



“2008, somewhat like 2007 and 2006, produced very good quality from a “split vintage”. A very warm start, followed by a long, cool finish to the growing season, gave us wines that are lush, wound well around a tight core, and finish with great length.”

- Stephan Asseo

OPTIMUS 2008

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2010 RATING **90**

The 2008 Optimus, a blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Syrah, and 24% Petit Verdot, plays it close to the vest. Graphite, espresso, chocolate, and black currant notes slowly emerge from the glass of this dense ruby/purple-colored wine. In the mouth, it is an elegant, medium-bodied effort rather than the broad, blockbuster style of past vintages. Fruity, pure, and impeccably well-made, it should age effortlessly for 10-12 years.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2008

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2010 RATING **94**

The finest 2008 I tasted is the 2008 Estate Cuvee, a blend of 50% Syrah, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 14% Petit Verdot. Mocha, fudge, blackberry, graphite, cassis, and smoky barbecue scents jump from the glass of this dense purple-colored 2008. Full-bodied, rich, textured, and layered, this terrific effort is surprisingly soft and accessible. Drink it over the next decade.