

The **Northern Neck Uncorked (VA)** chapter met on January 8th at Belle Mount Vineyard. Kevin Kean presented Rhone wine, a summary of the wines and AOC's in the Rhone region of France. He concentrated on describing the regions, North and South and the AOC's within those regions. Four AOC's exist in the Rhone region: Côte du Rhone; Côte du Rhone Villages; Côtes du Rhone Villages (named); Côte du Rhone Cru's.

All the wines presented were from Rhone with the exception of the Viognier, which was from Sobon Estates in California. Kevin started with a wine representative of the Northern Rhone Cru Condrieu, the Viognier from California. It was high in alcohol, but otherwise a very nice Viognier. The second wine was a rosé from Tavel, a region in the Southern most part of Rhone. It was blended from Grenache Noir, Clairette and Syrah. It was light and fruity and all liked it. The third wine presented was A Côtes du Rhone Village (un-named). Blended from Grenache and Mourvedré it exhibited the earthy/barnyard characteristics of the Mourvedré. While not all cared for the earthy tone it was characteristic of the Villages Wines. The next wine was from Rasteau in the Côtes du Rhone Villages region. It had a very jammy nose an very fruit forward. The most famous wine of the South Rhone was tasted next, Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It was a very big wine with loads of fruit and layers of complexity, one of the nights favorites. The last wine was a 2003 Côte Rôtie. Although somewhat one dimensional after the Châteauneuf-du-Pape, being 100% Syrah from the Northern Rhone, it was exceptionally smooth with a lot of finesse!

Sobon Estates – Viognier	\$15
Les Vignes des Prêchers – Tavel	\$17
Andre Brunel – Côtes du Rhone Villages	\$12
Ortas Côtes du Rhone (Rasteau)	\$13
Clos St. Michael – Châteauneuf-du-Pape	\$30
J. Vidal-Fleury Côte Rôtie 2003	\$50