

## The Wine Advocate #179 (October 2008)

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

RS

*"Proprietor Jean-Jacques Sabon and the other younger family members are taking these wines to even greater quality heights than previously attained. The new vintages possess updated, more polished labels, but more importantly, the wines continue to go from what were very strong efforts in the past, to even deeper concentration, complexity, and depth. All four cuvees are now routinely outstanding, with the top two offerings, the Cuvee Prestige and the limited production Le Secret des Sabon, compelling Chateaux. As with many estates, the 2007s exhibit the vintage's succulent, juicy, incredibly pure fruit and tremendous freshness and vivacity, all packed into substantial, full-bodied wines with surprisingly high alcohols given their vibrancy. One might expect such greatness in 2007 in Chateauneuf du Pape, but the Sabons have also hit the heights in the excellent 2006 vintage."*



### 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Prestige

**Rating: 93**

The dense ruby/purple-colored, full-bodied 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Prestige offers up notes of licorice, kirsch liqueur, lavender, and spice box. It is a superbly concentrated, opulent, flamboyant wine to drink now and over the next 15+ years.

### 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Prestige

**Rating: (92-95)**

The 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Prestige's opaque purple color is accompanied by a lovely bouquet of creme de cassis, kirsch, licorice, smoke, new saddle leather, roasted meats, and lavender. Full, deep, and exceptionally pure, it is a superb effort that should drink well for 20-25+ years.



le Secret des Sabon

### 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape le Secret de Sabon

**Rating: 96**

The inky/purple-hued, enormously endowed 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Le Secret des Sabon is a monster of massive concentration and power. It reveals a suppleness to the tannins as well as a more evolved, accessible personality than the 2007, but, wow, it should keep for 20-25 years.

### 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape le Secret de Sabon

**Rating: (96-100)**

Reminiscent of a hypothetical blend, stylistically speaking, of a 1990 and 1998, the opaque plum/purple 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Le Secret des Sabon is off the charts. There are only 2,000 bottles of this limited cuvee, from a parcel of 100+ year old vines in the famed La Crau sector. Enormously powerful notes of grilled herbs, roasted meats, creme de cassis, blackberries, charcoal, and truffles emerge from this massive, super-concentrated 2007. A tour de force in winemaking, this is old vine intensity at its greatest and purest. Give it 5-6 years of bottle age, and drink it over the following three decades.



### 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reservee

**Rating: 91**

The 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reservee exhibits beautiful sweet black cherry fruit, a full-bodied, powerful mouthfeel, and a layered texture. Consume it over the next 12-15 years.

### 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reservee

**Rating: (90-93)**

The dark ruby/purple-tinged 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Reservee is one of the finest yet made by the Sabons.

Deep ruby/purple with notes of root vegetables, figs, tobacco leaf, roasted meats, kirsch liqueur, and black currants, this is a broad, deep, substantial, long, heady Chateauneuf that should evolve for 15 or more years.



**2006 Chateauneuf du Pape les Olivets**

**Rating: 90**

The succulent, Provencal 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Les Olivets possesses loads of black cherry fruit, spice, and garrigue, a roasted meatiness, and firmer tannins than in 2007. It should drink well for 10-12 years.

**2007 Chateauneuf du Pape les Olivets**

**Rating: (90-92)**

The 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape Les Olivets is Provencal, displaying notes of roasted herbs, licorice, sweet black cherries, and pepper. Filled with seductive fruit and glycerin as well as a heady, long finish, it should be enjoyed over the next 10-12 years.

---