



way until mid-August. In the first two weeks of August, we experienced our first heatwave followed by a cool snap for the next two weeks and then another strong heatwave the first week of September that lasted about three days. The last heatwave really got harvest going with a bang. The hot days accelerated ripening, but luckily, because of our cool evenings, it preserved a lot of acidity. It was quite a challenge though to push ripening far enough to allow the acidity to come into balance, while still avoiding overripening fruit. Something interesting to note is the order the fruit came in. The production team doesn't know why or how but some fruit didn't follow the "typical" schedule we usually get each year. Certain varieties and blocks that ripen first didn't, while others that usually ripen later, ripened first. A great example is the For Her; the Graciano arrived super early and on the other hand the Syrah took longer than usual. Therefore, we got more extraction from the Graciano and a shorter extraction from the Syrah compared to previous years.

Even though our growing season and harvest included a large amount of heat, because of our vines and our terroir and limestone soil, the wines showed a lot of complexity and vibrancy prior to barreling down. Today, while the 2021 vintage is still aging in our different vessels, we can confidently say that the resulting wines are showing so much vibrancy, complexity, and a beautiful acidity. They have a nice concentration and will bring a lot of pleasure and will have great capacity for aging.

AGING OUR WINES

Speaking of aging, this is a topic that is brought up often when talking about our wines. We are proud to say that many of our wines have the capability of aging up to 20 years. We even created an aging chart that we update every year to help guide our consumers as they discover our wines through the different stages. This aging chart is easily accessible on our website.

With that said, I wanted to use this opportunity to explain the different "tiers" of aging. There are many qualities that you can pick up from a wine at different stages in the wine's development. When aging wines there are primary, secondary, and tertiary aromas. Primary aromas are notes that are derived from the varietal itself; think of fruit, herbs, and floral notes. Secondary aromas are notes that are derived from the winemaking process (fermentation and aging methods); think toast, certain spices, and texture. Tertiary aromas are derived as the wine ages properly in bottle. At this point, the primary and secondary aromas move into the background, the tannins integrate, and you can pick up other notes; think of leather, earth, tobacco, etc.

Now keep in mind all palates are different, some may prefer our wines in their youth with the bright acidity and freshness while others might prefer them with a few or many years on them. There is no right or wrong answer especially since my dad's whole philosophy is to make wines that can be enjoyed now, as well as in 5, 10, 15+ years. The important thing is that you open the wines and enjoy them as you prefer as wine is all about the pleasure on the palate and the company that you share. These are all great things you can discuss with our tasing room associates on your next visit.



2022
NEWSLETTER

BY CHLOÉ ASSEO-FABRE

2020 VINTAGE

In terms of style, the 2020 vintage reminds us of what we like to describe as a "California" vintage. Like the 2012, 2014, and 2016 vintages, you will find immense pleasure in this vintage, and a full-bodied palate with lots of fruit, power, and purity. This lineup offers incredible balance with a nice acidity, lots of brightness and an unforgettable velvety texture.



EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE

You may have heard some rumors about L’Aventure and believe me when I say, we have heard them for the past 20+ years. Today, I am setting the record straight... Yes, it’s true, my dad has retired and has started a yoga retreat at the winery. Namaste. All joking aside, I did want to share some exciting news that has happened at L’Aventure within the past few years.

To start, after working hard to build their dream, my parents, justifiably so, are finally enjoying more quality time for themselves. No, my father is not retired and no he didn’t stop making wine. On the contrary, he is still very much involved, and when he isn’t focused on production, you may find him still sweeping, taking out the trash or taking a ride on his favorite tractor (driving a little too fast in my opinion 😊). With that said, Patrick, Dave, and Jake have taken on more responsibilities in the day-to-day production needs to allow my dad some extra vacation time. As for me, since last year, I have taken on the role of General Manager and have made it my duty, with the assistance of our amazing team and French partners, to continue and build upon the L’Aventure dream.

Speaking of our French partners, I also want to take this opportunity to talk a bit more about them and their involvement with L’Aventure. To note, we have always had partners but in 2017, our longtime friends and partners, the Meneret brothers, decided it was time to pass the torch to the Thiénot Family.



Pictured above: Stanislas Thiénot, Stephan Asseo, Chloé Asseo-Fabre, and Clotaire Dumetz (Thiénot partner and our CFO)



LA FAMILLE THIÉNOT: A PERFECT PARTNERSHIP

The Thiénot family, who lives in Champagne, France, have been in the champagne business for over 55 years. Alain Thiénot, started out as a “Courtier” and in 1985 created his own champagne house called Champagne Thiénot. He has since acquired other champagne brands, as well as some Bordeaux properties. In 2003, his son Stanislas and daughter Garance joined the family business. As a family-owned winery and viticulture business, we are happy to partner with them, as they share the same values as us: production driven and not marketing driven with a focus on quality.

With their involvement and support, we have become stronger. We have exciting projects in the works that not only will reinforce our production values but also our brand image, our customer service and finally, our membership perks. For starters, we have acquired a second vineyard in the Willow Creek District on Arbor Road, Anne’s Vineyard, named after Stanislas’ and Garance’s mother. The vineyard has a few different varieties planted: Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache and a little bit of Cab Franc. We completed the 20-acre plantation in 2018 and included a little bit of its fruit in the 2021 vintage. With the 2022 vintage, we will start incorporating more fruit from the vineyard which will allow us to increase our production of certain cuvées. Even though the vineyard is young, we are very impressed and pleased by its quality. It will take time before the fruit matches the quality of our L’Aventure Estate; however, the future is very promising.

