

**2010 Domaine Grand Veneur
Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles
Vignes**

A monumental effort meriting a perfect score, the super-rich 2010 Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes is a 4,000-bottle blend of 50% Grenache, 40% Mourvedre and 10% Syrah from 55- to 105-year-old vines and was aged for 18 months in small oak. The wine offers majestic blackberry and cassis fruit intermixed with kirsch, licorice and subtle Provencal herbs in the background. It is akin to chewing meat in the mouth given its viscosity and thickness. This utterly amazing wine comes close to being over the top, but it pulls back just in time. A massive Chateauneuf du Pape (even for a 2010), it needs 5-6 years of cellaring and should age effortlessly for 25-30 years. Bravo!

With impressive holdings in the northern sector of Chateauneuf du Pape as well as an ever expanding, high quality negociant business, brothers Christophe and Sebastian Jaume have taken this estate, established in 1826, to new heights. The estate wines, which are sold under the Domaine Grand Veneur label, are classic, quasi-modern-styled Chateauneuf du Papes that represent brilliant examples of their impeccable viticulture and winemaking. Interestingly, all three cuvees of Chateauneuf du Pape were produced in 2011. That decision appears to be justified by the qual...

- Robert M. Parker, Jr. (October, 2012)

**2012 Domaine Grand Veneur Lirac
Clos de Sixte**

Even richer, the Grand Veneur 2012 Lirac Clos de Sixte is comprised of 50% Grenache, 35% Syrah and 15% Mourvedre that's aged 16 months in 30% small barrels. It exhibits ripe, voluptuous notes of blackberry, licorice, underbrush and hints of minerality in a full-bodied, rich and textured profile. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years. Drink now-2022.

Covering 30 acres in Chateauneuf du Pape (over 100 acres in Cotes du Rhone, Lirac, Vacqueyras and Gigondas), Domaine Grand Veneur is run by the incredibly talented Sebastien and Christophe Jaume. The style here, if looked at as a whole, is more traditional than not, with plenty of tank and stainless steel, yet their Chateauneuf du Papes are distinctly modern and spent plenty of time in small barrels. However, they never lose their Southern Rhone typicity, have gorgeous purity and also possess balanced, age-worthy profiles. These are some of the most exciting wines coming out of the region and they should not be missed! Note: the estate bottlings are released under the Domaine Grand Veneur label, and the negociant wines are released under the Alain Jaume et Fils label. The 2012 whites from the Jaume brothers are incredibly strong.

Importer: Kysela Pere et Fils, Winchester, VA; tel. ...

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2013)

**2011 Domaine Grand Veneur
Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles
Vignes**

Showing similar aromatics, with copious toast, licorice, wood spice, black raspberry and crushed flowers, the Grand Veneur 2011 Chateauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes possesses awesome depth and richness, full-bodied power and a blockbuster finish. A blend of 40% Grenache, 40% Mourvedre and 20% Syrah (from 5-to-100+-year-old vines) that spent 16 months in 60% small barrels, it is a brilliant 2011 that will have 15+ years of longevity. Hats off to the Jaume brothers for this superb effort.

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- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2013)

**2011 Domaine Grand Veneur
Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee les
Origines**

Comprised of 45% Grenache, 35% Syrah and 20% Mourvedre and spending 16 months in 50% small barrels, the Grand Veneur 2011 Chateauneuf du Pape Les Origines is a rich, yet medium-bodied example of this cuvee that gives up plenty of toast, wood spice and licorice to go with a core blackberry and raspberry styled fruit. Up-front, with plenty of texture, solid mid-palate depth and good overall freshness, it should drink nicely for over a decade. Drink now-2023.

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**2012 Domaine Grand Veneur
Cotes du Rhone les Champauvins**

Tasting like a mini-Chateauneuf du Pape, with ripe mulled blackberries, spice, toast, licorice and hints of flowers, the Alain Jaume 2012 Cotes du Rhone Les Champauvins is a blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvedre that spent 12 months mostly in concrete tank. Medium to full-bodied, rich and balanced, it should drink nicely for 7-8 years. Drink now-2020.

