

FAMILLE PIERRE USSEGLIO

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

JEB DUNNUCK

93

2016 Domaine Pierre Usseglio & Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape

The classic 2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape checks in at around 75% Grenache, 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre, and a splash of Cinsault. This rock star traditional cuvée gives up loads of black licorice, garrigue, black raspberries, and kirsch liqueur. It's powerful and full-bodied, yet elegant and seamless, with fine tannin, no hard edges, and a great finish. Despite the richness and weight, it stays weightless and elegant, with silky tannin. Don't miss it.

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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