



## JEB DUNNUCK

"Located in the heart of the appellation, just off highway 46, Stephan Asseo's L'Aventure Winery is unquestionably in the top 3-4 estates in Paso Robles. While he made just a handful of cuvees in the past, today he releases upwards of eight cuvees in each vintage. In addition, he's just completed construction on a new cave/winery, and he continues to fine tune the style here, experimenting with amphora and larger barrels, with the goal of getting more elegance and purity into his wines. Looking at the wines reviewed here, the 2015s are certainly rock solid, and show tighter, elegant, and structured personalities. His 2016s are a step up over the 2015s and will be the first vintage completely made in the new cellar. They offer broad, sumptuous profiles, yet with no loss of purity or precision."

### ESTATE OPTIMUS 2015

TASTING DATE 08/10/2017 RATING **92**

The entry level cuvée is the 2015 Optimus and in 2015 it's a blend of 60% Syrah, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Petit Verdot. It's a pretty, elegant version of this cuvée that reveals a deep ruby color, notes of black raspberries, blackberries, violets, and leafy herbs, medium to full-bodied richness and a seamless, silky texture. Drink it over the coming 5-7 years.

### ESTATE CUVÉE 2015

TASTING DATE 08/10/2017 RATING **95**

The 2015 Estate Cuvée is terrific, and certainly one of the wines of the vintage. Made from 55% Syrah, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot, its deep ruby color is followed by classy notes of cassis, lead pencil shavings, crushed rocks and charcoal, and it's a fresh, elegant, beautifully textured 2015 that should put on a touch of mid-palate depth with a year or three of cellaring. It will keep for a decade or more.

### CÔTE À CÔTE 2015

TASTING DATE 08/10/2017 RATING **93<sup>+</sup>**

The 2015 Cote a Cote checks in as 60% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre and 10% Syrah that was brought up in 60% barrels and 40% in concrete and amphora. It offers lots of minerality as well as classic notes of black raspberries, spring flowers, crushed rocks and violets. It has plenty of grippy tannin and is going to benefit from a year or three of bottle age, but it has the vintage's elegant, fresh character.

### LES DEMOISELLES 2015

TASTING DATE 08/10/2017 RATING **95<sup>+</sup>**

The 2015 Cuvée Les Demoiselles is a 60/40 split of Mourvèdre and Syrah, all from estate vineyards, that was brought up in barrel. This inky colored beauty offers fabulous notes of blackberries, peppery herbs, violets and hints of wet gravel. It's fresh and focused, which is very much in the style of the vintage, yet has a stacked mid-palate, ripe tannin and serious length. Drink it anytime over the coming 10-15 years.

### FOR HER 2015

TASTING DATE 08/10/2017 RATING **98**

The 2015 For Her is like the Cuvée Chloe with its black and blue fruits, graphite and violet aromas and flavors, yet it has an incredible floral, peach and marmalade character (no doubt from its Viognier component), and its tannin is much more polished and elegant. Opening up with time in the glass, this sensational 2015 offers full-bodied richness, thrilling purity, no hard edges and building minerality and tannin on the finish. It's unquestionably up with the crème de la crème of the vintage, and while it will benefit from short term cellaring. The blend in 2015 is 50% Syrah (from Stephan's Hilltop block), 32% Mourvèdre, 10% Grenache and 8% Viognier.

### CHLOÉ 2015

TASTING DATE 08/10/2017 RATING **97**

One of my favorites in the lineup is the 2015 Cuvée Chloe, which is a co-fermented blend of 66% Syrah and 34% Grenache. The Syrah for this cuvée always comes from the Mcvey Block, which is a cooler, north facing parcel, and the Grenache from an old vine, south facing, warmer slope. Seeing plenty of whole cluster and aging in barrel, it's reminiscent of a 2010 Chateauneuf du Pape (despite the high Syrah content) and sports a deep purple color as well as sensational notes of blackberries and currants fruits intermixed with melted licorice, graphite/lead pencil, violets and tons of chalky minerality. This is a big, concentrated, beautifully balanced 2015 that needs 2-3 years of bottle age. It will have two decades of overall longevity. 2020-2035.