

2012 Eric et Joel Durand St Joseph Cuvee Lautaret

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from France, St Joseph, Northern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Jeb Dunnuck eRobertParker.com # 216 (Dec 2014)

Rating: 93 Drink -Cost: \$40

Even better, the 2012 Saint Joseph Cuvee Lautaret sports an inky purple color to go with fabulous notes of ripe black raspberry, cassis, licorice, beef blood and leather. Full-bodied, concentrated and textured, with lots of sweet tannin, it's a serious Saint Joseph that readers need to buy. Another brilliantly run estate in the Northern Rhône, Eric and Joel Durand have made rich, concentrated and textured 2012s that show the vintage nicely. These should drink nicely on release yet evolve gracefully. Their 2013s follow suit, with their top cuvee, the Cornas Confidence, being the only wine that will really require cellaring to become approachable. The style here is quasi-modern, with plenty of destemming and moderate new oak, but the wines all hold onto plenty of Cornas character. They're highly recommended. Importer(s): Fruit of the Vines Inc, 161 w 54th St #203, New York, NY 10019, (212) 765-2970 Paul M. Young Fine Wines, Los Angeles, CA, (213) 232-5199

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Looking at the Saint Josephs, the 2012 Saint Joseph Lautaret (aged 12 months in 20% new oak) shows the house style with its purity, voluptuous texture and sweet, polished tannin. Offering up notions of purple fruits, violets, charred meats and bouquet garni, this medium to full-bodied effort will have over a decade of longevity. The brothers Eric and Joel Durand, who started working with their father in 1988, have excelled in both 2011 and 2012. Importer: A Terrisson Wines Selection, imported by Fruit of the Vines, Long Island City, NY; tel. (718) 392-5640 Importer(s): Fruit of the Vines Inc, 161 w 54th St #203, New York, NY 10019, (212) 765-2970 Paul M. Young Fine Wines, Los Angeles, CA, (213) 232-5199