



Wine Descriptions



Wines with an * Rated in Top 100 wines in Wine Spectator Magazine

Wines with a ** Rated #1 Wine of the Year in Wine Spectator Magazine

Wines with a * 95-100 point Wine Robert Parker, Wine Spectator Magazine**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Boniface “Apremont” Vin De Savoie 2012-----St Andre, France

A fresh white, showing green apple and pear flavors that are lightly perfumed, with spice and savory herbal notes. Refreshing!

Choblet “Clos De La Fine” Muscadet 2009----- Loire

Fresh and racy, without being too lean, with white peach and chamomile notes. The crisp acidity makes it a good match for seafood.

Laurent Kraff Vouvray Sec 2014----- Loire

This is tightly focused, but also bouncy, offering ginger, persimmon, quinine and chamomile notes to lead the way, followed by pear eau-de-vie and green fig flavors. Long, mineral-edged finish. Very precise. **WS 92**

Principi Butera Insolia 2010 -----Sicily, Italy

A delicate but tasty white, with pear, almond and mineral notes. Medium-bodied, with a lingering aftertaste of sea salt.

Pra Soave Classico 2011 ----- Veneto, Italy

Plump and juicy, with bright acidity adding zip to flavors of Gala apple, cantaloupe, grapefruit zest and blanched almonds. Clean finish

Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler Spatlese Riesling (Bernkasteler Badestube) 08 -Mosel, Germany

A deep, creamy style, with lime, apricot, herbal and bouillon notes that add complexity and a savory component, giving this great range and dimension, along with balance and harmony. There's a nice lingering finish. **WS 93**

Loimer Riesling “Seeberg” 2006 ----- Kamptal, Austria

Plenty of rich baked apple and tropical fruit flavors fill this spicy white. Creamy notes, with hints of kiwifruit, linger on the rich finish. **WS 91.**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Zind-Humbrecht "Zind" (Chard, Auxerrois, P. Blanc) 2007----- Alsace

Slightly off-dry, this is a delicious wine. Clover, orange blossom, lime, fresh apple, and hazelnut on the nose lead to a silken-textured mouthful of apple accented by citrus oils, toasted hazelnut, and scallop-like saline-sweet mineral savor, with subtle spice from cask and reinforcement of creaminess from the malo-lactic transformation. For all of its richness, this is refreshing and (at only 12.6% alcohol) buoyant. Auxerrois and Chardonnay. **RP 90**

Edi Simici Reserve Chardonnay 2007-----Slovenia

Rich, lush style with fig, nutmeg, vanilla, and citrus notes. Full-bodied, oaky, buttery with a long elegant finish.

Truchard Chardonnay 2012----- Carneros

Well-focused on a tightly knit mix of citrus, tangerine, pineapple and green pear, expanding nicely on the finish and ending with a lingering creamy and complex aftertaste. **WS 90**

ZD Chardonnay 2013-----Napa

Bright forward aromas of guava and tropical fruit are complemented by subtle hints of orange blossom and sweet vanilla. The palate is full bodied and lush with notes of pineapple, mandarin and lemon rind that integrate wonderfully with natural acidity and subtle oak.

Whitcraft (Presqu'ile) Chardonnay 2013----- Santa Maria Valley

Rich, full bodied, w/ great acidity, & Meursault-like style combining citrusy tropical California fruit w/ minerality & subtle creamy notes on long lively finish.

Kistler "Les Noisetiers" Chardonnay 2014-----Sonoma

Wonderful focus on ripe, structured pear, pineapple and earthy citrus flavors, which unfold gracefully to reveal subtle flavor and textural nuances. Oak plays a small role, giving the wine a flash of smoke and toast. Lovely aftertaste, with hints of hazelnut that linger.

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Domaine Serene Evenstad Reserve Chardonnay 2011 -----Dundee Hills, Oregon
Sleek, silky and beautifully focused, with hints of lime blossom and clove accenting the pear and apple flavors, coming together on the graceful finish. Has intensity without weight, lingering appealingly **WS 93**

Paul Lato "Le Souvenir" (Sierra Madre Vyd) Chardonnay 2010-----Santa Maria
A gorgeous wine, focused and understated. It boasts striking, crystalline purity in a medium-bodied, attractive style: it is a model of restrained elegance. **RP 92**

Margerum's Barden Fonte (Chard, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris)----Santa Barbara County
This wine is a delicious alternative to straight Chardonnay, with Pear and Tropical Fruit flavors, Creamy Brie and Toasty Brioche notes, vanilla and a wonderful acidity that lends length to the refreshing finish

Ladoucette Pouilly Fume (1/2 and Full) 2011 ----Loire
Pretty marjoram, wet straw and white peach notes glide along, caressed by a whiff of smoke and a long, paraffin-edged finish. Very tasty.

Pierre Vessigaud Macon-Fuisse 2011 ----- Burgundy
A well-balanced, elegant, medium-bodied white Burgundy, showing apple, lemon and vanilla flavors, picking up a gentle mineral note on the finish.

Guigal Condrieu 2010 -----Rhone
Perfumed and intense, this wine boasts stunning minerality in addition to copious notes of honeysuckle, lychee nut and mango. A luscious, medium to full-bodied white wine. **RP 93**

Francois Mikulski Meursault 2006 -----Cote De Beaune
A rich, opulent style, exuding spice & toasted hazelnut aromas and flavors, with an underlying citrus presence. Exuberant, but balanced, with a spicy finish.

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Jean-Noel Gagnard Chassagne Montrachet “Clos De La Maltroye” 06 —Cote De Beaune
Both creamy and fresh, with a lush texture offset by lively acidity, setting the stage for ripe apple, lime, pastry and mineral flavors, which linger on the finish.

Domaine Denis Corton Charlemagne (Grand Cru) 2005 -----Cote De Beaune
Intense aromas of honey, almonds, citrus and hints of flowers and on the palate fresh lime peel and white peach with a mineral streak. Long satisfying finish.

Vincent Girardin Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru 2004 -----Burgundy
Shows fine intensity, layering lemon, mineral, spice flavors from the initial attack to the finish. Deep, long, with all components in harmony, yet needs time to fully realize potential. The long finish is the best part. Best from 2009- 2020. **WS 93**

Domaine Jomain Batard Montrachet 2007 -----Cote De Beaune
Mineral notes combine with lemony acidity, stone fruit, and the typical almost viscous texture of Batard Montrachet. Ends with a creaminess and long finish.

