

J O U R N A L T A S T E D

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by MARKUS DEL MONEGO & ANDREAS LARSSON

100% BLIND

TWO BEST SOMMELIERS OF THE WORLD TASTE BLIND

INTERVIEW WITH MARKUS DEL MONEGO AND ANDREAS LARSSON

Climadiff
FINE WINE CELLARS.
N°1 IN FRANCE

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 others things I don't like, ... so yes there are many ways that can affect one's tasting. ■

CHÂTEAUNEUF DU PAPE, GIGONDAS & SOUTHERN RHÔNE

93,5 | FAMILLE PERRIN - LA GILLE 2010 Gigondas

AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Elegant and refined fruit on the nose, backed by a touch of mild spices and minerality. On the palate great freshness, complexity, richness and elegance with good length. **94**

MdM - High ripeness with very dark fruit, blackberry, dates and figs, attractive spiciness with black pepper, meat and smoke. The palate is full and intense, not jammy and without sweetness, excellent dark peppery fruit, lovely tannic backbone and very long spicy finish. Really good stuff! **93**

92,5 | VIGNOBLES MAYARD LA CRAU DE MA MÈRE

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Aromatic nose with aromas reminiscent of blackcurrant, blackberries with a meaty, smoky character. Rich and quite complex on the nose. On the palate clean and well balanced with ripe tannins, velvety mouthfeel as well as good structure and length. **94**

MdM - Very appealing and clean nose, good ripeness and a plethora of crushed berries, blackcurrant, raspberry with a hint of spice and smoke. Quite attractive with a full body, creamy and soft with ripe fruit and but no overripeness, good tannic backbone and a spicy length, very persistent and potent. Attractive. **91**

91,5 | DOMAINE DE BARVILLE ROUSSANNE - BROTTE

2012 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Intense golden yellow colour. Opulent and ripe character on the nose. Hazelnuts and Mirabelle plum, apricots and a touch of candied orange peel. Toasted aroma in the background. On the palate aromatic character with tones of dried fruit, mild spices, a touch of vanilla. Good length. **91**

MdM - Very intense nose, aromatic with beautiful yellow fruit aromas, Roussanne like with peach, apricot, saffron, yellow plum and a hint of roasted nuts and vanilla - might be a hint of oak. The palate is seriously structured, unctuous and round with low acidity but plenty of extract that adds freshness, slightly tropical fruit notes - mango, papaya, good volume and appealing mouthfeel, long aftertaste, a serious and very interesting wine. **92**

91,5 | DOMAINE DE L'ARNESQUE CUVÉE CAPELANE

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Sweet fruit and mild spices in a rather restrained expression, almost elegant. On the palate clean and well structured with firm tannins, well balanced fruit and an almost crisp finish. **91**

MdM - Clean, sweet and ripe fruit on the nose yet not jammy, fine spiciness on the palate and plenty of rich dark fruit - cherry, blackcurrant, blackberry and freshly ground pepper, well balanced tannins add structure, very juicy and long finish, plenty of character, very well made. **92**

91,5 | FAMILLE PERRIN VIEILLES VIGNES

2010 Gigondas
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Elegant but expressive flavour, mild spices, fresh blackberries and strawberries balanced by a meaty character, mild spices. On the palate clean and elegant with good length. Freshness and elegance are balancing the full bodied character of this wine. **92**

MdM - Very pleasing aromatics, a plethora of fresh berries, dried flower, fine spices, meat and smoke. Very attractive palate with dense texture, quite massive but well balanced tannin, plenty of fruit, intense and very long finish. Slightly alcoholic on the finish, drink it slightly chilled. Still youthful but potent and highly promising. Give it some more time. **91**

91 | CHÂTEAU SIMIAN LA FONT D'HIPPOLYTE 2008 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)

AL - Intense yellow colour. Well balanced and aromatic nose, slightly spicy, incense, vanilla, charming fruit reminiscent of pear, dried apricots and exotic fruit. On the palate spicy and well balanced with good structure and length. A wine to decant a moment before serving to enhance its aromatic complexity. **92**

MdM - Attractive nose, good purity and intense aromas of apricot, yellow plum, flower and saffron, quite Roussanne like. The palate shows a good level of purity and freshness, round, creamy and unctuous with a fine balance, elegant fruit and long spicy finish with papaya flavours. A most pleasant example. **90**

91 | CHÂTEAU SIMIAN 2009 Châteauneuf du Pape

AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Classic nose with vanilla and a hint of cinnamon, blackberries, ripe plums and cherries. A touch of minerality. Soft on the palate with mature tannins and good structure. Length and complexity. **91**

MdM - Attractive clean and fruity nose with notes of blackcurrant, sweet herbs and dark cherry, the palate is full and substantial with sweet, although not jammy fruit, very supple and creamy with bright blackcurrant flavours and a long lingering finish. **91**

90,5 | VIGNOBLES MAYARD DOMAINE DU PÈRE PAPE

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Oak dominating the nose in the first moments, vanilla, cold smoke and meaty character. Fruit rather discreet. On the palate well structured with vibrant tannins, fresh character and good potential. This Châteauneuf shows a modern, oak driven style with rather convincing character. **92**

