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FEBRUARY 28, 2006

ALSACE

# Clos Ste. Hune

*The Greatest Offering Ever for Trimbach's Immortal White*

The Trimbach family's tiny 3-acre Clos Ste. Hune produces not just Alsace's greatest wine, but one of the most revered wines of France.

The Clos lies within the Rosacker *grand cru*. Yet, the Trimbachs label their treasure simply as Clos Ste. Hune, just as they have since 1919. They refer to neither Rosacker nor *grand cru*; Clos Ste. Hune transcends both. It is *hors classé* in the same way that Ch. d'Yquem is in Sauternes.

## A Unique Terroir

Arguably the most perfect place in France to grow Riesling, Clos Ste. Hune stands apart from Alsace's other top Riesling vineyards, which rely on steep slopes and heat-retaining granite or schist soil to bring their fruit to full ripeness. In contrast, Clos Ste. Hune's 40-year-old vines are planted in cool, calcareous-clay soil with a gentle incline and a high percentage of limestone.

So, while other famous Alsace Rieslings can sometimes border on heaviness, Clos Ste. Hune balances its enveloping richness with an intense minerality, remarkable finesse and great structure. Thus, like a Raveneau *grand cru* Chablis, the more it ages, the more profound Clos Ste. Hune becomes.

## One Master

Clos Ste. Hune has for more than two centuries



*The Hunawibr church pictured  
on Clos Ste. Hune's label.*

enjoyed the undivided attention of one of France's greatest winemaking families. Staunch traditionalists, the Trimbachs reject their neighbors' recent efforts to make sweeter, lusher wines. They continue to make Clos Ste. Hune as they did in the past: a cool, slow fermentation, a quick racking to remove the wine from the lees, no malolactic fermentation and a short period of aging in neutral wood *foudre* before bottling early to retain the fruit. The wine is then aged for an incredible five years in bottle before being released.

In great years, tiny amounts of *Vendange Tardive* are made, but they are different from other VT's. They result not from *botrytis* but *passerillage*—dehydration caused by the sap returning to the vines root system. They boast immense concentration and complexity, but only off-dry levels of residual sugar, as Trimbach vinifies them to be as dry as possible. Like other Clos Ste. Hunes, the VT's are capable of immortality.

## Unrivalled Consistency

But what makes Clos Ste. Hune most extraordinary is its consistency, having established a record of greatness over the last 86 years that is unequalled in Alsace. As Tom Stevenson writes in *The Wines of Alsace*, "I cannot think of any Alsace Riesling that could match its performance year-in, year-out over a span of, say, 40 vintages. It is the consistency of performance that establishes the greatness of a growth." ►

# ALSACE

## The Legend of Clos Ste. Hune

► Even in average years like 1986, Clos Ste-Hune is stunningly aromatic, complex and capable of long development. Such a track record shows the advantage of this vineyard as a Trimbach monopole; with a deep understanding of the site's potential, the Trimbachs clearly relish their role as steward of this historic *cru*.

With only 500 to 600 cases made, and demand far exceeding supply, even current vintages of Clos Ste. Hune



can be excruciatingly difficult to find. As for older vintages, these can be *impossible*.

Thus, the offer that follows is, in all probability, unique. It has taken more than three years to assemble and has taken us to some of the finest cellars in Europe. Every bottle is of perfect provenance.

It's a great honor to present this encyclopedic offer of one of the world's transcendent wines.

### 2000 Clos Ste. Hune

**95+ Tanzer 94 Rovani**

**\$145.00** *bt.* **\$75.00** *half bt.*



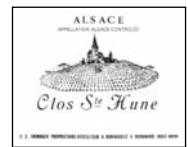
Tanzer: "Superripe ... deep, large-scaled ... with penetrating flavors of crystallized grapefruit and pineapple and a repeating note of coconut. Like an essence of stone, with brisk acids giving the wine superb verve."

Rovani: "Should rival some of the greatest Clos Ste. Hunes."

### 1998 Clos Ste. Hune

**95 Pierre Rovani**

**\$139.95**



Pierre Rovani: "... a spectacular wine. It displays a magnificent aromatic purity, with complex herbal, mineral, and crisp pear scents ... awesomely broad, powerful, and harmonious ... silky-textured and breathtakingly intense."

### 1999 Clos Ste. Hune

**95 Parker**

**\$145.00**



Parker in the *Hedonist's Gazette*: "... may be the finest produced since the 1990. An extraordinarily rich wine, it offered notes of honeyed citrus, cold steel, green apples, and candied lemons as well as oranges."