Domaine W. Fevre “Les Clos” (Grand Cru) Chablis 2008 -----Chablis
Clean and focused, with apple, lemon, yellow plum and mineral notes riding a firm structure. This is balanced, showing a chalklike texture and a savory element on the finish. There's fine clarity and loads of power in reserve. This wine will benefit from decanting, as it needs aeration to show at its best. **WS 94 RP 96**

Moet & Chandon Grand Vin Brut Rose 2002 -France
A dry, rich rosé, with a creamy bead & a smoky undercurrent to the flavors of dried cherry, black licorice, blood orange, savory herbs & biscuit. There's a firm backbone of racy acidity, but this is well-meshed and very refreshing. **WS 93**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Dom Ruinart Champagne Blanc De Blanc 2004-----France

With an impressive backbone of acidity, this is dense and powerful, yet harmonious overall. The fine, creamy mousse frames the wine with a silky texture, w/ honeysuckle, graphite & hazelnut notes lending fragrant accents to a rich palate of white peach, toasted brioche, lemon, and smoke. **WS 95**

Veuve Cliquot Grande Dame 2004-----France

Very elegant, this is all in the details, offering precise and silky texture, mouthwatering acidity and a smoky, mineral undertow that enriches flavors of patisserie pear, crystallized honey, kumquat and toasted almond. Offers a clean, citrus-tinged finish. **WS 94**

Louis Roederer Cristal 2004-----France

"It is a powerful, structured Cristal layered with considerable fruit. ...Readers who are willing to spend some time with the wine today will find a super-impressive, complete Cristal. ...the 2004 Cristal has come together beautifully and is shaping up to be a truly great, monumental Champagne." **RP 97**

Penner-Ash 2011-----Willamette Valley, Oregon

Lightly cooked cherry notes display on the nose and on the firm palate of Penner-Ash's multi-sourced 2011 Pinot Noir, leading to a finishing of mouthwatering persistence in which cherry pit lends a cyanic glow and the a rich meaty savory tone emerges – allied to a stony undertone and peat-like smokiness – adding length and depth to the finish. **RP 89-90**

Alban's "North" Pinot Noir 2011-----Edna Valley

The 2011 North Pinot Noir (aged in two-thirds new French oak) boasts knockout aromas and flavors of darker Pinot fruit, new leather, spice and rose garden as well as a medium-bodied, rich and full texture on the palate. It's a beauty and already delicious. Enjoy it over the coming 4-5 years. Drink now-2019. **RP 93**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Kistler Pinot Noir 2013 ----- Russian River

Firm and focused, with a beam of dried berry, spice, loamy earth and red and black licorice that gains depth and richness, ending with a long, layered finish. Decant or allow some time to open up **WS 92**

Dragonette "Cargasacchi Vyd" Pinot Noir 2013 -Santa Rita Hills

A rich, full-bodied Pinot, impeccably balanced between the characteristic dark blackberry and blueberry fruits of Santa Rita Hills, hints of minerality and earth and a savory herbal note that wraps up the package into a harmonious mélange of all these elements. The subtle usage of oak makes this appear initially more fruit forward than it is, and that becomes apparent as the underlying acidity brings out the complexity of all these notes and unwinds them over time. We only have a few bottles of this rare wine and it really is one of our most exceptional local Pinot Noirs.

Calera "Selleck Vyd" 2007 ----- Mt Harlan

According to Robert Parker, the 2007 Pinot Noir Selleck Vineyard is perhaps the finest Pinot ever made by Calera. This 4.8-acre vineyard planted in 1975 has a much warmer southwest exposure than some of the estate's other sites. This compelling Pinot Noir exhibits sassafras, black cherry, raspberry, plum, pomegranate, cedar, and underbrush aromas, leading to a full-bodied, ripe wine with beautiful acids, an intense underlying minerality/terroir character, and a long finish. A remarkable wine. **RP 98**

Whitcraft Syrah (Stolpman) 2009 -----Ballard Canyon

Smoothly tannic, full-bodied, with deep flavors of blackberries, red & black currants, grilled meat, tobacco, wild herbs, black pepper & cedar wood. **WE 91**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Jaffurs “Bien Nacido” Syrah 2012-----Santa Barbara County

Vivid purple. Pungent aromas of dried cherry, blackberry and musky herbs, with a subtle floral nuance building in the glass. Plush, concentrated and expansive, offering smoky cherry compote, dark berry and licorice flavors and a hint of black pepper. Chewy tannins shape the clinging, spicy finish, which leaves a smoky note behind.

***** (100pt RP) Alban Syrah “Reva” 2006**----- Edna Valley

The 2006 Syrah Reva has off-the-chart richness and intensity. This thick, opaque-purple colored wine has notes of scorched earth, ground pepper, and blackberry liqueur intermixed with cassis, licorice, camphor, and tar. Spectacular in every sense, full-bodied and certainly not for wimps, this is a remarkably concentrated yet very nuanced and intense wine that should age for 20 more years. **This wine was also in the WS TOP 100 for 2010**

*****Alban Syrah Seymour 2005**-----Edna Valley

From a cooler year, the 2005 Syrah Seymour's Vineyard exhibits a more European personality than the classically Californian 2004. The 2005 reminds of a broodingly backward, dark purple-colored Hermitage from the northern Rhone. Aromas of scorched earth, creme de cassis, truffles, and graphite emerge from this cuvee. With remarkable density, structure, precision, and freshness as well as sensational equilibrium (despite its weight and intensity), it should be at its finest between 2012-2025+.RP 96+ WS 94

Stolpman “Angeli” (Syrah Blend) 2008----- Santa Ynez

The 2008 Angeli Proprietary Red possesses a dark ruby/purple color in addition to a big, sweet nose of wild berry fruit, black currants, smoke, and blueberries. A supple, velvety-textured effort with full-bodied richness, and abundant spice and earth, this seductive, full-bodied wine is dominated by its fruit component, and should offer flexibility with many types of cuisines **RP 92**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

*****Torbreck Shiraz “Run Rig” 2005** ----- Barossa Valley, Australia

Torbreck's flagship is the 2005 Run Rig. Opaque purple/black in color, it has a kinky, exotic bouquet of fresh road tar, smoke, lavender, black pepper, game, blueberry, and black raspberry. Full-bodied and opulent on the palate, the wine is dense, packed, and unevolved. Decanting recommended. **RP98+.**

La Jota “Howell Mtn” Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 ----- Napa

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon comes across as gorgeous and round in its expressive dark red and black fruit, earthiness, menthol, spices and graphite. The firm Howell Mountain tannins are there, but the presence of Merlot (12%) helps to soften the wine. This is a gorgeous showing from La Jota and winemaker Chris Carpenter. **WS 92, RP 94**

Mount Brave Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 ----- Napa

This comes across as quite soft and lush for a Mt. Veeder wine. Dark red fruit, flowers, mint and crushed rocks are some of the notes that flow through to the intense, saline finish. I especially like the energy and drive here. **RP 92**

Opus One Overture Multi-Vintage ----- Napa

An exquisite, complex, stylish wine, wearing a cloak of earthy, leathery tannins around flavors of mineral, currant, earth and blackberry. Gains intensity and shows its depth and concentration on the finish, which is long and detailed. A wonderful version of Opus drinkable sooner, at a significantly lower price point.

