



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

L'Aventure Winery	2008	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	94
L'Aventure Winery	2008	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	90

The finest 2008 I tasted is the 2008 Estate Cuvée, a blend of 50% Syrah, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 14% Petit Verdot. Mocha, fudge, blackberry, graphite, cassis, and smoky barbecue scents jump from the glass of this dense purple-colored 2008. Full-bodied, rich, textured, and layered, this terrific effort is surprisingly soft and accessible. Drink it over the next decade.

The 2008 Optimus, a blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Syrah, and 24% Petit Verdot, plays it close to the vest. Graphite, espresso, chocolate, and black currant notes slowly emerge from the glass of this dense ruby/purple-colored wine. In the mouth, it is an elegant, medium-bodied effort rather than the broad, blockbuster style of past vintages. Fruity, pure, and impeccably well-made, it should age effortlessly for 10-12 years.