

2011 Domaine les Girard du Boucou Chateauneuf du Pape

The 2011 is a sleeper of the vintage, a delicious wine with loads of complex floral notes intermixed with new saddle leather, unsmoked cigar tobacco, licorice and plenty of black currants and cherries. It has real intensity, medium to full body, and is certainly an over-performer for the vintage. The front-end loaded characteristics of the 2011 also make this wine a juicy proposition for drinking over the next 7-8 years.

(Not yet released)

I haven't seen wines from this estate in a number of years, as Jacques Girard took over the estate, which was once known as Cuvee de Belvedere (reviewed in *The Wine Advocate* in the early 1980s and then owned by his father and uncle Robert, who was essentially the spokesperson for Belvedere). This is a tiny estate of just 12 acres, and the wine is a rather unusual blend for Chateauneuf du Pape of 57% Grenache, 20% Mourvedre, 20% Counoise and the rest Syrah, Cinsault, Muscardin, Terret and Vaccarese, which basically covers just about every authorized varietal in Chateauneuf du Pape. Their vineyard is in a lieu-dit called Boucou, not far from La Nerthe and Fortia. No known American importer.

- Robert Parker (October, 2012)