

Roussillon France

I think that Southern France in general offers a vast selection of great wines and Roussillon is one of the most interesting and homogenous regions that can make equally great white, red, and sweet wines. They are truly wines of the sun, but despite their richness and body they always manage to be balanced by a refreshing mineral character thanks to the stony slate soils.

ANDREAS LARSSON'S FOOD SUGGESTIONS

This tasting was a very positive surprise, I've tasted some of the wines before, but this was doubtlessly the biggest and most comprehensive tasting I have ever done. The sweet wines are amazingly versatile to pair with certain desserts. I love the old Rivesaltes with desserts based on walnuts and almonds or the young and fruity Maury and Banyuls with dark berries and chocolate

COLLIOURE WHITE

I LIKED

CLOS DE PAULILLES - 2007 - Pure, young and crunchy fruit, rather full-bodied, ripe yellow fruit, a balanced acidity, good length with some creamy notes and yellow fruit, pleasant and well-made.

DOMAINE MADELOC - CUVÉE TREMADOC - 2007

- Young and floral nose, yellow fruit, citrus, some creamy notes, the palate is fresh and zesty, some citrus/bitter notes, good length and freshness.

COLLIOURE RED

I LIKED

★ **DOMAINE DU MAS BLANC - JUNQUETS**

- 2006 - Fairly elegant nose, dark fruit character, blackcurrant, still young and austere palate, but good concentration and freshness, fine potential and length, keep for some time.

DOMAINE DE LA RECTORIE - COTE MER - 2007

- Very young with hints of freshly crushed berries, a gentle spiciness, medium-bodied and pleasant with a fruity aftertaste.

DOMAINE DE LA CASA BLANCA - 2007 - Dark fruits, plums, some mineral notes, the palate is rather full-bodied, young tannins, good freshness and dark fruit, medium to long finish.

DOMAINE BERTA - MAILLOL - BARRAL - 2007

- Quite sweet nose, dark cherries, some oak, good concentration, fine length, still young, vivid and modern styled.

DOMAINE MADELOC - CUVÉE MAGENCA - 2006

- Slightly oaked nose, dark fruit, plums and cherries, the palate is still young and monolithic, creamy with some new oak, medium length, needs some more time.

COTES DU ROUSSILLON WHITE

MY TOP PICKS

DOMAINE LAFAGE - CUVÉE CENTENAIRE - 2008

- Pure, fresh and aromatic nose, young fruit, minerals, good grip and bite, fine length, still young and austere, rich texture, bold on the aftertaste, will benefit from some more ageing.

DOMAINE DE BLANES - IMPRESSIONS - 2007

- Stony mineral nose, a light spiciness, fennel, young stone fruits, good structure on the palate, rich and unctuous, quite warm and rich aftertaste, good length and minerality, potent.

DOMAINE DE BLANES - IMPRESSIONS - 2006

- More aromatic and fruity, yellow fruit, minerals, nice bite on the palate, fresh and crisp with elegant fruit and a long mineral finish, well-balanced with a very good potential.

DOMAINE LAGUERRE - LE CISTE - 2006

- Some roasted oak, grilled almonds, ripe citrus, the palate is still young and firm, very good freshness, long finish, nice purity, still needs some time.

VIGNOBLES DOM BRIAL - CHATEAU LES PINS

- 2005 - Pure and mineral nose, young and zesty fruit, good grip and length, still young with delicate fruit and a nice mineral character, fine potential.

I LIKED

DOMAINE GARDIES - VIEILLES VIGNES - 2007

- Young and floral nose, some mineral notes, the palate has a good texture, dry and fresh with a mouth watering acidity, good length, will benefit from some more ageing.

DOMAINE PIQUEMAL - LES TERRES GRILLEES

- 2007 - Stony mineral notes, young white fruit, the palate shows generous fruit, round and unctuous, hints of melon, pear and a balanced freshness, quite long, nicely marked minerality.

