

# Wine Spectator

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## SOUTHERN RHÔNE

### CLASSIC WINES & GREAT VALUES



**GIGONDAS: THE KINGDOM OF GRENACHE**  
**LUXURY ENTERTAINING AT HOME**  
**MERLOT SHINES IN NAPA**

NOV. 30, 2018  
\$6.99 US

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# Producers to Know in Gigondas

**G**igondas is made up of numerous small, family-owned domaines, many of them historic properties dating back generations. Most are based in Gigondas, though some are based in other areas of the Southern Rhône. The following profiles cover some of the region's top producers whose wines are exported to the U.S.

## DOMAINE DU GRAPILLON D'OR

The year 1806 is carved into one of the stones above a door at this domaine, indicating its founding. Since taking over from her father in 2000, Céline Chauvet has steadily modernized the estate, while keeping quality high. She welcomes visitors at a shiny new tasting room, which has a wonderful corkscrew collection on display.

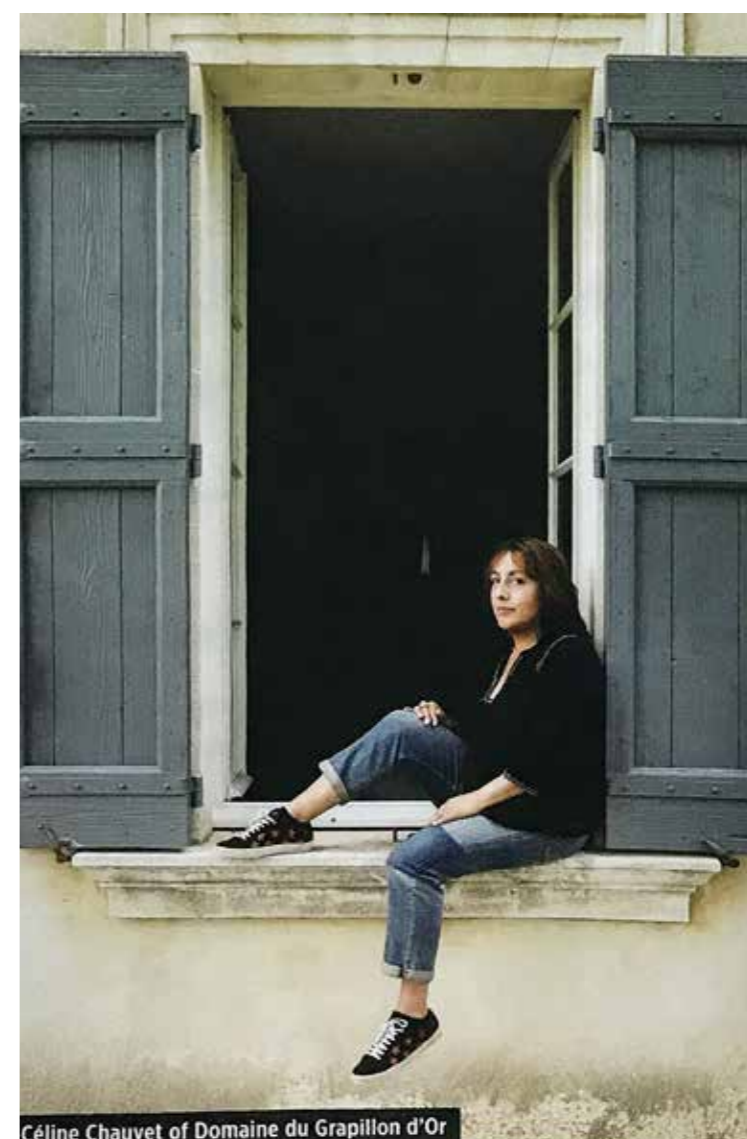
Today, the estate totals 39 acres of vines, nearly all of which run along the Les Garrigues plateau below the town. All of the plantings are Grenache or Syrah—there's no Mourvèdre or Cinsault, a rarity for Gigondas. This is a very traditional domaine, with vinification in cement vat and aging in *foudre*. There is one exception, though, as Chauvet was among the first to destem entirely.

Of the two bottlings, the basic Gigondas displays the charm, finesse and bright mineral edge Chauvet aims for, while her Excellence cuvée draws on the estate's oldest vines to deliver a slightly darker fruit profile and more overt chalky structure.

