

CUVEE DES CADETTES

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Red 2005

Archives affirm Château La Nerthe's existence as early as 1560, while suggesting an even more distant past dating to the dawn of the region's wine culture in the 12th century. The wine of Château La Nerthe has been renowned since the 18th century. During the same era, its reputation spread across Europe with exports to England, Germany, Italy and Spain. Since then, Château La Nerthe has been a point of reference in the history of the vineyards and wines of France.

The 90 hectares (225 acres) of Château La Nerthe are certified "Organic growing" since 1998 by Ecocert (French organism on organic certification)

The current terroir is thus composed of rocky slopes of clay and sand, rising above the Rhône river. While it is difficult to grow wine in such soils, the rocks do help ripen the berries since they store heat during the day and warm the vines at night. They also allow water to penetrate into the soil, reducing stagnation and disease.



VINES' AGE

40 years (average)
some are centenaries

HARVEST

Manually
From 29th August to 22 September

CELLARING :

Until 15 years

BLENDING

Grenache 43 %
Syrah 36 %
Mourvèdre 21 %

AGING - 18 months
100 % in oak barrels

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2005 Chateaufeuf du Pape Cuvee des Cadettes
Chateau de la Nerthe
Rating: 96
Drink: 2013-2043
Oct, 2008

The Chateaufeuf du Pape Cuvee des Cadettes was one of the first luxury cuvees of old vines made in Chateaufeuf du Pape, the first vintage originating in 1972. There are usually anywhere from 500 to 1000 cases of it. A real stunner, and just being released on the market, is the 2005 Chateaufeuf du Pape Cuvee des Cadettes. A magnificent wine with deep ruby/purple color, a wonderfully sweet focus, aromatics of blue and black fruits intermixed with graphite, a hint of charcoal, and some earth and subtle Provencal herbs, the wine is full-bodied and has great depth, richness, power, and stature. There is plenty of tannin to shed, as one might expect from a top 2005, but it is well-integrated, and there is more than enough concentration and fruit to balance out the wine's structural profile. Give this wine 5 years of bottle age and drink it over the following three decades. This is a monumental example of Chateaufeuf du Pape.

Manager Alain Dugas, who has done such a superb job at La Nerthe since 1998, told me that they decided not to produce a Cuvee des Cadettes in 2007 because several of their old vine Mourvedre parcels were adversely affected by the year's drought. Perhaps that is to their benefit, as the single cuvee that will be offered is a superb one. While La Nerthe has always made one of the best white wines of the appellation, it is worth noting that the very tiny production of white Chateaufeuf du Pape continues to show encouraging

