

## Côte-Rôtie, La Landonne, Rouge, 2016

RATING  
**95-97+**

REVIEW [Print](#)

The flagship 2016 Côte Rôtie La Landonne is certainly on another level and might just match the 2015. Deep purple-colored and heavenly perfumed, with notes of black raspberries, violets, vanilla spice, incense and flowers, it's full-bodied, ripe, seamless, and structured. It shows the more elegant style of the vintage, but is going to need time.

TASTING DATE  
1/24/2018

MATURITY  
*unavailable*

## Hermitage, Domaine des Tourettes, Blanc, 2016

RATING  
**96**

TASTING DATE  
1/24/2018

MATURITY  
2020 - 2045

REVIEWED BY  
Jeb Dunnuck

REVIEW [Print](#)

The 2016 Hermitage Domaine Des Tourettes Blanc is a total blockbuster and almost matches what was achieved in 2015! Coming from the bottom part of the Les Bessards lieu-dit and from the Les Grandes Vignes lieu-dit at the highest point on the hill, it's 100% Marsanne brought up all in 30% new barrel. Killer notes of apple blossom, buttered citrus, and orange blossom all soar from the glass of this rich, powerful Hermitage Blanc that has a red wine-like structure, a huge mid-palate, and a great finish. It shows the fresher style preferred by this estate, has terrific purity, and will keep for 2+ decades.

## Hermitages, Les Bessards, Rouge, 2016

RATING  
**94-97**

REVIEW [Print](#)

The 2016 Hermitage Les Bessards offers more violets and floral notions, with hints of blue fruits (cassis, blueberries), full-bodied richness and building, sweet, polished tannin. It's another ripe, opulent 2016 that's going to drink nicely in its youth, yet age gracefully given its purity and balance. While a step back from the otherworldly 2015, this brilliant wine is one of the gems in the vintage.

TASTING DATE  
1/24/2018

MATURITY  
*unavailable*

## Condrieu, Clos Boucher, Blanc, 2016

RATING  
**95**

TASTING DATE  
1/24/2018

MATURITY  
2018 - 2024

REVIEW [Print](#)

A step up, the bigger, richer 2016 Condrieu Clos Boucher is blockbuster stuff, offering serious notes of crushed rock, buttered citrus, orange blossom, and a smoky, meaty, mineral character that's hard to describe. Possessing full-bodied richness, beautiful mid-palate concentration and a seamless texture, this beauty will be even better this time next year and keep for 4-6 years.

## Saint-Joseph, Sainte-Epine, Rouge, 2016

RATING  
**93-95+**

TASTING DATE  
1/24/2018

MATURITY  
*unavailable*

REVIEW [Print](#)

The 2016 Saint Joseph Sainte Epine comes from the cool, fine, granite soils of the Sainte Epine lieu-dit located just outside of Saint-Jean-de-Muzols. Its deep purple color is followed by a sensational perfume of crème de cassis, black pepper, graphite and crushed flowers. Full-bodied, elegant and seamless, with incredible purity, it's going to be one of the superstars of the vintage.

## Saint-Joseph, François de Tournon, Rouge, 2016

RATING  
**93-95**

TASTING DATE  
1/24/2018

MATURITY  
*unavailable*

REVIEW [Print](#)

The 2016 Saint Joseph François De Tournon is more Hermitage than Saint Joseph, offering lots of scorched earth, bacon fat, ripe black fruits and gunpowder-like aromas and flavors. Rich, concentrated and pure, with ample structure, give bottles 2-3 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following decade or more.

## Hermitage, Domaine des Tourettes, Rouge, 2016

### RATING

92-94

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

unavailable

### REVIEW

Leading off the two Hermitage releases, the 2016 Hermitage Domaine Des Tourettes comes from the Bessards (the bottom part) and les Grandes Vignes, which are both granite soils. Black raspberries, cassis, burning embers, saddle leather and graphite characteristics all emerge from this opulent, concentrated, impressively textured Hermitage. It has plenty of structure, yet the tannins are sweet, and I suspect it will be approachable at a reasonable age.

Print 

## Condrieu, la Galopine, Blanc, 2016

### RATING

92

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2018 - 2023

### REVIEW

The entry-level release from Condrieu is the 2016 La Galopine, which offers a clean, classic, elegant style in its buttered peach, marmalade, and floral aromas and flavors, with more toasty notes on the palate. It's beautifully balanced, has the classic Viognier richness, and a great finish. Drink it over the coming 4-5 years.

Print 

## Crozes-Hermitage, Domaine des Grands Chemins, Rouge, 2016

### RATING

91-93

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### REVIEW

The 2016 Crozes-Hermitage Domaine Des Grands Chemins is even better. Plums, blackberries, peppery herbs, and earth give way to a broad, expansive, beautifully textured Syrah that has sweet tannin and a great mouthfeel. It's going to drink nicely through 2026.

