



Stéphane ROBERT

## Domaine du Tunnel, Cornas 2016

### PRODUCER

Domaine du Tunnel is situated in an old steam train tunnel in the charming village of Saint-Péray in the Northern Rhône. This small family domaine is run by Stéphane Robert and his wife Sandrine. Stéphane, also the winemaker, began in 1994 when he was just 24 years old by renting vines. He now owns 10 hectares of his own vines located in Cornas, Saint-Péray and Saint Joseph.

### VINEYARDS

Stéphane's Cornas is made from 15 parcels of Syrah from the following lieu dits: Combe, Patou, Sauman, Champelrose, Les Saveaux, Les Eygats, Les Cotes, Les Mazards, La Geynale and Cayret. The blending of parcels from several lieu dits gives the wine layers of complexity and character. The vines are about 50 years old on average and planted on steep granitic slopes which require them to be trained on individual stakes, and the harvest can only be carried out by hand.

### VINTAGE

2016 has been hailed as a great vintage but it wasn't without its challenges. The growing season did not get off to a great start. Spring was marked by cloudy and wet weather. Hail storms also posed a threat with some loss of yield yet luckily it was early enough in the season for vines to recover vegetative growth. As a result, flowering and budburst were delayed. The summer months were very hot and dry which halted some ripening but sorely needed rain fell at the beginning of September allowing ripening to continue. Fortunately, good weather then resumed until harvest, producing good quality fruit and moderate alcohol levels.

### VINIFICATION

Stéphane's Cornas spends 14 months in 30% new oak and 70% three-four year old oak barriques for roundness without masking the fruit.

### TASTING NOTES

The Cornas has a lovely deep colour with a ripe and spicy nose of fragrant black fruits. The tannins are smooth but structured. Stéphane's wines have this appealing concentration of fruit, finesse and purity that is profound and mouthfilling.



### VINTAGE INFORMATION

<b>Vintage</b>	2016
<b>Region</b>	Cornas, Northern Rhône
<b>Grape Varieties</b>	100% Syrah/Shiraz
<b>Winemaker</b>	Stéphane Robert
<b>Features</b>	Vegetarian
<b>Closure</b>	Natural Cork
<b>ABV</b>	13.5%
<b>Acidity</b>	4.89g/L
<b>Wine pH</b>	3.68
<b>Bottle Sizes</b>	75cl