

Northern Rhône Report 2016 / Matt Walls 07-Oct-2017



Part of Best  
Rhône 2016 wines



**ERMITAGE**  
**«LE MÉAL» 2016**

A brooding and tightly wound but promising nose of lapsang souchong tea leaf, fresh blackberry and liquorice. In the mouth it's monolithic, concentrated and powerful. The tannins are intense but they have an inner sweetness, remaining very savoury and saline on the finish nonetheless. This wine is straight in profile, and full of energy and freshness with exceptional length.



**ERMITAGE**  
**«LES DIONNIÈRES» 2016**

A very appealing nose, with intense, expressive and lively dark fruits among woodsmoke and herbs. It's a very full, large-scale Hermitage, expansive in the mouth and very tannic with a very long finish, but crucially, although dry and savoury, it's also ripe. This will take time for the tannins to soften.



**CROZES HERMITAGE**  
**«LA MATINIÈRE» 2016**

Vivid, high-toned smoky bacon and blackberry fruits, accompanied by lovely underlying spice notes. It's fuller-bodied than expected on the palate, with good weight of fairly grainy, fibrous tannins. It ends on a dry, saline note. Food friendly.