

# TASTED

# 06 / September 2012

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by **MARKUS DEL MONEGO & ANDREAS LARSSON**

# 100% BLIND

## BORDEAUX : TWO BEST SOMMELIERS OF THE WORLD TASTE BLIND

INTERVIEW WITH MARKUS DEL MONEGO AND ANDREAS LARSSON

**TASTED** - According to which criteria did you rate the wines and which are the determining points of your evaluations?

**Markus del Monego** - We tasted using the international 100 points system, which is internationally well known and accepted.

**Andreas Larsson** - According to the international 100 point scale. I judge the wine for its overall quality that is to say purity, aromatics, structure, length, complexity, concentration, typicality, potential and longevity, but also its drinkability, something that I feel is very important.

**TASTED** - What are the features that really distinguish a correct from a good and a good from an excellent wine?

**MdM** - There are three aspects: first of all, the typicality of the colour for each grape variety, region and vintage. Secondly, the aroma profile. The more complex a wine is, the higher is the rating. Last, but not least, the taste. Mouthfeel and length are as important as balance. And in the end, the better wines show more typicality of terroir/origin than simpler wines.

**AL** - Correct wines are clean and fruity with a touch of character. A good wine must have more character, concentration and structure. A great wine should have more structure, character - it needs to display personality, to have a beginning, middle, and an end; often a great wine makes you say - wow!

**TASTED** - Could you please describe the conditions under which the wines have been blind tasted?

**MdM** - We have tasted in our tasting laboratory [caveCo / Essen / Germany]. Single boxes for the tasters guarantee a quiet tasting atmosphere without any influence from a third party. The wines have been served in glasses, so even the shape of the bottle was hidden, which guarantees a neutral tasting. In addition, the interior climate condition of the laboratory is controlled (temperature, humidity etc.). These conditions follow the DIN 17025 for blind tastings, therefore a high reproducibility of the results is provided.

**AL** - Markus has said it all.

**TASTED** - What influence do these conditions have on the reproducibility of the tasting conditions?

**MdM** - As the conditions are the same for every tasting, the reproducibility of the tasting results is made much more probable and therefore, more relevant. My company, caveCo, is accredited for organoleptic analysis; therefore we need these neutral conditions.

**AL** - It is a good way of tasting under completely blind conditions and not being influenced by the surroundings.

**TASTED** - What distinguishes a blind tasting under ideal conditions from a tasting carried out, for instance, directly at a winery?

**MdM** - Although good tasters can be quite objective even when knowing the name of a wine, there is a certain influence which will work subconsciously. Therefore an attractive label, a famous name or a well known vintner can influence the result. Blind tastings are the only way to have a really neutral tasting.

**AL** - It is very difficult to judge a wine if you taste it at a "great" winery, one will inevitably be biased by the atmosphere.

**TASTED** - Do you believe that even professional tasters can be influenced by things like the environment, a particularly friendly and luxurious welcome at a wine estate and if yes in which way? Or at the contrary, by specifically nasty and poor tasting conditions?

**MdM** - Tasting is a subjective art and there is the permanent battle of good tasters to be as objective as possible. I think that objectivity can be reached up to 80/85%, but there is always a hint of subjectivity remaining. The more a taster is influenced, the higher the level of subjectivity can be.

**AL** - Yes, as I just said. In addition, one is often confronted with tasting rooms that are too cold or too hot. I hate tasting with the air condition on as it is dehydrating, I hate tasting from bad wine glasses, and there are a few other things I don't like,... so yes there are many ways that can affect one's tasting. ■

# CÔTES DU RHÔNE

## **98** | **MAISON M. CHAPOUTIER** LE PAVILLON

### **2009** Ermitage

**AL** - Still rather youthful but with an excellent purity, mineral notions and pure, inky fruit, notes of blackberry, fine spices, smoke and blackcurrant. The palate is explosive and muscular showing immense concentration without heaviness, plenty of extract and substance, delicious dark fruit, fine spiciness, a hint of smoke and incense, absolutely marvellous finish that keeps lingering for a very long time - truly grand vin, amazing and should age forever. **98**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Very dense nose; initially quite closed, needs a lot of oxygen to open up, then displaying complex fruit and minerality. On the palate opulent and well balanced with freshness. Excellent finish and an Hermitage like expression. **98**

