

Vintage report

Northern Rhône 2015

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Crozes-Hermitage

'Fun, fun, fun', sang The Beach Boys – and that rings true for Crozes-Hermitage in 2015. The fruit rushes left and right, hither and thither, the wines are open, generous, and light up the glass. From attack to finish they course with abundance.

Names that have performed well beyond those highlighted in my recommendations include Domaine Melody's Etoile Noire, Natacha Chave's Aléofane, Domaine Pradelle's Les Hirondelles, and in the juiced 'call for more' category, Cave de Clairmont's Classique, Domaine Belle's Les Pierrelles, Domaine de Chasselvin's Les Lièvres and Domaine Mucyn's Les Entrecoeurs.

It's also a wonderful vintage for white Crozes-Hermitage, with an impressive number of wines expressing their terroir.



Delas, Domaine des Grands Chemins
£14.70 (ib) **Berkmann, The Wine Society**
Beef stock and ripe black fruits on a weighty bouquet. Sensuous palate with silken tannins – close to Hermitage quality. **Drink 2019-2030 Alc 13.5%**