

*Pierre Amadieu***Wine Spectator**

J. Molesworth - October 2022

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2019**93/100**

An expressive red, with warm fig and raspberry pâte de fruit laced with expressive violet perfume. The impressive finish is driven by roasted garrigue and mineral energy. This is still tightly coiled, however, and will need time for new layers to emerge. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2030.

Decanter

Matt Walls – August 2022

Côtes du Rhône Domaine Grand Romane 2021**90/100**

Dried citrus peels on the palate, alongside the flesh and bitter pith of pink grapefruit. Good intensity and bite, but the bitterness might be too much for some. 50-year-old vines grown at 400m near Gigondas.

Des écorces d'agrumes séchées en bouche, ainsi que la chair et la membrane blanche amère du pamplemousse rose. Bonne intensité et mordant, mais l'amertume pourrait être trop forte pour certains. Vignes de 50 ans cultivées à 400m près de Gigondas.

WINE ENTHUSIAST

Anna Lee C. Iijima - January 2022

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2018**93/100**

Opulent and heady, this full-bodied red highlights the power and richness of Grenache with just 10% of Syrah blended for freshness and angularity. Packed with concentrated blackberry and cherry flavors and accented by hints of mesquite, tar and sweet spice, it's a mouth-coating wine with fine-grained, integrated tannins that are approachable now. At peak through 2030.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

James Suckling – January 2022

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2017**96/100**

This impressive Gigondas is beginning to mature beautifully. Haunting nose of spice, rosemary and wild thyme. At once expansive, highly structured and very refined on the palate, this has everything we look for in this appellation. Gives so much at the long, velvety finish, yet still has some more in reserve. A blend of grenache and syrah from 60-year-old vines, growing at 400 meters altitude. Drink or hold.

*Pierre Amadieu***JEB DUNNUCK**

Jeb Dunnuck – January 2022

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2019**92-94/100**

Lastly, the 2019 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle comes from a higher elevation vineyard and is just about all Grenache that will spend two years in foudre before release. Absolutely loaded with Provençal goodness, it has sweet red and black fruits, spice, and garrigue notes to go with a medium to full-bodied, richly textured, balanced style on the palate. It's already hard to resist (even as a barrel sample) but will evolve gracefully for 15 years or more if stored properly.

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2020**90-92/100**

The 2020 Gigondas Romane Machotte should easily be outstanding and is another high-quality wine from this producer. Pure red and black fruits, peppery herbs, and spice all flow to a medium-bodied, classy, elegant Gigondas that's very much in the style of this fresher, pure, elegant vintage.

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2020**90-92/100**

The 2020 Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane is more old-school in style and has meaty, spicy, earthy red and black fruits as well as some powerful, chewy tannins on the palate. The tannins will need to be watched, but this is a solid, possibly outstanding bottle of wine in the making. The blend is 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre, and 15% Syrah brought up in very old barrels.

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2020**91-94/100**

The flagship 2020 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle is almost exclusively Grenache (there's 10% Syrah) that sees a longer élevage in foudre. Clean red and black fruits, spice, loamy soil, and leather notes all comprise the bouquet, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a balanced, elegant mouthfeel and a great finish. It's unquestionably a beautiful wine in the making, and with its longer élevage, it normally has plenty of up-front charm as well.

Vacqueyras La Grangelière 2020**89-91/100**

The entry level cuvée, the 2020 Vacqueyras La Grangelière is an 80/20 split of Grenache and Syrah. It has a juicy bouquet of bright berry and strawberry fruits as well as some Provençal herbs and pepper. Medium-bodied, pure, and easygoing, it's a total charmer that will drink nicely right out of the gate.

drinkrhone.com

John Livingstone-Learmonth – November 2021

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2020****** (*)**

handsome dark red robe; the bouquet is wide, rich and appealing, carries oak, its depth sure, good definition in its cassis, smoky fruit. The palate has a cool tone through it, spine provided by freshness and oak together, pedigree fruit on either side. It clusters together on a mineral, reserved finish, has good potential, plenty in the locker, is long. Its smoothness of texture appeals, and its length is suave, prolonged, oak once more on the aftertaste.

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2020***** (*)**

full red robe; the nose carries grilling, an air of pork scratchings, herbal touches, cold tea leaves, is reserved for now. The palate carries discreet spicing, is upright in shape, influenced by its oak, the red cherry fruit inside clear enough. It has both feet in the cellar, will require time to soft and appeal. The fruit can move forward, has enough depth and flow to achieve that. It's a modern, svelte sort of Gigondas, a little arm's length in feel.

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2020********

attractive full red colour; the nose is profound, based on red fruits, with oaking attached. It can open and stay the course well over time. The palate attacks on a firm wave of red fruited content, has slightly muscular tannins involved, lengthens with a sure hand into a broad finish, blood-iron notes there, notes of cut. It has good shape, will evolve well, carries freshness.

