

# Beaujolais tour de force

## CHÂTEAU THIVIN, Odenas



For background on this well-established domaine making consistently benchmark Beaujolais, see my [wine of the week](#). The photo above shows the view across the Thivin vineyards from the top of the Mont de Brouilly, with winemaker Claude Geoffray below.



### Ch Thivin, Marguerite 2017 Beaujolais

**16.5+ points**

2 ha (5 acres) in the Côte de Brouilly but, unusually, on calcareous soils. Chardonnay cannot be labelled with the cru name. Vinified and aged in pièces. On fine lees 6–8 months. A hot year, apparently. Lots of coulure in the white so it was a small harvest even though there was no hail.

Still pretty oaky on the nose, cedary and a little spicy. Scented with orange. Super-creamy but very fresh. Creamy, long and serious. Chewy finish and really good fruit depth. (JH)

### Ch Thivin, Les Griottes de Brulhié 2016 Côte de Brouilly

**17.5 points**

2016 was a much fresher year than sunny 2017. Only the occasional remontage, no punching down. Part of the fruit was destemmed to give more silky tannins, says winemaker Claude-Edouard Geoffray.

Mid cherry with a slight purple cast. Lovely fresh floral nose – peony, perhaps – real beauty, elegance and freshness. Oak shows not at all. Silky tannins. Dark fruit and so fragrant. But still has a framework and real depth. Perfect harmony. (JH)

### Ch Thivin, Cuvée Zacharie 2016 Côte de Brouilly

**17.5+ points**

Aged in 228-litre barrels.

Mid crimson and hint of purple. Oak is more obvious in spicy sweetness but still that floral perfume. More blueberry sweetness. Smooth but quite compact on the palate and the freshness is all on the long finish. My personal preference is for the Griottes de Brulhié but this is beautifully balanced and immensely long. Some spice on the finish. Tangy and spiced but still pretty at the core. (JH)

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## **Ch Thivin, Reverdon 2017 Brouilly**

**17 points**

12 days' maceration – slightly shorter for a lighter style. Fruit from this sloping lieu-dit facing east but on granite because it's Brouilly not Côte de Brouilly.

Bright and shining crimson. More spicy and peppery. Has the dusty/rocky fragrance that I associate with granite soils. Sweet, ripe, dark-red fruit but still so beautifully fresh. More flesh on the palate than on the Cuvée Zacharie 2016, rich and deep. Becomes lighter and more dancing on the finish. (JH)

## **Ch Thivin, Les Sept Vignes 2017 Côte de Brouilly**

**17+ points**

Seven parcels, as the name suggests, different expositions round the Mont de Brouilly – south west and south and east. Owner and winemaker Claude-Edouard Geoffray thinks they may need some north-facing sites if it continues to get hotter.

Bright crimson with a touch of purple at the rim. Spicy and sweet-fruited but with a slight stemmy freshness. Chewy and fresh yet rich and plush, too. Deep, generous fruit. Tangy generous finish. The tannins are perfectly smooth but well structured for a long future. Such freshness. (JH)

## **Ch Thivin, Le Clos Bertrand 2017 Côte de Brouilly**

**17 points**

One of three single-vineyard wines from vines around the château. Bottom of the slope with more sand and a mix of roches bleues and granite. Gives more supple tannins, says owner and winemaker Claude-Edouard Geoffray.

Mid cherry red. Darker fruited, more of that granite fragrance. Inviting peppery freshness but no stemmy notes. Tighter than Les Sept Vignes but very crunchy dark-red fruit. A touch of that peony character. Dry and very-fine-grained tannins. Slightly more austere on the finish. Chewy, grippy. (JH)

## **Ch Thivin, Cuvée Godefroy 2017 Côte de Brouilly**

**17.5+ points**

One of three single-vineyard wines catching the rising sun because it faces east. 100% whole bunch. Vines aged 100+ so stems are ripe. Some remontage and they use grids to keep to the cap submerged (similar to header boards). Just bottled.

Bright purple crimson. Dark-red fruit, more peppery and closed and less expressive than the Clos Bertrand. Chewy, compact, yet full of vibrant fruit though currently all tied up in that structure. Savoury, spicy, long finish. All to come. (JH)

## **Ch Thivin, La Chapelle 2017 Côte de Brouilly**

**18 points**

One of three single-vineyard wines. High up at 400 m near the chapel at the top of the hill (which is at 480 m) and on the south side. Rocky and well drained. Picked later and 30–40% destemmed.

Bright cherry red. So fragrant, floral and prettily spiced. 'Could be on the Côte d'Or', says seasoned burgundy and beaujolais merchant Roy Richards. Wonderful purity on the nose. On the palate, really spicy and so tangy, with zesty yet deep red fruit. Intense, lively and scented on the palate too, with definite but elegant structure and a long life ahead. Utterly mouth-watering and so persistent. Gorgeous. (JH)

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