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**Isaac James Baker**, who is currently chipping away at a master's in fiction writing, has worked as a freelance writer, editor, and reporter. He's worked the wine bar, the harvest, the crush, and is attempting to make Chardonnay in Virginia. Follow him [@IsaacJamesBaker](#).

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**[Review: 2011 Calmel + J Joseph Vin de Pays des Côtes de Brian Vieux Carignan](#)** -  
*France, Languedoc, Vin de Pays des Côtes de Brian*

SRP: \$19

Clear bold purple color. Black cherries and blackberries on the nose, with some dust notes, pencil shavings and tree bark, as weird as that may sound. Firm but fine tannins and medium acid, creamy mouthfeel. Lots of dark roasted plums and blackberries, earthy and inky notes, some pepper, capers and anise. Dark and peppery with some well-integrated toast. A lot going on here with this vin de pays Carignan. (89 points IJB)