



**Written by**  
Richard Hemming MW  
19 Nov 2018

## Rhône 2017 - Châteauneuf Tradition bottlings



*Tasting notes on the principal bottlings of the southern Rhône's most famous name, Châteauneuf-du-Pape. For a more detailed review of the southern Rhône in 2017, see [this overview article](#). Cuvées Spéciales follow tomorrow. See also [this guide](#) to published and forthcoming articles on this vintage in the Rhône Valley.*

The warm 2017 vintage in Châteauneuf-du-Pape produced concentrated, ripe fruit in excellent hygienic condition - but sometimes exacerbated the appellation's perennial problems: over-extracted, overripe fruit with hot alcohol and excessive oak. The best producers achieve balance, of course, so while the *potentially* outstanding quality of 2017 Châteauneuf is not in question, it is not a vintage that can be bought with impunity.

It might seem predictable, but there is good reason why the best names consistently get the best scores – and that is, quite simply, that they are able to realise the full quality of the vintage and their terroir. However, there are plenty of excellent wines to be discovered at much more reasonable prices. For the best value, though, Châteauneuf-du-Pape is frequently outperformed by neighbouring appellations, which are reviewed later this week.

Most of these wines were tasted in Châteauneuf-du-Pape in October 2018, either at the Fédération des Syndicats de Producteurs de Châteauneuf-du-Pape or at specific domaines. Some of the wines are pre-bottling samples – this is indicated where it is known. Most wines were tasted blind.

These 75 tasting notes are arranged in descending score order but you can change that using the drop-down menu.

Order by  ▼

- **Ch Rayas 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** *Cask samples of Grenache tasted at the domaine, from three different parcels: heart, sunrise and sunset. Heart was co-fermented with Sunrise and Sunset in 2017 because yields were so low.*  
**Sample 1 (Heart and Sunset):** There's as much stone and spice as there is fruit – all intermingling and harmonious. Pepper, plum, redcurrant, chilli and a definite garrigue herbaceous border. Very svelte tannic structure. Long and haunting on the finish.  
**Sample 2 (Heart and Sunrise):** Spiced nose, with a vibrancy and clarity that sets it apart from other Châteauneufs, and outstanding spice and herb seasoning on the finish. Lengthy black fruit with juicy, plump richness on the palate – but never too full. Cranberry and rhubarb fruit. (RH) Drink 2021-2037  
19.5
- **Clos des Papes 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** *Several different cask samples tasted at the domaine.*  
**Sample 1:** 64% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 6% Mourvèdre and Counoise.  
Quite limited nose but the palate shines – peppery, silky, pure black cherry and piquant spice on the finish. A touch of smoke and char. Long, fragrant length. Very soft tannins.  
**Sample 2:** 55% Grenache, 45% Mourvèdre.  
Black fruit on the nose, then lovely floral complexity on the finish, lined with sweet spice and dark chocolate. Same feathery tannin. Meaty, savoury length. Crystal clear.  
**Sample 3 – possible final blend:** 45% Grenache, 40% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah, plus Muscardin, Counoise and Vaccarèse.  
Black cherry, wet earth, lovely moss and garrigue with a granitic ferrous edge. Super-smooth tannins – ready to go. Lovely, long, leathery finish with savoury, charred meat to finish. (RH) Drink 2020-2037  
18.5
- **Ch de Beaucastel 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** *Cask sample. Rich, succulent black fruit with wonderful clarity and effortless depth. A real masterclass of the appellation, with meaty complexity on the palate as well as persistent fragrant spices. Spot-on balance to finish, even though the tannins are still very brash and furry. Certainly needs age, and should be a really wonderful investment. (RH) Drink 2022-2037*  
18
- **Ch Rayas, Pignan 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** *Grenache. Cask sample.*  
Riper red fruit than their Fonsalette, with purity of fruit that defies the squalor of the cellar! Plump, intense, lengthy and so intense, yet without any excess of effort. Baked soil on the finish. (RH) Drink 2021-2037

18

- **Dom du Banneret 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Superb, open complexity on the palate – garrigue, redcurrant, rhubarb and a sappy green element that gives excellent contrast to the ripe fruit. Supple and smooth on the palate, with a warm finish but great balance. Long, complex finish. (RH) Drink 2019-2033

17.5

- **La Célestière 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 55% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 15% Cinsault. Cask sample.

