

Jeb Dunnuck's 
 THE RHONE REPORT



October 2012
Issue # 13 – 2010 & 2011 Rhone Valley

SPAIN

BODEGAS MAS ALTA

2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat Artigas	Red	90-92
2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat La Basseta	Red	94-97
2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat La Creu Alta	Red	94-97

Philippe Cambie and Michel Tardieu are the consulting winemakers for this estate. These 2010 show less richness and power than the '09s, yet have more finesse, detail, and elegance. Website: www.bodegasmasalta.com Importer: Eric Solomon Selections, www.europeancellars.com

2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat Artigas (Spain, Catalunya, Priorat) \$30

More elegant than the '09, yet no less rich or concentrated, the 2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat Artigas is a blend of 70% Garnacha, 25% Carignan, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon that spent 16 months in 35% new French oak. The Cabernet component really shows, and the wine sports lively black and red fruits, tobacco, lead pencil, olive, and hints of smoked herbs on the nose. Beautifully fresh and with top-notch purity, it is medium to full-bodied on the palate and possesses a silky, elegant texture, brilliant concentration, and a seamless finish that stays light and focused. Given the overall balance and polish, it is certainly a great drink right now; nevertheless, I think it will be even better in 2-3 years, and have over a decade of longevity. It is a fantastic entry into the style of the estate, and represents a crazy value. **(90-92 pts.)**

2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat La Basseta (Spain, Catalunya, Priorat) \$85

Much more mineral-driven, the 2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat La Basseta is a blend of 60% Garnacha, 20% Carignan, and 20% Syrah that spent 16 months in 60% new, and 40% 1-year-old French oak barrels. Very Rhône-like aromatically, with spiced red and black fruits, underbrush, licorice, mint, and crushed stone qualities all soaring from the glass, it flows onto the palate with a seamless, medium to full-bodied texture that's very rich, yet stays lively, elegant and clean. Fresh, perfectly balanced, and very long, this knockout Priorat needs 2-3 years of bottle age, and will drink well for two decades or more. **(94-97 pts.)**

2010 Bodegas Mas Alta Priorat La Creu Alta (Spain, Catalunya, Priorat) \$125

The estate's top wine and a blend of 60% Carignan and 40% Garnacha, from vines between 80-100 years in age, that is aged for 18 months in 80% new French oak, the 2010 La Creu Alta is the inkiest colored and richest of the trio and delivers spectacular aromatics of liquid mineral, smoked black fruits, Mexican chocolate, Peking duck, and licorice. Deep, layered, and downright exotic aromatically, with more Carignan nut shell, old leather, and motor oil qualities coming through with air, this full-bodied Priorat is pure silk on the palate, showing a elegant, ethereal texture, awesome concentration, and polished underlying structure. As with the other cuvees, it is superb now, yet will benefit from short term cellaring. It should have upwards of two decades or more of total longevity. **(94-97 pts.)**