

JLEON - parker ratings.

HISTORY ABOUT JEAN LEON:

The real life Jean Leon was a bon-vivant from Penedes who, before establishing his winery, ventured to Beverly Hills where he opened a restaurant (still in existence) called La Scala in partnership with James Dean. It proved to be a popular hangout for many of the movie stars of the era as shown in the photos contained in the small museum at the winery. My first exposure to high-end fine dining was at this restaurant in 1965 when I was a student at UCLA. I had no idea of this connection until my visit in January, 2011. Jean Leon (the man) is deceased and ownership of the winery has passed to Penedes giant Torres which has continued its operation as a boutique producer. Importer: Dreyfus Ashby & Co., New York, NY; tel. (212) 818-0770

WINES:

2007 Jean Leon Zemis Merlot

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from Penedes, Spain

Review by Jay Miller

Wine Advocate # 195 (May 2011)

Rating: 92+

Drink 2011 - 2015

The 2007 Zemis Merlot (made in only the better vintages, the last being 2003) delivers a charming woody, herbal, vanilla scented nose with layered red fruits on the palate. It is structured, to be sure, but there seems to be more than enough fruit for this wine to exhibit its full potential in another 3-4 years. The real life Jean Leon was a bon-vivant from Penedes who, before establishing his winery, ventured to Beverly Hills where he opened a restaurant (still in existence) called La Scala in partnership with James Dean. It proved to be a popular hangout for many of the movie stars of the era as shown in the photos contained in the small museum at the winery. My first exposure to high-end fine dining was at this restaurant in 1965 when I was a student at UCLA. I had no idea of this connection until my visit in January, 2011. Jean Leon (the man) is deceased and ownership of the winery has passed to Penedes giant Torres which has continued its operation as a boutique producer. Importer: Dreyfus Ashby & Co., New York, NY; tel. (212) 818-0770

JLEON - parker ratings. (CONTINUED)

2005 Jean Leon Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Penedes,Spain

Review by Jay Miller

Wine Advocate # 195 (May 2011)

Rating: 89+

The 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva seems to have a bit more fruit although it is also a dense, tannic, structured wine that will require significant cellaring. I was shown some older vintages (2001, 1998, 1988, and 1975) which all have similar issues regarding the balance of fruit and structure. The 1975 seems not to have moved in the last 30 years remaining tight and structured but with ample fruit. I recently tasted the 1974 Jean Leon in the USA (a Best Buy in one of the very early issues of *The Wine Advocate*) and it, too, is firm and structured but with enough fruit to give hope for better things to come. The more realistic viewpoint is that this is as good as they will get, and that this is a very challenging terroir in which to get full ripeness. If anyone can do it, though, it is the Torres team.

2006 Jean Leon Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Penedes,Spain

Review by Jay Miller

Wine Advocate # 195 (May 2011)

Rating: 88+

Drink 2016 -

The 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva spent 18 months in French and American oak. Asian spices, incense, and red fruits compose the nose leading to a lean, firm, structured wine that will need at least 5-6 years of cellaring.

2010 Jean Leon Petit Chardonnay

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Penedes,Spain

Review by Jay Miller

Wine Advocate # 195 (May 2011)

Rating: 88

Drink 2011 - 2015

The current portfolio contains two white wines including the 2010 Petit Chardonnay tasted from a tank sample. It was partially barrel-fermented with some aging in wood. It offers up aromas of popcorn, pear, green apple, and mineral notes leading to a wine with good concentration and length. Drink it over the next 3-4 years. It should be in bottle by the time this is read.

JLEON - parker ratings. (CONTINUED)

2007 Jean Leon Vinya Gigi Chardonnay

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Penedes,Spain

Review by Jay Miller

Wine Advocate # 195 (May 2011)

Rating: 90

The 2007 Vinya Gigi Chardonnay (sourced from a single vineyard) was partially barrel-fermented with lees contact. Toasty aromas along with notes of melon, almonds, and white peach inform the nose of this savory, smooth-textured, well-balanced wine. It should drink well for several more years.

2010 Jean Leon Petit Merlot

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from Penedes,Spain

Review by Jay Miller

Wine Advocate # 195 (May 2011)

Rating: 87

Drink 2011 - 2015

The red wines begin with the 2010 Petit Merlot (which contains 15% Petit Verdot). It displays spicy red fruit aromas leading to an easy-going, tasty wine with a bit of underlying structure and good overall balance. It is a good value for drinking over the next 4 years.

2007 Jean Leon Vinya Palau Merlot

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from Penedes,Spain

Review by Jay Miller

Wine Advocate # 195 (May 2011)

Rating: 88

Drink 2012 - 2019

The 2007 Vinya Palau Merlot gives up aromas of cinnamon, clove, and rosemary along with cassis and black currant notes. In the glass it opens to reveal a broad palate, savory, spicy red fruit flavors, and good balance. It is likely to evolve for 2-3 years and offer prime drinking from 2012 to 2019.