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Importer: Kysela Pere et Fils, Win...

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2013)

**2012 Domaine Grand Veneur
Cotes du Ventoux les Gelinottes**

A blend of even parts Grenache and Syrah that spent 8 months in concrete tank, the Alain Jaume 2012 Ventoux Les Gelinottes is a superb mid-week drinker that offers plenty of sweet berry fruit, garrigue and flowers in a charming, medium-bodied and easy-drinking package. Despite the easygoing feel, the purity here is top-notch and this is a solid effort. Drink now-2016.

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Importer: Kysela Pere et Fils...

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**2013 Domaine Grand Veneur
Chateauneuf du Pape la Fontaine
Blanc**

Their top white is the 2013 Châteauneuf du Pape La Fontaine Blanc. A blend of 100% Roussanne that's aged 10% in small barrels (the majority is in stainless steel), it's a classy, balanced and medium to full-bodied beauty that gives up classic buttered citrus, white peach, melon and spice. Like the classic cuvée, this will gain a touch more richness and flesh with another 6-12 months in bottle, and drink nicely for 3-4 years at a minimum.

This estate, under the leadership of Sebastien and Christophe Jaume, continues to be one of the reference point producers for relatively modern styled Châteauneuf du Papes. In addition to their top tier efforts, the portfolio is loaded with smoking values at just about every price point. I've listed domaine wines under Domaine Grand Veneur, and the negociant wines under Alain Jaume, which I believe might also include some vineyards owned by the Jaume family as well. Regardless, the quality here is superb across the range. In addition, they've excelled in both 2012 and 2013.

Importer(s): Kysela Pere et Fils, 130 Windy Hill Lane, Winchester, VA 22602, (540) 722-9228, www.kysela.com

- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2014)

**2013 Domaine Grand Veneur
Cotes du Ventoux les Gelinottes**

The value priced 2013 Côtes du Ventoux Les Gélinittes, which is equal parts Grenache and Syrah, spent eight months in stainless steel prior to bottling. It's a medium-bodied, forward and delicious effort that has light strawberry, black cherry and hints of garrigue that show on both the nose and palate. It's a perfect bistro-styled quaffer to drink over the coming couple of years.

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- Jeb Dunnuck (October, 2014)

**2013 Domaine Grand Veneur
Cotes du Rhone les Champauvins**

Tasting more like a Châteauneuf than a Côtes du Rhône, the 2013 Côtes du Rhône Les Champauvins (70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvedre) offers more depth and richness than the straight Côtes du Rhône, exhibiting classic notes of lavender, licorice and violets to go with ample black and blue fruits. Medium to full-bodied, supple and even sexy, it has superb ripeness and plenty of length. Enjoy it through 2020.

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**2013 Domaine Grand Veneur
Cotes du Rhone Blanc de
Viognier**

Their straight Viognier, the 2013 Côtes du Rhône Blanc de Viognier shows the variety nicely with its tangerine, lime and citrus aromatics. More fresh and focused than rich and textured, it has medium-bodied depth, integrated acidity and a fruity, delicious style.

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Origines**

The 2012 Châteauneuf du Pape Les Origines (45% Grenache, 35% Syrah and 20% Mourvedre) is a polished, medium to full-bodied effort that has superb concentration, lots of tannin, and a ripe, textured feel. Showing plenty of black raspberry, toasted spice, creamy licorice and hints of violets, it's a classic example of this cuvée that will benefit from a year or two in the cellar, and have no problem evolving gracefully through 2027.

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Vignes**

The 2012 Châteauneuf du Pape Vieilles Vignes is in the top 2-3 wines in the vintage. Possessing rock-star concentration and depth, full-bodied richness and loads of sweet tannin, it offers layers of ripe blackberry, graphite, licorice and toasted-spice aromas and flavors. One of the more powerful and structured efforts in the vintage, it nevertheless always stays balanced, graceful and light on the palate. Give it 2-3 years and enjoy bottles through 2027.

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