MdM - Youthful with some creamy notes, vanilla and plenty of red and dark berries, the palate is spicy with rich fruit and some spicy/herbal notes, the tannic presence is attractive, rather long and spicy finish. **89**

90,5 | FAMILLE PERRIN LE CLOS DES TOURELLES

2010 Gigondas
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Elegant character with mild spices and initially restrained fruit. Wine is extremely youthful, almost closed and takes advantage of being in contact with some oxygen in the glass. Dark berry fruit and a touch of mild spices. On the palate clean and elegant with good length and freshness. Complex finish. **93**

MdM - Clean and ripe nose with an abundance of fruit, dark plum, cherry and some floral notes. On the palate the wine is dense with sweet fruit, some hints of spices and confiture, good length. Charmingly fruity and straightforward. **88**

90,5 | DOMAINE DES 3 CELLIER MARCEAU

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Meaty character, smoky flavour, Agen prune, black pepper and a floral touch of Wisteria. On the palate rather rich with spicy notes and good substance, touches of sweetness, but not jammy. **91**

MdM - Sweet and ripe nose with dark plum, blackcurrant, tobacco and spices. The palate is round, opulent and sweet without being jammy, some smoky notes, fine spices and a mixture of red and dark berries. Fine balance and good length in an attractive classic style with ripeness but not too much, good substance and backbone. **90**

90,5 | PAUL COULON ET FILS BOISRENAUD

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Fine and elegant with an overall soft character, but still with structure and length. Mild spices and berry fruit in a charming match. **90**

MdM - Generous and opulent nose, a hint of new oak, dark berries, plum, spice and leather - it is still somewhat youthful on the palate, but potent with a pleasing structure and plenty of stuffing, clean dark fruit without being jammy, polished tannin and very attractive length. **91**

90 | CHÂTEAU MONT-REDON 2010 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)

AL - Bright yellow with a green hue. The nose is clean but very closed, discreet fruit, a touch of citrus fruit and minerality. On the palate clean, opulent with notable alcohol yet well balanced by a crisp character. Well structured with good length, a rather charming, rustic character. **91**

MdM - Clean and fruity nose, discreet aromas of green apple, citrus, almond and a floral touch. The palate is rich and broad, quite unctuous structure, mild acidity and pleasant fruit, quite persistent finish and a warm aftertaste - there is a slight lemony bitterness that adds structure and spiciness, alcohol is noticeable on the finish. I would prefer to drink it rather chilled, well made with character. **89**

90 | CHÂTEAU CABRIÈRES 2010 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)

AL - Bright yellow colour. Nose with almost crisp fruit, grapefruit peel and candied orange peel, fresh herbs and ripe peaches. On the palate clean with well balanced fruit, a touch of oak, almost crisp character in the finish. Charming and pleasant in a slightly mineral style. **91**

MdM - Young and medium intense nose, some hints of yellow fruit, citrus and some spicy notes reminiscent of mint and aniseed. The palate is quite full with citrusy flavours and a good level of freshness. Once again not really high acidity, but a balanced bitterness and spiciness that adds a sensation of freshness, rather long finish, well balanced and pleasantly drinkable. **89**

90 | ALAIN JAUME & FILS DOMAINE GRAND VENEUR, "LA FONTAINE"

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Bright, intense yellow. Quite complex nose with aromas of dried apricots, orange peel, vanilla and a touch of caramel. On the palate clean and well balanced with opulent, but well integrated alcohol. Rustic charm demanding an opulent dish, such as a pheasant breast. **91**

MdM - Youthful nose, quite aromatic with notes of orange blossom, yellow fruit and yoghurt. The palate is broad and robust with stone fruit flavours, a plentitude of spiciness, finely balanced bitterness and good length. Pleasantly drinkable with plenty of character. **89**

90 | DOMAINE DE FONTAVIN

2010 Gigondas
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Well balanced with restrained fruit and elegant spiciness. On the palate juicy and crisp with well balanced fruit and good length. **90**

MdM - This wine still seems very young, slightly restrained on the nose with notes of dark, fresh berries. The palate is still reserved but with good potential, dense dark fruit and bright freshness, very polished texture, juicy and long finish - will develop into something really appealing and attractive. **90**

90 | DOMAINE BARVILLE OPTIMUM

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. On the nose intense spiciness, cardamom, cloves, cinnamon and vanilla. Roasted aroma, dark berry fruit. On the palate velvety character, well structured and mature tannins. A wine with convincing length, and for its vintage, exceptional backbone. **90**

MdM - Slightly more nuance and complexity on the nose than in most examples - leather, spices, dark fruit and tobacco. The palate is showing good density, there is a backbone of tannin and freshness, generous fruit and good length, soft and polished but yet with backbone that I miss in some of the other examples. **90**

90 | DOMAINE LES GIRARD DE BOUCOU

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. On the nose aromas reminiscent of chocolate and Morello cherries, fine oak and vanilla. Red fruit character continues on the palate, rather elegant with fine tannins, good structure and aromatic length. **91**

