

# ALAIN GRAILLOT

## CROZES-HERMITAGE

DOMAINE  
ALAIN GRAILLOT



Alain Grailot founded his domaine in Crozes-Hermitage in 1985, and rapidly became one of the most in-demand producers in the Northern Rhone for his exuberant, robust, and complete Syrah-based wines. Alain owns 50 acres of 30-year-old Crozes-Hermitage vines on the flat alluvial plain between the Rhône and Isère rivers, in well-draining soils of sand, gravel, and stones. He also has two tiny parcels in St. Joseph, from which he makes a slightly fresher, more early-drinking wine than the remarkable Crozes-Hermitage that constitutes the majority of his production.

Alain harvests by hand and works organically, employing whole-cluster fermentation and aging the wines primarily in 1-to-3 year old barrels purchased from some of the top estates in Burgundy. In great years, he makes tiny quantities of a barrel selection known as “La Guiraud,” a rare and spectacular wine. Grailot’s wines are structured, but still very appealing and approachable in their youth, and their longevity is truly remarkable... These are must-haves for any serious Northern Rhone fan.

Alain has ‘retired’ and his Maxime, his son, is now in charge of the domaine. You wouldn’t know it on a day to day basis though! Maxime now runs Allain Grailot and Equis. The two domaines are on two different sides of the spectrum, with Grailot’s wines being more earthy and peppery and Equis rounder and fruitier.

The grapes are handled as gently as possible after harvest and much of the winery is gravity-fed. He also uses whole-cluster fermentation. The red wines are aged in semi-new barrels purchased from friends in Burgundy. Alain also makes a really interesting Syrah from Morocco and is involved in the final blending of the wines of Clos Figueres in Priorat!

Alain Grailot makes four types of wine:

**LaGuiraud** – Grailot’s premium cuvee, wine selected from the best barrels. One of those forget-you-have-it-in-your-cellar-for-10-years wines.

**Crozes Hermitage Red** – 100% Syrah, drinking great in its youth, but can most definitely be held.

**Crozes Hermitage White** – 80% Marsanne + 20% Rousanne.

**St. Joseph Red** – 100% Syrah, drink young

*“Though Hermitage is still king of the northern Rhone appellations, the larger, more heterogeneous Crozes-Hermitage is the region's rising star, thanks to topflight winemakers like Alain Grailot... in the space of 17 years Alain Grailot has established a reputation for making his Crozes Hermitage the most sought after of the appellation. In spite of only 20 hectares of vineyards, his wines are sold world wide on an allocation basis only. They are a special favourite with the most prestigious restaurants in France and elsewhere. Alain has a passion for the Syrah grape from which he makes hand crafted wines of great distinction and enormous elegance.”*

**The Wine Spectator**



*“The more you know about wine, the more you’ll want to know about us.”*

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