

JEB DUNNUCK 91-93+

2018 Chateau Sixtine Châteauneuf Du Pape Chateau Sixtine

The top wine of the estate is the 2018 Châteauneuf Du Pape Chateau Sixtine, which is 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah, and the rest Mourvèdre, brought up mostly in barrels, with 5% being new. Deep ruby/purple-colored, with notes of crème de cassis, blackberries, melted licorice, and pepper, it's medium to full-bodied, with good density, ripe, polished tannins, and a beautiful finish.

Covering 50 acres in Châteauneuf du Pape, Chateau 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 Chateau 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 Chateau Sixtine and I'd wager it's at the same level as the sensational 2016.

- Jeb Dunnuck (8/16/2019)

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