MdM - More red fruited, almost Burgundian nose with hints of raspberry, clove and orange peel. The palate is soft and supple yet with good substance, rather elegant with very attractive length. A delicate and feminine example. **89**

90 | DOMAINE DES 3 CELLIER PRIVILEGE

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Exuberant character, ripe fruit, blackcurrant, black cherries and dark chocolate with a touch of white pepper, mild spices and balm tones. On the palate clean and well balanced with convincing length. Good fruit and mild spices on the palate. Exuberant finish. A wine which improves with decanting. **91**

MdM - Sweet and fragrant nose, orange peel, red berries, clove and chocolate praline. The palate is sweet, rounded and rather elegant, slightly more Pinot like, supple and quite long finish. An elegant example. **89**

89,5 | VIGNOBLES MAYARD DOMAINE DU PÈRE PAPE

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Initially Port like character, but in contact with oxygen opening up in the glass and then releasing aromas reminiscent of smoke and mineral components, a touch of iodine influence and jammy fruit. On the palate sweet and velvety with good tannin structure and length. **90**

MdM - Quite classic nose, leather, spices and dark berries, rather full bodied and robust with dark plum, spice, liquorice and Garrigue notes, serious length and plenty of character. Slightly young today and should improve but still very well made and potent. **89**

89,5 | DOMAINE DE NALYS 2009 Châteauneuf du Pape

AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. On the nose rather restrained fruit but elegant ripe flavour. On the palate rich and soft with mild tannins and good length. **89**

MdM - Slightly more restrained nose, dark and brooding with plum, blackcurrant and dark cherry notes, the palate is rather dense and chewy, less sweetness and more structure, fine tannins and a good notion of freshness, a discreet spiciness and a very good length. **90**

89,5 | ALAIN JAUME & FILS DOMAINE GRAND VENEUR LES ORIGINES

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Nose with fine ripe fruit and juicy character on the palate. **90**

MdM - Clean and fruity nose, dark berries, blackcurrant and sweet spices, on the palate there is rich structure, polished and rounded with sweet fruit, not jammy and with a discreet spiciness, very good length, juicy finish, well made and drinkable. **89**

89 | PIERRE VIDAL 2010 Châteauneuf du Pape

AL - Dark purple red. Clean nose with aromas reminiscent of mild spices, smoky character and ripe berry fruit. On the palate quite elegant, tannins well integrated with a positive oak influence. **89**

MdM - Clean and ripe nose with hints of fig, dates, plum and blackcurrant. The palate is rich, ripe and round, yet with backbone and sensation of freshness, a hint of oak and some spicy notes, good length, clean, polished and rewarding, still youthful but potent. **89**

89 | JULIETTE AVRIL 2010 Châteauneuf du Pape

AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Well balanced nose with a blend of fruit and oak. On the palate well balanced, medium density and length. **89**

MdM - Youthful on the nose, a rather discreet wine with aromas of dark fruit - plum, blackcurrant, cherry and a gentle spiciness. The palate is showing appealing fruit, quite juicy with fine freshness, very soft tannins, but still enough to add backbone, good persistence and attractive aftertaste of ripe dark cherry and fine spices. **89**

89 | DOMAINE LA MILLIÈRE VIEILLES VIGNES

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Spicy aromas on the nose, white pepper and Garrigue, restrained fruit. On the palate quite opulent with elegant spicy aromas, tones of white pepper also on the palate. Spicy style with good length. **89**

MdM - Traditional nose, some gamey notes, leather, dark berries, plum and wild herbs. The palate shows plenty of character, a herbal spiciness, elegant fruit and good backbone, fine persistence with a peppery spiciness. Attractive traditional style with good substance. Very pleasant and appealing. **89**

89 | VIGNOBLES MAYARD LA CRAU DE MA MÈRE

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Smoky nose with mineral components, a touch of iodine influence, Port like character, jammy fruit. On the palate sweet and velvety with good tannin structure and length. **89**
MdM - Very sweet and fragrant nose with hints of blackberry, flowers, blackcurrant and mild spices. The palate is full and dense with a polished structure, plenty of sweet fruit, good length and overall balance, a well made, rich and modern style. **89**

89 | DOMAINE DES 3 CELLIER

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Iodine aromas in the nose, then releasing lush fruit, especially dark berries and ripe plums. Pimento and toasted bread in the background. A fresh tasting experience on the palate with good length. **90**
MdM - Dark berries, plum, tobacco and brown sugar on the nose, sweet fruit but not jammy. The palate is balanced and offers a mixture of red and dark berries, good backbone and herbal spiciness, fine length and overall balance, plenty of character. **88**

89 | DOMAINE DE BEAURENARD

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. A wine with good evolution potential. Initially rather discreet, it opens up well in contact with some oxygenation in the glass, displaying lush fruit and mild spices. On the palate rather soft, however with good structure and length. **89**
MdM - Sweet dark berries, tobacco, brown sugar and mild spices, the palate is sweet and full but not jammy, good backbone of freshness and tannin, dark fruit and a rather long spicy finish. Fine balance, an attractive example between classic and modern. **89**

