

2008 Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape

Rating: 88
Drink: 2010-2016

The light ruby-colored 2008 Chateauneuf du Pape is a classic, quintessential wine of Provence. Notes of lavender, roasted herbs and sweet kirsch are offered in a soft, seductive, round, medium-bodied, sexy style displaying lots of fruit. Enjoy it over the next 5-6 years.

One of the up and coming superstar estates in Chateauneuf du Pape is that of Isabel Ferrando's Domaine Saint-Prefert. Her 2007s are future legends, with one perfect wine (the Collection Charles Giraud), and two nearly perfect efforts (the Reserve Auguste Favier and the 100% Grenache cuvee sold under the Isabel Ferrando label, the Chateauneuf du Pape Colombis). Under her own name, Isabel Ferrando produces a 100% Grenache from 60-year-old vines. The difference is that the Isabel Ferrando cuvee, called Chateauneuf du Pape Colombis, is aged in the truncated wood cuves (tronconique in French) prior to bottling. The 2007 Colombis is one of the greatest expressions of ripe, concentrated Grenache that I have ever tasted.

A Daniel Johnnes Selection. imported by Michael Skurnik.

- Robert Parker (October, 2010)

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2009 Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape

Rating: (88-90)
Drink: 2010-2016

The 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape (80% Grenache and the rest equal parts Mourvedre, Syrah and Cinsault aged in concrete and demi-muids) exhibits a deep ruby color along with a big, sweet, jammy nose of red and black currants, kirsch, Provencal herbs, licorice and spice box. Medium to full-bodied, soft and round, it is ideal for drinking over the next 5-6 years.

(Not yet released)

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2009 Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc

Rating: 90
Drink: 2010-2015

For someone who came late to Chateauneuf du Pape, Isabel Ferrando's brilliance is also reflected in what she has accomplished with her white wines. Her basic 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape blanc (85% Clairette and 15% Roussanne) is from the southern sector of the appellation, near the Rhone River, called Les Serres. Aged six months in barrel (one-third new), it does not reveal any hint of oak in its waxy, medium to full-bodied, rich, honeyed style that offers abundant honeysuckle, pear and citrus notes. It is one of the few white Chateauneuf du Papes that should drink well for 3-5 years.

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2009 Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape Collection Charles Giraud

Rating: (92-94)
Drink: 2011-2026

Displaying a denser ruby/purple hue, the 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape Collection Charles Giraud comes from the sector of Chateauneuf du Pape known as Cristia (whose soils contain a lot of sand as well as the famous small boulders and rocks known as the Galets Roules). Composed of 60% Grenache (from 80-year-old vines) and 40% Mourvedre (from 60-year-old vines), this wine is aged in 3-year-old 600-liter demi-muids. In 2007, this was one of the most monumental wines I have ever tasted, and the 2009, while not comparable, is a gorgeous offering that is unquestionably one of the stars of the vintage. It boasts a dark ruby/purple hue as well as impressive aromas of roasted meats, beef blood, forest floor, black currants and kirsch. The complex aromatics are followed by a dense, rich, full-bodied wine that will benefit from 1-2 years of cellaring, and last for 10-15 years.

(Not yet released)

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2008 Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Auguste Favier

Rating: 90
Drink: 2010-2015

The 2008 Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Auguste Favier represents an intriguing blend of 81.2% Grenache, 15% old vine Cinsault and 3.8% Syrah aged in a combination of cement tanks and old 600-liter demi-muids. Its medium to dark ruby color is followed by lavender-infused berry fruit, roasted herb, licorice and loamy soil notes. This seductive, luscious 2008 is ideal for drinking over the next 4-5 years, while waiting for the formidably concentrated, massive 2007 to approach maturity.

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2009 Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Auguste Favier

Rating: (91-93)
Drink: -

Complex aromatics of garrigue, lavender, kirsch, raspberry and earth soar from the surprisingly evolved 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Auguste Favier. Made from an interesting blend of 82% Grenache, 15% old vine Cinsault and 3% Syrah, half aged in cement tank and half in 600-liter, two- to three-year-old demi-muids, this wine reveals no hard edges in its medium to full-bodied texture. It cuts a broad, creamy swath across the palate, and should offer remarkable drinking when released in 2011.

(Not yet released)

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2009 Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes de Clairette

Rating: (90-92)
Drink: -

The 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes de Clairette was cropped at 10 hectoliters per hectare. Also from Les Serres, it was produced from 80- to 100-year-old vines, fermented in wood, is being aged in both barrels and demi-muids, and will be bottled without filtration. This could turn out to be a mid-90 point white wine. Still young, it exhibits a singular personality with loads of tropical fruit and honey, a broad, dense, exceptionally concentrated mouthfeel, and good freshness as well as vivid aromatics. It will be interesting to follow this compelling white once it has been bottled.

(Not yet released)

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2009 Domaine Ferrando Chateauneuf du Pape Colombis

Rating: (90-93)
Drink: 2010-2018

The medium ruby-hued 2009 Isabel Ferrando Chateauneuf du Pape Colombis is another extraordinarily seductive wine. If you want an education in what kirsch liqueur, roasted Provencal herbs and loamy soil/garrigue notes smell and taste like, this offers a doctorate degree. It does not have the weight, thickness, or density of the 2007, but it is an irresistible, medium to full-bodied, classic Chateauneuf with nearly overwhelming levels of kirsch and spice. It is best drunk in its first 6-8 years of life.

(Not yet released)

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