

Domaine de la Charbonnière

Stephen Tanzer's
INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

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Vintage 2006/2005

By Josh Raynolds

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2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Chateuneuf du Pape Blanc

Pale gold. Dusty citrus and green apple on the nose, with subtle licorice and green tea accents. Juicy pit fruit flavors give this wine a refreshing personality, with the finish lifted by good mineral snap. Became more bitter with air but maintained freshness. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA)

88

2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Vacqueyras

Dark purple. Smoky blackberry, kirsch and licorice on the seductively aromatic nose. Deep and sweet on the palate, offering well-delineated dark fruit liqueur flavors, chewy tannins and a bright jolt of cracked pepper. Became more bitter with air, but stayed fresh. Give this a little time.

89(+?)

2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Vacqueyras Cuvee Speciale

Ruby-red. Pungent cherry and musky garrigue on the nose, picking up black olive and rose with air. Bright, medium-weight cherry and anise flavors are enlivened by spicy mineral and cracked pepper qualities, which give the finish good sappy length and grip. Reminded me of a tangy version of a topnotch Bandol-but this is a 50/50 blend of grenache and syrah.

90(+?)

2005 Domaine de la Charbonniere Vacqueyras

(\$26) Dark red. Fresh red and dark berry aromas are complicated by smoky herbs and tobacco. Chewy cherry and blackcurrant flavors are gently firmed by youthful tannins, which are subsumed by the finishing fruit. This has gained weight since last year.

89

2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Murre des Perdrix

Dark ruby. Spicy red berry and floral aromas are complicated by white pepper and dusty minerals. Luscious red berry preserve flavors offer very good depth and finish with good cut and thrust. Shows some fine-grained tannins with air, suggesting it will need a little time.

89-92

2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Vieilles Vignes

Ruby-red. Sexy aromas of red berry liqueur, rose and lavender, with a cracked pepper quality adding verve. Velvety red fruit flavors possess very good depth and sweetness, finishing with gentle tannic grip and impressive length. This will be delicious young.

90-93

2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Speciale Les Hautes Brusquieres

Deep ruby. Exotically perfumed aromas of spicy red and dark berries complicated by incense and garrigue. Nicely balanced raspberry and cassis flavors are enlivened by baking spices and tangy minerality. This elegant wine finishes sweet and long.

91-94

2005 Domaine de la Charbonniere Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Murre des Perdrix

(\$43) Deep red. Seductively aromatic nose offers vibrant strawberry and raspberry scents along with fresh flowers and minerals. Shows pinot-like clarity to its sweet red fruit flavors and finishes long and sappy. This medium-bodied wine is already very attractive.

92

2005 Domaine de la Charbonniere Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Vieilles Vignes

(\$54) Ruby-red. Fresh red and dark berry preserve aromas, with subtle floral and herbal qualities adding complexity. Tangy strawberry and raspberry flavors are firm by dusty tannins and turn sweeter on the finish. This has softened since I tried it from barrel last year.

90

2005 Domaine de la Charbonniere Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Speciale Les Hautes Brusquieres

(\$54) Saturated ruby. Hugely complex bouquet of ripe dark berries, kirsch, game and garrigue. Round and sweet, with deep raspberry and black cherry flavors, lightly chewy tannins and a long, sappy finish. You could drink this now, but it will repay cellaring. (Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA)

93
