



JEB DUNNUCK

"I certainly blew the call on some of the Bordeaux blends from l'Aventure last year, and their Estate Cuvée and Côte a Côte are much better wines than my barrel reviews suggested."

ESTATE OPTIMUS 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **94**

Starting with the 2017s and with what could be considered the entry-level wine from Stephan Asseo's l'Aventure estate, the 2017 Optimus is based on 49% Syrah, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Petit Verdot that was brought up in 60% new French oak. It reveals a vivid purple color as well as notes blackberries, ground herbs, caramelized meat, and hints of chocolate. Beautifully balanced and full-bodied, it has a seamless, incredibly delicious style and is a brilliant introduction to the wines of this estate. It will keep for upwards of a decade.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **98**

The flagship 2017 Estate Cuvée (49% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 21% Petit Verdot) spent 15 months in 90% new French oak, and I certainly blew the barrel review on this wine. It offers a brilliant bouquet of crème de cassis, crushed violets, lead pencil, chocolate, and a rocking sense of minerality. Deep, full-bodied, concentrated, and seamless on the palate, it's about as polished and sexy as they come in the vintage.

CÔTE À CÔTE 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **98**

The only Grenache-dominated release is the 2017 Côte A Côte, a blend of 48% Grenache, 32% Mourvèdre, and the rest Syrah that spent 14 months in 30% new French oak. It's one sexy red that offers full-bodied richness and depth as well as brilliant notes of blackberries, black raspberries, ground pepper, potpourri, and flowery incense aromas and flavors. This smoking Grenache is elegant, with no hard edges, beautiful purity, and a great finish. It shows how successful Grenache was in 2017 and is a magical wine.

LES DEMOISELLES 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **97**

A blend of 70% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah, and 10% Grenache, the 2017 Les Demoiselles offers a dark, classic Mourvèdre bouquet of savory black fruits, ground herbs, chocolate, cured meats, and graphite. Full-bodied, pure, and elegant with ultra-fine tannins, it's a beautiful, layered, seamless wine that's going to continue drinking brilliantly for over a decade.

INSPIRACIÓN 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **95**

A blend of 44% Grenache, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Syrah and the rest Grenache Blanc, all of which was co-fermented, the 2017 Inspiración shows the pretty, elegant, medium to full-bodied style of the vintage as well as perfumed notes of blue fruits, cracked peppercorns, violets, and flowery incense. Medium to full-bodied, silky, and incredibly well-balanced, it's another rock star bottling from l'Aventure.

SIBLING 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **93**

Made with the idea of creating a sibling of the Côte a Côte, the 2017 Sibling is 37% Grenache, 33% Mourvèdre, and 30% Syrah. This is a beautifully elegant, silky wine, with lively black raspberry and blackberry fruits, dried flowers, spice, and incense, aromas and flavors. Balanced, pure, and seamless, it's a beautiful wine I'd be happy to drink.

FOR HER 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **99**

The 2017 For Her is a riper, sexier wine compared to the cool-climate style of the Chloe cuvée and offers a rocking bouquet of exotic, black and blue fruits, ground pepper, melted licorice, and candied orange peel. It's rich, full-bodied, loaded with fruit and texture, and is impeccably balanced. The purity of fruit is just about off the charts and this beauty is easily up with the crème de la crème in the vintage. Based on 54% Syrah, 32% Graciano, and a whopping 14% Viognier, all co-fermented and aged 14 months in 40% new French oak, it's pure Paso Robles magic and will keep for 10-15 years. Unfortunately, there are only 250 cases produced.

CHLOÉ 2017

TASTING DATE 10/31/2019 RATING **95+**

Cool climate-like notes of blackberries, ground white pepper, leafy herbs, olive, and underbrush notes all emerge from the 2017 Chloe. Beautifully balanced, it has an elegant, seamless texture, yet shows the vintage's more tight, focused, pretty style. Give bottles another year or two and it will keep for over a decade. This wine is 74% Syrah, 18% old vine Grenache, 5% Viognier, and 3% Graciano, all co-fermented.