VINOUS, Avril 2018

Saint Joseph 2016 : 91 pts

Dark, bright-hued ruby. Smoke-tinged cherry and blackberry scents, along with hints of smoky bacon, vanilla and pungent flowers. Nicely concentrated and supple on the palate, offering juicy black and blue fruit flavors that become sweeter and more lively with air. Closes long and smooth, showing very good clarity and thrust to its spicy, gently tannic finish. -- Josh Raynolds

Crozes Hermitage Rouge Cuvée particulière 2016 : 91 pts

Brilliant ruby. Lively, mineral-accented scents of blackberry, cherry and peppery spices, along with a suave floral component. Fresh and lively on the palate, displaying spicy lift and focus to its sappy dark fruit and spicecake flavors. Finishes long, supple and sweet, with zesty mineral cut, a hint of cracked pepper and smooth, even tannins.

-- Josh Raynolds

Crozes Hermitage Rouge Cuvée Christophe 2016 : 92 pts

Inky ruby. Powerful black and blue fruit, smoky bacon, mocha and licorice aromas are sharpened by black pepper and zesty mineral notes. Offers concentrated blueberry, bitter cherry, vanilla and spicecake flavors that show very good clarity and open up steadily with aeration. Displays a deft blend of depth and energy and finishes very long and supple, with fine-grained tannins framing the densely packed dark fruit.

-- Josh Raynolds

Hermitage rouge Cuvée Emilie 2016 : 93 pts

Opaque ruby. Ripe blackberry and cherry liqueur aromas are complemented by suggestions of exotic Indian spices, vanilla, olive and candied violet. Sweet, expansive black/blue fruit and roasted coffee flavors put on weight and turn fleshier with air while a smoky mineral element adds zesty back end lift. Velvety tannins add gentle grip to a spicy, floral-dominated finish that lingers with strong, dark fruit-driven tenacity.

-- Josh Raynolds