

MICKAËL BOURG

CORNAS

ORIGIN

Cornas, Rhône, France.

WINE TYPE & VARIETIES

Still red, Syrah,

VINEYARD

1,5 ha in Cornas.

Main sites include:

Chaillot, Les Mazards & Saint-Pierre.

SOIL

Sandy and rocky soils based on mostly granite, some chalk.

AGE OF VINES

Chaillot planted late 1940s.

Mazards planted 1950s.

Saintt-Pierre planted 2006.

VITICULTURE

All manual in these extremely steep, basically vertical, vineyards. Practicing organic.

VINIFICATION

Traditonal; whole cluster fermentation with native yeast, careful maceration for 3 weeks, ageing in old oak 16-18 months. Low sulphuring at bottling.

Son to a stonemason in Cornas, an early career as a car mechanic swapped for a life in wine made Mickaël Bourg the first generation vigneron in his family. Mika started his career working with Matthieu Barret at Domaine du Coulet, he later on leased some vines from Matthieu and produced his first Cornas wine in 2006. Today Mickaël owns 1,5 hectares in Cornas plus 0,5 hectares in Saint-Péray. In Cornas Mika farms famed sites such as Chaillot, Les Mazards and Saint Pierre. In Saint-Péray the main sites are Combe, Biousse and Les Putiers, only Marsanne is grown. Around 60 % of the vines are planted in the 1950's and the rest between 2004 and 2005. Vines are tended sustainably and completely manually, the vertiginous slopes of Cornas allow nothing else...

Mika applies traditional winemaking techniques; The Syrah ferments with ambient yeast and whole bunches, maceration for about 3 weeks, cap is managed initially with pumping overs which is later on substituted for punching downs. For ageing 4-8 y/o barriques, and 1 used 400-litre cask and 1 used 500-litre cask is used. Ageing goes on for 16-18 months. Whites are pressed with whole bunches, fermented with ambient yeast and then brought up in 4-6 y/o 400-litre casks for 12 months. Wines are bottled with a low amount of sulphur.

These are true "country wines", genuine and true to their origin. This is a classic in the making, producing very fine wine with more lift than rusticity. Mickaël Bourg's domaine has become a given stop for those seeking top traditional Cornas.



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