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THE “SPIRIT” AND “ELAN” OF THE COTES DU RHONE IS EVIDENT IN NEW FRENCH WINES

Napa, CA – Two new brands from France’s famed Cotes du Rhone are making their US debut.

The **Esprit** (“spirit”) brand launches with a **Cotes du Rhone Reserve** 2009, with the grapes coming from vineyards that are part of the 25 villages that make up the original AOC Cotes du Rhone. Grenache Noir, Carignan, Cinsault and Syrah were blended to create a traditional Rhone wine – ruby colored, with a nose redolent of red fruits and spices and a palate that follows through on the aromas, displaying roundness and generous concentration.

The other new brand is **Cachette**, a French word that speaks to an “air of distinction and style that people admire and approve of.” It also can be used to talk about a “hidden treasure.” Both definitions apply with the brand’s first offering of a 2009 **Cotes du Rhone** that blends Grenache Noir, Carignan, Syrah and Cinsault. These traditional Cotes Du Rhone grapes are joined to create a spicy, fresh and fruity wine, dominated by aromas of almond, cherry and spices, that has a bright red color and good

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intensity.

Neither the Esprit or Cachette Cotes du Rhones see any oak, and both undergo stainless steel vat fermentation – along with some thermoflash/carbonic maceration – to enhance the freshness and allow the fruit to shine through.

The Esprit du Rhone Reserve 2009 will have a suggested retail price of \$11.99, while the Cachette Cotes du Rhone 2009 will retail at approximately \$13.99. Both labels are owned by Quintessential, headed by father Stephen D. and son, Dennis.

The two wines will be imported exclusively through Napa, CA-based Quintessential, which has a roster of fine, family-owned wineries from the world's great wine regions, including Henry's Drive/Pillar Box, Shrivington and Paringa from South Australia; Bodega Valentin Bianchi from Argentina; South Africa's Simonsig Family Wines; the Chilean wines of Koyle, Terrapura and Matetic; La Tunella, Azienda Vinicola Ghisolfi, Azienda Vinicola Paternoster, Casalnova and Vino dei Fratelli from Italy; Spain's Bodegas Navarro Lopez, Adegas D'Altamira, Bodegas y Vinedos Garcia Figuero and Bodegas Muriel; the Portuguese wines of Herdade da Malhadinha Nova and Quinta do Vallado, the Gustav Lorentz wines from France's Alsace region, and Eponymous (from California's Napa and Sonoma Valleys) and the Two Angels and Angel's Secret wines from High Valley, Lake County, Sonoma Valley and California's Central Coast.

For more information, contact Quintessential at (707) 226-8300 or through the website, www.quintessentialwines.com.