Tasted blind. Juicy and bright redcurrant and raspberry on the nose. Lovely floral perfume on the palate with a savoury herby note like sage. Peppery too – this is really expressive and engaging, while maintaining the classic beefy structure of the style. (RH)14.5% Drink 2019-2033

17++

- **Ch Jas de Bressy 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre. Tasted blind. Beautifully forthright fruit on the nose, with lots of red fruit ripeness and bold but not dominant oak spice. Excellent creaminess on the palate. Modern and juicy and satisfying, with all the weight and volume of Châteauneuf but lovely garrigue and herb character too, finishing with long smoky tones. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2034

17+

- **Lucien Barrot et Fils 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 3% Mourvèdre, 2% Cinsault.

Tasted blind. Baked plum, a suggestion of floral character. Black pepper on the palate, firmly tannic structure and a cooked, charred style of fruit on the finish. There is both weight and elegance here, helped by a complex, lifted aromatic range. Very nicely done. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2020-2034

17+

- **Mas Grange Blanche 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre. Cask sample.

Tasted blind. Candied red fruits, liquorice and fennel on the palate and a very firm, chewy tannic structure. Dense fruit with loads of persistence but hardly any development as yet. Worth leaving. (RH) 15% Drink 2022-2037

17+

- **Dom du Grand Tinel 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 80% Grenache, 20% Syrah.

Tasted blind. Vanilla, sweet spice, lovely blackberry fruit with impressive clarity on the nose. Thick and powerful palate with excellent fruit throughout, furry tannin that gives structure without aggression and a lovely smoky, sparky persistence. Châteauneuf with subtlety. Yet at 15.5%! (RH) Drink 2020-2030

17

- **Mas de Boislauzon 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 50% Grenache, 50% Mourvèdre. Cask sample.

Tasted blind. Jammy bramble fruit on the nose, with a touch of cocoa powder. Chewy, firm structure but with enough acid and fruit generosity to make it drinkable quite young. Aromatic, piquant spicing on the finish and good persistence. Warming and charming. (RH) 15% Drink 2019-2029

17

- **La Bastide St-Dominique 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 7% Mourvèdre, 3% Cinsault. Cask sample.

Tasted blind. Tobacco, chocolate and cooked plum fruit on the nose. Thick, oily, tarry style but there is lovely fruit definition too – blueberry, cranberry, loganberry. Great length with spicy complexity. A great example of Châteauneuf's power without being forced. Shows how the style can have both power and nuance. (RH)15% Drink 2019-2033

17

- **Dom Porte Rouge 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre. Cask sample.

Tasted blind. Plum, star anise, sweet spice. Excellent richness to the palate with a touch of sweet vanilla lending complexity. Sweet marzipan notes on the finish. Lovely persistence and elegance considering the natural weight of the style. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2020-2033

17

- **Olivier Hillaire 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 90% Grenache, 10% Syrah.

Tasted blind. Lifted floral perfume intermingling with ripe red berries on the nose. Juicy and light-footed on the palate, with a sense of elegance that is too often missing from Châteauneuf – but needn't be, and this wine proves why. Refreshing, satisfying, flavoursome. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2029

17

- **Paul Autard 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre. Cask sample.

Tasted blind. Sweet vanilla scent with rich black fruit jam on the nose. All very plush and modern on the palate with liquorice and cedar to add complexity. The high oak influence might be excessive for some, but the quality of flavours wins me over. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2029

17

- **André Mathieu 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 76% Grenache, 3% Syrah, 6% Mourvèdre, 1% Clairette Rose, 1% Cinsault, 1% Grenache Blanc, 1% Grenache Gris, 1% Terret Noir, 1% Picardan, 1% Picpoul Blanc, 1% Muscardin, 1% Bourboulenc, 1% Picpoul Noir, 1% Vaccarèse, 1% Roussanne, 1% Picpoul Gris, 1% Counoise, 1% Clairette. Cask sample.

Tasted blind. Dark fruit on the nose. Less severe on the palate, helped by sweet spice and juicy acidity. Lengthy finish with redcurrant jelly and earth notes. Mouth-watering and moreish. (RH) 15% Drink 2019-2029

17

- **Clos St-Michel 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 40% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 30% Mourvèdre.

