

L'Aventure

A bold and meticulously crafted blend, Estate Cuvée 2020 showcases the power and refinement of Paso Robles through a seamless fusion of Rhône and Bordeaux varietals.



Estate Cuvee 2020

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

L'Aventure Vineyard lies on the **west side of Paso Robles**, California, a region marked by its calcareous soils, steep slopes, and cooling marine influence from the nearby Pacific. This terrain, once considered too rugged for fine viticulture, now forms the backbone of some of the area's most lauded wines. The combination of **limestone-rich soil**, **sun-soaked exposure**, and **significant diurnal temperature variation** allows for the cultivation of deeply colored, concentrated fruit with natural balance.

Planted at **high density (2,100 vines per acre)** and farmed with precision, the vineyard delivers **very low yields—just 1.5 to 2 tons per acre**—resulting in wines of great concentration and focus. Each grape variety is grown in carefully chosen parcels suited to its needs, ensuring optimal expression of both the site and the blend's intended character.

Winemaking

The 2020 Estate Cuvée is an estate-grown blend of **45% Syrah**, **40% Cabernet Sauvignon**, and **15% Petit Verdot**, selected for their complementary strengths. Syrah brings plush fruit and spice, Cabernet Sauvignon adds structure and longevity, while Petit Verdot contributes color intensity and a savory backbone. This blend reflects a **philosophy of balance**, where richness is tempered by lift and length.

After fermentation, the wine underwent **malolactic conversion in barrel**, enhancing texture and mouthfeel. It was aged for **15 months**, with **81% matured in new French oak** and the remaining **19% in one-year-old barrels**. No fining or filtration was performed, preserving the wine's depth and integrity. Bottled in March 2022, Estate Cuvée 2020 is built for **extended aging of 20 years or more**.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 45% Syrah, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Opaque garnet with a deep purple core and brilliant clarity at the rim.
- **Aroma:** A complex nose of black cherry, cassis, smoked meat, dark chocolate, and hints of violets and graphite.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and muscular, with dense black fruit, roasted coffee bean, and spice-box flavors. The tannins are firm yet polished, leading to a long, structured finish with enduring freshness.

Did you know?

The **Estate Cuvée** is L'Aventure's **flagship wine**, crafted entirely from fruit grown on the property's limestone-laced slopes. It reflects **Stephan Asseo's pioneering approach**—a blend of French winemaking sensibility and Paso Robles vitality. The inclusion of both Rhône and Bordeaux varietals is a hallmark of Asseo's style, honoring his Bordeaux heritage while embracing the expressive freedom of California's Central Coast.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Côte de bœuf with rosemary and garlic jus**: The wine's structure and intensity match beautifully with a richly marbled steak.
- **Slow-braised beef cheeks with red wine reduction**: Highlights the savory depth and polished tannins.
- **Cassoulet Toulousain**: A classic French pairing that complements the wine's hearty, earthy character.
- **Aged Gouda or Bleu d'Auvergne**: The wine's fruit power and spice meet the complexity and saltiness of matured cheeses.

99

Robert Parker (RP) : 99 Points (2020)

A blend of 45% Syrah, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Estate Cuvée is another outstanding wine from L'Aventure in the challenging 2020 vintage, offering singular concentration and elegance. Deep ruby-purple, it has a pure core of cassis and slowly unfolding accents of licorice, cured meats, tobacco leaves, cedar and truffle. Full-bodied, juicy and alluring, it floods the mouth with layers of blue fruit, floral perfume and spice. It is supported by powdery tannins and boasts a tremendously long, detailed finish.

97 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 97 Points (2020)

Dark chocolate, a bit animalistic, so brooding and dark. Sumptuous texture, rich and deep yet vibrant too, this is plush and opulent but there is refinement here, you can feel the sculpting of the fruit and the tannins, there is nuance and detail to the different aspects. It's still quite massy and bold, it's a big style, lots going on with plenty of power and punch but a deliciously bright and lifted understone with acidity to keep it from being too heavy. Strawberry touches, blackberries, cinnamon, pepper, toast, tobacco and cocoa, all melding together with a lingering piquancy that lasts and lasts. A classic and memorable wine. Ageing 15 months in French oak (80% new, 20% one year old). (GH)

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Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2020)

A beguiling blend of dusty violets, crushed stone, musky black currants and grilled herbs makes the 2020 Estate Cuvée impossible to ignore. Racy yet supple, this soothes with its ripe red and black fruits while also exciting the palate through a core of zesty acidity. A staining of minerality lingers as the 2020 finishes with epic length and potency. Grippy tannins tug at the perimeters of the palate, leaving nuances of black licorice and clove to resonate. This radiant beauty has a very bright future.