

Decanter

Jean-Louis Chave

2017 Saint-Joseph

Rhône Valley, France

January 2019

A tasting of the four main vineyards shows that Chave's 2017 domaine St-Joseph is looking strong. Le Clos is rich, fruity, opulent and velvety in texture, and hedonistic in this vintage. The Challeys component, from a granitic hill just above Le Clos, is structured and saline, with more black olive than Le Clos' blackberry. The clay and granite Dardouyes site contributes lush fruit, spice and a spry acidity, whereas the ethereal Bachesson has an incredible floral aroma. The general effect is one of rich fruit but good precision, superb balance and complexity. **(MW, 95 points)**