Tasted blind. Meaty nose with charred black fruit and smoke – interestingly open for such a young Châteauneuf. Plenty of rich black fruit on the palate, with a chewy, very potent tannic grip on the finish. Very savoury finish. The structure needs time to soften, although the expressive aromatic range is tempting to drink early. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2021-2031

17

- **Ravoire et Fils 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre.

Tasted blind. Lovely smoky overlay on the nose with stewed black fruits beneath. Sweet and juicy on the palate, with cedar and clove spice giving well-integrated complexity, as well as persistence. Modern, balanced, attractive, lengthy. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2029

17

- **Clos St-Antonin, Cuvée Marie 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Freshly picked strawberry-fruit aromas, black cherry and milk chocolate giving complexity to the palate. Ripe, well defined and full of juiciness. Long, pronounced intensity with all the spice and fire of good Châteauneuf. (RH) Drink 2019-2031

17

- **Jérôme Gradassi 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Leathery nose with liqueur cherry fruit. Furry, chewy texture that makes the palate almost impenetrable. Cracked peppercorns on the finish. This has both the power and the structure to age well. (RH) Drink 2022-2033

16.5+

- **Dom de Marcoux 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Black-fruit cordial on the nose and palate with grippy, fibrous tannins and bitter herby notes on the finish. Full and balanced in structure, although the tannins deserve time. (RH) Drink 2020-2030

16.5+

- *Famille Perrin, Les Sinards 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape* Cask sample. Pure, ripe red bramble fruit. Plump body with a fine furry tannic texture. Full body, finishing with peppery seasoning. Not the heaviest type of Châteauneuf, and there's more stony character than garrigue in terms of complexity. (RH) Drink 2020-2030

16.5+

- *Juliette Avril 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 65% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre.* Tasted blind. Intense, compressed black fruit on the nose. Peppery highlights on the palate. Dry, sandy tannic texture. Decent length and depth. Needs time to open up. (RH) 15% Drink 2021-2037

16.5+

- *Dom de la Croze-Granier 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 80% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre.* Tasted blind. Red cherry fruit on the nose, almost straying towards Pinot territory in flavour terms. Refreshing crispness on the palate, although the finish goes very furry and tannic. Enjoyable flavour, but seems to have something of an identity crisis, and the tannin certainly needs time to soften. (RH)14.5% Drink 2021-2031

16.5+

- *Cellier des Princes 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 90% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre.* Tasted blind. Blackberry and plum with a sweet spice element and lovely raspberry fruit too. This is Châteauneuf with a sense of proportion, that achieves high alcohol alongside high flavour but without being overdone. Impressive and balanced. (RH) 15.3% Drink 2020-2033

16.5

- *Ch de St-Cosme 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault.* Tasted blind. Juicy red fruit with a little spice. Modern but not overripe. Delicious earthiness on the palate with a touch of farmyard aroma making this much more traditional than the nose suggests. Furry but soft tannins will be approachable early. Slightly bitter tones to finish. (RH)15% Drink 2019-2032

16.5

- *Ch de Manissy 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 100% Grenache.* Tasted blind. Expressive bramble-jam aromas, sweetly fruited palate but the finish is savoury and perfumed with some meaty character and a nice twist of spice. Mellow tannins, full body, with plenty of youthful charm. (RH)14.5% Drink 2019-2022

16.5

- *La Sousto 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 80% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 8% Mourvèdre, 1% Vaccarèse, 1% Cunoise. Cask sample.* Tasted blind. Delicious fruit clarity - plum, black cherry, bramble. There's a freshly baked fruit-cake sort of richness to the nose. Sweetly spiced palate, medium body, soft tannins and moderate length. Very easy drinking for Châteauneuf. (RH)14% Drink 2019-2027

16.5

- *Jean-Pierre Boisson, Domaine du Père Caboché 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre.* Tasted blind. Blackberry juice in a slightly candied mode, finely sieved tannins, plenty of acidic freshness and the alcohol is well integrated, giving weight without excess heat. Moderate length with fruit vibrant to the last. (RH) 15.2% Drink 2019-2030

16.5

- *Dom de Cristia 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cask sample.* Tasted blind. Extrovert black fruit on the nose with lots of herby, minty complexity. Excellent definition and tension on the palate. Not the longest finish, but the flavour complexity on the palate is already very broad. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2027

