



2016 Covenant Israel Syrah

Rating

90

Release Price

\$75

Drink Date

2020 - 2032

Producer: Covenant Israel

From: Israel

Reviewed by

Mark Squires

Issue Date

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Source

Issue 243 End of June 2019, The Wine Advocate

Color: Red

Type: Table

Sweetness: Dry

Type: Table

Variety: Syrah

The 2016 Syrah (there is also 10% Cabernet Sauvignon) was aged for 18 months in 40% new French oak and comes in at 14.7% alcohol. Big, dense, jammy and rather powerful (although not particularly astringent), this is a wine that tends to go for the blockbuster impression. It certainly makes a big first impression out of the gate. Some will adore it. Some will wonder where the finesse is. The Syrah is very ripe, showing some hints of beef but not gaminess or funk. It's not a wine with a lot of personality overall. Aeration does certainly help this out a bit, which gave me some hope that this would evolve and smooth out with another year or two in the cellar. This is all relative, to be sure, and it also has many virtues, including the structure to age and the concentration to hold up to anything. It just needs to be a bit more expressive and precise, a bit more than a show-off to justify its stature and price point. I won't be surprised if that development happens—but I won't exactly be shocked if it doesn't. Let's start here and give it more time to acquire some complexity and focus and to shed the baby fat.