

Reviews by Josh Reynolds, October 2018

Wine	Tasting Notes	Score	Drinking Window
2017 Viognier, "Vin de Glacière"	Transparent gold. Apricot nectar and charred pineapple aromas, along with suave floral, candied ginger and floral notes. Sappy, sweet and concentrated yet surprisingly lithe on the palate, offering intense tropical and pit fruit flavors firmed by a late suggestion of bitter citrus pith. Delivers a compelling blend of richness and energy and finishes very long and spicy, the ginger and apricot notes returning. This lush yet nervy sweet wine would make a great companion for salty cheeses, especially sheep's milk blue versions.	92	2018-2022
2017 Clos de Gilroy	Deep lurid red. Ripe spice-tinged red berry cherry and floral aromas along with hints of candied licorice and smoky minerals. Juicy and supple on the palate; a spine of acidity adds lift to sweet raspberry and cherry flavors. Deepens on the clinging red-fruit-driven finish which is shaped by smooth fine-grained tannins.	90	2019-2023
2017 Picpoul	Limpid straw-yellow. Mineral- and herb-tinged nectarine and yellow apple scents backed by hints of lemon pith and honey. Juicy and light on its feet offering taut peach pit and pear skin flavors that unfold slowly on the back half. Smoothly blends fleshiness and nerve and shows firm nervy bite on the finish which leaves a tangy refreshingly bitter citrus pith note behind.	90	2018-2022
2016 Old Telegram	Bright violet. Smoke-accented blueberry and cherry pit aromas pick up peppery spice lavender game and mineral nuances with air. Fleshy and broad on the palate offering sweet nicely concentrated dark fruit flavors plus cracked pepper and bitter chocolate notes. Spreads out steadily on a juicy expansive finish that's framed by dusty slow-building tannins.	92	2021-2028
2015 Popelouchum Grenache	Limpid ruby-red. Intense red fruit liqueur and floral pastille scents pick up Asian spices and smoky mineral flourishes with air. Sappy focused and concentrated yet refreshingly lively as well offering palate-staining Chambord cherry compote and spicecake flavors that are given lift and spine by a core of juicy acidity. Conveys a suave combination of power and elegance and finishes extremely long with harmonious tannins building slowly and adding shape and subtle grip.	94	2021-2027
2015 Le Cigare Blanc	Brilliant straw. A vibrant mineral-driven bouquet evokes ripe citrus fruits white flowers and ginger along with hints of anise and succulent herbs. Dry and tightly focused on the palate where Meyer lemon and pear nectar flavors show very good clarity and a building mineral note. Closes energetic and impressively long leaving a note of bitter pear skin behind.	92	2020-2026
2014 Syrah, Bien Nacido Vineyard, "X-Block"	Dark bright-rimmed ruby. A complex expansive bouquet evokes fresh mineral-tinged red and blue fruits incense and pungent flowers and a smoky bacon nuance emerges with air. Concentrated but lively and well-delineated on the palate offering energetic blackberry bitter cherry and violet pastille flavors underscored by a vein of juicy acidity. Clings with impressive tenacity on the gently tannic finish leaving behind smoky mineral and candied violet notes.	94	2020-2027
2014 Le Cigare Blanc Réserve	Light vivid yellow. Pungent Meyer lemon pear and tangerine aromas show very good clarity and complicating hints of toasted nuts fennel and smoky lees. Minerally and seamless on the palate offering plush orchard fruit and orange marmalade flavors and deeper suggestions of honey and buttered toast. Shows noteworthy vibrancy for its heft and finishes chewy and very long with a suave floral note hanging on.	93	2020-2026
2014 Le Cigare Blanc	Limpid yellow. Mineral-accented orange pith and jasmine scents along with honey and anise flourishes. Energetic citrus and orchard fruit flavors stain the palate and spread out slowly with air. A suave floral nuance builds as the wine opens up and carries through a long focused finish that features repeating orange and mineral notes.	92	2019-2025
2014 "A Proper Claret"	Inky ruby. Cherry cassis singed plum and a touch of gaminess on the perfumed nose. Chewy and warm on the palate offering bitter cherry and dark berry flavors that tighten up slowly on the back half. Clings with good tenacity on the finish which features slightly rigid tannins and a repeating game note.	88	2020-2025

