its more southwesterly location, they were less affected by mildew (and he's a relentless, talented farmer) and the 2018s here are beautifully rich, textured wines. I think the 2019s will match or exceed the 2018s, but both vintages are strong. Readers should also look at the Domain Gassier release also included in this report.

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes VOX	95 pts
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The 2017 Costières Des Nîmes VOX is another brilliant wine from this estate, and my money is on it being one of the greatest wines to emerge from the appellation. Based on 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 20% Mourvèdre that saw 50% stems and aging in larger barrels, it offers a top Châteauneuf du Pape like bouquet of kirsch, black cherries, strawberries, roasted garrigue, licorice, and spice. This carries to a full-bodied wine that packs plenty of richness, yet stays weightless, elegant, and beautifully balanced on the palate. It's still backward and reserved, so give bottles 2-3 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following decade. Hats off to the Gassier family for another sensational wine!

2019 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT Rouge	92-94 pts
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Not yet bottled, the Syrah-dominated 2019 Costières de Nîmes JT should surpass the 2018. It has an incredible sense of elegance as well as medium to full-bodied richness, attractive black raspberry and blackberry fruit, notes of ground pepper, new saddle leather, and spring flowers, terrific tannins, and a big finish. This is a serious barrel sample from this team that should drink well with just a year or two of bottle age and evolve nicely for a solid decade.

2019 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Rouge	90-92 pts
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Lots of jammy blackberries and black cherry-like fruits emerge from the 2019 Costières De Nîmes Vieilles Vignes and it's another pleasure bent, ripe, undeniably sexy wine from this estate. With a big mid-palate, ripe tannins, and a great finish, it's going to drink nicely right out of the gate yet evolve for 7-8 years or more.

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Rouge	89-91 pts
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Still not bottled, the 2018 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes continues to show beautifully, with loads of Provençal dark fruit, violets, peppery herbs, and mineral-like aromas and flavors paired with a medium to full-bodied style on the palate. It's balanced, with loads of fruit, and will drink nicely right out of the gate.

2019 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Butinages Rouge	89-91 pts
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Not yet bottled, the 2019 Costières de Nîmes Butinages is going to compete with any number of top Côtes du Rhône out there. Revealing a medium ruby/purple color as well as a great nose of black raspberry fruit, peppery garrigue, and violets, it offers medium to full-bodied richness, ripe, present tannins, terrific overall balance, and a good finish. This pleasure-bent, impeccably made 2019 is a no-brainer purchase. It should keep nicely for at least 2-3 years.

2019 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT Blanc	93 pts
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The more Roussanne-dominated 2019 Costières de Nîmes JT Blanc can be thought of as the flagship from this estate. It incorporates a splash of Viognier and Grenache Blanc and is brought up all in larger format oak. Offering a richer bouquet of salty orchard fruit, toasted bread, spice, and honeysuckle, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a layered, expansive mouthfeel, nicely integrated acidity, and a clean finish. I like it today, yet I suspect it will evolve nicely for 5-6 years, if not longer.

2019 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Blanc	90 pts
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The 2019 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Blanc is deeper and richer, with more exotic notes of honeyed tangerines, crushed citrus, and subtle floral aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, it offers solid mid-palate depth, a terrific spine of acidity, and a clean, dry finish that keeps you coming back to the glass. This is another terrific value from this estate that's going to shine on the dinner table and should keep nicely for a year or two.

2019 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Butinages Blanc	89 pts
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The entry-level white from this great estate, the 2019 Costières de Nîmes Butinages Blanc is a juicy, racy, beautifully balanced white with lots of character as well as plenty of citrus and lime fruit balanced by notes of honeysuckle and even a kiss of minerality. Selling for a song, it's well-balanced and ideal for enjoying over the coming year or so.

- Jeb Dunnuck (10/06/2020)

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91
POINTS **Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT rouge**
2016

Black-currant and cherry flavors are ripe but pure in this concentrated blend of 93% Syrah and 7% Mourvèdre. It's a fruity, primary wine accented by subtleties of violet, smoke and granite. The finish lingers on fine, firm tannins. Enjoy now-2025.

91
POINTS **Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT rouge**
2014

Unctuous and open knit yet surprisingly nuanced, this luscious blend of 95% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre offers loads of fleshy black-cherry and plum flavors offset by cinnamon, cocoa, dried mint and thyme. It's densely concentrated yet briskly balanced, finishing elegantly on a bite of fine-grained tannins.

90
POINTS **Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT blanc**
2017

Smoke and nut accent bright yellow apple and tangerine in this full-bodied blend of 70% Roussane, 20% Viognier and 10% Grenache Blanc. It's a plump, dry white balanced by salty tangs of minerality and a pleasantly toasty edge. Lovely now it should hold through 2023.

Wine Enthusiast
December 2019

2019 TOP VALUES

RICH WHITES

Chardonnay maintains its pride of place as one of the world's most popular wines, delivering intense, juicy and expressive whites. From California and Washington to Italy, Chile and Australia to the grape's home in France's Burgundy region, distinctive versions are being produced at affordable prices. For other rounder, fuller wines, Spain offers multiple examples from native grapes, while Chenin Blanc—from France's Loire Valley as well as South Africa—is winning over more and more wine lovers.

89 \$12 CHATEAU DE NAGES

Costières de Nîmes White Buti Nages 2018 | *France* |

Bright star fruit, melon and pear notes are lined with details of honeysuckle and chamomile. The fresh finish shows minimal toast, allowing the fruit to shine. Roussanne and Grenache Blanc. — *J.M.*



2016 Chateau de Nages VOX

Interim October, 2019 Joe Czerwinski 91+ points

There are just 3,000 bottles of the 2016 Costieres de Nimes Vox, a new luxury cuvée sourced from a single parcel. A blend of 62% Grenache, 28% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre, it spent 18 months in 500-liter barrels, resulting in a cedar-scented bouquet. Hints of baking spices and cola accent black cherries, picking up hints of mocha and dark chocolate on the finish. It's full-bodied and supple yet intense, turning silky in texture as it flows easily across the palate.

2017 Chateau de Nages JT red

Interim October, 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90 points

The 2017 Costieres de Nimes JT incorporates 5% Mourvèdre, but this is essentially Syrah, half aged in oak and half in concrete. It shows classic violet and blueberry aromas but also some slightly stemmy notes and hints of cola. Medium to full-bodied, it has a firmer structure than the Grenache-based Vieilles Vignes bottling, with a bit more tannin on the finish.

