

Jeb Dunnuck's 
THE RHONE REPORT



RHÔNE VALLEY 2010 AND 2011 (3-131)
MISC – ROUSSILLON, SPAIN, CALIFORNIA (131-136)

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WINE SCORING

100 - 96	As Good As It Gets. These wines reach the peak of my personal scale of quality.
95 - 90	Outstanding. These wine are outstanding for their type and are worth the extra effort to seek out.
89 - 85	Very Good to Good. These offer real character and can be age worthy. The majority of my cellar and what I drink on a daily basis falls into this category.
84 - 80	Good to Barely Good. While still good, these wines lack character or fail to show a significant number of positive traits. Wines in this category can deliver plenty of pleasure, particularly with a meal or in a setting where the wine won't be the center of attention.
79 - 50	Quaffable to Undrinkable. Wines rated less than 80 points are not recommended. They will range from passable to flawed and undrinkable.

MONTIRIUS

2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral	White	92
2008 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral	White	92
2006 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral	White	93
2010 Montirius Côtes du Rhône Jardin Secret	Red	90
2010 Montirius Côtes du Rhône Sérine	Red	89
2011 Montirius Gigondas Terres des Aines	Red	87-90
2011 Montirius Gigondas Confidentiel	Red	89-92
2010 Montirius Gigondas Terres des Aines	Red	92
2010 Montirius Gigondas Confidentiel	Red	93
2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Garrigues	Red	91
2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Le Clos	Red	93

Comprised of 58 ha (16 of which are in Gigondas), this superb estate is run by Eric and Christine Saurel and yields traditional, age-worthy wines that are loaded with character. Website: www.montirius.com

2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Vacqueyras)

The 2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral is gorgeous. A tank aged blend of 50% Bourbouleuc and even parts Grenache Blanc and Roussanne, it is a fleshy, rich effort that oozes licorice, mineral, green almond, and honeyed peach-like qualities on the nose. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, with great acidity and a blockbuster finish, it is not a wine for a hot day and deserves a classy meal. There is also a serious quality here, so while it is superb now, I suspect it will also age beautifully. **(92 pts.)**

2008 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Vacqueyras)

Along the same lines and every bit as good as the '10, the 2008 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral is aging superbly and still fresh and pure. Showing additional aromas of lemon rind, hazelnut, and flowers, it is very rich on the palate, yet stays light, classy, and elegant, with an 'oh so drinkable' feel. Given how well the '06 is showing, this has a long life ahead of it. **(92 pts.)**

2006 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Vacqueyras)

Also great and showing how these wines age, the 2006 Montirius Vacqueyras Blanc Minéral is the most complex of the three and shows classic southern Rhône Blanc aromas of ripe peach, lavender, licorice, honeycomb, and edgy minerality to go with a fresh, clean, and surprisingly structured mouth feel. Balanced and beautifully pure, with clean and integrated acidity, I see no reason this will not continue to evolve gracefully for another decade or more. **(93 pts.)**

2010 Montirius Côtes du Rhône Jardin Secret (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône)

A great Côtes du Rhône that comes mostly from 65-year-old Grenache vines in Seguret, the 2010 Jardin Secret is classic southern Rhône with loads of licorice laced fruit, spice, mineral, and leather qualities flowing to an elegantly styled, silky wine that is medium bodied, fresh, and pure. Loaded with Grenache flair, it should shine for 4-5 years. **(90 pts.)**

2010 Montirius Côtes du Rhône Sérine (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhône)

Much more meaty and mineral-laced, the 2010 Montirius Côtes du Rhône Sérine is a blend of mostly Syrah, with a splash of Grenache, that delivers plenty of blacker styled fruits, chocolate, roasted meats, and crushed rock-like aromas and flavors. Dense and slightly brooding, with a medium+ bodied, layered palate, it should be better in a year or so, and drink well for 3-5 year thereafter. **(89 pts.)**

2011 Montirius Gigondas Terres des Aines (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Gigondas)

A blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Mourvedre, the 2011 Montirius Gigondas Terres des Aines has outstanding potential. Aged all in tank (no wood whatsoever), it shows a perfumed character with notions of strawberry and cherry styled fruit giving to additional aromas of smoke, pepper, licorice, and meaty qualities. Medium-bodied, soft, and supple on the palate, with excellent freshness, and fine tannin, this will be an early drinker and should be consumed during its first 5-7 years or so. It offers solid character and is worth checking out. **(87-90 pts.)**

2011 Montirius Gigondas Confidentiel (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Gigondas)

Darker in fruit and slightly richer, the 2011 Montirius Vacqueyras Confidentiel, a 100% tank aged blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Mourvedre from 85-year-old vines, delivers loads of spice-cabinet, dusty minerality, and licorice to with a core of black cherry and assorted black fruits. Medium to full-bodied on the palate with a similar suppleness to the Terres des Aines, this has solid mid-palate concentration and good tannin on the finish. It should drink well for upwards of a decade. **(89-92 pts.)**

2010 Montirius Gigondas Terres des Aines (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Gigondas)

Showing even better from bottle than from barrel, the 2010 Montirius Gigondas Terres des Aines is a smoking blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Mourvedre that sees only tank. Ripe, round, and supple, with copious amounts of big spice, blackberry liqueur, licorice, and a touch of new leather, this medium to full-bodied Gigondas has a big, rich mid-palate, excellent freshness, and layers of fruit. It will drink nicely for upwards of a decade. **(92 pts.)**

2010 Montirius Gigondas Confidentiel (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Gigondas)

The same blend and elevage as the Terres des Aines, The limited production 2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Confidentiel comes from a small plot of the estate's vineyard called La Beaumette. Proprietors Christine and Eric Saurel discovered that this plot had a unique quality and decided to bottle it on its own in 2004; annual production is on the order of 4-5 thousand bottles. Very ripe and overflowing with fruit and texture, this delivers notions of black raspberry, tar, licorice, hot stones, and roasted herbs to go with a full-bodied, voluptuous, and beautifully textured mouth feel. There is lots of fruit here, and it needs air to show at its best. Give bottles a solid 3-4 years in the cellar, and then drink over the following decade. **(93 pts.)**

2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Garrigues (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Vacqueyras)

A blend of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah that comes from the plateau "Garrigue" that lies just outside of the town of Vacqueyras, the 2010 Montirius Garrigues is classic Vacqueyras, with copious garrigue, leather, and spice qualities leading to a medium to full-bodied, fresh, yet beautifully textured palate. Already upfront and perfumed on the nose, it has plenty of grippy tannin emerging on the finish and should benefit from another 1-2 years of bottle age and have upwards of a decade or longevity. **(91 pts.)**

2010 Montirius Vacqueyras Le Clos (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Vacqueyras)

The 2010 Vacqueyras Le Clos has more Syrah in the mix and is made from 50% Grenache and 50% Syrah. Aged completely in vat (as are all of this estates wines), it is a gorgeous effort that reveals layers of black raspberry, blackberry, leather, licorice, and spice on the nose. Full-bodied and balanced on the palate, with great acidity, serious concentration, and big structure, it needs 2-3 years of bottle age, and will have a solid 10-12 year drink window. This is an impressive Vacqueyras to say the least. **(93 pts.)**