

# Jeb Dunnuck's THE RHONE REPORT

2010 L'Aventure Estate Rosé	Rose	91
2010 L'Aventure Roussanne	White	91
2003 L'Aventure Optimus	Red	92
2009 L'Aventure Optimus	Red	93
2009 L'Aventure Côte-à-Côte Estate	Red	96
2009 L'Aventure Estate Cuvée	Red	96
2009 L'Aventure Cabernet Sauvignon Estate	Red	95+

## L'AVENTURE

Continuing a string of fantastic vintages, owner/winemaker Stephan Asseo has hit a home in '09. In addition to beautiful purity of fruit and an abundance of texture, these show an uncommon level of finesse and elegance to go with ripe, polished tannin and back end structure.

Website: [www.aventurewine.com](http://www.aventurewine.com)

### **2010 L'Aventure Estate Rosé (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) \$25**

A terrific rose that has a Tempier like minerality, the salmon colored 2010 L'Aventure Estate Rosé possesses beautiful aromas of red fruits, rose, and wet stone, a fresh, crisp mouth feel, and solid length on the finish. Very French in style, this beauty should be enjoyed over the coming 1-2 years. **(91 pts.)**

### **2010 L'Aventure Roussanne (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) \$45**

A mix of 87% Roussanne and the rest Grenache Blanc that aged in 70% new French oak, the 2010 L'Aventure Roussanne is a top-notch white that delivers a beautifully complex, focused bouquet (peach, flowers, pear), notable purity of fruit, great acidity, and a long, clean finish. The purity and focus are what sets this apart, and it should be enjoyed over the coming 3-4 years. **(91 pts.)**

### **2003 L'Aventure Optimus (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) \$45**

Needing a solid decant to show well, the 2003 L'Aventure Optimus is a blend of 64% Syrah, 33% Cabernet, and 3% Petite Verdot that was aged for 16 months in 100% new French oak. Bright and high toned on the nose, with violet, smoked plum, and blacker styled fruits giving way to more exotic meat, floral, peach pit, and leather nuances, the wine is full-bodied on the palate and concentrated, showing solid acidity and plenty of richness that carries into the finish. Still youthful and relatively unevolved, with ripe tannin on the finish, this is superb now with about 2 hours in the decanter, but should continue to evolve gracefully for another decade. This might be slightly controversial given the wild, slightly exotic aromatic profile, but I'm a fan. **(92 pts.)**

### **2009 L'Aventure Optimus (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) \$45**

The inky colored 2009 L'Aventure Optimus checks in as a blend of 50% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 17% Petite Verdot that was aged for 15 months in 80% new French oak. Boasting full throttle notes of black fruits, charcoal, chocolate, and roast beef like qualities, as well as a decadent, full-bodied texture, ripe tannin and a chewy, broad finish, this youthful blend has an unevolved, dense feel, needs 2-3 years of bottle age to fully flesh out, and should have upwards of a decade of life. **(93 pts.)**

### **2009 L'Aventure Côte-à-Côte Estate (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) \$85**

The 2009 L'Aventure Côte-à-Côte Estate is a blend of 42% Grenache, 37% Syrah, and 25% Mourvedre that was aged in 50% new French oak. Just a beautifully put together wine, it shows captivating notes of wild berry like fruits, graphite, licorice, and meaty characteristics on the nose. This leads to a full-bodied, awesomely textured wine that has big structure and fruit, yet maintains an overall elegant, seamless profile with solid freshness, and a classically styled, incredibly long finish. The texture and balance are really something here. While I'd have no problem drinking bottles now, this should continue to evolve positively for 2-3 years, and drink well for 10-12. Beautifully stuff. **(96 pts.)**

**2009 L'Aventure Estate Cuvée** (*USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles*) **\$85**

The 2009 L'Aventure Estate Cuvée, a blend of 42% Syrah, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 16% Petit Verdot that was aged all in 100% new French oak, is a slightly richer and darker wine than the Côte-à-Côte, with earthy blackberry, violets, chocolate, peppered beef, and assorted floral nuances all emerge from the glass. Full-bodied, concentrated, and structured on the palate, yet with a seamless, elegant texture and fantastic length, this thrilling wine is drinkable now, yet deserves 2-3 years of bottle age, and should drink age effortlessly for 12-15 or more years. **(96 pts.)**

**2009 L'Aventure Cabernet Sauvignon Estate** (*USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles*) **\$80**

A blend of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Petite Verdot that's aged 14 months in 100% new French oak, the 2009 L'Aventure Cabernet Sauvignon Estate is one serious Cabernet that sports classic, yet powerful aromas of crème de cassis, sweet tobacco, coffee, earth, and mineral aromas on the nose. Full-bodied, impeccably balanced, and incredibly structured and savory, this gorgeous wine should age effortlessly for 15 to 20 years. **(95+ pts.)**