2018 Chateau de Nages Blanc JT white

Interim October, 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90 points

The 2018 Costieres de Nimes Blanc JT is a barrel-fermented (in 500-liter oak) blend of 70% Roussanne and 15% each Grenache Blanc and Viognier. Scents of honeyed tangerine, pineapple and melon emerge on the nose, followed by a medium to full-bodied palate that's round and ripe, then zesty and refreshing on the finish.

2017 Chateau de Nages Vieilles Vignes red

Interim October, 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90 points

The 2017 Costieres de Nimes Vieilles Vignes is a screaming value, offering a terrific combination of spicy, herbal notes and juicy, mouthwatering fruit. Cherries and raspberries form the core, accented by bay leaf and thyme, in this blend of 70% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 5% Carignan. The Syrah is aged in older barrels, while the rest aged in concrete, resulting in a wine that finishes silky and vibrant.

2018 Chateau de Nages Vieilles Vignes white

Interim October, 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90 points

Not yet bottled at the time of my visit, the 2018 Costieres de Nimes Blanc Vieilles Vignes is aged in a mix of steel tanks and oak barrels. A blend of 60% Grenache Blanc, 20% Clairette, 15% Roussanne and 5% Viognier, it's slightly honeyed on the nose, with scents of melon and tangerine. Medium-bodied on the palate, it's plump and silky, then fades a bit quickly on the finish.

2018 Chateau de Nages Butinages red

Interim October, 2019 Joe Czerwinski 90 points

The entry-level wine from Chateau de Nages, the 2018 Costieres de Nimes Buti Nages is 50% Syrah, 40% Grenache and 10% Mourvèdre. Cropped higher and less extracted than the other wines, it's a

medium to full-bodied, supple, easy-drinking wine with contrasting notes of red raspberries and dark chocolate.

2018 Chateau de Nages Butinages white

Interim October, 2019

Joe Czerwinski

90 points

A plump, medium-bodied blend of Grenache Blanc (60%) and Roussanne (40%), the 2018 Costieres de Nimes Blanc Buti Nages delivers crystalline pineapple and pear aromas and flavors. It's zesty and clean, picking up hints of green apple on the finish.

Wine Spectator



October 15, 2019

90 - Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes VOX 2016

This is ripe but subtle, with gently mulled plum and blackberry notes gliding through, featuring hints of black tea, anise and mesquite. The fine-grained finish lets the fruit linger nicely. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre.

90 - Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT 2015

Solidly built, with a juicy, ripe core of black cherry, plum and anise flavors, laced with singed vanilla and tobacco hints. A light mineral edge threads the finish. Syrah and Mourvèdre.

92 - Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT 2017

Features bright green almond, yellow apple and white peach flavors, laced with jasmine and honeysuckle notes. Lively acidity keeps the finish energetic, while a hazelnut hint adds allure. Roussanne, Viognier and Grenache Blanc. Drink now through 2020. 1,000 cases made, 200 cases imported.

89 - Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes 2016

Juicy and direct, offering a beam of cherry and plum paste flavors lined with light incense and sanguine hints on the finish. Grenache, Syrah and Carignan. Drink now. 4,800 cases made, 110 cases imported.

90 - Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes 2017

Yellow apple, fennel, green melon and quince flavors mix in this full-bodied white, with a caressing, butter-tinged finish that will have fans for sure. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Viognier and Clairette. Drink now. 2,000 cases made, 450 cases imported.

90 - Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Butinages white 2018

Fresh and silky in feel, with lightly steeped black cherry and plum fruit, lined with mesquite and tobacco hints. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now. 1,000 cases made, 500 cases imported.

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JEB DUNNUCK

Located in the Costières de Nîmes appellation, in the southwestern part of the Southern Rhône, Château de Nages is the family estate Michel Gassier, who also releases a number of cuvées under his Domaine Gassier label, which are also reviewed in this report. Under the Château de Nages lineup, there are two whites (Butinages and Vieilles Vignes) and three main reds (Butinages, Vieilles Vignes, and the cuvée JT). They've also produced a VOX cuvée starting in 2016 which is a cellar selection of the top lots in any given vintage. The Costières de Nîmes region is too often regulated to value wines but the reality is they're producing outstanding, world class wines. Give them a try.

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes VOX	93-95 pts
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Still in barrel, the 2017 Costières De Nîmes Vox might be in the running for one of the greatest Costières de Nîmes ever produced. Made from 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre, 50% destemmed and brought up in 500-liter barrels, it boasts a deep ruby/purple color as well as a monster nose of blackberries, spice, garrigue, crushed flowers, and melted licorice. This Châteauneuf Du Pape look-alike has full-bodied richness, terrific depth of fruit, and will keep for over a decade. Hats off to the Gassier family for continuing to show what's possible from the Costières de Nîmes!

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT Rouge	92+ pts
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The top cuvée is the 2017 Costières De Nîmes JT, which is mostly Syrah blended with around 5% of Mourvèdre. It's a more serious, concentrated, age-worthy wine that has a deep purple color, notes of black fruits, ground pepper, and meat, medium to full-bodied richness, and building tannins. It's a beautiful wine, but 2-3 years of bottle age are warranted.

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Rouge	91 pts
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Coming from older vines and mostly Grenache (there's 25% Syrah and 5% Carignan), the 2017 Costières De Nîmes Vieilles Vignes offers a beautifully pure, elegant, classic Southern Rhône Grenache profile that has plenty of red and blue fruits, violets, and cracked pepper aromas and flavors.

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT Rouge	91-93 pts
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The 2018 Costières De Nîmes JT is certainly in the same league as the 2017 yet shows a slightly more elegant profile. A blend of 93% Syrah and 7% Mourvèdre that saw plenty of stems, it offers Northern Rhône-like notes of blue fruits, olive tapenade, ground pepper, and flowers. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully balanced, and silky, it has fine tannins and a great finish. It's going to drink nicely right out of the gate.

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2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes Vieilles Vignes Rouge	89-91 pts
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The 2018 Costières De Nîmes Vieilles Vignes should also be outstanding. Medium to full-bodied and elegant, this classic Southern Rhône red has complex notes of dark fruits, violets, pepper, and an attractive, Herbes de Provence-like character. Made from 70% Grenache and the rest Syrah and Mourvèdre, two-thirds destemmed and brought up mostly in concrete, it's going to be another smoking value.

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes Butinages Rouge	88 pts
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Moving to the reds, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Butinages is always a good value and reveals a deep plum color as well as ripe dark fruits, rose petal, plum, and sandalwood aromas and flavors. Based on 50% Syrah, 40% Grenache, and 10% Mourvèdre, it would be a terrific house red to enjoy over the coming couple of years.

