



2011 Chave St Joseph

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

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 204 (Dec 2012)

Rating: (90-94)

Drink -

Cost:

The brilliant 2011 St.-Joseph possesses gorgeous purity along with abundant notes of cranberries, black cherries, black currants, crushed rocks and spring flowers. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully pure and textured, it is slightly more evolved than the 2010, and should be just as impressive as the latter wine if slightly more seductive initially. (Not yet released) I have had the privilege of tasting at this brilliant family-owned estate for over 30 years. During that time, I have seen first-hand the glory of a true evolution from father Gerard Chave to his son, Jean-Louis, and of course, the Chave family has been doing this since 1472. It is one of those small but world-class wine enterprises that is truly inspiring. Tasting through the different vineyards before their newest red and white Hermitages are blended is an education in the different terroirs of that famous dome of largely decomposed granite mixed with gravel and clay. Jean-Louis Chave characterized the 2011 vintage as challenging, where one had to perform draconian crop-thinning and selections in the winery. All the St.-Joseph vineyards are located on steep hillsides near the Chaves' home village of Mauves, to as far north as St.-Jean de Muzols and Ste.-Epine as well as those once known as Clos Florentin. Importer: Langdon-Shiverick, Los Angeles, CA; tel. (213) 483-5900

