

Pierre Amadieu



#22

Of the ranking of the
world's best wines
- December 2020 -

Wine Spectator
www.winespectator.com
THE
TOP 100
THE MOST EXCITING WINES OF 2020

We are thrilled that our **Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2017** was named **#22 on the Top 100 Wines 2020 of the Wine Spectator**, the leading American wine expert magazine with 3 million readers worldwide. This recognition encourages us to continue the work that our family and our teams have been doing **for more than 90 years in Gigondas** and in the Southern Rhône Valley.

The Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane **was thought up by Claude and Pierre Amadieu at the end of the 1980s** to create a blend around Mourvèdre from our **high altitude vineyards**. In its northern limit here in Gigondas, this sometimes capricious Provencal grape variety was **introduced very early** on by Pierre Amadieu Sr in the **1950s** around the Romane house, despite the little interest it raised at the time. It **took 8 years of reflection and selection** of superb vineyards to produce this cuvée, which is **now vinified by Jean-Marie**.

The proportion of Mourvèdre (20%) present in this wine makes it **unique among the various Gigondas of our beautiful appellation**. It is blended with 65% Grenache and 15% Syrah, whose vines are rooted on our hillsides

The creation of this cuvée is also based on an **unusual ageing** style: long and shared between **new barrels (15%), old barrels (45%) and foudres (40%)**.

The combination of **our terroir, the blend and this precise ageing process** produces a **powerful and elegant** wine with notes of **red and black berries**, mixed with flavours of **garrigue** and **liquorice**. Its intensity is enhanced by a pleasant **freshness** on the palate, linked to the slow ripening of the **old vines** at an altitude of over 400m.

2017 was particularly **dry and hot**, and despite low yields, it delivered magnificent grapes with great **concentration**. We are fortunate to have seen a **succession of good vintages** in recent years, enabling us to produce wines of **excellent quality**. So, over the years, you have always **trusted us** for this cuvée that you all know, and it is also **thanks to you** that we have received this award.

This recognition is also shared by **the entire Gigondas appellation** and its winegrowers, who work together and will celebrate the **50th anniversary of our accession to cru status** in 2021.



*Pierre Amadieu***WINE ENTHUSIAST**

Anna Lee C. Iijima - April 2021

Gigondas Domaine Grande Romane 2018 94/100

Powerfully ripe yet vital and fresh, this full-bodied blend of Grenache (65%), Mourvèdre (20%) and Syrah (15%) was sourced from the highest vineyard plots in the producer's estate. It's an intense, fleshy sip heaving with sun-drenched black cherry and preserved-berry flavors accented by hints of bay leaf, crushed pepper and anise. Supple tannins and fresh acidity make it immediately enjoyable but the wine should stay at peak through 2028 and hold further still

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2017 91/100

Smoky notes of roasted cacao and cinnamon accent plush, plummy blueberry and blackberry in this 90/10 blend of Grenache and Syrah. Fleshy and ripe, it's a rich, almost creamy red balanced by a revitalizing mineral undertow. Ready now, the wine should drink well through 2028.

Vacqueyras La Grangelière rouge 2018 92/100

Prominent whiffs of burnt caramel, char and toast meld seamlessly into richly concentrated black-plum and cherry flavors in this wine. An 80/20 blend of Grenache and Syrah matured six months in oak, it's a lavish, stately wine that balances youthful black-fruit flavors against embellishments of clove, vanilla and crushed earth. Soft in tannins, it's ready to enjoy now but should improve through 2028 and hold further.

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018 93/100

Sourced from vines averaging 45 years in age on limestone and marl soils, this blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah spotlights ripe but pristine mulberry and boysenberry flavors. It's a concentrated wine lifted by a chalky, salty mineral undertow, finishing on fine, supple tannins. Ready now, the wine should drink well through 2028.

*Pierre Amadieu***Wine Spectator**
www.winespectator.com

J. Molesworth - January 2021

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018**94/100**

Packed with red- and black-currant fruit inlaid with licorice snap, garrigue and tar notes, this stays racy and focused in feel thanks to a bright iron–mineral streak that runs underneath it all. Rock solid. Best from 2022 through 2038.

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018**93/100**

Ripe and suave in feel, with a caressing edge to a mix of crushed plum, cassis and cherry preserve flavors as they glide through. Light mineral and black tea notes add range through the finish, which is sneaky long, leaving a mouthwatering feel. Latent depth too, so worth letting this develop in the cellar. Best from 2021 through 2035.