*****Ramey Larkmead Cabernet Sauv 2004** ----- Napa

The 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Larkmead (1,360 cases from a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Petit Verdot, and 9% Merlot) has that gorgeously pure creme de cassis that I notice consistently in Screaming Eagle. The wine is full-bodied, elegant, sexy and rich, and should easily last and evolve for 10-15 or more years. In fact, I would give it 2-3 years of bottle age. This is a phenomenal wine and one of the finest 2004 Cabernet Sauvignons. **95 RP**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

*****Mondavi Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2004-** Napa

A complex array of ripe, rich currant, anise, smoky oak and black cherry. Dense, concentrated and persistent, with great depth and focus. Ends with an amazingly long, richly flavored finish. Best from 2008 through 2018. **95 WS**

*****Hall Cabernet Sauvignon (Kathryn Hall) 2008** Napa

Rich, savory and full-bodied, showing direct, potent young Cabernet flavors built around blackberry and dark berry fruit, with touches of spice, black licorice, mineral and toasty wood. Very impressive for its purity, finesse and graceful finish. **WS 96 and #2 in WS Top 100.**

Quintessa Cabernet Blend 2005 ----- Napa

Aromatics of ripe plum, spice, currant and black cherry give this a complex scent and it's supple and elegant on the palate, with firm yet polished tannins that let the fruit flavors glide through. This wine will benefit from decanting to show its full potential.

Ramey "Jericho Canyon" Cabernet Sauvignon 2004----- Napa

The 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Jericho Canyon Vineyard has an inky dark ruby/purple color, a wonderfully sweet nose of espresso roast, fudge, blackberry, and cassis with a hint of incense & smoke. The wine is full-bodied, broadly flavored, opulent, & voluptuous, but definitely requires decanting. **RP 94**

*****Continuum Cabernet Sauvignon (from Tim Mondavi) 2009** ----- Napa

The 2009 Continuum impresses for its layered, textured personality and impeccable grace. Stylistically, it is polished and refined. Sweet floral notes add an attractive upper register to the dark fruit, mocha and sweet spice aromas and flavors. The tannins are firm and well-integrated. This wine is young and needs decanting to show all of its strengths. **RP WS 94+**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

*****Catena Zapata Cabernet “Nicolas Catena Zapata” 2007**-Mendoza, Argentina
A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. It delivers an enthralling aromatic array of pain grille, pencil lead, mineral, espresso, mocha, incense, lavender, black currant, black cherry, and blackberry. This leads to a full-bodied, powerful yet elegant effort with great depth and volume, precision balance, and a voluptuous personality. It conceals plenty of structure and will effortlessly evolve for many years. **RP 98!**

*****Opus One 2012**----- Napa
The iconic 2012 Proprietary Red Opus One is a blend of 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot, 6% Merlot and 2% Malbec aged 18 months in French oak. A classy, complex, suave and savory 2012 Opus One, with notes of toasty oak and crème de cassis. This Pauillac lookalike, made by the staff at Mouton Rothschild, is a beauty. They have continued to strengthen the quality of wine and seem to have produced a brilliant, world-class wine. This 2012 is one of their great ones, with a seamless integration of acidity, tannin, alcohol and wood all present in this beautiful, full-bodied wine that should drink well for 25-30 years. **RP 96**

*****Plumpjack Cabernet Sauvignon “Reserve” 2008** ----- Napa
The limited release 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Oakville is bluish/purple in color with a nose of blueberry liqueur mixed with creme de cassis, violets and spice box. Super rich, with velvety tannins, this full-bodied wine (100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the McWilliams Oakville Vineyard) displays impeccable balance, great richness, & a multi-layered mouthfeel and finish. Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon at its very finest, it should drink well for 15-30 years. **RP 98!**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

*****Joseph Phelps “Insignia” 2012**-----Napa

The flagship wine of the estate : one of the great Bordeaux blends made in California. A final blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot and the rest Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc all from estate vineyards, was aged 24 months in 100% new French oak. It's a fabulous, classic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon. Inky purple to the rim, with notes of lead pencil shavings, incense, camphor, blackberry and creme de cassis, the wine is full-bodied, offering a multi-layered, textural, skyscraper-like mouthfeel, terrific purity, density and richness. All of this is achieved without a sense of heaviness or anything aggressive. This is a beauty to drink now and over the next 30 years. **RP 96**

*****Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon “Hillside Select” 2004** ----- Napa

The 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Hillside Select possesses an inky/ruby/purple color, a juicy perfume of black currants, black cherries, graphite, charcoal, and toasty oak, superb opulence, a fleshy mid-palate, a multilayered mouthfeel, and a dazzling finish. This flamboyant, sexy Hillside Select can be enjoyed now and over the next 20 years. **RP 97**

***** (100 RP) Lokoya Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain 2012** ----- Napa

The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Mt. Veeder is as compelling a Cabernet Sauvignon as one could ever hope to taste. This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from a high-elevation site boasts an inky/purple color, and smells of ink, blueberry liqueur, blackberries, black raspberries, mulberries, licorice, charcoal and camphor. With magnificent fruit richness, a layered, full-bodied mouthfeel, and incredible length, this seamlessly constructed 2012 should provide immense pleasure for 25+ years. Kudos to winemaker Chris Carpenter as he is clearly at the top of his game.

Andrew Murray Esperance (GSM) 2012 ----- Central Coast

This zesty red offers smoky black cherry and cracked pepper aromas. Sleek flavors of raspberry and toasted sage pick up tannins on the finish. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. **WS 91**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Kunin Pape Star (GSM) “Larner Vyd” 2013----- Central Coast

The Pape Star Central Coast has lots of pepper, leather, crushed rock and spiced berry fruit characteristics. A blend of 53% Grenache, 22% Mourvedre, 18% Syrah and the balance Cinsault, it's a medium-bodied, rounded and character-filled red.

Novy Nebbiolo “Stolpman Vyd” 2008----- Santa Ynez

A rich red, with dark fruit, licorice and smoky spice aromas and appealing blackberry, forest floor and anise flavors. A creamy vanilla note of oak comes in on the finish. This wine should be decanted to allow the rich fruit tones to emerge.

Recuerdo (Aliado) Reserva Malbec 2011 ----- Uco Valley, Argentina

One of the best Malbecs we have tasted, this is rich, dark and pure, delivering a juicy core of black cherry puree, cassis and licorice, followed by nuances of spice, wildflower and mineral. Fine and detailed. **WS 92**

Linne Calodo “Outsider” (Zin, Syrah, Mourvedre) 2009 ----- Paso Robles

A rich intense red, packed with fruit and personality, offering aromas of smoky boysenberry and supple, layered flavors of cherry pie, anise and caramel. Loamy tannins sneak in on the finish. Zinfandel, Syrah & Mourvèdre **WS 92, RP 92**

Kaena Hapa Reserve Cabernet –Syrah Blend 2011---Santa Ynez

Amazing over the top blend of Syrah and Cabernet. Rich, oaky, and chocolatey, if this is your style you will not be disappointed. It delivers everything you would wish for, but ask for it to be decanted as it needs to breathe to show all the richness it has.

