

2016 Clos Saint Jean Châteauneuf-du-Pape Combes des Fous

Deep ruby-colored and offering a heavenly bouquet of black raspberries, toasted spiced, cured meats, licorice, and cured meats, the 2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Combes des Fous is awesome on the palate, with a silky, seamless profile that just keeps on going. Possessing ultra-fine tannin, no hard edges, and a huge finish, it's a phenomenal bottle of wine. The fact that it was bottled just one month ago makes this showing even more impressive.

The Maurel brothers, along with rock star consultant Philippe Cambie, continue to knock it out of the park in just about every vintage, and since taking over control of the estate in 2002, they've yet to put a foot wrong. Even in the more difficult vintages, they're able to produce charming, balanced, delicious wine, and in top vintages, they produce some of the greatest wines on earth. As I've written in the past, Clos Saint Jean is at the top of their game and producing some of the most singular, hedonistic and brilliant wines in the world. Also, I was able to taste a retrospective of the white Châteauneuf-du-Pape and came away thinking that current vintages might be some of the most under-the-radar, great whites of the appellation.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/28/2018)

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