



2012 Clos Saint-Jean Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from France, Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Jeb Dunnuck
eRobertParker.com # 215 (Oct 2014)
Rating: 94
Drink 2014 - 2024
Cost: \$45-\$65

Similar to the base cuvée, yet with more of everything, the 2012 Châteauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes offers smoking notes of kirsch, black cherry liqueur, ground herbs, licorice and big minerality. On the palate, it's medium to full-bodied, seamless, pure and exceedingly elegant, all while carrying superb mid-palate concentration, plenty of tannic grip and a blockbuster finish. Drink this brilliant 2012 over the coming decade or more. This 120 acres estate, under the leadership of the Maurel brothers and oenologist Philippe Cambie, continues to fashion some of the most profound wines on the planet. Their 2012s, which is a vintage compared to a mix of 2009 and 2010 by Vincent, fall just short of what was accomplished here in 2010 and 2007, but are incredible wines that certainly rank at the top of the vintage. Readers should also check out the retrospective from this estate in Issue 214 to get an idea how these wines evolve. Importer(s): Eric Solomon. European Cellars, 2129 E Seventh St., Charlotte, NC 28204, (704) 358-1565, www.europeancellars.com

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Made from older vines and a tank-aged blend of roughly 85% Grenache and the balance Mourvedre and Syrah, the 2012 Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes has additional levels of kirsch, garrigue, ground herbs and black raspberry as well as a full-bodied, decadently textured profile on the palate. Despite the richness level here, it remains gorgeously fresh and even elegant. Enjoy it over the coming 10-12 years. Drink now-2024. Always one of the highlight visits during my time spent working in the

Southern Rhone, Clos Saint-Jean, which includes over 100 acres of prime terroir in Chateauneuf du Pape (mostly in the south), is run by brothers Pascal and Vincent Maurel, with consulting help from the incredibly talented Philippe Cambie. Releasing 5 Chateauneufs in top vintages, they also pair up with Manfred Krankl, of Sine Qua Non in California's Santa Barbara County, and release another high-end cuvee call Chimere. While the winemaking here is often labeled as modern, it is actually relatively traditional, with the Grenache almost always aged in tank and only the Mourvedre and Syrah seeing time in larger, 500-600 liter oak barrels, or demi-muids. In addition, the cuvees may also include small amounts of whole-cluster fermentation. Regardless of how you classify it, the results speak for themselves and there are few wines in the world I'd rather drink. Importers: Eric Solomon, European Cellars, Charlotte, NC; tel. (704) 358-1565 and Paul M. Young, Los Angeles, CA; tel. (323) 222-2003 Importer(s): Eric Solomon. European Cellars, 2129 E Seventh St., Charlotte, NC 28204, (704) 358-1565 , www.europeancellars.com
