

Best bets for French wine values

April 2, 2009

If you read this column regularly, you know that we've been scouring the world of wine to bring readers top wine values available in this market.

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This month, the French brand La Vieille Ferme has wines on one of the best sales ever. Don't miss it because if the economy turns around, you may never see such aggressively competitive pricing again - really good French wines at \$8 per bottle!

La Vieille Ferme wines are made by the Perrins, the most heralded winemaking family in France's southern Rhone Valley and producers of the legendary Chateau de Beaucastel Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

WHO ARE THE PERRINS?

Three highly-educated Perrin brothers (Marc, Pierre and Thomas), all in their 30s, are the fifth generation running the family wine business.

Started in 1970, La Vieille Ferme focuses on value for money (even more so today!) with the following three wines priced at \$8.

La Vieille Ferme 2007 Cotes du Ventoux Rouge comes from vineyards high on the slopes of Mont Ventoux, east of the Rhodane River. There the Perrins select grenache, syrah, carignan and cinsault, to make a wine reflecting their Chateauneuf-du-Pape tradition. It's supple and fruity with blackberry and ripe plum aromas and flavors.

La Vieille Ferme 2008 Cotes du Luberon Blanc comes from the hillside vineyards in the ancient Cotes du Luberon, where the wind known as mistral cools grapes in the heat of summer. Made from four white Rhone varieties, among which 10 percent of the Grenache Blanc is fermented in new Limousin cooperage, the wine is floral, and slightly spicy with a crisp finish.

La Vieille Ferme 2008 Cotes du Ventoux Rose is the ultimate warm weather wine that combines not only a deep pink color, but the richness of a blend of grenache, syrah, carignan and cinsault, grown in the Cotes du Ventoux.

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