### 1997 Clos Ste. Hune

**94 Parker 94+ Tanzer**

**\$139.95**

Tanzer: "... chalky, minerally nose ... Quite dense and tactile. Then very long and ripe ... conveys an impression of crunchy, minerally austerity."

Parker: "... flavors of peaches, perfume, chalk, and honeysuckle blossoms ... extraordinarily rich ... one of the finest Clos Ste. Hunes of the decade."

### 1996 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 159.95

Tanzer: "95+ rating ... Uncanny combination of ripeness and sheer mineral cut ... wonderful vibrancy ... a must purchase for serious riesling lovers ...."

*Riesling Report*: "96+ rating ... a great Clos Ste. Hune."

*Wine Spectator*: "96 rating ... a great Riesling ...."

### 1995 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 149.95

Parker: "94 rating ... one the greatest wines to have been crafted from this tiny monopole ... its mind-numbing richness and concentration are holding back enormous reserves ... a riveting wine, with untold complexity, power, and precision."

### 1994 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 165.00

John Gilman: "95 rating ... should ultimately rate up towards the top of the extraordinary run of vintages that the 1990s produced ... outstanding structure, impeccable focus and a huge soil-driven finish ...."

### 1993 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 139.95

### 1993 Clos Ste. Hune *half bottle* ..... 75.00

Michael Broadbent: "★★★."

### 1992 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 135.00

*Wine Spectator*: "93 rating. Gorgeous—Alsace Riesling at its best ... at once fresh, intense and complex ...."

### 1991 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 145.00

*Wine Spectator*: "94 rating. The essence of French Riesling. Ripe, with honey, floral, apple and stone aromas and flavors, yet powerful and sporting a steel-girder construction ... poised to last forever."

### 1990 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 245.00

Robert Parker in the *Hedonist's Gazette*: "98 rating"

*Riesling Report*: "94+ rating. Richly resonant ... a very compelling wine that should develop superb complexity over a very long life."

ALSACE

Clos Ste. Hune 1973-1989

1986 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 195.00

Riesling Report: "92 rating ... complex layers of aroma ... the signature minerality ... emerges with force given some time in the glass."

Tom Stevenson: "Huge concentration ... astonishing wine."

1983 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 265.00

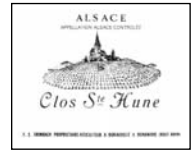
Parker: "96 rating. One of the greatest vintages ... this is about as big, rich, and dry as Riesling can get. It should drink well for another 20+ years."

Tanzer: "94+ rating ... Bright, very intense, and loaded with extract ... great richness ... stains the palate."

1982 Clos Ste. Hune ..... 175.00

Tom Stevenson: "Attractive nose and nice, citrusy fruit on mid-palate ... very good ...."

1973 Clos Ste. Hune  
92 Tanzer 95 Gilman  
\$325.00



Tanzer: "... a marvelous silky texture and resilience ... impeccably balanced ... absolutely classic...."

John Gilman: "... magnificent ... otherworldly ... has years and years to go before it loses any of its magic."

Tom Stevenson: "... most devotees of the Riesling would probably not be able to imagine a greater example of the variety."

The Vendanges Tardives

1989 Clos Ste. Hune VT  
97+ Tanzer

\$285.00 bt. \$145.00 half bt.



Steve Tanzer: "Superconcentrated ... This lasts on the palate until the next wine—whenever that happens to come along ... Destined to be a legendary Clos Ste. Hune: buy it before it disappears."

1983 Clos Ste. Hune VT  
95+ Tanzer  
\$325.00 bt.



Steve Tanzer: "Lemon cream nose, with a tangy apricot hint. Tactile and thick with extract; a huge, just off-dry wine with explosive fruit and uncanny freshness ... Powerful fruit clings to the palate."

Marc Morey  
A White Burgundy Icon

"Creamy, honeyed textures, and a style not far removed from one of the great masters of white Burgundy, Michel Niellon."

Parker on Domaine Marc Morey



There are several Moreys in white Burgundy, but the greatest is arguably Marc Morey—the source of several stunningly elegant Chassagne-Montrachets, and a very

rare and great Batard Montrachet, made from a parcel just .14 hectare in size!

Morey produces incredibly pure and expressive wines, thanks to a regimen that includes only about 25% new oak. In addition to the rarely seen Batard, Mor-

ey's top wines are the two Chassagne 1er crus, Morgeot and Virondots. We are pleased to offer all three of these elusive whites from the great 2002 vintage.