DOMAINE DES CHENES - LES MAGDALENIENS

- 2006 - Sweet and aromatic nose, ripe fruit, round and full-bodied palate, mineral with a good sense of freshness, bold and long finish.

CHATEAU PLANERES - LA ROMANIE - 2006

- Sweet nose, with "fat" fruit, some waxy notes, the palate is broad and unctuous, balanced freshness, slightly heady finish.

COTES DU ROUSSILLON RED

MY TOP PICKS

★ **DOMAINE DE NIDOLERES - LA RAPHAELLE**

- 2006 - Dense and dark fruit, spicy with some complex notes, really full and structured on the palate, good length, dark fruit and a complex spiciness, long persistence, well-made with plenty of character.

DOMAINE DE NIDOLERES - LA PIERROUNE

- 2007 - Dark fruity on the nose, plums and blackberries, the palate is dense and tight, still young with a good structure, fresh dark berries and a good length, fine potential.

CLOS MASSOTTE - CORAIL D'AUTOMNE - 2007

- Very dark fruit, some volatile notes but well-balanced, the palate is really full, structured with well-integrated tannins, black fruit, some spicy notes, really long finish, plenty of character and concentration, needs time and decantation.

DOMAINE SINGLA - PASSE TEMPS - 2006

- Very dense and dark fruit, plums, figs, some hints of chocolate, the palate is dense and tight, good concentration, long persistence, still young and unresolved, fine spiciness and a touch of minerality, good potential.

DOMAINE ROSSIGNOL - LE GRAAL - 2006

- Generous nose, dark fruits a hint of new oak, spices and liquorice, the palate shows a good concentration with dark fruit and some "garrigue" notes, fine length, good potential.

DOMAINE DES TROIS ORRIS - LHUSANES - 2004

- Sweet fruit and some meaty notes, spices and pepper, structured with firm tannins, nice dark fruit, pepper, and a long finish, well-made, still with a good deal of potential, still young, will benefit from more ageing.

I LIKED

★ **DOMAINE MARCEVOL - PRESTIGE - 2005**

- Floral and dark fruity on the nose, freshly crushed berries, the palate shows a good freshness, crisp dark fruit, some spicy notes and a medium to long finish, well-balanced.

★ **MAS CREMAT - L'ENVIE - 2006**

- Generous and fruity, freshly crushed dark berries, spices and liquorice, the palate is still young and firm, fine density and fruit, good length.

★ **DOMAINE LAPORTE - DOMITIA - 2007**

- Dark fruits, some hints of oak, fine spiciness and juicy dark fruit on the palate, rich and full, good length, still young and austere but with a fine potential.

LES DOMAINES AURIOL - DOMAINE MIRABAU

CUVEE DES QUARTZS - 2007 - Pure and fruity, freshly crushed dark berries, generous and structured palate, balanced tannins, medium to long finish, well-made.

CHATEAU VALMY - CHATEAU VALMY - 2006

- Young and red fruity, some roasted notes, coffee beans, medium-bodied and fresh, still needs some more time.

LES VIGNERONS DE TERRATS - VILLARE JULIANI

- 2006 - Red berry fruit, some spicy notes, a gentle touch of oak, medium-bodied, fresh, rather accessible with a fruity aftertaste.

DOMAINE SALVAT - TAICHAC - 2006

- Young and fruity nose, fresh berries, a hint of oak and some creaminess, medium-bodied, generous, some creamy notes and fresh berries on the aftertaste.

CHATEAU DE CORNEILLA - CUVEE PRESTIGE

- 2006 - Some hints of "garrigue", red berries, fresh and crunchy fruit on the palate, balanced with a fairly long finish, well-made.

DOMAINE LAPORTE - SUMERIA - 2006

- Dark fruit on the nose, blackberry and cherry, some hints of oak on the palate, spicy and dense with a fine length.

CHATEAU LAURIGA - LE CHATEAU - 2005

- Sweet fruit, dark berries, some spicy notes, medium-bodied, well-integrated tannins, fresh with a fair length.

