

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate lauds Domaine Courbis' 2009s: "...all three 2009 Cornas cuvées are superb."

Wine Advocate • Issue 193 • 2-28-11 • page 39

DOMAINE COURBIS	2009	CORNAS CHAMPELROSE	(not yet released)	RED	(93-95)
DOMAINE COURBIS	2008	CORNAS CHAMPELROSE	(\$50.00-55.00)	RED	81?
DOMAINE COURBIS	2009	CORNAS LES EYGATS	(not yet released)	RED	(91-93+)
DOMAINE COURBIS	2009	CORNAS LA SABAROTTE	(not yet released)	RED	(93-95)

This reliable producer has serious holdings in Cornas. Their **2008 Cornas Champelrose** reveals some of the vintage's deficiencies, including dry, hard, excessive tannins, meager fruit constitution and excessive wood as well as acidity. While it may be long-lived, it will never develop much charm. However, all three 2009 Cornas cuvées are superb. The opaque purple-colored **2009 Cornas Les Eygats** exhibits spicy new oak (not excessive) along with blackberry and cassis fruit, pepper, roasted meat, graphite and crushed rock characteristics, abundant richness, moderate tannin and a long finish. This terrific Cornas should age effortlessly for 15 or more years. Interestingly, the **2009 Cornas Champelrose** is slightly more voluptuously textured and softer. However, I wonder if its sexy

display of cassis fruit and extravagant richness is hiding more tannin than is obvious? In any event, it is a prodigious Cornas possessing all the pepper, smoked game, blackberry, cassis, burning ember and scorched earth characteristics one could desire. This rich, full-bodied 2009 should be a singular Cornas to drink over the next 15+ years. The inky/ruby/purple-tinged **2009 Cornas La Sabarotte** reveals slightly more sweet, toasty oak along with hints of barbecue spice, licorice, blueberries and blackberries, a full-bodied, dense, concentrated style and the highest tannin levels of any of these three 2009 Cornas cuvées. It will benefit from 3-5 years of bottle age and should drink well for two decades or more.