



Your Source of Wine for Every Occasion

## Notes From The Cellar "NFTC" Newsletter *Jun 3, 2009*

### **CDR (Cote Du Rhone) easy on the pocket / ready to drink**

The Southern Rhone region of France has long been a bargain hunter's paradise. From the basic Cote du Rhone table wines to the better "Villages" offering, The most famous and established subregion: Chateauneuf-Du-Pape has been at the top of the hierarchy for generations. Over the past two decades, other villages in the region notably Gigondas, Vacqueyras & Rasteau have established great reputations; each offering a unique style or interpretation of the local grapes. Often the newcomers have produced great quality wines. While the top producers in CNDP have also elevated their game, there are sadly many who have relied on the region's reputation to raise prices on mediocre wines. The key to finding the best wines in any price range remains judicious tasting.

The recent hype surrounding the exceptional 2007 vintage would have under normal circumstances caused some serious price increases. Yet with the global recession in place prices increases are being kept in check at least for now. (recent decline in the value of the \$ relatively to the Euro will not help - we will keep you posted on this in future newsletters). The 2007's are starting to come in, and like in any vintage, some wines will prove to be better than others - We have featured some already & as expected they sold out quickly. I keep looking out for the best deals -expect to see more of them here over the next few months.

One of the best features of wines of this region, is their tendency to improve with some bottle age. Decanting can help, and extensive decanting of young Southern Rhones is always recommended. Notice I said extensive -as short decants can actually cause some of these wines to shut down. In fact many of these wines can and will taste better the following day. Even better, is giving these wines a chance to age in bottle. So while everyone's attention is being diverted to the great 97 vintage, I actually started to search for some earlier vintages -after all we want something to drink while we give the 2007's a few years in the bottle to settle down. Today's wine was such a find, from the 2005 vintage -an excellent year in it's own right...

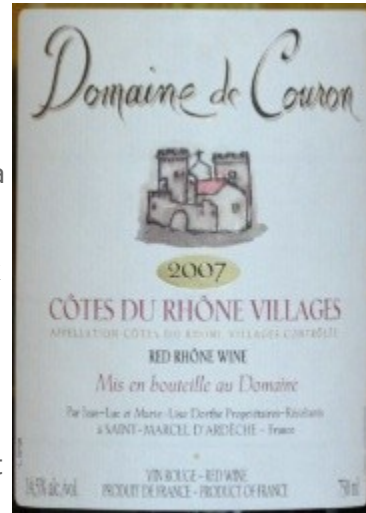
## **\$\$\$ Today's Wine Deal \$\$\$**

**DOMAINE de COURON Côtés du Rhône Villages 2005 \$18- (note; this is not the regular CDR which is often priced lower).**

(NOTE: Label borrowed from 2007 vintage.)

It's remarkable that a wine so modestly priced can exhibit such a complex profile -a combination of dark fruit, a hint of earthiness, some nice notes of minerality & spice all in a smooth package that remains balanced and very food friendly. It's one of those wines you will enjoy over an evening and where the last glass will be the tastiest. Drink now & over the next 2-3 years but I doubt it will stick around.

A favorite from this vintage, this is a wine which is entering a great drinking window -long gone from the distribution channels, I managed to locate a small stash which was stored in ideal conditions, and we are offering it here based on the original price - Very limited act fast.



### **Events:**

The people's fair is on this weekend, After all the funky weather we have had lately this may be the perfect antidote to cabin fever more info at: [Peoples Fair](#)

**Thanks for all your support and referrals.**

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

*Paul David*, Chief Fermented Grape Taster.

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