

COMMENTS & TASTING NOTES

TOUR DE RIPEAU

VINTAGE 2016

ANTONIO GALLONI 89/100

The 2016 Château Tour de Ripeau is a bold, fruity wine to drink now and over the next handful of years, while the succulent black cherry, espresso and bittersweet chocolate flavors retain their youthful vibrancy. Although not especially complex, the 2016 is tasty.

JONATHAN CHOUKROUN CHICHEPORTICHE VERT DE VIN 92-93/100

The nose is fruity and offers power as well as a small concentration. It reveals notes of cassis, wild blackberry and small black fruits associated with touches of liquorice, raspberry as well as hints of iris, Cuban pepper and spices. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a good definition, an acidulous frame, a slight suavity, a good freshness as well as gourmandise. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fresh / juicy blackberry and juicy / fresh cassis associated with small notes of wild raspberry, juicy blueberry, small juicy red berries as well as small touches of chocolate / cocoa, small toasted touches and a discreet hint of spices. A very slight austerity on the finish. Tannins are fine and very slightly grainy. Good length. There are hints of cocoa and an imperceptible hint of flowers / caramelized almond on the persistence.

JAMES SUCKLING 93/100

This is ripe and decadent with dark berry, hazelnut, meat and volcanic salt aromas that follow through to a full body, juicy tannins and a flavorful, spicy finish. Drink after 2022.

JEB DUNNUCK 90/100

Readers looking for a great introduction into the 2016 vintage (as well as an intro to this up and coming estate) should check out the 2016 Tour de Ripeau. Based on 45% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new oak (the balance was in tank), it's a medium-bodied, rounded, satisfying effort that has loads of black fruits, tobacco and earthy, herbal undertones. I'd happily drink bottles over the coming 8-10 years.

CHRISTER BYKLUM 91/100

Ruby. Scented, floral, nuanced, dark berries, some spices nose. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, dark fruity, blueberries and spices, some vanilla, long.

VINTAGE 2015

JEB DUNNUCK 90/100

Another wine from Château Ripeau is the 2015 Tour De Ripeau and it's a blend of 65% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc. From younger vine and designated parcels, made with an eye on elegance and tension, it offers pretty notes of ripe cherries, blueberries, fruit cake, and spice as well as medium body, fine tannin, and nicely integrated acidity. It shows a very pretty, graceful style and should keep or 10-15 years.

CHRISTER BYKLUM 90/100

Ruby. Scented, red berries, anise, floral, raspberries nose. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, juicy, red berries, spices, raspberries and blueberries, elegant texture, long. Much fresher than the 14,6 level alcohol suggests.

JAMES SUCKLING 91/100

Aromatic and fresh with floral and currant character. Medium to full body, fine and silky tannins and a pretty finish. Shows finesse and drinkability. Second wine of Château Ripeau. Try in 2019 but already delicious.