

France, Northern Rhône: Côte-Rôtie 2022



By **YOHAN CASTAING** Feb 13, 2025

<https://www.robertparker.com/articles/yabvhCJfdcPe4GHDS>

Côte-Rôtie's 2022 growing season wasn't especially complicated, yet it nonetheless tested the vines' resilience. Notwithstanding the year's intense dryness and various challenges, most of the wines from this vintage exhibit excellent tension and vibrancy, substantial depth at the core and some aromatic freshness, ranking this vintage from very good to excellent for some vignerons.

After the damp, chilly conditions of 2021, the following year ushered in an earlier and drier season, echoing the intense heat of 2020. This shift from wet to dry presented problems for winemakers as they coped with the climatic fluctuations to extract the best expression of the terroir.

It's evident that the extreme conditions of 2022 favored vineyards with intelligent farming practices, particularly canopy management adapted to shade fruit and alleviate hydric stress. This is no small feat in Côte-Rôtie, where steep slopes complicate soil management.

The warm and arid conditions that persisted throughout the growing season underscored the importance of precise picking dates to avoid overripe flavors and ensure aromatic precision. The potentially firm tannins that result from drought and heat waves, as well as the significantly reduced skin-to-juice ratios, necessitated a delicate approach to extraction to avoid producing overly dense, chunky and astringent wines.

Nevertheless, the region's top producers excelled in these conditions, crafting some excellent wines with real aging potential. My visits in the vineyards provided insights into the meticulous efforts that define this vintage as excellent and exciting, albeit complex and challenging. Without the broad, creamy, high pH profile that defined 2020 in particular, tending to efface distinctions between producers and sites, the 2022 wines demand careful assessment, particularly as maturation strategies have been an essential factor in the intrinsic quality of each wine.

The 2022 may not be heralded as the vintage of the century, but many of the wines are exemplary. They reflect the winegrowers' resilience and adaptability to a warmer, drier climate. This is a promising sign for the future of winemaking in the Northern Rhône.

PRODUCERS: 5 OF 50

Domaine Stéphane Ogier 11 WINES

Guigal 6 WINES

Clusel-Roch 5 WINES

Graeme & Julie Bott 5 WINES

Domaine Mathilde et Yves Gangloff 3 WINES



Julie and Graeme Bott

Growing Season

From January 2022, the Rhône Valley underwent a rainfall deficit, notably from March to May. The temperatures in January, April and September were cooler than average, while the other months saw higher than average temperatures. The greatest deviation from historical norms occurred in October, at 3.5 degrees Celsius above the seasonal averages.

The dry spring resulted in uniform and rapid flowering and early water stress, setting the tone for the season. As summer arrived, multiple heat waves (from 37 to 40 degrees Celsius at its peak) drove temperatures well above average, further stressing the vines. Hailstorms in late June affected the northern parts of the appellation and specific areas in Condrieu and accelerated ripening by relieving stress on the vines.

Fortunately, there was a brief respite between August 14 and 19. Cooler temperatures and rain helped moderate alcohol levels and slow down berry maturation, infusing the emerging wines with freshness and tension.

By early September, the cooler nights played a crucial role in preserving the acidity and aromatic complexity necessary for high-quality wine. The best vignerons meticulously timed the harvest to ensure optimal ripeness and acidity balance, carefully selecting only the best grapes.

The Wines

The best wines of 2022 from Côte-Rôtie are vibrant with velvety, delicate tannins, brilliantly showcasing the stylistic expression of Syrah. Despite lacking the depth of ripening seen in more favorable years, the skill and precision of the top winemakers have yielded some surprisingly delightful wines, even considering the typically austere profile of Côte-Rôtie's offerings.

With their structure, tension and elegant acidity, the better wines have the potential to age beautifully for at least 10 to 15 years and even longer for the finest examples. Yet what makes this vintage particularly compelling is its approachability while young. The moderate alcohol levels and the refreshing coolness that characterized August have rendered these wines not only accessible but also enjoyable from an early stage. This blend of longevity and early drinkability makes the vintage uniquely appealing.

