

Bacchus-Vinothek
Weinhandlung Grimm



Oberndorfer Str. 2 · D-78628 Rottweil
Tel. 0741 / 1 72 06 · Fax 0741 / 1 72 07
info@bacchus-vinothek.com
www.bacchus-vinothek.com

Where Bordeaux Meets the Rhone



2014 L'Aventure - Paso Robles - Rhône Ranger Stephan Asseo

Parallel der Zuteilung der 2014er (war das ein Kampf) L'Aventure erhielt ich eine mail von Chloe, der Tochter von Stephan:

Greetings,

My father, Stephan Asseo, has never been one to focus on scores when making his wines. He prioritizes his terroir, the balance and texture in his wine and more importantly his personal palette as he likes to say "I make wines that I like and that I want to drink today or in ten years." Over the past few years, the Wine Advocate has reviewed our wines incredibly well... but I think this year tops it off! We couldn't be more happy and proud for Stephan and Beatrice (Stephan's wife, whose cuvee For Her was named after her) on these wonderful reviews that they received from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate. Please find below Jeb Dunnuck's reviews of our 2014 vintage. Enjoy the read! Cheers,

Chloe Asseo and the L'Aventure Team

"One of the reference point estates in Paso Robles is unquestionably Stephan Asseo's L'Aventure. Located just off of Highway 46, in the middle of the appellation, Stephan now produces six red cuvees: The entry level Optimus based on Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot; the Côte à Côte based on Grenache, with smaller parts of Mourvedre and Syrah; the Demoiselles based largely on Mourvedre; the Cuvée Chloé, named after Stephan's daughter and always blend of 70/30 Syrah and Grenache; the Estate Cuvée based on Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon (there's always a small portion of Petit Verdot); and lastly, the For Her Cuvée, based on Syrah, Mourvedre, and Viognier. In addition to these, he makes a sensational Rhone theme white. This estate has just completed construction on a new cave, and 2016 will be the first vintage completely aged here."- Jeb Dunnuck



Optimus 2014 - 92 points

The entry level cuvee that readers should snag a case of is the 2014 Optimus. Made from 42% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Petit Verdot, it's a supple, seamless and elegant wine that gives a small window into the quality and style from this terrific estate. Its deep purple color is followed by classy notes of black raspberries, spice box, dried flowers and underbrush in a fullbodied, balanced and lengthy package. It lacks the depth and length of the top cuvee here, but it is nevertheless a beautiful wine to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

Côte à Côte 2014 - 96 points -

Looking at the 2014s, these are serious wines that are reminiscent of Stephan's sensational 2012s (which were some of the top rated wines in the vintage). The 2014 Côte à Côte is 50% Grenache, 28% Mourvedre and 22% Syrah, all from the limestone soils of the estate L'Aventure vineyard. Deep, full-bodied, gorgeously layered and with plenty of fine tannin, this big, rich 2014 is loaded with notion of cassis, toasted spice, peppery herbs and graphite. Still backwards and tight, yet loaded with potential, give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following decade.

Estate Cuvée 2014 - 98 points -

A massive, gorgeously rich and decadent version of this cuvee, the 2014 Estate Cuvée (50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Syrah and 15% Petit Verdot) is reminiscent of a 2005 Pomerol with its huge bouquet of cassis, toasted spice, graphite, damp earth and leafy herb aromas and flavors. Thick, full-bodied, unctuous and palate-saturating, yet still with purity and grace, it's an insanely good Bordeaux blend (or close) from Paso Robles that will have two decades of overall longevity.

Art	Jahr	Wein	Einh	Listenpreis EUR/Fl. brutto	Vorzugspreis EUR/Fl. brutto
3487	2014	L'Aventure Optimus - 92 Parker	0,75	55,00	46,50
6961	2014	L'Aventure Cote a Cote - 96 Parker	0,75	98,00	79,90
10939	2014	L'Aventure Cuvee Estate - 98 Parker	0,75	117,00	86,90

Schrader

Robert Parker: „...After the remarkable performance of the 2012s, I would be hard-pressed to believe that Schrader could equal or eclipse that vintage, but they seem to have certainly equaled the quality of the 2012s. The 2013s are slightly more coiled and more tightly knit and with probably greater definition. That said, they all possess fabulous concentration and palate presence. Any of these will make a spectacular elixir/vinous treat to serve and consume over the next 25-30+ years. First-time readers may need to do a little research, but this is essentially a clonal study with micro-blends from the famous Oakville vineyard, the Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard, and more recently, a look at several other vineyards – the Beckstoffer George III Vineyard in Rutherford and the Beckstoffer Las Piedras Vineyard. Essentially, all of the wines are treated identically – aged in mostly Darnajou with some Taransaud barrels, they tend to always come in around 14.5%-14.7% natural alcohol, spend 20 months in all new oak and are bottled unfiltered. Since the beginning, they have been made by none other than the famed Napa consultant, Thomas Rivers Brown.



The wines are more similar than dissimilar, but I'll do my best to catalog the subtle differences that can be found. However, at this pinnacle of quality, they are few and far between. Production ranges from a low of 110 cases for the Colesworthy and 186 cases for the George III, to as much as 608 cases for the RBS and 650 cases for the LPV.“

Art	Jahr	Schrader Cellars	Einh	Listenpreis EUR/Fl. brutto	Vorzugspreis EUR/Fl. brutto
1007	2014	Cabernet Sauvignon "Old Sparky"	1,5	998,00	798,00
4286	2014	Cabernet Sauvignon "Colesworthy" – 94-96 Parker	1,5	998,00	777,00
8199	2014	Cabernet Sauvignon "G III" – 95-97 Parker	0,75	445,00	369,00
1794	2014	Cabernet Sauvignon "Las Piedras" - 94-96 Parker	0,75	445,00	369,00
3754	2014	Cabernet Sauvignon "RBS" - 95-97 Parker	0,75	445,00	369,00
6299	2014	Cabernet Sauvignon "To Kalon" - T6 - 98-100 Parker	0,75	498,00	398,00
		Boar's View, Sonoma Coast			
8930	2014	Boar's View Chardonnay	0,75	398,00	325,00
6255	2014	Boar's View Pinot Noir	0,75	255,00	198,00



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