

Château Saint Jean Plan de Dieu 2011

CSPC# 764828

750mlx12

14.5% Alc./Vol.

open

Grape Variety

70% Grenache, 30% Syrah

Appellation

Côtes du Rhône Villages AOC

Website

<http://www.chateauneuf.dk/gigondas/en/gigen9.htm>

General Info

Located in the Travaillan commune to the east of Orange, the vineyard of Château Saint Jean covers the vast plateau of the Plan de Dieu, reputed as a wine-growing area since Roman times. This estate belonged to the Sérignan lords until the revolution. Bought in 1946 by the Meffre family, the estate originally covered 60 hectares and was expanded to its current size by clearing and planting another 80 hectares. On this terraced, gravelly soil, the blend of Grenache, Carignan and Syrah produces generous red wines, suitable for ageing; the white wines from white Grenache, Clairette, Rousane and Bourboulenc are lively and fruity.

The Plan de Dieu appellation was awarded Côtes du Rhône Villages status in 2005. It produces only red wines, which tend to be full bodied, with intense red berry flavours and herbal aromas reminiscent of the surrounding 'garrigue'. Winemaking on the plain goes back to Medieval times though intensive bombing and mining of the area during WWII set production back considerably. Very much an appellation on the up.

Vintage

Plan de Dieu, "Plan of God" in French, is one of the regions in the Cotes du Rhone Villages area that is allowed to display its name on the bottle's label, making it one of the more highly regarded areas in this appellation. Renowned since the Roman age, the name was given during the middle ages when the churches here were primarily responsible for wine production. This one, from the Meffre family is flamboyant and delicious, divine even!

Vineyards

Average age of vines: 35 years. The Old vines, over 50 years, constitute 15% of the vineyard 100% organic fertilisers and certified organic compost.

80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Carignan.

Vinification/

Maturation

destemmed, 2-3 week vinification, pumping overs, steel & concrete vat raised 18 months, unfinned, filtered.

Tasting Notes

A classy wine with a polished nose of red currant fruit. The palate expresses ripe red berries with hints of dried herbs.

Serve with

Perfect red for richer pork dishes, crock pot recipes and tomato-based seafood stews. Red meats, potages, and cheeses. Its bright and zesty character makes it a perfect companion for pizza, pasta, spicy stews and anything grilled. Also pair this with roast chicken or chicken mole dishes. We recommend serving red wines at 15°C (59°F). This can be achieved by opening the wine and putting it into the fridge 15 min. before serving it.

Cellaring

Drink now to 2019

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013 (score only)

90 points - Daily Telegraph, wine.telegraph.co.uk - February 2013

Bronze Medal - Concours des Grand Vins de France Macon 2012

Reviews

"An aromatic whirlwind, the intriguing berry-oriented bouquet is complemented by scents of lignified stalks, allspice, tapenade, and bark, with a pleasant lactic undertone. On the palate, the wine is seemingly enrobed in ganache and black raspberries, with a delicious core of chocolate brownie-like flavors at the center. Truly irresistible. An inspired blend of 65% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 5% Carignane, and 5% Mourvedre, aged in concrete."
- dawsonwine.com



Reviews *“Located in the Travaillan commune to the east of Orange, the vineyard of Chateau Saint Jean covers the vast plateau of the Plan de Dieu, reputed as a wine-growing area since Roman times. This estate belonged to the Sérignan lords until the revolution. Bought in 1946 by the Meffre family, the estate originally covered 60 hectares and was expanded to its current size by clearing and planting another 80 hectares. A blend of 65% Grenache, 35% Syrah. Classy, polished nose with excellent depth of redcurrant fruit. Ripe but really fresh with tart little red berries stashed with dried herbs. Pretty, but serious.”*
-wine.telegraph.co.uk

“A real find from the up-and-coming Plan de Dieu appellation in the southern Rhone, courtesy of the much respected Meffre family. Nestled in amongst the great communes of the area (Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas and Vacqueyras), Plan de Dieu produces delicious, juicy reds from Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre. This excellent example is vibrant and complex and shows many of the characteristics associated with its more famous neighbours, but at a much lower price. A very well made and extremely tasty red.”
-fromvineyardsdirect.com