## **95,5** | **M&S OGIER D'AMPUIS** LA BELLE HELENE

### **2009** Côte-Rotie

**AL** - Very ripe and mineral nose with dark plum, blackberry, blackcurrant and mineral notes, still slightly youthful. Very dense and massive palate, inky and mineral fruit, coats the palate, plenty of extract, tannin and freshness, very appealing texture and an incredibly long finish; perfect oak, still young with great potential ahead. **95**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Opulent nose with distinct oak influence, chocolate and roasted aromas, vanilla, mild spices, black fruit, dark berries and violets. On the palate densely structured with freshness and good length. **96**

## **94** | **MAISON M. CHAPOUTIER** MONIER DE LA SIZERANNE

### **2009** Hermitage

**AL** - Intense perfume of dark, mineral fruit, blackberry, plum, blackcurrant and violets; the palate combines freshness and concentration offering beautiful, spicy, dark fruit, fine integration of oak, well settled tannin and a very long, clean finish - really stylish. **93**

**MdM** - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Complex nose with aromas reminiscent of blackberries and dark cherries, elderberries, meat and minerality. On the palate well balanced with great length and freshness, excellent finish. **95**

## **93,5** | **YVES CULLERON** TERRES SOMBRES

### **2010** Côte-Rotie

**AL** - Peppery, dark berries, a hint of smoke, fine spices and a touch of oak. Still rather youthful in the mouth with good density and weight, mineral, dark fruit, juicy blackberry and fine spiciness on the finish - well integrated freshness, plenty of substance and potential with a very long, clean end. **93**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Spicy and mineral in the nose, elegant toasted aromas and dark fruit. A complex wine with freshness on the palate, excellent tannins and great length. **94**

## **92,5** | **DOMAINE DES REMIZIERES -** **CAVE DESMEURE** CUVEE CHRISTOPHE

### **2010** Crozes Hermitage

**AL** - Dense, ripe and modern nose with new oak, dark chocolate, roasted notes and blackberry confiture (jam). Excellent grip on the palate, black, fruity notes, a hint of roasted oak, meat, spices and fine, powdery tannin, very good length, purity and expression - still in a youthful stage, but all parts are there; it should develop for ages - great stuff. **93**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Densely woven aromas, elderberries, mulberries and slightly spicy. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and rather good length. **92**

## **92** | **DOMAINE** **DE LA MORDORÉE** LA REINE DES BOIS

### **2010** Châteauneuf-du-Pape

**AL** - Ripe and dark, fruity nose, dark berries, blackcurrant, plum and herbs; very good structure, balanced with a soft texture, plenty of freshness and extract, attractive, dark fruit, liquorice and very good length. Truly good and enjoyable. **92**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Very densely woven aromas in the nose, complex, still relatively closed; elegant spiciness in the background mellowed by ripe, black fruit. On the palate very well structured with opulent character and good length. **92**

## **92** | **DOMAINE** **SANTA DUC** HABEMUS PAPAM

### **2010** Châteauneuf du Pape

**AL** - Medium deep, ruby red; the nose is complex with some fine spices, tobacco, sweet cherry, plum and berry notes; the palate is very intense and full, it offers high concentration, richness and length - despite its opulent character, there is appealing freshness and vibrancy, long finish. **92**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Opulent character, densely woven fruit, rich and aromatic. Dark cherries, plums and mulberries. On the palate opulent with good structure and length. Peppery spiciness in the finish. **92**

## **92** | **M&S OGIER** **D'AMPUIS** RÉSERVE DU DOMAINE

### **2009** Côte-Rotie

**AL** - Attractive purity on the nose, youthful and bright aromas of mineral, blackberry, violets, fine spices and apricot; very attractive structure on the palate, rich and ample, yet with bright freshness and soft extraction, multilayered, floral, dark fruit with a vigorous, long finish - very good. **92**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Opulent nose with aromas of blackberries and cherries, almost meaty notes, but also violets and apricots in the background. On the palate concentrated, dense but fresh with good structure and length. **92**

