

Pierre-Jean Villa

Given his long stint in Burgundy, it's no surprise that Pierre-Jean Villa's winemaking style runs to the elegant, even in hot vintages. His 2017s are a fine case in point, as they definitely do not behave as one might expect from a dry, incessantly hot year, showing fine detail and energy and the balance to age. The wines here, sourced from Villa's 14 hectares of vines, are made to reflect the personality of the vintage, with up to 100% whole clusters for the Côte-Rôtie Fongéant, and raised in mostly neutral barrels, with about 10% being renewed each year.

From [Power and Energy: The 2018 and 2017 Northern Rhône \(Apr 2020\)](#) by Josh Raynolds

92_{pts}

2018 Saint-Joseph Préface

Saint Joseph, Northern Rhône

Red wine from France

Drinking window: 2023 - 2030

Opaque magenta. Expressive cherry, blackberry and floral aromas, along with hints of smoky bacon, licorice and cracked pepper. Nicely concentrated and energetic on the palate, offering lively red and blue fruit and floral pastille flavors that stretch out and become sweeter with air. Closes very long, sappy and smooth, showing fine delineation and spicy bite on the gently tannic, floral-tinged finish.

93_{pts}

2017 Saint-Joseph Tildé

Saint Joseph, Northern Rhône

Red wine from France

Drinking window: 2023 - 2031

Deep, brilliant ruby. Intense dark berry, floral and olive paste scents are energized by building mineral and cracked pepper flourishes. Stains the palate with appealingly sweet black and blue fruit, floral pastille, cola and spicecake flavors that show a suave blend of depth and energy. Finishes on an emphatic floral note, showing sharp definition, well-knit tannins and resonating florality. I underestimated this wine last year, perhaps because I tried and reviewed it very soon after bottling.

94_{pts}

2017 Côte-Rôtie Fongeat

Côte Rôtie, Northern Rhône

Red wine from France

Drinking window: 2024 - 2034

Brilliant, youthful purple. Highly expressive aromas of ripe raspberry and boysenberry, smoky minerals, licorice and candied flowers are accompanied by exotic spice and mineral overtones. Densely packed and animated on the palate, displaying silky texture and fine delineation to the intense, mineral-drenched red and blue fruit, floral pastille and spicecake flavors. Seamless and alluringly sweet on the impressively persistent finish, which features a resonating mineral quality that adds precision and final cut. As is the case with Villa's 2017 Saint-Joseph Tildé, which I also tasted last year just after it was bottled, this is showing even better now. The rewards of patience prove true, once again. From a 0.5-hectare parcel.

91_{pts}

2018 Syrah Gamine (Collines Rhodaniennes)

Collines Rhodaniennes, Northern Rhône

Red wine from France

Drinking window: 2021 - 2027

Dark purple. Expressive black and blue fruit, smoked meat, violet and licorice scents are sharpened by spicy black pepper and mineral notes. Concentrated blackberry, bitter cherry and spicecake flavors show very good depth and become livelier with aeration. Displays a suave blend of richness and finesse and finishes very long and broad, with fine-grained tannins framing the wine's lush, dark fruit. This wine is sourced from some old as well as recent Serine plantings in the Saint-Joseph appellation. It's a hell of a value. Raised in neutral barriques and *demi-muids*.

94_{pts}

2017 Côte-Rôtie Carmina

Côte Rôtie, Northern Rhône

Red wine from France

Drinking window: 2024 - 2034

Saturated, bright-rimmed violet. An assertively perfumed bouquet displays mineral-accented black and blue fruit and wisteria scents, and olive, smoky bacon and exotic spice notes emerge with air. In a concentrated yet lively style, offering appealingly sweet, spice-laced cherry, black raspberry and candied lavender flavors that are braced by a spine of juicy acidity. Shows superb clarity and mineral thrust on an impressively long, floral-accented finish framed by fine-grained, slow-building tannins. Made from fruit grown in two parcels in the Côte Brune; 50% whole clusters.

92_{pts}

2017 Saint-Joseph Blanc Saut de L'Ange

Saint-Joseph, Northern Rhône

White wine from France

Drinking window: 2021 - 2027

Limpid yellow. Poached pear, honeydew melon and tangerine qualities, along with chalky mineral and jasmine notes on the deeply perfumed nose. Juicy and expansive on the palate, offering seamless melon, orchard fruit and honey flavors that stealthily tighten up and take on a mineral nuance with air. Shows sharp focus and firm thrust on the clinging finish, which leaves behind dusty mineral and pear nectar notes.

94_{pts}

2018 Condrieu Jardin Suspendu

Condrieu, Northern Rhône

White wine from France

Drinking window: 2020 - 2024

Translucent yellow. Powerful aromas of fresh citrus and pit fruits and pungent flowers are lent vivacity by a smoky mineral element. Juicy and penetrating in the mouth, offering intense Meyer lemon, pear and nectarine flavors that show sharp definition and floral lift. The long, seamless finish delivers impressive lift and vivacity and a resonating mineral flourish.

93_{pts}

2018 Saint-Joseph Blanc Saut de L'Ange

Saint-Joseph, Northern Rhône

White wine from France

Drinking window: 2022 - 2028

Vivid straw-yellow. Penetrating, mineral-driven aromas of fresh pear, lemon zest, peach and anise are complemented by hints of dusty minerals and white flowers that build with air. Juicy, seamless and energetic on the palate, offering fresh pear and concentrated orchard and pit fruit flavors that deepen on the back half. The mineral note returns on the sharply focused finish, which hangs on with strong tenacity.