



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

L'AVENTURE	2009	OPTIMUS	PASO ROBLES	(\$45.00)	RED	90
L'AVENTURE	2009	THE SIBLING	PASO ROBLES	(\$75.00)	RED	92
L'AVENTURE	2009	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	PASO ROBLES	(\$80.00)	RED	91
L'AVENTURE	2009	CÔTE A CÔTE	PASO ROBLES	(\$85.00)	RED	95
L'AVENTURE	2009	ESTATE CUVEE	PASO ROBLES	(\$85.00)	RED	94+

The 2009 Optimus Estate flows from the glass with masses of dark fruit, tar, smoke and licorice. It boasts a highly attractive, juicy personality and tons of harmony, in a style that can be best described as a baby version of the Estate Cuvee bottling. In 2009 the blend is 50% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Petit Verdot, with a total of 80% new oak. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017.

The appropriately named 2009 The Sibling comes across as a smaller-scaled version of Cote a Cote. It is a beautifully nuanced wine laced with expressive aromatics, red fruit, flowers and spices, all of which lead to a saline, bright finish. The radiance of the fruit is beautifully balanced by the wine's minerality. This is a striking wine from L'Aventure. The blend is 35% Mourvedre, 35% Grenache and 30% Syrah. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019.

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate spent 14 months in 100% new barrels. It is a rich, textured wine endowed with exquisite finesse and class in its dark black fruit, grilled herbs and cassis. Today, the wine comes across as powerful and inward, with the characteristic saline quality on the finish that is so typical of the wines here. In 2009 the Cabernet Sauvignon Estate includes 9% Petit Verdot in the blend. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017.

The 2009 Cote a Cote emerges from the glass with dark black cherries, plums, cassis, spices and white flowers. Sweet, silky tannins frame the exceptionally long, polished finish. This is another superb, totally elegant wine from L'Aventure. The blend is 42% Grenache, 33% Syrah and 25% Mourvedre, with a total of 50% new French oak. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2019.

The 2009 Estate Cuvee is a dark, seamless red. Layers of black fruit, roasted coffee beans and licorice wrap around the palate in this textured, explosive wine. The Estate Cuvee possesses dazzling aromatics and plenty of nuance, even if it is a touch reserved today. All of the elements build convincingly towards the substantial finish. In 2009 the blend is 42% Syrah, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Petit Verdot aged in 100% new French oak barrels. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022.