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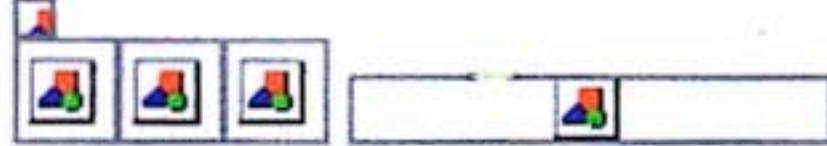
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Eight Rhône Reds for \$17 or Less

These wines from southern France combine value and quality



While some wines from the Rhône Valley in France can cost hundreds of dollars per bottle, there are also many values to be found. Appellations such as Côtes du Rhône or Côtes du Ventoux, which encompass larger areas in the region, are good sources for well-priced wines. These robust reds typically mix Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignane, offering berry and currant flavors as well as chocolate, tobacco and coffee notes.

-- Alison Napjus

Wine	Score	Price
DOMAINE DE MOURCHON Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret 2001 Rich, almost voluptuous, with lots of raspberry and blackberry fruit, and ample bittersweet chocolate, espresso, game and mineral notes. There's a ton of toast here too, but it's well-integrated. Not as rich as the Grande Réserve, but better harmony. Drink now through 2007. 3,000 cases made. -- J.M.	89	\$15
LOUIS BERNARD Côtes du Rhône 2003 Solid plum and brier flavors, with blackberry, chocolate and bacony toast as well. Fruit gives another juicy appearance on the finish. Very solid. Drink now through 2005. 15,000 cases imported. -- J.M.	88	\$11
SANTA DUC Côtes du Rhône-Villages Cairanne Les Buissons 2001 Nice beefy version here, with tar, roasted chestnut and solid blackberry and black currant fruit. Brawny, gamy finish isn't for the faint of heart, but hold till winter and then serve with a cassoulet. Best from 2005 through 2007. -- J.M.	88	\$17
LOUIS BERNARD Côtes du Ventoux 2003	87	\$11

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