

HAND PICKED SELECTIONS

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Featured HPS Wines
10/30/11



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DOMAINE DU PEGAU

One of the bastions of traditionalism in Châteauneuf du Pape is Domaine du Pegau, long owned by the Feraud family, and now run by the charming, talented Laurence, who was exceptionally well-schooled by her father, Paul. This nearly 50-acre estate fashions some of the longest-lived, most interesting wines of the appellation. The success they have enjoyed with their estate wines has allowed the Ferauds to branch out with a small negociant operation that includes selections Laurence makes through her contacts in the southern Rhone as well as wines she co-produces with another Châteauneuf du Pape name well-known for high quality, André Brunel.

Writeups by Robert Parker

2010 CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE CUVÉE DA CAPO

(98-100) "...produced primarily from the old vines they own in the famed La Crau sector. To be bottled after spending 18 months in old wood foudres, the 2010 is another gorgeous effort. Its deep black/plum color is accompanied by sweet notes of chocolate-covered figs, kirsch, black currants, cedar, smoked meats and charcuterie. Very intense with enormous texture, massive fruit, moderate tannin and a long finish, the vintage's acids are present, but beautifully integrated. This bigger than life wine should easily evolve for three decades or more. Stylistically, it resembles the 1998 Capou more than the 2000, 2003 or 2007."

2003 CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE INSPIRATION (Magnum Only)

100 "While there is little left, the 2003 Châteauneuf du Pape Inspiration is one of the greatest wines I have ever tasted. This current tasting revealed that it has developed considerable complexity and shed some of the tannins it showed early in life. Only available in magnum, it is a super-expensive, limited cuvée that is impossible to find, but if any readers ever have the chance to taste it, don't hesitate. Moreover, if you can afford it, don't hesitate."

2006 CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE CUVÉE LAURENCE

95 "...a big, gamy, earthy, complex effort... Deep and full-bodied with some amber at the edge of its color as this cuvée spends a much longer time in old barrels, it exhibits abundant amounts of garrigue, figs, cedar, licorice, black currants and black cherries. This fragrant, full-throttle wine should drink well for another 10-15 years. Readers should keep in mind that this is always a more evolved style because of its elevation."

2009 CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE CUVÉE RÉSERVÉE

(95-97) "...the 2009 Châteauneuf du Pape Cuvée Réservee is spending a longer time in barrel and foudre than usual. Consequently, I tasted through three separate foudres, all of which looked spectacular. The color is a dense black/ruby (one of the more opaque 2009s I saw), and the powerful nose offers up aromas of licorice, smoked herbs, charcuterie, bouquet garni, roasted meats, Peking duck, kirsch, blackberries and cassis. An enormous success, this cuvée has come on like gang busters since I tasted it last year, and may eclipse the stunning 2007. Given its tannin profile, the 2009 will require 5-6 years of cellaring and should keep for 30-35 years. Could this be a modern day version of Pegau's compelling 1989 Cuvée Réservee?"

2010 CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE CUVÉE RÉSERVÉE

(97-99) “...reveals a deep ruby/purple color along with wonderful sweetness and lots of roasted meat characteristics intermixed with notions of herbs, forest floor, kirsch and black fruits. The tannins are surprisingly soft, the wine has great intensity and a blacker fruit profile than even the 2009. It looks to be another superb effort that should slightly eclipse the 2009. Like the 1989 and 1990 Cuvée Réservees, it may be impossible to pick a favorite between the 2010 and 2009. As I recall, Paul has always favored the 1990, Laurence the 1989.”

PLAN PEGAU LOT #2009

86 “Another offering value-conscious consumers should seek out is the non-vintage Plan Pegau Lot 2009, a vin de table made from Grenache, Syrah, Merlot and Carignan. It is a straightforward, fruity, well-made red to drink over the next 1-3 years.”

SELECTION LAURENCE FERAUD

2010 CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE

(91-93) “A sleeper of the vintage with outstanding potential, the deep ruby/purple-colored 2010 Châteauneuf du Pape reveals terrific fruit purity and focus along with great delineation, a full-bodied mouthfeel and abundant blue and black fruits intermixed with kirsch, licorice and roasted Provencal herbs.”

2009 CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE

(89-91) “...offers copious amounts of kirsch, tapenade, new saddle leather, Christmas fruit cake, earth and lavender characteristics. Ripe, with low acidity as well as a plump, fleshy, juicy mouthfeel, it should drink well for a decade.”

2010 CÔTES DU RHONE

87 “A super bargain from Laurence Feraud, the 2010 Côtes du Rhone (finished with a screw cap closure) exhibits a healthy deep ruby hue along with copious amounts of black cherry fruit, lavender and Provencal spices. Medium-bodied, fruity and elegant with impressive purity, it should be drunk over the next year.”

2009 CÔTES DU RHONE VILLAGES SEGURET

(87-90) “...exhibits soft, supple tannins along with sweet, plump, corpulent black cherry and blackberry fruit intermixed with garrigue and pepper. This round, generous red is ideal for drinking in its first 7-8 years of life.”

2010 GIGONDAS

(88-90) “The 2009 and 2010 Gigondas are fashioned from identical blends of 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvedre. Although I gave them identical scores, they are very different styles of wine. More flowery, the dense purple-colored 2010 is dominated by crushed rock and floral notes. It exhibits more restraint, slightly higher acids and a cooler climate mouthfeel than the easygoing, broad, savory 2009. Drink the 2010 over the next 12-15 years.”

2009 GIGONDAS

(88-90) “The 2009 and 2010 Gigondas are fashioned from identical blends of 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvedre. Although I gave them identical scores, they are very different styles of wine. The 2009 possesses a dark purple color, loads of fruit, licorice, jammy black currant, cherry and forest floor notes, good minerality, medium to full body and a soft style. Drink the 2009 over the next decade.”

PLUME BLEU

2010 VIN DE PAYS D’OC

87 “An equal part blend of Grenache and Syrah aged in tank, the luscious 2010 Pegau VINO / Plume Bleu reveals the vintage’s freshness, crisp acids and a concentrated, low yielding style. Revealing plenty of blue and black fruit characteristics intermixed with hints of olives and tobacco leaf, it is a tasty effort to enjoy over the next several years.”

2009 VIN DE PAYS D’OC

87 “...continues to perform as well as it did last year from barrel. Fresh and soft with lots of kirsch and Provencal typicity in its medium-bodied, appealing personality, it should be drunk over the next 1-3 years.”



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