WINE ADVOCATE

Joe Czerwinski – November 2020

« This old-school négociant (and estate owner) based in Gigondas has turned out a solid lineup in 2018. »

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018**91/100**

The 2018 Gigondas Romane Machotte—an 80-20 blend of Grenache and Syrah, aged in a combination of foudres and barriques—is perfumed and seductive, with hints of violets, roses, herbal tea and dried cherries on the nose. The palate is silky but structured, with some slightly astringent tannins that carry through to the lingering finish, but they're nothing that can't be tamed by some rare beef or lamb, or another year in the cellar. This has turned out even better than I projected from barrel.

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018**92/100**

Always among the top wines at this address, the 2018 Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane delivers once again. Hedonistic waves of vanilla and ripe cherries greet the nose, while the full-bodied palate is expansive yet structured, framed by softly dusty tannins that turn silkier on the long finish. While decidedly modern in style, it looks to have the inherent substance and balance to drink well for up to a decade.

Pierre Amadieu

JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck – October 2020

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018 **90/100**

While the 2018 Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane isn't going to match the brilliant 2017, it's nevertheless an outstanding, beautiful Gigondas that has loads to love. Offering lots of ripe black cherries, black raspberries, peppery herbs, and spice, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a rounded, expansive texture, ripe tannins, and a great finish. It's another Provençal, character-filled, incredibly satisfying wine from this estate that should drink nicely for 7-8 years.

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018 **89/100**

Showing nicely from barrel and now from bottle, the 2018 Gigondas Romane Machotte reveals a medium ruby/translucent color to go with a beautifully Provençal and complex bouquet of wild strawberries, herbes de Provence, cedary spice, and loamy soil. Playing in the medium-bodied, charming, nicely textured style of the vintage, it has loads of charm and is ideal for drinking over the coming 5-7 years.

Antonio Galloni
vinous
 explore all things wine

Josh Reynolds - February 2020

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018 **93-95/100**

Deep, brilliant red. A deeply perfumed bouquet evokes ripe red/blue fruits, incense and vanilla. A sexy floral nuance builds as the wine opens up. Offers sweet, concentrated raspberry, boysenberry, candied lavender and spicecake flavors that steadily become more lively as the wine stretches out. Displays sharp delineation and emphatic spicy thrust on a impressively long, floral-dominated finish that's framed by supple, slow-building tannins.

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018 **92-94/100**

Glistening ruby-red. Pungent aromas of ripe cherry and dark berries punctuated by suggestions of smoked meat and vanilla. In a wild but controlled style, offering sweet cassis, cherry liqueur, allspice and mocha flavors that firm up quickly on the back end. Opens up on the long, youthfully tannic finish, which leaves sappy red/dark berry and spice notes behind.

*Pierre Amadieu***drinkrhone.com**

John Livingstone-Learmonth – February 2020

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018 * * * *

Shiny dark robe; the bouquet has a live air of blackberry, blackberry jelly fruit, with a little menthol, tea leaves in the mix, influences that lift it. The palate resounds well via its stylish, elegant black fruits, with purity in the fruit, and fine tuning in the tannins. The juice is well concentrated, and fluid at the same time, as it finishes. The length is good. This has good shape, will evolve nicely.

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018 * * * * (*)

Shiny dark red; the nose is broad, sustained, gives a concerted aroma of raspberry fruit with side notes of dried herbes de Provence – the fruit stands up well. The palate involves oaking on the attack, runs with well collected red fruits, mulberry for example, and tannins that have inner strength, real resolve. It has racy notes in a firm filling. Its bright approach appeals, and the aftertaste is well juiced. Good length, good shape here.

Wine Spectator

J. Molesworth - November 2019

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2016 94/100

Ripe and vivid, with beautiful flow to the mix of dark plum, fig and blackberry preserve flavors, carried by a swath of licorice root and tobacco. Swirls of black tea and mesquite show on the finish, which reveals well-buried chalky minerality. Should cellar nicely. Best from 2022 through 2035.

