

Cuvée du Vatican 2004 Chateauneuf-du-Pape

Rhone, Rhone

Red wine from France

Drinking window:

Deep red. Bright, ripe aromas of raspberry and strawberry, with deeper chocolate and licorice notes. Rich but energetic, with fresh red fruit flavors, fine-grained tannins and impressive focus. Finishes silky, sweet and persistent.

Josh Raynolds, January 2007

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Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

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2004 Cuvee du Vatican Chateauneuf du Pape

The 2004 Chateauneuf du Pape is one of the less inspiring vintages that Diffonty has made over recent years. It is spicy, peppery, has good ripeness, but it is superficial and monolithic. This is one more estate that has come back strong because of a change in generations with the young, competent Jean-Marc Diffonty replacing his father, one of the grumpy but personality-filled characters of Chateauneuf du Pape. Yet from a winemaking standpoint, the father was inflexible and unwilling to change. Diffonty has lower yields and introduced a new blend, the Reserve Sixtine which is a blend of 50% Grenache and the rest Syrah and Mourvedre, the latter two components spending time in small oak barrels. Importer: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173

- Robert M. Parker, Jr. (February, 2007)

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By Josh Raynolds

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