



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

L'Aventure	2012	Estate Cuvée Blanc	Paso Robles	(\$45.00)	Red	92
L'Aventure	2011	Optimus	Paso Robles	(\$45.00)	Red	94
L'Aventure	2011	Cuvée Chloé	Paso Robles	(\$85.00)	Red	95
L'Aventure	2011	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	(\$85.00)	Red	96
L'Aventure	2011	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	(\$85.00)	Red	98

2012 Estate Cuvée Blanc

Starting off the tasting, the 2012 Cuvee Blanc (which was previously called Roussanne) is comprised of 40% Roussanne, 35% Grenache Blanc and 25% Viognier that spent 8 months in 20% new French oak. With malo blocked, it is beautifully fresh and crisp, with steely white peach, honeysuckle, lemon peel and hints of minerality all showing on the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, fresh and elegant, with plenty of richness, it has great acidity and will be versatile on the table. Enjoy it over the coming year or three. Drink now-2015.

2011 Optimus

Leading off the 2011s reds, the 2011 Optimus is a rocking value that gives more than a glimpse into the style and quality of this estate. A blend of 50% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Petit Verdot and spending 14 months in 70% new French oak, it delivers fantastic black and blue fruits, tobacco, violets and cedar aromas and flavors to go with a full-bodied, supple and beautifully polished mouthfeel that stays fresh and lively. Gorgeous all around, it will drink nicely through 2021, if not longer. Drink now-2021.

2011 Côte à Côte

A blend of 40% Syrah, 38% Mourvedre and 22% Grenache aged in half new and half one-year-old barrels, the 2011 Cote a Cote is stunning. Full-bodied and decadent, yet oh so light on its feet and even elegant, it offers classic Paso fruit, smoked meat, chocolate and licorice as well as a seamless feel, sweet tannin and a blockbuster finish. It will have 10-12 years of ultimate longevity. Drink now-2023.

2011 Cuvée Chloé

Named after Asseo's daughter, the 2011 Cuvee Chloe is 76% Syrah (from cooler, north-facing hillsides) and 24% Grenache (from a single plot of south-facing vines) that spent 14 months in 40% new French oak. Inky colored and deeply concentrated and layered, it dishes out gorgeous aromas and flavors of smoked meats, blackberry, blueberry, graphite, licorice and chocolate. This is followed up by a fullbodied, seamless effort that has sweet tannin, no weight and a classically focused finish that keeps you coming back to the glass. Hard to resist even now, it should nevertheless be given 2-3 years of bottle age and enjoyed through 2021+. Drink 2015-2021+.

2011 Estate Cuvée

A notch up on the richness scale, yet still impeccably balanced and light on the palate, the 2011 Estate Cuvee is 48% Syrah, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Petit Verdot. Deep, rich and layered, with thrilling cassis, blackberry, lead pencil, spice, spring flowers and smoke, it flows onto the palate with awesome purity, a straight focused profile and sweet tannin that emerge through the mid-palate and finish. This is not a blowsy, overdone effort, and is seamless and incredibly drinkable. It needs 2-3 years of bottle age and will have 15-20 years of longevity. Drink 2016-2031.