



# La Chapelle

HERMITAGE

MILLÉSIME 2022



## JANE ANSON

**98** points /100

A wonderful glass of wine, juicy, controlled, restrained, fragrant, enticing. The tannins are cashmere smooth, waves of crushed raspberries and wild strawberries fill the mouth, and this is easy to fall in love with. Fine tannins, blackberry and cranberry fruits, softly sweet while retaining grip and power. 21 ha of vines. Caroline Frey owner and winemaker. Grégory Joannès director.

## COLIN HAY

**97** points /100

A little closed at first, but it opens nicely with gentle aeration. Walnut and walnut oil. Dark berry fruits. Sloe and plums, maybe a little damson and black cherry with a little coaxing. Peony, hyacinth, mimosa. Graphite. Earthy, with a little leafy, humous/sous bois note. Sage too. Plump. This has a lovely shape, texture and form in the mouth, pushing at the cheeks just a little. Despite the sustained intensity of the record heat of the vintage, the exceptional terroir has retained an essential freshness. As Caroline Frey explains, everything on granitic soils coped so well despite this being the hottest vintage ever. A lovely trace of liquorice on the finish where one finds also chewy grape skins.



## MATTHEW JUKES

**19+** points /20

There is a beautifully discreet perfume here with a lovely balance of pure, ripe Syrah notes and deeply innervating savoury spices. The colour is glossy Tyrean purple, and the texture hints at viscosity but flows like liquid Mercury across the palate. This glorious 2022 vintage appears to be the model of refinement, welcoming the attention with charm and openness. 2022 was a warm vintage, and at times, Caroline and her team were concerned about hydric stress as local oak trees dried out and hedgerow flora withered. But vines protect themselves, and while all about looked parched, her La Chapelle vines were green and vigorous. This is a testament to this great site, its noble soils, the passionate organic regime here and the elemental powers that have made this wine so famous. Considering this beautiful wine's deportment, one might compare its silhouette not to a Northern Rhône but a Côte de Nuits from Burgundy. This is one of the most elegant, ethereal and hauntingly refreshing Syrah I have tasted, and with beguiling complexity and prodigious length, 2022 is another landmark vintage for this legendary label.



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## JANCIS ROBINSON

**17** points /20

Super-intense deep colour. Very graphite and earthy note on the nose, dark fruits, savoury, damp earth. The palate is sleek, rounded, plush and concentrated. The oak is well managed, a richness as well on the palate, smoke, meat, the tannins are super-soft and rounded already – this feels almost sleek, bordelais style – an earthy tar note, well-integrated acidity and alcohol. Accessible already with succulent and ripe tannins – super-soft on the palate, remarkably giving and gentle. There is some oak coming through just on the finish, blood-sausage and iron notes. Lovely sanguine note on the finish.

## JEB DUNNUCK

**93-95** points /100

The 2022 Hermitage La Chapelle brings more structure and depth, yet plays in the similar style of the estate. Beautiful cassis, graphite, crushed violets, and ground pepper all emerge on the nose, and it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, a silky, elegant, layered mouthfeel, a terrific sense of minerality, and outstanding length. It's not going to require a huge amount of cellaring and should have a broad drink window.

## VINOUS *(Nicolas Greinacher)*

**94-96** points /100

The promising 2022 Hermitage La Chapelle checks in at 14.2% alcohol. Pronounced peppercorn, crushed violets, blueberry, black cherry, cedar and licorice are all pushed forward. Layered and deep, the 2022 exudes wonderful elegance and freshness despite its marked flavor concentration. Powdery tannins gently structure this outgoing La Chapelle, finishing with a discrete salty sensation on the persistent finish.

## DECANTER *(Matt Walls)*

**93** points /100

This has a deep, almost opaque purple colour. It's ripe on the nose, with notes of damson along with blackberry and a touch of graphite, the oak work is discreet. Medium- to full-bodied, it's ripe and velvety on the palate then finishes firm and dry with notes of blackcurrant and dark chocolate. The acidity is fairly low, but the wine feels balanced. Remarkably approachable already, this is a relatively compact Hermitage, with very fine, detailed, ripe tannins and good freshness. It's fruity and medium-bodied rather than hugely powerful, quite light in concentration. Should become Burgundian in style with age. Match with subtle dishes rather than robustly flavoured food. Its gentle concentration and tannic structure suggest medium-term rather than long-term ageing. Grapes were picked between 29 August and 13 September. Most of the blend comes from lieux-dits Les Bessards, Le Méal, Les Greffieux and Les Rocoules (also some parcels on Varogne and Les Grandes Vignes). All destemmed. Sorted on a vibrating table, then by optical sorting machine. Crushed, then fermented one third in stainless steel, the rest in barriques, demi-muids and foudres (15% new oak), then 12 months of élevage. Barrel sample.



