



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

BARRUOL / LYNCH

Country: **France**
Region: **Northern Rhône**
Appellation(s): **Crozes-Hermitage, Côte Rôtie, Hermitage**
Producer: **Louis Barruol**
Farming: **Lutte raisonnée**
Website: **www.kermitlynch.com**



Over forty years of doing business in France and Italy have given Kermit Lynch a level of expertise that few in the wine industry can boast. Countless hours with growers in some of the most famous vineyards and cellars of Europe have offered more than just a casual look at what it takes to be a great grower, let alone a great winemaker. Kermit Lynch was the first to champion the benefits of unfinned and unfiltered wines, long before they had become fashionable. This belief is really a matter of taste, and the proof has always been in the glass, offering a purer expression of fruit and an unadulterated reflection of the *terroir*. Kermit's conviction has been so strong over the years that he has been able to persuade even the most hard-headed *vignerons* to test his theories.

Long-term relationships with *vignerons* in every major wine growing region offer a tremendous array of opportunities. Every year, Kermit enjoys a creative collaboration with some growers to find the best of their selections. Together, they work towards creating a final blend that showcases the region in all its glory at a price point that is difficult to match.

Louis Barruol is an indefatigable force in the Rhône. He is the fourteenth generation in his family to be making wine at his sixteenth-century domaine in Gigondas. On what was once the site of a Roman villa, Louis' cellars show spectacular remains of old, Roman vinification vats carved into the limestone.

While based in the southern Rhône, Louis is incredibly passionate and knowledgeable about the great Syrahs grown farther north—a passion he discovered he shares with Kermit, who over the decades has worked with some of Louis' northern Rhône idols including Marius Gentaz, Raymond Trolat, and Auguste Clape. In an homage to these legendary *vignerons* and the increasingly rare style of traditional winemaking they practiced, Louis became a *micro-négociant*, working closely with top growers in the northern Rhône who still work with *Sérine*, an ancient clone of Syrah known for its aromatic finesse. Producing only a few precious barrels of each *cuvée*, Louis is helping to save the authenticity and the identity of many great old Côte Rôtie parcels, as well as those of Hermitage, Crozes-Hermitage, and occasionally Saint-Joseph, by keeping them out of the hands of the large, corporate *négociants* in the area.

Together, he and Kermit blend our northern Rhône wines from a selection of Louis' purchased fruit. Louis selects the best parcels he can find based on his intimate knowledge of the region's *terroirs*, and upon bringing the grapes in his cellar gives them the traditional treatment of spontaneous fermentation without destemming, aging in barrel, and bottling without filtration. Once a year, Kermit shows up and either chooses to have a *cuvée* bottled unfiltered, or he blends to find the *assemblage* that satisfies his aesthetic criteria.



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BARRUOL LYNCH (continued)

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
Hermitage <i>Blanc La Pierelle</i>	Marsanne	80 years	Limestone, granite	N/A
Crozes-Hermitage “Les Tiercerolles”	Syrah	30-50 years	Granite	
Crozes-Hermitage <i>Les Batils</i>	Syrah	40-50 years	Sandy loam	
Crozes-Hermitage <i>Tenay</i>	Syrah	30-50 years	Granite	
Crozes-Hermitage <i>Goutay</i>	Syrah	Planted in 1980	Granite	
Crozes-Hermitage <i>Habrand</i>	Syrah	50 years average	Granite	
Crozes-Hermitage <i>Gervans</i>	Syrah	50 years average	Sandy loam	
Côte Rôtie “Les Roses”	Syrah	30-50 years	Schist	
Côte Rôtie “La Boisselée”	Syrah	30-50 years	Schist	
Côte Rôtie “La Dorée”	Syrah	30-50 years	Schist	
Côte Rôtie <i>La Viaillère</i>	Syrah	30-50 years	Schist	
Côte Rôtie <i>Nève</i>	Syrah	30 years	Schist	
Côte Rôtie <i>Besset</i>	Syrah	40 years	Mica schist	
Côte Rôtie <i>Fongeat</i>	Syrah	50 years average	Mica schist	
Hermitage <i>La Pierelle</i>	Syrah	30-50 years	Limestone, granite	