16.5

- **Chante Cigale 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault. *Cask sample.*  
Tasted blind. Stewed black fruits on the nose, with a few shavings of bitter chocolate. Classic garrigue herbiness on the palate, with almost a lavender scent. Smooth, finely ground tannins. Slightly brief on the length. (RH)15% Drink 2019-2029  
16.5
- **Eddie Féraud 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 85% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 5% others. *Cask sample.*  
Tasted blind. Cooked red fruits on the nose. Plummy and plump on the palate with a porty richness to the palate. Very juicy and rich, and just about manages to keep the alcohol under wraps. The loud end of Châteauneuf, but with convincing fruit intensity. (RH)15.5% Drink 2019-2029  
16.5
- **Albin Jacumin 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 70% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 12% Mourvèdre, 3% Cinsault.  
Tasted blind. Bramble fruit, fresh rather than cooked in style. Sweet spices on the palate - allspice and cinnamon. Surprisingly balanced considering the very high alcohol. Fiery finish, but there is fruit to last too. (RH) 15.8% Drink 2019-2027  
16.5
- **Bosquet des Papes 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 75% Grenache, 11% Syrah, 11% Mourvèdre, 1% Cinsault, 1% Vaccarèse, 1% Counoise. *Cask sample.*  
Tasted blind. Dense, compressed nose. Heavy and thick without much flavour development and finishes with austere furriness. A touch of oak spice right at the last. (RH)15% Drink 2020-2027  
16.5
- **Les Cailloux 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Ripe redcurrant and cranberry fruit on the nose. Sweet spice and chocolate on the palate leading to strong juniper bitterness on the finish. Enjoyably different on the nose, palate and finish. (RH)Drink 2019-2025  
16.5
- **Delas, Haute Pierre 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Rich raspberry fruit on the nose with a slightly reductive drainage note. The palate is much cleaner and more flavoursome, however, with an attractive bittersweet character, mouth-filling body and soft tannins. (RH) Drink 2019-2030  
16.5
- **La Boutinière 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Lots of violet fragrance on the nose. Well-defined red fruit on the palate with juicy and refreshing acidity making for a very fresh finish. Not too heavy, and should be a pretty versatile food match. (RH) Drink 2019-2029  
16.5
- **Dom Georges-Lombrière, Cuvée Marie 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Plentiful oak spice on the nose giving clove and vanilla. There is almost enough fruit to match, but the oak remains the dominant feature on the palate and finish. (RH)Drink 2019-2028  
16.5
- **Clos Mont Olivet 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** Tasted blind. Dense black fruit with a granitic, smoky element to the palate and fine but very firm tannins. Moderate length. Rubbery note on the finish. (RH) Drink 2020-2027  
16.5
- **Ch de Vaudieu (Bréchet) 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape** 80% Grenache, 20% Syrah. *Cask sample.*  
Tasted blind. Succulent red bramble fruit with attractive herby notes and a sprinkling of sweet spice. Long, aromatically driven finish with a peppery note. Lots of open, generous flavour



here. (RH)15% Drink 2019-2028

16.5

- *Grand Veneur, Le Miocène 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre.*

Tasted blind. Dense purple colour. Baked plummy fruits on the nose. A touch of vanilla and pepper on the mid palate, and firm, grippy tannin on the finish. Very pumped up - seems a touch overdone. (RH) 15% Drink 2020-2033

16

- *Dom du Vieux Télégraphe 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 65% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Cooked, slightly oxidative fruit on the nose, lacking the precision of most 2017s. Black cherry and pepper on the palate with fibrous tannin and well-integrated, tangy acidity. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2025

16

- *Dom de la Côte de l'Ange 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 65% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah.*

Tasted blind. Thick black fruit with very fine but woolly tannic texture. Heady alcohol on the finish, which lasts longer than the fruit. Can't help wishing this had been picked a little earlier. (RH) 15% Drink 2020-2027

16

- *Dom La Mereuille 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 70% Grenache, 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, 10% Cinsault. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Opaque, imposing ruby colour. Very cooked style of fruit, that could easily be South Australian, but the savoury, herby palate keeps it French. Strong and fiery on the finish. (RH) 15% Drink 2019-2026

16

- *Dom de la Janasse 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape* Tasted blind. Red fruit that is ripe almost to the point of rancidity on the nose. Juicy and generous with piquant spices on the finish. Heady alcoholic burn on the length. (RH) Drink 2019-2026

