

CHÂTEAU DE NAGES

2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve	White	89
2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes	White	89
2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT	White	92
2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT	White	91
2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Rosé	Rose	88
2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Red	Red	88-90
2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Red	Red	88
2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes	Red	90-92
2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes	Red	89+
2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT	Red	91-93+
2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT	Red	92

Made by the incredibly talented Michel Gassier, who is leading the way in bringing needed recognition to the Costières-de-Nîmes AOC, this 70ha estate encompasses a variety of soil types and exposures. The wines represent superb values at every level, with the top wines equaling the quality of more widely known AOCs. Both '09 and '10 are very strong here and readers should not miss these wines! Website: www.chateaudenages.com

2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A very clean, fresh white, the 2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes is a blend of 50% Grenache Blanc, 40% Roussanne, and 10% Viognier. While the Grenache is all tank aged, the Roussanne and Viognier are fermented in new French oak barrels and aged for 5 months on lees. The wine shows classic southern Rhône character with notions of white peaches, lemon, subtle floral nuances, and solid minerality on the nose. This is followed by a beautifully put together white that carries a balanced, fresh texture, solid acidity, and a good finish. Like the La Réserve bottling, you can't go wrong here and this should continue to impress for 2-3 years. (89 pts.)

2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

Formerly known as the Cuvée Joseph Torrès, the 2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT is a brilliant white that will compete with anything coming out of the Rhône valley! A blend of 95% Roussanne and 5% Grenache Blanc that's fermented in new French oak, the wine delivers a fantastically pure array of ripe peach, white flowers, spice, buttered toast and green almond on the nose. While there's solid richness here, the purity and freshness of the fruit is front and center. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied with a supple, fleshy texture, rocking acidity, excellent balance, and a very long, rich finish. Impressive and this will be an incredibly versatile white that should age similar to the whites of Châteauneuf-du-Pape – meaning, drink it over the first 2-3 years, or then after 7-8. (92 pts.)

2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

With the same blend and élevage as the '10, the 2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT is perhaps just as good, showing excellent aromas of crisp pineapple, citrus rind, chamomile, and crushed flowers, medium to full body, notable balance, racy acidity, and superb focus and clarity on the finish. Certainly a top-notch effort, this can be consumed now, or cellared for 6-8 years. (91 pts.)

2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Rosé (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A textbook, delicious rosé, the 2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Rosé shows assorted red fruits, citrus, and floral notes on the nose to go with a medium-bodied, juicy, yet flavorful palate. The acidity and fruit will make this versatile on the dinner table, and it should have a year or two of drinkability. (88 pts.)

2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Red (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

Looking even better than the '09, the 2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Red, a blend of Syrah and Grenache, boast huge aromatics of garrigue, violets, crushed rock, and pure, fresh fruit on the nose. Very well done on the palate, with a medium-bodied, textured, open mouth feel and an overall fleshy feel, this should have a solid 4-6 years of prime drinking. (88-90 pts.)

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2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

The estate's entry level white and a blend of 60% Grenache blanc and 40% Roussanne, the 2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve delivers a beautifully fresh, vibrant bouquet of citrus, lime, green herb, and wet stone-like minerality on the nose. Perfumed, intense, and lively on the nose, the wine is medium-bodied on the palate and shows racy acidity, a clean, fresh texture, and a classic finish. All in all, this is an excellent, versatile white that should put a smile on anyone face over the coming 2-3 years. (89 pts.)

2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Red (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A beautiful, fresh, and supple red that delivers loads of southern Rhone flair with garrigue, spice, and mineral aromas, as well as excellent red and black fruit characteristics, the 2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes La Réserve Red has good acidity, plenty of texture, and a clean finish. All in all, this is a perfect house red that should shine for 4-5 years. (88 pts.)

2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

Quite traditional on the nose, with classic aromas of garrigue, violets, and edgy minerality, the 2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes has the fleshy, full fruit of the vintage, as well as beautiful freshness, notable structure, and solid length. As with a number of '10s, this should be accessible on release, but has the structure to age well. (90-92 pts.)

2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

Deep and dark on the nose, with loads of scorched earth, black pepper, and crushed rock notes that are balanced by ripe, edgy fruit, spice, and subtle floral nuances, the 2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Vieilles Vignes, 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah, and 10% Mourvèdre, is round and supple on the palate, showing excellent texture, solid balance, and a fresh, clean profile. Overall, this solid red is delicious now, yet also has the potential to improve with short cellaring. I would give bottles a year or two in the cellar, at which point, it should drink well for 7-8 years. (89+ pts.)

2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

Tasted from barrel and looking even better than the '09, the 2010 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT possesses knockout aromatics, a powerful, full-bodied mouth feel, fantastic purity, and solid length on the finish. Smoked beef, bacon, violets, chocolate, and ripe herbs all show up on the nose and the wine is impeccably put together. The ripe tannin and focus on the finish leads me to believe it will be approachable on release, but also age very well. Certainly, a fantastic effort that will compete with any number of wines from more prestigious AOCs, and well worth the effort to track down. (91-93+ pts.)

2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A rocking blend of 95% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, that's aged for 12 months in French oak, the 2009 Château de Nages Costières-de-Nîmes Cuvée JT sports brilliant aromas of blackberry, crème de cassis, toasty oak, licorice, and smoke on the nose. While still very youthful and showing touches of oak, the purity of fruit and class here is fruit and center. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, with a fleshy, rich texture, solid underlying structure, excellent balance, and a lengthy finish, this should be given 2-3 years in the cellar and then consumed over the following decade. Top-notch stuff. (92 pts.)

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