



France, Southern Rhône: Do Low Yields Equal High Quality?

featuring Font du Vent
reviewed by Joe Czerwinski

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2018 Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc Cuvée Tradition

A blend of Clairette and Grenache Blanc, the 2018 Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc Cuvée Tradition boasts floral and citrusy aromas. It's medium-bodied, with gentle pear and melon flavors and a crisp, zesty finish. Drink it over the next few years. **(90 points)**

2018 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Etienne Gonnet

Made from 110-year-old vines and aged in old demi-muids, the 2018 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Etienne Gonnet features elegant notes of roses and black tea set against ripe raspberries. It's full-bodied, silky-textured and has an almost delicate feel in the mouth, then finishes long, with hints of licorice. **(93-95 points)**

2018 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvée Tradition

Like many producers, Font du Vent's 2018 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvée Tradition has relatively more Mourvèdre and Syrah in it than usual, as Grenache is more susceptible to mildew. Black cherries and licorice notes mark the nose of this full-bodied, silky effort, which shows admirable concentration and an invigorating bit of peppery spice on the finish. **(90-92 points)**

2017 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvée Tradition

The 2017 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvée Tradition comes across as a bit tight and structured, with reticent notes of cola, berries and earth on the nose and some chewy tannins on the full-bodied, firm palate. Give it a couple of years in the cellar, then drink it over the next decade. **(90 points)**

2017 Chateauneuf du Pape Elegance de Jeanne

The 2017 Chateauneuf du Pape Elegance de Jeanne comes from a single one-hectare plot that's about 80% Grenache. Bottled only a month before my June visit, it was already singing, putting forth scents of roses and lavender, clove and allspice, raspberries and peaches. It's full-bodied yet comes across as delicate and lacy on the palate, with a long, silky finish. Just lovely, charming stuff. **(94 points)**

