



## **2012 Blankiet Estate Rive Droite (Merlot)**

Review by Robert M. Parker, Jr.  
*eRobertParker.com* # 222 (Dec 2015)  
Rating: 99  
Drink 2016 - 2036

Another compelling wine was the 2012 Rive Droite, which is Blankiet's homage to Right Bank Pomerols from Bordeaux. A blend of 95.8% Merlot and 4.2% Cabernet Franc, there are 380 cases of this sexpot of a wine. This could easily be mistaken for a Napa Valley version of Petrus. Loads of mulberry fruit, licorice, crème de cassis, mocha and toffee are present in this huge, full-bodied, super-opulent and luscious wine. This is about as seductive and rich as dry wine can be, and the wine can be drunk now or cellared for another 15-20 years. This is a killer effort! Their cuvée of all the culled out lots is called the Prince of Hearts. It is hard to believe that Claude Blankiet's first vintage was 1999. Of course, this is a fabulous vineyard that also looks marvelous from the famous Route 29. This is pure Yountville AVA on the eastern slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains, just above the valley floor vineyard of Christian Moueix's Dominus. Blankiet's blends are made by Denis Malbec, who also works not too far away as the consultant for Kapcsandy. These wines often need time in bottle to show their character, and I thought the 2012s performed even better than they did from barrel. The 2013s look incredible as well. These may be Blankiet's two greatest vintages to date, even eclipsing the 2001s and 2002s.