## **92** | **MONTIRIUS** LE COS

### **2010** Vacqueyras

**AL** - Very intense nose that offers new oak, smoke, meat, dark berries, pepper and tobacco; the palate is very rich and concentrated with beautiful meaty and roasted notes, plenty of tannin, extract and dark, inky fruit, very good length - a serious wine indeed. **92**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Meaty character, juicy fruit, minerality and almost smoky tones. Great and complex nose. On the palate well structured with very good length and well balanced tannins. A northern Rhône nose combined with southern Rhône taste. **92**

## **91,5** | **CHATEAU** **PESQUIE** ARTEMIA

### **2009** AOC Ventoux

**AL** - Attractive and ambitious nose, slightly smoky with dense dark fruit; spices and a rich structure, very mouth filling with layers of juicy blackberry, blackcurrant and a very long, spicy finish - promising. **92**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Opulent and aromatic with slightly pyrotechnical notes, smoky, but well structured fruit in the background. On the palate well balanced with firm tannins, good structure and length. A wine with potential. **91**

## **91,5** | **MAISON TARDIEU-LAURENT** **2009** Hermitage

**AL** - Spicy and meaty nose with hints of smoke, wild spices and dark spicy fruit. Rich and dense palate with meaty and smoky notes, some new oak and a very long finish - plenty of character and a firm tannic backbone: slightly more classical style. **90**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Complex nose with aromas reminiscent of blackberries and dark cherries, elderberries, fine leather, slightly gamy and mineral. On the palate well balanced with good length and freshness. **93**

## **91** | **CAVE DE TAIN** EPSILON

### **2009** Hermitage

**AL** - Still very youthful with new oak, roasted notes, coffee, dark berries and leather. Immensely concentrated palate with fine balance - layers of dark fruit, pepper, bright acidity and powdery tannin, still young and monolithic; should develop more nuance with age, but excellent structure for development. **91**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Very concentrated style with a hint of oxidation; however, good potential. On the palate well concentrated and balanced with ripe tannins and a touch of freshness. Classic style. **91**

## **90,5** | **DOMAINE SANTA DUC** GRAND GRENACHE 66

### **2010** Gigondas

**AL** - Medium deep ruby red; quite spicy, the nose is slightly more old fashioned with meaty and spicy notes as well as sweet, red fruit notes; the palate is dense and chewy with high concentration, very full and multilayered with an incredible richness and length with plenty of character. **91**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with intense fruit, dark berries and spicy notes with aromatic herbs in the background. On the palate opulent and rich with fragrant flavours reminiscent of white pepper, dried, aromatic herbs and dark berries. Tannins quite firm, but with good length. **90**

## **90** | **DOMAINE** **BENJAMIN ET DAVID DUCLAUX** LA GERMINE

### **2010** Côte-Rotie

**AL** - Light to medium, ruby red; the nose is perfumed, floral and sweet with crushed berries, pepper and dry spices; medium bodied, fresh and dense palate with peppery notes, smoke and a long, spicy finish. **90**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Slightly smoky nose with aromas of dark berries, but also vanilla and a touch of caramel. On the palate well balanced with fine acidity, masterly integrated tannins and good length. **90**

## **90** | **DOMAINE DES 3 CELLIER** MARCEAU

### **2008** Châteauneuf du Pape

**AL** - Quite traditional nose of meat, spices and some gamy notes; quite soft palate with red and dark berries, a rather soft and supple texture, sweet berries, dry spices, herbal notes and a quite long aftertaste. **89**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue and almost black centre. Balmy aromas in the nose, opulent and charming, dried figs, Agen prunes, peppery and floral notes. On the palate spicy notes, well structured, touch of sweetness, traditional style with good quality. **91**

## **89,5** | **DOMAINE** **BERTHET-RAYNE ANDRÉ** CUVÉE CASTEL MIREIO

### **2009** Cotes du Rhone Villages

**Cairanne**  
**AL** - Some new oak, chocolate and spices, rather intense and modern - the palate is generous, round and opulent with sweet spices, a soft texture and good length, still slightly youthful with a tannic bite and some herbal, spiciness on the finish. **89**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Aromas of the south, Garrigue like, brush tones, aromatic herbs and mild spices and ripe, dark fruit in the background. On the palate opulent, but still fresh, good structure and length. A warm climate wine with freshness. **90**

