

Southern Rhone 2007-very limited

The secret is starting to come out. A few years back I started hearing about an up and coming estate based in Roaix, just northeast of Chateauneuf du Pape. When I tasted one of their 2003 I was blown away by the superb quality and the modest price. Here was a Cote Du Rhone wine which was better than most CDP's on the market. I have been a fan ever since. Add to it the fact that in 2007 the Rhone region has been blessed with perfect conditions (best in over 30 years according to Robert Parker) and you get the perfect combo: a wine that's still under the radar, superb quality, low price and a terrific vintage. The word must be getting out as today's wine was extremely limited. So much so, that as far as I can tell it was only available at one other retailer -and they are located in Germany.

\$\$\$ Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$

Domaine des ESCARAVAILLES Rasteau "Heritage 1924" 2007 \$33/bot. (sug. price \$40+)

The beetle on the label (Escaravailles) is derived from the early days going back to the 16th century. In those times, wine was being made at these parts by the monks of Avignon who wore long black robes . They worked the steep rows of vines above the town of Roaix. When viewed by the villagers from the town below they looked like beetles running around, and the name stuck.

Today, the estate is run by the Ferran family. Mr Ferran used to sell his production to some of the areas best producers: Beaucastel for their Coudoulet, to Chave for his Mon Coeur, and to Tardieu-Laurent for their Cotes du Rhone cuvee. But in recent years the son, Gilles, took over and started promoting the family label. He also brought in the famed oenologist Philippe Cambie as a consultant. Gilles Ferran is making all the right moves and starting to get some serious attention from knowledgeable fans of this region.

Last year Escaravilles was profiled with great accolades in Robert Parker's report on the World's Greatest Wine Values, and that was based on his tastings of the 2006's. The 07's were even better. Not surprising as it is a monumental vintage.

Out of all the wines made here, the Heritage 1924 has always been the estates top wine, made from their oldest vineyards in the Rasteau appellation. My tasting notes say -serious juice -very dark, yet elegant and seamlessly smooth. Electric purple at the rim, full of extraction & there is a lot going on... The 2007 featured here is the highest scoring wine ever from this domain. It's no wonder this is becoming very rare. I hope that in the future this popularity will not have an adverse effect on the price, but for now we will enjoy the favorable tariff.

Here is the Parker review from the February issue of the Wine advocate:

"The 2007 Cotes du Rhone-Villages Rasteau Heritage, fashioned from 100% Grenache (from vines planted in 1924), this offering can compete with some of the finest Grenache-based efforts in Chateauneuf du Pape. Its inky/purple hue is accompanied by an extraordinary perfume of flowers, garrigue, pepper, kirsch, and raspberries. Amazing opulence, a full-bodied, powerful mouth feel, and a multidimensional, layered finish result in a momentous Rasteau that can be drunk young or cellared for 10-15 years. 92-94



points.”

If you are a Chateaufan and have not tried this wine, you will be impressed with the quality and the very modest price.

Did You Know:

Mother's day is around the corner...flowers are always nice, but Mom may enjoy a good bottle of wine. We can ship to all states that allow it. Want to send Mom a nice bottle of Champagne, Port, or wine from her favorite region -give us a ping and we will take care of it for you

Events:

Maya & Leah's night Saturday May 9th

My Friend and local wine writer Ben Wineberg is organizing a wine based Charity event which promises to be a fun night full of good cheer, wine and many of the local wine heads. Do not miss this one.

[event flyer](#)

The Green Festival May 2-3, 2009 (Saturday-Sunday)

Now in its seventh year and five cities, the events bring together 175,000 attendees to the world's most authentic green living shows which demonstrate a commitment to sustainability through extensive event-greening efforts. There's something for everyone - family and teen activities, green film festival, live music, organic food, 150 speakers and workshops, a green marketplace with more than 350 local and national green businesses, and dozens of community and nonprofit groups.

Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th Street, Denver More Information:[greenfestival](#)

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Tell your friends, share the wine, & spread the good vibe. Cheers!

Paul David, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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