

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Friday, October 26th, 4:00 to 7:00 pm:
The Wines of France's Famille Perrin

\$10 Tasting Fee

The Perrin family is one of the truly distinguished heavyweights of French wine production. Owners since 1909 of the fabulous **Château de Beaucastel**, one of the most famous wineries in **Châteauneuf du Pape**, they also own over 1000 acres in the Southern Rhône. They apply the same rigorous standards found at Beaucastel when producing wines from these smaller estates, and their range of wines reveals the richness of the Southern Rhône Valley with its diverse terroirs.

The family prides itself in making each wine unique: using organic and biodynamic approaches, mastering the art of blending and bringing out the freshness of the Southern aromas. (Note: with the 2010 vintage the name Perrin et Fils has changed to Famille Perrin.)

Famille Perrin 2011 Réserve Cotes du Rhone Blanc \$11.99

This remarkably fresh and deep blend of Grenache Blanc, Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier is alive with typical Rhône characteristics, great with Mediterranean food and rockfish.

Golden yellow with green undertones, the wine offers intense aromas of ripe yellow fruits (apricot and peach) and fresh white flowers. The palate is round and full and nicely balanced with a mineral finish. This is a wine to pair with delicate or spicy saffron dishes, grilled fish or bouillabaisse.

2010 Famille Perrin Cotes du Rhone Reserve Rouge \$11.99

This is "Côtes du Rhône par Excellence": a fruity and fleshy blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah with beautiful tannins. It's a great everyday wine made almost exclusively from the Perrins' Grand Prébois and Vinsobres vineyards.

This is a beautiful deep ruby with purple undertones and offers a bouquet with intense aromas of red fruit, raspberry jam, spices and black pepper. The palate is soft and round yet structured with freshness. This wine pairs well with beef, lamb or poultry.

2010 Famille Perrin Cotes du Rhone Villages Rouge \$12.99

Originating from different terroirs in Côtes du Rhône Villages, this is one of the most faithful illustrations of the Southern Rhône Valley, using the same vineyard and wine-making techniques employed at Château de Beaucastel

A blend of Grenache and Syrah, the wine is dark ruby, with purple reflections. The nose shows intense aromas of macerated cherries and licorice with a full-bodied palate presenting a generous attack, pleasant freshness and elegant, well-balanced tannins with a thyme and rosemary finish.

Robert Parker's *Wine Advocate* (01/11/2011) rated this wine at 88 points.

2010 Famille Perrin Vinsobres "Les Cornuds" \$21.99

"Les Cornuds" in the village of Vinsobres is the most northern vineyard of the southern Rhône. This region is particularly suitable for Syrah because it preserves a finesse often lost in more southerly climates. The wine develops notes of violet, smoked meat and blackberries. Grenache is also suited to this terroir, full-bodied but not heavy, with notes of black chocolate, cherry and Garrigue aromas.

This Grenache-Syrah blend is dark with purple undertones. It boasts intense aromas of violet, black fruit and spices, crushed rock, black pepper and licorice in a wine that's round and full-bodied, yet very fresh, showing finesse and elegant tannins.

***The Wine Advocate* (01/10/2011) rated this wine at 89-90+ points!**

2009 Perrin et Fils Gigondas "La Gille" \$37.99

The Famille Perrin Gigondas property is among the most historical vineyards in Gigondas. It benefits from a flow of cold air that blows through the valley situated to the west of the village. The vines grow on limestone, calcareous marl and sandy soils, giving this Grenache-Syrah blend immense finesse and elegance with unique aromas. This wine is full bodied but with finesse at the same time. Serve it with a veal chop with morels or a crispy lamb breast.

"Nicely packed, with tightly wound espresso, graphite and black tea notes still harnessing the core of crushed plum, steeped black currant and charcoal. The long, smoldering finish has racy acidity. Best from 2013 through 2019" -***Wine Spectator* (29/02/2012) rated Perrin's 2009 Gigondas at 92 points and *International Wine Cellar* rated it at 91 points!**

2009 Perrin et Fils Chateauneuf du Pape, Les Sinards \$44.99

"From the young vines culled out from the Beaucastel Chateauneuf du Pape as well as from other estates in the northern sector of the appellation, the Perrin et Fils 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape Les Sinards is composed of 70% Grenache and the rest Syrah, Mourvedre, and Counoise. A potentially outstanding effort, it boasts a deep ruby/purple color as well as abundant amounts of kirsch, raspberry, roasted herb and underbrush notes, medium to full body, good glycerin, silky tannins and a fleshy, rich finish. Enjoy it over the next 10-12 years." -***Wine Advocate* (01/10/2010) rated this wine at 89-91 points!**