



## **L'Aventure Winery by Karen & Brian Aungst**

2815 Live Oak Rd., Paso Robles

During a recent visit to Bern's Steakhouse in Tampa we had the great pleasure of enjoying a bottle of L'Aventure, 2005 Estate Cuvee, which was rated 97 points by Robert Parker. We immediately wanted to know more, not only about the winery and the winemaker, but also about the region it is created in. That led us to L'Aventure Winery and Winemaker, Stephan Asseo in Paso Robles, California.



From 1982 until 1996, Stephan had become renowned for his craftsmanship as an Artisan Winemaker not only in his native France but around the world. He established Domaine Courteillac in Bordeaux and he and his family purchased Chateau Fleur Cardinal, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru, and Chateau Robin, in the Cotes de Castillion, Bordeaux. In 1996, the stringent A.O.C. laws in France led this maverick vintner all over the world in search of the perfect terroir and the freedom to create world class wines "his way". Stephan "fell in love" with the unique terroir of the west side of Paso Robles and what he calls the "Magic of Paso Robles", the ocean winds that come in through the Templeton Gap and the limestone rich soil that acts like a sponge. This was the perfect place for Stephan to begin his adventure "L'Aventure".



We had the opportunity to spend some time with Stephen and he explained his philosophy, his meticulous handling of the wines, and the high-density plantation scheme that equates to one bottle of wine per vine which is very important to him. Sustainability and organic-biodynamic farming is practiced at L'Aventure and is also a major priority for Stephan. He shared his feelings about caring for the "virgin piece of land that he started with and leaving it a clean piece of land... as it was before". Annually, approximately 8,000 cases of wine are produced from the 100% Burgundy style estate vineyard. A very special part of our visit was a tasting with Stephan in the barrel room of the winery. The spirit of L'Aventure is most evident in Stephan's "Paso blends", the 2009 Estate Optimus and the 2009, Estate Cuvée, which are both Cabernet Sauvignon /Syrah blends and at the top of our "Absolutely Must Try" list. The Estate Cuvee is actually on our "All-time Favorites" List. We loved the 2010 Estate Rose, a perfect wine for Florida and the 2009 Estate Côte à Côte. When in Paso Robles be sure to visit and you will see for yourself why we have fallen in love with L'Aventure! We guarantee it will be some of the finest wine you have ever had the pleasure of enjoying. For more information call 805-227-1588 or go to [www.aventurewine.com](http://www.aventurewine.com) .