



“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 RESERVE BLANC 2023 rating 93 - 95

Wild flowers, tangerine zest, ground ginger, and crushed apricots form a spicy and savory bouquet as the 2023 Blanc Estate Reserve opens in the glass. Soft and supple, nearly oily in feel, it flows across the palate with mineral-laced orchard fruits offset by a touch of sour citrus toward the close. It tapers off savory and long, leaving hints of kiwi and a salty flourish to linger. Tasted from barrel.

ESTATE RESERVE 2022 rating 93 - 95

Darkly floral, the 2022 Estate Reserve smolders up with an array of dried roses and violets, crushed ashen stones, currants and hints of blood orange. Cool-toned and classic in feel, this saturates the senses with masses of ripe red and black fruit as fine-grained tannins slowly mount toward the close. It tapers off classically dry and structured while leaving a minty freshness that keeps the taster looking back to the glass for more. This is a model of balance, yet just a baby today. Tasted from barrel.

FOR HER 2022 rating 95

Glass staining purple in color, the 2022 For Her is a spice box mixing cedar shavings with cloves, wilted violets and dusty black cherries. This is seductively ripe upon entry, with velvety waves of raspberry and blackberry guided by lively acidity. A mix of tactile minerals and spice add saturating tension toward the close. The 2022 finishes perfumed and gently tannic, with a pleasantly bitter tinge of cocoa powder that slowly fades. For Her is a tantalizing and co-fermented blend of 58% Syrah, 30% Graciano and 12% Viognier.

CHLOÉ 2022 rating 94+

Violet and lavender florals come together with black raspberries and garrigue as the 2022 Chloé smolders up from the glass. This opens with a balanced inner sweetness and crisp wild berry fruits propelled by a burst of zesty acidity as tactile mineral tones add lovely grip. It finishes remarkably fresh, with medium length, sweet tannins and a licorice tinge. This is a more approachable rendition of Chloé yet maintains a fantastic balance.

CÔTE A CÔTE 2022 rating 94

The 2022 Côte a Côte is a savory beast, mixing New World fruit with Old World flair, as notes of crushed stone, underbrush, olive and dark chocolate complicate dried blueberries. This is seamlessly silky with juicy acidity and an opulent core of wild berry fruit while maintaining fantastic harmony throughout. A tinge of blood orange adds to the 2022s energetic personality as hints of tart blackberry mingle with sweet tannins, creating a lovely framework. The Côte a Côte is a perfectly balanced blend of 34% Grenache, 31% Syrah, 30% Mourvèdre, 3% Graciano, and 2% Viognier.

OPTIMUS 2022 rating 93

A deep purple hue, the 2022 Optimus opens in the glass with a whiff of savory herbs, licorice and cocoa powder accentuating dried black cherries. This is luscious and round with fleshy wild berry fruits and sweet spices that swirl throughout. Zesty acidity enlivens the experience, as a subtle note of fine tannins adds form, tapering off with length yet only lightly structured. I love the energy here.