## **89,5** | **DOMAINE NIERO** VIRES DE SERINE

### **2009** Côte-Rotie

**AL** - Bright, deep ruby colour; the wine still behaves young on the nose with plenty of new oak, freshly crushed berries, plum, clove, pepper and meat. The palate has a certain amount of weight and concentration, the oak is better integrated, luscious dark fruit and spicy notes, structured and long; still relatively youthful - I would suggest cellaring this for 2 more years to allow the wine to come round. **89**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Very concentrated nose, chocolate and vanilla, slightly roasted aromas with dark fruit. On the palate opulent with well balanced tannins and rather good length. **90**

## **89,5** | **DOMAINE** **SAINT LUC**

### **2009** EXCELLENCE DE SAINT LUC

#### Grignan Les Adhemar

**AL** - Quite sweet nose with hints of plum, crushed berries, liquorice and spices; very unctuous and mouth filling with generous, sweet fruit, high level of ripeness and soft tannin, still with a hint of freshness in the background and a warm, soft finish. **90**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Pleasant, jammy fruit, black cherries, blackberries and mild spices. On the palate well structured with rather good length. Opulent character without being too demanding. **89**

## **89** | **BOSQUET** **DES PAPES**

### CHANTE LE MERLE - VIEILLES VIGNES

#### **2010** Châteauneuf du Pape

**AL** - Sweet berries, prune and some floral notes; well balanced palate, silky texture, good freshness and plenty of crushed berries, light spiciness, good density and length - alluringly juicy and attractive. **89**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Opulent character, but restrained fruit and closed impression. Needs time. On the palate opulent and well structured with rather good length. **89**

## **89** | **DOMAINE** **SANTA DUC** PRESTIGE DES HAUTES GAR-

### **2010** Gigondas

**AL** - Sweet notes of dark plum; leather and spices, very attractive ripeness and sweet dark fruit; a hint of gamy and leathery notes, nonetheless plenty of character, abundant fruit and good length, spicy and complex finish. **90**

**MdM** - Dark purple red with violet hue. Spicy character, aromas of dried aromatic herbs, Garrigue, ripe blackberries and a touch of floral notes. On the palate well balanced with good structure and rather good length. A touch of leather in the finish. **88**

## **88,5** | **DOMAINE** **COMTE DE LAUZE** RÉSERVE

### DE LA COMTESSE

#### **2010** Châteauneuf du Pape

**AL** - Attractive, pure nose, fresh red and dark berries, white pepper and some herbal notes; the palate has pleasant freshness and ripe fruit as one expects from a 2010, medium weight and length - attractively balanced and perfectly drinkable. **88**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Very spicy in the nose, aromas reminiscent of incense, mild spices and dark berry fruit. On the palate well balanced, youthful character with some potential. **89**

## **88,5** | **DOMAINE** **DE L'ARNESQUE** PLAN DE DIEU

### **2010** Cotes du Rhone Villages

**AL** - Floral and intense nose of jammed fruit, plum and leather. The palate is rich, ripe and round with mellow acidity, notes of jammed fruit, a herbal spiciness and unctuous finish; still with a youthful, tannic bite on the finish. **88**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Intense and complex aromas of plums and elderberries, blueberries and blackberry jam. Mild spices in the background; although the wine is very much based on fruit. On the palate opulent with dense structure, good weight and length, but firm tannins. **89**

## **88,5** | **DOMAINE** **DE LA GARELLE** GRANDE RESERVE

### **2009** AOP Luberon

**AL** - Ripe and opulent nose with some new oak, smoke, bacon and ripe berries; ample palate, traditional style with fine spiciness, soft tannic structure, plenty of fruit and good length - attractive character and balance; very good. **89**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Discreet nose with aromas reminiscent of leather and tobacco, ripe berries and plums. On the palate medium weight and length in a rather traditional style. **88**

## **88,5** | **DOMAINE** **DE LA MORDORÉE** LA REINE DES BOIS

### **2010** Lirac

**AL** - Dark, purple colour; the nose is attractive, juicy and spicy with plenty of crushed berries and blackberry; this aromatic expression combines with the concentrated fruit, embodied by the attractive, tannic backbone, plenty of freshness and a truly long, warm finish. **90**

**MdM** - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Very dense nose; however, quite closed. Discreet spiciness. On the palate opulent with aromas reminiscent of dark berries. Slightly rustic style. **87**