In other news, we will soon be offering Champagne Thiénot and creating a “champagne” club for our members. Champagne Thiénot is a boutique house producing less than 500, 000 bottles (smallest House of Champagne) and is known for its consistence in quality. The champagnes are disgorged on order and jetted for optimal freshness. Each cuvée includes an important amount of reserve wines, and all cuvées are tasted blind to determine the dosage (sound familiar 😊). This is such an exciting project for us, and we are thrilled that we will be able to offer it to our members. The kickoff for this exciting new venture will be in November of this year (2022). We will be able to ship direct to most of the states however there will be a few exceptions and will be communicated once the time comes. Stay tuned for more information!

2021: GROWING SEASON, HARVEST AND VINTAGE

While enjoying one of our many harvest lunches at the winery, I was able to pick the brain of our Four Musketeers (Stephan, Patrick, Dave, and Jake) to better understand the 2021 growing season, harvest, and vintage.

To start, as Patrick explained, the growing season was a touch less aggressive and warm compared to the 2020 season. The highs and lows were more in fluctuation, where we would have week to week temperature maximums between 95+ and sub 75 all the

THE WINES



OPTIMUS 2020

58% Syrah
31% Cabernet Sauvignon
11% Petit Verdot

Very low yield: 2.5 tons per acre

65% new French oak and 35% 1-year old French oak with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 14 months
Drink now until 2030

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard



ESTATE CUVÉE 2020

45% Syrah
40% Cabernet Sauvignon
15% Petit Verdot

Very low yield: 1.5 - 2 tons per acre

89% new French oak and 19% 1-year old French oak with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 15 months
Drink now until 2035

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard



CÔTE À CÔTE 2020

45% Grenache
30% Syrah
25% Mourvèdre

Very, very low yield: 1 ton per acre for Mourvèdre, 2 tons per acre for Grenache and Syrah

36% 1-year old French oak, 33% new French oak, 17% in concrete tank and 15% in amphora with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 14 months
Drink now until 2035

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard



LES DEMOISELLES 2020

90% Mourvèdre
10% Syrah

Very low yield

60% 1-year old French oak, 40% new French oak with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 14 months
Drink now until 2035

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard



SIBLING 2020

53% Syrah
36% Grenache Old Block
11% Graciano

Very low yield

54% in concrete tank, 28% 1-year old French oak, 18% new French oak

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 14 months
Drink now until 2030

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard



INSPIRACIÓN 2020

49% Grenache
32% Cabernet Sauvignon
13% Syrah
6% Grenache Blanc

Very low yield

57% 1-year old French oak, 43% new French oak with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 14 months
Drink now until 2035

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard

SPRING RELEASE 2023



CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE 2020

95% Cabernet Sauvignon
5% Petit Verdot

Very low yield

77% new French oak, 23% 1-year old French oak with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 15 months
Drink now until 2035

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard



FOR HER 2020

58% Syrah Hilltop Block
28% Graciano Plateau
14% Viognier Terraces

Very low yield

60% new French oak, 40% Amphora with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 14 months
Drink now until 2035

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard



CHLOÉ 2020

68% Syrah McVey Block
25% Grenache Old Block
7% Viognier Terraces

Very low yield

57% new French oak, 43% 1-year old French oak with malolactic fermentation in barrel

No fining, no filtering
Length of aging: 14 months
Drink now until 2035

100% Estate grown fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard

2020: THE VINTAGE

When asked about the 2020 growing and harvest season, Stephan, Patrick, Dave and Jake (aka our Four Musketeers), had all one common memory... warm weather conditions. Our growing season started 10 days earlier and ended 20 days earlier, compared to 2019 due to it being consistently warm, with no cool weather breaks. Due to the heat conditions, we adapted by putting shade cloths on both sides of the vine on a large portion of our vineyard. This allowed for more protection against desiccation due to heat and UV overexposure.

We started harvesting our whites the last week of August and by the first week of September we started with our reds. At the same, we had our first and only real aggressive heatwave. After that heatwave, we had consistent hot days which resulted in a fast harvest, with hardly any breaks, picking day after day. Luckily for us, between our large number of tanks and our optical sorter, we were able to harvest as fast as we wanted without the stress of time or space.

We are extremely lucky as there are no bad vintages in Paso, only different vintages that showcases the characteristic of that specific year and its terroir. However, the consistency in quality remains the same. The 2020 vintage is no exception, different from the past three vintages for various reasons, it is super expressive and brings so much pleasure. I would even describe this vintage as quite savory.

These wines have had about 6 months in bottle (we bottled mid-March of 2022) but can easily be laid down for up to 15+ years if you wanted to. As I talked about in the newsletter, there is no right or wrong time to open our wines. You can enjoy them now, but you can also enjoy them with a few years in the bottle. We always recommend, if you can or if you are interested, to start a library of some of these wines to see how they evolve over the course of 5,10,15 years... Each year, we are more and more convinced that our wines age gracefully.

Thank you for continuing to be thirsty 🍷 and being part of our L'Aventure family. We hope that you will enjoy the vintage and its lineup as much as we do.

- Chloé Asseo-Fabre