16

- *Font de Michelle 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape* Tasted blind. Richly fruited on the nose and palate with liquorice and pepper on the finish. Fine-grained but digestible tannins. Heavy and high in alcohol but just about manages to keep things balanced. (RH) Drink 2019-2029

16

- *Bois de Boursan 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape* Tasted blind. Succulent black fruit with medium body, smooth-grained tannins and a little chocolate character to finish. Moderate concentration, good ripeness, simple fruit on the length. (RH) Drink 2019-2026

16

- *Léon Perdigal 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape* Juicy, fragrant, sweetly-fruited red bramble fruit but not much of Châteauneuf's grandness, and the alcohol is a little hot. Tannins are fluffy and smooth. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2024

£24.99 Majestic 16

- *La Fagotière 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 80% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Dark, intense, closed nose. Rich, intense black fruit on the palate with a slight charred edge. Brooding and thick. Not a charmer, but it does have the requisite power of Châteauneuf. (RH)15% Drink 2020-2028

15.5

- *Dom de Beurenard 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 66% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre, Clairette Rose, 6% Cinsault, Grenache Gris, 1% Terret Noir, Picardan, Picpoul Blanc, 1% Muscardin, Bourboulenc, Picpoul noir, 1% Vaccarèse, Roussanne, Picpoul Gris, Counoise,*

*Clairrette.*

Tasted blind. Simple nose with plummy fruit and fine-grained tannic weave. Chewy structure with soft acidity and modest length. Has the weight of the appellation, but the flavour profile is fairly basic. (RH)14.5% Drink 2019-2024

15.5

- *Dom des Pères de l'Église, Le Calice de St-Pierre 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 85% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre.*

Tasted blind. Rich, red jammy fruit on the nose. Black pepper on the palate gives some complexity, and there's plenty of chew to the palate, but the finish has a slightly oxidative lack of freshness about it. (RH)15% Drink 2019-2025

15.5

- *Dom de Saje 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 80% Grenache, 7% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 1% Clairrette Rose, 1% Cinsault and Grenache Blanc, 1% Terret Noir, 1% Picardan and Picpoul Blanc, 1% Muscardin and Bourboulenc, 1% Vaccarèse, 1% Roussanne, 1% Cunoise and Clairrette. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Closed nose, slightly feral palate with an overripeness to the fruit giving a sickly-sweet impression, even though the finish is perfectly dry. (RH) 15% Drink 2019-2027

15.5

- *Dom des Saumades 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 100% Grenache. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Cherry and blackberry on the nose, herby nose giving a good sense of place.

Firm but not astringent tannins. Bitter character creeps in on the finish. (RH)15% Drink 2019-2025

15.5

- *Ch Fortia, Cuvée du Baron 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 50% Grenache, 35% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Overripe red fruit that has a composted edge to it on the nose. Very sweetly fruited on the palate. High, fine-grained tannic texture. Medium length with not much flavour beyond fruit. (RH) 15% Drink 2019-2023

15.5

- *Tour St-Michel, Cuvée des Deux Soeurs 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 90% Grenache, 10% Syrah. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Black cherry, a touch of menthol and a lot of grippy tannin and fiery alcohol on the palate. Tough and husky, without enough flavour complexity to encourage repeated visits. (RH) 15.4% Drink 2020-2030

15.5

- *Roger Perrin 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 70% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah, 3% Cinsault, 2% Clairrette.*

Tasted blind. Baked black fruit, clove spice and cherry fruit. Firmly tannic palate with liquorice and olive on the finish keeping things savoury. Moderate length. Good typicality, but fairly limited complexity. (RH)15.4% Drink 2020-2027

15.5

- *Jean Royer 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 90% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 5% Cinsault. Cask sample.*

Tasted blind. Jammy black fruit with some herby complexity adding interest. Dry, semi-firm tannins with medium body and quite sharp acidity. Fiery alcohol on the length. (RH) 15.5% Drink 2020-2030

15.5

- *Dom du Bois de St-Jean 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape* Tasted blind. Candied bramble fruit, furry tannin and heavy, leaden texture. Hot, heavy finish. Embraces the Châteauneuf formula, but in a rather clumsy way. (RH) Drink 2020-2030

