



At the end of the 2012 harvest, I already had a feeling that the 2012 vintage was going to be very similar to the 2004 vintage, which was a beautiful vintage in my opinion. I hope that after tasting the final blends, you will agree as well. Both of these vintages were early harvests, sunny, very “California style”, which means ripe, very dense, big, but yet very fruit forward with an exceptional silky texture. This will be a vintage with a very long aging potential. I am personally very proud of the 2012 Vintage and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!”

- Stephan Asseo

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2012

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2014 RATING **96<sup>+</sup>**

Incorporating 9% Petit Verdot, the 2012 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon was aged in 100%, lightly toasted, new French oak. It has a Pauillac-like bouquet of graphite, cassis, spring flowers and freshly sharpened pencils, and it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, impeccable balance and high, yet sweet tannin. This is a serious Cabernet that will be better in another 2-3 years, and have upward of two decades of longevity.

## LES DEMOISELLES 2012

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2014 RATING **95<sup>+</sup>**

Another smoking effort is the 2012 Cuvee Les Demoiselles, which is 80% Mourvedre and 20% Syrah that was aged in 40% new French oak. It sports an inky purple color to go with brilliant notes of black cherry, earth, licorice and big minerality on the nose. One of the more tight, backward and reserved 2012s from the estate, it has full-bodied richness and superb concentration, but needs another year or three to open up and flesh out. It should have an easy 12-15 years of overall longevity. Unfortunately, there are only five barrels of this to go around.

## OPTIMUS 2012

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2014 RATING **94**

The 2012 Optimus is similarly sexy and polished, with brilliant blackberry, black cherry, licorice, chocolate and charred earth-like aromas and flavors, full-bodied richness and a seamless, forward and hard-to-resist style. Made from a blend of 53% Syrah, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Petit Verdot, it will dish out loads of pleasure through 2022.

## ESTATE CUVÉE 2012

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2014 RATING **98**

Even better, yet more forward and open, the 2012 Estate Cuvee checks in as a blend of 57% Syrah, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Petit Verdot. It's another awesome release from Stephan that possesses thrilling purity in its creme de cassis, licorice, toast, chocolate, and roasted meat-like aromas and flavors. Full-bodied and seamlessly constructed, with perfect integration of its fruit, tannin and alcohol, this beauty can be consumed anytime over the coming 15 years or so.

## CÔTE À CÔTE 2012

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2014 RATING **96**

The terrific 2012 Cote a Cote is 60% Grenache, 30% Mourvedre and 10% Syrah that was aged in a combination of new and used French oak barrels. Seamless and elegant, with full-bodied richness, it has awesome notes of kirsch and black raspberry-styled fruits, toasted spice, licorice and roasted meats all emerging from the glass. This beauty shows the purity of the vintage, and backs that up with rock star concentration, perfect balance and serious length. It will have over a decade of longevity.

## CHLOÉ 2012

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2014 RATING **99**

The 2012 Chloe flirts with perfection, and could warrant a perfect score with another handful of years in the cellar. Made from 71% Syrah and 29% Grenache, it's an incredible wine that gives up layers of spring flowers, cassis, licorice and violets that flow perfectly to a full-bodied, massive and inky wine that never seems heavy, over-the-top or cumbersome in the least. It shows more and more tannin grip with air (as well as distinct minerality), so give this a handful of years in the cellar. It will drink nicely through 2027.