

2018 Chateau Sixtine Chateauneuf Du Pape Cuvee Du Vatican

Made from 77% Grenache, 13% Syrah, and the rest Mourvèdre, brought up mostly in concrete tanks, the 2018 Châteauneuf Du Pape Cuvée Du Vatican offers an upfront bouquet of black raspberries, toasted spice, garrigue, and dried soil nuances. Rich and medium-bodied, with tons of upfront charm and elegance, it has fine tannins and outstanding length. It's a rock solid wine from this estate that has loads to love.

Covering 50 acres in Châteauneuf du Pape, Château Sixtine (which was previously known as Cuvée du Vatican) is run by Jean-Marc Diffonty. The lineup has changes over the past 6-7 years but today they release their flagship cuvée under the Château Sixtine label and an entry level wine under the Cuvée du Vatican label. Diffonty knocked it out of the park with his 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Château Sixtine and I'd wager it's at the same level as the sensational 2016.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/16/2019)