

## **1959 Domaine de Rancy Rivesaltes Ambre**

A Proprietary Blend Sweet White Dessert wine from Rivesaltes, Languedoc Roussillon, France

Source Reviewer Rating Maturity Current (Release) Cost

The Rancy 1959 Rivesaltes Ambre leads with scents of decaying and smoldering autumn foliage and a maritime mingling of saline and alkaline elements, all of which migrate to a firm and remarkably juicy palate where they fascinatingly compliment toasted hickory, candied orange rind, dark chocolate, and plum distillate, whose zest, piquancy, and pungency rally for a finish that practically sizzles. There is to be sure lots to meditate on here, but if you are thinking of remaining in a contemplative mood while sipping your way through a glass of this, think again, because it has too much nervous energy and is too insistently penetrating to let you!

If fame depended solely on quality, Jean-Hubert Verdaguer ought to be famous for his trove of ancient Rivesaltes. His younger Rivesaltes can be outstanding, too (see for example the 1996 about which I wrote in issue 184) - I just don't happen to have tasted any new examples of those in the past three years. Nor - on the basis of recent experience (though I have still not visited him) - ought Verdaguer's dry wines to be overlooked, either.

A Connie and Patrick Allen Selection, United Estates Wine Imports