



# Maison Les Alexandrins

TAIN L'HERMITAGE - FRANCE



## Maison Nicolas Perrin Condrieu Blanc - 2011

AOC Condrieu, Vallée du Rhône, France

### DESCRIPTION

The wines from Condrieu have had an excellent reputation for many generations. The Popes in Avignon worshipped it, in the XVIth century the "Chapitre Lyonnais" offered it to his esteemed guests. More recently, Curnosky described it as one of the greatest white wines in France. Unfortunately, Phyloxera the first world war, the great depression in the thirties along with the industrialisation of the region were responsible for many to abandon their vineyard.

When the appellation of Condrieu was created in 1940, only three communes; Condrieu, Saint Michel and Vérin were included in the production area and totalled 170 hectares. In 1967, this was extended to four neighbouring villages; Chavanay, Saint Pierre de Boeuf, Mallevall and Limony bringing it to 387 hectares. With increasing demand from the winegrowers and in view of keeping high quality wines, the area of plantation was reviewed one last time excluding any vines above an altitude of 300 meters. An agreement with the INAO brought the appellation down to 262 hectares. A quarter of the surface was withdrawn in order to only keep the hillside vines with the best exposure, where Viognier reaches its best maturity.

### TERROIR

The main stone found in Condrieu is granite. On the surface the soil is covered with decomposed granite and loess. This is soil is perfectly suited to Viognier and the vines benefit from excellent sunshine. When looking for winemaker collaborators, we wished to limit our research to Côteau de Cherry and Côteau de Rozay that have a bit of altitude and where the wines have a good balance and more importantly great freshness.

### THE VINTAGE

After 2010 (a very balanced vintage) and 2009 (a powerful vintage), 2011 offered plenty fruit, freshness and body. Besides a hot spring and early flowering, the summer was relatively cold and wet and the advance made was caught up. During the month of September, the sun dominated most of the time and the maturity was progressive. The crop came in continuously up until the first days of October for the plots of higher elevation and needed more time to reach perfect maturity. The crop was healthy, the grapes of good quality and the quantities were plentiful.

### LOCATION

In our search of winegrowers, we wanted to work in very specific places like coteaux de cherry and coteau de rozay, which are vineyards quite high in altitude, in order to get a nice balance and keep freshness for our wines.



## PROCESS

The bunches are pressed followed by a long fermentation at low temperatures of 12/15°. 20% is aged in oak barrels to bring fatness to the wine and the rest in stainless steel tanks to preserve aromas of fruit and freshness.

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## VARIETAL

Viognier 100%

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## TASTING

A shiny pale yellow color.

The nose is aromatic, exotic with notes of citrus and slightly floral.

The bouquet is balanced and leaves a lovely impression and length.

## SERVING

Drink in its youth as an aperitif with some prawns.

11/12°C

## REVIEWS AND AWARDS

 **WINEACCESS** 91/100

"Pale gold. High-pitched aromas of orange zest, pear, nectarine and white flowers, with a zesty mineral overtone. Lively and precise on the palate, offering intense orchard and citrus fruit flavors with a refreshingly bitter edge. Finishes with excellent clarity and thrust, leaving a sexy floral note behind."

International Wine Cellar, 01/04/2014

