

Adventure

Established 1998 • Paso Robles, California





L'AVENTURE WINERY

Stephan Asseo, owner and winemaker at L'Aventure Winery, began making wine in 1982. In that same year, Stephan established Domaine de Courteillac in Bordeaux. He and his family later purchased Château Fleur Cardinale the famous Saint Emilion estate, and Château Robin in the Côtes de Castillon in Bordeaux. Over the next 15 years, Stephan developed into an artisan winemaker of fastidious craftsmanship and gained a “maverick” reputation. His true desire was to be more innovative than AOC law would allow.

In 1996, this led him, his wife Beatrice and their 3 children, on a journey to pursue his ideal as a winemaker. In 1997, after a year of searching, they fell in love with the unique terroir on the west side of Paso Robles, California. And L'Aventure began in 1998!

Family owned and operated, Stephan and Beatrice's daughter, Chloé, joined the business in 2013. Since then, her role has expanded into managing the entire operation. The family dynamic does not end with the Asseos, as the true meaning of family extends not only to their partners, the Thiénot family, but also to their amazing team.

In July of 2023, L'Aventure celebrated its 25th anniversary. This milestone comes with many accomplishments including becoming 100% estate produced in 2008, completing the construction of their new tasting room and caves, partnering with the Thiénot family, and acquiring a new vineyard.

L'Aventure's focus on quality continues as they evolve with innovative ideas while still respecting their roots.





2021 VINTAGE

HARVEST SEASON

Power and vibrancy, those are the first two adjectives that come to mind when describing the 2021 vintage. The wines have it all: concentration, depth, texture, and pleasure! There is an incredible acidity in this lineup making these wines balanced and approachable but with so much complexity. They will age gracefully over the next two decades.

The growing season for 2021 was slightly cooler than the 2020 season. The L'Aventure estate experienced a minor heatwave in early August and another at the beginning of harvest in September which triggered the ripening for the vintage. Luckily, with their amazing micro-climate and terroir, the cool evenings preserved a lot of the acidity and avoided overripe fruit.

BLENDING

Initial thoughts: Californian vintage, powerful, fruit forward.

Few months later: Incredible acidity, makes it more approachable.

STYLE

2021 is the baby of the 2016 and 2017 vintages. Powerful and vibrant. Backbone & freshness. Solid vintage that hits the spot everywhere: fruit, pleasure, acidity, balance, texture & complexity.

THE DISCOVERY

Discover L'Aventure with their core cuvées: Optimus, Côte à Côte, and Estate Cuvée. In these wines, the blending of premium varietals increases the authenticity, complexity, and balance of the cuvées while reflecting the vintage and terroir of Paso Robles.





OPTIMUS 2021

Optimus is the perfect introduction to the L'Aventure lineup. Also known as our “crazy” Paso blend, Optimus is beautifully balanced with a lot of freshness. This wine is approachable young but can be enjoyed for up to a decade.

- Release Date: Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
- Bottled March 2023
- 55% Syrah, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Petit Verdot
- 100% Estate Grown Fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard
- Very Low Yield: 1 to 2 Tons Per Acre
- 50% New French Oak, 50% 1-year Old French Oak
- No Fining, No Filtering
- Length Of Aging: 16 Months
- Drink Window: 10+ Years

93+ JEB DUNNUCK

Moving to the 2021s from bottle and starting with the 2021 Optimus (55% Syrah, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 18% Petit Verdot), it sports a deeper plum/purple hue as well as rocking notes of blackberries, peppery herbs, candied violets, and subtle meaty, savory nuances. It's medium to full-bodied and has a round, layered, silky texture and outstanding length. It's going to shine for 5-7 years, if not longer.

95 JAMESSUCKLING.COM

Ripe blackberries, cassis and plum skins with blood orange, anisette and wet stones on offer. Full-bodied with compact, refined tannins and velvety texture. Generous and plentiful with a deep core of black fruit and a spiced, chocolatey finish. Really well made. A blend of 55% Syrah, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Petit Verdot. Drink or hold.

95 *Robert Parker* WINE ADVOCATE

The 2021 Optimus is an elegant, polished blend of 55% Syrah, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Petit Verdot. It takes plenty of air to reveal maraschino cherry, blueberry, leather, aniseed, gravel dust and garrigue aromas. The full-bodied palate offers expansive, spicy fruit framed by powdery tannins and focused acidity, and it has a long, latent finish. It will benefit from 3-5 years in bottle.



