Good Evening, I hope all is well with you. Things are going good here at your local wine shop! We are planning our Seafood, Wine & Blues Festival for Sunday, August 17th from 1-4 P.M. Please see attached flyer then mark your calendar!

In the mean time join us Friday, July 25th for our Southern Rhone Tasting Time: 4-8 P.M. Cost: Full Pour \$22 Half Pour \$13

The Wines:

2012 Paul Autard Cotes du Rhone \$14.50

Ruby-red, ripe cherry and plum aromas and flavors are complemented by dried flowers and licorice. In a big, fleshy style, finishing with good breadth and a touch of lingering warmth.

2010 E.A.R.L Burle Vacqueyras \$19

Vacqueyras wines are blends of Grenache and Syrah and are often considered qualitatively equal to Chateauneuf-du-Pape without the Chateauneuf-du-Pape price. This wine is from a quirky, artisan estate that makes excellent wines at great prices. This Vacqueyras is sensational, powerfully built, peppery, spicy, packed with black fruits, generous, rustic and very much typical of Vacqueyras.

2010 Domaine Le Couroulu Vacqueyras Cuvee Classique \$23

Two spectacular Vacqueyras were also produced in 2010. Both are black as a moonless night with lots of blueberry and blackberry fruit. The 2010 Vacqueyras Cuvee Classique, a blend of 60% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 15% Mourvedre aged in cement tanks, is more evolved with good acidity, terrific focus and unbelievable concentration for a wine that sells for under 10 euros at the domaine.

92-94 Robert Parker

2009 E. Guigal Gigondas \$34

The excellent 2009 Gigondas (a blend of 70% Grenache, 25% Mourvedre and 5% Syrah) is a ripe, earthy effort displaying peppery notes intermixed with garrigue, blueberries and black raspberries, super fruit (a characteristic of

this vintage), low acidity and attractive lushness as well as density. It should drink nicely for a decade.

91 Robert Parker

2011 Domiane le Sang des Cailloux Vacqueyras \$35.

Also outstanding, with crunchy black cherry, licorice, ground herbs and saddle leather, the 2011 Vacqueyras Cuvee Lopy is medium-bodied, nicely concentrated (especially in the vintage) and has a focused, firm feel on the finish. It will develop nicely over the coming couple of years and have a decade of longevity. Drink 2014-2021. **91 Robert Parker (Kermit Lynch import)**

2010 Domaine Berthet-Rayne Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Cadiac \$50

A fabulous effort, the 2010 Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvee Cadiac is made from a blend similar to the 2011's. Its opaque purple color is followed by gorgeous aromas of sweet black currants, truffles, forest floor, kirsch, licorice and roasted herbs. Dense and full-bodied with laser-like precision and very good acidity in its multidimensional finish, it will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring, and should last for two decades. **94 Points Robert Parker**

This estate's 36+ acres are all located in the northern tier of Chateauneuf du Pape, in such well-known vineyard sites (or, as the French call them, lieuxdits) as Chapouin, Coudoulet and La Gardiole. For years, most of Berthet-Rayne's wine was sold to leading negociants, and while some still is, they now produce about 2,000 cases of their traditional cuvee of Chateauneuf du Pape, followed by just under 1,000 cases of an oak-aged cuvee and 200 or so cases of a luxuriously rich offering called Cadiac. The 2011s are very good. The bottled 2010s have turned out to be as good as I thought they were last year.

Cheers!

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