

ISSUE 228

I published [Part One of the Southern Rhône](#) notes in [Issue 227](#), with the focus on Châteauneuf du Pape Producers. Part Two steps outside Châteauneuf du Pape and includes all the Southern Rhône appellations. Combined, there's over 1,700 reviews from the 2014 and 2015 vintages in the southern Rhône. Readers can find additional information on the weather conditions for both vintages in the [introduction report](#) in [227](#), but I've included high-level overviews below.

The 2014 vintage was marked by high yields, a cooler than average summer, and a rainy end to the season. At their best, the wines offer charming, forward and fruit-loaded profiles, with plenty of early-drinking appeal. This is an ideal vintage to order off wine lists and to buy as cellar savers while you wait on the larger, more structured wines to acquire bottle age. However, don't let anyone tell you 2014 is a great vintage; there are far too many wines that lack fat, richness and depth. In addition, many wines possess firm tannin due to the less than ideal ripening conditions. The highlights include Châteauneuf du Pape, Vacqueyras and Cairanne, with the two border appellations of Ventoux and Costières de Nîmes also yielding plenty of solid wines. Despite producing some of the top wines, as a whole Gigondas and Rasteau suffered due to excessive yields—producing firm, hard and at times charmless wines.

After the difficult 2014 and 2013 vintages, the southern Rhône enjoyed a sunny, hot vintage in 2015. Marked by scorching temperatures during July and August, causing significant blockage in the ripening cycle for younger vines, the harvest was complicated by storms in late August and September. A long, lengthy harvest followed as vigneron waited for phenolic maturity. The good news is that almost all the appellations excelled, and there's a wealth of outstanding wines. It's almost impossible to find a bad wine, and the top wines are full-bodied, pure and concentrated, with notable tannin. The bad news is that I found fewer truly great wines than I would expect from an exceptional vintage. In addition, once you move away from the top producers, the tannin quality falls off, and many wines can have coarse, rustic tannin. Nevertheless, for the true wine drinkers out there, this is a terrific vintage that you'll love to have in the cellar. The vast majority of these will be reviewed from bottle next year.



*The Plan de Dieu*

	Vintage	Wine Name	Color	Rating	Price
<input type="checkbox"/>	2014	Domaine les Teyssonnières Gigondas	red	88	NA
<input type="checkbox"/>	2015	Domaine les Teyssonnières Gigondas	red	(89 - 92)	NA

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**2014 Domaine les Teyssonnières Gigondas**

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Not far off the 2015, and solid in the vintage, the 2014 Gigondas (80% Grenache and 20% Syrah aged all in concrete tanks) offers floral, perfumed notes of strawberries, rose petal and sappy green herbs. Possessing medium-bodied richness, good ripeness and sweet tannin, drink this elegant beauty over the coming 5-6 years.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (December, 2016)**

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(89 - 92)

**2015 Domaine les Teyssonnières Gigondas**

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The 2015 Gigondas is a medium to full-bodied, supple, layered, even sexy 2015 that has the classic sweet red fruits and sandy, loamy soils notes this cuvee always possesses. This is never the biggest wine in a vintage, yet it excels for its purity, finesse and elegance.

- **Jeb Dunnuck (December, 2016)**

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