

**Winemaker:** Jean-Michel Stéphan

**Region:** Rhone Valley

**Location:** Tupin-et-Semons



# Côte-Rôtie L'Ultime

MAISON STEPHAN



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**Appellation:** AOC Côte-Rôtie

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**Farming:**

Viticulture following organic and biodynamic methods, mechanical weeding, ploughing, digging, no pesticides or synthetic fungicides

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**Varietals:**

Syrah (Serine), Viognier

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**Age of the vines:** 25 to 125 years old

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**Vineyard/Terroir:**

4.5 ha from the 4 sites known as Coteau de Bassenon, Coteau de Tupin, Les Binardes and So'Brune on slopes with a 40% gradient.

The soil is a blend of Côte Brune (13%): micaschist and Côte Blonde (87%): leucogneiss and dark migmatite granite with biotite

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**Vinification:** Cold storage before total destemming. Semi-carbonic cold maceration. Native yeasts.

Extraction of matter by pumping over and punching down. Natural clarification (no filtration or fining). No oenological inputs

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**Elevation/Aging:** Aged in barrels from the Tronçais forest for 24 months

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**About the winemaker:** Having vinified over 30 vintages of Côte-Rôtie, Jean-Michel Stéphan is one of the true masters of natural winemaking in the Northern Rhône. His wines have a vivacious purity that make them instantly identifiable, marked by a balance of energy and transcendence that comes from a lifetime pursuit of his vision to craft flawless wines with absolutely no additives. He produced his first wine

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in 1994 and began certified organic farming the following year, though his vineyards had always been farmed this way pre-certification. Additionally, Jean-Michel's wines have always been vinified with nothing added. At the time, both of these concepts were unheard of in the region. Today, the domaine farms five hectares of Côte-Rôtie spread between three different parcels: Côteaux de Bassenon, Côteaux de Tupin, and a tiny plot in Côte Brune. Each parcel is vinified separately without the addition of any yeast, enzymes, or SO<sub>2</sub>. In 2017, his son Romain joined the domaine, and together, they planted an additional five hectares outside the Côte-Rôtie appellation in the nearby towns of Roussillon, Véranne, Condrieu, Ampuis, and Chasse-sur-Rhône.