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Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter
Feb 18, 2010



Almost Gone-Another opportunity at a 2007 Rhone.

Greetings wine fans and friends. For almost 2 years I have been beating the drum on behalf of the fabulous vintage in the Southern Rhone. From the top Chateauneuf's to the newer appellations such as Rasteau Gigondas Vaquiras and even the Village wines there has been a tremendous amount of over achieving wines produced in this great growing season. By now the word is pretty much out. In many instances you may find a wine offered in the market place from multiple vintages, except for the famous 2007's which are starting to evaporate.

Such is the story with the wine we are featuring today - one of the finest from the line up of this producer in 07. If you are a long time reader of NFTC you would have encountered some of the wines of **Escaravailles** before, as over the last 4 years or so, we have been some of the earliest to promote the wines from this producer. The reason was simple; they offer tremendous value.

I managed to get my hands on the last few bottles of the Granges Cuvee in stock. I am not sure if we will see more of this being imported into the US, but since the 07's are sold out at the winery, I suspect that any additional bottles that make it in, will carry a nice price premium. Pretty much gone -I would urge you to act quickly to avoid disappointment.

\$\$\$ Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$

Domaine des ESCARAVAILLES Côtes du Rhône Villages, Roaix, Les Hautes des Granges 2007

\$31-/bottle, or \$29-/ bottle- with our cash discount (checks are ok)

Here is what our friend **Jeb Dunnuck** wrote in his **Rhone Report**:

"The viscous, glass staining 2007 Domaine des Escaravailles Côtes du Rhône Villages Roaix Les Hautes des Granges possesses a stunning deep purple, completely opaque color along with blockbuster aromatics of earthy blackberry jam, cassis, earth, licorice and chocolate aromas. While this is aged in new oak, there's not a hint of wood showing and in the mouth, it's full bodied with gobs of sweet fruit, glycerol and a soft, lush texture. Despite the size, the purity is outstanding, it's well balanced and has nice acidity keeping things interesting and fresh. It has sound structure hiding under the fruit but I can't see any reason to wait. Drink 2010 - 2019 **93 points**"

Want more accolades? here is some of what **Robert Parker** had to say:

"The 2007 Cotes du Rhone-Villages Roaix Les Hautes Granges (100% Syrah) is aged in 100% small oak casks. Normally, Syrah from the southern Rhone does not fare all that well on its own, but this is an exception to the rule. Sweet aromas of black truffles, camphor, blackberries, and cassis jump from the glass of this inky/purple-colored 2007. The new oak component is largely concealed behind a wealth of fruit and glycerin. This fleshy, rich offering behaves like a Hermitage from the northern Rhone. Drink it over the next 5-7 years.



Readers should be on the lookout for the wines from this superb estate. None other than the brilliant southern Rhone oenologist Philippe Cambie is the consultant at Domaine des Escaravailles, and their 2006s were profiled with considerable accolades in issue #178's report on the World's Greatest Wine Values. The 2007s are the finest wines yet produced at this estate. Proprietor Gilles Farran owns some sensational old vines spread among his 160+ acres in the Cotes du Rhone and the Cotes du Rhone-Villages of Rasteau, Cairanne, and Roaix. Yields are low, with most of the vineyards rendering less than 30 hectoliters per hectare."

Did You Know?

This past weekend was a very special time for WINEPAIRINGS. In addition to St. Valentine, President day, the Chinese New Year and the start of the Winter Olympics it also marked the 7th anniversary of our little company. Of course a lot has gone on in the wine world since our early days, but most importantly what made the dream possible is the support we get from you. I would like to express my tremendous gratitude to all our clients -from those of you which have been with us since the early days, to those who may have just found out about us recently. In spite of the challenging economic conditions, our sales and client base continue to grow with every passing year, mostly through referrals and word of mouth. Almost every day I get

positive feedback; knowing how much pleasure the wines we present bring to your life, make this most rewarding.

If you are reading this, chances are you are in on our little secret- Life's too short to drink mediocre wines. I will continue the pursuit of offering the worlds finest beverage for your enjoyment. Here is to the next 7 years, and to the great wines to come! Cheers!

Thanks for all your support and referrals.

Tell your friends, share the wine, & spread the good vibe. Cheers!

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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The buyer is solely responsible for the shipment of wine. We make no representations concerning your legal right to ship or receive wine into any state outside Colorado or any country outside the United States. By placing any wine order with us, you authorize *WINEPAIRINGS* to act on your behalf to engage a common carrier to deliver your order to your selected destination.

Please note that you must be at least 21 years old to order or receive alcohol from this newsletter. All orders require the signature of a person at least 21 years of age.

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