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Alban “The Mason” 2008 (Mourvedre)----- Forsythe Vyd, Edna Valley
The 2008 Forsythe is a little more than two-thirds Mourvedre, the rest predominantly Grenache with some Syrah. Smoke, tar, licorice, red berries and underbrush are some of the notes woven throughout this expressive wine. Hints of gaminess add further complexity on the finish. **RP 91-93**

Henri Delagrange “Vielle Vignes” Volnay 2007 Cote De Beaune
Another great value, this medium-bodied red has nice fruit, with sweet cherry, black fruit, a bit of earthiness & fine acidity giving good length to the finish.

Mongeard Mugneret Echezeaux 2002 ----- Cote De Nuits
Very ripe, with sweet cherry, spicy oak and earth notes matched to a rich, full-bodied frame. Good concentration here, with pure, sweet Pinot Noir fruit, finesse and a firmly tannic finish. Long aftertaste of sandalwood & violet. **WS 92**

Chateau Monbousquet 2000----- St Emilion
Still youthful, this is a seductive, rich, generously endowed effort revealing plenty of spice box, herb, black currant, kirsch, espresso, and toasty oak characteristics in a decidedly modern, but opulent, fleshy style. **RP 93**

*****Chateau Canon la Gaffeliere (Grand Cru) 2000** ----- St Emilion
This is a triumphant 2000, flamboyant, super-concentrated, yet classic in proportions. Lavish notes of roasted espresso, melted chocolate, crème de cassis, toasty new oak and Asian spices jump from the glass of this sensationally perfumed, rather ostentatious 2000. It is enormously concentrated and pure, with low acidity and exquisite balance. Remarkably, in spite of its large size, viscosity, and opulence, it is fresh and delineated. Potentially the finest Canon-la-Gaffeliere made to date, this impeccably made wine will drink well between 2006-2022. **RP 95**

RARE AND UNUSUAL WINES

Domaine St. Just Saumur “Yves Lambert” 2010 (Cab Franc) ----- Loire

Delicious, this fresh and fruity Cabernet Franc is sourced from 35-year-old vines in the heart of the Loire's Saumur Champigny appellation. Dry, medium-bodied with fresh red berry flavours and a zesty seam of acidity, it is very enjoyable on its own but really shines with food.

Lucien Lardy Fleurie (Les Roches) 2009----- Beaujolais

Lardy's 2009 Fleurie Les Roches Vieilles Vignes has notes of lightly-cooked dark berries tinged with cocoa powder and smoky black tea and served on a plush palate, with a faint note of tannin dryly asserting itself in the finish, then segues into an underlying sense of stoniness that on the whole helps set-off this wine's impressive fruit. Nice complexity in a Beaujolais.

***Sette Ponti Toscano Oreno (Super Tuscan) 2004**-----Tuscany, Italy

Fabulous aromas of ripe blackberry, cappuccino and toasty oak. Full-bodied, with masses of fruit and supervelvet tannins. Long and gorgeous. All there. Merlot, Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. **WS 95 and #45 in 2006's Top 100.**

*****Argiano Solengo 1996** ----- Tuscany, Italy

Wild thing. This Italian red is even better than the wonderful debut '95. It offers exotic and complex aromas of blackberry, violet, crushed raspberry, is full-bodied, and though very tannic, the tannins are coated with ripe fruit, and the long and caressing finish delivers even more fruit. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Best after 2000. 2,000 cases made. **-JS 95WS**

SPARKLING WINES

Heidsieck Monopole Brut Champagne “Split” (187 MI) -----France

Well-defined and energetic, with racy acidity driving flavors of fresh-cut apple, black cherry, candied lemon zest and a richer note of pear financier. Offers a fresh, minerally finish. **WS 91**

Nino Franco Prosecco “Rustico“ -----Italy

Wonderful typicity for a Prosecco, beautifully round without being sweet, but with a fresh crisp finish.

Michel Olivier Sparkling Cremant 2014 -----France

Great acidity and plenty dry, but with a pleasantly fruity aspect: this is an enjoyable sparkler for all occasions.

Roederer Estate (NV)-----Anderson Valley

Sleek, impeccably focused and balanced, with floral apple, cinnamon & anise aromas and crisp yet supple lemon tart, cherry & spicy hazelnut flavors **WS 91**

Roederer Estate Rose (NV)-----Anderson Valley

Crisp but supple, with floral citrus and peach aromas and layered dried cherry, almond and mineral flavors that finish with bold acidity. **WS 91**

Louis Roederer Brut Premier----- France

Firm and finely meshed, with hints of passion fruit and pineapple mixing with poached apple, almond pastry and fleur de sel. Mouthwatering and lightly smoky on the lingering, refined finish **WS 91**

Nicolas Feuillatte Champagne 1er Cru Brut NV -France

As exceptional value the non-vintage Reserve Particuliere Brut Premier Cru is a blend of 40% Pinot Meunier, 40% Pinot Noir, and 20% Chardonnay. This is deliciously floral, light-bodied, wonderfully subtle yet effervescent Champagne that stands apart from the pack. **RP 91**

SPARKLING WINES

Moët & Chandon “Brut Imperial” -France

An updated version of “White Star”, this champagne delivers delicious peach tones enlivened by wonderful lime-inflected acidity & grounding mineral notes. While still round and pleasing, the greater emphasis on acidity and regional typicity results in an outstanding Champagne at a very reasonable price point.

*****Moët & Chandon Dom Perignon 2003/04----- France**

There's a sense of tension paired with grace in this deftly balanced version, with a rich and smoky vein of minerality underscoring the flavors of poached apple, honey, financier and sun-dried black cherry, showing hints of roasted almond, coffee liqueur and ground spice. **WS 95**

Schramsberg Blanc De Blanc (1/2 & Full) 2008 Napa

Sleek and vibrant, with floral apple & lemon aromas & crisp, complex flavors of pear and yeasty cinnamon that linger toward the minerally finish **WS 91, WE 94**

Veuve Cliquot Brut “Yellow Label” (NV) ----France

A classic: not showy, but subtle in its integration of citrus, yeast notes, and slightly racy acidity that keeps the taste moving forward to a delicate and smoothly creamy conclusion.

Taittinger Brut “La Francaise” (NV) -----France

Toast, honey, peach and citrus flavors come together effortlessly in this balanced, elegant Champagne. The fine mousse adds to the textural component, and this ends on a refreshing note.

*****Krug “Grand Cuvee ” (NV)-----France**

Rich, with smoky hints of roasted almond and toasted brioche, this crystalline Champagne offers a finely detailed mousse that carries the firm, citrusy acidity and flavors of patisserie apple, spun honey and tangy black cherry, accented by subtle, aromatic hints of ground cumin and clove, bergamot and chamomile. **WS 95**

CHARDONNAY

Talley's Bishop Peak 2013 ----- Central Coast

Medium bodied, moderately oaked, with tangy pineapple, peach, and citrus notes leading to clean refreshing finish with hints of grapefruit.

