



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

Transplanted Frenchman, Stephan Asseo (from St.-Emilion), has found a home as well as some great terroirs in the limestone soils of Paso Robles (all his vineyards are situated on the western side of Highway 101). Asseo continues to go from strength to strength, producing a fabulous portfolio of wines that makes L-Aventure one of the bright, shining reference points for the region. This is one of the California Central Coast superstars, and the wines are worth every cent.

Estate Cuvée

L'Aventure Winery	2009	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	94+
L'Aventure Winery	2008	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	94
L'Aventure Winery	2007	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	95
L'Aventure Winery	2006	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	97
L'Aventure Winery	2005	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	97
L'Aventure Winery	2004	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	98

2004 Estate Cuvée - It reminded me of the 2005 L'Evangile ... on steroids. A dense inky/purple color, great fruit purity, and abundant aromas of acacia flowers, blackberries, cassis, and blueberries are found in this beauty along with a seamless integration of tannin, acidity, and wood, and a finish that lasts over 60 seconds... This is a brilliant wine...

L'Aventure Winery	2003	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	94
L'Aventure Winery	2002	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	94
L'Aventure Winery	2001	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	91
L'Aventure Winery	2000	Estate Cuvée	Paso Robles	Red	92

Côte à Côte

L'Aventure Winery	2009	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	Red	95
L'Aventure Winery	2007	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	Red	95
L'Aventure Winery	2006	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	Red	96

2006 Côte à Côte - Another superstar in the L'Aventure portfolio, it possesses an inky/purple color along with a sumptuous, sweet bouquet of roasted meats, blackberry liqueur, creme de cassis, licorice, and chocolate. Dense and full-bodied with fabulous intensity, opulence, and flesh, but no hard edges, it will provide immense pleasure over the next decade.

L'Aventure Winery	2005	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	Red	94
L'Aventure Winery	2004	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	Red	97+
L'Aventure Winery	2003	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	Red	96
L'Aventure Winery	2002	Côte à Côte	Paso Robles	Red	93

Optimus

L'Aventure Winery	2009	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	90
L'Aventure Winery	2008	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	90
L'Aventure Winery	2007	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	(93-95)
L'Aventure Winery	2006	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	92
L'Aventure Winery	2005	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	94

... The 2005 Optimus... offers classic chocolate, cassis, espresso, and subtle wood notes along with a dense ruby/purple hue, gorgeous concentration, and plenty of spice, cedar, and a Pauillac-like complexity and richness. This serious effort is more French than Californian.

L'Aventure Winery	2003	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	93+
L'Aventure Winery	2002	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	92
L'Aventure Winery	2001	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	94
L'Aventure Winery	1999	Optimus	Paso Robles	Red	92

Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

L'Aventure Winery	2009	Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	Paso Robles	Red	91
L'Aventure Winery	2007	Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	Paso Robles	Red	94+
L'Aventure Winery	2005	Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	Paso Robles	Red	94+
L'Aventure Winery	2004	Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	Paso Robles	Red	95+

... L'Aventure's 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate could pass for a California version of the 2003 or 2005 Mouton Rothschild. Its dense purple color is followed by a classic bouquet of cedar, creme de cassis, licorice, and spice box. Full-bodied, powerful, and structured, with superb intensity and richness, it has the potential to evolve for 20-25 years. I would love to see this wine put in a blind tasting with some first-growth Bordeaux from the 2003 or 2005 vintage.

L'Aventure Winery	2003	Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	Paso Robles	Red	92
L'Aventure Winery	2002	Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	Paso Robles	Red	91