

Willamette Wine Tasters

March 2008 Tasting

Host: Brad Courtney

2001 Chateauneuf Du Pape

Pre Wines

- A. 2006 Hunter's "Jane Hunter" Sauvignon Blanc**
- B. 2006 Allan Scott Family Sauvignon Blanc**

Wine Tasting

- 1. Chateau – Fortia Cuvee Du Baron \$30**
- 2. Le Vieux Donjon \$45**
- 3. Domaine Pierre Usseglio & Fils \$45**
- 4. Domaine Du Galet Des Papes Vieilles Vignes \$40**
- 5. Domaine de Beurenard Cuvee Boisrenard \$35**
- 6. Chateau de Beaucastel \$65**
- 7. Domaine de la Janesse Vieilles Vignes \$101**
- 8. Cuvee du Vatican Reserve Sixtine \$65**

Post Wines

- C. 2005 Covey Run Reserve Semillon Ice Wine \$15**
- D. Yalumba Museum Reserve Muscat \$15**



2001 Chateau Fortia Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee du Baron

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 92

Drink 2005 - 2015

Cost: \$35-\$43

A new cuvee, the 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee du Baron reveals sweetness as well as meat-like characteristics that translate into a broad palate impression. A dark plum/garnet color is followed by earthy, animal notes intermixed with plum liqueur, sweet cassis, and flowers. It is full-bodied, with blackberry fruit flavors, an unctuous texture, and a long, concentrated, fleshy finish. While the traditional cuvee is a blend of 80% Grenache, 16% Mourvedre, and 4% Syrah, the Cuvee du Baron undoubtedly contains much more Syrah. Drink this plump, succulent 2001 between 2005-2015.

Importer: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173

2001 Vieux Donjon Chateauneuf du Pape

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 93

Drink 2005 - 2019

Cost: \$45-\$60

One of the appellation's classic, old style offerings, the Michel family continues to produce an uncompromisingly long-lived, remarkably consistent Chateauneuf du Pape. The dark plum/purple-colored 2001 boasts a huge, Provencal-styled bouquet of ground pepper, lavender, roasted herbes de Provence, beef blood, and cranberry as well as black cherry liqueur. This perfumed effort exhibits sweet, broad, full-bodied flavors, moderately high tannin, and admirable density and chewiness. There are also hints of underbrush, new saddle leather, incense, and black fruits. This striking 2001 needs 1-3 years of cellaring. It will drink well for 12-15 years. Importer: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173

2001 Vieux Donjon Chateauneuf du Pape

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 145 (Feb 2003)

Rating: (92-94)

Drink-2007 - 2018

Cost: \$45-\$60

The 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape appears to be tremendous, certainly one of the great Vieux Donjons produced. Its dense, murky black/purple color is followed by a gorgeous nose of creosote, licorice, black cherries, blackberries, pepper, incense, smoked herbs, and roasted meat. With exquisite concentration, copious tannin, and considerable delineation as well as structure, this massive, backward, promising Chateauneuf will require patience. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2018. One of the classic Chateauneuf du Papes of the appellation, the proprietor (the Michel family) makes an uncompromising, long-lived wine that is remarkably consistent from vintage to vintage. My buying history with this estate goes back two decades, and I have enjoyed virtually every vintage I have purchased. At present, I'm working my way through the last of my 1985s and 1990s, and then I'll attack the 1995s, and in a few years, the extraordinary 1998s. Given the realistic pricing of Vieux Donjon, this wine should be purchased by the case. Importer: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173



2001 Pierre Usseglio Chateauneuf du Pape

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 91

Drink 2006 - 2014

Cost: \$30-\$60

The brilliant 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape should not be overlooked (the 1998 and 2000 are drinking spectacularly well at present). A peppery, leathery, earthy effort with copious quantities of black cherries, this dense, full-bodied 2001 is surprisingly precocious by Usseglio's standards. Nevertheless, 1-2 years of cellaring is warranted given the size and structure of this big, chewy, 75% Grenache, 10% Mourvedre, 10% Cinsault, and 5% Syrah blend. It was aged in neutral wood foudres for 15-18 months. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2014. Importer: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173