2002 Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru Morgeots .... 59.95

Rovani: "92 rating ... deeply spicy, almond-scented ... broad, concentrated ... it bastes the palate with lively pears, apples, and spices. Its exceptionally long, expressive finish reveals more layers of clove-studded apples."

2002 Chassagne Montrachet 1er Cru Virondots ..... 59.95

Tanzer: "92 rating ... Fat, broad, full and rich, with impressive volume and breadth. Soil-inflected flavors of truffle, herbs, nuts and minerals ... There's a lot of wine here."

2002 Batard Montrachet ..... 169.95

Tanzer: "93 rating ... Deep, extremely ripe, carnal nose hints at peach, menthol, honey, nut meal and truffle. Dense, thick and chewy ... a superb combination of creaminess and balance."

VENETO

# Dal Forno

*New Releases at Incredible Prices ... Plus Rarities from the Past*

Few wines have the majesty of the greatest Amarones. And the man whose Amarones are today widely considered the best is Romano Dal Forno.



Romano Dal Forno

Indeed, Dal Forno can largely be credited for having elevated the making of *all* the Veneto reds—Amarone, Recioto and Valpolicella—to levels not previously dreamed of. He took the basic elements of the region's winemaking and pushed the envelope, extending what were previously considered their limits.

For his off-the-charts Amarone, he extended the traditional grape drying to achieve maximum concentration. He also increased the time in wood to four or five years. And for his magnificent Valpolicella he added 10-20% of Amarone to the blend. In Robert Parker's words, his recent vintages have reached "new levels of extract and richness."

Dal Forno's wines are not only the region's most

intense, they are also the most expensive, with his Amarone selling for \$400 and his Valpolicella for \$100. Yet, so strong is the demand, and so small is the production, that his wines disappear into collectors' cellars—seldom ever reappearing.

**This Offer**

Dal Forno's newest releases—1999 Amarone, 2000 Valpolicella and 1997 Nettare—have not yet been reviewed in the U.S. press, but reviews for the first two appeared in the *Veronelli Guide* last year. Needless to say, both wines continue the string of huge successes for this brilliant winemaker.

We are pleased to offer these wines at prices that are possibly *the lowest in America*. And to these we are pleased to add a selection of Dal Forno's greatest triumphs from the past.

**2000 Dal Forno Valpolicella  
93 Veronelli**

**\$65.00 bt. \$760.00 cs.**

*Veronelli*: "Romano Dal Forno's Valpolicella bottling regularly shows an intensity, muscularity and length which most Amarone cannot match." We are pleased to offer the outstanding 2000 at a far-below-market price.



**1999 Dal Forno Amarone  
97 Veronelli  
\$265.00**

The Holy Grail for Amarone lovers at the lowest price around. Hurry; quantities are extremely limited.

**1997 Dal Forno Nettare  
\$79.95 half bottle**

Dal Forno's great dessert wine. Each year he late-harvests three varieties of white grapes, which he air-dries on mats before being pressed and fermented. The 1997 Nettare is sensational, boasting wonderful richness and complex flavors of spring flowers and ripe melon to tea and herbs. A unique dessert wine.

*Dal Forno Rarities*

- 1998 Dal Forno Amarone .....295.00**  
Daniel Thomases: "96 rating ... a supreme example of this wine, almost overwhelming in its aromatic impact."
- 1997 Dal Forno Amarone .....395.00**  
Parker: "99 rating ... outrageous ... the stuff of legends!"
- 1996 Dal Forno Amarone .....399.95**  
Parker: "99 rating ... virtually perfect ... monumental intensity and richness ... should be unbelievably long-lived."
- 1995 Dal Forno Amarone .....325.00**  
Parker: "98 rating...reminiscent of super-concentrated black-berry liqueur infused with incense, smoke, and minerals."

- 1994 Dal Forno Amarone .....325.00**
- 1994 Dal Forno Amarone Magnum .....650.00**  
Parker: "97 rating ... reaches new levels of extract and richness ...."
- 1993 Dal Forno Amarone .....295.00**
- 1990 Dal Forno Amarone Magnum .....850.00**

**Rarest Recioto**

- 1988 Dal Forno Recioto Half Bottle .....195.00**  
Parker: "96+ rating ... mindboggling ... exceptionally rich ... legendary ...."