FRANCE - COTES DU ROUSSILLON

DOMAINE RIERE CADENE - DOMAINE RIERE CADENE - 2005 - Ripe dark fruit, a hint of oak, the palate is on the sweeter side, gentle and accessible, sweet dark fruit and some spicy notes on the aftertaste.

CHATEAU VALMY - LE PREMIER DE VALMY - 2005 - Some roasted notes, coffee beans, dark fruit, medium-bodied and meaty on the palate, a light smokiness, quite long finish.

DOMAINE PREDAL - L'ALOUETTE - 2004 - The nose is ripe and sweet, dark berries, a gentle spiciness, quite mature and ready to drink, medium-bodied, with a fair length.

DOMAINE SOL-PAYRE - ATER - 2004 - Fairly developed and sweet nose, round and gentle on the palate, red fruit, some herbal notes, medium length.

COTES DU ROUSSILLON LES ASPRES

MY TOP PICKS

★ **DOMAINE DES SOULANES - SARRAT DEL MAS - 2007** - Very fresh nose, dark berries, cherries, some spiciness and liquorice notes, very good length and freshness, excellent balance, drinks well already, yet with a fine potential.

DOMAINE LAFAGE - CUVÉE LEA FC - 2007 - Sweet dark fruit, some mineral notes, very dense and concentrated on the palate, finely grained tannins, good length and a long persistence, fine potential, well-made.

LES VIGNERONS DE TERRATS - PIERRES PLATES - 2006 - Ripe dark fruit, blackberries, mineral and fine spices, good structure, peppery with firm tannins, good length, still young, fine potential.

I LIKED

CLOT SAINT GEORGES - CUVÉE DE PIERRE - 2005 - Ripe and unctuous with layers of black fruit, structured and ample with firm tannins a well-balanced freshness and long persistence, still young with a good potential.

COTES DU ROUSSILLON VILLAGES

MY TOP PICKS

★ **LA PRECEPTORIE - COUME MARIE - 2006** - Inky dark fruit, blackcurrant and blackberries, very full and structured palate, nice purity, minerality and crisp dark fruit, very long and highly potent, nice complexity.

DOMAINE FONTANEL - TAUTAVEL PRIEURE - 2007 - Ripe and dark fruits on the nose, blackberries and some peppery notes, rich and full on the palate, still a little austere with firm tannins, although with a fine potential and long finish, should go on well.

DOMAINE SINGLA - CASTELL VELL - 2006 - Young and dark fruity nose, some new oak and spices, fine density, slightly austere at present with marked tannins, fine length, needs some more time to come around.

DOMAINE ARCADIE - 2006 - Dark berries, some oak and vanilla on the nose, the palate is dense and generous with ripe dark fruit, a hint of oak and spices, balanced but still young, really good length and potential, well-made.

DOMAINE CAZES - EGO - 2006 - Some earthy mineral notes, black fruit, a good level of freshness on the palate, dark ripe fruit, full-bodied with a very good length and purity, rich and heady on the finish but a fine material.

ARNAUD DE VILLENEUVE - INTENCIO - 2006 - Very dark fruit, some complex notes, spicy and dense palate, good density and length, still young and firm on the palate but with a good potential.

DOMAINE BOUDAU - PATRIMOINE - 2006 - Some new oak and spices, very dark fruit, immense concentration on the palate, still young and unresolved, plums, blackberries, vanilla and some new oak, good length, balanced tannins, should go on well but wait another few years.

DOMAINE POUDEROUX - TERRE BRUNE - 2006 - Very ripe and dark fruit, the palate is hugely concentrated, plenty of dark berries and some



spicy oak, still fairly tannic but no excesses, should round off the edges with some more time, good length.

DOMAINE FORCA REAL - LES HAUTS DE FORCA REAL - 2005 - Meaty, smoky, and spicy nose, grilled meat, blackberries, peppery and much more syrah-like, meaty and chewy with a good concentration, long finish and well-integrated tannins, fine potential.