Print 

## Crozes-Hermitage, Le Clos, Rouge, 2016

### RATING

91-93

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

unavailable

### REVIEW

Lastly, the 2016 Crozes-Hermitage Le Clos comes mostly from a single parcel (the Les Saviots lieu-dit) of older vines. It offers terrific notes of cassis, black raspberries, toasted spice and dried flowers. With medium to full-bodied richness, terrific purity and ripe tannin, it's one of the undeniable successes in the vintage.

Print 

## Côte-Rôtie, Seigneur de Maugiron, Rouge, 2016

### RATING

91-93

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

unavailable

### REVIEW

Moving to the Côte Rôties, the entry-level 2016 Côte Rôtie Seigneur De Maugiron has outstanding potential. Made from 100% Syrah all from mica-schist soils, its deep purple color is followed by classic darker berry fruits, peppery herbs, graphite, and lots of rocky minerality. It's medium-bodied, nicely concentrated, and has enough tannin to warrant 2-3 years of bottle age.

Print 

## Crozes-Hermitage, Les Launes, Blanc, 2016

### RATING

91

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2018 - 2024

### REVIEW

A blend of Marsanne and Roussanne from granite terroirs, the 2016 Crozes-Hermitage Les Launes Blanc is a pure, classic white that does everything right. White flowers, citrus blossom, hints of caramelized stone fruits and honeysuckle flow to a pure, seamless, elegant white that's a joy to drink. It's a great introduction into the white wines of the northern Rhône.

Print 



## Hermitage, Les Bessards, Rouge, 2015

### RATING

# 100

### REVIEW

[Print](#)

The top cuvée from Delas is the 2015 Hermitage Les Bessards, and it's always 100% Syrah from the steep, broken granite soils of the Bessards lieu-dit. Aged 18 months in 30% new barrels, its purple/plum color is followed by a huge nose of blackcurrants, graphite, toasted spice, crushed rocks and saddle leather. Powerful, massively concentrated, and tannic, it has a broad, expansive, heavenly texture, a thick mid-palate (you could almost use a fork for this beauty), and a great finish. Despite the richness level, it stays balanced and graceful on the palate, and is never over the top or heavy. It's a perfect Hermitage that will start to shine with 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for three decades or more. Bravo!

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2026 - 2061

### REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

### SOURCE

France, Northern Rhône: The Blockbuster

## Côte-Rôtie, La landonne, Rouge, 2015

### RATING

# 97

### REVIEW

[Print](#)

The 2015 Côte Rôtie La Landonne from Delas is a seamless, gorgeously balanced Côte Rôtie that reminds me of the 2011. Offering classic notes of smoked meats, currants, graphite, chocolate and roasted herbs, this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, plenty of polished tannins, and perfect balance. It's surprisingly accessible, yet has beautiful density and depth of fruit. It's more approachable than most vintages, yet will evolve for just as long given its purity, harmony and balance. This cuvée comes all from the schist soils of the La Landonne lieu-dit, in the Côte Brune side of the appellation, was completely destemmed and spent 18 months in 40% new French oak.

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2019 - 2039

### REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

### SOURCE

## Saint-Joseph, Sainte-Epine, Rouge, 2015

### RATING

# 95

### REVIEW

[Print](#)

Even better, with more minerality and elegance, the blockbuster 2015 Saint Joseph Sainte Epine comes from this cool, windy, granite site located just outside of the small village of Saint-Jean-de-Muzols. Destemmed and brought up in 40% new oak, its vibrant purple color is followed by full-bodied notes of black raspberries, cassis, crushed rocks, and spring flowers. It's concentrated, has awesome purity of fruit, and stays compact and tight on the palate. Hide bottles for 3-4 years. This wine should evolve for 10-15 years or more.

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2021 - 2036

### REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

### SOURCE

## Côte-Rôtie, Seigneur de Maugiron, Rouge, 2015

### RATING

# 95

### REVIEW

[Print](#)

The 2015 Côte Rôtie Seigneur De Maugiron is a little gem of a wine, and I suspect the finest vintage I've tasted for the cuvée. Rounded, full-bodied, voluptuous, and impeccably balanced, it offers lots of spice, cured meats and black fruits, sweet tannin, and a great mid-palate. It has considerable elegance and purity, and is more sexy and approachable than the more structured Côte Rôtie La Landonne. It should keep for 10-12 years easily. If you want to check out the style of this estate, this is a great place to start.

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2018 - 2030

### REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

## Condrieu, Clos Boucher, Blanc, 2015

### RATING

# 95

### REVIEW

[Print](#)

I reviewed the 2015 Condrieu Clos Boucher last year but was able to taste it again this go around. White peach, citrus, tangerine, and loads of crushed rock nuances all emerge from this ripe, voluptuous, textured Condrieu that's drinking beautifully today. The 2015 was complicated for Condrieu given the heat, but this wine handles it beautifully and is fresh and lively. Drink it over the coming 3-4 years.

