

White Rhone Wines
The Cellar Society of San Francisco
March 9, 2019

Pre-Tasting Wines

	Wine Description	My Rank	My Notes	Reviews
A	<u>2016 E. Guigal Côtes du Rhône Blanc</u>			<p>90 points <u>Jeb Dunnuck</u>: The normal blend of Viognier, Roussanne, and Marsanne, the 2016 Côte du Rhône Blanc tastes like a mini-Condrieu with its white peach, apricot, spice and citrus aromas and flavors. This medium-bodied, elegant, yet textured beauty over-delivers and will keep for 2-3 years. (1/2018)</p> <p><u>Robert Parker's Wine Advocate</u>: The 2016 Côtes du Rhône Blanc is, as usual, dominated by Viognier, which accounts for almost two-thirds of the blend. There's 15% Roussanne, and the rest is smaller proportions of Marsanne, Clairette and Bourboulenc. Grenache Blanc accounts for only 2% to 3% of the blend. The wine is medium-bodied and plump, with floral, apricot aromas and decent roundness in the mouth, balanced by just enough citrus zest to provide a bit of an edge. (JC) (12/2017)</p> <p><u>\$12.99 at K&L</u></p>
B	<u>2017 Château de Montfaucon "Comtesse Madeleine" Lirac Blanc</u>			<p>90 points <u>Robert Parker's Wine Advocate</u>: Tasting a bit like a dry, savory version of a Creamsicle (a blend of orange sherbet and vanilla ice cream, for those who might not know), the 2016 Lirac Comtesse Madeleine Blanc is a worthy follow-up to the successful 2015, which happens to be developing nicely. It's medium to full-bodied, lush yet not overblown, gaining greater focus on the long finish. (JC) (10/2017)</p> <p><u>K&L Notes</u>: An 88-acre estate, Château de Montfaucon sits just across the Rhône River from the esteemed vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It is owned and operated by Rodolphe de Pins, a UC Davis graduate and former member of the winemaking staff at Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe. Over the years, Château de Montfaucon has developed a HUGE following among both our staff and customers.</p> <p><u>\$17.99 at K&L</u></p>
C	<u>2016 Domaine de Fontbonau "La Lence" Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc</u>			<p>90 points <u>Wine Spectator</u>: Delightfully plump, this brims with star fruit, peach and yellow apple fruit flavors, backed by a flash of brioche and flecks of chamomile and honeysuckle. Drink now. (JM) (10/2018)</p> <p><u>\$17.99 at K&L</u></p>
D	<u>2017 Guy Farge "Bouquet de Blanc" Ardeche Blanc</u>			<p>Guy Farge took over the management of his family estate in 1980. Originally, he sold his fruit to the Cave de Tain (where he worked) and then to Delas. In 2007, he began producing wines under his own label. Each year, the wines have grown and evolved as has Guy's winemaking prowess. Now working with his son Thomas, each bottling represents some of the best we have seen from his primarily granitic terroirs. The Bouquet de Blanc is an equal parts blend of Viognier, Marsanne and Roussanne all fermented using indigenous yeasts. Aged in stainless steel, it is creamy, rich and full of aromatic lift. A wonderful introduction to Northern Rhone whites.</p> <p><u>\$17.99 at K&L</u></p>

PLEASE NOTE: Do not read the next page until you want to see what the blind tasting wines are.
The wines are listed in the order that they were poured (Bottle 1 through Bottle 8).