DOMAINE DES CHENES - TAUTAVEL LA CARISSA - 2005 - Dark berries, mineral, a fine spiciness, the palate has a good concentration, some hints of oak and plenty of dark fruit, fine spiciness, well-integrated tannins, vivid and potent, still needs time.

DOMAINE MOUNIE - TAUTAVEL SYMPHONIE - 2005 - Some spicy new oak and dark fruit on the nose, well-balanced palate, fresh with dark berries, spicy with firm tannins, well-balanced with a very good length.

I LIKED

★ **VIGNOBLES DORNIER - CLOS D'AMOUR UN BAISER - 2005** - Dense and dark fruity nose, blackberry, spices and a touch of new oak, the palate is round and generous, accessible now with dark berries and some spicy oak, quite long.

★ **CLOT DE L'OUM - NUMERO UNO - 2006** - Dark fruity and mineral nose, blackberry, blackcurrant and some hints of new oak, the palate is full and shows crisp dark fruit, fresh with a good length, still young and austere but with a fine potential, the tannins still needs some time.

★ **DOMAINE GARDIES - TAUTAVEL LES FALAISES - 2006** - Intense nose, spicy, peppery and complex, dark fruits, blackberries and blackcurrant, the palate is firm, structured and long, the tannins are still present and slightly mouth drying, although with some more years of ageing the wine should be nicely balanced.

★ **DOMAINE DE LA COUME MAJOU - CUVÉE MAJOU - 2006** - Pure and fruity nose, hints of dark cherries, blackberry and fine spices, the palate is dense, tight and young, still on the austere side but with finely integrated tannins, good freshness and a medium long finish.

★ MAS CREMAT - CUVÉE BASTIEN - 2006

- More on the red fruit side, spicy with some herbal "garrigue" notes, the palate is balanced with sweet fruit, spices and integrated tannins, medium to long aftertaste, drinks well already.

CHATEAU DE CALADROY - CUVÉE LES SCHISTES

- 2007 - Freshly crushed berries on the nose, some herbal "garrigue" notes, medium-bodied, pleasant fruit and a spicy aftertaste.

MAS AMIEL - CARERADES - 2006 - A hint of new oak and vanilla, dark berries, the palate is rich and full generous dark fruit, spicy with a good length and some hints of oak, still on the tannic side, needs some more time.

LA PRECEPTORIE - COUME MARIE - 2006 - Wild berries, a gentle spiciness, the palate shows dense fruit, some plummy notes, medium-bodied and fresh, fine length, accessible, yet with some more potential.

DOMAINE SINGLA - CASTELL VELL - 2006 - Very ripe and dark fruit, some oak and spiciness, the palate is full, still on the tannic side, good material but slightly dry at present, needs some more time.

DOMAINE BOUCABEILLE - LES ORRIS - 2006 - Young and fruity nose, wild berries, a gentle spiciness, some mineral notes and liquorice, still young and firm, needs some more time.

DOMAINE MOUNIE - TAUTAVEL SYMPHONIE - 2006 - Young nose with hints of freshly crushed berries, medium-bodied with some spicy notes, good freshness, rather austere now, some spicy notes on the aftertaste.

CLOT DE L'OUM - LA COMPAGNIE DES PAPILLONS - 2006 - Smoky, meaty and dark fruity nose with hints of black pepper, dense and sweet fruit on the palate, still austere and extracted, medium-long finish.

DOMAINE PIQUEMAL - PYGMALION - 2006 - Good purity, mineral nose with freshly crushed berries, some more oak on the palate, creamy oak, some spiciness, medium length, still slightly marked by oak.

DOMAINE ARGUTIE - LE GRAND A D'ARGUTI - 2006 - More red fruity and herbal, hints of rosehips, medium-bodied, still with present tannins, could still need some more time.



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DOMAINE GARDIES - LA TORRE - 2006 - Spicy, complex, and dark fruity nose, the palate shows a good concentration, still rather tannic, balanced by a good freshness, spicy aftertaste.

