



International Wine Cellar (January/February 2009) by Josh Raynolds

Producer Highlight: Domaine Roger Sabon (Chateauneuf-du-Pape)



2006 Chateauneuf du Pape les Olivets

Rating: 90

Ruby-red. Seductive scents of red berries, lavender and herbs, with a gently smoky undertone. The palate features deeper kirsch and dark berries and a gentle note of garrigue. The sweet finish features gentle tannins and very good thrust. Pretty tasty right now, but also has the balance to age.

2007 Chateauneuf du Pape les Olivets

Rating: (89-92)

Vivid ruby. Sexy, ripe raspberry and cherry scents, along with baking spices and woodsmoke. Smells like a New World pinot noir, and tastes a lot like one too. Sweet, palate-coating red berry flavors are enlivened by tangy minerals, with a subtle floral note on the back. Finishes with very good clarity and snap.



2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Prestige

Rating: 91+

Deep red. Expressive aromas of dark cherry, blackcurrant, Indian spices and smoky herbs. Round, supple dark fruit flavors coat the palate, sweetened by suave vanilla and cola qualities. Gains firmness on the focused, long finish. This could use some time to stretch out but is already quite impressive.

2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Prestige

Rating: (90-93)

Bright ruby. Powerful aromas of blackberry, blueberry, licorice and dried flowers. Deep and chewy, offering lush dark berry compote flavors and slow-building tannins. Becomes sweeter and more lively with air, finishing with notes of fresh red and dark berries.



2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reserve

Rating: 91

Vivid red. Musky redcurrant and wild strawberry aromas are complicated by garrigue, anise and minerals. Fleshy, open-knit red berry flavors are energized by gentle mineral and white pepper qualities. Gains sweetness on the finish, along with fine-grained tannins. Give this youthful wine at least a few years in the cellar.

2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reserve

Rating: (92-95)

Ruby-red. Intensely floral scents of raspberry, lavender, magnolia and garrigue. Palate-coating red berry flavors are firm by juicy acidity and complicated by smoky herbs and a sweet floral pastille quality. Finishes broad and precise, with supple tannins and considerable depth. This is one for the cellar.



2006 Chateauneuf du Pape le Secret de Sabon

Rating: 95

Vivid ruby. Knockout nose evokes cherry preserves, blackcurrant, incense, lavender and fresh bay. Deep, sweet and rich but possessing uncanny energy, offering sweet red and dark berry flavors, a velvety texture and great clarity. An exotic floral pastille quality gains strength with air and carries through an endless sappy finish. For a wine this powerful, the focus and balance are striking.

2007 Chateauneuf du Pape le Secret de Sabon

Rating: (95-98)

Saturated ruby. A kaleidoscopic bouquet of raspberry, creme de cassis, potpourri, pungent herbs and incense. Smoky minerals add energy to deep, sweet red and dark berry flavors, complicated by candied lavender, rose and a suave anise note. The finish refuses to let go of the palate, where the sweet berry and floral notes echo. Boasts amazing freshness, depth and clarity.