Glen Carlou 2012 ----- South Africa

This tasty white shows pear, fig and apple notes that are buttery, toasty and well-defined, lingering with a fresh edge on the finish. A great value for this lush, opulent style of Chardonnay.

Alma Rosa 2013----- Santa Barbara County

A clean, flinty, unoaked style that keeps the focus on the fruit, with a hint of nectarine and citrus. Fans out on the finish, ending with crisp acidity

Gainey 2012----- Santa Rita Hills

Very nicely made, medium-bodied, with melon, citrus, apple blossom and a delicately buttery toasty note of oak on the finish.

Kenneth Volk "Jaybird" (Unoaked) 2013 ----- Santa Maria Valley

A very good un-oaked Chardonnay in a little more of a French style but with some California roundness to the fruit, this is dry, medium-bodied, with lemon, stone fruit notes, a hint of honey, good acidity to finish.

San Simeon Chardonnay 2013 -----Monterey

A rich, mouth-filling wine with ripe tropical fruit flavors with complements of citrus and pear. The nose reveals bright fruit and oak toast with hints of vanilla and spice. Mineral notes express the rocky terroir of the vineyards.

Davis Bynum "River West Vineyard" 2013 ----- Russian River

Rich, medium bodied, with lemon custard-like notes, crisp acidity, some minerality, and a judicious use of French oak with is prominent but not over-bearing . There is a greenish hue to its gold color, always a positive sign. More Chablis-like than a typical full-throttle Sonoma Chardonnay. A great value.

CHARDONNAY

Sonoma Cutrer (Russian River) (1/2 & Full) 2013 - Sonoma

Intense, fresh and vibrant, with a core of citrus-laced green apple, melon and grapefruit. Full-bodied: long, clean finish. Moderate oak w/ hint of creaminess.

Paring Chardonnay 2013-----Santa Barbara

Exhibits a juicy, medium-bodied and balanced style to go with notions of citrus blossom, stone fruits and white flowers. It spent 11 months in equal parts new French oak, neutral French oak and stainless steel barrels, and it's a classy, beautifully made Chardonnay

Talley 2013----- Arroyo Grande

A wine of finesse & elegance, w/ intense vibrant fruit that's ripe & rich, with layers of toasty oak, honeysuckle, fig, and melon, turning subtle & polished. Not typical Central Coast style of big tropical fruit but more elegant. **RP 90**

Foley 2012----- Santa Rita Hills

Full-bodied, oaky but complex with limey citrus notes, fleeting minerality, and a long lasting creamy finish. A beautiful example of the full-on buttery oaky style, done with finesse.

Fess Parker (Ashley's Vyd) 2013----- Santa Rita Hills

A rich Chardonnay graced with exquisite class. Layers of ripe, tropical fruit flow from this vivid, beautifully articulated version of California Chardonnay, which maintains balance & charm. The buttery French oak is rich but not excessive.

Patz and Hall 2011----- Sonoma Coast

Clean and vibrant, with a mix of spice, green apple, citrus and honeydew melon flavors that are pure. Fans out on finish and ends with a touch of oak.

CHARDONNAY

Hilliard Bruce 2011 ----- Santa Rita Hills

This opens with classic white peach, toasted hazelnuts, citrus blossom and tinges of baking bread to go with a pure, medium-bodied, focused palate. Medium-bodied, it has a lively, chiseled feel on the palate. 16 months in 30% new French oak influenced the lengthy leesy finish. **RP 92**

Tyler Chardonnay 2013-----Santa Barbara County

A solid value in Santa Barbara County Chardonnay, it's a racy, medium-bodied, juicy and even slightly lean Chardonnay that offers lots of citrus blossom, apple, mineral and mint on the nose. Fresh and lively, yet still with plenty of class and some building richness **RP 90**

Rombauer Chardonnay 2013 ----- Carneros

A creamy-textured, charming style that's easy to drink yet is deceptively complex and layered, with a mix of vanilla-scented oak and vibrant peach, nectarine, honeydew and apricot flavors. Long on the finish **WS 93**

Brewer Clifton Chardonnay 2011 ----- Santa Rita Hills

Very dry: A knockout Chardonnay blended from multiple vineyards, the 2011 Chardonnay offers up a pure, elegant and classy profile, with plenty of white peach and citrus blossom mixed with mineral, lemon and lime notes. This medium-bodied wine has solid mid-palate richness and crisp acids. **RP 90**

Kistler (Sonoma Coast) Chardonnay 2013 ----- Sonoma

Pure and focused, with a vivid core of white peach, nectarine and tangerine flavors. Tangy acidity gives this a chalky, mineral edge and a long, persistent and captivating finish **WS 93**

CHARDONNAY

Paul Lato “Belle De Jour” (Hilliard Bruce Vyd) Chardonnay 2010--- Santa Rita Hills
The 2010 Chardonnay Belle de Jour Hilliard Bruce Vineyard is a richer, fatter wine than Lato's Chardonnay from Sierra Madre. Firm veins of minerality frame layers of subtle, tropical infused wine. The Hilliard Bruce has more depth and power than the Sierra Madre, and is also more intensely mineral. If that sounds appealing, believe me it is. The 2010 is a great showing for Paul Lato in his inaugural vintage of Chardonnay from the Hilliard Bruce vineyard. **RP 94**

*****Leeuwin “Art Series” Chardonnay 2011** ----- Margaret River, Australia
Rich, ripe and generous, this is deftly balanced to lift the pear, mango, floral and spice flavors with gentle acidity. Comes together on the supple, seductive finish, showing tremendous depth and intensity without losing any charm **WS 96**

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Brander Sauvignon Blanc 2014 -----Santa Barbara County
Intense, vibrant and clean as a whistle, with fresh quince, lemon-lime and freshly cut grass. Picks up a nice stony mineral edge on the finish.

Brander (Mesa Verde) Sauvignon Blanc 2014 --- Santa Barbara
Clean and crisp, with herbal and grapefruit notes that have a slightly creamy edge to them. A hint of terroir and natural yeast lends a unique character to this wonderful local wine, from one of the seminal figures in the local Sauvignon Blanc Wine scene.

Brander "Au Naturel" 2014 -----Santa Barbara County
Lemony, with a just-squeezed freshness that's intense and focused. The racy acidity gives this some zing, with pineapple, passion fruit, and citrus peel notes on the finish.

White Haven 2014 ----- Marlborough, New Zealand
Lemony, offering melon, peach, lemongrass and mango details that are ripe, fleshy and easily refreshing. Enlivened by racy acidity.

Margerum "Sybarite" 2013 ----- Happy Canyon, Santa Ynez
Intense, with a lip-smacking acidity, offering bright and refreshing lime, grapefruit and melon notes set on a medium frame.

Grgich Hills Fume Blanc (1/2 and Full) 2012 ----- Napa
Bright and racy, featuring clear lemony flavors supported by sweet pea, lime zest, passion fruit and grapefruit notes. Appealing for its intensity and mouthwatering finish.

