

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes
Saturday, August 3rd, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Rhone Treasures and Pleasured
With Drew from A&B Imports
\$10 Tasting Fee!

There's no mystery why so many premier Columbia Valley and Walla Walla wineries work so hard to produce Rhone-style wines. They do it because they love the wines from that region of France!

This Saturday, from 2 to 5 p.m. we're going to the source to bring you authentically French Rhone wines from the actual Rhone Valley! Don't miss this chance to taste some amazing treasures produced by some of the finest winemakers in France, all brought to you by our friend, Drew, from A&B Imports, a Seattle-based import house whose name is synonymous with the finest quality!

Famille Brechet Lirac Blanc Plateau Chenes 2011 \$24.99

The Brechet family has owned their vineyards the Rhone's Lirac region for generations. Today, Laurent and Julien Brechet represent the fifth consecutive generation of winemakers to continue the legacy. Their wine opens with aromas of citrus and white fruits and shows good mouthfeel, scope, roundness, and freshness on the palate with a spicy finish at the end.

Domaine La Garrigue Cotes du Rhone "Cuvee Romaine" 2011 \$16.99

Domaine La Garrigue recalls quintessential Provence: rugged, beautiful landscapes and honest, unpretentious people. The winery takes its name from the wild herbs and ground cover of Provence called Garrigue, a scent often captured in their bottlings. The estate's excellent Cotes du Rhone, labeled "Cuvee Romaine" is named after the Roman artifacts found on the property.

This tank-aged blend of 65% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre, and 10% Syrah is a vibrant, semi-transparent purple color. The wine delivers a beautifully nuanced bouquet of ripe black cherry and blackberry fruit balanced by garrigue, lavender, pepper, and underbrush-like qualities. It shows a medium-bodied, balanced profile with good acidity, solid purity, and a classic, clean finish.

Michel Gassier Cercius Rouge 2011 \$16.99

On the southern edge of the Rhone Valley near the ancient city of Nîmes the legendary mistral winds of Provence sweep over the vines and out to the Mediterranean Sea. The Latin name for these winds is Cercius – the defining feature and raison d'être for partners Michel Gassier, Philippe Cambie and Eric Solomon to launch this new project.

"Made from a blend of 85% Grenache and 15% Syrah, from 80+ year vines aged for 6 months in concrete tank, the 2011 Michel Gassier Cercius is a lush, decadent offering that delivers loads of black raspberry and blackberry styled fruit that is intermixed with notions of licorice, rolled stone, roasted garrigue, and hints of leather on the nose. Layered, fresh, and beautifully textured, with a full-bodied, rich feel in the mouth that never seems heavy, this absolutely knockout Côtes du Rhône is a candidate for a multi-case purchase. ... Do not let the price tag fool you, this is a gorgeous wine that will stand up to any number of more prestigious and expensive bottlings." ~JD

Domaine de la Janasse Cotes du Rhone "Terre d'Argile" Rouge 2009 \$18.99

No simple red, Domaine de la Janasse's cuvée "Terre d'Argile" is a blend of 55% Grenache with lesser amounts of Syrah, Carignan, Cinsault and Mourvèdre. The scents of dark berries, earth and something wild and smoky are all right there. The color is intense, the flavors rich and deep. It's a beautiful bottle to pair with wood-grilled or roasted meats, a burger or a pastrami sandwich.

Gilles-Robin Crozes-Hermitage "Papillon" \$29.99

"Papillon" is a Northern Rhone concentrate of young Syrah grapes from vines aged 10 years. Deep and ruby colored, with a frank and charming nose, this wine offers small black

fruits, cherry and sweet spices that build a nice harmony. On the palate, the wine is round and firm, displaying a clear and precise structure of ripe fruits.

This refreshing wine is vibrant, enhanced by white pepper and licorice notes. Tannins, still young, are silky and will develop over the next 2-3 years. Fruity and delicate, this wine finishes with slightly oaky notes showing its younger age.

Domaine Giraud Châteauneuf du Pape "Premices" 2011 \$42.99

Domaine Giraud has a long history of producing fine Grenache-based Châteauneuf du Pape cuvees, and this 2011 Châteauneuf-du-Pape "Premices" garnered a 93 point score in a recent review by Jeb Dunnuk of *The Rhone Report*. This new cuvee from the estate's younger vines is meant for more immediate approachability without compromising the exceptionally high standards of winemaker Marie Giraud.

This 100% Grenache was aged one-third in small French oak barrels with the balance in concrete tank for one year. Gorgeous all around and made in a friendly, seamless style, it shows a translucent ruby color followed by a perfumed array of kirsch, raspberry, flowers, and red licorice. Incredibly pure and smooth, with no hard edges and a silky texture, it stays light and elegant on the palate and is a joy to drink.