88,5 | CHATEAU SIMIAN

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Nose with aromas reminiscent of Port, vanilla and blackberry jam, on the palate well balanced with vibrant tannins and good fruit. **89**
MdM - Clean and fruity nose - rather warm and ripe with notes of dark cherry, berry jam and pepper. The palate is quite structured with an appealing presence of freshness, fresh berry fruit and a rather long clean finish, generous and drinkable. **88**

88,5 | JULIETTE AVRIL CUVÉE MAXENCE

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Charming nose with aromas reminiscent of vanilla, caramel, fruit jam, blackberries and mild spices, toasted oak, slightly smoky. On the palate clean and well balanced in a rather elegant style. Medium density and quite good length. **90**

MdM - Young and spicy notes with hints of cedar wood, dry spices, herbs and dark berries. The palate offers generous fruit, not jammy, a rather high freshness and spicy dark berries, well balanced in a more restrained classic style, fine length. **87**

88,5 | BOSQUET DES PAPES CHANTE LE MERLE - VIEILLES VIGNES

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. On the nose aromas of dried plums and black cherries, meaty character. On the palate opulent with well integrated alcohol and good tannin level. Charming, but robust in the finish. **87**
MdM - Rather intense and spicy nose with some meaty and peppery notes, attractive dark fruit, plum, cherry and a hint of oak as well. The palate is full bodied and intense, quite ripe and broad with intense dark fruit, oak and spices on the palate. It has good length but still seems somewhat young and robust - in fact; the wine deserves more time to come together. Let's wait! **90**

88,5 | CHATEAU SAINT JEAN

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Opulent nose with strong oak influence, aromas reminiscent of vanilla and caramel, mild spices and toasted oak. Oak backed by ripe fruit reminiscent of blackberries and plums. On the palate well structured with good length. **88**
MdM - The nose is quite warm and ripe, Port like with notes of blackberry, figs and dates, full bodied palate quite polished and intense with sweet dark fruit and plenty of extract, good length, well made in a modern, rich and fruity style. **89**

88,5 | CHATEAU CABRIÈRES

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Ripe style with slightly jammy berry fruit, blackberries and mulberries, a hint of toasted oak, mild spices and vanilla in the background. On the palate juicy, classic style with velvety tannins and good length. **89**
MdM - Clean nose with sweet berries, plum and liquorice, the palate is generous with rich fruit and spicy liquorice notes, quite full but with soft texture and medium to long spicy finish. Pleasing and balanced classical style. **88**

88,5 | DOMAINE TOUR SAINT-MICHEL CUVÉE DES DEUX SEURS

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Spicy nose with aromas reminiscent of mild spices such as vanilla and cloves. On the palate clean and well balanced with medium length. **89**
MdM - Sweet and fragrant nose with notes of flower, berry jam, spices and a lush full body, on the sweeter side with red fruit, liquorice and Garrigue notes, not the most powerful wine, but polished and rather long aftertaste. **88**

88 | DOMAINE DES 3 CELLIER L'INSOLENTÉ

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Intense golden yellow colour. Impressive flavour reminiscent of orange peel, dried apricots and yellow plums. Aromas of vanilla and hazelnut in the background. On the palate well balanced with charming character, alcohol well integrated and good length. Mirabelle plum, apricots and a touch of candied orange peel. Toasted aroma in the background. On the palate aromatic character with notes of dried fruit, mild spices and a touch of oak. **89**
MdM - Fairly intense nose, quite ripe with hints of stone fruits, apricot, yellow plum and some floral notes. The palate shows good balance between fruit, acidity and structure, not the most powerful, but with fine length and drinkability, a hint of citrusy bitterness on the finish. **87**

88 | CHATEAU SIMIAN GRANDES GERNACHERES D'HIPPOLYTE

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Quite opulent fruit with aromas reminiscent of plums and cherries, mulberries and elderberries. Mild spices in the background. Almost sweet character on the palate, well balanced with firm tannins. Good length. **90**

MdM - A slightly lighter style with hints of red fruit, confiture (jam preserve), smoke and spices, the palate is soft and well balanced, pleasant drinkability and a fairly long finish. **86**

88 | CHATEAU LA NERTHE

2006 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with still violet hue and black centre. Clean nose with quite complex aromas, vanilla and cardamom, blackberries, mulberries and touch of tobacco. On the palate velvety character with good length. Elegant and ripe example. **90**

MdM - Tobacco, leather and dark plum on the nose, really full with complex spiciness, dark fruit and herbal spiciness, good length, quite intense in a classic style. Enjoyable drinkability today. **86**

87,5 | DOMAINE DU PEGAU PAUL FERAUD ET FILLE

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Intensive nose with aromas reminiscent of fine leather, tobacco, lovage and thyme, ripe fruit such as plums and black cherries. On the palate well balanced with lush fruit and well integrated tannins. Good length. **90**

MdM - Rather gamey nose with hints of tobacco, leather and spices, the palate offers sweet red fruit and notes of Garrigue. Medium bodied, in a slightly rustic but balanced style, good length, an attractive example for lovers of classic Southern French wines. **85**