A Note About the Tasting

As readers may have noticed, my approach to tasting in this review was to sample the wines once bottled. There were several reasons for this decision. Foremost among them is the matter of Brettanomyces and the volatile phenols it produces. Brettanomyces can bloom during the later phases of maturation in barrel, rendering early barrel-tasting notes poor indicators of a wine's aromatic purity and precision. The changing climate and the higher pH levels in wines, which renders them more vulnerable to Brettanomyces, only make barrel tasting more complex and less indicative of final wine quality. By assessing wines that have completed bottling and maturation, I aim to more accurately identify and report on volatile phenols, ensuring our readers receive guidance on the quality and style of each cuvée *as it actually tastes in bottle*. This approach underscores *The Wine Advocate's* commitment to consumer advocacy.



2022 Graeme & Julie Bott Lancement

The Wine Advocate

RP 95

Reviewed by:
Yohan Castaing

Release Price:
NA

Drink Date:
2034 - 2060

Bottled exclusively in magnums, with a limited release of 708 bottles, the stunning 2022 Lancement offers up a complex, deep bouquet of espresso, dark wild berries, spices, violets, mulberries and floral notes. Full-bodied, broad and ample in attack, it's layered and textured, with a multidimensional core of fruit framed by filigreed tannins enhanced by dry extracts and has a sappy, saline finish. Its impressive completeness highlights Graeme Bott's vinification expertise and the area's capacity to produce one of the most refined Côte-Rôties, which is notable, given that the vines were only planted four years ago. This wine is poised to stand out in Bott's portfolio in the coming years. Bravo!

FR:

Mis en bouteille exclusivement en magnums, avec une édition limitée à 708 bouteilles, le superbe Lancement 2022 offre un bouquet complexe et profond torréfié, de baies sauvages noires, d'épices, de violettes, de mûres et de notes florales. Corsé, large et ample en attaque, il est texturé, avec un noyau fruité multidimensionnel encadré par des tanins filigranés rehaussés d'extraits secs et une finale séveuse et saline. Son impressionnante complétude met en évidence l'expertise de Graeme Bott en matière de vinification et la capacité de la région à produire l'un des Côte-Rôties les plus raffinés, ce qui est remarquable, étant donné que les vignes n'ont été plantées qu'il y a quatre ans. Ce vin est sur le point de se démarquer dans la gamme de Bott dans les années à venir. Bravo !





2022 Graeme & Julie Bott Cote Rotie Fongeaunt

The Wine Advocate

RP 94+

Reviewed by:
Yohan Castaing

Release Price:
NA

Drink Date:
2030 - 2050

Vinified entirely with whole bunches and crafted from old vines planted in the 1960s, the 2022 Cote Rotie Fongeaunt exudes a complex, deep bouquet of mulberries, licorice, spices and dark wild berries. Full-bodied and concentrated, it's rich and enveloping with a broad attack and has a textural core of fruit, concluding with a tense, fresh and endless finish. Produced for the first time, this bottling, matured in used barrels, is an exquisite wine in the making that could age gracefully in the cellar. Kudos!

FR:

Vinifié entièrement en grappes entières et élaboré à partir de vieilles vignes plantées dans les années 1960, le Côte-Rôtie Fongeaunt 2022 dégage un bouquet complexe et profond de mûres, de réglisse, d'épices et de baies sauvages noires. Corsé et concentré, il est riche et enveloppant avec une attaque ample et un cœur texturé de fruits, se terminant par une finale tendue, fraîche et interminable. Produit pour la première fois, cette mise en bouteille, élevé en fûts usagés, est un vin exquis en devenir qui pourrait vieillir gracieusement en cave. Bravo !





