

FAMILLE PIERRE USSEGLIO

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

JEB DUNNUCK

94

2016 Domaine Pierre Usseglio & Fils Lirac

The 2016 Lirac checks in as 70% Grenache and the rest Mourvèdre, Syrah, and other permitted varieties, with the Mourvèdre and Syrah brought up mostly in demi-muids. Blackberries, garrigue, peppery herbs, licorice, and earth characteristics give way to a full-bodied, pure, elegant, beautifully textured 2016 that has remarkable purity and length. It's one of the finest Liracs out there.

When you consider what this estate has accomplished over the past two decades, it's easy to include Domaine Pierre Usseglio as not only one of the top addresses in Châteauneuf-du-Pape but in all of France as well. They have been on a sensational roll since 1998 and have yet to put a foot wrong. And that's apparent with these latest 2016s, which I believe are the best wines ever produced here. In addition to the Châteauneuf-du-Pape releases, the estate makes a fabulous Côtes du Rhône and Lirac, both of which over-deliver.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/28/2018)

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