


# L'Aventure

Stephan Asseo describes 2013 as a vintage that was very hot from the beginning of the year. The harvest took just one month from start to finish, as opposed to a more typical time frame of two and half months. Thick skins and concentrated juice resulted in powerful, intense wines. The 2013s, which I tasted in final blends, are all hugely promising. Unfortunately the 2012s had been bottled just before my visit and Asseo preferred to give the wines a bit more time in bottle. I did have a chance to taste the 2011s, which are gorgeous. The 2011s are the result of a very difficult growing season in which the spring frost and shatter during flowering decimated 50% of the crop. It was also a very cool vintage. For example in 2011, the Syrahs were brought in around 24 brix rather than the most customary 28 or so.

From Paso Robles and Points South (Jul 2014) by Antonio Galloni

	Vintage ↓	(Hover for Commentary) Producer	Name	Tasting Notes	Score	Drinking Window	Release Price	Review Date
2013	L'Aventure	<u>Estate Cuvée</u>	In 2013, the Estate Cuvée is fabulous. Layers of dark blue and black fleshed fruit meld into grilled herbs, smoke, new leather, violets and lavender. A virtually seamless, opulent Paso Robles wine, the 2013 Estate Cuvée impresses for its supple, resonant texture and impeccable overall balance. The deep, expressive finish is especially beautiful. The Estate Cuvée is 43% Syrah, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petit Verdot. -- Antonio Galloni	(93-95)	2015 - 2028	Not Available	Jul 2014	
2013	L'Aventure	<u>Estate Cabernet Sauvignon</u>	The 2013 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is a deep, implosive wine built on serious depth and concentration. Grilled herbs, tobacco and cedar are some of the many notes that burst from the glass in this full-bodied, exotic Cabernet Sauvignon. Today, the new barrels are a bit noticeable, but that should be less of an issue once the wine has completed its aging. -- Antonio Galloni	(92-94)	2016 - 2028	Not Available	Jul 2014	
2013	L'Aventure	<u>Cuvée Chloe</u>	The 2013 Cuvée Chloe is another impressive wine. Here the richness of the year has softened some of the contours of the northern-facing Syrah in this Syrah/Grenache blend. In this vintage, the Syrah is a bit dominant in both the dark flavors and overall sense of structure. The blend is 69% Syrah and 31% Grenache. -- Antonio Galloni	(91-93)	2016 - 2025	Not Available	Jul 2014	
2013	L'Aventure	<u>For Her</u>	The 2013 For Her is a new Syrah/Monastrell/Viognier blend Stephan Asseo created for his daughter. Dark blue and purple-fleshed fruit,	(92-94)	2016 -	Not Available	Jul 2014	

graphite, spices and menthol flesh out in a nuanced, crystalline wine endowed with terrific energy. Viognier adds attractive floral overtones in a dark, gracious wine that is quite restrained by Paso standards, especially in this vintage. Much of that comes from the Syrah, which emerges from a cooler, hilltop parcel. -- Antonio Galloni

2013	L'Aventure	<u>Côte à Côte</u>	The 2013 Côte à Côte stands out for its firm tannin, energy and total class. Dark red plum, smoke, new leather and iron are some of the notes that burst from the glass in this utterly impeccable, racy Paso red. Sweet floral and spiced notes add perfume on the finish. Stephan Asseo has done a remarkable job in expressing the elegant, refined side of the vintage. The 2013 is 39% Mourvèdre, 31% Grenache and 30% Syrah. -- Antonio Galloni	(92-94)	2016 - 2025	Not Available	Jul 2014
2013	L'Aventure	<u>Optimus</u>	Blackberry jam, cloves, cassis, new leather and spices burst from the glass in the 2013 Optimus. Today, the tannins are a bit firm, but that should not be much of an issue in another year. The 2013 is dark, juicy and explosive to the core. Optimus is a Syrah/Cabernet Sauvignon/Petit Verdot blend. -- Antonio Galloni	(91-93)	2015 - 2023	Not Available	Jul 2014
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2012	L'Aventure	<u>Cuvée Blanc</u>	The 2012 Cuvée Blanc is striking. Apricot pit, peach, white flowers and spices meld together in a racy, voluptuous white loaded with class and personality. A wine of pure texture, the 2012 impresses for its balance and harmony. The blocked malo style balances the inherent richness of Paso fruit. There is so much to like here. The Cuvée Blanc is 40% Roussanne, 35% Grenache Blanc and 25% Viognier. -- Antonio Galloni	92	2014 - 2017	\$45.00	Jul 2014
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2011	L'Aventure	<u>Estate Cuvée</u>	Blackberry jam, cassis, savory herbs, cloves, lavender and new leather are some of the notes that jump from the glass in the 2011 Estate Cuvée. The high percentage of Petit Verdot in this vintage, along with the nature of the cool growing season, gives the 2011 a sense of energy and tannic backbone to balance the opulent, full-throttle fruit. The finish is layered, nuanced and crystalline. The 100% new oak barrels are very nicely balanced. -- Antonio Galloni	94	2015 - 2023	\$85.00	Jul 2014
2011	L'Aventure	<u>Cuvée Chloe</u>	The 2011 Chloe is a blend of Syrah from a north-facing site and Grenache from a south-facing vineyard that are co-fermented. The northern exposure of the Syrah block gives the Chloe a level of tension and energy that is rare in Paso Syrahs and Syrah-based blends. Dark black stone fruits meld into Grenache-inflected aromatics in this chiseled, sculpted red. Most Paso wines drink well right out of the bottle, but the 2011 Chloe will benefit from more time in bottle. -- Antonio Galloni	91+	2015 - 2023	\$85.00	Jul 2014
2011	L'Aventure	<u>Côte à Côte</u>	Dark red cherry, plum, cloves and menthol all flesh out in the Côte à Côte, a blend of 40% Syrah, 38% Mourvèdre and 22% Grenache. Pliant and expressive on the palate, the 2011 offers lovely depth and juiciness but with the restraint that is the hallmark of this long, cool growing season. With time in the glass, the 2011 turns darker and spicier. The mid-weight style suggests the 2011 is best enjoyed sooner rather than later. This is a gorgeous wine from L'Aventure. -- Antonio Galloni	91	2014 - 2019	\$85.00	Jul 2014
2011	L'Aventure	<u>Optimus</u>	Super-ripe black cherries, plums, cassis, smoke and mocha are some of the many notes that meld together in the 2011 Optimus. Deep, rich and fleshy to the core, the 2011 impresses for its depth and pure voluptuousness. Hints of spice, new leather and menthol add nuance on the striking finish. Optimus is 50% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Petit Verdot. -- Antonio Galloni	92	2014 - 2019	\$45.00	Jul 2014
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