**88,5 | M&S OGIER D'AMPUIS****L'ÂME SŒUR SYRAH**  
**DE SEYSSUEL****2009 Vin de Pays des Collines Rhodaniennes**

AL - Deep, ruby red colour; the nose is spicy and ripe with blackberry, pepper and some meaty notes; the palate is ample, but rather soft with mellow tannin, a creamy texture and spicy, dark fruit, unctuous and accessible with good length and overall balance. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Smoky minerality, slightly meaty, dark berries, elderberries, blackberries, vanilla and mild spices. On the palate clean and well balanced with attractively integrated ok, medium weight and pleasantly structured, medium length. 89

**88 | CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON****2009 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Very ripe, modern and unctuous nose of roasted new oak, dark berries and chocolate; rich and concentrated palate, fairly extracted with layers of dark fruit, new oak, roasted notes and good length - quite massive wine that is still far too young, should probably develop well and settle with some more ageing - drink from 2014. 88

MdM - Dark purple red with slightly violet hue. Ripe fruit and a touch of balmy notes, on the palate with good mouthfeel, distinct oak influence and rather good length. 88

**88 | DOMAINE DE BEAURENARD**  
**BOISRENARD****2010 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Bright, dark berry fruit on the nose and a gentle spiciness; the palate is well balanced, offering attractive ripeness, but also freshness and already showing balanced structure, really juicy and attractive overall with fine length. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Densely woven nose with restrained fruit but potential. On the palate still slightly closed; powerful on the finish. 89

**88 | DOMAINE SAINT LUC****CUVEE EMILIANE****2009 Grignan Les Adhemar**

AL - Very attractive perfume of red and dark berries, sweet apricot and smoke. Rather ripe and bold palate with sweet fruit, spices and a long, warm finish - attractive, ripe and very drinkable. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Well expressed nose with black fruit and a touch of roasted flavours. Slightly smoky. On the palate well balanced with medium weight and well structured, medium length. 88

**88 | DOMAINE SANTA DUC****2009 VIEILLES VIGNES -Côtes du Rhône Régional**

AL - Medium to deep, ruby red colour; the nose is ripe and sweet, some notes of caramel, red berries, plum and tobacco; the palate is very full and attractively rounded, rather opulent but with good freshness and finely grained tannin, good length and plenty of character. 88

**88 | DOMAINE SANTA DUC****CUVÉE TRADITION****2010 Gigondas**

AL - Slightly lighter colour; fresh, juicy and straightforward wine with sweet fruit, plum flavours and a peppery finish. 87

MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue. Discreet spiciness and ripe fruit, rather closed character. On the palate pepper and mild spices, good weight and rather good length. 89

**88 | DOMAINE SANTA DUC**  
**LES GARANCIÈRES****2010 Gigondas**

AL - Light to medium, ruby colour; the nose is straightforward and pure with crushed berry notes and gentle spices; soft and fruity palate with quite good persistence. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with ripe and fresh fruit. Discreet spiciness. On the palate aromatic and spicy with cloves, cinnamon and pepper. Rich and elegant in the finish. 89

**88 | MAISON**  
**TARDIEU-LAURENT**  
**CUVÉE SPÉCIALE****2009 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Purity on the nose, wild berries, some earthy notes and a hint of black truffle; the palate is well balanced with sweet berry fruit, a hint of oak and soft, supple texture, fairly good length. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Very pleasant nose with aromas reminiscent of blackberries, mulberries, dark chocolate and truffles. On the palate well balanced with rather good length. 88

**88 | MONTIRIUS****CONFIDENTIEL****2010 Gigondas**

AL - Intense nose of crushed pepper, dark plum, blackcurrant and sweet herbs; the palate is sweet, round and opulent with a tannic backbone, herbs, dry spices and plenty of fruit - a generous, structured and opulent wine with a southern character, attractive balance and freshness. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Well expressed aromas reminiscent of dark berries, mild spices and a touch of minerality. On the palate harmoniously balanced, well structured, medium length with good fruit on the finish. 88

