



Stéphane ROBERT

## Domaine du Tunnel, Saint-Péray Roussanne 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

Domaine du Tunnel's Roussanne comes from the lieu dits Barras, Grand Plantier, Combe and l'Arzalier. The Barras vineyard, where a large portion of Roussanne is planted, is at 250 metres above sea level, providing crisp acidity and aromatics to the blend. John Livingstone-Learmonth writes in his book, *The Wines of the Northern Rhône*, "St-Péray is home to some of the best Roussanne in the northern Rhône, not only mature vines but younger vines taken from fine old rootstock as well."

### 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

The Saint-Péray Roussanne was fermented in a combination of stainless steel and four to five year old barriques, and was aged on its lees for a further nine months.

### TASTING NOTES

The Roussanne has delicate aromas of white flowers and grapefruit with lively acidity, concentration and a long finish. The blending of several parcels and vats gives the wine wonderful complexity.



### VINTAGE INFORMATION

<b>Vintage</b>	2016
<b>Region</b>	Saint-Péray, Northern Rhône
<b>Grape Varieties</b>	100% Roussanne
<b>Winemaker</b>	Stephane Robert
<b>Features</b>	Vegan, Vegetarian
<b>Closure</b>	Natural Cork
<b>ABV</b>	13.5%
<b>Wine pH</b>	3.48
<b>Bottle Sizes</b>	75cl