

Jean-Louis Chave

as reviewed by James Suckling

October 2, 2019

Hermitage Cuvée Cathelin 2015

Rhône Valley, France

A savory, smoky and tarry sheen of aromas, ahead of a core of ripe red plums and cherries. Freshens in the glass and unfurls tremendous fruit. The depth of fresh red-plum flavor is stunning. Such long and deep tannins carry concentrated and velvety, dark-cherry and plum flavors through the mid-section, which are then dusted in fine pepper and spice at the finish. Best from 2028. (98 points)

Hermitage 2016

Rhône Valley, France

Very floral and just settling in with fresh red cherries and blackberries that have real freshness and definition. Great energy here. Very upright and elegantly focused. Dark chocolate and licorice to close. You feel the granite profoundly here. Try around 2028. (98 points)

St.-Joseph Clos Florentin 2017

Rhône Valley, France

The third release (debut in 2015), this is a very polished and super intense, licorice and dark-plum style from a small Clos that is restored. Very supple palate with

depth and polish. Drives deep and long. Chocolate and silky, deep and vibrant tannins. (94 points)

Hermitage 2017

Rhône Valley, France

Aromas of graphite, tar, dark chocolate and black cherries abound, as well as ripe dark plums. This is a very convincing and complex edition of this wine. The palate is so concentrated and has a super deep, plush and fleshy stream of fresh plums and blackberries, as well as a swathe of fine tannins. Profoundly rich and velvety with a strong backbone. This will age for more than two decades after release. (97-98 points)

St.-Joseph 2017

Rhône Valley, France

Final blend in tank, immediately prior to bottling. This has fresh and exotic red fruit with plenty of spice and tarry nuances, plenty of fragrance and dry stony aromas, too. Elegant and plush with complex texture. The tannins are gently grippy. Finishes with chocolate and spice. Best from 2025. (93-94 points)

Hermitage Blanc 2018

Rhône Valley, France

The thickness of the skins on Chave's old vine parcels is what gives this wine its unrestricted depth and intensity, as well as its ability to age for a very long time. Aromas run from very pretty and floral, through peaches and lemons and into crushed and grilled nuts. The palate is such a textural essay with an attractively youthful and pithy shunt of tannin that underwrites a considerably long finish and long cellaring potential. Age and try from 2030. (96-97 points)