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Wine	Tasting Notes	Score	Drinking Window
2013 Le Cigare Volant Réserve	Deep brilliant red. Pungent red berry, cherry pit, smoked meat and lavender aromas are enlivened by a spicy suggestion of white pepper. Juicy and energetic on the palate, offering sweet, spice-laced cherry, raspberry and bitter chocolate flavors that show very good structure and depth. Closes smooth and gently tannic, displaying impressive persistence and lingering floral and game notes.	93	2020-2027
2013 Syrah, Bien Nacido Vineyard, "X-Block"	Deep lurid ruby. Powerful blackberry and cherry aromas are complemented by suggestions of peppery spices smoked meat licorice and violet. Sharply focused black and blue fruit and floral pastille flavors show very good delineation and a smoky mineral element adds energetic lift and cut. Fine-grained tannins add grip to a spicy floral-driven finish that hangs on with strong tenacity.	93	2019-2026
2013 Le Cigare Blanc Réserve	Pale yellow-gold. Meyer lemon peach pit honey white flowers and a hint of toasted nuts on the deeply perfumed mineral-accented nose. Sappy orchard and pit fruit and nougat flavors show excellent depth and a chalky mineral nuance lends focus and lift. Becomes livelier with air and finishes broad and impressively long displaying building minerality and a touch of orange marmalade.	93	2019-2025
2013 Le Cigare Blanc	Vivid yellow. Ripe peach tangerine and pineapple scents along with suggestions of chamomile and anise. Silky and pliant in the mouth offering juicy tropical and pit fruit flavors that are braced on the back half by a jolt of bitter orange pith. Shows very good energy and a touch of florality on a dry focused finish that hangs on with strong tenacity.	91	2019-2024
2013 Vin Gris Tuilé	Bright salmon skin. Red currant, strawberry, orange marmalade and musky herbs on the deeply perfumed, vaguely earthy nose. Smooth, round and fleshy in the mouth, offering spice- and smoke-tinged red fruit and citrus pith flavors that firm up steadily on the back half. Weighty and dry, showing solid closing thrust, repeating herbacity and lingering bitter cherry and turmeric notes on a long, chewy finish. This intriguing and singular wine spent nine months resting, outdoors, in full sunshine, in glass demijohns. It's a one-off, to be sure, but it's also a hell of a lot of fun to ponder over.	92	2018-2021
2013 Syrah "Le Pousseur"	Opaque ruby. Spice- and smoke-accented dark berry and olive qualities on the perfumed nose. Bitter cherry and blackberry flavors are underscored by a suggestion of smoky minerality that adds energetic back-end cut. Turns sweeter on the long peppery finish which is framed by smooth well-knit tannins. I find this wine to be distinctly Northern Rhône-like in character.	91	2018-2024
2013 Le Cigare Volant	Bright ruby-red. Ripe smoke-accented red berries cured meat leather and a hint of cola on the perfumed nose. Seamless and gently sweet offering bitter cherry five-spice powder and dark chocolate flavors and a distinctly gamy element. The long smoky finish echoes the cherry and spice notes and is given shape by supple interwoven tannins. This wine is quite Old World in style and I suspect that readers who are used to polished modern wines might be taken aback here.	90	2020-2026
2012 Le Cigare Volant Réserve	Limpid ruby-red. A wild, spice-inflected bouquet evokes dried red berries, cherry compote, smoked game and succulent flowers. Chewy and well-concentrated on the palate, offering subtly sweet raspberry, cherry, floral pastille and smoked meat flavors that pick up a smoky mineral element with aeration. In a decidedly Old World style, showing solid grip and powerful mineral thrust on the long, gently tannic finish.	92	2020-2026
2012 Le Cigare Volant	Dark red. Aromas of raspberry jam musky flowers and earth are joined by spice licorice and vanilla nuances as the wine opens up. Juicy focused and smoky on the palate offering sweet red berry cherry and succulent herb flavors that deepen steadily on the back half. Supple tannins frame and add grip to a very long spice-laced finish that echoes the earth and floral notes.	92	2019-2025