



St. Joseph Sainte-Épine 2023

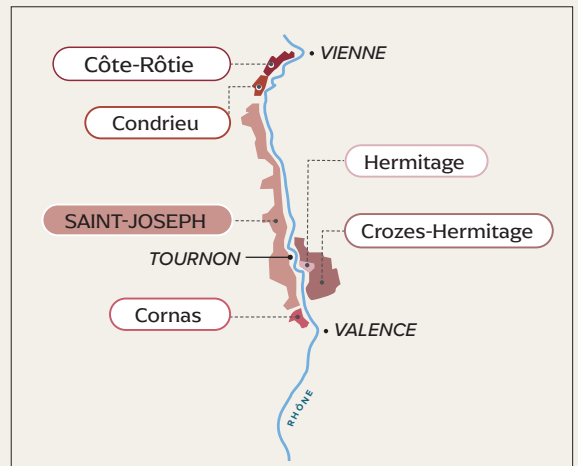
Rhône, France



VARIETALS:
100% Syrah

OVERVIEW

The Saint-Joseph appellation stretches across around fifty hillsides and terraces, but Sainte-Épine covers barely one hectare, located in the commune of Saint-Jean de Muzols, in a natural amphitheatre facing southeast. The soil consists of decomposed granite, a geological counterpart to that of Les Bessards in Hermitage, and it imparts to Syrah a mineral, taut, and vibrant framework. Sainte-Épine is a wine vibrant in its minerality, massive in its tannic structure, with a restrained aromatic profile that evokes smoked pork and meat. All the strength and mystery of Saint-Joseph are captured in this wine of both heart and substance.



WINEMAKING

The Sainte-Épine grapes are harvested by hand at optimal ripeness. Upon arrival at the winery, the berries are destemmed and transferred to temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. During the early stages of fermentation, gentle extraction is carried out through carefully measured pump-overs and punch-downs. After pressing, the wine is racked and transferred to barrels. Malolactic fermentation takes place in oak barrels. An ageing period of 18 months is carried out, with 20% new oak, followed by racking and final blending in stainless steel vats three months prior to bottling.

96
POINTS
JAMES SUCKLING.COM

An exceptionally full-bodied and rich wine for this appellation, but it is still quite closed. A compact structure of very fine tannins clothed in a cloud of black fruit aromas. Very long, velvety finish that somehow manages to be delicate in spite of the abundant power. A single-vineyard wine from a south-facing site. A pure syrah that was matured exclusively in Burgundian oak barrels, with less than a third new oak. Best after 2026.

92-95
POINTS
JEB DUNNUCK

Cassis, liquid violets, classy oak, and a hint of graphite all emerge from the 2023 Saint Joseph Sainte-Epine, and it's medium-bodied, with a pure, layered, seamless mouthfeel and ripe, polished tannins. As with everything from this estate today, it's flawlessly balanced and has sensational purity.

