



# Domaine Jérôme Despesse Cornas



## The Domaine at-a-glance

**Owners / Winemakers:** Jérôme Despesse  
**Soil:** Granite  
**Year Established:** 1992 (first bottled vintage)  
**Size:** 0.60 Ha    **Location:** Cornas, Northern Rhône Valley  
**Appellations Produced:** Cornas



*Jérôme Despesse*

Jérôme Despesse is a young energetic winemaker. In 1992 Charles Despesse, Jérôme's father, was the first to bottle wine at their tiny estate. Before 1992 they sold their wine off in bulk to the cooperative. Today Jérôme does the winemaking, while his father helps in the vineyards. Their vineyards are located at the southern end of Cornas in an area called Les Côtes. More specifically, their vineyards are in Le Craux which is a small, extremely rocky area within Les Côtes. The vines, planted by Jérôme's grandfather, are next to the vineyards of the well-known producer August Clape. In addition to his great vineyard location, Jérôme is also fortunate to have older vines, planted by his grandfather, that are an average of 50 years old.



*Basket Press at  
Domaine J. Despesse*

As the domaine consists of only 0.60 hectares, Jérôme has to work outside of the winery in order to support his family. Currently he works at Amorim, one of the top cork suppliers in France. At Amorim Jérôme works with many great producers in the Rhône Valley. This exposure to great producers can happily be seen in his own wine.

**About Cornas:** The word Cornas is of Celtic origin, meaning "burnt land". In the spirit of Cornas' Celtic origins, Jérôme used a Celtic symbol as a motif for his label. The first known mention of wine being produced in Cornas was recorded in the year 885. 1053 years later the appellation of Cornas was recognized by the French government in 1938. Today the entire appellation covers only 104 hectares.

The micro-climate of Cornas is one of the warmest in the northern Rhône. Cornas is among the earliest ripening areas in the northern Rhône, and is often a week ahead of Hermitage and Cote-Rotie. Essential to this special microclimate is the "Massif des Arlettes", which protects this area from the cool north-wind. In addition, the vineyards are planted on very steep, south and southeastern-facing granite slopes that surround the village. These unique conditions can produce some amazing wines. While dark and structured, they often have a wild side that is rugged and mysterious, much like the vineyards in which they are grown



100% Syrah

## Domaine J. Despesse - Cornas 2005

**Technical Notes:** The grapes for this wine are grown using sustainable methods and are hand-harvested. After fermentation, the wine is transferred to small oak barriques and is aged for 18 months before bottling. The wine is not filtered.

**Tasting Notes:** The nose is elegant with hints of violets, raspberry, and black cherry. In the mouth the wine is deep and dense, with black fruit, and surprisingly ripe and well integrated tannins. This wine captures both the power and elegance of Cornas.

**Total Production - 125 Cases**