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

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2016 Domaine du Grapillon D'Or Gigondas Excellence / 93-95

Not yet bottled, the 2016 Gigondas Excellence (60/40 Grenache and Syrah) shows, as always, a slightly more focused, concentrated, chiseled style. Blackberries, charcoal, roasted herbs, and ample minerality all emerge from this rich, full-bodied, barrel sample that's going to need 2-3 years of bottle age. It's a beauty, but patience will be your friend.

2016 Domaine Du Grapillon D'Or Gigondas Cuvée 1806 / 94

The blockbuster 2016 Gigondas Cuvée 1806 knocks it out of the park with its textbook bouquet of black fruits, peppery herbs, earth, and saddle leather. With sweet tannin, beautiful purity, medium to full body, and a great, great finish, it's in the same ballpark as the stellar 2010 and one of the finest wines from this estate.

2017 Domaine Du Grapillon D'Or Gigondas Cuvée 1806 / 92-94

Based on 80/20 Grenache and Syrah brought up mostly in older barrels, the 2017 Gigondas Cuvée 1806 offers a classic nose of bouquet garni, nori (sushi wrapper), ground pepper, and ripe black fruits. With medium to full body, great elegance, sweet tannins, and a great finish, it's another no-brainer purchase for this cuvée.

2017 Domaine Du Grapillon D'Or Gigondas Excellence / 93-95

The smaller production 2017 Gigondas Excellence is a blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah that's destemmed and brought up mostly in barrel. Lots of dark fruits, peppery herbs, and bouquet garni all emerge from this full-bodied, concentrated, elegant barrel sample that does everything right. It's slightly more approachable than the 2016 and should be reasonably accessible in its youth yet also evolve for 10-15 years.



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