



“This year’s visit to L’Aventure included tasting the freshly bottled 2022s and the 2021s that weren’t quite ready on my last trip. These are two very different vintages, with 2021 being a balanced year, warm but with slightly higher rainfall than average, and 2022, a drought year with a heat wave at the end of the season. The 2021s, after one year in bottle, offer a mix of power, depth and finesse. These wines could only be made in Paso by a winemaker whose heart is half in Bordeaux and half in Paso Robles. The 2022s, instead, will be released in September. Notwithstanding the challenging growing season, they provide energy and balance. Since the 2022 vintage, the Estate Cuvée has been officially renamed Estate Reserve. The Chloe, named after Stephan Asseo’s daughter, will reflect her real-life personality: more lively, equally complex, and less brooding and powerful.”

- Eric Guido, June 2024

ESTATE CUVÉE 2021

rating **97**

The 2021 Estate Cuvée sports a blue label signifying its 20th anniversary. It’s darkly floral and stoney upon opening with notes of dusty sage, black earth and currants. This is deeply textural, velvety and supple, like molten chocolate. It flows across the palate, saturating with its intense red and black fruits while taking on graphite mineral tones and hints of exotic spice. Classically structured and long, this leaves a pleasantly bitter tinge and licorice under an air of violet inner florals. Bury the 2021 Estate Cuvée deep in the cellar.

FOR HER 2021

rating **97**

The 2021 For Her is a dark and brooding effort, still youthfully coiled. Flowery underbrush and exotic spice offset masses of raspberry and dried black cherries. This envelopes the palate with rich, seamlessly silky textures and ripe red and black fruits, taking on a savory edge. Tactile mineral tones add gravitas towards the close. A bounty of salted licorice swirls beneath an air of violet inner florals as the 2021 finishes spicy, potent and incredibly complex. Hands off for now; this is built for the cellar.

CHLOÉ 2021

rating **96**

The 2021 Chloé tempts the imagination with a whiff of spiced blood orange and licorice before opening further with notes of rum-soaked cherry and baking spice. This seduces with its velvety textures, coming across as dense yet still quite spry, as mineral-drenched red berry fruits penetrate deeply. The 2021 mixes tannic heft with primary concentration, creating an epically structured feel that promises years of development. Hints of dark chocolate and a balsamic tinge slowly fade.

CÔTE À CÔTE 2021

rating **95**

Cool-toned and classic, the 2021 Côte à Côte opens with a lovely blend of crushed blackberries, dusty sage and a lifting hint of split pine. It’s elegant and silky in feel, yet powerful all the same, with depths of ripe red and black fruits that wash across the palate with ease, all guided by brisk acidity. Gently tannic and more savory than anticipated, this leaves the mouth watering for more despite its youthful state and tension. Fantastic.