2001 Pierre Usseglio Chateauneuf du Pape

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 145 (Feb 2003)

Rating: (90-93)

Drink 2003 - 2018

Cost: \$30-\$60

Sweet, long, and concentrated, the 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape possesses more power, volume, and tannin than its 2000 counterpart. It is one of the finest regular cuvees the Usseglios have yet fashioned. Drink this deep, full-bodied, classic Chateauneuf over the next 12-15 years. Kudos to Thierry and Jean-Pierre Usseglio, Wine Advocate wine personalities of the year in 2001! Importer: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173



2001 Domaine du Galets des Papes Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 90

Drink 2005 - 2017

Cost: \$40-\$45

The 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes exhibits complex aromas of soy, Asian spices, black cherries, garrigue, and resinous pine needle characteristics. Full-bodied and ripe, with good structure, freshness, and a voluminous mouthfeel, this well-made, surprisingly elegant Chateauneuf can be drunk now, but will be even better in 1-2 years; it will last for 10-13 years. Importer: New Castle Imports, Myrtle Beach, SC; tel. (843) 497-8625

2001 Domaine du Galets des Papes Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 145 (Feb 2003)

Rating: (90-92)

Drink 2005 - 2015

Cost: \$40-\$45

The dense plum/ruby/purple-colored 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes is closed aromatically, but it is layered and voluminous in the mouth. Notes of plum liqueur, licorice, truffles, roasted herbs, and underbrush are present in this chewy, full-bodied, spicy, rich, layered effort. Impressive! Anticipated maturity: 2005-2015. Importer: New Castle Imports, Myrtle Beach, SC; tel. (843) 497-8625

2001 Domaine de Beurenard Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Boisrenard

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 97

Drink 2006 - 2022

Cost: \$72-\$110

There have been a number of spectacular vintages of Domaine de Beurenard's luxury cuvee, Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Boisrenard, but the 2001 may be the finest they have ever produced. An inky/purple color is accompanied by aromas of creme de cassis, melted licorice, graphite, and a touch of barrique. The explosive bouquet is followed by an expansive, full-bodied, powerful wine with great purity, tremendous multilayered flavor intensity, and beautifully integrated wood, acidity, and tannin. It possesses structure, grip, and a finish that lasts well over a minute. Despite its enormous richness and presence (aromatically and on the palate), it requires 2-3 years of cellaring, and should keep for 15-18. It is a brilliant success! Importer: New Castle Imports, Myrtle Beach, SC; tel. (843) 497-8625

2001 Domaine de Beurenard Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Boisrenard

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 145 (Feb 2003)

Rating: (93-95)

Drink 2006 - 2018

Cost: \$72-\$110

The 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Boisrenard boasts an inky black/purple color in addition to enormous body, and thick, unctuously-textured flavors of cassis, licorice, smoke, and meat. Exquisitely pure, ripe, concentrated, and promising, with copious quantities of sweet, ripe tannin, it should be at its finest between 2006-2018. This is a splendid, full-throttle, super-concentrated effort. Importer: New Castle Imports, Myrtle Beach, SC; tel. (843) 497-8625



2001 Chateau Beaucastel Chateauneuf du Pape

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 96

Drink 2008 - 2025

Cost: \$64-\$99

Beaucastel has been on a terrific qualitative roll over the last four vintages, and the 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape (which Francois Perrin feels is similar to the 1990, although I don't see that as of yet) is a 15,000-case blend of 30% Grenache, 30% Mourvedre, 10% Syrah, 10% Counoise, and the balance split among the other permitted varietals of the appellation. This inky/ruby/purple-colored cuvee offers a classic Beaucastel bouquet of new saddle leather, cigar smoke, roasted herbs, black truffles, underbrush, and blackberry as well as cherry fruit. It is a superb, earthy expression of this Mourvedre-dominated cuvee. Full-bodied and powerful, it will undoubtedly close down over the next several years, not to re-emerge for 7-8 years. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2025. Importer: Vineyard Brands, Birmingham, AL; tel. (205) 980-8802

