

France, Northern Rhône: The 2022 Condrieu Vintage



By [Yohan Castaing](#)

Feb 6, 2025



The 2022 vintage in Condrieu presented a fascinating study in contrasts. During my visits and tastings, I was struck by the extreme conditions that yielded wines with remarkable freshness and energy. The finest releases showcased pristine balance, which is particularly noteworthy for wines made from the Viognier grape. Typically, this variety can produce wines that are low in acidity and tend toward flabbiness, especially under the conditions that prevailed in 2022.

The defining characteristics of 2022 in Condrieu were the intense heat and severe dryness. These conditions led to highly concentrated grapes with notably low berry weights—some of the smallest on record for the region. This was coupled with very low total acidities and malic acid levels, below typical for the alcohol produced.

The August rains were crucial. They helped avoid extreme grape concentration, enabling the berries to gain weight, and contributed to the lower-than-expected alcohol levels and a good harvest yield.

The critical determinant of success for this vintage—the timing of the harvest—lay in the hands of the winemakers. Harvesting too late in such conditions risks producing wines with overt tropical fruit aromas and flabby, low-acid profiles high in sugar and alcohol, detracting from the pure expression of the terroir. Those vigneron in Condrieu who judiciously chose their harvest dates have crafted balanced, dense, round and vibrant wines—true to Viognier’s character, with the bonus of healthy yields—ranking the 2022 vintage from very good to excellent for the best of them.

For readers looking to purchase wines from this vintage, I recommend holding them in the cellar for three to five years. While the wines are undoubtedly fresh and elegant in their youth, the drought-induced bitterness necessitates patience if we wish to allow them to mellow, promising even greater enjoyment.

2022 Christophe Pichon Condrieu Caresse

RP 93

A real success, the 2022 Condrieu Caresse, matured for one year in equal parts new barrels and two-year-old barrels, reveals a dense, complex bouquet of pear, almonds, jasmine, honeysuckle and white peach mingled with delicate notes of menthol and toast. Medium to full-bodied, layered and textured, it's deep with a fleshy core of fruit framed by gastronomic bitterness, leading to a long, ethereal finish. Powerful and delicate, this excellent Condrieu was crafted from vines planted on granite soils.

1. Producer:

[Christophe Pichon](#)

[View wines from this producer](#)

Wine Region:

[FranceRhôneNorthern RhôneCondrieu](#)

Variety:

[Viognier](#)

Color / Type / Sweetness:

WHITE / TABLE / DRY

Maturity:

Early

The Wine Advocate

Reviewed by:

[Yohan Castaing](#)

Release Price:

NA

Drink Date:

2024 - 2040

2022 Christophe Pichon Condrieu

RP 91



Beautifully perfumed, the 2022 Condrieu from Christophe Pichon wafts from the glass with aromas of spring flowers, almonds and perfectly ripe white fruits. Medium to full-bodied, round and enrobing, it's textured with a fleshy core of fruit and bright acids for a Condrieu and has a long, ethereal finish. Matured for one year in used barrels, it should age gracefully over the next decade.

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[Christophe Pichon](#)

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Wine Region:

[FranceRhôneNorthern RhôneCondrieu](#)

Variety:

[Viognier](#)

Color / Type / Sweetness:

WHITE / TABLE / DRY

Maturity:

Early

Reviewed by:

[Yohan Castaing](#)

Release Price:

NA

Drink Date:

2024 - 2034

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