Cairanne Les Hautes Rives red 2020***** (*)**

dark red; the bouquet works well, offers stewed plum fruits from the Grenache, has a neat togetherness, comes with a hint of cocoa. The palate serves cooked plum fruits, a stone fruit emphasis, notes of garrigue late on, shows Cairanne in a true light. The finish develops thrust, is well rounded. It's a shapely wine that gives relaxed pleasure, won't be that long lived given the maturity of the fruit.

Vacqueyras La Grangelière 2020********

dark red; the bouquet is coming along, has an emerging air of blackberry, elderberry, a leafy, mineral tone. The palate is tightly drawn together, holds a firm level of content, the tannins compact, resolute. It's in a primary state, close-knit, with a knuckle of gras that needs time to spread and soften. Its red fruit is peeking out, and can advance further. Its shape is good for a second stage.

*Pierre Amadieu***Decanter**

Matt Walls - December 2021

Gigondas Domaine Grand Romane 2020**92/100**

Good weight and concentration, although the aromatics are discreet for now. This is well-balanced, there's a touch of oak that helps build some weight and length into the wine. Longer than most. Smooth and satisfying. Old vines at 400m, aged for 18 months - 60% in barriques (15% new) and 40% in foudres.

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

James Lawther – December 2021

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2020**16/20**

Dark and reserved with a hint of herb and spice. A little austere on the palate but there's an intensity of fruit and solid tannic frame. Will need time to come around but has potential.

Vacqueyras La Grangelière 2020**16+/20**

Attractive red-berry and plum aromas. Well delineated on the palate, the fruit and balance there. Tannins long and fresh giving good persistence on the finish. Seems quite harmonious.

Wine Spectator
www.winespector.com

J. Molesworth - July 2021

Côtes du Rhône Grand Réserve 2019**89/100**

Focused dark cherry and blackberry fruit streams through, flanked with graphite and singed anise notes. Nicely persistent on the finish. Drink now through 2022.

drinkrhone.com

John Livingstone-Learmonth – May 2021

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2019*** * * ***

dark red; the bouquet has a loose ease about it, offers airs of nettles, herbs, dusty trails, with a little fine tuned black berry fruit, suggests its altitude in its still rather spare delivery. The palate is also fibrous, direct, carries vegetal connections with a crisp fruit that has verve and carries well. It's a linear Gigondas, one that will benefit from time, and can most certainly come together successfully – that is how things should be. Menthol on the aftertaste is preceded by salty moments, all good and local, and it will gradually fill out its flanks over time. It's a long term play. From 2024, decant it.

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2019*** * * ***

attractive dark red; the bouquet has a sunny filling of ripe black berry fruit, notes of oak, crushed nutshells, chocolate present. It's a sleek start, reflects cellar over vineyard for now. The palate holds shapely content, good purity in its dark fruit with lissom tannins in tow, spic, then oak again on the aftertaste. There is a steady, rather tight richness at its heart, and it will gradually lessen its oak effect, so leave until 2025 or so. It's modern, polished Gigondas, not really local as it stands. Decant it.

Côtes du Rhône Grande Réserve 2019*** * * ***

good, full red robe; the nose is well formed, offers airs of plums, olives, a sweet tone to it, and a lasting trail. The palate is juicy, agreeably full, rolls along well, develops some smoky tannins that bring late edge and a grainy texture, the length sustained. This is a properly structured, feet on the ground Côtes for a longer life than most, a wine that will evolve nicely. It's just tapping at the door for now, vintage concentration at its heart. 14.5°.

*Pierre Amadieu***WINE ENTHUSIAST**

Anna Lee C. Iijima - April 2021

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.



Joe Czerwinski – November 2020

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2017 92/100

From a vineyard at 400 meters above sea level (near the upper limit of the appellation), the 2017 Gigondas le Pas de l'Aigle is a 90-10 blend of Grenache and Syrah, aged several years in oak. Like many of the cuvées that see extended time in barrel, the oak actually seems to recede over time, being most prominent sometime between eight and 14 months. Now that this wine is in bottle, it does reveal hints of mocha, dried spices and cedar, but—more importantly—stronger notes of dark earth and ripe cherries. Full-bodied and velvety, it's a powerful, muscular example of Gigondas that may be consumed young or aged up to a decade.

JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck – October 2020

Gigondas Romane Machotte 2019 90-92/100

Moving to the 2019s from barrel, the 2019 Gigondas Romane Machotte reveals a ruby/purple hue as well as a terrific nose of black raspberry and kirsch fruits supported by plenty of cedary spice and dried garrigue like nuances. Medium to full-bodied and nicely concentrated, with ripe tannins, it's a beautiful Gigondas in the making that should drink nicely right out of the gate, yet also evolve for 7-8 years, if not longer.

Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle 2017 93+/100

The flagship from this solid estate is the 2017 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle and it checks in as 90% Grenache and 10% Syrah that sees a longer élevage in tank followed by a year in bottle before release. Revealing a more medium ruby color that's slightly translucent, it has a terrific, classic 2017 bouquet of spiced red fruits, Provençal garrigue, ground pepper, and loamy soil, with a terrific sense of limestone induced minerality that comes through with time in the glass. Hitting the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, it has beautiful overall balance, plenty of mid-palate depth, and enough tannins to warrant another 2-3 years of bottle age. It's beautifully done and just a Provençal, satisfying, already complex, Gigondas that's going to evolve for 10-15 years.

Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle 2019 92-94/100

The flagship 2019 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle is the normal 90% Grenache and 10% Syrah brought up in cask. More peppery garrigue, cedary spice, dried incense, and both kirsch and blackberry-like fruit characteristics emerge from the glass, and it hits the palate with a medium-bodied, concentrated mouthfeel that carries plenty of structure and depth. As normal, this wine will need 2-4 years of bottle age but will be a classic, outstanding Gigondas that will evolve for over a decade.

Pierre Amadieu

drinkrhone.com

John Livingstone-Learmonth – February 2020

Gigondas Le Pas De l'Aigle 2018

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(casks) full red colour; the bouquet has a Grenache-led spiced, red fruit jam, cooked strawberry aroma, comes with a trifle dusty aspect. The palate bears some of the baking of the hot vintage, is compressed, the juice clamped, the tannins firm to dry. It's a sunshine, Southern, grounded wine, which requires keeping to bring more freedom and expression, and to soften it as well: it can do that, will have its moment in the sun later on. Decant it. 15°.

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

Richard Hemming – november2019

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2018

15.5/20

90% Grenache, 10% Syrah. Aged for 24 months in old oak. Cask sample. Tasted blind. Strawberry and cherry fruit, piquant spices which give good contrast to the ripe fruit, and moderate length that finishes with hot alcohol.

JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck – September 2019

Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle 2017

91-94/100

The flagship cuvée is the 2017 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle, which comes from a northwest-facing parcel located at the foot of the Dentelles at an elevation of 400 meters above sea level. It has a complex, lively perfume of spring flowers, rose petals, mulberries, and kirsch to go with a medium to full-bodied, silky style on the palate. It doesn't have the density of the 2016, yet it certainly isn't far off. It's going to benefit from short-term cellaring and keep for a decade.

Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle 2018

91-93/100

Not yet bottled, the 2018 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle (90/10 Grenache and Syrah) offers a medium-bodied, elegant, seamless style as well as perfumed notes of black raspberries, graphite, spice cabinet, and dried flower-like nuances. It has good density on the mid-palate, outstanding balance, and a great finish, all pointing to a terrific Gigondas that will drink well of over a decade.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

Joe Czerwinski – September 2019

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2018

93-95/100

Mainly (90%) 65-year-old Grenache grown at 400 meters above sea level on blue clay, Amadieu's 2018 Gigondas le Pas de l'Aigle looks to be another top success. Still in barrel (where it stays for two years), it's full-bodied, supple and rich, with bold raspberry and cherry fruit, a velvety mouthfeel and a long, rich finish marked by ripe tannins.

Pierre Amadieu

drinkrhone.com

John Livingstone-Learmonth – January 2019

Gigondas Le Pas De l'Aigle 2017 * * * *

Sound, quite full red robe; there's a lead air of crushed pistachio nutshells, an inlay of stylish raspberry fruit, a vegetal connection on the nose. The palate holds savoury, content, a willing raspberry coulis or jam flavour which persists well, with clarity on the finish. It collects some of the cool features of Gigondas, and the smooth texture reminds me of a wine from sandy soils. This is promising, elegant, aromatic.

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

Richard Hemming - November 2018

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2017 17/20

90% Grenache, 10% Syrah. Cask sample. Tasted blind. Excellent red-fruit ripeness with a cranberry and redcurrant character and complementary herby notes. Pure, vivid and expressive – a real glassful of pleasure. The tannins are still very furry, but that will soften and there is great potential for further complexity. Warm alcohol but it matches the flavour intensity. Drink 2021-2031

JEB DUNNUCK

Jeb Dunnuck – September 2018

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2017 92-94/100

The flagship from Amadieu is the 2017 Gigondas Le Pas De L'Aigle, which is 90% Grenache and 10% Syrah sourced from a higher elevation (400 meters), northwest facing parcel of 65-yearold vines. It's aged two years in cask and held for a year in bottle before release. Deep purple colored, with a ripe, forward bouquet of blackberries, smoked earth, and cedary spice, this beauty has considerable elegance, medium to full body, fine tannins, and a great finish.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

Joe Czerwinski – September 2018

Gigondas Le Pas de l'Aigle 2017 92-94/100

The 2017 Gigondas le Pas de l'Aigle, a 90-10 Grenache-Syrah blend from near the top of the appellation, will spend another year or so in oak, but for now, it's an incredible whirlwind of fruit, swirling together raspberries and blueberries in a fun, supple but full-bodied wine.