# CHAMPAGNE

## Le Mesnil

### *An Incredibly Priced New Champagne from a Mythic Cru*

A century ago, Aimé Salon set out to realize his dream of a perfectly balanced, mono-cru and mono-varietal Champagne from Chardonnay. And it was no accident that he chose the village of Le Mesnil-sur-Oger to produce his wine.

One of the Côte de Blanc's three great grand crus, Le Mesnil has, in the words of Richard Juhlin, "for a long time been regarded as the best of all." What Salon knew was that Le Mesnil's Chardonnay is a special clone that has developed there over time. As great as Cramant and Avize can be, Le Mesnil's special combination of richness, penetrating floral and mineral perfume, and finesse are unmatched. For the cognoscenti, it is the very essence of Chardonnay from the Côte des Blancs.

#### Elusive Examples

But Le Mesnil mono-crus remain rare. Salon and its rival, Krug's Clos du Mesnil, are made in tiny quantities, hence their scarcity and very high prices. Even Le Mesnil's lesser-known grower Champagnes are not common, with Blanc de Blancs enthusiasts scouring the market for a few bottles.

We, too, have long been captivated by the wonderful qualities of Le Mesnil Champagne—the astonishing perfume, refined structure and profound minerality. We are in total agreement with those who say that this village, more than any other, offers the most perfect *terroir* for mono-cru, mono-varietal Champagne.

And so when we decided a year ago to pursue our own dream of an affordable *terroir*-based Champagne under The Rare Wine Co. label, we thought first of Le Mesnil. Fortunately, many of the village's small growers have, since the Depression, worked together as the Union des Propriétaires-Récoltants (UPR), building a formidable reputation for quality.

#### Due Diligence

We visited not once, but twice, early last year to assess the UPR's ability to give us the wine we wanted. We learned that not only do they work exclusively with grapes from Le Mesnil, including plots adja-



Grand Cru vineyards in June, with the village of Le Mesnil in the background.

cent to Salon's, but their standards rival those of Champagne's elite.

The UPR is proud, in particular, of its vineyard program of *lutte raisonnée*, where treatments are applied only as needed, rather than by rote. They also practice green harvesting to reduce yields and achieve greater

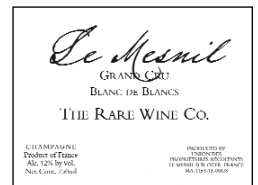
ripeness, rare for Champagne, where high yields are the norm.

The high quality of the UPR's fruit is evident in the floral, ripe green apple character of the *vins clairs* tasted from tank. Once vinified, the wines are aged for three to four years on the lees before disgorgement, an approach usually reserved for vintage wines, and then an additional six months in bottle before release.

#### A Remarkable Champagne

As we did with our acclaimed Historic Series Madeiras, our goal was to create a wine of great character and typicity, but at an affordable price. To this end, we carefully selected lots with the unique depth, perfume and finesse of Le Mesnil. Beautifully balanced and wonderfully nuanced now, it will develop even greater complexity with further aging. A phenomenal bargain.

**Le Mesnil Grand Cru  
Blanc de Blancs  
The Rare Wine Co.  
\$29.95 *bt.* \$330.00 *cs.***



This inaugural release of our Le Mesnil Grand Cru is a joy from start to finish. The nose is already beginning to develop the toast and brown butter notes of aged Blanc de Blancs, while the palate offers the quintessential Le Mesnil core of concentrated green apple fruit, apple blossom and wet chalk. The texture is creamy and the palate impression generous, yet it is focused by excellent balancing acidity, with the complex yeast derived nuances usually found only in top vintage Champagne. It's with a great deal of pride that we offer this exceptional Champagne value.

# Russian River Redux

*Lutea Rekindles the Magic of Legendary Early California Pinot Noirs*

Sometimes, great wine springs from an unexpected place. In the 1980s, California Pinot Noir was in search of itself, and had not yet found its providential home. But then three Russian River Valley producers, Williams Selyem, Gary Farrell and Rochioli suddenly began to make Pinot with the haunting perfume, silky texture, firm structure and finesse of great red Burgundy.



*The Russian River*

We fondly remember our first encounters with these wines in small restaurants in the Russian River area around 1990. Suggested by knowledgeable waiters, the wines were an epiphany: naturally ripe, supple and juicy, yet elegant, delicate and complex with a magical balance of plum and black cherry fruit and brown spice, earth and forest floor aromas and flavors. They proved that Pinot Noir expressing both varietal character and *terroir* could be produced in this area.

