



Delas Frères Hermitage Les Grandes Vignes 'Ligne de Crête' 2018

Founded in 1835, Delas Frères is among the most prestigious wineries in the Rhône Valley and recognized as one of its leading producers. Delas has vineyard holdings on the steep granite slopes of the northern Rhône and purchases additional wine through long-term contracts with high-quality southern Rhône growers. From its Côtes-du-Rhône to the highly praised single-vineyard Hermitage Les Bessards, each and every single wine of the Delas portfolio offers distinctive pleasure, quality and value.

"The Delas team has finally moved into their new, hyper-modern and expansive winemaking facility, which sits in the heart of Tain l'Hermitage, surrounding the original cellars and home of Paul Jaboulet. It's a stunning showcase operation built to the specifications of winemakers Jacques Grange and Claire Darnaud, with no expense spared, which was possible because Delas is a branch of the Rouzaud family's Louis Roederer empire."

- Josh Reynolds | [vinous](#)



Winemakers Jacques Grange and Claire Darnaud

In the very best years, Ligne de Crête's production is limited to 1,800 to 2,000 bottles.

"Ligne de Crête (ridge line) is the name of their new single-vineyard red Hermitage. It comes from a lieu-dit that hasn't, to my knowledge, been bottled as a single vineyard before: lieu-dit Les Grandes Vignes. Reaching an altitude of 325m, this is the pinnacle of Hermitage hill's granitic western flank, facing south and southwest and sitting even higher than lieu-dit L'Hermite. As the mother rock gradually weathers, it washes down the hill, so the soil here is particularly thin. Delas owns 2.6ha of this lieu-dit, which is nearly all of it."

- Matt Walls | [Decanter](#)

WINE ADVOCATE

99 pts

Full-bodied and almost painfully intense, it's a huge, mouthfilling wine that seems capable of aging up to three decades. Rich, supple and creamy in texture, yet possessing remarkable length and retronasal nuance, it has to rank up there with some of the Hermitage hill's classics from other, more renowned producers. It certainly deserves a seat at that table and may be a candidate for a perfect score in the future. *May 2021*

Wine Spectator

95 pts

Plum paste, linzer torte and cassis notes give this a fruit-filled profile, while licorice, sweet spice and dark earth accents provide a solid background. There's a buried iron underpinning, and a late echo of singed alder on the finish. All of this feels seamless, thanks to an understated polish. Drink now through 2036. *August 2021*



100% Syrah