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes JT Blanc	92-94 pts
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On another level, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Jt Blanc checks in as 70% Roussanne and 15% each of Viognier and Grenache Blanc, all brought up in 500-liter French oak. It has Montrachet-like notes of orchard fruits, brioche, orange blossom, and honeysuckle as well as a rich, medium to full-bodied style on the palate. It's no light summer quaffer and is a serious, beautifully done white that's going to shine on the dinner table.

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes Vieilles Vignes Blanc	90 pts
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Brought up half in barrel and half in tank, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Blanc offers a more Northern Rhône-like vibe as well as richer notes of orange blossom, white flowers, and crushed rocks. It has notable acidity but is a richer, more layered, serious wine that's going to keep for 2-3 years.

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes Butinages Blanc	89 pts
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A bright, juicy white that offers plenty of character, the 2018 Costières De Nîmes Butinages Blanc has plenty of citrus, lime, and honeysuckle notes as well as medium body, good acidity, and a clean, crisp finish. It's a terrific value and would make a great house white to enjoy over the coming year or two. The blend is 60% Grenache Blanc and 40% Roussanne.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/16/2019)

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2018 Château de Nages - Vieilles Vignes Rosé

Interim July 11, 2019

Joe Czerwinski

90 points

An incredibly consistent bottling from year to year, the 2018 Costieres de Nimes Rose Vieilles Vignes again stands out as a top rosé from the region. Hints of crushed stone set the stage on the nose, bringing a sense of austerity to the hints of strawberry, white peach and melon. It's medium-bodied and silky textured on the palate, ending on refreshing citrus and brine notes that linger on the finish. Kudos!



90
POINTS

Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Rosé 2018

Faint hints of yellow peach and raspberry introduce this full-bodied but thirst-quenching dry rosé. Apricot, strawberry and cherry flavors on the palate are crisp and cutting, accented by a touch of spice and a lingering mineral finish. Enjoy now.

88
POINTS
Best Buy

Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Butinages Rosé 2018

This is a full-bodied but crisply balanced rosé. Dry in style, it offers pert red-cherry and raspberry flavors accented by a zesty mineral edge. It's an easy drinking, refreshing wine to enjoy young.

Wine Enthusiast
July 2019

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Wine Spectator

7 French Rosés to Get Your Season Started

At the slightest hint of warm weather, there's a kind of instinctive need to reevaluate our wine choices and start looking to lighter-bodied, more refreshing bottles than what we've been drinking to get us through the winter. For many, this means a glass of rosé. While Provence has gained the most popularity for the



category, many other regions in France make standout examples. Today's selections hail from the Rhône, the Loire, Savoie and Bordeaux, and are diverse in style, from bold and fruity to fresh and minerally.

Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Butinages Rosé 2018

White cherry, strawberry core and savory notes mingle in this juicy, direct rosé. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now. 4,500 cases made, 1,200 cases imported. — JM

This wallet-friendly rosé is a perfect picnic (and poolside when the time comes!) sipper, for wine drinkers who like juicy, fruity styles. The Gassier family, who are in their fourth generation of making wine, are behind this Château de Nages bottling. Its savory notes would pair well with cheese—think a Beaufort with a side of table grapes.

■ Mar 28, 2019

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JEB DUNNUCK

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Rosé	91 pts
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The flagship rosé of the estate is the 2018 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes, a blend of 65% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre, and 10% Cinsault. Light salmon-colored, it has a Bandol rosé-like bouquet of salty seabreeze, fennel, citrus, and light cherry characteristics. It's geared for the dinner table with its salinity and minerality as well as its focused texture. It's a beautiful, serious rosé to drink any time over the coming 6-12 months.

2018 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Butinages Rosé	90 pts
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A rosé that always delivers, the 2018 Costières de Nîmes Butinages Rosé reveals a medium pink color as well as a juicy, fruit forward bouquet of ripe strawberries, cherries, and wild flowers. It's rounded, nicely textured, yet has beautiful acidity and makes you salivate. I'm not sure what the retail price is, but I suspect it sells for a song. Drink it over the coming summer months.

- Jeb Dunnuck (3/27/2019)

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Greatest Value Wines of the Year

It came as no surprise to me that the best values I tasted all year came from the south of France. Land ownership costs are mitigated by multigenerational ownership, the climate is relatively easy on grapes and winemaking in the region is becoming more savvy. All should be available for less than \$20.

2017 Chateau de Nages - Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Blanc

Déc 11, 2018

Joe Czerwinski

92 points

Just to dispel the myth that Mediterranean France makes only red and rosé, I've included this brilliant white, a blend of Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Viognier and Clairette. It's plump and rich in the mouth, yet long and refreshing on the finish. Although I haven't seen it in the U.S. market yet, it should arrive shortly.

2017 Chateau de Nages - JT Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski (90-93) points

Mainly Syrah, the 2017 Costieres de Nimes JT offers big blueberry and blackberry fruit. At this youthful stage, it's sturdy and tannic, suggesting it may need a bit of time after release next year, but it also looks to have excellent depth, concentration and length.

2017 Chateau de Nages - JT Blanc

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski 92 points

A barrel-fermented and aged blend of 70% Roussanne, 20% Viognier and 10% Clairette, the 2017 Costieres de Nimes Blanc JT continues the line of successful vintages. Honeyed pineapple aromas and flavors lead the way, buttressed by hints of bergamot and lime. Full-bodied, round and mouth filling, it's a decadent, plush white for drinking over the near term.

2017 Chateau de Nages - Vieilles Vignes Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski (90-92) points

A blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre and 10% Syrah, the 2017 Costieres de Nimes Vieilles Vignes is full-bodied, creamy and plush, loaded with concentrated black cherries and hints of apricots. Look for it to drink well on release in 2019 and for several years afterward.

2017 Chateau de Nages - Vieilles Vignes Blanc

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski 92 points

The 2017 Costieres de Nimes Blanc Vieilles Vignes offers hints of apricot and lime and a plump, custardy-lees richness on the palate. This blend of 45% Grenache Blanc, 25% Roussanne, 20% Viognier and 10% Clairette is medium to full-bodied, with plenty of concentration and length. It's hard to believe such a terrific white wine is available for under \$20.

2016 Chateau de Nages - JT Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski 91 points

The 2016 Costieres de Nimes JT is 95% Syrah, one-third of which was aged in barrel. It offers scents of graham crackers and blackberry jam, with flavors of cola and spice rounding out the profile. It's medium to full-bodied, firm-textured, intense and long, but it doesn't offer the same deliciousness as the property's Vieilles Vignes bottling.