DOMAINE LES TOURDELLES - PASSION VELOUTEE - 2005 - Quite developed and red fruity nose, herbs and "garrigue", medium-bodied with firm tannins and a fair length.

DOMAINE DE LA COUME MAJOU - CUVÉE MIQUELET - 2005 - Dark sweet berries and spice box on the nose, medium-bodied with red fruit and some herbal notes on the palate, fair length, quite developed and drinkable already.

SWEET WINES

MUSCAT DE RIVESALTES

MY TOP PICKS

DOMAINE LES TOURDELLES - 2008 - Pure and floral, a hint of minerality, good bite on the palate, sweet and unctuous, balanced by a good notion of freshness and mineral notes, good length, well-made and balanced.

DOMAINE CAZES - 2005 - More developed on the nose, yellow tropical fruit, honey, wax, the palate is sweet and fruity, balanced alcohol, long, enjoyable with an approaching complexity.

I LIKED

★ **MONT TAUCH** - More development, aromas of yellow fruit, almond paste, honey, balanced sweetness on the palate, well-integrated with a good length.

CHATEAU DE CORNEILLA - MUSCAT DE NOEL - 2008 - Floral and grapey nose, honey and sweet fruits, round and unctuous palate, warm with a gentle spiciness, good length.

LES DOMAINES AURIOL - Young, grassy and grapey, young fruit, citrus, rich and sweet palate, accessible and pleasurable.



RIVESALTES

MY TOP PICKS

DOMAINE BOUDAU - GRENAT SUR GRAINS - 2006 - Dark purple colour, dark fruit and freshly crushed berries, some peppery notes, the palate is young and vivid, it shows a fine sweetness, well-balanced tannins and some black pepper notes that adds a fine structure, good length, well-balanced, young, and crunchy.

CLOT SAINT GEORGES - TUILE HORS D'AGE - 1986 - Mature and developed on the rim and nose, it shows some volatile notes, dried fruits and nuts, the palate is mature, rich and mouth filling, complex nutty and savoury with a really long finish, high, but well-balanced alcohol.

DOMAINE ROSSIGNOL - AMBRE - 2004 - Deep golden colour, intense nose of wood, roasted almonds, dried fruits and honey, not really oxidized in style, the palate is rich and sweet, good structure and length, still feels fairly marked by wood, but it has a very fine structure and potential, very long finish.

DOMAINE FONTANEL - AMBRE - 1998 - Medium deep golden, more floral with a hint of oxidation, nuts and dried apricot, full and firm palate, balanced sweetness and a very long nutty aftertaste, fine complexity on the finish, structured and balanced.

LES VIGNERONS DE CASES DE PENE - VIEUX - HORS D'AGE - Mature colour, tawny towards brick nuance, the nose shows leather, chocolate and nuts, full-bodied with a medium sweetness, a touch of dry spices and a balanced acidity, very good length, warm and spicy finish, mature and complex.

DOMAINE RANCY - AMBRE - 4 ANS D'AGE - Mature and developed, oxidized and nutty nose, sherry-like with aromas of nougat and almonds, the palate is very full and structured, nutty with a high sweetness, mature and balanced with a good complexity and length, very tasty.

I LIKED

★ **DOMAINE BOUCABELLE - AMBRE - HORS D'AGE** - Deep golden colour, a hint of oxidation, glazed nuts honey and dried fruits, the palate is sweet and fairly strong, long and spicy finish.



★ **DOMAINE SARDA MALET - LE SERRAT - 2000** - More Muscat-like nose, perfumed and sweet fruity, developed with hints of dried apricot, the palate is medium sweet, it shows some maturity and a fine balance, spicy, nutty and rather long finish, nicely drinkable now.

ARNAUD DE VILLENEUVE - AMBRE - HA 1969 - Sweet nose of dried fruits and spice box, the palate is sweet and unctuous, round and balanced aftertaste, well-integrated alcohol.

