

July 2019

Domaine J-L Chave 2017 Hermitage

Rhône Valley, France

96-97 Points

#1) Beaumes: Seductively perfumed red fruit qualities on the nose and palate. In a silky, vaguely Burgundian style, as usual, with seamless texture and strong mineral and floral notes driving the finish. #2) Peleat: From 80+ year old vines. Bright and energetic, showing high-pitched red fruit and violet scents and flavors, a touch of spiciness, steadily building mineral character. Powerful yet lithe, with a mineral-drenched finish that leaves black raspberry and floral pastille notes behind. #3) Ermite: Assertive, highly complex aromas of fresh black and blue fruits, licorice candy and potpourri, with mineral and spice notes in the background. #4) Méal: Displays extroverted, mineral-accented blueberry, cassis, cherry and exotic spice aromas and flavors. A suave violet pastille nuance builds steadily with air. Distinctly rich but the main quality that I get here is balance and finesse. Blends power and delicacy smoothly, with rounded tannins and no rough edges. #5) Bessards: Mineral-accented blackberry and blueberry on the nose, with exotic spice and floral notes adding complexity. Densely packed dark fruit preserve flavors pick up smoky bacon and candied violet accents and show excellent clarity, building tannins and superb, minerally finishing thrust. (JR)