2016 Chateau de Nages - Vieilles Vignes Rouge

Interim Oct 31, 2018 Joe Czerwinski 92 points

The luscious 2016 Costieres de Nimes Vieilles Vignes offers seamless black cherry and raspberry aromas and flavors. It's medium to full-bodied, creamy and ripe, with a long finish. It's not the most complex wine you'll ever encounter, but it offers plenty of fruit-driven pleasure now and will continue to do so over the next few years.

Wine Spectator

wineries for value



Below are the producers that have come up with the most values in this wine region. Click on the headers to sort by average score, average price, and the number of values produced—or change the score and price criteria to expand or shrink the list.

Viewing: France, 90 points and up, \$25 and under

Top 10 in France - 2018

Winery	# of Wines	Avg. Score	Avg. Price
Louis Chèze	5	90.4	\$18.80
Michel Gassier	5	90.8	\$21.00
Jean-Luc Colombo	4	90.2	\$21.00
Lavau	4	90.0	\$21.50
Schoffit	4	90.5	\$21.50
Château de Montfaucon	3	91.0	\$21.33
Domaine des Marrans	3	90.7	\$25.00
Pierre Amadieu	3	90.7	\$20.67
Georges Duboeuf	3	90.3	\$22.00
Vignerons de Caractère	3	90.3	\$22.00

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**We have been one of *Wine Spectator's*
top 10 French Wineries for Value every year since 2007**

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Wine Spectator



October 31, 2018

90 – Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT white 2016

Ripe, with creamed pear, yellow apple and melon fruit flavors gliding through, accented by notes of almond and wet straw. Weighty in feel, but with a brightness that keeps this fresh enough.— J.M.

89 – Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes white 2016

Yellow apple and star fruit notes are lively, thanks to crunchy acidity underneath, while light honeysuckle and pear hints check in as well. Tasty.— J.M.

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JEB DUNNUCK

The 2016 Costières de Nîmes VOX – The greatest Costières de Nîmes I've ever tasted. Anyone doubting that this region can make truly world-class wines needs to taste this.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes VOX Rouge	96 pts
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A new cuvée in honor of the Roman heritage of winemaking in the region that goes back over 2000 years (VOX means “voice” in Latin), the 2016 Costières de Nîmes VOX comes from terroirs around the estate and is a cellar selection of the top lots in the vintage. The greatest Costières de Nîmes I've ever tasted, it offers a sensational bouquet of black raspberries, crushed flowers, incense, and licorice. Deep, full-bodied, layered, and incredibly balanced, with no hard edges and thrilling purity, drink it any time over the coming decade or so. The blend is 62% Grenache, 28% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre. Hats off to the team at Château de Nages! Anyone doubting that this region can make truly world-class wines needs to taste this.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT Rouge	92 pts
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The 2016 Costières de Nîmes JT checks in as a Syrah-dominated blend that includes 7% Mourvèdre (40% whole cluster) and perhaps a splash of Viognier. Deeply colored, with ripe, flamboyant notes of pepper, game, spring flowers and loads of blue fruits, it has medium to full body, terrific tannin ripeness, and outstanding balance. It's a seriously good Syrah that would sell for 60 dollars or more if it came from the Northern Rhône or California.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Rouge	90 pts
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I loved the 2016 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes, which is largely Grenache blended with 15% each of Syrah and Carignan. Sporting a deep purple color as well as outstanding notes of black and blue fruits, peppery garrigue, and earth, it's a sexy Costières de Nîmes that has terrific purity of fruit, sweet tannins, and more length and depth than the humble price point would have you believe. Drink it anytime over the coming 4-5 years.

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT Rouge	91-94 pts
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The flagship is the 2017 Costières de Nîmes JT, a Syrah-dominated cuvée that includes a splash of Mourvèdre. Fermented with 40% stems and aged in equal parts French oak and concrete tanks, its deep purple color is followed by ripe, full-bodied aromas and flavors of blueberries, plums, ground pepper, peach pit, and graphite. Rounded, sexy, and beautifully pure, it's a pleasure-bent yet also elegant Syrah that's going to keep for a solid 8-10 years.

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2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes Vieilles Vignes Rouge	91-93 pts
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The 2017 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes checks in a blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and the rest Syrah brought up in a mix of French oak and concrete tanks. It has an exotic, flamboyant profile as well as plenty of dark fruits, violets, and peach pit nuances. Drink this full-bodied, incredibly expressive 2017 on release and over the following 7-8 years.

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes JT Blanc	92-94 pts
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The 2017 Costières de Nîmes JT Blanc (70% Roussanne, 20% Viognier, and the rest Clairette) sports a medium gold color as well as deep, rich aromas of orange blossom, honeysuckle, and spice. It's a more powerful, richer wine than the Vieilles Vignes, has medium to full body, good acidity, and a great finish.

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes Vieilles Vignes Blanc	90-92 pts
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The 2017 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Blanc is a smoking good white that has more than a hint of Condrieu in its tangerine, honeysuckle, flowers, and orange blossom. Medium-bodied, vibrant, and elegant, with richness and freshness, it's a big, exotic, layered, balanced beauty to drink over the coming year or three. The blend of the 2017 is 45% Grenache Blanc, 25% Roussanne, 20% Viognier, and the balance Clairette.

2017 Château de Nages Costières de Nimes Buti Nages Blanc	90 pts
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A blend of Grenache and Roussanne, the 2017 Costières de Nîmes Butinages was bottled early in March and offers a medium gold color to go with beautiful white peach, citrus, and honeysuckle. It's clean, elegant and fresh, with a terrific mix of freshness and richness. Drink it over the coming year or two.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/28/2018)

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Wine Spectator

12 Quintessential Southern French Wines for Under \$20

New reviews of whites and reds from Côtes du Rhône, Costières de Nîmes, Lubéron and more



Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

The Southern Rhône is a melting pot of grapes and styles. With more than a dozen appellations featuring both single-variety wines and blends, there's plenty to choose from. This selection of reds and whites shows the essence of the region: While no two wines are alike, they all exemplify the Southern Rhône's appeal—and all for less than \$20 a bottle.

Our whites are all blends that span the region, but are tied by overarching flavors of orchard fruit and honeysuckle. Starting in the west, Domaine Maby's Lirac is juicy and floral, and Michel Gassier's Costières de Nîmes exhibits exotic fruit and great acidity. Moving east, the Domaine de Montine from Grignan Les Adhémar has a distinct nuttiness, while the M. Chapoutier from Lubéron is bright, with bouncy green plum and apple flavors. These wines contain between three and six different local grapes, from Grenache Blanc to Roussanne to Clairette.

