



## The greatest French wines : Rhône valley, South: Châteauneuf du Pape

HD



Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

*French version*  
*English version*

High Definition  
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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The southern Rhône valley is characterized by vast spaces, varied soil types, often poor, and a Mediterranean climate, the hottest climate in the Côtes-du-Rhône region, with 2,800 hours of sunlight and an annual average temperature of 14°C.

In this area, the Rhône valley offers a large panorama of alluvial plains and rocky scrubland.

Nearly 90% of the 80,000 hectares of vineyards in the Rhône region are cultivated; grapevines are pruned in *gobelet*, to protect the grapes from the north winds and from sun burn.

Famous for both its white and red wines, Châteauneuf-du-Pape occupies the greatest surface and is the most famous due to its warm and generous wines.

They are especially pleasant to drink after having been aged for approximately 5 years.

The vineyard covers over 3,000 hectares and produces nearly 100,000 hectoliters of wine each year, 93% of which are red wines.

It nearly stretches out over the entire township of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and over 4 neighboring townships (Bédarrides, Courthézon, Orange and Sorgues).

In the XIVth century, Pope John XXIII had a fortress built at Châteauneuf, and established a famous vineyard there, which was perpetuated in the great papal tradition of the City of the Popes at Avignon.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape have created their rich and varied fragrances by using numerous varieties.

Grenache noir is the dominant variety in red wines, creating full-bodied, robust wines, while Grenache blanc, Clairette, Bourboulenc and Roussanne are used in whites.