



*The Independent Consumer's Guide to Fine Wines*

### 2005 La Mas de l'écriture Coteaux du Languedoc Emotion Occitane

Rating: 88  
Drink: -

The 2005 Coteaux du Languedoc Emotion Occitane blends Syrah and Grenache with lesser amounts of Carignan and Cinsault for a delightful, early-drinking wine surprisingly smooth and sumptuous for an entry-level offering. Mulberry and black raspberry are tinged with cardamom and black pepper in the nose, while restrained ripeness, subtle tartness, and generous juiciness and sheer refreshment turn out to set the tone for all of this estate's offerings.

La Mas de l'écriture in Jonquieres is another of those recent domaines farmed by a recovering city lawyer, in this instance one Pascal Fulla. His wines came to my attention thanks to Rob Dugan of nearby La Peira en Damaisela, too late to visit the domaine last December, and so I tasted only l'écriture's current releases, which, surprisingly, go back several vintages. All of the wines here are matured in (600 liter) demi-muids, and hovered around a mere 13% alcohol.

No known importer....

- David Schildknecht (June, 2009)

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### 2000 La Mas de l'écriture Coteaux du Languedoc l'écriture

Rating: 89  
Drink: 2005-2012

This estate's most expensive wine, the dark-colored 2000 Coteaux du Languedoc "l'écriture..." is a backward, extracted offering. Produced from a blend of 60% Syrah and the balance equally divided between Carignan, Grenache, and Mourvedre, it has impressive concentration as well as depth. Its big, bold, chewy personality offers aromas as well as flavors reminiscent of garrigue (sun-roasted wild herbs), cedar, black fruits, and tar. Rustic and dry on the finish, it will benefit from some cellaring. Drink it between 2005 and 2012.

Importer: Dan Kravitz - Hand Picked Selections, Warrenton, VA; tel. (540) 347-9400...

- Pierre Rovani (February, 2003)

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### 2004 La Mas de l'écriture Coteaux du Languedoc l'écriture

Rating: 91  
Drink: -

Pungent smokiness, crushed stone, black tea, rosemary, plum, and black olive are among the wealth of intriguing aromas offered by Fulla's 2004 Coteaux du Languedoc l'écriture, a blend of Syrah with 20% each Grenache and Mourvedre. Silken in texture and mouth-filling yet restrained in terms of the sweeter manifestations of ripeness, this elegant and restrained cuvee retains a delightfully fresh-fruited sense of purple plum and red raspberry, underlain by herbal nuances and a saline, carnal savor as mouth-watering as it is intriguing. I suspect this will merit at least another 2-3 years of bottle age.

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### 2000 La Mas de l'Ecriture Coteaux du Languedoc les Pensees

Rating: 90  
Drink: 2003-2010

Medium to dark ruby-colored and boasting a nose of black fruits and violets, the 2000 Coteaux du Languedoc "Les Pensees..." is an assemblage of 40% Cinsault, 20% Syrah, 20% Grenache, and 20% Carignan. It is a light to medium-bodied elegant wine with impressive underlying power. Detailed, deep, and well-balanced, it sports a youthfully fresh, persistent flavor profile composed of blackberries, cherries, and currants. Anticipated maturity: now-2010.

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### 2004 La Mas de l'Ecriture Coteaux du Languedoc les Pensees

Rating: 89  
Drink: -

The l'Equiture 2004 Coteaux du Languedoc Pensees is half Grenache, with Cinsault, Carignan, and Syrah. Fresh strawberry, red raspberry, black tea, cedar, and herbs in the nose introduce an especially juicy and engaging palate with exuberantly, tartly-fresh, salt- and herb-tinged red fruits. This finishes with genuine refreshment and textural refinement, if neither depth nor drama. I would be inclined to enjoy it over the next couple of years.

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### 2005 La Mas de l'Ecriture Terrasses du Larzac Message Personnel

Rating: 87  
Drink: -

Fulla's 2005 Terrasses du Larzac Message Personnel is dedicated to what he terms the exceptional character of the vintage's Syrah, here blended with 10% each of Grenache, Mourvedre, and Carignan. Smoke and roast meat aromas lead to a saline, chalky, cleanly meaty, bright and exuberant palate informed by tart plum and black cherry. While offering a satisfying sense of refreshment, this finishes a bit too low-key for its own good, and for now at least is considerably less charming than its "Emotion" counterpart. Perhaps a couple of years' bottle age will render its message more emphatic.

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