Babcock 2012 ----- Santa Rita Hills
The 2012 Sauvignon Blanc is a grassy, steely effort with plenty of citrus, lime and mineral qualities, It is medium-bodied, fresh and balanced, with lip-smacking acidity on the finish. A wonderful, refreshing wine. **RP 90.**

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Grassini 2013 ----- Happy Canyon, Santa Ynez
Medium-bodied, crisp and refreshing effort, the 2013 Sauvignon Blanc (504 cases) has plenty of citrus, lime and grassy/herbal qualities to go with racy acidity on the palate.

Cade (From Plumpjack) 2014----- Napa
Bright and refreshing, with a medium body, this wine has wonderful acidity and a great balance of herbal, green apple, citrus and mineral notes with a subtle toastiness and very slight creaminess that comes out on the finish and rounds out the wine

Cloudy Bay 2013----- Marlborough , New Zealand
Focused and pure, offering a tangy expression of balanced lemon, white peach, tangerine, passion fruit, melon and green tea notes. This is powerful in its persistence and juiciness, yet maintains an air of elegance. **WS 91**

Dragonette "Happy Canyon" Sauvignon Blanc 2014-----Santa Ynez
Shows a lovely toasted edge to the marmalade, honeysuckle, dried apricot and citrus flavors, adding a warm spicy note. Smooth and supple, with a jolt of lemony acidity that sneaks in on the finish. **WS 90**

FRENCH /ITALIAN WHITE

Torre Di Luna Pinot Grigio 2013 ----- Venetie, Italy

Juicy, with subtle white peach, apple, lemongrass and citrus notes, and gentle lingering finish.

Maso Canali Pinot Grigio 2013-----Trentino, Italy

Delicious, with pear, melon, grapefruit, and lemon flavors. Unusually round and gracious for a Pinot Grigio, but still clean and crisp, with medium body and a fruity finish. The refreshing acidity of this wine works well with our seafood dishes.

Lechthaler Pinot Grigio 2013----- Trentino, Italy

Rich, crisp and juicy flavors of Pear and Citrus mix with a hint of minerality in this balanced white, with a nice wash of refreshing acidity on the finish.

Dom Bernier Chardonnay 2014----- Loire Valley

A light, floral style, with a bright yellow apple core and hints of honeysuckle and quinine in the background. At this price point a great value Chardonnay.

Giovanni Almondo "Bricco De Cilegie" Arneis 2013 ----- Piedmont, Italy

A truly wonderful Italian white, with minerality, citrus, floral notes, & the taste of honey without the sweetness. A rich toasty finish (not oaky). One of the best we have tasted. Confirming that, the story has it that the other Italian winemakers in the area rush to get a few bottles of this when it first comes out.

Abbazia di Novacella Kerner 2014 -----Italy

Offers apple notes, with hints of cream. Medium-bodied, with a compact, fruity palate and clean, tight finish, the expression of fruit is chiseled and pointed in its detail, and a persistent vein of minerality gives the wine focus & energy. **RP 89**

Antinori Vermentino Bolgheri Tenuta Guado al Tasso 2011- Bolgheri, Italy

A great wine for oysters and seafood this is a crisp white, showing floral, apple and grapefruit notes, with a hint of straw. There's intensity, yet this feels weightless. Soft finish, this can be a nice alternative to Chardonnay.

FRENCH /ITALIAN WHITE

Francois Crochet Sancerre 2014----- Loire

Wonderful vibrant Sancerre, very crisp, with pure lemon tones, a hint of minerality and a finish of laser like intensity

***Schlumberger Pinot Gris “Les Princess Abbe” 2010/11** -----Alsace

Off-dry. Finely knit, with a vibrancy to the refined acidity that focuses the flavors of ripe peach, pear, guava and kumquat. Silky in texture, with a core of smoky minerality that pushes through on the lasting finish **WS 92 and Top 100 Wine**

Dom Brocard Chablis St Claire 2014 ----- Chablis

A textbook flinty aroma gives way to green apple, lemon and mineral flavors in this white, which shows fine depth and richness, offset by vibrant acidity. Excellent length **WS 91**

Domaine Jean Collet Chablis 2013-----Chablis

Very focused with crisp acidity, and vibrant lemon-lime flavors up front. Minerality sneaks in on the mid-palate and gives way to an attractive long-lasting finish. This wine way over-delivers for its AOC category. Very well done.

OTHER WHITE WINES AND ROSE

St Andre Figuiere "Magali" Rose 2013 ----- Provence, France

Made from 30% Syrah, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Grenache and the balance Cinsault, the 2013 Cotes de Provence Magali Signature Rose is an outstanding rose from this producer. Wild strawberry, subtle watermelon and hints of flowers all show here, and this refreshing, clean and classy effort finishes dry and with juicy acidity. It's rock solid and a superb rose **RP 91**

Dragonette Rhone Rose 2015 ----- Happy Canyon

A wonderful mélange of Red Rhone varietals with just enough fruit to let you know it's a California Rose and just enough acidity to let you know its in a French style. Rose petal, watermelon and vibrant strawberry flavors inform a wine that is pretty much the perfect match for any of our dishes.

Pine Ridge Chenin Blanc/Viognier 2014 ----- Napa

Light bodied. Crisp, tart, melon, and tangerine aromas jump from the glass of this 2013 Chenin Blanc/Viognier (80% and 20% respectively). Aged totally in stainless steel, it no doubt has much of its malolactic fermentation blocked given its crisp acid profile. A perfumed, delicious white wine

Paco & Lola Albarino 2013 ----- Rias Baixas, Spain

This wine has a light bouquet with touches of fresh lime, apricot and a touch of chalk dust. The palate is crisp, taut on the entry, underpinned by green apple, pear and ginger notes; leading to a refreshing lemony finish.

Fefinanes Albarino 2013 ----- Rias Baixas, Spain

Mineral, melon, and lemon zest inform the nose of this crisp, vibrant, savory offering. Although light to medium bodied, this wine has wonderful acidity which carries through the citrus and mineral notes to a long satisfying finish. The subtlety makes it a great food wine.

OTHER WHITE WINES AND ROSE

Stephan Ehlen “Erdener Treppchen Kabinett” Riesling 2014 ----- Mosel, Germany

This excellent Riesling starts with a slightly sweet wash of juicy acidity and fruit. Pineapple and peach flavors dominate and give way to a pleasant typical slightly petrol mineral character that gives depth and length to the finish, which gently echoes the initial fruit tones.

Dr Loosen “Spätlese Wehlener Sonnenuhr” Riesling 2011 ----- Mosel, Germany

Intense aromas and flavors of peach strudel and apple pie feature notes of custard and gooseberry. The vibrant finish echoes with long, pure glazed citrus notes. A powerful style. Drink now through 2030. **WS 94 Top 100**

Leeuwin “Art Series” Riesling 2013----- Margaret River, Australia

Possesses a lovely perfume of white peaches, lime cordial and honeysuckle with hints of jasmine and coriander seed. Light-bodied and dry with a great intensity of lemon-lime flavor in the mouth plus a hint of yeastiness, it finishes with very good persistence **RP 90**

Laurenz Gruner Veltliner 2014----- Austria

Basically dry but fruit forward, this wine exhibits a delicious wave of tangerine to start, followed by pineapple notes and an elegant dry mineral finish.

