

# Decanter

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## Californian premium Rhône-style reds

We asked Decanter's Rhône expert Matt Walls to blind taste largely Syrah- and Grenache-based Californian wines with some from France hidden in the line-up. Here he reports on his findings and recommends his top 20 'Rhône Rangers'...

Matt Walls  
July 31, 2019

### Donkey & Goat, The Bear, Sierra Foothills 2016

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Blind tasted by Matt Walls  
Part of **Californian premium Rhône-style reds**



Counoise, Cinsault, Mourvèdre, Grenache, Syrah and Roussanne made with no additions except a little sulphur dioxide. Lovely nose: violet, rosemary, Szechuan pepper. A very drinkable, precise style with no excess fruit, acidity or alcohol. Good crisp tannic frame. Very much built around acidity – and it works. A balanced, harmonious, willowy wine. Savoury and cool-headed.

Drinking Window 2019 - 2027