In recent years, such wines have become elusive. The region's growing fame caused a boom in planting; there are now Russian River Pinots under a bewildering number of labels. This, coupled with the trend for over-ripe, highly extracted wines aged in a high percentage of new oak, has made it a challenge to find Pinot Noirs with the qualities we loved in the early Williams Selyem, Gary Farrell and Rochioli wines.

## Lutea

So, our discovery of Suzanne Hagins' Lutea has been a revelation. Her objective is to make *pure* Russian River Pinot, shunning what she describes as "over-ripe and over-oaked pinot noirs."

From a vineyard near Sebastopol, Suzanne's wine is a throwback to earlier times. Gently vinified, and aged in two-year-old French oak barrels, the silky texture, bright fruit and aromas of earth and spice are textbook characteristics of Pinot Noir grown in the appellation's fine Goldridge sandy loam.

Suzanne's minimalist winemaking philosophy compels her to work only with grapes grown organically or biodynamically, making balanced wine that fully expresses the fruit. Her technique was developed through her work first at the famed Domaine Comte Armand in Pommard, and then at DeLoach Vineyards, David Bruce and Goldeneye in California.

## An Auspicious Start

In Lutea's inaugural 2004 vintage, the fruit was picked early in the day on September 15th—ensuring that the grapes were cool upon arrival at the winery. They were then carefully sorted, de-stemmed, given a five-day cold soak and a ten-day fermentation in small, open-top fermenters, and gently basket pressed. The production was tiny, only 125 cases, and the price for the quality is stunning. It's an honor to offer the first release of this beautifully pure expression of Russian River Valley Pinot Noir.

**2004 Lutea Pinot Noir**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**\$29.95**



Seductive aromas of cherry, clove and hints of mint lead to a palate that is soft, creamy and long, featuring varietally rich spicy plum and red fruit flavors. The mouthfeel is supple and polished; the intensity of fruit is pure and expressive, and the acidity is buoyant. Balance and perfume is everything in this elegant, highly expressive Pinot Noir—a wine that will be a treat to drink over the next 3 to 5 years.

## *Dumol's Elite Chardonnays* — Extremely Limited —

The Brilliant Andy Smith makes tiny quantities of his two top Chardonnays. It's an honor to offer both, albeit in very limited quantities.

**2003 Dumol Chardonnay "Chloe" ..... 55.95**

Parker: "94 rating ... tropical fruit, orange blossom, lemon zest, litchi, honeysuckle, and white peach characteristics. Well-structured, ripe, and full, it can be enjoyed over the next 5-6 years."

**2003 Dumol Chardonnay "Isobel" ..... 57.95**

Parker: "94 rating ... aromas of lemon oil, crushed rocks, wet steel, nectarine, brioche, and honeysuckle. Rich, full-bodied, fresh, vivacious as well as long and persistent in the mouth, it should drink well for 5-6 years."

## TUSCANY

# 2001 Brunello

## *A Great Vintage*

Tuscany's noble Brunello di Montalcino continues its hot streak. After a strong finish to the 1990s, Brunello appears to have scaled even greater heights in the first vintage of the new millennium.

Many growers are comparing 2001 to a composite of 1997 and 1999, offering the rich, lush fruit of 1997 and the structure of 1999. In fact, the best wines seem to offer something for everyone: early drinkability as well as superb aging potential.

The vintage derives its extraordinary quality from glorious weather throughout the summer and early



*The vineyards of Montalcino*

fall—on the heels of a yield-reducing spring frost. Thus, the best wines offer not only incredible ripeness, but superb concentration.

These 2001s are just beginning to be offered for sale; under Italian law they could not be sold before January 1st of this year. Consequently, the first offers and reviews are starting to arrive. There will undoubtedly be

plenty to tempt wine lovers over the next year or two.

Herewith our first offer: three superstars with stratospheric scores in the *Wine Spectator*. Quantities at these opening prices are very limited.

**2001 Fanti Brunello\***  
**96 Wine Spectator**  
**\$52.95**

*Wine Spectator*: "Fabulous aromas of blackberry, cherry, meat and dried flowers. Full-bodied, with masses of velvety tannins and loads of fruit. This is a blockbuster. This shows fabulous everything. Very close to the legendary 1999."

**2001 Casanova di Neri  
Brunello "Tenuta Nuova"\***  
**97 Wine Spectator**  
**\$53.95**

*Wine Spectator*: "Dark in color with intense blackberry, chocolate, and lightly toasted oak. Full-bodied and ultravelvety, with tannins that caress your palate. Vanilla, chocolate and berry. Goes on for minutes. Mind-blowing."