Halleck Gewurtztraminer 2010----- Sonoma

Full-bodied and well-endowed with classic litchi and spice tones, this wine has good acidity to go with its California level of fruit intensity. An amazing match for any of our Asian-styled dishes.

Billhook White Rhone Blend (V/R/M/GB) 2012 --- Santa Barbara County

So many white Rhone blends get it wrong, but this does not. Beautiful, medium bodied, a really delicious balance of White Rhone Grapes: Viognier, Roussane, Marsanne, and Grenache Blanc. Flavors of Key lime, and other citrus notes with a honeyed flavor and delicious textural beeswaxy note .

OTHER WHITE WINES AND ROSE

Zaca Mesa Z Blanc (White Rhone Blend) 2012-----Santa Ynez

Rich and round, with lush pineapple, apricot and peach flavors on a smooth body. Hints of spice and dried flowers gain momentum on the refreshing finish. Roussanne, Grenache Blanc and Viognier. WS 88

Cambria Viognier (Tepesquet) 2013----- Santa Maria Valley

A stunning Viognier, on the Stone fruit side with a wonderful balance of Apricot and Peach notes, subtle floral flavors, and great acidity, leading to a lingering finish that echoes deliciously the primary flavor components. Really well-done.

Jaffurs Viognier 2014 -----Santa Barbara

Juicy, with apricots, peaches, mint and lime peel, with floral notes. All of the elements are beautifully woven together in this rich, textured Viognier that achieves remarkable harmony while avoiding heaviness with dried floral and fresh earth notes that lead to a spicy finish

Carr Pinot Gris 2014 ----- Santa Rita Hills

Dry, but w/ round tropical notes, citrusy acidity, and grounding minerality to finish

Blair Fox Vermentino (Fox Family Vyd) 2014----- Santa Barbara County

A wonderful California version of the classic Italian varietal, the 2014 Vermentino Fox Family Vineyard offers up lovely citrus blossom, mineral and hints of melon. This is very well done, medium bodied, and refreshing.

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MERLOT

Rancho Sisquoc 2012 ----- Santa Ynez

Supple and focused, with appealing black cherry and herb aromas and soft currant, cedar and spice flavors

Raymond "Reserve" 2012 -----Napa

Mostly Merlot, with a small amount of Cabernet blended in, this wine, while soft, also has a firmer structure than many Merlots. It shows aromas of fruit, oak, and earth, leading to flavors of plum and blackberry, with a fruity depth of berry flavor that lasts well into the lingering finish.

Horse Heaven Hills (Columbia Crest) 2012 ----- Washington

Firm in texture, with dark berry, coffee and licorice flavors wrapped up in a nice oak treatment, which lingers pleasantly on the finish.

Hall 2009 ----- Napa

A gorgeous elegant Merlot with firm Cabernet-like structure but the tannins are smooth and integrated, letting the expressive and generous berry, currant, and chocolate tones shine through. This will benefit from decanting.

Duckhorn 2008 ----- Napa

Deep garnet-purple colour. Warm plum and blackberry aromas on the nose with a touch of dark chocolate, cloves and vanilla. Full body, medium to high acid and lots of blackberry and spice flavor. Soft to medium level of velvety tannins. Long finish.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON, CABERNET FRANC, AND MERITAGE

Vina Robles Cabernet Sauvignon 2012----- Paso Robles

Medium-full bodied, dry, w/ dark cherry fruit: firm tannins, oaky finish.

San Simeon Cabernet Sauvignon 2011----- Paso Robles

Firm and spicy, with ripe earthy currant, berry and cedary oak flavors that are well-dispersed, and a slightly chewy but pleasantly tannic finish. Excellent value!

Rancho Sisquoc Meritage 2012----- Santa Ynez

A nice local blend of the 5 Bordeaux varietals, with black cherry, smoky tobacco notes and a pleasing dash of oak bringing it all together on the finish.

Franciscan Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 ----- Napa

Offers up an enticing melange of sweet dark cherries, menthol, tobacco, incense, pencil shavings and graphite. This juicy, mid-weight Cabernet finishes with toasty vanilla oak notes, which linger pleasingly on the palate.

Beckmen Cabernet Sauvignon 2013----- Purisima Mtn, Santa Ynez

Full-bodied, with notes of chocolate, pomegranate, currant, cherry-vanilla, and smoke. Silky, smooth and refined, with supple tannins and vibrant acidity, good length on the finish.

Baehner Fournier Meritage "V3" (C, M, PV) 2011 - Happy Canyon (Santa Ynez)

Although our area is not yet considered great for Cabernet/Merlot blends, which this is, the Happy Canyon area in the eastern part of the Santa Ynez Valley, is showing itself to be our area for these varietals. This one is elegant and French style, with clean black cherry notes, a slight minerality and hints of oak on the finish.

Pace Cabernet Sauvignon (Estelle Vyd) 2012 -----Santa Ynez

Atypical for a local Cabernet, this wine exhibits chocolate, blackberry, and dark ripe fruits, along with caramel and tobacco notes. Ends with a long toasty Vanilla finish.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON, CABERNET FRANC, AND MERITAGE

Arrowood Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 ----- Sonoma

Aged in a combination of French and American oak for two years prior to being bottled unfiltered and unfiltered, this is a solid wine loaded with dark red fruit, mint, flowers, spices and licorice. It reveals good depth and concentration, along with a medium-bodied personality.

Feudi Del Pisciotto Cabernet Sauvignon 2012-----Sicily

Aromatic, with potpourri and sandalwood notes, this sinewy red blends dried currant, grilled plum, anise and bergamot accents. Balanced, but firm on the finish. This is a great value in an Italian Cabernet Sauvignon.

Falcone Cabernet Sauvignon (Mia's Vyd) 2012 Paso Robles

From one of our best local winemakers (Rusack) on his own label, this young Cabernet has wonderful fruit concentration, with blackberry and currant notes, but also excellent structure and supple tannins leading to a long flavorful finish. Although this wine has enough stuffing to age for a few years, it is accessible and ready to drink now and shows beautifully with a little air time.

Louis Martini Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 ----- Napa

Soft, round notes of plums, black cherry jam, licorice and roasted herbs soar from the glass of this perfumed Cabernet. This corpulent, plump, juicy, delicious, hedonistic effort should keep for up to a decade. **A Robert Parker Favorite**

Freemark Abbey Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 ----- Napa

Classic aromas of cedarwood, roasted herbs, dark cherries and white chocolate emerge from this spicy, medium-bodied Cabernet, and the flavors follow suit to deliver a solid, great value Napa Cabernet.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON, CABERNET FRANC, AND MERITAGE

Jamie Sloan “Borific” Bordeaux Blend 2012 ----- Happy Canyon

Very Bordeaux-like, medium bodied, with clean lines that reflect a wonderful balance of fruit, acidity and tannins. Smooth and refreshing. Fantastic with food, and a great example of what our area is now capable of producing in the area of French Bordeaux varietals and blends.