87,5 | CHATEAU MONT-REDON

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Ripe nose with aromas reminiscent of leather, coffee, oak spices, ripe dark berries and berry jam. On the palate clean and well balanced with well integrated tannins, well structured with rather good length. **90**
MdM - Quite oaky nose, dark jammy fruit with some hints of coffee and chocolate, the palate is really massive and full, quite tannic at present with marked oak. It shows good structure and length but is a bit dissipated at present, should improve. **85**

87 | DOMAINE COMTE DE LAUZE

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Bright yellow with a green hue. Closed character, with slightly herbal aromas, a touch of apple and peaches in the background. On the palate clean, opulent with ripe fruit on the palate. Need time to open up. **88**
MdM - Clean nose with aromas of peach, citrus, flower and green apple, interesting, almost reminiscent of Riesling... the palate is on the lighter side, less bold than some of the other examples, good freshness and vivid citrus flavours, rather long and refreshing finish. **86**

87 | DOMAINE LA MILLIÈRE VIEILLES VIGNES

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red. Clean nose with rather discreet fruit, mulberries and plums, a touch of spiciness and Garrigue. On the palate clean, rather rustic charm. **87**

MdM - Plum and dark fruity aromas, some herbal/Garrigue notes. The palate is skilfully restrained with good freshness and tannic presence, yet without hard edges, attractive fruit and a juicy finish. **87**

87 | VIGNOBLES PATRICK JAUME DOMAINE DES CHANSSAUD

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Nose with aromas reminiscent of Port, vanilla and blackberry jam; on the palate well balanced with vibrant tannins and good fruit. **88**
MdM - Warm and spicy nose with hints of berry jam and some herbal/spicy notes. The palate is on the lighter side but balanced with sweet spicy fruit and soft tannins, medium long finish. **86**

87 | DOMAINE DE COMTE DE LAUZE 2009 Red Châteauneuf du Pape

AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Aromas reminiscent of black pepper, vanilla, slightly smoky. On the palate meaty with firm tannins. A convincing style with youthful character - needs time. **88**
MdM - Generous and ripe nose, blackcurrant, berry jam and lavender; the palate is medium bodied, slightly more restrained than some of the bigger examples, a good level of freshness plenty of herbs and spices, sweet red fruit character and a medium to long finish. **86**

87 | PIERRE D'AMBRÉ MOURIESSE VINUM

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Rich but still very closed. On the palate rich and opulent with rough tannins. Rustic character with a slight over extracted touch. **87**
MdM - Ripe nose almost Port like with blackberry, dates and figs, some hints of oak and spices; the palate is very concentrated with high extraction, still young - deserves some time to soften, plenty of fruit, some rustic notes on the finish. **87**

86,5 | DOMAINE TOUR SAINT-MICHEL FEMINESSANCE

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Mature fruit and a touch of cacao and chocolate. On the palate firm tannins, rich style, Pumpernickel bread, touch of sweetness, good length. **88**
MdM - Lightly smoky and creamy nose with hints of fudge, vanilla, some wood and dark berries; the palate is very rich and ripe, a touch of high alcohol, but still fairly balanced, quite long but somewhat rustic finish. **85**

86 | VIGNOBLES PATRICK JAUME DOMAINE DES CHANSSAUD

2010 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Bright yellow with green hue. Discreet citrus fruit and a slightly earthy character. Ripe yellow fruit such as Mirabelle plum and peaches. On the palate clean, opulent, rather rustic style with medium length. **87**
MdM - Green apple, chamomile and some earthy notes on the nose; the palate is slightly rustic, nonetheless charming with a hint of spiciness, citrus and a rather opulent texture, medium length, and some spicy notes on the finish. **85**

86 | DOMAINE L'OR DE LINE 2009 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)

AL - Bright yellow with green hue. Clean nose with rather discreet fruit, hazelnuts, vanilla and roasted aromas, typical oak influence. On the palate quite pleasant with discreet aroma, alcohol well integrated, well balanced medium length. **87**
MdM - The nose is intense and ripe; there is a hint of new oak and vanilla, generous fruit with hints of peach and ripe citrus. The palate is on the lighter side with citrusy, herbal and green apple flavours, moderate length but a fresh finish. **85**

86 | CHATEAU SIMIAN LES GRANDES GRENACHIÈRES D'HIPPOLYTE

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Rich character with sweet fruit and minerality. On the palate almost salty with a touch of ripe fruit. Tannins well integrated, however lacks that touch of elegance. **86**
MdM - Quite closed, dark fruit, herbs and liquorice; the palate is robust and full with an herbal spiciness, quite concentrated but slightly harsh and rustic. **86**

85,5 | DOMAINE DU VIEUX LAZARET

2009 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Bright yellow with green hue. Clean nose with elegant fruit and some floral tones, slightly mineral and still quite closed. Opulent alcohol but still pleasant. This wine would profit from being decanted before service in order to aerate it. **86**

MdM - Rather youthful nose, some lactic notes of yoghurt, aromas of lemon and green apple. The palate is on the lighter side, discreet fruit and a rather round mouthfeel with a high degree of ripeness, spicy lemon flavours, noticeable alcohol on the finish - I would prefer to drink it slightly chilled. It still seems rather young and closed. **85**