2022 Graeme & Julie Bott Cote Rotie Cote Bodin

The Wine Advocate

RP 94

Reviewed by:

Yohan Castaing

Release Price:

NA

Drink Date:

2030 - 2044

Destemmed and matured for 20 months in a combination of two-year-old and three-year-old barrels, the 2022 Cote Rotie Cote Bodin unfurls from the glass with aromas of spices, licorice, dark berries and gentian, offering a darker, more earthy profile than its counterparts. Full-bodied, dense and layered, it's seamless, with a dense core of fruit that's framed by velvety, structured tannins. It concludes with a sapid, elegantly austere, saline finish. More structured than the Semons, it requires time in the cellar to fully express itself. With a limited production of only 596 bottles, this wine promises significant aging potential.

FR:

Égrappé et élevé pendant 20 mois dans une combinaison de fûts de deux et trois ans, le Côte-Rôtie Côte-Bodin 2022 se déploie dans le verre avec des arômes d'épices, de réglisse, de baies noires et de gentiane, offrant un profil plus sombre et plus terreux que ses homologues. Corsé, dense, il est homogène, avec un noyau dense de fruits encadré par des tannins veloutés et structurés. Il se termine par une finale sapide, élégamment austère et saline. Plus structuré que le Semon, il nécessite du temps en cave pour s'exprimer pleinement. Avec une production limitée à seulement 596 bouteilles, ce vin promet un potentiel de vieillissement important.





2022 Graeme & Julie Bott Cote Rotie Semons

The Wine Advocate

RP 93

Reviewed by:
Yohan Castaing

Release Price:
NA

Drink Date:
2028 - 2044

The 2022 Cote Rotie Semons, crafted from 40-year-old vines, presents a vibrant and complex bouquet of dark wild berries, mulberries, roses and spices accented by subtle peppery undertones. This full-bodied wine is textured and layered, flowing seamlessly with velvety, refined tannins and a dense core of fruit, culminating in a long, complex and sapid finish. Entirely destemmed and matured for 20 months in used barrels, only 958 bottles and 50 magnums were produced.

FR:

Le Côte-Rôtie Semons 2022, élaboré à partir de vignes de 40 ans, présente un bouquet vibrant et complexe de baies sauvages foncées, de mûres, de roses et d'épices accentué par de subtiles nuances poivrées. Ce vin corsé est texturé, fluide avec des tannins veloutés et raffinés et un noyau dense de fruits, culminant dans une finale longue, complexe et sapide. Entièrement égrappé et élevé pendant 20 mois en fûts usagés, seulement 958 bouteilles et 50 magnums ont été produits.





2022 Graeme & Julie Bott Cote Rotie

The Wine Advocate

RP 92

Reviewed by:

Yohan Castaing

Release Price:

NA

Drink Date:

2028 - 2044

Made from a mix of purchased grapes (50%) and those from their own plots in the Tartasse, Saumon and Fongeant sectors, the 2022 Cote Rotie from Graeme & Julie Bott evokes a lively, floral bouquet of violets, dark wild berries and cherries mingled with lovely peppery notes. Medium to full-bodied, perfectly balanced and seamless, it's tense without asperity and is framed by discreet tannins. It ends with a long, bright, ethereal finish. This stunning wine, vinified with 30% whole bunches, is an excellent introduction to Julie and Graeme's winemaking approach. Give it a little time to digest its élevage, and it will offer excellent drinking

FR:

Issu d'un mélange de raisins achetés (50 %) et de raisins issus de leurs propres parcelles dans les secteurs Tartaras, Semons et Fongeant, le Côte Rotie 2022 de Graeme & Julie Bott évoque un bouquet vif et floral de violettes, de baies sauvages noires et de cerises mêlées à de jolies notes poivrées. Moyennement corsé, parfaitement équilibré et homogène, il est tendu sans aspérité et encadré par des tannins discrets. Il se termine par une finale longue, brillante et aérien. Ce vin époustouflant, vinifié avec 30 % de grappes entières, est une excellente introduction à l'approche vinicole de Julie et Graeme. Donnez-lui un peu de temps pour digérer son élevage, et il offrira une excellente dégustation.