The reds come from four different appellations—Côtes du Rhône, Côtes du Rhône-Villages, Ventoux and Costières de Nîmes—and all share berry and stone fruit characteristics. While the wines of the region tend to be blends, it's not unheard of to see the odd single-variety bottling, like Michel Gassier's red Costières de Nîmes, which is 100 percent Syrah. The wine stands out for its savory flavors of pepper and herbs.

91 - Château de Nages Vieilles Vignes white 2016

Yellow apple and star fruit notes are lively, thanks to crunchy acidity underneath, while light honeysuckle and pear hints check in as well. Tasty. Drink now through 2019. 450 cases imported. - JM

91 - Michel Gassier Syrah 2016

Ripe and sleek, showing plum and cassis notes inlaid with flashes of white pepper, sage and leather. Silky but abundant tannins carry the finish. Drink now through 2021. 750 cases imported. - JM

90 - Halos de Jupiter Costières de Nîmes 2016

Tasty, showing plump cherry, plum and blackberry compote flavors underscored with licorice detail and carried by a graphite edge through the finish. Solid. Drink now through 2021. 600 cases imported. - JM

Wine Spectator - July 26, 2018

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Jefford on Monday: Delta wine

Andrew Jefford discovers Costières de Nîmes...

At last: a solution to the vexed identity of the Costières de Nîmes. It was Michel Gassier, for long one of the zone's most dynamic growers, who pointed it out when I travelled to the region recently. It's not Languedoc, and it's not Provence, either. It's the Camargue. Costières de Nîmes is the key wine-growing zone of Western Europe's largest river delta, famed for its semi-wild white horses, its marshy bird life, its ferocious mosquitos and its little black fighting bulls.



Vines in the 'delta' of Costières de Nîmes. Credit: David Z

Identity has long been a key question for growers here. The region began the modern era as VDQS 'Costières de Gard' in 1951. Since Gard counted as a Languedoc regional *département*, that put it in the Languedoc family. In 1989, though, it switched to the Rhône family (and remember that around 30% of Côtes de Rhône in fact comes from the Gard) when it acquired its Costières de Nîmes appellation.

The switch was challenging at first: 'All the Languedoc merchants said "bye-bye",' remembered Gassier, 'and all the Rhône merchants said "We don't need you".' The region turned to export, which still accounts for 40% of production in value terms.

You might be thinking that a gigantic, mosquito-plagued delta doesn't sound like great *terroir*. If that's all it was, you'd be right. This, though, is where the Rhône identity mingles with the Camarguaise. The Rhône reaches the sea via a multitude of ever-changing mouths, as it always has done, and the braided river has, over hundreds of thousands of years, dumped huge terraces and banks of rolled pebbles en route – most famously, the *galets roulés* of Châteauneuf du Pape.

The Costières de Nîmes occupies another such area of raised pebble banks, clearly standing 30 metres or so above the marshy delta itself – indeed this is the biggest single '*terrace villafranchien*' in the whole of the Rhône (the Villafranchian is the geological age, between 3.5 and 1 million years ago, during which most of this action happened).

Viticulture here pre-dates Roman times, beginning with the Greek colonists who founded Marseilles and other southern French cities. The beautiful 18th century maps created for the whole of France by four generations of the Cassini family also reveal around 10,000ha of vines on these

terraces. Nowadays the vines occupy 4,500ha. The cowboys of the Camargue (called *gardians* here) have always had wine to wash down their steak.

Is it a different *terroir* to Châteauneuf? Certainly. It's much closer to the sea, and much more clearly maritime. 'The sea wind comes in every afternoon in summer,' points out Jérôme Castillon of Château l'Ermitage, 'and the temperature drops from 36°C to 31°C.' These 'maritime entrants', as they are locally called, always bring moist air as well as cooling breezes – and that's something the Mourvèdre loves. This is a very long-established variety here; indeed it was often known in the Southern Rhône as the 'plant de St-Gilles', Ste Gilles being a village in the middle of the great Costières terrace.

The region's other key variety is Syrah (2,500ha out of the 4,500ha) of fleshy, voluptuous style. Grenache makes up the trilogy, but it is less widely planted here than in Châteauneuf; there is Carignan, too. The mistral, by the way, blows less forcefully here than in Châteauneuf, and Costières de Nîmes has fewer sandy zones.

Most of the wines here are red (55%), but the rosé boom means that 35% are pink; yet the remaining 10% of whites can impress. Indeed Costières de Nîmes encloses the old historical white wine appellation of Clairette de Bellegarde – but only 7ha of that remain in cultivation today, and all of the really exciting Clairette is found up in Châteauneuf. The region has a project to get two internal *crus* (or rather 'complementary geographical denominations', since the word *cru* is a sensitive one in Rhône culture) recognised: St Roman in the north, and Franquevaux in the south, for wines made with stricter production regulations than basic Costières de Nîmes.

The big challenge for the Costières de Nîmes, as for all of the satellite appellations which cluster around the 'core' of the Rhône, is to be taken seriously. Bulk prices for the Costières lag those of the Côtes de Rhône, and you can't make fine wine without being rewarded for the sacrifices it requires. The top wines of the region's leading estates, though, find consumers at a retail price of between 20 and 30 euros, so the quality ladder is in place. The cowboys intend to climb it.

Tasting Costières de Nîmes - 1st pick of ten of the best...



Château des Nages, Costières de Nîmes, JT, 2016

Points 91

The JT cuvée from Michel Gassier's Château des Nages is a blend of Syrah ballasted by just 5% Mourvèdre. In 2016, the wine is a dark, saturated black-red in colour, with sweetly enticing scents of blueberry and bramble fruits. The plush, voluptuous style of Costières de Nîmes is well to the fore here, though this wine has more grain and tenacity than the most opulent of its peers. The oak handling is well-judged, with half of the final blend ageing in cement. Enjoyable, expansive, exotic red wine.

JEB DUNNUCK

2017 Chateau de Nages Costières de Nimes Vieilles Vignes Rose	91 pts
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The 2017 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes Rosé is more salmon colored and offers more minerality, as well as salinity, in its citrus rind, tangerine, and floral aromas and flavors. With medium-bodied richness, beautiful purity, and a focused, vibrant style on the palate, it's another incredibly classy rosé from this team.

