

THE RHONE REPORT — ISSUE 9

DOMAINE GRAND VENEUR

2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau Les Valats	Red	88-90
2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Vacqueyras Grande Garrigue	Red	89-92
2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Les Champavins	Red	90-93
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2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes	Red	95-98+
2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Lirac Roquedon	Red	88-90
2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Lirac Clos de Sixte	Red	90-93

Note, a number of this estate's current releases were also reviewed in Issue #8. Website: www.domaine-grand-veneur.com

2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau Les Valats (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Rasteau)

A traditionally made wine that's aged all in vat and is a blend of 90% Grenache, 5% Syrah, and 5% Mourvèdre, the 2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau Les Valats shows a mineral, earthy personality with ground pepper, spice, and cherry driven aromas, medium body, and solid focus and depth. The tannin here is ripe and sweet, and this solid Rasteau should drink well for 4-6 years. **(88-90 pts.)**

2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Vacqueyras Grande Garrigue (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Vacqueyras)

Always a rock solid wine, the 2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Vacqueyras Grande Garrigue is a vat and cask aged blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre, 15% Cinsault. Smelling like the essence of Provence, with loads of garrigue, spice, flowers, and sweet blackberry and raspberry aromas, the wine is fleshy and supple on the palate, with a soft, friendly feel, beautiful purity and freshness, and solid length on the finish. It should be a crowd pleaser for 5-8 years. **(89-92 pts.)**

2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Les Champavins (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône Villages)

Looking superb, the 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Les Champavins is a blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 10% Mourvèdre that's aged all in stainless steel vats. It really shines on the nose with pure blackberry, cassis, lavender, spice, and riveting minerality. This is followed by a medium+ bodied wine that has outstanding richness, a full, concentrated mid-palate, and ripe tannin on the finish. Possibly even better than the outstanding '09, this should be given a year or two of bottle age, and then consumed over the following 5-8 years. **(90-93 pts.)**

2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape)

Reviewed in Issue 8 and re-tasted with consistent notes "An outstanding Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the 2009 Domaine Grand Veneur is loaded with spice, garrigue, violets, and underlying minerality that's backed up by perfectly ripe black cherry and pit-like fruits. Silky and polished on the palate, with medium to full body, a full, concentrated mid-palate, and ripe tannin that shows on the finish, this is a solid wine that should please any Châteauneuf lover. Given the balance and fruit, it's delicious and approachable now, but should continue to evolve and drink well for 12-15 years. **(92 pts.)**"

2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape)

An excellent barrel sample, the 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape is a blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 10% Mourvèdre. The Grenache is aged all in vat, the Syrah in older barrels, and the Mourvèdre in 10% new oak. The wine shows a classy, mineral driven profile with blackberry and raspberry fruit, licorice, and spice aromatics, medium to

full body, and a concentrated, brilliantly focused texture and finish. This should benefit from 2-3 years on release, and have 15 years of longevity. **(91-93 pts.)**

2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Origines (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape)

A brilliant wine and an unquestionable success in the vintage, the Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Origines is a blend of 50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 30% Mourvèdre that's aged for 18 months in new oak casks. Despite this élevage, the wine soaks up the oak and delivers a spectacularly pure array of crème de cassis, blackberry, spice, licorice, and toast. The purity and freshness are captivating, and the wine shows full body, beautiful focus, a classic, firm texture, and very silky, yet substantial tannin on the finish. Give bottles of solid 3-5 years and then drink over the following 15+ years. **(95 pts.)**

2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Origines (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape)

As with the '09, the 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Origines, tasted out of barrel, is frightfully concentrated and dense, showing a backwards, unevolved profile with stunning purity, searing minerality, full body, massive structure, and a tannic, chewy, very long finish. This structured, backwards Châteauneuf-du-Pape is overflowing with structure and raw material; it will need cellar time and should be very long lived. **(93-96 pts.)**

2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape)

Even more dense and concentrated than the '09 Les Origines is the profound 2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes. A blend of 50% Grenache, 40% Mourvèdre, and 10% Syrah that's aged for 18 months in new oak, it's very powerful and concentrated, showing absolutely brilliant aromas of crème de cassis, blackberry, crushed flowers, graphite, dark chocolate, and licorice on the nose. Decadent and yet still complex aromatically, the wine is full-bodied and possibly the most concentrated wine in the vintage, showing full body, a thick, yet firm, focused texture, perfect balance, and masses of very fine, silky tannin. There's no doubt a modern profile here, but I think it still shows solid southern Rhône flair and character. Bottles should be given 4-6 years of bottle age, at which point it should drink well for 20+ years. This bottle had been opened for two days, so if drinking anytime soon, open the day before and double decant. **(97 pts.)**

2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape)

The fourth vintage for this cuvee (it was made in '06, '07, '09 & '10), the 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes is a blend of 50% Grenache, 40% Mourvèdre, and 10% Syrah that's all aged for 18 months in new oak. Showing an extremely rich, powerful profile (similar to Mordorée's Cuvée de la Reine des Bois but with a slightly more modern feel), it has decadent blackberry, graphite, toast, charred earth, and serious mineral aromas on the nose. While I wrote in my notes that

this was the richest in the lineup, I would not bet money that I could tell this apart from the Les Origines at this young stage. Nevertheless, this cuvee always seems to distinguish itself with more depth and mid-palate substance once in bottle. There's no denying the modern slant here, but this holds onto its southern Rhone roots and is a brilliant, full-bodied, awesomely textured and structured Châteauneuf-du-Pape that should age effortlessly. Give bottle 5-7 years in a cold cellar, and then drink over the following 20+ years. **(95-98+ pts.)**

2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Lirac Roquedon (*France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Lirac*) **\$21**

The 2010 Alain Jaume & Fils Lirac Roquedon, tasted from barrel, is a blend of 60% Grenache, 35% Syrah, and 5% Mourvèdre, that's aged for 14 months in 35% oak barrels. Showing a very fresh, pure profile, with loads of spice (the only trace of the oak élevage) and back end minerality, the wine is medium+ bodied on the palate and very well balanced. This will

most likely turn out to be a very good, possibly outstanding bottle of wine that should have a good 5-8 years of longevity. **(88-90 pts.)**

2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Lirac Clos de Sixte (*France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Lirac*) **\$28**

A fantastic barrel sample that's up there (or at the top) of the appellation, the 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Lirac Clos de Sixte is a blend of 50% Grenache, 35% Syrah, and 15% Mourvèdre, that's aged for 14 months in 35% oak barrels. Showing brilliantly pure, rich aromatics of blackberry and assorted dark fruits, spice, and loads of minerality, the wine is medium to full-bodied on the palate, beautifully balanced, and quite structured, showing boat loads of tannin and structure on the finish. This should be an age-worthy wine that I think will benefit from 1-3 years in the cellar. Impressive, but that's no surprise as this wine is always a serious performer that competes with anything from the southern Rhône. **(90-93 pts.)**