85,5 | VIGNOBLES JÉRÔME QUOT

DOMAINE DU VIEUX LAZARET
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Clean fruit, quite restrained and slightly spicy. On the palate sweet with medium length and complexity. **86**
MdM - Quite discreet nose, jammy fruit, lavender and herbs; the palate is sweet and round, very soft tannins - I almost miss some structure here, yet balanced, but in a very soft and jammy style. **85**

85,5 | DOMAINE DE L'ARNESQUE

2009 Côtes du Rhône Villages
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Very fine nose with aromas of mild spices and an almost exotic touch. On the palate well balanced with good length. **86**
MdM - Plenty of crushed berries and spices on the nose, soft supple and charming palate, balanced finish, pleasant and attractive. **85**

85 | DOMAINE DE L'ARNESQUE FLEUR DE GARRIGUES

2010 Côtes du Rhône
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Clean nose with elegant fruit, initially slightly reductive, the wine opens up in contact with some oxygen in the glass, displaying pleasant berry fruit and a touch of mild spices. On the palate clean, well balanced with medium density and length as well as convincing freshness. A straightforward wine. **86**
MdM - Rather light nose with fresh berry fruit; the palate is simple and straightforward with freshly crushed berries and agreeably, spicy finish. Pleasantly drinkable and straightforward. **84**

85 | CELLIER DES PRINCES 2010 Châteauneuf du Pape

AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Clean but rather discreet nose with restrained fruit. On the palate slightly rustic tannins and medium length. **86**

MdM - A lighter structured wine with pleasant clean fruit, plum, herbs and berries; the palate does not show the depth and concentration of the better examples, yet it is balanced and drinkable in a classic rustic style. **84**

85 | VIGNOBLES MOUSSET-BARROT
CHÂTEAU DES FINES ROCHES
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Clean nose with ripe fruit and a touch of minerality. On the palate however slightly Port style with sweet character and signs of maturation. **86**
MdM - A rather discreet nose, some creamy notes, vanilla, red berries, plum and Garrigue notes; the palate is medium bodied, balanced in a lighter straightforward style. **84**

84,5 | DOMAINE DE FONTAVIN
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Nose with spicy aromas and discreet fruit. Slightly jammy character. On the palate medium density and length. Slightly sharp finish. **84**
MdM - The nose is sweet and ripe, indication of high ripeness, plum, dark berries, sweet spices and a touch of oak. The palate is soft, lush and round with layers of sweet fruit, very supple and generous, however today without nuance or complexity, warm and alcoholic finish. **85**

84,5 | DOMAINE TOUR SAINT-MICHEL
CUVÉE DU LION
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. On the nose discreet fruit and mild spices. Modern style with important oak influence. On the palate clean but rustic, lacks complexity and length. **85**
MdM - Slightly more modern nose, sweet almost jammy fruit, some new oak and liquorice; on the palate the wine is round, polished and sweet, medium length, quite easy to like but without backbone. **84**

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AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. On the nose discreet fruit and mild spices. Modern style with important oak influence. On the palate clean but rustic, lacks complexity and length. **85**
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84 | CLOS SAINT PIERRE URBI
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Nose with aromas reminiscent of pink pepper, mild spices, very ripe and opulent fruit, dried plums and vanilla. On the palate well balanced with lush fruit and mild spices. Important oak influence and good length. **87**
MdM - Nose is spicy and slightly gamey, stewed fruit and sweet spices, a hint of oak that is more noticeable on the palate, rather full but with a tannic sensation, a touch harsh, jammy fruit and a moderate finish. **81**

84 | CHÂTEAU SAINT JEAN
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Mature nose with jammy fruit, mild spices and a touch of vanilla. On the palate ripe and opulent, however slightly bitter in the finish. **84**
MdM - Sweet red and dark berries on the nose, Garrigue and liquorice. The palate is showing sweet red fruit, herbs and a soft texture, some rustic notes on the finish, more fruit than structure. **84**

83,5 | DOMAINE PAUL AUTARD
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape (WHITE)
AL - Intense yellow with almost golden hue. On the nose quite floral aromas of verbena and chamomile, dried apricots, touches of honey and vanilla. On the palate aromas of walnuts and honey, dried fruits and opulent alcohol. Very ripe style. **84**
MdM - Ripe nose with hints of orange peel, stone fruit and herbs; quite unctuous palate, a hint of oak in the background, rather spicy with some rustic notes, a hint of bitterness and medium long finish. Seems slightly dissipated right now, might improve. **83**

83,5 | DOMAINE PIERRE USSEGLIO & FILS
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. In the nose quite ripe character, restrained fruit, mild spices. On the palate quite sweet with Port like character and medium length. **87**
MdM - A rather rustic example, herbal with jammy fruit, and a light, hollow body, slightly lean finish. **80**