* “ha”=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres

VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

- All wines are hand-harvested and sorted during harvest
- Whole-cluster fermentation takes place in cement tank
- Maceration lasts 2 or 3 weeks
- Wines are aged on average for 15 months in Burgundy barrels
- New barrels are introduced to rotation occasionally as needed, with the goal of minimizing new oak influence
- Wines are not fined or filtered

Hermitage *Blanc La Pierelle*

- Fermented in Burgundian barrels
- Wine is not racked, fined, or filtered before bottling
- *La Pierelle* is a *lieu-dit* at the top of the hill of Hermitage, facing south-southwest, with a limestone and granite soil with *galet* stones. The part of the parcel where the white is planted showcases more limestone than where their red is planted.
- The name, *Pierelle*, refers to stones (*pierre* in French), and the stoney nature of the vineyard



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BARRUOL LYNCH (continued)

Crozes-Hermitage “Tiercerolles”

- “Tiercerolle” is an old French word for a barrel
- 2022: a blend of different *lieux-dits*: *Habrard Cafirot, Goutay, Gervans, Chassis*
- 2021: a blend of different *lieux-dits*: *Les Chassis, Batits, Gervans, Tenay, Habrard, Goutay*
- 2020: a blend of three different *lieux-dits*: 45% *Mercurol*, 45% *Martinelle*, 10% *Habrard*
- 2017 and 2018: a blend of several *lieux-dits* including: *Gervans, Tenay, Mercurol, Habrard, and Batits*
- 2016: a blend of 12 barrels: 4 from *Besset*, 2 from *Batits*, 3 from *Habrard*, 3 from *Mercurol*

Côte Rôtie “Les Roses”

- 2021: a blend from Côte Blonde: *But de Mont, Les Bercherries, Semons, and Maison Rouge*
- 2020: a blend of three different *lieux-dits*: 75% *Rosier*, 20% *Grand Vigne*, 5% *Tilleul*
- 2017: a blend of 3 barrels: 1 from *Fongeant*, 2 from *Champin*
- 2010: a blend of the *lieux-dits* *Buffin, Brosse-Champin, and Fongeant*
- 2009: a blend of the *lieux-dits* *Fongeant* and *Rozier*

Côte Rôtie “La Boisselée”

- 2022: From Côte Blonde: *But de Mont, Les Bercherries, Maison Rouge*, from Côte Brune: *Rozier*
- 2019: 3 barrels from *Grande Vigne*, 3 from *Bercherries*, 3 from *Besset*, 2 from *Tilleul*
- 2018: 1 barrel from *La Viaillère*, 2 from *Le Plomb*, 2 from *Besset*, 2 from *Champin*, 1 from *Fongeant*, 1 from *Bodin*
- 2017: 1 barrel from *La Viaillère*, 2 from *Le Plomb*, 2 from *Besset*
- 2016: 2 barrels from *La Viaillère*, 2 from *Fongeant*, 1 from *Besset*, 3 from *Semons*, 1 from *Le Plomb*, 3 from *Nève*
- 2015: 2 barrels from *La Viaillère*, 2 from *Fongeant*
- 2014: 2 barrels from *Besset*, 2 from *Semons*, and 1 from *Le Plomb*
- 2013: a blend of *Buffin, Bodin, and La Viaillère*
- 2010: a blend of *Le Plomb, Nève, La Viaillère, and Champin*
- 2009: a blend of *Labrosses* and *Champin*

Côte Rôtie “La Dorée”

- 2017: sourced from *lieux-dits* *Nève* and *Semons*
- 2011: sourced from *lieu-dit* *Le Plomb*
- 2009: a blend of *lieux-dits* *Viaillère* and *Champin*

Hermitage Rouge La Pierrelle

- *La Pierrelle* is a *lieu-dit* at the top of the hill of Hermitage, facing south-southwest, with a limestone and granite soil with *galet* stones
- The name, *Pierrelle*, refers to stones (*pierre* in French), and the stoney nature of the vineyard