

LE MILLÉSIME... The 2016s from the Southern Rhône (Part 2)

by JEB DUNNUCK | SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

VACQUEYRAS – The appellation of Vacqueyras lies to the west of Gigondas and covers 3,200 acres mostly located on the Plateau de Garrigues located just behind the village. This is a relatively homogeneous *terroir* consisting of rolled stones and pebbly, clay soils, and the appellation allows reds, whites, and rosés to be produced. As I've said in the past, the reds from Vacqueyras tend to share similarities with those from Châteauneuf-du-Pape, yet rarely possess as much structure, concentration, or depth. Nevertheless, the top wines are gorgeous, with approachable, voluptuous, and sexy profiles that drink beautifully for upwards of a decade.

2017	Domaine Les Ondines Vacqueyras Les Ondines	○	88-90	NA
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2017 Domaine Les Ondines Vacqueyras Les Ondines 88-90

Lighter and more elegant, the 2017 Vacqueyras Les Ondines is 75% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and the rest Cinsault. This medium-bodied, fresh, nicely balanced effort offers more red fruits, spice, and ample sandy/loamy soil notes. It's charming, has good fruit, and shows the forward style of the vintage.

2016	Domaine Les Ondines Vacqueyras Passion Blanc	○	90	NA
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2016	Domaine Les Ondines Vacqueyras Passion	○	90-92	NA
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2016 Domaine Les Ondines Vacqueyras Passion Blanc 90

The light gold-colored 2016 Vacqueyras Passion Blanc checks in as 55% Clairette, 35% Roussanne, and the rest Viognier, Grenache Blanc and Bourboulenc. It offers pretty notes of lemon curd, exotic flowers, and peach, medium body, good acidity, and a clean, dry finish. It's drinking nicely today yet should keep for 2-3 years.

2016 Domaine Les Ondines Vacqueyras Passion 90-92

The barrel sample of the 2016 Vacqueyras Passion was a touch tired but nevertheless impressive. Loads of cassis and currant fruits, licorice, and garrigue notes all emerge from the glass. Plump, medium to full-bodied, and balanced on the palate, with good density, it should be outstanding. The blend is 68% Grenache, 27% Syrah, and the balance Cinsault.