

Wicked Cellars Tasting Notes:
Saturday, October 12th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
A Special Tasting of Two Amazing
Rhone Wine Domaines with
Eric Brown of Cordon Selections
\$10 Tasting Fee!

This Saturday **Eric Brown** of **Cordon Selections** brings us a dynamite tasting of wine from two very impressive wineries focused mainly on the Northern Rhône Valley: **Domaine Éric Textier** and **Domaine Dard & Ribo**. Both producers took their winemaking in their own direction, pursuing quality as they saw it, regardless of the mainstream. This isn't just socially conscious wine, kinder and gentler to the environment- this wine is great!

Eric Textier Cotes-du-Rhone Blanc 2012 \$18.99 Regularly \$20.99

This uncommonly fresh white wine is 90% Clairette, blended with small amounts of Marsanne and Grenache Blanc, all planted in granite-based soils. This beautiful and elegant wine manages to be both tart and fruity at the same time, offering just a touch of honey and nuts on the nose.

2012 produced a more vivacious Clairette than last year, producing an uncommonly fresh Cotes du Rhone Blanc more reminiscent of Savoie than the Mediterranean. The wine received 100% malolactic fermentation from grapes planted on the granite soils of St. Julien en St. Alban.

Eric Textier Cotes-du-Rhone Brézème Roussanne 2011 \$27.99
Regularly \$30.99

The Textier Brézème Roussanne is a soft golden color with a nose of honey, rose and fresh mint herbal tea all lying on an earthy bed. Roussanne produces a wonderfully crisp, rich and complex white wine that has the ability to age for decades. Try this Roussanne with foie gras, crawfish, sole, trout or chèvre.

Eric Textier Cotes-du-Rhone 2011 \$17.99 Regularly \$19.99

This red is a blend of 80% Grenache and 20% white Rhone varietals such as Grenache Blanc, Clairette, and Bourboulenc, all sourced from Eric's newly acquired vineyard in St. Julien that is currently being converted to an organic vineyard. The wine is bright and smooth with soft ripe red fruit character and attractive with generous fruit.

Eric Textier Brézème Syrah 2011 \$25.99 Regularly \$27.99

This untamed, brawny wine is a deep garnet color, with a vivid bouquet of ripe but spicy fruit sitting atop an earthy base. A fleshy mouth, a lovely savory and intense palate balancing pure fruit with high acidity plus a long finish, great structure and wonderful combination of acid to tannins give this powerful young wine the potential to age for at least 10 years. Enjoy it after decanting!

Dard & Ribo Crozes Hermitages Rouge 2011 \$45.99 Regularly \$48.99

Dard et Ribo refers to Jean-René Dard and François Ribo, both natives of the Northern Rhone who met through the Lycée Viticole de Beaune. These are the men behind this winery that began some 30 years ago in a back street of Tain-l'Hermitage. Among the first to follow low-intervention, additive-free wine methods in what was then the infant natural wine movement, they rapidly made their way to the top rungs of Rhone winemakers.

This Syrah is sourced from old vines from les Bâties vineyard and presents jammy fruit on the nose with a nicely fleshy palate. Integrated tannins seem harsh to some but the pure, live Syrah in every sip is one of the best Crozes-Hermitages you've ever had.

Eric Textier Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2010 \$59.99 Regularly \$64.99

Eric's Textier's Châteauneuf-du-Pape, a blend of Grenache and Mourvèdre is a dark purple-black color with intense aromas of new saddle leather, sweet dark fruit, earth and peppered with provincial herbs. This is a big and bold wine with ripe, well-structured tannins nicely balanced by the crisp acidity. It's also a wine that benefits from decanting, goes very well with beef and strong cheeses and will age well between three and 30 years.