# La Chapelle

HERMITAGE

le Chevalier de Sterimberg

MILLÉSIME 2022



JANE ANSON

95 points /100

Intense and precise, riven with citrus, oyster shell and salted cracker, with grip and lift that runs from the opening notes to the finish, a delicious white wine that plays with reduction, can drink now but it really will reward several years in bottle. Particularly impressive to maintain this sculpted juice in such a hot vintage.

COLIN HAY

96 points /100

Hyper-fresh, crunchy in its fruit profile and succulent in the mid-palate with excellent tension, poise and energy for such a hot vintage. Candlewax and candle smoke. Celendine, camomile and perhaps a hint of green tea. Blood orange. Wild herbs – oregano and marjoram. Viscous. This is always amongst the freshest wines of Hermitage, despite its richness, breadth and depth, and it is here once again. Tense. Rich. Harmonious and yet dynamic and energetic. Croquant and with fabulous upward thrusts of citrus freshness breaking through the sumptuous rich exterior. Pure and glistening, with a brilliant éclat.



MATTHEW JUKES

19 points /20

It is exciting to spot the label adjustment in this vintage, bringing this noble Chevalier alongside its red sibling. The Roussanne and Marsanne grapes come from clay-limestone loess in Maison Blanche and Murets Plateaux, and the stony sloping hillsides of Rocoules and Murets, and it is these subtly different building blocks are only numbed and muddled with overzealous oak maquillage. I have been watching this wine remove layer upon layer of artefact over the years, and in 2022, you will find yourself in the presence of unfettered purity and resonance. Hints of honeysuckle and faint nectarine stone, with which peach skin, thyme, rosemary and mint make this the gentlest and most demure aromatherapeutic session imaginable. The texture is sheer heaven – light and airy but powerfully long and rigid. This is a postcode-accurate wine like no other Northern Rhône white I can think of, and I am confident it can only gather momentum and grace as it ages. ‘Haunting’ and ‘elegant’ are words I am guilty of using too often when writing about noteworthy white wines. I will have to be more selective because this wine is the model for these descriptors in the future.



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### le Chevalier de Sterimberg

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#### JEB DUNNUCK

**93** points /100

Two-thirds Marsanne and one-third Roussanne that was brought up all in larger concrete tanks, the 2022 Hermitage Le Chevalier De Sterimberg Blanc is bright and chiseled, with honeyed orange, minty herbs, crushed citrus, and sappy flower-like aromatics. These carry over to the palate, where the wine is medium-bodied, has a fresh, focused, elegant mouthfeel, and a salty, mineral-laced finish.

#### VINOUS *(Nicolas Greinacher)*

**94** points /100

The 2022 Hermitage La Chapelle Blanc Le Chevalier de Sterimberg unwinds with fragrant linden blossom, green apple, white peach, lemon flesh and lime skin. Medium- to full-bodied and crisp, the 2022 brings it home with subtle phenolic bitterness on the sapid finale. It aged 90% in 16-hectoliter concrete eggs and the remainder in a combination of barriques and demi-muids, with very little new oak.

#### DECANTER *(Matt Walls)*

**93** points /100

Very pale in colour, with subtle green hints. This is aromatically discreet at the time of tasting, with lime leaf, cedar and tobacco nuances. Light- to medium-bodied for a white Hermitage and really quite approachable, with fairly low acidity and medium length. The alcohol (14%) feels well balanced, the oak work isn't overt; overall it is well judged. Rather than Hermitage grandeur, this is more about refreshing acidity and subtle salinity. A light white Hermitage in an elegant, drinkable, Burgundian style that will need time to take on weight in bottle, so be sure to wait for a few years after release as it's currently very closed and introverted. Domaine de la Chapelle owns about 5ha of white varieties on mainly loess terroir, two thirds of which is Marsanne, one third Roussanne. The exact blend in 2022 is 87% Marsanne and 13% Roussanne, as it was a difficult year for Roussanne. Harvest dates: 11 to 23 August. Fermented in concrete eggs and demi-muids, 10%-15% new oak, matured for nine months, no malolactic.