



Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

CÔTE À CÔTE 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **94**

The 2018 Côte à Côte is a blend of 51% Grenache, 26% Mourvèdre and 23% Syrah aged in 35% new French oak. It has a medium ruby color and bright aromas of cranberries, blackberries, dusty earth, tea leaves and licorice. The medium-bodied palate has expansive, spicy, juicy fruits in a silky frame, and it finishes very long and layered. 900 cases produced.

LES DEMOISELLES 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **93**

The 2018 Cuvée Les Demoiselles is a blend of 62% Mourvèdre, 28% Syrah and 10% Grenache aged in 36% new French oak. Winemaker Stephan Asseo says that the Mourvèdre vines are more than 20 years old now and that he has started picking it a bit riper than he used to. It has a medium to deep ruby-purple color and scents of red, black and blue berry fruits with touches of violet, turned earth and blood orange. The palate is medium to full-bodied, concentrated, layered and surprisingly energetic with a firm, super grainy frame and great freshness, finishing long, uplifted and perfumed. 300 cases produced.

INSPIRACIÓN 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **93**

The 2018 Inspiración, a Priorat-inspired blend, is made up of 47% Grenache, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Syrah and 5% Grenache Blanc all co-fermented and aged in 33% new French oak. Deep ruby-purple, it begins with super spicy top notes over a core of red and black berry fruits plus loads of amaro with floral accents. The full-bodied palate has a serious, grainy frame with loads of uplift, and it finishes very long and very perfumed. 230 cases were made.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **94**

The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve contains 2% Petit Verdot and was aged in 100% new French oak. This hasn't been made since 2013 because, says winemaker Stephan Asseo, the Cabernet Sauvignon was cordon pruned and crop yields were very low. He spent the last several years switching over to cane pruning. Deep ruby, it has classic aromas of crushed blackcurrants, cedar, bay leaves and an undercurrent of graphite and aniseed. The medium to full-bodied palate is packed to the brim with finely grained tannins that support lush, youthfully flamboyant fruits, and it has great freshness to lift the long finish. Give it another 3-5 years in bottle. 440 cases produced.

"2018 is a break, stylistically, from what readers may have come to expect over the last several years in Paso: lush, ripe, full-bodied wines with loads of horsepower. Successful wines in 2018 are lower in volume, albeit with a lovely harmony. The wines are by no means lean, but structures this vintage are firmer and more serious and some wines will require a bit of extra bottle age. I was pleasantly surprised by the character, immediate appeal and bright freshness of many of the white wines this vintage, and the delicious Rhone-based whites in this report suggest possible untapped potential for whites in cooler areas on the west side of the appellation."

ESTATE CUVÉE BLANC 2019

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **92+**

The 2019 Cuvée Blanc is made up of 40% Roussanne, 23% Viognier and 22% Grenache Blanc, made without malolactic fermentation and aged mainly in one- to two-year-old French oak barrels, plus 16% new Acacia oak and 16% stainless steel. The Roussanne was ripped out for replanting in 2015, so 2019 is the first vintage to contain fruit from the new Roussanne vines. It has a very pretty, open-knit nose, offering aromas of white peaches, chamomile, citrus pith and crushed stone with a gently honeyed undercurrent. The palate is medium-bodied with bright, lifted, juicy flavors anchored by a touch of texture, and it finishes very long. This should put on some more depth and complexity with another 2-3 years in bottle. 120 cases produced.

OPTIMUS 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **92**

A blend of 56% Syrah, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Petit Verdot aged in 60% new French oak, the 2018 Optimus is the 20th edition of the cuvée and contains a touch less Petit Verdot than usual. It has a deep ruby-purple color and opens perfumed with crushed red and black cherries, dried violet, salumi and bay leaves with bright touches of blood orange peel. The medium to full-bodied palate is layered and surprisingly light on its feet, with a finely defined tannic grain and good freshness, finishing long. 2,200 cases produced.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **95**

The 2018 Estate Cuvée is made up of 45% Syrah, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petit Verdot aged in 90% new French oak. Deep ruby-purple, the nose takes some time to unfurl to touches of cast-iron pan, tar, turned earth, cassis and blueberry pie with floral top notes. The palate is full-bodied with lush, mineral-tinged fruits in a firm frame, lifted by surprising freshness and finishing long and perfumed. Give it another 3-5 years in bottle. 1,800 cases produced.

FOR HER 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **93**

The 2018 For Her is a blend of 53% Syrah, 35% Graciano and 12% Viognier, all co-fermented and aged in 58% new French oak. Opaque ruby-purple, the nose explodes with cassis, coffee, violet and lilac perfume with touches of blueberry pie. The palate is full-bodied, super firm but surprisingly fresh and perfumed, with a haunting, floral finish and fantastic purity of fruit expression. 250 cases were made.

CHLOÉ 2018

TASTING DATE - OCTOBER 2020 RATING **94**

The 2018 Cuvée Chloe is a blend of co-fermented Syrah (72%), Grenache (21%) and Viognier (7%), aged in 60% new French oak, 20% one-year-old French oak and 20% amphora. Vibrant ruby-purple, it has a gorgeous perfume of pure violet, tar, cassis and crushed blue fruits with notes of bitter chocolate and mint. The palate is full-bodied, firmly framed and packed with perfumed fruits, and it finishes with great freshness to carry the lingering floral notes. Give it another 3-5 years in bottle. 300 cases were made.