

Saint Joseph 2010

Wine advocate

92-94 The other 2010 that readers need to keep a sharp eye out for is the 2010 St.-Joseph. One of the sleeper cuvees of the entire cellar, ground pepper intermixed with tapenade, creme de cassis, and smoky barbecue notes are followed by a wine with great fruit, good acidity, and striking minerality. It should drink well for a decade or more.

(Not yet released)

It has taken a while, but one of my favorite producers in the southern Rhone, Louis Barruol of Saint-Cosme, is getting very good publicity just about everywhere I look. It is certainly well-deserved, considering the broad range of wines he produces, from his inexpensive and over-delivering Cotes du Rhones and Vins de Pays, to his top-flight, world-class wines made in Gigondas. This is all a matter of hard work and understanding viticulture and great terroirs. As for the estate wines from Gigondas, 2009 was a more challenging vintage for Louis Barruol than many people probably understand, because he had some serious hail issues that cut into his Grenache crop. His best vintage to date is 2007, but 2010 is going to come close, and he has certainly excelled in a much more difficult vintage for him personally, 2009. The 2010s are probably Barruol's greatest vintage since 2007, yet slightly more tannic and backward at a similar stage in their development than the 2007s were. All of the following wines are 100% Grenache, with the exception of the first two.

Wine spectator

St.-Joseph 2010

93 pointsRed

A rich, polished style, with gorgeous mouthfeel to the well-layered fig sauce, blackberry confiture and plum pâte de fruit flavors, all supported by roasted tobacco leaf and melted licorice snap notes that course through the finish. Shows ample depth and drive for the cellar. Best from 2013 through 2023.-J.M.