15.5



- Giraud 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tasted blind. Restrained black fruit on the nose. Limited aromatic scope with hard tannic fuzz. That might soften, but I'm not so sure if the flavour intensity will improve. (RH) Drink 2019-2027  
15.5
- Dom de l'Abbé Dîne 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tasted blind. Simple, confectioned red fruit. Peppery palate with a slightly vegetal note to it. Smooth, chewy texture. Balanced but aromatically myopic. (RH) Drink 2019-2026  
15.5
- Dom de Ferrand 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 85% Grenache, 4% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 2% Cinsault, 4% Bourboulenc.  
Tasted blind. Cordial-style aromas. Densely-packed palate, with plenty of tannin and acid to accompany the intense fruit. Finishes with a very bitter olive character that leaves an austere aftertaste. Crude. (RH) 15% Drink 2020-2024  
15
- Berthet-Rayne 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 10% Cinsault, 5% Syrah. Tank sample.  
Tasted blind. Fragrant red fruits with plenty of garrigue herbiness on the nose. Relatively light on the palate (in the context of 2017 Châteauneufs) and there's a slightly chlorinated note which spoils the fruit purity on the finish. (RH)14.9% Drink 2019-2024  
15
- Brotte, Domaine Barville 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre. Cask sample.  
Tasted blind. Simple, straightforward red fruit on the nose. Sufficient ripeness and balance but not much persistence or complexity. Recognisable as a Rhône, but lacks the extra pizzazz expected of Châteauneuf. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2024  
15
- Ch Maucoil 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 60% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 10% Cinsault.  
Tasted blind. Dark purple colour, highly confectioned nose with loads of extraction on the palate – furry tannin, dense fruit and a varnish aroma suggesting high acetones. Leaves an impression of trying too hard. (RH)14.5% Drink 2019-2027  
15
- M Chapoutier, Pie VI 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Grenache, Syrah.  
Tasted blind. Generic black-fruit aromas. Chunky palate with high but fine tannins and plenty of heat on the finish. Classic Châteauneuf style, albeit in a fairly simple flavour profile. (RH) 15% Drink 2019-2026  
15
- Charvin 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 82% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 4% Vaccarèse, 4% Cunoise. Cask sample.  
Tasted blind. Candied fruit, like boiled cherry sweets. Some violet complexity too. Grainy, chalky tannic grip on the palate. Quite fierce structure – this has had a lot of vigorous extraction, it seems. Moderate length without much complexity. (RH) 15% Drink 2021-2027  
15
- Dom de St-Siffrein 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 55% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault. Cask sample.  
Tasted blind. Nappyish aroma on the nose, suggesting something bacterial in the aromatic mix. Not sure if that's reductive or bretty, but it doesn't seem clean either way. There's enough fruit for it not to be too distracting, but tasted against its peers, this seems a little too rustic. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2027  
15

- Dom de St-Paul 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Tasted blind. Compressed, muted nose. Fine tannins, full body, simple red fruit. A routine Châteauneuf. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2024  
15
- Dom de Villeneuve 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 70% Grenache, 16% Mourvèdre, 8% Syrah, 4% Cinsault, 2% Clairette.  
Tasted blind. Lots of primary red fruit on the nose, followed by a simple, reasonably light palate with moderate length and a straightforward fruitiness. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2024  
15
- Dom du Bienheureux 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 90% Grenache, 10% Cinsault.  
Tasted blind. Very furry tannin, suppressed fruit and a short finish. The nose has something slightly chemical too. (RH) 14.5% Drink 2019-2024  
14.5
- Ch Gigognan 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah. Cask sample.  
Tasted blind. Understated nose. Simple red fruit on the palate. Easy-drinking wine but seems underweight, and the alcohol sticks out on the finish. (RH) 15.3% Drink 2019-2022  
14.5
- Ch Fargueirol 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault.  
Tasted blind. Slightly animal, feral edge to the nose with tough tannins that leaves the palate hollow through insufficient fruit. (RH) 15% Drink 2020-2026  
14.5
- Ch Cabrières 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre, 10% Cinsault.  
Tasted blind. Reductive drainage stink on the nose, which compromises the fruit freshness, leaving a sour sort of impression on the palate. (RH)14.5% Drink 2020-2027  
14.5
- Pierre Usseglio 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape 55% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 5% Cinsault.  
Tasted blind. Heavyweight and chunky, and the aromatic range seems bound by the high alcohol. Bitter, tart finish. (RH)16% Drink 2019-2026  
14.5