2017 Chateau de Nages Costières de Nimes Buti Nages Rose	90 pts
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I suspect the best rose to date from this estate, the 2017 Costières de Nîmes Buti Nages Rosé is well worth a case purchase. Ripe strawberries, raspberries, and honeysuckle notions all emerge from this medium-bodied, juicy, fruit forward rose that's as delicious and quaffable as they come. Drink it anytime over the coming summer months.

- Jeb Dunnuck (2/21/2018)
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CHATEAU DE NAGES

Chateau de Nages is Michel Gassier's familial domaine, based in the northern sector of Costières de Nîmes.

2015 Chateau de Nages - JT Rouge

Interim Nov 30, 2017	Joe Czerwinski	91 points
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I was fortunate enough to taste this Syrah-based blend twice in a single day, once blind in the morning and once during my evening visit to Michel Gassier (Château de Nages is his family's estate), with identical impressions. The 2015 Costières de Nîmes JT is full-bodied and rich, loaded with plummy fruit, but it also boasts fine notes of garrigue for complexity and extraordinarily supple tannins. It's nearly over the top but stays just this side of that line for my palate, a fun ride from start to finish.

2016 Chateau de Nages - JT Blanc

Interim Nov 30, 2017	Joe Czerwinski	92 points
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A barrel-fermented and aged blend of Roussanne, Grenache Blanc and Viognier, the 2016 Costières de Nîmes Blanc JT is decadently rich and intense. Full-bodied and creamy in texture, with honeyed notes of pineapple and caramel that linger on the long, plush finish, it's a sexy white for drinking over the next couple of years.

2016 Chateau de Nages - JT Rouge

Interim Nov 30, 2017	Joe Czerwinski	(90-92) points
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Based on a tank sample, the 2016 Costières de Nîmes JT looks to be another highly successful effort. Hints of herb and coffee bean accent super ripe dark fruit, while the texture is creamy-supple and the finish long.

2016 Chateau de Nages - Vieilles Vignes Blanc

Interim Nov 30, 2017	Joe Czerwinski	90 points
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A blend of barrel-aged and tank-aged lots, the 2016 Costières de Nîmes Blanc Vieilles Vignes is a blend of Grenache Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne, Viognier and Bourboulenc. It's rich and lush, full-bodied and loaded with notes of honey and pineapple, then finishes with some pleasant bitterness.

2016 Chateau de Nages - Vieilles Vignes Rouge

Interim Nov 30, 2017	Joe Czerwinski	(90-92) points
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A tank sample of the 2016 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes was even more promising than the very good 2015, boasting super ripe Grenache aromas that venture into the realm of stone fruits and black cherries, yet the wine remains balanced, supple and long.

Wine Spectator



Dec. 31, 2017



92 - Château de Nages JT White 2015

Inviting, with an alluring warm shortbread note ahead of the core of lemon curd, green and yellow apple and honeysuckle flavors. The lush finish lets a macadamia nut hint chime in, but stays reliant on pure fruit. - JM

91 - Château de Nages Vieilles Vignes White 2015

Features a tasty mix of crushed plum, blackberry coulis and cherry notes that have melded nicely with singed alder and dried star anise hints. Has weight but stays focused through the finish. - JM

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JEB DUNNUCK

France, Southern Rhône:
The Elegant and lively 2015s and heavenly 2016s - *October 2017*

Located in the Costières de Nîmes appellation, Château de Nages is the family estate of Michel Gassier. This is unquestionably the leading estate in the appellation and shows what's possible with this terroir. These are beautiful wines readers shouldn't miss.

2015 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT 94

Bottled but not released yet, the 2015 Costières de Nîmes JT is 95% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, always from the same plot, that was fermented with 40% whole clusters. It offers gorgeous notes of blackberries, violets, hints of olive and even a touch of bacon fat, medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful mid-palate density, and a great finish. Reminding me of a top Crozes-Hermitage, it's seriously good.

2015 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes 92

The 2015 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes reminds me of a top Côtes du Rhône from the likes of Janasse with its currants, black raspberry, spice, and licorice aromas and flavors. Rich, weighty, layered and even sexy on the palate, it has classic Grenache character, loads of fruit and a great finish. It's just another incredible wine – and value – from this estate.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Blanc JT 95

An absolutely sensational wine that reminds me of a Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc from Beaucastel, the 2016 Costières de Nîmes Blanc JT is unquestionably the finest white from this estate to date. Honeysuckle, white flowers, white peach, and citrus oil notes all emerge from the glass, and it's rich, textured and unctuous on the palate, with full-bodied richness and depth. Layered, multi-dimensional and long, hats off to the team for this smoking effort! This cuvée is 60% Roussanne and 20% each of Grenache Blanc and Viognier, aged on lees in 500-liter barrels.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Blanc Vieilles Vignes 91

More classic southern Rhône in style, with notes of buttered peach, citrus blossom and hints of tangerine all emerge from the 2016 Costières de Nîmes Blanc Vieilles Vignes, and it's rich, balanced and layered on the palate. Made from mostly Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Roussanne, it's another terrific white from this team that over delivers.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Blanc ButiNages 90

Sporting a light gold color, the 2016 Costières de Nîmes Blanc ButiNages offers lots of lychee, flower oil, and white grapefruit (reminds me of an Alsatian Riesling) in a deliciously fresh, clean style. Made from 60% Grenache Blanc and 40% Roussanne, drink this exotic, perfumed white over the coming year or three.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes JT 92-94

Another monster of a wine, the 2016 Costières de Nîmes JT (95% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, fermented with plenty of stems and aged in equal parts barrel and concrete tank) gives up incredible notes of blackcurrants, blackberries, peppery spice, and chocolate. Rich, full-bodied, unctuous and concentrated on the palate, with ripe tannin, it's going to drink nicely right out of the gate, yet also evolve gracefully for upwards of a decade.

2016 Château de Nages Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes 91-93

A blend of 70% Grenache and 15% each of Syrah and Carignan, the inky colored 2016 Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes gives up terrific notes of blackberries, plums, crushed rock-like minerality and ample roasted herbs. Big, fat and opulent, with beautiful purity of fruit, it's a serious wine as well as a stunning value. It has enough ripe tannin to evolve gracefully through 2026.

stirring the lees with james molesworth

Day 6: At the End of the Rhône, Starting Something New

Checking out the 2010s Château de Nages in Costières de Nîmes and tasting some of Philippe Cambie's Halos de Jupiter line

Posted: Nov 11, 2011 11:42am ET

After five days of tasting 2010 Châteauneuf-du-Papes at some of the Southern Rhône's top domaines, I ventured to Costières de Nîmes for something new. On the surface, Costières de Nîmes looks uniform—a mildly undulating plateau covered with the classic rolled-stone, or galets terroir, that is the archetype image of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. But if you look a little closer, there are differences.

