



# L'Aventure

With power, elegance, and approachability, Optimus 2019 is the quintessential expression of L'Aventure's balanced winemaking philosophy.



## Optimus 2019

California, USA

### Region and Vineyards

L'Aventure Vineyard lies on the **west side of Paso Robles**, California, where coastal influences meet sun-drenched elevations, offering a dynamic environment for ripening premium red varieties. The vineyard is planted on **limestone-rich soils** with excellent drainage, fostering deep root systems and low yields. This terroir is perfectly suited to both **Rhône and Bordeaux varietals**, enabling unique and expressive blends.

The 2019 growing season was steady and warm, marked by even development and a long hang time. These conditions allowed fruit to reach **optimal phenolic ripeness** while preserving fresh acidity. With average yields limited to **2.5 tons per acre**, the estate fruit used in Optimus delivers exceptional concentration and purity—hallmarks of the L'Aventure style.

### Winemaking

Optimus 2019 is composed of **57% Syrah**, **31% Cabernet Sauvignon**, and **12% Petit Verdot**, showcasing both Rhône exuberance and Bordeaux precision. All grapes are **estate grown**, and vinified with meticulous care. The wine underwent **malolactic fermentation in barrel**, a choice that enriches mouthfeel and enhances integration of oak and fruit components.

Aged for **14 months** in **89% new French oak** and **11% one-year-old barrels**, Optimus displays depth, spice, and polish. The absence of fining and filtration ensures the wine retains its natural texture and complexity. Bottled in March 2021, it is crafted to be enjoyed young yet built with the structure to age gracefully over the next decade.

### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Opaque ruby with deep purple core and brilliant rim.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of black currant, plum, crushed violet, espresso, and baking spice rise from the glass with elegance and intensity.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied and dense with a plush core of dark fruit, chocolate, and graphite. The Syrah brings spice and meatiness, while Cabernet and Petit Verdot add structure and grip. The finish is long, vibrant, and impeccably balanced.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 58% Syrah, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot



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## Did you know?

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The name "Optimus" reflects **Stephan Asseo's philosophy of balance**—between tradition and innovation, Rhône and Bordeaux, power and elegance. A former Bordeaux winemaker, Asseo moved to Paso Robles in the late 1990s seeking the **creative freedom** that French appellation rules restricted. With Optimus, he created a flagship wine that defines the identity of L'Aventure: one foot in Europe, the other firmly rooted in California.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

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- **Beef Wellington with red wine reduction:** Matches the wine's intensity and structure with its savory, umami-rich character.
- **Grilled lamb chops with rosemary and garlic:** A natural pairing for the Syrah and Petit Verdot's earthy depth.
- **Cassoulet with duck confit:** The dish's richness and texture resonate with the wine's bold palate and firm tannins.
- **Aged Manchego or Cantal entre-deux:** Offers a salty, nutty contrast to the dark fruit and spice-laden profile of the wine.



### Robert Parker (RP) : **92 Points** (2019)

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*The 2019 Optimus is a blend of 57% Syrah, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Petit Verdot. It has a medium ruby-purple color and pure aromas of red and black berries with earthy, autumnal accents and a streak of spice. The medium-bodied palate is grainy and fresh, with pretty floral perfume on the long finish. (EB) (3/2022)*



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