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Wines. With Spirit!

A Midwinter Night's Dream at Bodega

Tasting Notes

2007 Vin de Pays Duché d'Uzès (Blanc) - Domaine Chabrier Fils - 14.0% Alc. by Vol.

Over the years, this little beauty has filled up the Chabrier Brothers' trophy cabinet with countless awards. The 2007 vintage has already garnered the **Grand Prix d'Excellence aux Vinalies Nationales 2008!** It is made from 70% Viognier, 20% Grenache Blanc and 10% Marsanne. The yield is a low 40 hectolitres per hectare. It is a straw colour with hints of pale green. The nose is filled with grapefruit, passion fruit and lemon/lime. In the mouth it is very fresh, fruity, beautifully balanced, unctuous and surprisingly complex.

2006 Cuvée Horizon – Les Cuvées du Firmament - 13.5% Alc. by Vol.

This Vin de Pays de l'Hérault is made from 60% Cinsault, 25% Carignan (aged in French oak barrels) and 15% Syrah. The last time we offered it, it was called Vin de Pays de l'Hérault Rouge. But, no matter what the name, this is a great value. It is a dark ruby and offers up tantalizing aromas of ripe red berries, rosemary and new leather. It is surprisingly smooth, possessing excellent fruit and structure with very nice, soft tannins.

1er Cru Rosé Brut - Champagne Forget-Brimont – 12.5% Alc. by Vol.

A blend of the 2003, 2004 and 2005 vintages, it is a traditional assemblage of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier. Comprised of more than a quarter Grand Cru grapes, it has been rated by the Wine Spectator between 89 and 91 points. In the glass, the beautiful light orange, pink colour provides an ideal backdrop for its steady stream of tiny bubbles. In the mouth, it is a soft, yet powerful and round, exhibiting ripe red fruit (strawberries) and just a hint of pineapple. (Available at VINTAGES on February 14, the price will be \$53.95)

2006 Hautes Pierres Blanc – Domaine de Tara - 14.5% Alc. by Vol.

This very big and serious white wine is made from 55% Roussanne and 45% Grenache Blanc. It is a medium golden-yellow with an intense and elegant nose of coconut, apricots, honey, butterscotch, pineapple and ripe peaches. In the mouth it is full, balanced and extremely pleasing with a lingering aftertaste that contains a hint of grapefruit. **Médaille d'or Mâcon 2008.** As the 'Guide Dussert-Gerber des Vins de France' has said about other vintages of this wine, "Why resist?"

2005 Gigondas - Domaine de Cayron - 14.0% Alc. by Vol.

This is a very big, serious and classic Gigondas from a great vintage that is made from 70% Grenache, 15% Cinsault, 14% Syrah and 1% Mourvèdre. Domaine de Cayron is usually cited by the wine critics as one of the top three Gigondas producers. The yield is a most stingy 23 hectolitres per hectare. It is a beautiful dark red with an intense nose of spring flowers, black raspberries, minerals and cherries. In the mouth it is full, elegant and dense marked by cherry and cassis notes with a very, very long finish.

2006 Châteauneuf du Pape les Olivets – Domain Roger Sabon - 14.5% Alc. by Vol.

Robert Parker says, "The 2006 Châteauneuf du Pape Les Olivets reveals impressive ripeness, with classic Provençal notes of toasted herbs, licorice, pepper, and kirsch liqueur. It is medium-bodied, soft and spicy. – Rating 89-91/100"