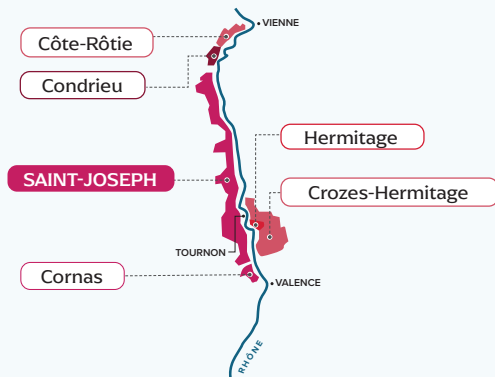




DELAS



VARIETALS:
100% Syrah

ST. JOSEPH SAINTÉ-ÉPINE 2022 *Rhône, France*

OVERVIEW

This wine was reputed in the 16th century for its delicacy, and was poured at the table of the kings of France. It was the Jesuits of Tournon who gave the area its current name in the 17th century. Between 1956 and 1969, all the vineyards from this area which used to be named Côtes du Rhône were regrouped and established under the appellation Saint-Joseph.

Almost a micro-appellation, the south-facing Sainte-Épine hill is an exception. It was once the home to the Commanderie de Sainte-Épine-Lès-Tournon which belonged to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. The Sainte-Épine plot, covering around 2.5 acres in the commune of Saint-Jean de Muzols in the heart of the appellation, has soils of decomposed granite soil resembling that of the Hermitage hill's Les Bessards with the addition of metamorphic schist. There is only one team allowed to pick the grapes in this vineyard: the Delas team. Sainte-Épine's terroir and exposure are among the most coveted in the appellation.

This cuvée is a vineyard plot selection only made in the very best years and production is deliberately limited to 4,000 bottles per year.

WINEMAKING

Grapes are harvested by hand, at optimum maturity. Fermentation takes place in traditional, open-topped concrete tanks, after three days of pre-fermentary skin contact at cool temperatures. Maceration continues at controlled temperatures of 82°F to 86°F. Daily cap pressing and pumping takes place for about 10 days, with a total maceration period of up to 20 days. The wine is aged for 14 to 18 months in oak barrels in one half new, one half one-year-old barrels. The barrels are topped up regularly.

95
POINTS
JEB DUNNUCK

All destemmed and raised in barrel with 20% new, the 2022 Saint Joseph Sainte-Epine comes from a cooler, decomposed granite terroir just north of Tournon. It offers pure cassis and black raspberry fruits as well as spicy oak, crushed stone, and dried flowers. It's medium to full-bodied, concentrated, has perfect balance, fine tannins, and a great finish. It's a brilliant example of the vintage and will keep for 15+ years. Drink 2025-2040.

95
POINTS
Ronnie

The 2022 Saint-Joseph Sainte-Epine is a real success at this address. It is crafted from vines planted on granite soils facing southwest in the commune of Saint-Jean de Muzols. This location is cooler than other plots in the same commune due to its proximity to the Doux River, which enhances the grapes' ability to maintain freshness and balance. Revealing a complex, fresh and redolent bouquet of licorice, dark berries, dark cherries and flowers, despite the presence of oak, it's medium to full-bodied, layered and structured, complemented by a fleshy core of fruit, satiny tannins and a long, ethereal and telluric finish. It will age very nicely.

94PTS Wine Spectator | **92PTS** Decanter



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