



2013 L'Aventure Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Estate

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: (95-97)
Drink -
Cost:

Moving to the more Bordeaux-driven efforts, the 2013 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is 100% Cabernet that will require short-term cellaring to become approachable, and have upward of two decades of longevity. Showing classic black and blue fruits, graphite, scorched earth, violets and hints of toast, this brilliant barrel sample has full-bodied richness, massive concentration and serious structure. It's a brilliant Cabernet that shows the quality that's possible for these Bordeaux varieties here in Paso. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2012 L'Aventure Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Estate

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: 96+
Drink 2016 - 2036
Cost: \$85

Incorporating 9% Petit Verdot, the 2012 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon was aged in 100%, lightly toasted, new French oak. It has a Pauillac-like bouquet of graphite, cassis, spring flowers and freshly sharpened pencils, and it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, impeccable balance and high, yet sweet tannin. This is a serious Cabernet that will be better in another 2-3 years, and have upward of two decades of longevity. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both

his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2013 L'Aventure Winery Cote a Cote

A Rhone Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)

WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)

Rating: (94-96)

Drink -

Cost:

The 2013 Cote a Cote plays in the same ballpark and offers up gorgeous black raspberry, violets, spring flowers and licorice in its medium to full-bodied, elegant and seamless personality. I love the overall purity here, and while it has loads of fruit, it's perfectly balanced and has sound underlying structure. It's another wine that will drink nicely on release, yet also evolve gracefully. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2012 L'Aventure Winery Cote a Cote

A Rhone Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)

WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)

Rating: 96

Drink 2014 - 2024

Cost: \$97-\$123

The terrific 2012 Cote a Cote is 60% Grenache, 30% Mourvedre and 10% Syrah that was aged in a combination of new and used French oak barrels. Seamless and elegant, with full-bodied richness, it has awesome notes of kirsch and black raspberry-styled fruits, toasted spice, licorice and roasted meats all emerging from the glass. This beauty shows the purity of the vintage, and backs that up with rock star concentration, perfect balance and serious length. It will have over a decade of longevity. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the

top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2013 L'Aventure Winery Cuvee Blanc

A Proprietary Blend Dry White Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: 93
Drink -
Cost:

Stephan's 2013 Estate Cuvee Blanc is made from 40% Roussanne, 40% Grenache Blanc and 20% Viognier that's aged in 20% New French oak. It offers fabulous notes of pear, apple skin and salty minerality to go with a medium-bodied, textured and supple profile on the palate that stays crisp and dry on the finish. It's a classy white that will shine on the dinner table. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2013 L'Aventure Winery Cuvee Chloe

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: (95-98)
Drink -
Cost:

First made in 2012, the Cuvee Chloe is up there with the top cuvees from the estate and comes from a single block of north-facing Syrah vines and a south-facing plot of Grenache. The 2013 Chloe checks in as 69% Syrah and 31% Grenache that's aging in a combination of new and used barrels. A big, generous and layered effort that doesn't put a foot wrong, it gives up loads of creme de cassis, licorice, crushed flowers and hints of graphite to go with awesome purity, full-bodied richness and building tannin that comes through on the finish. As with all of Stephan's 2013s, it doesn't lack for tannin, and should benefit from short-term cellaring. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan

Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2012 L'Aventure Winery Cuvee Chloe

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: 99
Drink 2014 - 2027
Cost: \$85

The 2012 Chloe flirts with perfection, and could warrant a perfect score with another handful of years in the cellar. Made from 71% Syrah and 29% Grenache, it's an incredible wine that gives up layers of spring flowers, cassis, licorice and violets that flow perfectly to a full-bodied, massive and inky wine that never seems heavy, over-the-top or cumbersome in the least. It shows more and more tannin grip with air (as well as distinct minerality), so give this a handful of years in the cellar. It will drink nicely through 2027. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2012 L'Aventure Winery Demoiselles Proprietary Red

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: 95+
Drink 2014 - 2029
Cost: \$85

