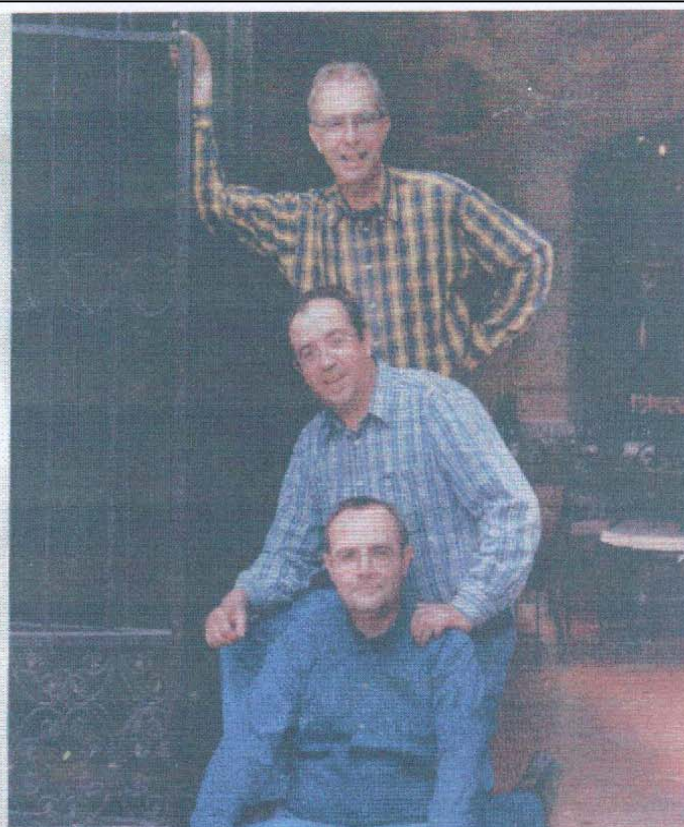


Wine Spectator

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The Sabon family made a classic-rated Châteauneuf-du-Pape in 2001. From top: Jean-Jacques, Denis and Gilbert Sabon of Roger Sabon & Fils.

TOP WINES, SOUTHERN RHÔNE

ROGER SABON & FILS Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige 2001 95

Rich, silky and fruit-driven, with black cherry, blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate, tobacco and licorice.

Wine Spectator Insider

A Members Only, Biweekly Publication

Marvin R. Shanken, Editor and Publisher

FIRST LOOK AT OUR EDITORS' MOST EXCITING NEW WINES

This edition of the *Insider* features 30 wines from three of the world's finest wine regions. Harvey Steiman reviews six Shirazes from South Australia, many of them offering the hallmark ripe fruit and spice flavors that the region's big reds are known for, but he also spotlights a few of Adelaide's more subtle versions, which are also outstanding.

From California, James Laube offers a grab bag of California wines, mostly reds, all outstanding. Plus a classic-rated 2003 Syrah from Santa Barbara County that leads the Hot Wines on page 4.

As for the Old World, James Molesworth reviews a dozen 2003s from the Southern Rhône's premier district, Châteauneuf-du-Pape. All are age-worthy and show the ripeness that resulted from France's 2003 heat wave. Two of them earned classic ratings; look for them on page 4 as well.

France / Rhône

These new releases of 2003 Châteauneuf-du-Pape show the heady ripeness of the vintage, along with chewy, robust tannins. Because of their rugged structure, I revisited many of these wines a day after opening them, and none of them lost a step. In fact, they showed better integration with a day's air—a great sign for long-term development.—J.M.

Roger Sabon & Fils

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Olivets 2003
90 points | \$40 | 350 cases imported

Ripe and racy, with blackberry and black cherry fruit riding along a strong, stony underpinning. Floral and tar hints as well, with a slightly firm, lengthy finish. Best from 2006 through 2015.—J.M.

Roger Sabon & Fils

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Réserve 2003
93 points | \$50 | 270 cases imported

This has all the ripe, nearly exotic plum, blackberry, briar and bacon aromas and flavors of the vintage, but without any of the hard edges. Seriously plush and fleshy through the finish, which shows floral hints as well. Gorgeous. Drink now through 2020.—J.M.

HOT WINES

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in Wine Spectator Insider. They are high-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

Roger Sabon & Fils

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prestige 2003
95 points | \$65 | 240 cases imported

Dense raspberry, plum, licorice, tar and bacon notes are supported by thick, muscular tannins in this concentrated, showy red. A bit of a brute now (though floral and mineral hints chime in too) so cellar. If you do, you'll have a classic example of the vintage. Best from 2007 through 2025. *From France.—J.M.*