

A Virtual Tour of the Southern Rhone and its Wines

Thursday 21st January, 6pm to 7.30pm

£15 per signed in screen (so long as you're one household you can have as many people round the screen as you can fit!). Please feel free to circulate this invitation to non-members who may be interested in participating.

Presented by Olivier Hickman of Wines Uncovered

Using a mixture of photographs, maps and video clips, Olivier will explain the geography and soil of the Southern Rhone valley and why it has become one of the most important centres for wine making in France and in the world.

He will take us to some of the key wine making areas and villages including Chateauneuf du Pape, Gigondas, Vaqueras, Rasteau, Sablet and Beaume de Venise and introduce us to a few of the chateaux that he knows well.

He will talk about the unique features of Southern Rhone wines, the main grape varieties and will suggest the key things we should be looking out for when we buy and taste Rhone wines.

Before the event, and in place of a tutored tasting, we will circulate a short list, prepared by Olivier, of some typical Southern Rhone wines available in a major supermarkets and wine stores so that you can purchase one or two bottles in advance of the event and enjoy tasting them at home during the presentation.

After Olivier's presentation there will be time for questions and a discussion about the wines you may have tasted at home.

About Olivier:

It is Olivier's mission to communicate the magic and explain the wonderful diversity of terroir-based wines – wines that reflect the unique characteristics of their vineyards in contrast to standardised wines that are manufactured in the winery.

Olivier Hickman is a dual British and French national currently residing in Sablet, Provence, not far from his maternal roots in Orange. Having graduated from Cambridge University, Olivier spent ten years working in finance, eventually as a Finance Director for Warner Music. Seeking a career change, Olivier obtained his wine qualifications from the Wine & Spirits Education Trust in 1998 and set up a UK wine importing business, specialising in wines from the Southern Rhône.

In 1999, Olivier commenced a viticultural project in Valrèas, Provence and continues to cultivate and makes wines from those vineyards today. Since 2000, Olivier has also been involved in several winemaking projects in Provence and in the Languedoc.

Having gained significant and broad-ranging experience of all aspects of the wine business, Olivier set up a wine education and wine tours business in 2005 (www.wine-uncovered.com), show-casing the top villages of the Southern Rhône appellation.

Olivier has worked with Inter-Rhône (the association of Rhône wine growers) presenting Rhône wines to the international trade and to journalists and he has also lectured for the Wine Scholar Guild on their Rhône Scholar Program.

Olivier recently launched a YouTube channel called Wine Uncovered to encourage wine drinkers of all levels to discover the delights and individuality of terroir-driven wines.

His first video, "What is Terroir?" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVjp6mlqBdE>) reminds us why quality French wines are labelled by location and not by grape variety and explains how a basic comprehension of "Terroir" can enormously enhance an appreciation of French wines.

Register for the event here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtdOChrT8qGtUZYhzK2Ds1oyZiHpqbk6Pv>