MAURY

EXCEPTIONAL WINES

VIGNOBLES DORNIER - ALCOVE MUTAGE SUR GRAINS - 2006 - Freshly crushed dark fruit, dark chocolate and black pepper on the nose, very full-bodied and structured, finely integrated tannins, minerals and a fine spiciness, very concentrated dark fruit, immensely long finish, very well-made and potent.

MY TOP PICKS

★ **DOMAINE DU DERNIER BASTION - PREMIER PRINTEMPS MUTE SUR GRAINS - 2006** - Cedar wood, dark berries and spices on the nose, very dense and concentrated palate with dark fruit, silky tannins a fine spiciness and really long finish, finely balanced, still young but with a great potential.

★ **DOMAINE POUDEROUX - VENDANGE - 2007** - Floral and sweet nose with hits of prunes and chocolate, very full on the palate, dark fruit, well-balanced tannins and a good hint of minerality, very good length and a complex spiciness, well-made.

SCV MONT TAUCH - Dark fruit, plums, cherries, "garrigue" and pepper, very fine structure on the palate, finely tuned tannins and a balanced sweetness, spicy with a good length, doesn't get cloying or sweet, well-balanced alcohol, great potential.

DOMAINE DES SOULANES - 2007 - Young and dense, aromatic with some hints of wood, dark berries, vanilla and some mineral notes, still tight and unresolved but with an excellent density and length, potent and promising.

LA PRECEPTORIE - AURELIE MUTAGE SUR GRAINS - 2006 - Dark cherries, a touch of wood and spices, young dense and crunchy fruit with a high sweetness and present tannins, very spicy on the finish, still young and unresolved but highly potent.

DOMAINE DE BLANES - 2005 - "Garrigue", spices, and dark berries, the palate is medium sweet and underlined by refreshing tannins and a good freshness, spicy aftertaste, generous length.

DOMAINE DU DERNIER BASTION - HORS D'AGE PRESTIGE - 1990 - Very mature colour and nose, volatile and oxidized with complex aromas of spices, dried figs and walnuts, the palate is very rich and full, complex and lingering with dried fruit flavours, mature, complex and very long finish.

I LIKED

DOMAINE CALVET THUNEVIN - 2004 - Dark berries, prunes and some new wood on the nose, rich and full-bodied with a fairly high sweetness, well-made and fairly long finish with a fine spiciness.

MAS AMIEL - VINTAGE - 2007 - Dark fruits, cherries, prunes, and chocolate, the palate is sweet and generous, mild tannins, fruity with a fairly long finish.

DOMAINE DE BLANES - 2006 - More red fruity on the nose, almonds, cherries, some hints of wood, medium-bodied and fairly sweet, generous and fruity, moderate length.

BANYULS

MY TOP PICKS

★ **DOMAINE DE LA CASA BLANCA - 2007** - Very mineral nose, dark berries, spice and stony notes, rich palate with hints of chocolate coated dark fruit, a backbone of firm tannins, fairly high sweetness, really good length, complex and promising.



FRANCE - BANYULS

★ **L'ETOILE - GRAIN D'ETOILE** - Pepper, "garrigue", and dark berries, the palate is full, firm and mineral, balanced sweetness and a good notion of freshness, elegant and very long finish, more on the elegant side, superb balance.

DOMAINE BERTA - MAILLOL - RIMAGE - Dark prunes, freshly ground coffee and chocolate, very full-bodied and rich palate, still marked by a touch of oak but no excesses, good length and structure, young and unresolved, very fine potential.

LA RECTORIE - MUTE SUR GRAINS - 2007 - Dark berries and a lot of spicy "garrigue" notes, the palate is still young and firm, with present tannins, the sugar is well-imbedded, good length, fine potential.

I LIKED

CLOS DE PAULILLES - RIMAGE - 2006 - Slightly lighter style, more on the red fruity side, medium-bodied with a well-balanced sweetness, some spicy notes and a medium to long finish.

DOMAINE DU MAS BLANC - RIMAGE LA COUME - 2003 - Very spicy and herbal nose, dried dark fruit, full-bodied and rich palate, the alcohol is fairly marked at present, nice spiciness, quite good length.

