

JEB DUNNUCK



The 2016 and 2017 Northern Rhône

« Domaine des Remizières is run by the Desmeures family, with daughter Emilie Desmeures making the wines and her father Philippe managing the vineyards. They have 34 hectares spread between Crozes-Hermitage, Saint Joseph and Hermitage, and while they make a relatively modern style of wine, they never lose their Northern Rhône soul. In addition, they age beautifully. This is unquestionably one of my favorite estates in Crozes-Hermitage. »

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Christophe Blanc 2017 : 90 pts

The 2017 Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Christophe Blanc checks in as a blend of 85% Marsanne and 15% Roussanne that was aged in 30% new French oak, with the balance in once-used barrels. It offers some spiced orchard fruits, honeyed minerality, hints of brioche, and minerality. With medium-bodied richness, some background oak, and good acidity, it's one of the more backward whites in the vintage and will benefit from another year in bottle.

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée particulière Blanc 2017 : 89 pts

The 2017 Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Particulière Blanc (100% Marsanne) is more upfront and charming, with moderate concentration yet pure, elegant notes of golden citrus, white flowers, and hints of salty minerality. It's clean and pure, yet a relatively short and simple wine from this estate. But at \$16, I'm not complaining.

Hermitage Cuvée Emilie blanc 2017 : 94 pts

The 2017 Hermitage Cuvée Emilie Blanc (100% Marsanne) was brought up in 60% new barrels, with the balance in once-used. It has a ripe, tropical bouquet of pineapple, spiced melon, crushed rocks, and exotic flowers. Possessing a full-bodied, rich, sexy mouthfeel, a distinct salty minerality, and sensational purity, it will be better in another year and keep for 10-15+ years. It's an awesome Hermitage Blanc!

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée particulière rouge 2017 : 91 pts

Leading off the reds and deep purple-colored, the 2017 Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Particulière was brought up a mix of new and used demi-muids. It has terrific notes of cassis, black cherries, gravelly minerality, and graphite. With medium to full body, ripe yet present tannins, terrific purity of fruit, and a great finish, it's a terrific success in the vintage and well worth seeking out.

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Christophe rouge 2017 : 92-94 pts

Not yet bottled, the 2017 Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Christophe reveals a saturated purple color as well as a powerful bouquet of jammy blackberries, black cherries, graphite, toasted spices, and cured meats. Just loaded with fruit, this full-bodied barrel sample has remarkable purity, a voluminous, expansive texture, lots of sweet tannins, and a great finish. It's a rock star Crozes that will have 10-15 years of overall longevity.

Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Christophe rouge 2016: 92 pts +

Moving to the 2016, all of which were tasted from bottle, the 2016 Crozes Hermitage Cuvée Christophe is a rich, powerful Crozes in the vintage. Brought up in 70% new French oak, it offers a rich array of crème de cassis, jammy blackberries, toasted spice, and subtle oak. Rich, medium to full-bodied, and beautifully textured on the palate, it's drinking nicely today yet will be even better with a year or two of bottle age and keep through 2026+.

Hermitage Cuvée Emilie rouge 2016: 94 pts

The 2016 Hermitage Cuvée Emilie was brought up all in new barrels. It's come together nicely and offers a classic, smoky, meaty bouquet of darker fruits, leafy herbs, saddle leather, and truffle. Inky colored, medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated, and beautifully textured, it shows more and more complexity with time in the glass as well as an alluring floral quality. It's already approachable, assuming you don't mind ripe tannins, but will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and cruise for 10-15 years.

Hermitage Cuvée Emilie rouge 2017 : 94-96 pts

The inky colored 2017 Hermitage Cuvée Emilie (15 months in new oak) offers a modern yet beautifully pure bouquet of crème de cassis, toasty oak, crushed rocks, graphite, and lead pencil notes. Deep, full-bodied, layered, and pure, with sweet yet present tannins, this beautiful wine has the purity and balance that's the hallmark of the domaine and will benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and keep for two decades.

Saint Joseph rouge 2017 : 91-93 pts

The 2017 Saint Joseph was brought up in 30% new oak, with the balance in once-used barrels. This deep purple-hued effort has some obvious oak as well as deep, ripe black fruits, charcoal, ground pepper, and earthy aromas and flavors. Rich, full-bodied, concentrated, and layered, it's going to need a year or two to integrate its oak, but this beauty has fabulous depth of fruit.

Saint Joseph rouge 2016 : 94 pts

The 2016 Saint Joseph is a winner. Coming from 40-year-old vines, granite soils, and brought up in 30% new oak, it has straight-up classic notes of blackberries, crushed violets, pepper, and obvious minerality to go with a tight, medium-bodied, concentrated style on the palate. Possessing a rare level of purity and finesse in its tannin, drink this beauty any time over the coming decade.