83 | DOMAINE L'OR DE LINE
2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Purple red with violet hue. Slightly lighter style with ripe character, aromas quite discreet on the nose; more prominent on the palate. There also spiciness with a slightly astringent character of rustic tannins. **83**
MdM - A slightly more rustic style, plum, red berries and herbal notes; the palate is on the lighter side with less ripeness and marked tannins, young red fruit and a moderate finish. **83**

83 | DOMAINE GILLES
2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. On the palate aromas reminiscent of Port, candied Amarena cherries, cherry jam and coriander. On the palate medium density and length. Lacks complexity. **84**
MdM - Quite sweet, ripe and Port like nose with notes of berry jam and cherry liquorice; the palate is on the rustic side, rather harsh tannins and jammy fruit, the finish is medium long and hollow. **82**

82 | VIGNOBLES PATRICK JAUME
CHANSSAUD D'ANTAN
2009 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue. Soft fruit in the nose, a touch of spices, but lacks complexity. On the palate clean, initially soft fruit but slightly harsh finish with rustic tannins. **82**
MdM - Peppery and spicy nose, some leathery notes and sweet fruit, pleasant nose; however the palate is less complex and very soft without backbone and jammy fruit, slightly soupy finish. **82**

78,5 | DOMAINE DES 3 CELLIER
ETERNELLE
2010 Châteauneuf du Pape
AL - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Nose with aromas reminiscent of Port, pyrotechnical character, slightly vegetable character with a touch of volatility. Palate with astringent tannins, a touch of sugar and rather simple character. **79**
MdM - Very sweet nose, jammy, almost volatile with super ripe fruit and hints of balsamic vinegar. The palate has residual sugar and harsh tannin, very rustic, not balanced. **78**

PROVENCE

92 | DOMAINE DU MAS BLANC
RÉVÉRENCE
2007 Collioure
AL - Peppery, wild and spicy with dark cherry and Blackcurrant Cream liqueur; trufflet, really full and well balanced palate with layers of dark fruit, fine tannin and a long complex finish, very good. **92**
MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Peppery spiciness and dark berry fruit, blackcurrant, a touch of liquorice and violets. On the palate opulent fruit, ripe style with fine tannins and convincing length. **92**

90 | DOMAINES SACHA LICHINE
CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS - GARRUS
2009 Provence (ROSÉ)
AL - More ripeness and depth, stone fruits, nuts, minerals and honey; dense texture with a ripe acidity, persistent flavours of raspberry and pear, warm and rich finish, very good length and balance, one of the few examples with a good deal of complexity, very good. **90**
MdM - Onion peel colour: Ripe aromas, strawberries and marinated raspberries, honey and hazelnuts, brioche and vanilla. On the palate opulent and ripe with excellent length. Wonderful balance and mouthfeel. **90**

90 | CHÂTEAU GRAND BOISE
JADIS
2010 Côtes de Provence (WHITE)
AL - There is some oak on the nose, elegant fruit, ripe citrus, grapefruit and some mineral notes; quite like a white Burgundy in texture, fresh, zesty and long finish, very appealing. **90**
MdM - Bright yellow with green hue. Elegant nose with citrus flavours and torrefied aromas, slightly smoky, grapefruit and pineapple. On the palate well structured and balanced with crisp character and good length. **90**

89 | CHÂTEAU LAUZADE
SENECLAUZE
2011 Côtes de Provence (WHITE)
AL - Clean and young nose, zesty aromas of lemongrass, lime and ginger; quite good grip, youthful and fresh with medium to long finish, some creamy notes on the finish. **88**
MdM - Bright yellow with green hue. Discreet fruit with tones of citrus fruit and white flowers. On the palate clean with fine mouthfeel, creamy texture but crisp character. **90**

89 | CHÂTEAU COUSSIN
2010 Côtes De Provence Sainte Victoire
AL - Sweet floral and fragrant notes with dark plum, prune and blackcurrant notes; attractive peppery notes on the palate, juicy dark fruit, good freshness and a long spicy finish. **89**
MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Youthful and fresh fruit with aromas reminiscent of blackcurrant and blackberries, also a touch of Garrigue and spicy tones. On the palate well structured with good length and firm tannins. **89**

88,5 | DOMAINES SACHA LICHINE
CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS
LES CLANS
2009 Provence (ROSÉ)
AL - Very pale, almost like a white wine with a hint of copper; a certain complexity on the nose, nuts, almonds, grey pear and red berries; good substance on the palate, rich with good bite and fine persistence, elegant red fruit, more similar to a good white Burgundy in texture, fine and balanced. **88**
MdM - Onion peel colour: Ripe aromas, roasted almonds, touch of brioche, discreet fruit in the background. Well structured on the palate with good length. **89**

88 | CHÂTEAU COUSSIN
2010 Côtes de Provence (WHITE)
AL - Floral and fresh with fresh citrus, chamomile and pear; attractive palate, bone dry and zesty with elegant fruit, rounded texture and long fresh finish, pure and precise with fine balance. **88**
MdM - Bright yellow with green hue. Clean and fruity with aromas reminiscent of citrus fruit and discreet spices, fresh herbs an almost flowery notes. On the palate well balanced with crisp character and rather good length. **88**

