



THE WINE FRONT



ABBOTTS & DELAUNAY Alto Stratus Carignan 2011

Rated : 95 Points

Carignan, when grown on old vines, in the right place, is a thing of great beauty. Importer: Fourth Wave Wine. Blueberry, licorice/fennel, some light oak influence, dried herb, gravel feel – taste those rocks – wild earth and sage perfume in the mouth – tannin running long into the finish. Beautiful. Short note. Amazing wine.



ABBOTTS & DELAUNAY Côtes du Roussillon Réserve 2011

Rated : 94 Points

Hey! You can laugh and scoff, as some of the cognoscenti do about wines from the Languedoc, but when you've seen the old vines, and tasted their fruit with an open mind, the best wines express their unique terroir better than most, with the bonus of being (still) ridiculously under-valued. So go now. Make hay. Syrah, Carignan, Grenache. Importer: Fourth Wave Wine

Lavender, aromatic dried herb and pepper, black and blue fruit. Minimal oak influence. Medium bodied, almost juicy, firm grainy tannin, bit of black jellybean richness, graphite and super length. Delicious. Ash on the finish. So much character and reflection of terroir here. Old vines. Crazy price. The best of the three 2011 Reserve wines for my tastes, though it's largely a decision of preference over quality.



ABBOTTS & DELAUNAY Corbières Réserve 2011

Rated : 94 Points

Blue fruit, sweet leather, spice, perfume, bit of liquorice – kiss of vanilla oak. Flush and plump with black fruit, spice, sweet tannin and some vanilla with plenty of length and oomph. Really good. Fresh blackcurrant aftertaste.



ABBOTTS & DELAUNAY Minervois Réserve 2011

Rated : 93 Points

Liquorice, black fruit, dried herb. Full bodied, lush, round tannin, some bitter herb flavours, chocolate and heaps of length. So yum and sexy. Combines richness and savoury/mineral flavours to great effect. So close to 94 points, but one of them had to take a bullet – liquorice or otherwise.



ABBOTTS & DELAUNAY Cumulo Nimbus Minervois 2011

Rated : 92 Points

Minervois: Interesting that the Reserve wines feature the region most proudly, and the SUPER Reserve wines feature the grape. Hmmm. Importer: Fourth Wave Wine
Some slight mint and vanilla oak, blackberry, blackcurrant, chocolate. Flush, full bodied, a lot of tannin and weight, furry feel, sweetness of oak and fruit. Plenty laid on. Some alcohol warmth. A lot of glory, but less charm. Dried herb and pretty decent carry. The showiest wine of the five 2011 A&D wines, and also the one with the least charm – though it's still good.