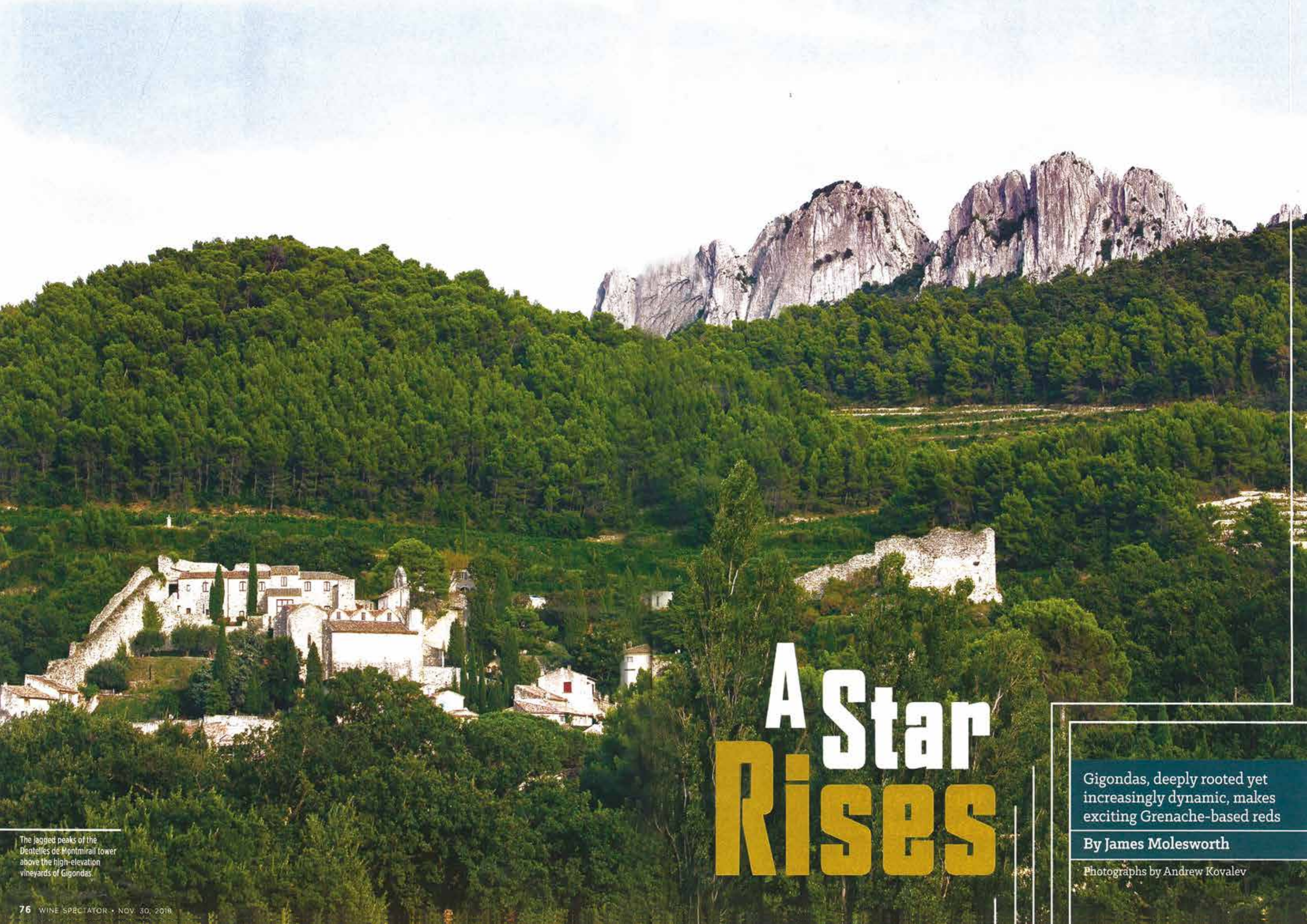
## Top Gigondas

### GIGONDAS : THE KINGDOM OF GRENACHE

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
DOMAINE DU GRAPILLON D'OR Gigondas Excellence 2015	94	\$ 51
DOMAINE DU GRAPILLON D'OR Gigondas 2015	93	\$ 32







The jagged peaks of the Dentelles de Montmirail tower above the high-elevation vineyards of Gigondas.

# A Star Rises

Gigondas, deeply rooted yet increasingly dynamic, makes exciting Grenache-based reds

By James Molesworth

Photographs by Andrew Kovalev



## Gigondas

WINES MADE: ● ● | VINEYARD ACRES: 2,950

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Gigondas, a former Côtes du Rhône designation, became its own appellation in 1971. It lies at the foot of the Dentelles de Montmirail, a small mountain chain with teethlike topography. The Dentelles limit morning sunshine, prolonging grape maturation, and bring the limestone to the vineyards, mixed with some clay and sand. The reds are concentrated but have finesse, showing floral, perfumy notes with dark fruit, spice and mineral flavors.