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

Richard Hemming – November 2019

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018 15.5/20

65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah. Aged for 18 months in oak. Cask sample. Tasted blind. Potent oak influence gives a strong spicy complexity to the nose, and leads the palate too. There is correct red fruit too, but it plays second fiddle to the oak. Aggressive tannic grip. Might settle with time ? Drink 2022–2028

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018 15/20

80% Grenache, 20% Syrah. Aged for 12 months in old oak. Cask sample. Tasted blind. Dry, tart palate with simple fruit and light spicing.

*Pierre Amadieu***JEB DUNNUCK**

Jeb Dunnuck – September 2019

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018 89-91/100

The 2018 Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane is charmer and shows the vintage style with its upfront dark fruits, cedary spice, and earthy aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied and nicely textured on the palate, it offers plenty of fruit and is going to drink nicely right out of the gate.

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018 90-92/100

In the same ballpark, the 2018 Gigondas Romane Machotte is another ripe, forward, fleshy Gigondas that's going to have plenty of upfront appeal. Complex notes of ripe strawberries, black raspberries, cedarwood, and dried garrigue all emerge from this medium-bodied Gigondas that's ideal for enjoying over the coming 5-7 years.

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2016 95/100

A beautiful wine, the flagship 2016 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle is a normal blend of 90% Grenache and 10% Syrah that spent a full two years in oak casks before bottling. Ruby/purple-colored with intense notes of black raspberries, cassis, garrigue, and flowery incense, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a layered, multi-dimensional texture, and building tannins that give plenty of cut and definition on the finish. Taking plenty of time to open up, it's going to benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and shine for 10-15 years. It's a class act.

Pierre Amadieu
WINE ADVOCATE

Joe Czerwinski – September 2019

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2016 **93/100**

Amadieu's top cuvée, the 2016 Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle is 90% old-vine Grenache and 10% Syrah planted at 400 meters above sea level (near the top of the appellation). Hints of clove, leather and cedar accent a mix of red and black fruit, including hints of cola. Medium to full-bodied, this concentrated, complex wine should be at its best in another year or two and drink well for the next 4-5 years.

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2018 **91-94/100**

Penetrating aromas of Bing cherries and mossy stones lead the way in the 2018 Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane, a blend of 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre and 15% Syrah. It's full-bodied, supple and round, fleshed out but ripe stone fruit, then it finishes firm and tannic.

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2018 **87-89/100**

An 80-20 blend of Grenache and Syrah, the medium to full-bodied 2018 Gigondas Romane Machotte is supple and nearly ready to drink, despite still being in oak. Cherries and peaches round out this plush-textured wine that lingers on the finish.


JancisRobinson.com

Richard Hemming - November 2018

November 2017

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2016 **17/20**

Syrupy, rich and thick on the nose and palate. Forceful and flavoursome with deliciously ripe raspberry fruit and soft, supple tannin. Drink 2018-2030

Pierre Amadieu

November 2017

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2016**93-95/100**

Amadieu's top cuvée, and a stellar barrel sample, the 2016 Gigondas le Pas de l'Aigle comes from old-vine Grenache and Syrah planted at 400 meters above sea level (near the top of the appellation). As this wine typically spends 24 months in oak, it may pick up more cedar and vanilla notes, but for the moment it looks very pure. Kirsch-like aromas are followed by a fantastically supple and creamy palate that manages to be full without being heavy, then masses of ripe tannins mount on the lingering finish. Let's hope this level of quality is representative of what will go into the bottle next year.



By Josh Reynolds - April 2018

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2016**92-94 points**

Lurid ruby-red. Potent, mineral-accented raspberry liqueur and cherry aromas are complemented by suggestions of incense, vanilla and exotic flowers. Velvety in texture and impressively concentrated, offering sweet red berry and cherry preserve flavors that are lifted by a spine of juicy and spicy snap of white pepper. Plush yet energetic in style, finishing on an emphatic floral note, with excellent clarity and harmonious tannins that build slowly.

drinkrhone.com

John Livingstone-Learmonth – December 2017

Gigondas Le Pas De l'Aigle 2016 * * * * *

Dark red. The nose gives a lucid aroma of cherry-raspberry fruit, has a coulis style, appealing sweetness, glistens with juvenile brilliance, shows some oak in the background. The palate is the home to most attractive Grenache red fruits, red cherries with a suave style and juicy content. The mid-palate is very well filled, the balance is good, and the purity of the fruit striking – it's crystalline. The oak will require another four years or so to fuse into it. A most winning bottle awaits, full of the clarity of Gigondas.