



Raymond Chan Wine Reviews

www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz

Raymond Chan, 45 Alexandra Road, Hataitai, Wellington 6021, New Zealand
Tel: (04) 386-3726, Cell: (027) 272-8808, Email: raymond@raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz

Only wines of bronze medal standard (15.5/20 or ★★) and above will have reviews published in www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz unless instructed otherwise by the supplier.

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Calmel & Joseph 'Les Terroirs' and 'Villa Blanche' Wines

Laurent Calmel and Jerome Joseph run an innovative and contemporary wine operation specialising as negociants in the Languedoc-Roussillon region in central southern France. They own a domaine which produces wine, but the core of the business is working with their growers and vinifying and elevaging on site. They encourage organic viticulture and aim to make wines that are expressive of their provenance. The wines under 'Calmel & Joseph' are placed in different tiers, these being 'Les Languedoc', 'Les Terroirs', 'Les Crus', 'Les Cuvees Rares', and sparkling under 'Les Effervescents'. A most interesting range is the 'Villa Blanche' which highlights noble and 'ancient' grape varieties. Here, I review three wines each from the 'Les Terroirs' and 'Villa Blanche' ranges. The 'Les Terroirs' are a little more traditional, whereas the 'Villa Blanche' are modern in style. All offer extremely good value. www.calmel-joseph.com The wines are imported into New Zealand by Wine Direct www.winedirect.co.nz

Calmel & Joseph 'Les Terroirs' Saint Chinian 2015 ★★ ★

Very dark, deep, near impenetrable black-red colour with slight garnet on the edge. The nose is softly full and densely packed with very ripe aromas of blackberries, boysenberries, black plums and black pepper along with porty elements. Subtle notes of dark herbs, dark raspberries and earth emerge in the glass. Medium-full bodied, the palate is rich and rounded with plush and deep flavours of ripe blackberries, boysenberries and black pepper, unfolding some raspberry and dark herbal nuances. The fruit is sweet and very ripe with port-like elements, and the palate is rounded and juicy. The fruit is supported by balanced, fine-grained tannins with soft acidity, and the wine carries to an elegant, but juicy finish. This is a rich, plush and plump Saint Chinian with ripe flavours of blackberries, boysenberries, plums and porty notes on a juicy, rounded palate with soft tannins. Match with roasted and grilled red meats over the next 5+ years. A blend of 50% Syrah, 30% Grenache and 20% Cinsault, 65% of the fruit from clay-limestone soils and 35% on schist soils, destemmed but not crushed and fermented to 14.0% alc., the wine aged 12 months in concrete tank. (17.5+/20) May 2018 RRP \$17.99