



STEVEN SPURRIER'S fine wine world

Decanter's long-standing consultant editor and 2017 Decanter Man of the Year hand-picks fine wines for drinking now and recommends others to lay down, all priced from £25 upwards

For the cellar

Delas northern Rhône

Founded in 1835, **Delas** is the most discreet of the northern Rhône's 'big four' headed by Chapoutier, Guigal and Jaboulet, but this will change next year following the renovation of the original Jaboulet Aîné cellars. In the meantime, under the direction of Jacques Grange and his brilliant assistant winemaker Claire Darnaud-McKerrow, the Delas wines have few rivals for purity and elegance. A recent cellar tasting of the 2014s, described by John Livingstone-Learmonth as a 'well-fruited, attractive vintage', showed all the benefits of new vinification cellars. **Chante Perdrix Cornas** showed typical

muscularity and marvellous middle fruit (92pts); **Ste-Epine St-Joseph** was all black fruits with terrific texture and grip (93); **Seigneur de Maugiron Côte-Rôtie** had superb fragrance, lots of depth with wonderful freshness, really

lovely (95); **Domaine des Tourettes Hermitage** was perfumed and polished, a seductive Hermitage (94); finally, single vineyard **Les Bessards Hermitage** showed the pure essence of Syrah from the granite-based soil (97). All have at least a decade in front of them, Les Bessards far more. The 2015s, 'full, dense, extremely long and imposing' (JL-L) are even better. *Importers Berkmann.*



DELAS

Grands Vins de la Vallée du Rhône