**87,5 | CHÂTEAU**  
**VALCOMBE****LA SPECIALE****2010 AOC Ventoux**

AL - Appealing, pure aromas of dark plum, blackcurrant and cherry; well integrated oak and an opulent structure, juicy fruit, a fine spiciness and long finish. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. On the nose opulent aromas reminiscent of chocolate, vanilla, roasted aromas, elderberries and blueberry jam tones. On the palate well structured with medium weight, but rather good length and juicy finish. 87

**87,5 | DOMAINE****DE BEAURENARD****DOMAINE DE BEAURENARD****2010 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Sweet and ripe with dried fruit aromas, prune, figs and dates. The palate is slightly more restrained and offers fine freshness, sweet, rounded texture and crushed berry fruit with fairly long finish. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Ripe blackberries and juicy plums, vanilla and a touch of roasted notes. On the palate well balanced, juicy fruit, firm but well structured tannins. 88

**87,5 | DOMAINE**  
**L'OR DE LINE****CUVEE PAUL COURTIL****2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

AL - Young and fruity with some new oak, plum and fresh berry notes; well balanced palate with soft fruit, a hint of sweetness, medium weight and length with a touch of roasted oak on the finish. 86

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Spicy and aromatic in the nose, cloves, cinnamon, vanilla and ripe fruit. On the palate juicy fruit, spicy aromas, especially cinnamon, medium weight and rather good length. 89

**87 | DOMAINE**  
**DE PANISSE**  
**NOBLE RÉVÉLATION****2010 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Hints of new oak, mocha, red and dark berries; the palate has medium weight and attractive, bright fruit, fresh, spicy and decent length -pleasing and drinkable. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Pleasant and juicy fruit in the nose, mild spices. On the palate firm tannins, medium weight and length. 86

**87 | DOMAINE****SANTA DUC****LES BLOVAC****2010 Rasteau**

AL - Dark ruby/purple colour; the nose is very ripe, almost Port like with prune, dark plum, liquorice and spices; very dense and full palate, high concentration, quite tannic at present, still relatively massive and unresolved, but should develop well. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Very dense nose; however, quite closed. On the palate opulent with aromas reminiscent blackcurrant. Slightly rustic style. 87

**87 | MONTIRIUS****TERRE DES AINES****2010 Gigondas**

AL - Aromatically still young and slightly closed with hints of figs, dates and plums; the palate has medium weight, generous spiciness and freshly crushed berries, attractive and perfectly drinkable with a generous, spicy finish. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Clean nose but quite closed aromas, discreet fruit. On the palate opulent with ripe fruit, figs, firm tannins and a slightly rustic finish. 87

**86,5 | CHÂTEAU****VALCOMBE****EPICURE****2010 AOC Ventoux**

AL - Attractive with sweet and juicy fruit, crushed berries and fine spices; the palate has medium weight and soft texture, balanced with a juicy finish - pleasing drinkability. 86

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Very fruity nose; however, slightly stewed, aromas reminiscent of blueberries. On the palate juicy, fresh with elegant fruit and rather good length. 87

**86,5 | DOMAINE**  
**DE L'OR DE LINE****2010 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

AL - Very attractive purity and fruit, sweet blackberry, floral notes and white pepper; the palate has good structure with dense fruit, fresh berries, pepper, a tannic backbone and quite good length. 88

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Discreet fruit in the nose. On the palate clean and well balanced with juicy character and pleasant fruit. 85

**86,5 | DOMAINE**  
**DE PANISSE**  
**MURMURE DES VIGNES****2010 Côtes du Rhône**

AL - Floral nose that offers notes of violets and dried fruits such as figs, dates and prune. The palate is warm and rich, feels very ripe with notes of dried fruit, prune, mocha and sweet spices, plenty of glycerin, full, dense and good length - slightly raisiny on the finish with a firm, tannic bite. 87

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Slightly rustic style, but well expressed fruit, dried fruit character, plums and figs. On the palate well structured, medium weight and length. Slightly dryish on the finish. 86

**86 | DOMAINE****SANTA DUC****VIEILLES VIGNES****2010 Côtes du Rhône Régional**

AL - Dark, bright, ruby red; the nose offers fresh berries, plum and leather; very juicy, soft and attractive palate with good freshness and clean flavours with a fruity finish. 86

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Youthful fruit with aromas of dark berries and almost peppery spices. On the palate well structured with medium length and pleasant fruit. 86