Costières de Nîmes was formed not from just the alluvial soils left by the Rhône river, but also by those from the Durance, which left the southern portion of the appellation littered with more variegated stones, smaller and angular in size. The northern side of the appellation has the larger, rounded stones typical of the Rhône.

Château de Nages

Similarly, on the surface, Michel Gassier looks the part of any Southern Rhône vigneron, a lightly weathered 51-year-old with purple-stained fingers. But look a little closer and the story isn't quite the same. His perfect English is thanks to a 10-year stint living in America, where he met his wife. France itself isn't Gassier's birthplace, having been born in Algeria, before moving to southern France as a child.

Born into a farming family, Gassier eventually inherited the fruit and vineyard business that his great-grandfather started in the 1940s, when Joseph Torres sensed France might lose its grip on its North African colonies. Today, Château de Nages still has its orchard business, run by Gassier's brother, Bertrand. The vineyards though, are Michel's passion, and he's taken a new approach to winemaking since he connected with consultant Philippe Cambie in 2006.

"I came back here in '93 at age 33, with two kids and a third on the way, because I wanted to make wine," said Gassier. "But after a while, I had to be honest with myself. I didn't like the wines I was making. Since meeting Philippe, my passion for wine took another leap forward. Philippe is a coach. Some things he teaches you, other things he lets you work through himself. But more than anything else, he helps you find the wines you really want to make."

Today, Gassier's operation produces 50,000 cases annually, with a hefty one-third going to the U.S. Gassier has been working organically since 2007. Here, at the end of the Rhône Valley, Gassier is making something new. Costières de Nîmes is a large AOC totaling 25,000 hectares of land, but only 5,000 hectares are currently in production. That number has slipped in recent years as growers who have been unable to survive slowly give up grapegrowing, but it's still larger than Châteauneuf-du-Pape itself. For years, it wavered in a public relations and legal limbo between the Languedoc and the Rhône

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Valley, until recently it was finally decided it would be considered part of the latter, which makes easy enough sense when you see the vineyards.

Today, Gassier sees the downward spiral of low prices for the wine turning into cutting corners in the vineyard, which results in low quality and a slow, steady decline. He's determined to avoid the trap, and he's on a bit of a buying spree, having recently added a 50-hectare parcel that includes some old-vine Grenache. Those soils left by the Durance produce a brighter, fresher wine, while the bigger stones in the northern end from the Rhône deliver flesh and power (see the accompanying video as Michel Gassier guides us through the two different sides of Costières).

As we toured his vineyards, Gassier ran down his checklist for acquiring new parcels. "I'm looking for vineyards that contain some limestone, which is less common than you might think here. It's an old sea bed, but the limestone can be rather deep. I'm also looking for some slope. We're not Côte-Rôtie obviously, but any degree of slope is beneficial for when the rains come at the end of the season. And I'm looking for northern exposure, which helps to mitigate the hot sun we have."

Gassier produces 25 percent white wine, a noticeable commitment in an area known for its reds.

"But if you can keep the freshness, you can make some really special whites here," he said.

While the wines for the Château de Nages lineup are sourced from the 50 hectares of vineyards that comprise the original estate, Gassier's other wines are sourced from the 70 hectares of additional vineyards that he has been purchasing in recent years.

"I want to make a big, rich wine that doesn't tire you. It's hedonistic but should make you want another sip. We are on Rhône soil, but we have more of a coastal influence, so we can make big wines that maintain freshness," he said. It's lush, but very pure, with an almost brisk blanched almond note along with a range of white peach, quinine and jicama notes and a touch of salted butter filling in on the finish.

I've noticed in recent vintages that Gassier's whites have taken on a purer, fresher edge here, and Gassier explained that when he started the barrel fermentation program, he had to buy all new barrels and that marked the wine. "Plus I was afraid of too much new oak, so I was pulling the wine out of barrel quickly, which isn't good because then you don't get integration either. But now I have the mix of new and used barrels I want so I can leave the wine in oak for 10 months and get the integration. I get the right amount of new oak influence and yet still have a freshly styled wine," he said.

"In 2010, I began experimenting with the idea that low yields and overripeness is overkill," said Gassier. "The heavier the crop load, the more you need to push for ripeness to get proper tannin ripeness. So when you drop crop low, there's no need to go hog wild in ripeness, or you lose the freshness. So we aim to pick on the earlier side—we'll still get good tannin ripeness, which is key, but we'll keep that freshness for balance."

It seems like Gassier has a second wind since hooking up with Cambie, and he noted how much his approach has changed in recent years. "The wines have changed a lot in recent years, in terms of vineyards, varietal makeup and winemaking. It's all a work in progress. But since '06, I finally feel like I'm making the wines I want to make. I feel like the idea of what I want to do is clearer, and that correlates in the wine. The wines themselves are telling me where to go as I look for new vineyards, and I can build from there." "There is a general reference point for us here in Costières, if we look outside—the Rhône Valley. But in terms of inside Costières, we have no benchmarks, no reference. So we can find our way and do our own thing."



Nov - Déc 2020
Page 108

DECOUVERTE

La liberté des vins de

Stop aux idées reçues : les vins de France ne sont pas des vins de seconde classe ! Vignerons réputés, grandes maisons de négoce ou jeunes producteurs préfèrent parfois s'affranchir des codes et des contraintes des appellations d'origines et des indications géographiques pour exprimer le meilleur des cépages. Voilà ce que sont les vins de France qui méritent de trouver leur place sur nos tables, même de fête. Créée en 2009, la dénomination regroupe de nouveaux profils de goûts dans un cadre plus libre. Les vignerons peuvent ainsi assembler un même cépage provenant de différentes régions, les meilleurs cépages de différentes régions français ou encore des cépages autochtones avec d'autres plus connus. Un vaste

terrain de jeux qui permet de laisser libre cours à l'imagination, à la créativité et au talent des producteurs. Une liberté qui s'exprime aussi bien dans la bouteille que sur les étiquettes et les noms des cuvées. De quoi attirer une nouvelle clientèle, plus jeune, parfois rebutée par le classicisme de certaines appellations et désireuse de sortir des sentiers battus. D'ailleurs, les amateurs de vins du monde entier ne s'y trompent pas : les vins de France font un tabac sur les meilleures tables américaines, australiennes et européennes, où sa dénomination est gage de qualité et de lisibilité. La mention de cépage sur la bouteille permet de savoir tout de suite ce que l'on va déguster. Le reste, comme dans tout vin, est affaire de talent du vigneron...