	Wine Description	Bottle #	Group Rank	Points	My Rank	Reviews
1	<u>2017 Chante Cigale Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc</u>	1	7 th	91		<p><u>92 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:</u> Almost as good as the stellar 2016, the 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc is full-bodied, plump and round, with lashings of pineapple, tangerine and lime-like aromas and flavors. An equal-parts blend of Bourboulenc, Clairette, Grenache Blanc, Picpoul Blanc and Roussanne, made mostly in stainless steel, it finishes long, crisp and mouthwatering. (JC) (8/2018)</p> <p><u>K&L Notes:</u> Chante Cigale means singing cicada. The property has been in the family since the 19th century and is currently run by Alexandre Favier, who assumed the reins at the ripe old age of 20! The domaine is planted to 40 ha of red and 5 ha of white on 45 different parcels throughout the appellation. The Blanc is a blend of equal parts Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Bourbelenc and Clairette. The grapes are destemmed and fermented with native yeasts. Elevage is in a combination of tanks and 5% new oak barrels with no malolactic fermentation. Small production, it's always 1 of the great values for white from the region. <u>\$26.99 at K&L</u></p>
2	<u>2016 Guy Farge "Vania" Saint-Joseph Blanc</u>	2	3 rd	75		<p><u>Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:</u> A blend of 80% Marsanne and 20% Roussanne, the 2016 Saint Joseph Vania is more aromatic than most white Saint Josephs. It offers ripe hints of peach and guava on the nose, then delivers a rich, round mouthfeel on the palate. It looks to be one to drink early. (JC) (12/2017)</p> <p><u>K&L Notes:</u> Guy Farge took over management of his family estate in 1980. Originally, he sold his fruit to the Cave de Tain (where he worked) and then to Delas. In 2007 he began producing wines under his own label. Each year, the wines have grown and evolved as has Guy's winemaking prowess. Now working with his son Thomas, each bottling represents some of the best we have seen from his primarily granitic terroirs. The Vania is a blend of 80% Marsanne and 20% Roussanne aged in a mix of large barrels and stainless steel. With a perfume of white flowers, almond paste and spices, it is a terrific version of Saint-Joseph blancs. <u>\$29.99 at K&L</u></p>
3	<u>2016 Château de Montfaucon Clairette "Vin de Mme la Comtesse" Lirac Blanc</u>	3	8 th	95		<p><u>93 Parker:</u> The 2016 Lirac Blanc Vin de Mme la Comtesse has been bottled under the Lirac appellation for the first time (it was previously a Côtes du Rhône). A barrel-fermented Clairette from 140-year-old vines, it's crisp and tight, with tightly wound notes of quinine and lime. Medium to full-bodied, it also offers notes of toasted grain and anise on the long finish. It's a terrific example of Clairette's potential. (JC) (11/2018)</p> <p><u>K&L Notes:</u> Planted in the 1870s, old gnarly vines with highly restricted yields produce some of the richest most concentrated Clairette in the entire Rhône Valley. Planted on a mix of sand, clay and pudding stones, this wine is the essence of sleek minerality. A touch of barrel fermentation adds volume and structure. The flavors resonate with ripe stone fruit flavors and white flowers, a touch of fennel pollen rounds out the finish. This reminds us of Château de Beaucastel's Châteauneuf Vieilles Vignes Blanc which sells for well over \$100 a bottle. This is just as limited and just as cool for only \$30. An 88-acre estate, Château de Montfaucon sits just across the Rhône River from the esteemed vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. It is owned and operated by Rodolphe de Pins, a UC Davis graduate. He was part of the winemaking staff at Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe. Montfaucon has developed a HUGE following with our staff and customers. <u>\$29.99 at K&L</u></p>
4	<u>2017 Domaine des Senechaux Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc</u>	4	4 th	79		<p><u>92 points Jeb Dunnuck:</u> I've always loved the white from this estate, and the 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc doesn't disappoint. Based on 36% Roussanne, 30% Clairette, 25% Grenache Blanc and the balance Bourboulenc, this medium-bodied, fresh, vibrant white excels on its purity and elegance and offers classic notes of white peach, pineapple cream, and white flowers. (8/2018)</p> <p><u>\$34.99 at K&L</u></p>

	Wine Description	Bottle #	Group Rank	Points	My Rank	Reviews
5	<u>2017 Clos Saint-Jean Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc</u>	5	6 th	88		<p><u>93 points Jeb Dunnuck:</u> The 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc is a mix of Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Bourboulenc, and Clairette, with more and more Bourboulenc in the blend starting in 2010. Brought up in barrel, it's a rich, full-bodied white that has loads of white peach, brioche, and honeysuckle. It's pure, balanced, and will keep for 10-15 years. (8/2018)</p> <p><u>92 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:</u> The 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc is a bit less weighty and rich than the 2016 but equally attractive. Tangerine, orange and lime notes define this medium to full-bodied blend of Bourboulenc, Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Roussanne, which finishes fresh, clean and zesty. Drink it over the next few years. (JC) (8/2018)</p> <p><u>\$44.99 at K&L</u></p>
6	<u>2017 Chateau de Vaudieu Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc</u>	6	1 st	65		<p><u>92 points Wine Spectator:</u> Lovely star fruit, warmed pear and yellow apple notes glide together, flecked with heather and quinine details. Rounded overall, but with enough freshness to stay engaging through the finish. Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Clairette and Picardan. Drink now through 2019. (JM) (10/2018)</p> <p><u>Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:</u> Partially barrel fermented and matured, the 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc is a full-bodied blend of 43% Grenache Blanc, 35% Roussanne, 12% Clairette and 10% Picardan. Nectarine, tangerine and custard notes come across as plush, even almost sweet tasting, then develop a slightly bitter pith note on the finish. (JC) (8/2018)</p> <p><u>\$49.99 at K&L</u></p>
7	<u>2017 Le Clos du Caillou "Les Safres" Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc</u>	7	2 nd	69		<p><u>93-95 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:</u> Like the other 2017s here, the 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Les Safres is full-bodied, concentrated and velvety in texture, while boasting exceptional aromas and flavors of red raspberries and ripe cherries. Ripe, supple and long, it should be a winner. (JC) (8/2018)</p> <p><u>91 points Vinous:</u> Brought up all in used barrels, the 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Safres Blanc is Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, and Clairette. It offers a more expressive, exotic, floral character as well as plenty of melon, pineapple, and assorted tropical notes. Medium-bodied, fresh, and vibrant, with beautiful texture, it's a soft, lush, balanced white. (8/2018)</p> <p><u>\$49.99 at K&L</u></p>
8	<u>2017 Domaine de Marcoux Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc</u>	8	5 th	86		<p><u>95 points Jeb Dunnuck:</u> One of the finest whites I've tasted from this estate is the 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, which is two-thirds Roussanne and one-third Bourboulenc that has malo blocked and is raised in neutral demi-muids and tank. Full-bodied, rich, beautifully textured, and perfectly balanced, it has everything in the right places and just glides over the palate. Giving up plenty of white fruits, brioche, honeysuckle, and some buttered citrus notes, it's a brilliant effort and well worth seeking out. (8/2018)</p> <p><u>92 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate:</u> Hints of honeyed toast mark the nose of the 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc. A fifth of the wine fermented and aged in demi-muid, while the rest was in stainless steel. Full-bodied, round, soft and rich with peach and pineapple fruit, it comes together on the finish into lime-like precision. (JC) (8/2018)</p> <p><u>\$54.99 at K&L</u></p>