

# *Le Claux 2016*

## **Wine advocate**

Rating: 95 points

Drink Date: 2020 - 2030 All Grenache, the 2016 Gigondas le Claux comes from a parcel of vines planted around 1880. It's got an incredibly floral and tea-like nose, followed by expressive red berries, even fraises des bois. Full-bodied, silky and long, it manages to be an epic wine, not for its power but for its elegance, finesse and complexity.

More approachable than the blockbuster Le Poste, the 2016 Gigondas le Claux looks to be another Gigondas legend in the making. Apricot and cherry fruit lead the way, backed by masses of creamy, lush tannins and savory notes of dark chocolate and black olive on the long finish.

It is always fun to taste with the energetic Louis Barruol in his Roman-era cellar. There seems to be a nearly endless supply of wines to taste, as he now produces five different Gigondas and numerous bottlings under his négociant label (plus a joint venture in New York's Finger Lakes, for those who might not know). The prospective samples of Barruol's 2016 Gigondas were tasted blind at the local syndicat earlier the same day, while reviews of his Northern Rhône wines are scheduled to appear in issue 234.

## **Wine spectator**

CHÂTEAU DE SAINT COSME Gigondas Le Claux 2016 – 97 points

"This offers a range of sage, savory and bay leaf aromas followed by crushed black cherry, bitter plum and red currant fruit, all supported by racy, mouthwatering chalky cut. Dense, but fresh and well-defined throughout. Long finish."

## **Decanter**

CHÂTEAU DE SAINT COSME Gigondas «Le Claux» 2016, 97 points

«A deep, resonant and atypically dark-fruited Le Claux. Has extraordinary depth of fruit, but beautifully soft and silky palate. Precise balance, great harmony and remarkable precision and freshness of aroma. Very long. It has everything required to become a great wine, but needs time. Not overly marked by oak in this vintage due to the power of the fruit.»

## **Jeb Dunnuck**

2016 Château de Saint Cosme Gigondas Le Claux 99

Starting off the single vineyard releases, the 2016 Gigondas Le Claux is legendary Gigondas in the making. Incredibly elegant and finesse-driven, it boasts a deep ruby/purple color to go with incredibly floral notes of camphor, dried earth, black currants, and spice. This Burgundian beauty boasts full-bodied richness, a deep, layered, heavenly mouthfeel, building tannins, and again, an incredible floral quality. I absolutely love it.

## **Drink Rhône John Livingstone**

CHATEAU DE SAINT COSME LE CLAUX 2016 ( )

(casks) dark red robe. The nose is marked by raspberry, mulberry fruits with a liqueur note, some crunchy dried herbs also. The palate expresses spiced Grenache, plum fruits, with cordite in the tannins, a rocky face from them. The finish is mixed swirl of red fruits, teasing menthol, thyme, cool strikes. The content has a fine quality, a discreet richness. The smoky, cool tenor on the finish is inviting. This hides its light under a bushel for now: it will become deftly nuanced with varied prompts, and a rather Burgundy meets Gigondas style. Marks for purity here. From 2021-22. 2039-41 Oct 2017

## **Vinous**

2016 Château St. Cosme Gigondas Le Claux (95-96)

Brilliant ruby. A highly perfumed bouquet evokes ripe red berries, cherry pie and candied lavender, along with a smoky mineral overtone that builds in the glass. Shows intense, impressively concentrated Chambord, floral pastille and spicecake qualities on the palate, which are enlivened by a jolt of juicy acidity. Closes with repeating florality, building tannins and outstanding, red fruit-dominated persistence.

## **Jancis Robinson UK**

Ch de St-Cosme, Le Claux 2016 Gigondas 17.5+

95% Grenache, 5% Syrah.

Mixes sophisticated oak spices with firm tannin and gorgeous floral perfume like violet and lavender. Very expressive and rich. Long, firm palate on the finish.

Drink 2020-2036

## **James Suckling**

James Suckling – August 29, 2018

CHÂTEAU DE SAINT COSME Gigondas Le Claux 2016 – 96 points

“Suave pepper and graphite with a very composed, youthful array of dark plums. Spicy and alluring. The palate has impressive density and depth with a powerful core of fine, noble tannins. Super deep finish. This is terrific! From organically grown grapes.