

Wine & Spirits

100 BEST WINES OF 2019

96 | **Delas Frères**

2017 Hermitage Domaine des Tourettes Blanc

Delas Frères owns 24 acres on the Hermitage hill, including some small parcels of marsanne planted in 1912 and 1918. Since 2013, Jacques Grange has been converting the farming here and in the domaine's other vineyards to organic, a move he says he's found to increase the energy in the wines. The performance of the wines we tasted for this issue gives credence to his impression, with this wine a standout example. The vintage was a difficult one, replete with heat waves, hail storms and drought, and yet the wine feels radiant. Fermented with ambient yeasts, it opens gradually, the initial wood tones fading as the wine grows golden and opulent in flavor. Honeysuckle scents and lemony acidity play around the juicy Cavaillon melon flavors, adding delicacy to the wine, while bitter-almond and mineral notes add a deep savor. It's glorious now, but deserving of another decade in the cellar to harmonize. *Reviewed by Tara Q. Thomas.*

