

Wine Spectator Insider

Marvin R. Shanken *Editor and Publisher*

France Rhône / Châteauneuf-du-Pape

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2008

92 points | \$60 | 300 cases made | Red

This is deliciously ripe, with layers of crushed plum, anise, blackberry and boysenberry fruit, all laced with plenty of spice and fruitcake notes. There's lots of mulled raisin on the finish, but this stays nicely driven, with well-imbedded acidity. Contains the lots that usually go into the Chaupin cuvée, and it shows. Best from 2011 through 2022.—*J.M.*

DOMAINE DE LA JANASSE

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2008

94 points | \$115 | 150 cases imported | Red

This is pure, driven and well-rounded, with a beam of kirsch, crushed plum and bright red currant fruit coursing through, backed by lingering red licorice, violet and sweet tobacco notes. The long finish is still tight. Best from 2011 through 2025.—*J.M.*

ROGER SABON & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige 2008

93 points | \$75 | 200 cases imported | Red

Very stylish and perfumy, with sleek, fine-grained tannins carrying the crushed cherry, red licorice, bitter orange, clove and fruitcake favors through the nicely defined finish. There's also well-embedded acidity. Very fine-grained and Burgundian in style, making this deceptively long.—*No Le Secret des Sabon cuvée in 2008, as the juice was blended in with the three other cuvées. Drink now through 2025.*

ROGER SABON & FILS

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve 2008

92 points | \$48 | 200 cases imported | Red

This is inviting on the nose, with warm fig bread and hoisin sauce notes leading the way for lush cherry preserve, crushed plum and anise flavors. Silky and rounded on the finish, with a long, lingering black licorice note. Drink now through 2023.—

DOMAINE GIRAUD

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Grenaches de Pierre 2008

92 points | \$75 | 40 cases imported | Red

Solid, with mulled plum, blackberry and fig fruit all woven together and backed by fruitcake, melted black licorice and espresso hints. A streak of apple wood keeps the finish going, and there's enough reticent fruit here to merit cellaring, as this should stretch out a bit more. Drink now through 2021.—*J.M.*