CÔTE A CÔTE 2021

Côte à Côte is an homage to the Southern Rhône while still respecting the style of Paso Robles. This wine is seductive, fruit forward, and has a lot of pleasure. It can be enjoyed now but can be easily aged 20+ years.

- Release Date: Tuesday, September 17th, 2024
- Bottled March 2023
- 37% Grenache, 32% Syrah, 31% Mourvèdre
- 100% Estate Grown Fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard
- Very Low Yield: 1 to 2 Tons Per Acre
- 36% 1-Year Old French Oak, 30% New French Oak, 18% Concrete Tank, 16% Amphora
- No Fining, No Filtering
- Length Of Aging: 16 Months
- Drink Window: 20+ Years

97 JEB DUNNUCK

The 2021 Côte à Côte checks in as nearly equal thirds of Grenache, Syrah, and Mourvèdre. It's a killer bottle of wine revealing full-bodied richness, an expansive, layered mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and a complex bouquet of blackberries, savory herbs, peppered meats, and hints of violets. This concentrated, powerful wine stays just about weightless, has ultra-fine tannins, and a great finish. The élevage here was 14 months in 30% new French oak, with 16% in amphora and 18% in concrete, and the balance in once-used barrels.

96 JAMESSUCKLING.COM

Refined nose with cherries, cassis, ripe plums, herbs and sweet spices. It's full-bodied with creamy tannins. An elegant development on the palate with a velvety texture. The fruit is obvious at the center with a discreet touch of spices and grilled herbs on the mid-palate. Slightly chewy with a focused, flavorful developing finish. 37% Grenache, 32% Syrah and 31% Mourvèdre. Drink or hold.

96+ *Robert Parker* WINE ADVOCATE

The 2021 Côte à Côte is a blend of 37% Grenache, 32% Syrah and 31% Mourvèdre that combines power and elegance, concentration and weightlessness. The glass reveals a deep well of aromas—maraschino cherry, blueberry, licorice, rooibos tea and autumn leaves emerge from the glass and are made even more complex by undertones of earth and spice. The full-bodied palate is plush, supple and generous, though its chocolaty, floral fruit is perfectly ripe. It has a foil of mouthwatering acidity, flinty accents and a long, very latent finish. It will take several years in bottle to fully unfurl.



ESTATE CUVÉE 2021

Estate Cuvée is our flagship wine and the cherry picking of our top estate fruit. It is the whole reason why Stephan left Bordeaux...to make a “crazy”, high-end Paso blend. Depth, balance, texture, complexity, finish, everything is there. It is a beautiful representation of our terroir.

- Release Date: Tuesday, September 17th, 2024
- Bottled June 2023
- 50% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Petit Verdot
- 100% Estate Grown Fruit from L'Aventure Vineyard
- Very Low Yield: 1.5 to 2 Tons Per Acre
- 19 Months in 84% New French Oak, 16% 1-Year Old French Oak
- Malolactic Fermentation in Barrel
- No Fining, No Filtering
- Aging Potential: 20+ Years
- 20th Anniversary - Special Anniversary Label

100 JEB DUNNUCK

Pure perfection from this talented team, the 2021 Estate Cuvée checks in as 50% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 20% Petit Verdot that was raised in 80% new French oak. Absolutely incredible aromatics of creme de cassis, blueberries, violets, ground pepper, and graphite give way to a full-bodied red with a seamless, elegant mouthfeel, ultrafine tannins, a deep, layered mid-palate, and that rare mix of power and elegance that's so hard to come by. It shows the pure, layered, elegant style of the vintage, and this beauty offers pleasure today yet will ideally be given 3-4 years in the cellar, and it will evolve for two decades at a minimum.

97 JAMESSUCKLING.COM

Immediately seductive and perfumed on the nose with aromas of dark cherries, blackberries, cassis, violets, cedar and plenty of sweet oak spices. It's full-bodied with knit-tight tannins and a velvety texture. Spicy and vibrant with poise. Good vitality with a controlled power all along. Concentrated and full of energy with a generous, peppery and berry-loaded finish. 50% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Petit Verdot. Try after 2026.

98 *Robert Parker* WINE ADVOCATE

The 2021 Estate Cuvée is composed of 50% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Petit Verdot. Its aromas are highly complex and pure! Chocolate-covered cherry and crushed blueberry scents are complemented by wafts of thyme, sage, vanilla, dark spices and savory tones, plus soaring violet perfume. The full-bodied palate is polished and effortlessly balanced, offering powdery tannins, a bright spine of acidity and a tremendously long finish laced with spice and floral perfume. This elegant, expressive blend will be long lived in the cellar.





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