

vinous**94**_{pts}**Clos Saint-Jean 2012 Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Combe des Fous****Châteauneuf Du Pape, Rhône****Red wine from France****Drinking window: 2017 - 2025**

Opaque ruby. Potent red fruit liqueur and Asian spices on the highly perfumed nose, with a mineral element adding lift. Sweet, concentrated and energetic on the palate, with intense raspberry and cherry-cola flavors deepening and gaining power with air. The penetrating, floral finish features outstanding clarity and thrust, with harmonious tannins providing shape and grip.

Josh Reynolds. Tasting date: February 2015

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From Châteauneuf du Pape: The Lively 2013s and Lush 2012s (Apr 2015)

Clos Saint Jean

In a testament to just how savaged the Maurel brothers' Grenache vines were in 2013, there will only be two bottlings made, the straight Châteauneuf-du-Pape and the U.S.-destined Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes. Vincent Maurel kept a stiff upper lip during our February tasting by pointing out that the 2013 Vieilles Vignes, which received the lion's share of the fruit that normally makes up the Deus Ex Machina and Combe des Fous bottlings, is an uncommonly rich and powerful rendition of that wine, and one that will reward patience: "at least a decade, to be conservative." Given the preference for extroverted, fruit-driven wines that Vincent and his brother Pascal share, it's no surprise that they're quite pleased with their 2012s, from a vintage that Vincent calls "ideal for consumers and for restaurants that want to move their wines soon after they arrive." Like so many of their neighbors, the Maurels compared

2012 to 2010, but, said Vincent, "while you need to age the '10s, holding onto the '12s is a choice, not an obligation."

Grape Variety

60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Cinsault, 10% Vaccarèse

Release price

\$106.00

Winery/Importer Contact Info

closstjean.fr. USA: Eric Solomon Selections
-europeancellars.com.

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