

Saint-Joseph Les Challeys

2022**92 POINTS****Yohan Castaing | The Wine Advocate**

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Maison Delas, owned by Deutz Champagne, part of the Roederer group, has built a new winery that allows for greater precision throughout the winemaking process. Winemaker Jacques Desvauges has high hopes for this new facility. As some readers may remember, Delas owns vineyards on some of the finest sites in the Northern Rhône. Recently, the house has shifted toward producing less woody, more elegant and precise wines than in the past. This evolution involves using Burgundy barrels and larger containers and selecting coopers more carefully, including Taransaud, Chassin, Seguin Moreau, Marsannay and François Frères. The vineyards received organic certification in 2024. The maturing process here follows a traditional, somewhat Bordeaux-like style, which sometimes makes the wines slightly austere in their youth. A few years in the cellar quickly improves this characteristic. The 2022 vintage at Delas is a success. It was one of the earliest harvests on record, along with 2020 and 2023, and the wines are remarkably fresh, despite the year's drought.