88 | CHÂTEAU GRAND BOISE
1610
2009 Côtes de Provence
AL - Dark fruity notes with hints of blackcurrant and ripe dark berries; good freshness on the palate, juicy dark fruit, well balanced tannin and attractive length, pleasing, pure and potent, if slightly young - drink from 2013. **88**
MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Densely structured nose with ripe fruit and aromatic herbs. On the palate spicy and aromatic with luscious fruit and well integrated tannins, rather good length. **88**

87,5 | DOMAINES SACHA LICHINE
CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS
WHISPERING ANGEL
2011 Provence (ROSÉ)
AL - Very pale pink, appealing and pure nose; some red fruity notes and pink grapefruit, good substance, attractive citrusy bite, red berries and serious length. **87**
MdM - Pale rosé with almost violet hue. Clean nose with intense minerality and well expressed fruit. Needs some time to open up. On the palate creamy and juicy with discreet fruit and good length. **88**

87 | DOMAINES SACHA LICHINE
CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS
DÉESSE
2009 Vin de Pays du Var (WHITE)
AL - Gentle oak, some creamy notes and ripe citrus; medium weight on the palate, good bite, vivid citrus flavours and quite long finish. **86**
MdM - Bright yellow with green hue. Elegant oak with notes of vanilla and a hint of torrefied aromas, fine citrus fruit, discreet tropical fruit and a touch of brioche. On the palate well balanced, crisp with rather good length. **88**

86,5 | CHÂTEAU DE BERNE
2011 Côtes de Provence (ROSÉ)
AL - Clean nose, good purity, hints of red berries and pink grapefruit; medium bodied structure, generous and fruity with abundant, ample finish. **86**
MdM - Pale rosé with violet hue. Clean nose with elegant citrus fruit, a touch of cranberries and crisp character. On the palate clean and well balanced with medium length. **87**

86,5 | DOMAINE BOUISSE-MATTERI
HARMONIE
2011 Côtes de Provence (ROSÉ)
AL - More mineral nose, discreet fruit, raspberry, citrus, touch of blood orange. Good freshness, pleasantly firm and restrained with a long juicy finish, attractive. **87**
MdM - Pale rosé; nose quite neutral character; on the palate clean and crisp but rather neutral style. **86**

86,5 | DOMAINE DE LA CROIX
ELOGE PRESQU'ÎLE DE SAINT TROPEZ CRU CLASSÉ
2011 Côtes de Provence (ROSÉ)
AL - Clean and pure nose, zest, red berries; attractive and zesty palate with fresh berries, ripe citrus, and a clean long finish. **87**

MdM - Pale pink. Clean nose with slightly floral tones, grapefruit and red berries. On the palate clean and crisp with medium weight and length. **86**

86,5 | CHÂTEAU LAUZADE
SENECLAUZE
2010 Côtes de Provence
AL - Youthful with notes of plum, crushed berries and spices; the palate is still rather young and restrained with spicy notes and young tannin, but with attractive freshness and juicy berries, good length. **87**
MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue and black almost black centre. Discreet fruit, mild spices and a touch of minerality. On the palate medium weight and length. **86**

86 | LA BADIANE
DEUX SOEURS
2009 Cassis (WHITE)
AL - Clear and bright yellow; the nose displays some oak, citrus and vanilla notes; the palate is quite structured with balanced citrus bitterness, quite long with ripe citrus flavours, appealing balance in a ripe and bold style. **86**
MdM - Bright yellow colour with golden hue. Clean nose with ripe aromas, honey, hazelnuts and candied yellow fruit. On the palate clean and well balanced with a touch of oak in the finish. **86**

86 | CHÂTEAU BARBANAU
ET CAE TERRA
2009 Côtes de Provence
AL - Dark purple colour, clean nose, quite Cabernet like with aromatic herbs, blackcurrant and dark cherry; the palate is medium bodied with elegant dark fruit, soft tannin and a rather long finish, attractive and drinkable - to be served slightly chilled. **87**
MdM - Deep purple red with violet hue and almost black centre. Blackcurrant, dark berry fruit and mild spices. On the palate well structured, slightly smoky, firm tannins and medium length. **85**

86 | CHÂTEAU SAINTE ROSELINE
LA CHAPELLE DE SAINTE ROSELINE
CRU CLASSÉ
2009 Côtes de Provence
AL - Quite ripe, liquorice and dark fruit, blackberry and plum; the palate is rich and ripe with soft tannins and juicy dark fruit, some tannic notes on the finish, which should vanish with bottle age. **86**
MdM - Deep purple red with violet hue. Pure flavour of blackberries and mulberries. On the palate clean and well structured, liquorice and firm tannins. **86**

86 | DOMAINE LA TOUR DES VIDAUX
CUVÉE FARNOUX
2008 Côtes de Provence
AL - Some herbal and spicy notes of anised and fruit jam; medium bodied palate, soft and easy going with sweet fruit and a rather long spicy finish. **86**
MdM - Dark purple red with violet hue. Spicy flavour, aromatic herbs, thyme and rosemary, vanilla, mild spices. On the palate juicy fruit with an almost velvety character. **86**