

2016 Clos Saint Jean Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc

One of the standouts in the retrospective was the 2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, which is similar to the 2015 yet deeper, richer, and more textured, all while holding onto a beautiful sense of purity and elegance. Apple blossom, pear, white grapefruit, and tons of minerality all emerge from this rich, medium to full-bodied beauty that has a long life ahead of it. You can safely drink this today or any time over the coming 10- 15 years or more.

The Maurel brothers, along with rock star consultant Philippe Cambie, continue to knock it out of the park in just about every vintage, and since taking over control of the estate in 2002, they've yet to put a foot wrong. Even in the more difficult vintages, they're able to produce charming, balanced, delicious wine, and in top vintages, they produce some of the greatest wines on earth. As I've written in the past, Clos Saint Jean is at the top of their game and producing some of the most singular, hedonistic and brilliant wines in the world. Also, I was able to taste a retrospective of the white Châteauneuf-du-Pape and came away thinking that current vintages might be some of the most under-the-radar, great whites of the appellation.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/28/2018)