

## Louis Barruol from Château de Saint Cosme Acquires Historical Estate of Château de Rouanne in Vinsobres

**Gigondas, France – June 18, 2019** – Louis Barruol, estate owner and winemaker of Château de Saint Cosme in Gigondas, is pleased to announce his acquisition of Château de Rouanne in Vinsobres. Elevated to its own AOC status in 2006, Vinsobres is a prominent cool climate terroir located in the northern part of the southern Rhone, known for its outstanding Syrah wines.

“Rouanne is a unique historical estate located in a one-block monopole slope which is the quintessence of Vinsobres,” said Barruol. “It is a very special place that deserves a lot of love and dedication.”

The property spans 177 acres, 153 of which are planted to vine. It is located in the western part of Vinsobres on a southeast-facing slope that also encompasses the parcels of Plan Guérin, Les Crottes, and Les Cotes. The vineyard was planted in the 1960s with an exceptional heritage of massale selections of Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvèdre on limestone and sandy marl dating back to the Pliocene epoch. Surrounding the vineyard is a large forest that sits atop the slope and regulates the temperatures, making Rouanne a particularly well-tempered micro-climate. The estate’s medieval castle, originally from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, was established on a 2000-year-old Gallo-Roman villa. Destroyed during the French Revolution, the castle was rebuilt in 1820.

“Château de Rouanne combines all the ingredients that make an estate outstanding,” said Barruol. “The estate has great terroir with no qualitative limits, a climate allowing the production of refined, balanced, and long-ageing wines, and a traditional cellar designed with concrete vats and an underground area to run good *élevage*. It is also a place full of history, soul, and charm. We will try to go as high as possible in quality and my feelings tell me that I can recreate with Rouanne what I have accomplished at Saint Cosme.”

Barruol assisted with the winemaking for the 2018 vintage, which will be available in the fall, and plans to immediately convert the property into a certified organic estate.

“Rouanne reminds me a lot of Château de Saint Cosme, which has been in my family since 1570. When I took over the property from my father in 1992, Saint Cosme was an unknown sleeping beauty waiting for a great love. Much the same, Rouanne is a jewel property that comes at an important stage in my vigneron life. I just regret that my father is not alive to share this wonderful news with me, and to see Saint Cosme and Rouanne become sister estates.”

In the U.S., Château de Rouanne will be imported by Craft + Estate, a division of Winebow Imports, which already represents Château de Saint Cosme. The wines will be distributed nationally by Winebow, which also sells the wines of Château de Saint Cosme and Forge Cellars, a property in New York’s Finger Lakes region, of which Barruol is a co-owner.

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