



"The 2014 Vintage reminds me of the 2012 with its consistent climate and early harvest. Like 2012, it is a more 'California' style, very pleasurable with the same silkiness. This ripe style, with maybe bigger tannins, makes me think that these wines will age forever. So please, don't rush to drink them!"

- Stephan Asseo

FOR HER 2014

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2016 RATING **100**

Pure perfection and one of the greatest wines to come from these limestone slopes on the west side of Paso Robles, the 2014 For Her is a blend of 58% Syrah, 32% Monastrell and the rest Viognier that was all cofermented and aged 14 months in 55% new French oak. This inky black colored, massively rich, yet graceful and elegant red offers killer notes of black raspberries, red plums, creme de cassis, crushed flowers and graphite. A singular wine that could come from nowhere else, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, ultra-fine tannin, huge fruit and that weightless component on the palate that's a part of all great wines. I suspect it will close down slightly for a year or two, yet drink beautifully for 10-15 years. Hats off to proprietor Stephan Asseo for this incredible wine!

OPTIMUS 2014

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2016 RATING **92**

The entry level cuvee that readers should snag a case of is the 2014 Optimus. Made from 42% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Petit Verdot, it's a supple, seamless and elegant wine that gives a small window into the quality and style from this terrific estate. Its deep purple color is followed by classy notes of black raspberries, spice box, dried flowers and underbrush in a full-bodied, balanced and lengthy package. It lacks the depth and length of the top cuvee here, but it is nevertheless a beautiful wine to drink over the coming 7-8 years.

CHLOÉ 2014

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2016 RATING **97**

The 2014 Cuvee Chloe (67% Syrah and 33% Grenache) is another screaming good 2014 from this estate. A big, ripe, sexy and unctuously textured red that made me want to stop the tasting and just sit back and drink a glass, it offers classy notes of ripe blackberries, raspberries, roasted herbs, licorice and floral aromas and flavors. Already approachable and ready to go, drink this hedonistic, yet pure and impeccably balanced beauty over the coming 7-8 years.

ESTATE CUVÉE 2014

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2016 RATING **98**

A massive, gorgeously rich and decadent version of this cuvee, the 2014 Estate Cuvee (50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Syrah and 15% Petit Verdot) is reminiscent of a 2005 Pomerol with its huge bouquet of cassis, toasted spice, graphite, damp earth and leafy herb aromas and flavors. Thick, full-bodied, unctuous and palate-saturating, yet still with purity and grace, it's an insanely good Bordeaux blend (or close) from Paso Robles that will have two decades of overall longevity.

CÔTE À CÔTE 2014

TASTING DATE - AUGUST 2016 RATING **96**

Looking at the 2014s, these are serious wines that are reminiscent of Stephan's sensational 2012s (which were some of the top rated wines in the vintage). The 2014 Cote a Cote is 50% Grenache, 28% Mourvedre and 22% Syrah, all from the limestone soils of the estate L'Aventure vineyard. Deep, full-bodied, gorgeously layered and with plenty of fine tannin, this big, rich 2014 is loaded with notions of cassis, toasted spice, peppery herbs and graphite. Still backwards and tight, yet loaded with potential, give bottles 2-3 years and enjoy over the following decade.