

ROBERT PARKER WINE ADVOCATE

JEB DUNNUCK - AUGUST 2015

“Located in one of the warmer terroirs in the appellation, with the wines made by Scott Hawley, Law Estate fashions ripe, textured, yet always balanced wines that are a joy to drink. While 2012 was far from a slam dunk for the region, this estate has turned out a bevy of beautiful wines. However, I was surprised to see the lack of color and more open-knit style of the Grenache releases.”

2012 Law Estate Wines Audacious, *Rating 95pts*, The star of the show was the 2012 Audacious, an interesting blend of 45% Syrah, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Grenache that was raised in 50% new French oak (the Grenache saw all larger 500-liter barrels). It offers sensational purity and depth in its cassis, blackberry, graphite, dried earth and dried herbs aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, concentrated, supple and downright sexy, it's a gorgeous 2012 that makes the most of the these limestone hills west of Paso Robles.

2012 Law Estate Wines Intrepid, *Rating 94+pts*, The estate's Syrah-dominated cuvee is the 2012 Intrepid, which includes 5% Grenache and was raised in 50% new oak. Savory and with tons of chalky minerality, it has lots of cassis, dried herbs, dried flower and spice aromas and flavors, full-bodied richness, an awesome texture and building tannin that emerge on the finish. It's another terrific wine from winemaker Scott Hawley that will deliver the goods for at least 5-7 years.

2012 Law Estate Wines Sagacious, *Rating 93pts*, The GSM blend 2012 Sagacious (39% Mourvedre, 35% Syrah and 26% Grenache) is a Chateauneuf du Pape look-alike with its darker fruits, cured meats, herbes de Provence and licorice-laced bouquet. A big, full-bodied, concentrated, sexy and fruit loaded effort, drink it anytime over the coming 7-8 years.

2012 Law Estate Wines The Nines, *Rating 92pts*, A step back from the incredible 2011, the 2012 The Nines is 100% Grenache that was raised mostly in 50% new 500-liter puncheons, yet had a small percentage aged in one concrete egg. Medium ruby in color, it gives up lots of chalky minerality, dried rose petal, kirsch liqueur and spice-box notes in a medium to full-bodied, polished, elegant and supple package. It will benefit from a year or so in bottle and drink nicely through 2022.

2012 Law Estate Wines First Tracks, *Rating 94+pts*, A new wine from this estate, the 2012 First Tracks is another Rhone/Bordeaux blend that's made from 42% Syrah, 28% Petit Verdot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Grenache. Aged 18 months in 60% new French oak, it's full-bodied, ripe and seamless, with a fresh and lively feel to its blackberry, blueberry, dried earth, graphite and cedar aromas and flavors. I love the balance and it has terrific polish to its tannin. It's beautiful now, but will evolve nicely though 2027.

2012 Law Estate Wines Beguiling, *Rating 92pts*, Showing the savory edge to the vintage, the Grenache-heavy 2012 Beguiling (there's 8% Syrah in the blend) offers up a perfumed bouquet of kirsch, dried strawberries, licorice and spices to go with a medium to full-bodied, supple, lively style on the palate. I'd like to see more mid-palate depth here, but it shows the prettier, more perfumed style of Grenache nicely.