

Jeb Dunnuck's THE RHONE REPORT

L'AVENTURE

2010 L'Aventure Optimus	Red	94
2010 L'Aventure Chloé	Red	94+
2010 L'Aventure Côte à Côte	Red	95
2010 L'Aventure Estate Cuvée	Red	97

2010 L'Aventure Optimus (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$45**

Deep purple and glass staining, the 2010 L'Aventure Optimus, a blend of 55% Syrah, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 18% Petite Verdot, is a perfumed, lavishly fruited effort that gives up notions of black currants, lead pencil, mint, tobacco, and violets to go with a full-bodied, soft, supple, and open knit palate feel. The purity here is exceptional, and the texture is pure silk; it is ready to go now, and should shine for 8-10 years. While some of the other cuvees shows a tad more depth, this is certainly the value play of the lineup and has loads of class. **(94 pts.)**

2010 L'Aventure Chloé (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$NA**

A new wine (I believe anyways), the 2010 L'Aventure Chloé is a blend of 70% Syrah and 30% Grenache that comes from a cooler terrior. Smoky and meaty, with notions of blackberry, crushed stone minerality, spice, pepper, and wild herbs, it is on the lighter side of full-bodied and has a pure, rich texture, excellent freshness, and a classically structured finish. Gorgeously done and seriously impressive, this beauty will thrill for 12-15 years. **(94+ pts.)**

2010 L'Aventure Côte-à-Côte Estate (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$85**

A blend of 42% Grenache, 34% Syrah, 24% Mourvedre, the 2010 L'Aventure Côte-à-Côte Estate is a gorgeous effort that delivers sweet red and black fruits, creamy licorice, spice-box, and toast-like qualities on the nose. This flows to a full-bodied, silky, and perfectly balanced 2010 that has no hard edges, a light, almost weightless feel, and serious length on the finish. Showing both elegance and richness, this gorgeous red will impress for over a decade. **(95 pts.)**

2010 L'Aventure Estate Cuvée (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$85**

Deeper and richer than the Côte-à-Côte, the 2010 L'Aventure Estate Cuvée is the estate's flagship wine and is a blend of 42% Syrah, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 16% Petite Verdot. Awesome on the nose, with layers of black fruits, currants, cedar, eucalyptus, and sweet tobacco-like aromas all soaring from the glass, it flows onto the palate with a full-bodied, ethereal texture, no hard edges, and layers of sweet fruit. The most concentrated and rich of the lineup, it benefits from a decant, and will continue to thrill for 15+ years. **(97 pts.)**