

## Maison Paul Jaboulet-Aine Tasting



Date	:	Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
Time	:	6:30pm to 8:00 pm
Venue	:	21/F Hong Kong Wine Vault (Tin Wan)
No. of Attendees	:	60
Wines Tasted	:	Paul Jaboulet Hermitage Chevalier de Sterimberg 2010 Paul Jaboulet Crozes Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert 1990 Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 2010 Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 2004 Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 1997 Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 1982

La Chapelle, the jewel of Maison Jaboulet, has a rich and emotive history. During the 13th century, a knight called Gaspard de Sterimberg settled in the hills of Tain l'Hermitage with the permission of Blanche de Castille after being injured from the Albigensian crusade. He sought calm and serenity and isolated himself as a hermit, hence the name of the Hermitage appellation. There he built a Chapel, overlooking the Rhône Valley. In the heart of the Rhône Valley, this small chapel has become one of the world's great historic buildings.



*Hermitage "La Chapelle" is a blend of terroirs, including the prestigious hillsides of Méal and Bessards. Each one provides its own aromatic characteristics, as well as an elegant tannin structure, giving the wine great ageing potential.*

In 1834, Antoine Jaboulet (1807 - 1864) started working the land in this region thereby linking his destiny with that of this fertile terroir. By dint of hard work and passion, his vines were to provide him with a wine of exceptional quality, to be perpetuated by his sons, Paul and Henri. It was Paul who then gave his name to the business. Since then, the generations have continued to succeed one another.

Over the years, Jaboulet took ownership of the finest appellations of the northern Rhone Valley. These included Hermitage and Crozes Hermitage, of course, but also Saint-Joseph, Cornas and Saint-Péray.

Jaboulet is clearly capable of producing some of the top wines on the world. The terroir is there. Since the legendary 1961 vintage, which was classed as one of the Twelve mythical wines of the 20th century, Hermitage "la Chapelle" has become one of the world's most sought-after wines. It's been scores 100 points by Robert Parker. In fact, so have the 1978 and the 1990, all three vintages hit the magic, triple digit number from Robert Parker.

***Paul Jaboulet Hermitage Chevalier de Sterimberg 2010***

A blend of 65% Marsanne and 35% Rousanne, it shows pale yellow color, a beautiful aromatic of white peach and floral notes, mineral, full-bodied with crisp acidity. It's a true grand cru white from the Northern Rhone!

***Paul Jaboulet Crozes Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert 1990***

It comes from the very old Syrah vines of 40-60 years, it exhibits deep ruby color, a blend of red berries and animal notes on the nose, ripe tannin with well-integrated on the finish, drinking beautifully now!

***Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 2010***

The Syrah vines are planted in rich and varied soils with very diverse terroirs (les Bessards, les Greffieux, le Méal and les Rocoules). It is the richness of these different terroirs that provides the Hermitage La Chapelle with its complexity. The 2010 offers very beauty black/purple color, a musky aroma of black fruits on the nose, crisp acidity, spicy and subtle smoky characters, good concentration, firm tannin and very long finish. This good wine is also one to keep an eye on!

***Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 2004***

It appears the ruby/red color, a beautifully nose of blackcurrant, intense spicy and tobacco notes, sweet, licorice, firm and well-structured.

***Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 1997***

The 1997 shows lots of dried fruits, plum and followed by leather, spicy and dried flowers, silky tannin with well-balanced and excellent length on the finish.

***Paul Jaboulet Hermitage La Chapelle 1982***

Beautifully mature with sweet and dried fruit characters. It exhibits a plum/tawny colored with possesses opulent, the acidity is low, complex and all the tannins are resolved. Delicious!



*Jean-Luc Chapel, the Brand Ambassador of the estate, to present their premium wines to us.*



*The wines were so good that they were drunk up real quick! Sincere apologies for the guests who came late to miss the great wines!*

The domaine went through a weak period following the 1990. The quality of wines being produced dropped following the 1990 vintage. In 2006, Jean-Jacques Frey bought the domaine and quality returned. The Frey family – longstanding winemakers in Champagne and owners of Château La Lagune in Bordeaux – Caroline Frey, the eldest daughter, is at the helm of the wine-making team. Under her leadership, the vineyards earned Sustainable Farming status while Jaboulet's winegrowing is in the course of conversion towards biodynamic certification. Moreover, the vineyards acquired in the appellations of Côte Rôtie, Condrieu and Châteauneuf du Pape are following in the historic Maison Jaboulet tradition. The team continues to make better and better wines and the 2010 Jaboulet La Chapelle is probably the best vintage of La Chapelle produced by the Frey family yet!