Another smoking effort is the 2012 Cuvee Les Demoiselles, which is 80% Mourvedre and 20% Syrah that was aged in 40% new French oak. It sports an inky purple color to go with brilliant notes of black cherry, earth, licorice and big minerality on the nose. One of the more tight, backward and reserved 2012s from the estate, it has full-bodied richness and superb concentration, but needs another year or

three to open up and flesh out. It should have an easy 12-15 years of overall longevity. Unfortunately, there are only five barrels of this to go around. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2013 L'Aventure Winery Estate Cuvee

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: (96-98)
Drink -
Cost:

The 2013 Estate Cuvee is similar to the blend of the 2004 and is 43% Syrah, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petite Verdot. Dense, concentrated and powerful, it offers knockout aromas and flavors of cassis, black cherries, flowers and charcoal that flow to a full-bodied, seamless and perfectly balanced wine that will have two decade or more of longevity. While I think 2012 was a slightly more successful vintage than 2013 for this estate, this should certainly be up there with the 2012 and it will be interesting to follow the two vintages as they evolve. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2012 L'Aventure Winery Estate Cuvee

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: 98
Drink 2014 - 2029
Cost: \$90-\$123

Even better, yet more forward and open, the 2012 Estate Cuvee checks in as a blend of 57% Syrah, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Petit Verdot. It's another awesome release from Stephan that

possesses thrilling purity in its creme de cassis, licorice, toast, chocolate, and roasted meat-like aromas and flavors. Full-bodied and seamlessly constructed, with perfect integration of its fruit, tannin and alcohol, this beauty can be consumed anytime over the coming 15 years or so. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2013 L'Aventure Winery Optimus

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: (92-95)
Drink 2014 - 2024
Cost:

The 2013 Optimus is the estate's entry level blend, yet it always drinks well above its price point and is a perfect example of the style of the estate. Decadent black and blue fruits, graphite and smoky nuances all show here, and it has full-bodied richness, sweet tannin and terrific length. It should be another superb vintage for this cuvee, and it should shine on release and evolve for upward of a decade. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2012 L'Aventure Winery Optimus

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)
WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)
Rating: 94
Drink 2014 - 2022
Cost: \$42-\$80

The 2012 Optimus is similarly sexy and polished, with brilliant blackberry, black cherry, licorice, chocolate and charred earth-like aromas and flavors, full-bodied richness and a seamless, forward and hard-to-resist style. Made from a blend of 53% Syrah, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Petit Verdot, it

will dish out loads of pleasure through 2022. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2013 L'Aventure Winery Pour Elle

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)

WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)

Rating: (94-96)

Drink 2014 - 2029

Cost:

A new cuvee, the 2013 Pour Elle (translates to "For Her") is a blend of mostly Syrah, yet incorporates 23% Mourvedre and 5% Viognier. Inky purple, it exhibits thrilling notes of blackberry, cassis, liquid violets and sweet oak to go with a full-bodied, structured feel on the palate. This is a slightly longer term prospect and will need 2-3 years of bottle age to round into form. Nevertheless, it has superb concentration, building tannin and fantastic purity, and my guess is that it will have 15 years or more of longevity. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com

2012 L'Aventure Winery The Sibling

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Review by [Jeb Dunnuck](#)

WA # , #214 (Aug 2014)

Rating: 94

Drink 2014 - 2021

Cost: \$75

Moving to the 2012s, all of which were tasted out of bottle, the 2012 Sibling is a new cuvee that can be thought of as the sister of the Cote a Cote. Made from a 50/50 blend of Grenache and Syrah, it offers juicy kirsch, blackberry, creamy licorice and spice to go with a full-bodied, voluptuous and polished feel

on the palate. It's a sexy, seamless effort to enjoy over the coming 5-7 years. This was another incredible lineup by winemaker Stephan Asseo, and both his 2012s and 2013s are at the top of the vintage. Looking at the 2012s, this vintage reminds Stephan of 2004, and the wines show incredible purity, as well as blockbuster levels of depth and richness. The tannin quality here is also off the charts, and this is what puts his 2012s a notch above the 2013s. For the reds, we started the tasting with 2013s from barrel. At the moment, the 2013s have more obvious tannin structure, yet they don't lack for fruit or texture either. It will be interesting to see how these continue to develop in barrel. Either way, both of these vintages deserve a place in your cellar and it will be thrilling stuff to follow these wines over the coming decade or longer. Tel. (805) 227-1588; www.aventurewine.com
