



JEB DUNNUCK

"I was able to look at the 2020s and 2021s from L'Aventure, both solid vintages. In fact, they might have made some of the best wines in Paso in 2020, and the wines are impressive across the board."

ESTATE CUVÉE BLANC 2021

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **94**

The whites from Paso Robles continue to excel, and the 2021 Estate Cuvee White is a great example of the quality now coming from this region. Based on 60% Roussanne and 20% each of Viognier and Grenache Blanc, it offers lots of white peach and tangerine-like fruits as well as notes of white flowers and honeysuckle. Pure, medium to full-bodied, concentrated, yet fresh and elegant, it's a beautiful white to enjoy over the coming 4-5 years or so.

ESTATE OPTIMUS 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **92**

Starting off with the 2020 Optimus, it's a blend of 58% Syrah, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 11% Petit Verdot that spent 14 months in 65% new French oak. It displays a solid deeper purple hue to go with a peppery, darker berry, graphite, and smoky earth-driven bouquet. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has a round, supple, mouth-filling texture, quality tannins, plenty of mid-palate depth, and outstanding length. It's clearly an outstanding wine but a step back from past vintages.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **96⁺**

The 2020 Estate Cuvee is the flagship and checks in as 45% Syrah, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 15% Petit Verdot. It has a big, black-fruited bouquet with lots of graphite, smoky oak, chocolate, and chalky minerality. This carries to a full-bodied wine revealing the more savory tannins of the vintage, plenty of mid-palate flesh, sweet tannins, and a great finish. It picks up a beautiful sense of salinity with time in the glass and is unquestionably one of the top wines in this vintage.

CÔTE À CÔTE 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **94**

Blackberries, peppery herbs, graphite, iron, and liquid violet notes all emerge from the 2020 Cote A Cote, a pure, brilliantly textured, full-bodied blend based on 45% Grenache, 30% Syrah, and 25% Mourvèdre. It has a touch of grippy tannins on the finish (which are common in the vintage), but it's balanced and offers beautiful fruit as well as serious length. It's going to keep for 15 years or more. It's a gorgeous wine.

LES DEMOISELLES 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **95**

Mostly Mourvèdre (there's a splash of Syrah in here), the 2020 Cuvee Les Demoiselles is straight-up beautiful, offering lots of blue fruits, notes of violets, herbes de Provence, and graphite, full-bodied richness, and a seamless, layered mouthfeel that builds incrementally on the palate. My money is on this being one of the finest wines in the vintage.

INSPIRACIÓN 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **94**

A co-fermented blend of 49% Grenache, 32% Cabernet, 13% Syrah, and the rest Grenache Blanc, the 2020 Inspiracion is a more tannic, structured, medium to full-bodied effort offering solid notes of ripe red and blue fruits as well as lavender, candied violets, and peppery spice. This pretty, elegant, yet still concentrated 2020 will keep for a decade.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **95**

The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve (95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot) is a smaller production release that's brought up in new and one-year-old French oak. Its inky purple color is followed by a gorgeous bouquet of pure crème de cassis, spicy oak, graphite, and hints of espresso, as well as just a touch of chalky minerality. Rich, full-bodied, and concentrated, it brings ripe tannins, a great mid-palate, and one heck of a finish. It's a big, structured, Howell Mountain-like Cabernet Sauvignon that will be long-lived.

FOR HER 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **96**

The 2020 For Her comes from 58% Syrah, 28% Graciano, and 14% Viognier. It's another deep purple-hued effort with a massive core of darker, almost blue fruits as well as scorched earth, ground pepper, liquid violets, and a beautiful, exotic floral character. These all carry to a voluptuous, full-bodied, layered, seamless wine that has the firmer tannins of the vintage yet also brings an incredible core of sweet fruit and opulence that makes it such a joy to drink.

CHLOÉ 2020

TASTING DATE 9/26/2022 RATING **94⁺**

L'Aventure's Chloe is always a beast of a wine, and the 2020 is no exception. Smoky black and blue fruits, chalky minerality, ground pepper, and violet notes all emerge on the nose, and it's full-bodied, with a dense, powerful style, ton of mid-palate depth, and enough tannins to warrant 2-3 years of bottle age. This big, rich, powerful effort will keep for 15 years.