

Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf du Pape 2007 91/100

is an exceptionally strong effort. It's a dense, full-bodied wine revealing an inky/purple color along with notes of graphite, blackberries and cassis. With a sumptuous, layered, full-bodied texture, sweet, velvety tannins and zesty freshness as well as acidity. It should drink well for 12-14 years.

Domaine Grand Veneur Châteauneuf du Pape Les Origines 2007 96/100

Is somewhat of an anomaly with such an amount of new oak, but it never seems to show given the wine's concentration and richness. This may be the finest example of this cuvee, which generally represents 1200-1500 cases, all from their holdings in the northern sector of the appellation. A saturated purple color is accompanied by aromas of smoke camphor, crème de cassis, licorice, and blueberries, amazing concentration, a full-bodied texture, and a stunningly long finish. The tannins are present, but silky, and the vintage's freshness and vibrant fruit are evident. Powerful and loaded with substance, but at the same time endearingly elegant and ethereal, it will benefit from another 2-3 years of bottle age, and should drink well for 15+.

Domaine Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Blanc de Viognier 2008 90/100

While Viognier from the south can be a little heavy handed, that is not the case here. Flowery, honeysuckle, apricot, and peach marmalade notes are followed by a medium-bodied wine with good acidity, beautiful fruit, and a long finish.

Dom. Grand Veneur Côtes du Rhône Villages Les Champavins 2007 91/100

Is a serious effort that could easily be mistaken for a Châteauneuf du Pape. Sweet black cherry fruit, seaweed wrapper, licorice, pepper and spice aromas are followed by a wine with a broad, savory mouthfeel, sweet tannin, and a long finish.