

2013 VINTAGE TASTING NOTES

"About the characteristic of the vintage I will say that 2013 (like 2012) was a very early vintage, which means ripe style but perhaps with more firm tannins. I think, the trap in 2013 was to make big, heavy wine, so I tried during the vinification (while still keeping the style of the vintage) to work more on the elegance, the balance instead of the power. I wanted to make sure this wine was "still pleasurable and drinkable" more than bodybuilding even though you will see it is a big baby ☺! Enjoy my friends!!"- Stephan Asseo

Tasting notes can be very singular which is why this year we did things a little different for our tasting notes... we asked the L' Aventure team to participate! Right before racking, on a Thursday morning, Stephan, Beatrice, Chloé, Dave, Marissa, Darren, Chandler, Jillian, and Leanne put on their "tasting hats" and tasted through all the 2013 vintage and this is what we came up with for each wine. Enjoy!

ESTATE CUVÉE BLANC 2014 52% Roussanne, 28% Grenache Blanc, 20% Viognier

Pale gold straw color with an exotic nose of white floral aromas. Dry and crisp with a richly textured mouthfeel, impressive for a white wine. Notes of lemon and honey with a solid core of minerality reflecting the L' Aventure estate. A finale of subtle spices provides a beautiful finish.

OPTIMUS 2013 48% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Petit Verdot

Optimus has gorgeous deep nose, full of reduction of blackberries and raspberries. A fresh, juicy attack leads to a medium/full body with a nice integration of solid tannins. The finish is long and well balanced, for sure a classic.

ESTATE ROSE 2014 37% Syrah, 30% Mourvedre, 19% Grenache, 14% Petit Verdot

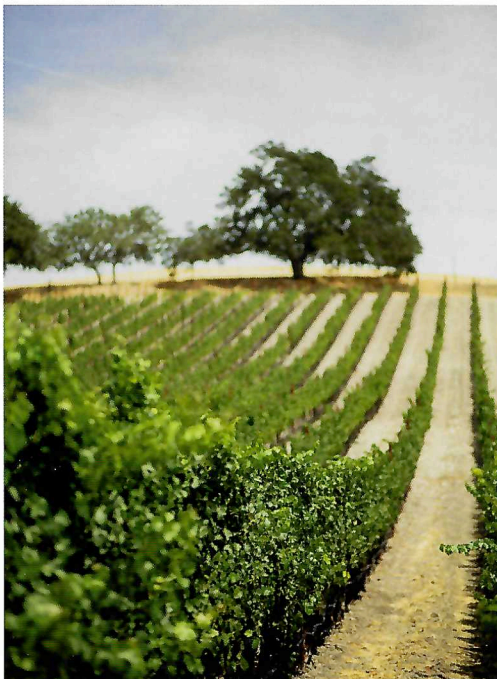
A softly muted nose with a beautiful pale pink hue. Explosions of strawberry, lavender and raspberry entice the palate. This dry, crisp wine is just as at home on the patio as it is in the dining room.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2013 43% Syrah, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot

The nose is seductive, full of dense dark fruit. A luxurious, silky texture leads to a huge attack. This is a full-bodied wine with big tannins, yet it retains balance and elegance, providing a perfect, long expressive finish.

COTE A COTE 2013 40% Mourvedre, 30% Grenache, 30% Syrah

Rich in color, dark opaque core. A beautiful, ripe nose integrating black and red fruit with a touch of earth. Attack brought on with red cherries, strawberries, thank you Grenache! A silky texture in the mouth, with nice volume, full body, refreshing acidity and big tannins that are well integrated. It is a touch more masculine than 2012, due to the Mourvedre! A very elegant, long finish, not too exuberant.



2013 VINTAGE TASTING NOTES CONTINUED...

SIBLING 2013

41% Grenache, 41% Syrah, 18%
Mourvedre

Balanced nose with hints of dark red fruit and a touch of vanilla. Loganberries, Satsuma plums, and a hint of licorice envelope the palate with a very even mouthfeel from start to finish.

A delicate attack with soft tannins frames this elegant wine, which finishes strong with more fruit lingering on the tongue long after the last sip.

ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2013

96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit
Verdot

Deep, dark nose of black fruit with hints of oak. A mouth feel that is velvety and rich with leather and cigar box. Super attack, full body and explosion of fruit!

Nice smoky finish with big, bold integrated tannins. Very elegant.

CHLOE 2013

(Fall Release)

71% Syrah Black McVey, 29% Old
Grenache Block (both cofermented)

What a nose! Very expressive with freshly crushed red fruit. Spectacular strawberry and raspberry fruit attack. Dense, elegant, and big yet balanced. Very tight, silky tannins create a long finish. Like climbing a mountain over the start and slowly rolling down the other side, enjoying the ride to the finish.

LASTLY... LET US INTRODUCE "FOR HER"



"I had already experimented with co-fermentation through the Chloé, which is a very pleasurable wine but I wanted to do a wine that was a little more focused, straight, and with a different dimension. In other words, I was waiting for the opportunity to think outside of the box. For the 2013 vintage, I created this cuvée using Syrah, all my Monastrell (Spanish clone of Mourvedre), and Viognier all co-fermented. When I tasted it, I thought this could finally be the cuvée that I would name for my wife, Beatrice. It corresponds to her personality: it is rigorous, has character, density, and ages with grace and beauty. It took me over thirty years to finally find the right cuvée for her!" For Her 2013 will be a fall release for our wine club members to be enjoyed with loved ones (in a few years, of course!).

FOR HER 2013

(Fall Release)

72% Syrah Hill Top Block,
23% Monastrell Block, 5%
Viognier (all cofermented)

Very dense, rich opaque color. Deep, profound, ripe nose with hints of spice, nuts, and black fruit. Beautiful attack with a sharp structure from the start! Silky in the mouth with a full body yet super balanced and elegant! Perfectly round tannins that leave a long, weighted finish on the tongue.

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE L'AVENTURE VINEYARD

As Stephan always says, "you can have the best winemaker in the world, if your fruit is not good, your wine will never be great". At L'Aventure, our philosophy starts and ends with the vineyard. Which is why, we thought it would be important to take advantage of the newsletter to share all the work that goes into the vineyard to make quality wine...

Our philosophy toward viticulture has always been more of a labor intensive, detail oriented, "haute couture" approach. We have 57 acres planted with a high density of 2100 vines per acre, equaling a total of 120,000 vines. With such a high density, the vines are pushed to be in constant competition with one another, coaxing each of them to produce only the best fruit possible. It also results in very low yields with our vines averaging only 2 tons per acre! With these high quality, low yields, we produce about 1 bottle of L'Aventure per vine. In comparison, the majority of other wineries regularly produce upwards of 4 to 6 bottles per vine! Of course, this philosophy generates quality but it does have a price. Let's start by saying; each individual vine gets the same dedication from our crew who spend the majority of their year tending to the vineyard. The main vineyard work cycle begins in January and does not finish until the end of harvest. That being said, the dormant season does still require some vineyard work from a smaller crew.