**86 | VIGNOBLES**  
**MOUSSET-BARROT**  
**CHÂTEAU DES FINES**  
**ROCHES****2009 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

AL - Rather intense and sweet nose of blackberry jam, prune and sweet spices; the palate has good grip and weight, seems quite dense and persistent with sweet berry flavours, plum and a herbal spiciness, well balanced and enjoyable. 85

MdM - Dark, purple red with almost black centre. Clean nose with ripe fruit, elderberries and a touch of minerality. On the palate opulent with a sweet touch, discreet minerality and well balanced alcohol. 87

**86 | VIGNOBLES**  
**MOUSSET-BARROT****CHÂTEAU JAS DE BRESSY****2009 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**

AL - Very ripe nose, almost Port like with new oak, spice and jammed fruit; medium weight, still young with a tannic bite and herbal spiciness, quite good length, opulent and enjoyable. 85

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue. Clean nose with ripe, almost balmy aromas, dried fruit and a touch of Port. On the palate opulent with a Port style character, medium length. 87

**85,5 | CELLIER****DES PRINCES****LES HAUTS DES COTEAUX****2010 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Pleasing purity, red fruity aromas and a gentle spiciness; good bite on the palate, medium weight, attractive berry fruit and fresh, lightly spicy finish. 85

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Ripe fruit with juicy character; on the palate well balanced with juicy character and medium length. 86

**85 | DOMAINE DE LA CAMARETTE****CUVEE ALEX****2009 Aoc Ventoux**

AL - Sweet and dark, fruity nose, slightly jammy, fruit character; still slightly youthful on the palate with a tannic presence and herbal spiciness, medium weight and length. 85

MdM - Dark, purple red with garnet red hue. Discreet nose with restrained fruit. More aromatic on the palate than on the nose; slightly spicy with medium length. 85

**85 | DOMAINE DE PANISSE****NOBLE RÉVÉLATION****2009 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Youthful with red cherry, herbs and sweet berries; medium bodied palate with juicy fruit and bright freshness, some herbal notes on the finish and medium length. 84

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Distinct berry fruit, black cherries and mild spices. On the palate well structured and balanced with good weight and rather good length. 86

**84,5 | DOMAINE LA MILLIERE**  
**VIEILLES VIGNES****2010 Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - A youthful nose of sweet, red berries and a touch of herbs; the palate is on the lighter side with soft, red fruit and a short-medium finish. 83

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue. Spicy nose with pleasant fruit; on the palate fresh character and medium length. 86

84 | DOMAINE DE PANISSE  
**2009 CONFIDENCE VIGNERONNE**  
**Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Sweet and floral nose with dried fruit aromas of prune, fig and confiture; the palate is medium bodied with soft texture, high acidity and jammy fruit with medium length. 84

MdM - Dark, purple red with slightly garnet red hue. Discreet fruit in the nose, rather traditional style; on the palate balmy notes and Port style character. 84

**83 | DOMAINE DE PANISSE****CONFIDENCE VIGNERONNE****2010 Châteauneuf Du Pape**

AL - The nose exudes very high ripeness, almost Port like with jammy, dried fruit character; fairly developed on the palate, slightly dried out - almost over-ripe. 82

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. In the nose slightly meaty, leather, mild spices, almost Port like bouquet. On the palate Port like character with slightly gamy finish. 84

83 | DOMAINE DES 3 CELLIER  
**2010 ETERNELLE - Châteauneuf du Pape**

AL - Very ripe, sweet nose, balsamic and Port like; the palate is soft, unctuous and opulent with sweet fruit and supple texture, slightly over ripe and easy to drink. 83

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Concentrated in the nose; Port like aromas, volatile components, slightly green tones. On the palate soft tannins and medium length. 83

82 | DOMAINE LE VAN  
**2009 ALIZARINE - AOC Ventoux**

AL - Very ripe nose, stewed fruit, slightly gamy and meaty, almost Port like; the palate has big concentration; however, it appears slightly extracted at present, good length but a relatively dry finish - should hopefully develop and soften from some further ageing. 84

MdM - Dark, purple red with violet hue and black centre. Gamy in the nose and lacks fruit. Well concentrated on the palate, but dominated by gamy notes. 80