



CÔTE À CÔTE 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **98**

The 2020 Côte à Côte is a beautiful blend of 45% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 25% Mourvèdre and one of the most successful wines I tasted from the challenging 2020 vintage. Deep ruby-purple, it offers pure aromas of blackcurrant, boysenberry, tar and pipe tobacco, continually unfolding with each return to the glass. The full-bodied palate offers wave after wave of perfumed fruit and tremendous spicy accents. It's powerful yet harmoniously structured with powdery tannins and seamless acidity, and it offers a very long, detailed finish.

LES DEMOISELLES 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **93**

A blend of 90% Mourvèdre and 10% Syrah, the 2020 Cuvée Les Demoiselles has a medium ruby-purple color and alluring scents of black cherries, blueberries, pipe tobacco, mushrooms, leather and cured meats. The palate is medium-bodied with pleasantly rustic tannins, soft bursts of refreshing acidity and a long, savory finish. Drink it over the short term and serve it with grilled meats.

INSPIRACIÓN 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **96**

Inspired by the wines of Priorat, the 2020 Inspiración is a blend of 49% Grenache, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Syrah and 6% Grenache Blanc that balances bright, juicy fruit with savory, rustically styled undertones. Medium ruby-purple, it features pretty scents of black cherry candy, blueberry preserves, garrigue, leather and cured meats. The palate is full-bodied yet light on its feet with rounded, approachable tannins and bright bursts of refreshing acidity pulling out citrus and spice tones on the long, layered finish.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **98**

The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, blended with 5% Petit Verdot, has a deep ruby-purple color and slowly opens to scents of blueberries, cassis, orange peel, aniseed, pencil shavings and savory, meaty undertones. The full-bodied palate is powerful yet velvety, with concentrated, mineral-laced fruits and sparks of fresh acidity highlighting sparks of incense. Seamless and long, it's one of the most successful Cabernets I tasted in the challenging 2020 vintage.

"Vigneron Stephan Asseo crafted the most successful lineup of reds that I tasted in Paso in 2020, and his mineral-driven, restrained style lent itself well to the rusticity of the vintage. Located on the cooler west side of Paso near the Templeton Gap, persistent fog and wind helped refresh the air during the wildfires. To combat the heat waves, Asseo utilized shade cloth on both sides of the vines in most of his vineyards, and an optical sorter kicked out raisins during sorting. He likes his barrels "very blonde," and new oak in this lineup is already integrating gracefully. Asseo has crafted more than 40 vintages in the US and Bordeaux, and in that context, disaster is relative. "I remember a huge storm in 1991 in Bordeaux," he recalls. "This crazy storm came super late in the season," resulting in rotted fruit. "In one vineyard we lost 50 acres, and across the road there was nothing left. It is what it is. When you deal with nature, you have to be pragmatic."

ESTATE CUVÉE BLANC 2021

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **94**

The 2021 Estate Cuvée Blanc is made up of 60% Roussanne, 20% Viognier and 20% Grenache Blanc. It opens with toasty aromas over a core of golden apples, dried hay and almonds. The medium-bodied palate offers expansive, savory flavors and waves of refreshing acidity balancing the long, textural finish. It will pair widely at the table or gain savory complexity over the next 3-5 years in bottle.

OPTIMUS 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **95**

A blend of 58% Syrah, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Optimus has a deep ruby color and a deep core of red and black cherries, chargrill, thyme, charcuterie and desiccated violet. The full-bodied palate is light on its feet with juicy acidity and approachable grainy tannins, and it has a long, layered finish.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **99**

A blend of 45% Syrah, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Estate Cuvée is another outstanding wine from L'Aventure in the challenging 2020 vintage, offering singular concentration and elegance. Deep ruby-purple, it has a pure core of cassis and slowly unfolding accents of licorice, cured meats, tobacco leaves, cedar and truffle. Full-bodied, juicy and alluring, it floods the mouth with layers of blue fruit, floral perfume and spice. It is supported by powdery tannins and boasts a tremendously long, detailed finish.

FOR HER 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **99**

The 2020 For Her is a gorgeous blend of Syrah (58%), Graciano (28%) and Viognier (14%). Deep ruby-purple, it bursts from the glass with highly intense, incredibly defined aromas of violet, cracked pepper, grilled meat, fried savory herbs and a deep core of crushed blueberry fruit. The full-bodied palate balances concentrated, floral fruits with fireworks of fresh acidity and powdery tannins, and it has a tremendously long finish. With its own assertive, alluring voice, the For Her is another fantastically expressive, harmonious wine from L'Aventure in the challenging 2020 vintage.

CHLOÉ 2020

TASTING DATE - NOVEMBER 2022 RATING **96**

The 2020 Cuvée Chloe is a blend of 68% Syrah, 25% Grenache and 7% Viognier. Deep ruby-purple, it's shy to begin with smoky, flinty reduction that gives way to red and blackcurrants, leather and grilled beef. The full-bodied palate balances concentrated fruit and savory undertones. It has plenty of refreshing acidity, a touch of rusticity to the tannins and a long, mineral-driven finish. It opens up with time in the glass so offer it a few hours in the decanter.