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91 pts

Clos Saint-Jean 2012 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

Châteauneuf Du Pape, Rhône

Red wine from France

Drinking window: 2018 - 2026

Inky ruby. Heady, mineral-accented aromas of blueberry, cherry compote, lavender and cola, with a smoky nuance building in the glass. Palate-staining dark berry flavors pick up notes of white pepper and licorice as the wine opens in the glass. This powerful yet nimble Châteauneuf finishes with very good clarity and silky tannins that add gentle 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

75% Grenache, 15% Syrah, the rest Mourvèdre, Cinsault, Vaccarèse and Muscardin

Release price

\$51.00

Winery/Importer Contact Info

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

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