



Josh Raynolds VINOUS juillet 2019

Pierre-Jean Villa

Along with his partner, Olivier Decelle, Pierre-Jean Villa recently acquired Domaine de Boisseyt-Chol, with its 11 hectares of vineyards in Côte-Rôtie, Condrieu and Saint-Joseph and a sprawling winery facility in Chavanay that sits right beside the railroad tracks that stretch alongside the RN86. In the past, the winery was a railway depot for the pickup of the fruit for which the area was once well-known for. Villa moved his own winemaking there giving him a lot more room to move around, even though his not-so-old digs were cramped. In addition, he is extremely proud to show off his new, cutting-edge ozoned-water system, which they have installed at no small expense and allows for chemical-free cleaning throughout the winery. Villa's wines are consistently well-made and expressive early on, leaning far more toward elegance and richness. Their up-front appeal is deceptive though, as many older bottles have proven over the years. Villa, who is a native of the region, spent a number of years working in Burgundy, notably at Clos de Tart and Domaine de la Vougeraie before coming home to help establish the (no longer so) boutique-y Les Vins de Vienne in 1996. It's not a surprise that his winemaking style favors elegance and detail. Villa struck out on his own in 1999 and has, with little fanfare, quietly risen to the upper tier of northern Rhône wine producers. I'm also happy to note that pricing is extremely fair given the wines' quality. Villa told me that he personally favors 2018 over 2017 for the wines have more delicacy. Speaking to the 2017s, he said, with typical candor, that "with the low yield and small bunches the wines are really rich and dark in character. People who like that style of wine are going to be really happy but those who demand delicacy, maybe not so much."

From [2017 and 2018 Northern Rhône \(Jul 2019\)](#) by Josh Raynolds

- **Pierre-Jean Villa 2018 Côte-Rôtie Fongéant**

Côte Rôtie, Northern Rhône

- Intensely perfumed, mineral-tinged blackberry, cherry and violet aromas are complicated by suggestions of licorice, earth and olive paste. Spicy and incisive in the mouth, offering gently sweet, smoke-laced dark berry preserve and spicecake flavors that deepen and spread out steadily on the back half. Smoothly marries power and finesse and finishes extremely long and spicy, with supple tannins and a repeating mineral flourish coming in late. **93-95 pts**

- **Pierre-Jean Villa 2018 Côte-Rôtie Carmina**

Côte Rôtie, Northern Rhône

- Candied cherry, blackcurrant, exotic spices and olive paste on the perfumed nose. Silky, seamless and appealingly sweet, offering spice-laced black/blue fruit, floral pastille and salty olive flavors that tighten up slowly on the back half. A smoky mineral note carries through the persistent finish, which is given shape by smooth, well-integrated tannins. **92-94 pts**

- **Pierre-Jean Villa 2018 Saint-Joseph Préface**

Saint-Joseph, Northern Rhône

- Primary cherry and cassis scents, suggestions of pungent flowers and a hint of olive on the highly perfumed nose. Offers concentrated black/blue fruit and spicecake flavors that unfold slowly with aeration and pick up a strong mineral overtone. In a powerful but lively style finishing impressively long and precise, with a clinging floral pastille quality that carries through an impressively long finish that leaves behind sweet dark berry and floral pastille notes. **92-94 pts**

- **Pierre-Jean Villa 2018 Seyssuel Esprit d'Antan**

Collines Rhodaniennes, Northern Rhône

- Heady aromas of blackberry liqueur, cherry compote and licorice, along with smoky mineral and floral notes emerging as the wine opens up. Sappy and expansive on the palate, offering concentrated dark berry, violet pastille and spicecake flavors and a hint of vanillin oak spice. Displays very good clarity and a repeating mineral note on an impressively persistent, incisive finish that's firmed by youthfully chewy tannins. **92-94 pts**