



"The 2015 Vintage was one of the most surprising vintages. I ended up harvesting 30% of our regular crop due to shatter, which occurred mainly on our Cabernet Sauvignon, but also on our Syrah and Petit Verdot. By no means did this affect the quality of our wine, but it did affect the quantity significantly. What surprised me the most about this vintage was the fact that I was expecting a more "early, hot year" California style vintage but instead got quite the opposite. In terms of style, the wines reflect more a "cool year" vintage which means more complexity and spiciness and not so much on the power. You will find these wines beautifully structured, full bodied, with a very nice, long finish."

- Stephan Asseo

LES DEMOISELLES 2015

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2017

RATING **95⁺**

Composed of 60% Mourvedre and 40% Syrah, the 2015 Demoiselles Proprietary Red reveals a medium to deep garnet-purple color and exudes gorgeous blackberry pie and blueberry compote with an earthy undercurrent of fertile loam, charcoal and underbrush, plus a touch of anise. Full-bodied, concentrated and broody at this youthful stage, it gives glimpses at the dark fruit and earthy layers that lie ahead, framed by firm, ripe tannins and finishing with a lingering peppery lift.

FOR HER 2015

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2017

RATING **94⁺**

The 2015 For Her is like the Cuvée Chloe with its black and blue fruits, graphite and violet aromas and flavors, yet it has an incredible floral, peach and marmalade character (no doubt from its Viognier component), and its tannin is much more polished and elegant. Opening up with time in the glass, this sensational 2015 offers full-bodied richness, thrilling purity, no hard edges and building minerality and tannin on the finish. It's unquestionably up with the crème de la crème of the vintage, and while it will benefit from short term cellaring. The blend in 2015 is 50% Syrah (from Stephan's Hilltop block), 32% Mourvèdre, 10% Grenache and 8% Viognier.

OPTIMUS 2015

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2017

RATING **93**

Bottled mid-March 2017 and a blend of 60% Syrah, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Petit Verdot, the 2015 Optimus has a deep garnet-purple color and nose of crushed black currants, black cherries and black raspberries with hints of violets, dark chocolate, baking spices and black pepper Full-bodied and with a lovely intensity of vibrant black fruit, it has an approachable frame of rounded tannins and lively acid, finishing long and spicy.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2015

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2017

RATING **96⁺**

Blended of 55% Syrah, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot, the 2015 Estate Cuvée sports a deep garnet-purple color and nose of fresh black currants, blackberries and cigar box with touches of cardamom, bay leaves, pencil lead and cloves. Full-bodied and built like a brick house, it has a solid frame of grainy tannins and plenty of freshness supporting the muscular fruit, finishing with lingering black fruits. Forget it for three to four years and drink it over the next 20+.

CHLOÉ 2015

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2017

RATING **98⁺**

Mostly Syrah (66%) with the rest Grenache (44%), co-fermented, the deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Cuvée Chloe has an exuberant nose of black cherries, crushed blackberries and red currants with licorice, dark chocolate and dried Provence herbs nuances, plus a waft of violets. Full-bodied, beautifully concentrated and packed with vibrant black and red fruits, it has a rock-solid backbone of firm, grainy tannins and tons of freshness, finishing with loads of spice, herb and earth layers. Amazing energy. Give it two years in bottle and drink it over the next 25+. 300 cases were made.

CÔTE À CÔTE 2015

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2017

RATING **97**

Blended of 60% Grenache, 30% Mourvedre and 10% Syrah, the medium to deep garnet colored 2015 Cote a Cote has a wonderfully vibrant perfume of red roses, red cherries and cinnamon stick over nuances of mulberries, vanilla pod, garrigue, dried lavender and white pepper Full-bodied, rich, concentrated and oh-so-decadent, it completely fills the palate with seductive kirsch and spicy layers, supported by firm yet velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length. Bravo!