



The Independent Consumer's Guide to Fine Wines

2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Vacqueyras

Rating: (88-90)

Drink: -

My favorite by far is the regular Vacqueyras, which is a blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah, aged in foudres and in stainless steel tanks. The wine displays gorgeously pure fruit, a deep ruby/purple color, and sweet kirsch, raspberry, cedar, and spice box notes in a medium to full-bodied, ripe, enormously charming style.

I have long applauded the Vacqueyras from Michel Maret, even though he is better known for his superb Chateauneuf du Papes. He only has about 10-plus acres in Vacqueyras, all on the high plateau called Les Haute Garrigues in the sector known as Sarrians, which is regarded as the tenderloin of Vacqueyras.

Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel. (510) 524-1524...

- Robert Parker (February, 2008)

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2005 Domaine de la Charbonniere Vacqueyras

Rating: 90

Drink: -

The 2005 Vacqueyras (60% Grenache and 40% Syrah) is superb. Deep ruby/plum color with notes of pine forest intermixed with pepper, licorice, sweet cherries, plum, and a hint of truffle, it is medium to full-bodied, dense, rich, and best drunk over the next 5-7 years.

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2006 Domaine de la Charbonniere Vacqueyras Cuvee Speciale

Rating: (86-87)

Drink: -

The 2006 Vacqueyras Cuvee Speciale, which is equal parts Syrah and Grenache, came across as much more monolithic and lacking some of the Provencal typicity he routinely achieves. We'll see how it ages when I get a chance to taste it from bottle.

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