

# THE RHONE REPORT – ISSUE 8

## ALAIN JAUME & FILS

Website: [www.domaine-grand-veneur.com](http://www.domaine-grand-veneur.com)

Importer: Kysela Père et Fils, Ltd – Winchester, VA - [www.kysela.com](http://www.kysela.com)

<b>2009 Alain Jaume &amp; Fils Gigondas Terrasses de Montmirail</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>2009 Alain Jaume &amp; Fils Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau Les Valats</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>2009 Alain Jaume &amp; Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieux Terron</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>89+</b>

### **2009 Alain Jaume & Fils Gigondas Terrasses de Montmirail** (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Gigondas) \$NA

Showing similar to how it did out of tank a year ago, the 2009 Alain Jaume & Fils Gigondas Terrasses de Montmirail is a beauty, displaying pure, clean aromatics of both red and black fruits, dusty spice, mineral, and perfumed floral nuances on the nose. Fresh and lithe on the palate, with medium body, a focused, polished texture, and good acidity that is balanced by perfectly ripe fruit, this should evolve positively for 2-4 years, and have a solid decade of prime drinking. **(91 pts.)**

### **2009 Alain Jaume & Fils Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau Les Valats** (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau) \$NA

Earthy and mineral-driven, with a classic bouquet of black cherries, leather, dusty earth, and dried spices, the 2009 Alain Jaume & Fils Côtes du Rhône Villages Rasteau Les Valats, a blend of 90% Grenache, 5% Syrah, and 5% Mourvèdre, is medium bodied, beautifully balanced, and possesses a light, fresh texture. This opens up with an hour of air, and should drink well over the coming 4-6 years. **(90 pts.)**

### **2009 Alain Jaume & Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieux Terron** (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape) \$NA

A blend of 85% Grenache, 10% Syrah, and 5% Mourvèdre that's aged mostly in vat, but with 20% in oak casks, the 2009 Alain Jaume & Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieux Terron is a classic Châteauneuf with spicy, floral driven aromatics that are rounded out by loads of kirsch, licorice, garrigue, and background minerality. Medium bodied and balanced on the palate, with a tight, fresh texture, upfront acidity, and focused and tannic finish, this lacks a touch of depth and richness through the mid-palate but should benefit from a 2-3 years in the cellar, and drink well for just under a decade. **(89+ pts.)**

## DOMAINE GRAND VENEUR

This impeccably run estate continues to produce not only some of the top wines in each vintage, but also some of the best values as well. In addition, their Lirac Clos de Sixte will easily outshine any number of wines from much more prestigious appellations.

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<b>2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Blanc Reserve</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Blanc de Viognier</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Rosé Reserve</b>	<b>Rose</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Les Champavins</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Lirac Clos de Sixte</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>93</b>

### **2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape** (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape) \$NA

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.)**

### **2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc** (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Châteauneuf-du-Pape) \$47

Fresh and clean, with tart pear and citrus notes that are buffered by crisp minerality and green herb nuances, the 2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf-du-Pape Blanc, a blend of Grenache blanc, Roussanne, and Clairette, is medium bodied, very focused, and edgy on the palate. This fleshes out with air, gaining richness and depth, so a decant is recommended if drinking anytime soon. **(90 pts.)**

### **2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Blanc Reserve** (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône) \$NA

The 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Blanc Reserve is a light, refreshing white that delivers crisp citrus, lemon rind, and mineral aromatics, medium body, a fresh, edgy texture, and a clean finish. It fills in admirably with air and has the acidity and richness to be versatile on the table. It should drink well for 2-3 years and is a solid value. **(88 pts.)**

### **2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Blanc de Viognier** (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône) \$NA

Very fresh and pure, with more lime and citrus than overt floral notes, the 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Blanc de Viognier is a classy white that shows citrus rind, lime, and touches of tropical notes, medium body, juicy acidity, pure, fresh fruit, and an excellent finish. Very easy drinking and well balanced, this delicious white is perfect for drinking over the coming year or two. **(89 pts.)**

**2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Rosé Reserve** (*France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône*) **\$NA**

A brilliant pink/salmon color, the 2010 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Rosé Reserve (40% Grenache, 40% Syrah, and 20% Mourvedre) sports perfumed, crisp aromas of wild cherries and strawberry fruits, rose petal, and spice on the nose. Fresh and clean on the palate, with a light, smooth texture, juicy fruit, and a clean, dry finish, this is a delicious Rosé that's perfect for drinking over the coming summer months. **(87 pts.)**

**2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Les Champavins** (*France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône*) **\$18**

A fantastic Côtes du Rhône that is worth your attention is the 2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Les Champavins. A blend of 70 % Grenache, 20 % Syrah, and 10 % Mourvèdre that's aged completely in stainless steel, the wine shows pure, textbook aromatics of black cherries, garrigue, crushed flowers, and leather, medium body, superb balance, and a silky, polished and overall elegant profile. While fleshy and well fruited through the middle, more of the wine's structure shows on the finish with plenty of ripe, fine-grained tannin adding length and focus. Impressive and with loads of depth and personality, this value priced offering should not be missed and is perfect for drinking over the coming 5-8 years or so. **(91 pts.)**

**2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Lirac Clos de Sixte** (*France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Lirac*) **\$25**

Wow, one gorgeous bottle of wine that competes with Mordorée's Lirac Cuvée de la Reine des Bois as the top wine of the Appellation, the 2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Lirac Clos de Sixte is a stainless steel aged blend of 50% Grenache, 35% Syrah, and 15% Mourvèdre that delivers a brilliant array of black cherry and blackberry styled fruits, licorice, spice, lavender, and crushed rock on the nose. This is followed by a medium to full bodied, beautifully fruited wine that has loads of polish, a silky texture, and a long, classically style, focused finish. Easily my favorite vintage of this cuvee to date, this is far from a fruit bomb and shows solid precision as well as notable structure. Superb now, this should easily continue to perform for 5-8 years, if not longer. **(93 pts.)**