



**DELAS**

*Vignobles de la Vallée du Rhône*

Delas Frères dates to 1835, but its modern iteration began to take shape in 1996, when Fabrice Rosset took over the company and hired Jacques Grange to lead the winemaking. Grange immediately began restoring the vineyards, which include legendary parcels throughout the Northern Rhône such as La Landonne in Côte-Rôtie and Les Bessards in Hermitage. All are now certified HVE3, the highest level of the French Ministry of Agriculture's sustainability program, and are in conversion to organics. The team also revamped the winery in St-Jean-de-Muzols into a gravity-flow facility, and, in 2019, opened a new facility in Tain l'Hermitage designed expressly for the vinification of their northern Rhône wines.

**Wine&Spirits**

## DELAS FRÈRES 2020 HERMITAGE RANGE



### Hermitage 'Les Bessards' 2020

The vineyards of the famed Hermitage hill produce some of the world's most intense, dense wines from the rich Syrah varietal. Delas owns 24 acres in this prized region, a large amount by Rhône standards. This cuvée is a vineyard plot selection. The grapes come exclusively from the oldest plot within the renowned lieu-dit of "Les Bessards" in the heart of the Hermitage slopes. This wine is only produced during the very best years and the production is deliberately limited to 6,000 bottles per year.

**97+ PTS JEB DUNNUCK** | The 2020 Hermitage Les Bessards is a behemoth, with palate-saturating levels of fruit and texture while it still stays pure, focused, and mineral-laced, with a classic Hermitage personality. Blue fruits, truffle, burning embers, sappy spring flowers, and liquid rock-like notes all define the aromatics, and it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, ripe, polished, yet building tannins, and a gorgeous finish. As with all of Jacques' wines today, there's a certain polish and accessibility, yet this incredible Hermitage deserves 5-7 years in the cellar, and I'd be shocked to see it not have 30 years of overall longevity.

**96 PTS Decanter** | **95-97PTS** *Wine Spectator* | **95+ PTS** VIEW FROM THE CELLAR | **95 PTS** Wine Spectator



### Hermitage 'Ligne de Crête' 2020

This wine is made exclusively from the "Les Grandes Vignes" plot situated at the peak of the Hermitage hillside at around 325m altitude. This primarily south-facing plot forms an amphitheatre of semicircular vine terraces. In the very best years, production is limited to 1,800 to 2,000 bottles. This wine is made exclusively from the Syrah varietal.

**99 PTS JEB DUNNUCK** | Lastly, the 2020 Hermitage Ligne de Crête comes from the highest point on Hermitage and was destemmed and saw 20 months in a mix of new and once-used barrels. It's clearly the biggest, baddest beauty in the lineup and is another palate-saturating Hermitage with extraordinary richness and depth. Blackberries, currants, black truffle, smoked meats, espresso, and new leather notes all define this incredible wine, which has a deep, full-bodied, multi-dimensional mouthfeel, ripe, velvety tannins, and incredibly minerality that emerges on the finish. This is legit, awesome Hermitage that needs to be forgotten for just 4-6 years and will evolve for 30+ years if well-stored.

**95 PTS** Wine Spectator | **94 PTS** VIEW FROM THE CELLAR



### Hermitage 'Domaine des Tourettes' 2020

Known as Domaine Marquise de la Tourette until 2008, Domaine des Tourettes is the first wine to be produced by Delas Frères exclusively from the 24 acres that are farmed on the famous hill that overlooks the town of Tain. This cuvée is a blend of wines from 5 acres of "Les Grandes Vignes" lieu-dit, located at the top of the hill, and 17 acres in the "Les Bessards" lieu-dit.

**96 PTS JEB DUNNUCK** | Moving to the three Hermitage releases, the 2020 Hermitage Domaine Des Tourettes offers a deep, saturated purple hue as well as a powerful bouquet of scorched earth, creosote, peppered meat, liquid violets, and both black and blue fruits. Aged 18 months in one-third new French oak, it's full-bodied, has the vintage's ripe, concentrated style, ample underlying structure, and outstanding length. It's a gorgeous Hermitage that readers will love to have in their cellar. It will benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and keep for two decades. It's up with the finest vintages of this cuvée ever produced.

**95 PTS** VIEW FROM THE CELLAR | **94 PTS** Decanter



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