



"Terroir"

- **Vineyards:** the area covered by this Appellation is limited to the commune of Cornas in the French Department Ardèche, on the right bank of the Rhône.
- **Soil types:** some silt laden deposits, granite and migmatite, extremely steep granitic terraces supported by small retaining walls.
- **Climate:** sunny with the slopes having South and South-east exposure.
- **Background:** this wine's fame has not diminished since the 10th Century and has been served at the Royal tables of France and elsewhere. In the 19th Century its "quoted" value was the same as Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Only phylloxera followed by urbanisation were to almost get the better of it! AC status and a renewal of its former high quality have enabled the vineyards to regain their flair and reputation. Cornas was consecrated Local Appellation in 1938.

Production

- **Area under cultivation*:** 111 hectares, annual production: 3961 hl; basic yield: 40 hl/hectare.
- **Grape variety mix:** exclusively Syrah.
- **Pruning:** long stem Guyot with a minimum of 8 productive eyes, and one or 2 spurs with two productive eyes and goblet pruning.
- **Wine making:** long fermentation, natural alcohol content by volume 10.5% minimum, maturing: 2 years in wooden casks.
- **Particularity :** its Southern or South-eastern orientation give this Appellation early maturity. It is the first of these Northern red Côtes du Rhône to be harvested.

Tasting and drinking

- **Appearance:** intense with ruby reflections.
- **Nose:** forest fruits, nuance of blackcurrant, violet, spices, chocolate with a hint of coffee. After 5 years, the bouquet evolves: truffle, amber, cooked fruits, liquorice.
- **Palate:** it is one of the most tannic and foursquare wines in France.
- **At the table:** in its youth it is a great accompaniment to red meats (rib of beef). On maturity it marries perfectly with game.
- **Laying down:** this wine should be laid down for at least 5 years to enable it to open out. Its capacity for ageing is proverbial (15 years and more).
- **Famous patrons:** Charlemagne, Louis XIV, and also Saint-Louis!



The words express to it

"The mountain on which this village stands is almost totally planted with vines which produce a very good wine. Its colour, body and structure are impressive. This is what you would call a virile wine."

Priest Morin - 1763.

* Source: harvest statement 2006