2001 Chateau Beaucastel Chateauneuf du Pape

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 145 (Feb 2003)

Rating: (95-97)

Drink 2012 - 2030

Cost: \$64-\$99

The profound, inky purple-colored 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape is one of the great classic Beaucastels of recent years. It may be even better than its three immediate predecessors. The Perrins find the 2001 reminiscent of their 1990, a vintage that is drinking gloriously today. The 2001's sumptuous bouquet of black fruits, saddle leather, underbrush, truffles, roasted herbs, cigar tobacco, and earth is followed by a concentrated, full-bodied wine with a penetrating intensity yet splendid freshness and vibrancy. This magnificent, majestic Beaucastel should hit its peak in a decade, and last 25 years. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2030+. Importer: Vineyard Brands, Birmingham, AL; tel. (205) 980-8802



2001 Domaine de la Janasse Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Vieilles Vignes

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 98

Drink 2009 - 2024

Cost: \$101-\$190

The spectacular 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Vieilles Vignes is one of the monumental Chateauneuf du Papes of the vintage. A saturated plum/purple color reveals a thick, rich appearance. The wine combines freshness, power, elegance, and great intensity, all wrapped into a full-bodied, concentrated personality with phenomenal persistence on the palate. Remarkably pure, but neither over-done nor over-ripe, this spectacular, youthful Chateauneuf du Pape should hit its prime in 5-6 years, and last for two decades. It is a brilliant tour de force! Importer: Eric Solomon, European Cellars, Charlotte, NC; tel. (704) 358-1565

2001 Domaine de la Janasse Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Vieilles Vignes

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 145 (Feb 2003)

Rating: (94-96)

Drink 2007 - 2022

Cost: \$101-\$190

The limited production Cuvee Vieilles Vignes (70% Grenache and 30% Syrah and Mourvedre) was rocking when I tasted it. The 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Vieilles Vignes boasts an opaque ruby/purple color in addition to a primary but firm, classic, structured style with immense concentration, and plenty of power and tannin. With great purity, a formidable personality, tremendous staying power, and a finish that lasts for nearly a minute, it will definitely require patience. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2022. Importer: Eric Solomon, European Cellars, Charlotte, NC; tel. (704) 358-1565

2001 Cuvee du Vatican Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Sixtine

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 151 (Feb 2004)

Rating: 95

Drink 2008 - 2020

Cost: \$60-\$75

The special cuvee, the stunning 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Sixtine, is a blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah, and 20% Mourvedre aged in equal parts small barrels and neutral wood foudres. An elegant effort with freshness yet tremendous power and flavor intensity, it is a full-bodied, layered, provocative 2001 with exceptional depth as well as richness. While the tannin levels are high, there are even higher levels of concentration and fruit. Give it 2-3 years of cellaring, and drink it over the following 15-20. This brilliant wine should ultimately be even better than my lofty score suggests. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2020+. One of the appellation's young, dynamic revolutionaries, Jean-Marc Diffonty, has produced his finest Chateauneuf du Papes to date. Additionally, prices remain modest for what's in the bottle. Importers: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173 and Mervyn Hecht Wines, Santa Monica, CA; tel. (408) 685-1148

2001 Cuvee du Vatican Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Sixtine

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Chateauneuf du Pape, Southern Rhone, Rhone, France

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 145 (Feb 2003)

Rating: (92-95)

Drink 2006 - 2021

Cost: \$60-\$75

The classic 2001 Chateauneuf du Pape Reserve Sixtine (generally 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 20% Mourvedre aged in equal parts barrel and foudre) is one of the finest efforts of the vintage. Its saturated plum/purple color is followed by a tightly knit wine revealing a great tactile impact on the palate, fabulous concentration, copious quantities of blackberry, blueberry, and charcoal-like flavors, and an awesome, 60-second finish. There is also a hint of vanilla in the sweet fruit. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2021. Importers: Alain Junguenet, Wines of France, Mountainside, NJ; tel. (908) 654-6173 and Mervyn Hecht Wines, Santa Monica, CA; tel. (408) 685-1148