LIBERTYNAGES BLANC (8,50€)

Cet assemblage de grenache, roussanne et colombar bio non millésimé est très expressif, avec des notes florales (tilleul, chèvrefeuille), beaucoup de fruits blancs et jaunes pour un côté séducteur dès le premier nez. La bouche est bien tendue, sur les agrumes (citron, kumquat) avec une finale assez longue et salivante, légèrement saline.

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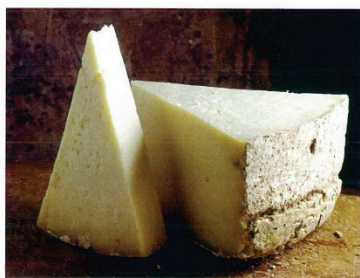
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Terre de Vins

Le salers

Un fromage qui a traversé le temps. On le dit fabriqué depuis des **millénaires**, depuis que les hommes devenus sédentaires emmenaient l'été les vaches à l'estive pour y brouter les prairies d'altitude

Par Marc Vanhellemont, adresses en page Carnet



Le salers doit son nom au village éponyme, bourg médiéval perché à 950 mètres au sein des monts du Cantal. Salers, c'est aussi la race de vache qui fournit le lait... uniquement en présence de son veau, qui doit amorcer la traite. Une contrariété pour qui veut doper la production ! Du coup, toutes les races de vache sont aujourd'hui autorisées. Une dizaine de producteurs fermiers suivent encore la tradition. Afin de différencier leur production salers 100 %, « Tradition Salers » s'inscrit en creux sur une face du fromage, à ne pas confondre avec « Salers Salers », qui signe les productions mixtes. En revanche, les deux types de fromages répondent aux mêmes critères définis par le dernier décret de 2000 : celui-ci renforce l'appellation en recentrant la zone de production sur le massif volcanique du Cantal et les parties limitrophes des départements du Puy-de-Dôme, de l'Aveyron et de la Corrèze ; il impose un fromage au lait cru de vache à pâte pressée non cuite élaborée exclusivement à la ferme du 15 avril au 15 novembre à la condition expresse que les vaches puissent être nourries à satiété d'herbe pâturée : la fabrication se fait en gerle de bois, sorte de grand bac en charnigier ou épica. La fourme de salers, cylindre haut et large de 40 cm, pèse 40 kg et s'affine au minimum trois mois. La croûte dorée de la jeunesse fonce et s'épaissit, devient rugueuse avec le temps. La pâte jaune offre des notes beurrées et fruitées, d'autres plus florales dues à la réglisse, l'arnica et la gentiane que broutent les vaches, des saveurs de torréfaction et de fruits secs, un caractère animal un rien fumé et poivré.

Le salers est AOC depuis 1961 et AOP depuis 2003.



CHATEAU DE NAGES

Vieilles Vignes blanc 2018 - Costières de Nîmes (12,70 €)

La robe blanc vert exhale la verveine et la sauge, l'anis et la camomille, parfume les agrumes d'un trait de réglisse. Autant de senteurs communes rendent le salers d'emblée complice. Le vin lui propose un rien de vanille qu'il incorpore à sa crème beurrée. Une savoureuse gourmandise en naît, mélange de fruits secs et confits, relevée de poivre, rafraîchie des notes salines qu'apportent les deux compères. L'alliance sapide a fait s'envoler la part animale de l'auvergnat, lui préférant la finale florale d'un bouton de rose.



VINOVALIE

Astrolabe Vendanges Tardives 2015 - Gaillac (12,50 € les 50 cl)

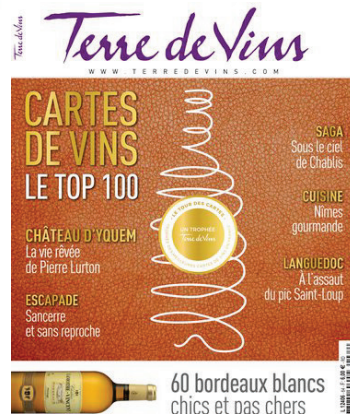
Doré comme le miel, il charme l'œil avant d'enivrer le nez. Agrumes et fruits blancs confits complètent le bouquet de fleurs sèches. Une délicate note fumée embaume le thé poivré. La bouche séduit par sa texture onctueuse rafraîchie d'une délicate amertume au goût de réglisse et d'écorce de cédrat. Un minéral de bon aloi vient ajouter sa tension. Puis nous parle d'épices qui entraînent le salers vers des douceurs orientales. Envouté, le fromage fait le chemin à l'envers jusqu'aux saveurs miellées qui terminent de l'apprivoiser.



PALMER & CO

Nectar Réserve demi-sec - Champagne (33 €)

Bronze doré éclairci de nuées nacrées, le champagne picote les narines d'épigrammes éclatants qui embaument l'abricot, la pêche jaune, la poire fondante, soulignés d'un soupçon de cannelle et de muscade. Onctueux comme le miel d'acacia, mais frais comme la marmelade de citron et de mandarine, il fait au fromage offrir une exotique d'ananas Victoria légèrement rôtie, épicée de poivre rose. Son biscuit sablé subtilement salé fonctionne d'emblée avec le caractère poivré de la fourme. Un mariage contrasté.



N°64 - Mars/Avril 2020

CHATEAU DE NAGES Vieilles Vignes blanc 2018 - Costières de Nîmes (12,70€)

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Le Château de Nages s'étend sur 70 hectares, sur la commune de Caissargues, au sud de Nîmes. Le terroir est composé de grès et des fameux cailloux de la Vallée du Rhône appelés galets roulés. Depuis le millésime 2006, Philippe Cambie intervient comme consultant, le style s'est alors affirmé en régularité et en exactitude. Les vins sont précis, généreux et très élégants. La régularité de qualité dans les cuvées est impressionnante. Cette année la nouvelle cuvée Vox nous a laissé sans voix.

■ Costières de Nîmes JT 2017 Sec 2019>23 18,90€	14,5/20
■ Costières de Nîmes JT 2016 Sec 2019>28 18,90€	15,5/20
■ Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes 2017 Sec 2019>23 12,70€	14/20
■ Costières de Nîmes Vieilles Vignes 2016 Sec 2019> 25 12,70€	15/20
■ Costières de Nîmes VOX 2016 Sec 2021>30 55 €	17/20
■ Vin de France Liberty NM Sec 2019>21 7,90€	14/20

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