

**2012 Domaine du Grapillon d'Or Gigondas
Excellence**

Moving to the 2012s, the Gigondas Excellence is gorgeous and up with the creme de la creme of the vintage. Comprised of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah, aged all in tank, it offers up notes of blackcurrants, sweet cassis, licorice, crushed stone-like minerality and loads of spice on the nose. This is followed by a medium to full-bodied, supple, elegant and perfectly balanced Gigondas that should deliver the goods for 10-12 years or more.

Another estate that over delivers, Domaine du Grapillon d'Or has always been run by the Chauvet family, with the father/daughter pair of Bernard and Celine Chauvet now running the show. Covering 35 acres in Gigondas (2 hectare in Vacqueyras and a small amount in Vin de Pays), they normally release two Gigondas cuvees in each vintage, with the 1806 being mostly Grenache and aged all in oak tanks, and

- Jeb Dunnuck (December, 2013)

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**2012 Domaine du Grapillon d'Or Gigondas
1806**

Also seriously impressive, the 2012 Gigondas 1806 is comprised of 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah that was aged all in larger, older barrels. It shows the freshness and purity of the vintage nicely with plenty of crisp currant and blackberry fruit, edgy minerality, ground herbs and tinges of leather on the nose. This carries it to a medium to full-bodied, concentrated and yet classically-styled wine that should be reasonably approachable on release, yet evolve gracefully for upward of a decade.

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I was disappointed that the 2012 Gigondas weren't presented, as I loved them from barrel. Nevertheless, the 2013 Gigondas 1806 (80% Grenache and 20% Syrah) also looks to be an outstanding effort and has beautiful blackberry, pepper, game and minerality. It's medium to full-bodied, has impressive ripeness and a great finish.

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Incorporating slightly more Syrah than the normal cuvee, the 2013 Gigondas Excellence is 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah, completely destemmed, and brought up all in tank. Coming from the oldest parcels on the estate (planted in the '60s), it exhibits gorgeous black raspberry, creamy licorice, pepper and loads of Provençal spice to go with a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, balanced feel on the palate. Given the fruit, it should be reasonably approachable on release, yet evolve gracefully through 2023.

- Jeb Dunnuck (January, 2015)

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