



Raymond Chan Wine Reviews

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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.

Reviews of wines receiving an assessment of less than bronze medal standard are provided to the supplier as confidential feedback.

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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

Villa Blanche Pays d'Oc Syrah 2016 ★★ ★★

Full, dark, deep, near-saturated black-hued red with purple tints on the rim. The nose is elegantl proportioned with well-packed and concentrated aromas showing an array of ripe black fruits with blackberries, hints of boysenberries, along with black pepper and plus, alongside a diverse herbal expression. Medium-full bodied, the palate has a rich and densely packed heart with juicy flavours of ripe dark raspberries, blackberries and black plums, melded with black pepper, herbs and florals. The mouthfeel is bright and vibrant, and the sweet, rich fruit is supported by fine-grained tannin grip with integrated acidity. A little jamminess emerges and the wine carries to a soft, light, lingering finish. This is a rich, plush and juicy, black-fruited Syrah with pepper, herbs and notes of jam on a fine, grainy palate. Match with roasted game meats over the next 5+ years. 100% Syrah 50% crushed and fully destemmed, and fermented to 13.5% alc., 50% of the wine aged 6 months in oak barrels. 17.5/20 May 2018 RRP \$19.99