



**JAMES SUCKLING.COM** 

VINTAGES 2015 - 2018

## CÔTE À CÔTE 2017

TASTING DATE 11/19/2019

RATING **97**

This is an impressive red offering blackberry and blackcurrant aromas, together with chocolate, walnut, sweet-tobacco and mahogany notes. Black olives, too. Tar. Changes all the time. Tight and polished. It's full-bodied, yet so fine-grained and caressing in tannins. Lots of alcohol, yet it remains fresh and really lasts for minutes. A glorious wine. Aged in wood, cement and amphora. A blend of 48% grenache, 32% mourvedre and 20% syrah. Better after 2021.

## 2016 VINTAGE

### ESTATE CUVÉE 2016

TASTING DATE 10/02/2018

RATING **94**

Aromas of asphalt, blackberry, blueberry and crushed stones. Then it turns to grilled meat. Medium-bodied with medium, creamy tannins and a juicy finish with a lovely bitter-lemon note. 52% syrah, 32% cabernet sauvignon and 16% petit verdot. Drinking really well now.

### CÔTE À CÔTE 2016

TASTING DATE 10/02/2018

RATING **95**

Intense aromas of black fruit, uncooked meat and some bay-leaf. Medium to full body with round, creamy tannins and a juicy finish. Creamy texture here. 55% grenache, 25% mourvedre and 20% syrah. Delicious now.

## 2015 VINTAGE

### ESTATE CUVÉE 2015

TASTING DATE 10/08/2017

RATING **96**

Aromas of grilled meat, blackcurrants and spices with gamey notes. Full-bodied with a beautiful, round texture and juicy fruit. Gorgeous, decadent finish. Currants at the end. 55% syrah, 35% cabernet sauvignon and 10% petit verdot. Just starting to drink now.

### CÔTE À CÔTE 2015

TASTING DATE 10/08/2017

RATING **94**

This is really beautiful now, with blackberry and crushed-stone character. Full-bodied and juicy with some chewy tannins and flavors of crushed berries, figs and spices. 60% grenache, 30% mourvedre and 10% syrah. Drinkable now, but will age beautifully.

## 2018 VINTAGE

### OPTIMUS 2018

TASTING DATE 10/10/2020

RATING **94**

The spice and dark-chocolate character comes through on the nose. Full-bodied with ripe and creamy tannins and plenty of new wood. Vanilla and chocolate in the aftertaste. 56% syrah, 32% cabernet sauvignon and 12% petit verdot. This will be better in a two or three years.

### ESTATE CUVÉE 2018

TASTING DATE 10/10/2020

RATING **98**

This is a superb red with blackberry, blueberry, crushed-stone and currant character. Full-bodied, yet nervy. Hints of burnt orange and walnuts. Energy here. Framed and precise. 45% syrah, 40% cabernet sauvignon and 15% petit verdot. Give it three or four years, but already great.

### CÔTE À CÔTE 2018

TASTING DATE 10/10/2020

RATING **96**

This is incredible, offering red fruit, peach and some honeysuckle. Medium to full body, creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. Tight and focused. 51% grenache, 26% mourvedre, and 23% syrah. Drink or hold.

## 2017 VINTAGE

### ESTATE CUVÉE 2017

TASTING DATE 11/19/2019

RATING **93**

This is open and delicious now, showing red berries, blackberries and some chocolate. Medium-bodied with medium, round tannins. Juicy and flavorful. Shows the heat of the vintage, yet it remains fruity and fresh. 49% syrah, 30% cabernet sauvignon and 21% petit verdot. Drink now.