

RN Estate 2009 Cuvée des Artistes



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We are long-time members of the [RN Estate wine club](#). Today, as I was browsing the [Eurocave](#)[™] I spotted this beauty on the shelf. Before I write about it, here's some advice if you're lucky enough to own some of this: give it a few more years. There are still some slightly rough tannins and a bit of oak. But we're old and impatient. (If you're curious about our history with this winery, search for RN Estate.)

Forthwith, my notes: aromas of smoke and black pepper followed by a dark, brooding palate. Notes of brambleberries and dried tart cherries lead to a long, slightly tannic finish. If you can find it, buy it and be patient.

Amazingly, [you can still buy this on the RN Estate website for a mere \\$49](#). This is a serious bargain.

Owner-winemaker Roger Nicolas regularly makes these blends, using proportions adjusted to each year's vintage. **The 2009 is**

50 percent syrah, 19 percent cabernet sauvignon, 18 percent merlot, and 13 percent zinfandel. In Bordeaux and Burgundy a blend like this would be illegal. Luckily for us, Roger is beyond the reach of the French wine authorities.