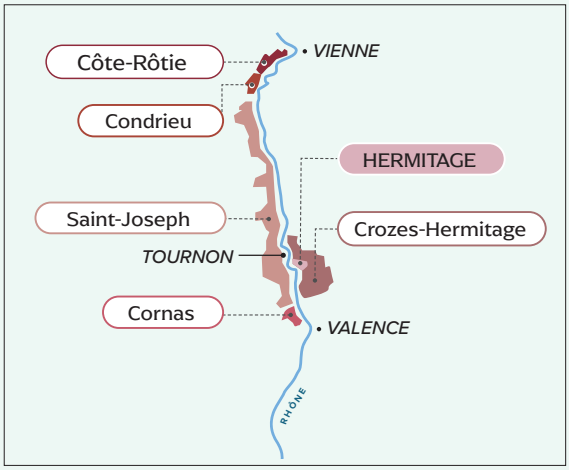
DELAS FRÈRES
18 35
SAPA VITAE

Hermitage
Les Bessards 2023
Rhône, France

VARIETALS:
Syrah

OVERVIEW

Les Bessards is a legendary lieu-dit, the true backbone of Hermitage, imposing a natural constraint on the vine. It stands as the master and sovereign of the hill. Here, the roots plunge deep into the earth, giving rise to a mineral, vertical Syrah with restrained power. The soil consists of decomposed granite mixed with alluvial deposits, poor in organic matter yet offering remarkable drainage capacity. Maison Delas' vines are spread across 75 terraces in Les Bessards, ranging from 120 to 263 meters in altitude. This cuvée seeks to reveal the very essence of a unique terroir and the exceptional fusion of granite and Syrah expressed here. The wine carries the telluric force of the site, conveyed through a restrained yet undeniable power.



WINEMAKING

The harvest is carried out by hand, and each lieu-dit is vinified separately to express the quintessence of the terroir. Once destemmed, the grapes are transferred to stainless steel tanks. Fermentation lasts approximately three weeks. Extraction is gentle and primarily focused on the early stages of fermentation, with carefully calibrated pump-overs and punch-downs to preserve the wine's balance. After racking off, the wine is drawn off and transferred to barrels. Malolactic fermentation takes places in oak barrels, followed by ageing for around 18 months. The proportion of new oak is limited to 25%. A final blending in stainless steel vats is carried out 10 months prior to bottling.

98 POINTS
JAMESSUCKLING.COM

A haunting nose of raw meat, smoke and licorice. Incredible concentration, the power expertly reined in, with enormous finesse. As it aerates, the beautifully ripe forest berry aromas expand and expand. Then the fun really starts with the almost endless finish. Fundamental stony minerality glides over your palate and off into the distance. From an almost pure granite soil in one of the best sections of the hill of Hermitage. Drink from release.

98 POINTS
Robert Parker Wine Advocate

Elegant, perfumed and racy, the 2023 Hermitage Les Bessards is the highlight of Delas's range. Wafting from the glass with aromas of rose, lychee, grapefruit and violet, it's dense and deep, built around perfectly controlled power and a structured core of fruit framed by abundant, sweet tannins that lead to a long, ethereal and precise finish. Combining telluric density with finesse and a notably tensile profile for Hermitage, this is one of the finest renditions of Les Bessards produced at this address.

95–97+ POINTS
JEB DUNNUCK

Not yet bottled, the 2023 Hermitage Les Bessards offers up pure cassis, liquid violets, white pepper, and crushed stone on the nose, showing that classic Bessards burning embers and violet character. It's medium to full-bodied, has a concentrated, layered mouthfeel, ultra-fine tannins, and a great finish. It's still tight and compact, and I suspect the cellar will be your friend.