

DOMAINE JOLIVET

Saint-Joseph

Situated in the northern Rhône valley, in the heart of the historical Saint Joseph appellation, the domaine's first harvests were in 2014. Following several years spent working in France and abroad, Bastien Jolivet decided to return to the family business and join forces with his father. They stopped selling on their grapes and began to produce their own wine. The domaine currently has 8ha of vines in Saint Joseph red and white.

The vines are planted on south/southeast-facing hillsides with stone walls to keep the earth in place. The Syrah varietal thrives in these granite soils and the vineyards are cultivated almost entirely by hand.

The domaine aims to produce wines that are as well-balanced as possible and believe that this work begins in the vineyards. The grapes are carefully handled in the winery with traditional temperature-controlled vinification in stainless steel vats for maximum extraction. The ageing and malolactic fermentation are carried out in barrels.



White wines

Saint Joseph White: 95% Marsanne co-planted with a small amount of Roussanne. The vines are aged between 40 and 50 years.

The grapes are pressed and placed in barrels directly after settling. The harvests take place quite early in order to conserve the acidity in the Marsanne, counteract its strength and give the wine balance.

Bright yellow in colour with greenish tints. After a few swirls in the glass the nose develops aromas of white flowers and dried nuts such as almonds. The palate shows good volume, balance and a long and very complex finish.

Enjoy within 3 years to appreciate the primary aromas of white flowers. Age longer to allow the tertiary aromas to develop such as honeyed notes from the old Marsanne vines of the Northern Rhône.

Red wines

IGP Collines Rhodaniennes "La Cuvée de Louis": composed of young Saint Joseph vines and vines planted in granitic sands just a hundred metres from the Saint Joseph appellation.

The yields are controlled and the vines are cultivated in the same way as the Saint Joseph.

This wine is dominated by notes of crushed strawberries and offers good volume and an elegant finish.

Saint Joseph Rouge "L'Instinct": produced from the domaine's 10 Saint Joseph parcels.

Each parcel is vinified and aged separately and then blended before bottling.

For the first vintage, the domaine decided to make just one wine, with each terroir bringing its own distinctive character to the blend. The wines are aged between 12 and 14 months.

The nose opens up with aromas of spice and violet. The palate offers smooth, delicate tannins, good balance and a nice tannic structure.



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Bastien Jolivet worked for four years under Stéphanie Montez at Domaine du Montillet. In fact, it was Montez who prodded me to try Jolivet's own wines, which are made from his family's 23.5 hectares of vines on the granitic soils of Saint-Jean-de-Muzols. Prior to Jolivet's return home in 2013 the estate's grapes went to Cave de Tain. I was pleased to learn that Jolivet now has U.S. distribution and urge readers whose taste for northern Rhone wines runs to the elegant style to check his wines out.

-Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, April 2018

Saint-Joseph Cuvée L'Instinct 2016

TOP VALUE NEWCOMER: Earthy, savoury tapenade and thyme. Balancing acidity, nothing overdone, and a saline finish. Unforced and textured.

93 points– Decanter Magazine, May 2018

Deep brilliant ruby. A highly perfumed, complex bouquet evokes fresh black and blue fruits, candied flowers and olive, and a smoky mineral topnote lends urgency. Appealingly sweet and precise on the palate, offering concentrated boysenberry and cassis flavors that pick up a peppery, spice nuance on the back half. Shows excellent delineation and floral thrust on the clinging finish, which is framed by smooth tannins. The 2015 version of this wine is still extremely young but drinks quite nicely if you give it a couple of hours of air.

92 points– Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, April 2018

Saint-Joseph Cuvée de Louis 2016

Bright violet color. Lively and precise on the nose, displaying intense red/blue fruit and floral character, along with zesty pepper and mineral flourishes. In a vibrant style, showing very good definition to its juicy black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors. Takes a sweeter turn on the finish, which lingers with very good, gently tannic persistence. This one is pretty delicious already.

90 points– Josh Reynolds, Vinous Media, April 2018