

## 2009 Cabrieres Chateauneuf du Pape

Rating: (89-91)

Drink: 2012-2027

The 2009 Chateauneuf du Pape (which claims as a consultant the excellent oenologist Xavier Vignon) is a blend of 65% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 12% Mourvedre and the rest Cinsault, aged in a combination of foudres and small oak barrels. It is an impressive dark ruby/plum color, and is front-end loaded with black cherry and black currant fruit as well as hints of licorice, pepper, and spice box. A touch of toasty oak suggests some new wood barrels, but that is largely submerged beneath a cascade of rich, full-bodied, opulent fruit. With an enticing texture and some structure, this wine should be at its best in 2-3 years and drink well for 12-15.

This large estate, located on the high plateau of Mont Redon, has over 70 acres in vine and could be one of the leaders of the appellation. They continue to make excellent, sometimes outstanding wines, but they have not yet fully exploited this extraordinary terroir.

(Not yet released)

Importer: Margate Wine & Spirit Co., Atlantic City, NJ; tel. (609) 348-1100...

- Robert Parker (October, 2010)