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Subject: Southern Rhone Tasting Friday night
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**Good Evening, South Rhone Friday night! Come on down~
My October Newsletter will go our soon, Saturday we will be tasting the October
Cheap & Cheerful 6 from 12-4**

Our Special: Flank Steak with a Blueberry/Fig reduction Sauce

When: Friday, September 30th

Time: 4-8 PM

Cost: Full pour \$28 Half pour \$16

The Wines:

2013 Pallieres Gigondas Les Raciness \$50

The 2013 Gigondas Les Racines has more substance and offers lots of blackcurrant, crushed rock, leather and Gigondas spice-like aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, nicely concentrated and with plenty of tannin, it's an outstanding effort that will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and drink nicely through 2025. 91 Parker

2012 Chateau De La Gardine Traditions Chateauneuf-du-Pape \$40

Fresh, dark, ripe berries, herbs and spice are present all the way through until the kirsch finish kicks in. Blending 65% Grenache, 15% Mourvedre, 114% Syrah and 1% Muscardine

2014 Gramenon Poignee de Raisins \$25

Made from a blend of mostly Grenache, the 2014 Côtes du Rhône Poignee de Raisins exhibits a healthy ruby/purple color as well as considerable amounts of red and black fruits, wild herbs, pepper and leather. Medium-bodied, textured and balanced, with nicely integrated acidity and tons of character, drink it anytime over the coming 5-6 years. **89 Points Robert Parker**

2014 2014 Saint Roch Chimeres \$18

"The 2014 Côtes du Roussillon Villages Chimeres is mostly Grenache, yet includes 30% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre. Aged in a combination of concrete tank and demi-muid, it makes the most of this difficult vintage and have terrific purity in its raspberry, violet, licorice and olive-laced aromas and flavors. Ripe, nicely textured and with bright acidity, drink it over the coming 4-5 year 92 Wine Advocate

2014 Domaine Grands Bois Maximilien Cairanne \$20

Already in bottle, the 2014 Côtes du Rhône Cairanne Cuvee Maximilien is another rock solid release from this estate (which should be no surprise from anyone that follows The Wine Advocate). Made from 50% Grenache, 35% Mourvèdre and the balance Syrah, completely destemmed and aged all in tank (it sees no wood whatsoever), it has terrific ripeness in its black fruits, licorice, pepper and earthy/underbrush-like aromas and flavors. These give way to a medium to full-bodied, textured, beautifully concentrated and charming southern Rhone shows the vintage's forward style and will drink well for 5-6 years. 91

Points Robert

2012 Chateau De La Gardine Cotes du Rhone Villages \$21

In its current state, Chateau de la Gardine dates only back to 1947. However, the property has a much longer history in Chateauneuf du Pape dating all the way back to at least the early 1700's. When the estate was purchased by the well-known Brunel family in 1947, the vineyards were in poor shape after years of neglect and World War 2. At the time, the property included 10 hectares of vines.

The Brunel family, headed by Gaston Brunel began replanting the vineyards in their Southern Rhone Valley vineyards, expanding the estate and building the tower that is an important part of the landscape today. The winery was renovated again in 1989, this time with stainless steel fermenting tanks. Since purchasing the estate with its original 10 hectares of vines, the Brunel family has managed to grow the vineyards into their current 52 hectare size today. Currently, Chateau de la Gardine is managed by Marie-Odile Brunel.

While most estates in Chateauneuf du Pape have vines spread out over the appellation, that is not the case with Chateau de la Gardine as most of their vineyards are next to each other in the north west section of the appellation.

The 52 hectare vineyard of Chateau de la Gardine has a terroir of gravel, loam, limestone and pebble soil. The oldest vines were planted in 1925. 48 hectares are planted for the production of red Chateauneuf du Pape wine. 4 hectares are reserved for the white wine. The wines of Chateau de la Gardine are aged in a combination of small, French oak barrels and foudres.

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