

1999 Cuvee du Vatican Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Sixtine

The deep ruby/purple-colored 1999 Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Sixtine displays a broodingly backward personality. Extremely rich and full-bodied, with notes of blueberries, new saddle leather, crushed minerals, and spice, it has put on additional weight since last year, and looks set to have a long life of 20+ years. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2020. Importers: Mervyn Hecht Wines, Santa Monica, CA; tel. (408) 685-1148 and Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173

- Robert M. Parker, Jr. (December, 2001)

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vinous

87+ pts

Cuvée du Vatican 1999 Chateauneuf-du-Pape Reserve Sixtine

Rhone, Rhone

Red wine from France

Drinking window:

Full red. Deep aromas of plum, baking spices and cedary oak. Fairly plump in the mouth, with flavors dominated by mocha and oak notes. Today the wood comes across as a bit tough, and the oak tannins cut off the wine's finish. Hard to judge at present, but I suspect the wine has the material to absorb the excess oak with a few years of bottle aging.

Stephen Tanzer, January 2002