

Jeb Dunnuck's THE RHONE REPORT

MICHEL GASSIER

2010 Michel Gassier Côtes du Rhone Villages Visan Cercius	White	91
2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais	White	91
2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie Blanc	White	91
2009 Michel Gassier Syrah Les Piliers	Red	90
2008 Michel Gassier Syrah Les Piliers	Red	89
2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais	Red	91-93
2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais	Red	92
2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie	Red	93
2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie	Red	92-94

Website: www.michelgassier.com

2010 Michel Gassier Côtes du Rhone Villages Visan Cercius (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Côtes du Rhone Villages Visan) \$15

A thrilling white, as well as an unbelievable value, the 2010 Michel Gassier Côtes du Rhone Villages Visan Cercius, a blend of Grenache Blanc and Sauvignon that's aged on lees and all in concrete tank, delivers a perfumed, intense array of melon, grapefruit, green herbs, and brilliant wet stone-like minerality on the nose. Showing some real edge and cut to the aromas, the palate fleshes out and shows a medium+ bodied, textured, and full feel, beautiful purity of fruit, and brilliant acidity that carries the finish. Extremely versatile on the dinner table, this outstanding white should be purchased by the case load and consumed over the coming 1-2 years. **(91 pts.)**

2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie Blanc (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

More rich and full, the 2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie Blanc is a blend of 70% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, and 10% Viognier that's fermented and aged, on lees, for 5 months in large 500-liter French oak barrels. Upfront and rich on the nose, with ripe peach and pineapple styled fruits, subtle honeycomb, licorice, and crème, the wine delivers a mouthful of fruit on the palate, yet maintains fantastic focus and edge with racy acidity and a long, clean finish. While I recommend drinking over the next couple of years, a recent bottle of '06 was still drinking very well, so this wine can age. **(91 pts.)**

2009 Michel Gassier Syrah Les Piliers (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

From very low yields and pebble and clay soils, the 100% Syrah 2009 Michel Gassier Syrah Les Piliers is 100% destemmed and aged for 12 months in French oak. Showing fantastic Syrah character on the nose with smoky dark fruits, serious minerality, smoke, and meat-laced aromatics, the wine is medium-bodied on the palate with a fresh, clean texture, excellent balance, and plenty of length on the finish. While this shows a touch of oak at present, it should be given a year or three in the cellar, and then consumed over the following 5-8 years. **(90 pts.)**

2008 Michel Gassier Syrah Les Piliers (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

Almost as good as the '09 (same blend/elevage), the 2008 Michel Gassier Syrah Les Piliers shows the same deep minerality as well as copious blackberry and crème de cassis styled fruit characteristics. This is followed by a medium-bodied, very well-balanced wine that shows good acidity, a classic, focused texture, and solid length on the finish. Drink this excellent Syrah over the coming 5-8 years. **(89 pts.)**

2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

Tasted out of barrel, the 2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais shows loads of promise, with outstanding aromas of violets, potpourri, and assorted black and blue fruits, a medium to full-bodied, concentrated palate, and excellent balance. More rich and fleshy than the '09, this should be approachable on release and aged beautifully for a decade. **(91-93 pts.)**

2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A seriously impressive white, the 2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais, a partially barrel fermented blend of 90% Grenache blanc, 5% Roussanne, 5% Viognier, displays a beautifully fresh, pure bouquet of citrus-driven fruits, subtle floral notes, and serious minerality with loads of crushed stone and wet rock-like characteristics. More richness and depth comes through on the palate where the wine shows fantastic balance, a rich, full mid-palate, juicy acidity, and a classic, clean finish. Top-flight stuff and while I think this should be consumed in its first year or two of life, it might have an interesting aging profile. **(91 pts.)**

2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A completely brilliant red, the 2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Nostre Pais is a blend of 35% Grenache, 25% Carignan, 20% Mourvèdre, 15% Cinsault, and 5% Syrah, that's aged for 6 months in French oak barrels. While just bottled at the time of the tasting, you wouldn't know it as the wine sports upfront, beautifully perfumed aromas of rolled stones, licorice, roasted meats, and anise on the nose. This is followed by a textured, supple wine that maintains an overall sense of balance and freshness. More minerality shows on the finish, and this top-notch red should continue to shine for 5-7 years. **(92 pts.)**

2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A rich, substantial, and serious red, the 2009 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie is a blend of 60% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, and 10% Syrah that was aged for close to 18 months, on lees, in French oak barrels. The wine exhibits a deep, inky color as well as brilliant, rich aromatics of crème de cassis, spice, graphite, chocolate, and earth. While decidedly rich and leaning into the decadent realm, this stays beautifully fresh and focused. Full-bodied on the palate and structured, with layers of fruit and texture, impressive balance, and a classic, clean finish, this superb wine can be enjoyed now, but should evolve positively for 2-4 years, and have 10-12 years or more of prime drinking. **(93 pts.)**

2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie (France, Rhône, Southern Rhône, Costières-de-Nîmes)

A rock solid barrel sample, the 2010 Michel Gassier Costières-de-Nîmes Lou Coucardie is meaty and very rich, showing loads of Mourvèdre character with tree bark, truffle, and meaty characteristics giving way to gorgeously pure dark fruit. Full-bodied and with serious concentration, a powerful, rich texture, and a chewy, structured finish, this serious wine should be given a handful of years in the cellar, and then consumed over the following 12-15 years. **(92-94 pts.)**

Michel Gassier

CHÂTEAU DE NAGÈS - CHEMIN DES CANAUX - 30132 CAISSARGUES

TEL : +33 (0)4.66.38.44.30 FAX : +33 (0)4.66.38.44.39

Email : info@michelgassier.com

Web: michelgassier.com