**2001 Siro Pacenti  
Brunello\***  
**97 Wine Spectator**  
**\$65.00**

*Wine Spectator*: "Pure fruit here with lots of currant and berry. Full-bodied, with loads of fruit and velvety tannins. Long and delicious. Needs time. Incredible wine. Breathtaking."

## *A Classic Expression of Aglianico*

While Aglianico has been grown in various parts of Basilicata for 3000 years, the grape found its classic expression on the slopes of Mount Vulture. Here the Paternoster family produces its Don Anselmo Riserva, a wine of remarkable character, thanks to the *terroir* and aging in old chestnut *botti* and barrels.

**2000 Paternoster Aglianico del Vulture  
"Don Anselmo Riserva"**  
**94 International Wine Cellar**  
**\$54.95 very limited**



Ian d'Agata in Steve Tanzer's *International Wine Cellar*: "Deep red with inky tones. Profoundly rich nose of cherry liqueur, milk chocolate, plum and blackberry. Extremely rich on the palate, leaving the mouth coated with gobs of red and black cherries and supple tannins. Absolutely seamless and wonderful ...."

Wines may be sold and delivered only to persons who are at least 21 years old. All wines are sold in California and title passes to the buyer in California. We make no representation to the legal rights of anyone to ship or import wines into any state outside of California. We are not responsible for typographical errors. All items and prices subject to availability. An \* indicates pre-arrival. Issued 16 times yearly. Copyright 2006 The Rare Wine Co.

# RIBERA DEL DUERO

## Ancient Vines

### The Profoundly Great and Rare Atauta Single-Cru Wines

Among all the new viticultural projects of Spain, none is proving more profound than Dominio de Atauta. Consisting of dozens of parcels of very old Tempranillo vines—many pre-phylloxera and ungrafted—Atauta represents some of the most remarkable *terroirs* not only in Spain, but the world.

As fine as Atauta's first three vintages were, the 2003s reach a new level. They have the breathtaking minerality and perfume of previous years, while delivering unprecedented richness thanks to the year's historic weather.

Winemaker Bertrand Sourdais produced four monu-



Atauta's ancient ungrafted vines.

mental *cuvées* in 2003. Three are the mythic single-cru wines of **La Mala**, **Valdegatiles** and **Llanos del Almendro**. Of these, only Valdegatiles has been reviewed in the U.S. (Parker rated it **96**.) But rest assured, La Mala and Llanos del Almendro—which Bertrand considers his best wine—are *at least* as amazing.

U.S. allocations for these three wines ranged from 7 to 14 cases, so few Americans will

ever have the chance to experience them. We are privileged to offer a small amount of each, along with a few cases of the amazing 2003 Atauta—itsself made from ungrafted 60-160 year-old vines.



#### 2003 La Mala ..... 110.00

The 100+ year old vines in La Mala appear to be a unique clone of

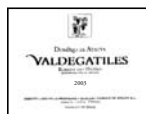
Tempranillo that disappeared in the 19th century. In 2003, the miniscule yields produced intensely concentrated, superbly balanced fruit that is nearly black in color. Certainly the most brooding and powerful Atauta 2003, it is a wine for the ages.



#### 2003 Llanos del Almendro ..... 135.00

In Bertrand Sourdais' view, this is Atauta's greatest wine. The 2003 Llanos offers

uncompromising richness and complexity—thus synthesizing the finest elements of the other two single-vineyard *cuvées*. While the 2002 was rated **98** points by France's Michel Bettane, the 2003 Llanos is even more profound. A monument to a noble *terroir*, it must be tasted to be believed.



#### 2003 Valdegatiles ..... 120.00

Parker: "**96** rating. Sadly, there are fewer than 100 cases of the 2003 Valdegatiles,

which comes from 100+ year old, ungrafted vines planted in sandy soils. This amazing, exotic Spanish red possesses fabulous concentration as well as an uplifted bouquet of camphor, blackberry liqueur, smoke, and grilled meats. Full and rich, but also exceptionally pure and delineated, it is a remarkable achievement."



#### 2003 Atauta ..... 35.95

Parker: "**92** rating ... from primarily ungrafted vines that exceed 60 years of age

... a sumptuous bouquet of espresso roast, crème de cassis, licorice, tar, and spice box. Rich and full-bodied, with remarkable style, grace, and elegance, and plenty of finesse and precision in the finish, it can be drunk over the next 8-10 years."

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February 28, 2006

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