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2018 - 2022

## Hermitage, Domaine des Tourettes, Rouge, 2015

### RATING

# 94

### REVIEW

[Print](#)

While the Les Bessards gets all the attention, the 2015 Hermitage Domaine Des Tourettes isn't far behind and is unquestionably the value play. Beef blood, cassis, blackberry liqueur and loads of crushed rock nuances all emerge from this ripe, concentrated, full-bodied Hermitage that has a classic, structured profile. It's well worth a case purchase and will keep for two to three decades. As always, this cuvée comes from two parcels, the lower part of the Bessards lieu-dit and the Les Grandes Vignes located at the highest point on Hermitage Hill. It's completely destemmed and sees 16 months in 30% new French oak.

### TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

### MATURITY

2018 - 2048

### REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

### SOURCE

France, Northern

## Crozes-Hermitage, Le Clos, Rouge, 2015

RATING

94

TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

MATURITY

2022 - 2032

REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

REVIEW

A much smaller production cuvée, the 2015 Crozes-Hermitage Le Clos comes from the Les Saviots lieu-dit and is completely destemmed and raised in 30% new barrels. It offers more purity and focus, with terrific notes of blackberries, blueberries, graphite, crushed rocks and spice. Concentrated, tannic, and structured, yet beautifully concentrated, forget bottles for 4-5 years and enjoy over the following decade.

Print

## Cornas, Chante-Perdrix, Rouge, 2015

RATING

94

TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

MATURITY

2018 - 2033

REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

REVIEW

Moving to the 2015s, this is an undeniably great, great vintage from winemakers Jacques Grange and Claire Darnaud. Starting with his single Cornas release, the 2015 Cornas Chante Perdrix is a big, rich effort that makes the most of this brilliant vintage. Loaded with notions of cassis, plums, saddle leather and barbecue smoke, it's full-bodied, opulent and sexy on the palate, with sweet tannin. Drink this big, seriously textured beauty anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

Print

## Saint-Joseph, François de Tournon, Rouge, 2015

RATING

93

TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

MATURITY

2018 - 2033

REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

REVIEW

Both Saint Joseph releases are brilliant in 2015. The 2015 Saint Joseph François De Tournon comes vines around Tournon, Mauves, Saint-Jean-de-Muzols, and Vion, and is always destemmed and aged in 30% new barrels. This full-bodied, rounded, sexy beauty shows the power and fruit of the vintage. With classic notes of black and blue fruits, violets, incense and pepper, drink this textured, expansive, terrific Saint Joseph over the coming 10-15 years.

Print

RATING

92

TASTING DATE

1/24/2018

MATURITY

2020 - 2030

REVIEWED BY

Jeb Dunnuck

REVIEW

Coming all from the lower plains of Crozes-Hermitage (the les Chassis region), the 2015 Crozes-Hermitage Domaine Des Grands Chemins was destemmed and brought up in a mix of stainless steel and smaller barrels. It shows the house style with its pure, concentrated, focused character. Blackcurrants, cassis, toasted spice and graphite all flow to a medium to full-bodied, beautifully layered and pure 2015 that needs 2-3 years of bottle age, and will keep for a decade or more.

Print



## 2016 Delas Freres Châteauneuf-du-Pape Haute Pierre

### RATING

91-94

### TASTING DATE

10/19/2017

### MATURITY

unavailable

### REVIEW

A big step up over the 2015, the 2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Haute Pierre offers more fruit, depth, and length.

Blackberries, black raspberries, crushed rocks, garrigue and peppery notions all give way to a rich, medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated Châteauneuf du Pape that solid purity, freshness, and balance.

Print 

## 2016 Delas Freres Vacqueyras Domaine des Genêts

### RATING

90-93

### TASTING DATE

10/19/2017

### MATURITY

unavailable

### REVIEW

Offering more pleasure, opulence, and texture than the Gigondas, the 2016 Vacqueyras Domaine des Genêts dishes up lots of blackberry jam-like fruits intermixed with ample minerality, spring flowers and loads of minerality. It's pretty, elegant and polished, with good acidity, and will deliver the goods over the coming 5-7 years.

Print 

## 2015 Delas Freres Gigondas Les Reinages

### RATING

90

### TASTING DATE

10/19/2017

### MATURITY

unavailable

### REVIEW

Both the Gigondas and Vacqueyras releases are outstanding. Starting with the 2015 Gigondas Les Reinages, which is a blend of Grenache and Syrah aged in tank, it reveals classic notes of camphor, black raspberries, spice and black cherries. Medium-bodied, elegant, firm and focused on the palate, it needs 2-3 years of cellaring.

Print 

## 2015 Delas Freres Vacqueyras Domaine des Genêts

### RATING

90

### TASTING DATE

10/19/2017

### MATURITY

unavailable

### REVIEWED BY

### REVIEW

The inky colored 2015 Vacqueyras Domaine des Genêts is a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre that spent 12 months in tank. It offers lots of blackberries, plums, pepper and hints of flowers, a medium to full-bodied, elegant and balanced style on the palate, and fine, polished tannin that emerge on the finish. It's a textbook Southern Rhône that has loads to love.

Print 