Jackson Hills Cabernet Sauvignon (Kendall Jackson) 2007 -----Knight's Valley

The outstanding 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Jackson Hills from Jess Jackson's holdings in Knight's Valley is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon aged 19 months in nearly all French oak (45% new). Its dense opaque purple color is followed by notes of spring flowers, blueberry and blackberry liqueur, graphite and ink. This wine is full-bodied and rich with moderately high tannins as well as tremendous concentration and length **RP 91**

Pine Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 ----- Napa

A tremendous value for this well-known Napa winery. Rich, plush, with black currant fruit, sweet tannins and a generous, fleshier, fatter mid-palate. **RP 90-92**

Frank Family Cabernet Sauvignon 2011----- Napa

The dark ruby/purple-colored 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon includes small amounts of Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. It offers delicious black currant and licorice characteristics as well as impressive purity, medium to full body and a textured, round finish.

Anakota Cabernet Sauvignon “Helena Montana Vyd” 2007-----Knight's Valley

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Helena Montana (100% Cabernet Sauvignon) exhibits an unmistakable minerality with a volcanic rock/burning ember/scorched earth component to its beautifully pure black currant fruit. Full-bodied, powerful and muscular with a boatload of tannin as well as fabulous concentration, this may turn out to be one of the longest lived wines ever made from Knight's Valley. **RP 92+**

CABERNET SAUVIGNON, CABERNET FRANC, AND MERITAGE

Lieff Cabernet Sauvignon “Auberge Road Vyd” 2008-9----- Napa

The Cabernet Sauvignon Auberge Road exhibits wonderful black currant, black cherry and kirsch-like notes intermixed with hints of licorice, cedar and spice box. Medium to full-bodied, elegant and pure with good equilibrium, this is a great value in Napa Valley Cab. **RP 93**

Chateau Montelena Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 ------ Napa

The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley is beautifully drinkable right now, with Black Cherry and currant flavors, spice and earth tones. Medium bodied with oak well-integrated into the structure. Good length on the finish with smooth tannins.

Cade “Howell Mountain” Cabernet Sauvignon 2009/12----- Napa

Balances power with finesse, offering intense blackberry, dusty rock, cedar, black licorice and dried herb flavors. Gains depth and nuance, with tannins providing traction and definition **WS 93**

*****Chappellet “Signature” Cabernet Sauvignon 2013**-----Napa

As the name suggests, Chappellet's Signature Cabernet is their classic wine. Fruit forward, but at the same time restrained, the 2013 vintage is balanced with sweet red fruit, spice and floral notes. Elegant tannins, complex and flavorful.

Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 ----- Alexander Valley

Aromas of vanilla, mocha, dill and anise impart complex scents, while the flavors fold over to the palate, joining taut dark berry and cherry notes, supported by firm, tight tannins.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON, CABERNET FRANC, AND MERITAGE

Justin Isosceles 2012 ----- Paso Robles

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc that spent 24 months in new French oak, the 2011 Isosceles offers classic lead pencil, cedar, hints of herbs and both cassis and currant-styled fruit in its approachable, full-bodied and elegant profile. It's beautifully made, has no hard edges and can be consumed anytime over the coming decade or more. **RP 92**

Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon "One Point Five" 2008 ----- Napa

A deep, dark, powerful wine, with sweet fruit as well as more glycerin and fat, this is a big, full-bodied Stags Leap Cabernet offering abundant notes of roasted herbs, chocolate, cassis, incense and earth. **RP 92**

Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon 2010----- Napa

Young and appropriately vibrant and grapey. Pure currant/blackberry fruit, veering briefly toward cedar & tobacco before tightening on the finish. **WS 92**

*****Lewis Cabernet Sauvignon 2013** ----- Napa

Remarkably elegant and refined for a wine of this size and depth, with tiers of plum, blackberry and currant flavors, as well as subtle touches of black licorice that remain pure and graceful on the long, lingering aftertaste

SYRAH/SHIRAZ

Lafond Syrah 2012----- Santa Rita Hills

A great value- more red fruits than dark fruits, finishing with nice tangy acidity.

Beckmen Syrah (Purissima Mountain) 2012 ----- Ballard Canyon

A serious wine, medium-bodied, dense and tightly wound, with lots of intriguing notes. Aromas of currant, tobacco and pencil lead lead to concentrated flavors of blueberry, tar and licorice. Tar predominates right now but ask this wine to be decanted and the other flavors will gradually emerge. **WS 89, RP 92**

Beckmen Syrah "Block 6" 2006 ----- Santa Ynez

Ripe, savory, firm and full-bodied, with a pleasing mix of fresh earth, mineral, black cherry and dried currant fruit that's rich, focused and supple.. **WS 92**

Falcone Syrah "Mia's Vineyard" 2012----- Paso Robles

Brimming with dark berry, black cherry and black licorice up front before tightening up and firming, this full-bodied red ends with a minerality that gives it a satisfyingly gripping aftertaste

Rusack Syrah 2012 -----Ballard Canyon

A pretty, up-front and elegantly styled effort with classic berry fruits, spice, leather & hints of game. Medium-bodied, forward and delicious on the palate.

Tensely Syrah 2013-----Santa Barbara County

Manages to pack in loads of fruit while maintaining a sleek, elegant structure. The core of wild berry and blackberry are juicy and vibrant, with hints of baking spices, cedary oak and loamy, pebbly earth. Long and firm on the finish, ending with fine-grained tannins **WS 93**

opal restaurant and bar Syrah (by Jaffurs Winery) 2013 -- Santa Barbara County

Focused and well-balanced, with raspberry and wildflower aromas and layered flavors of blackberry, smoky sage and cracked pepper that linger toward lively but ripe tannins **WS 91**

SYRAH/SHIRAZ

Larner Syrah 2010----- Santa Ynez Valley

An outstanding wine, the 2010 Syrah Santa Ynez Valley comes from the sandy soils of the Larner Vineyard and spent 22 months in 30% new French oak and 5% new American oak. Possessing beautiful richness in its ripe blackberry jam, licorice and spice-driven aromas and flavors, it's medium to full-bodied, decadently styled and already up-front and ready to go

Ojai Syrah "Bien Nacido" 2010----- Santa Maria Valley

Aromatic and dark-fruited, this is serious: with blackberry and graphite notes, densely packed yet medium-bodied, with an earthiness enlivened by hints of anise and sage notes.

Ojai Syrah (Roll Ranch) 2010-----Ventura County

The 2010 Syrah Roll Ranch is year-in, year-out, an outstanding wine. It also happens to age beautifully. Looking at this vintage, it sports an inky purple color to go with loads of black and blue fruits, licorice, ground herbs and distinct minerality. Similarly styled on the palate, it has medium to full-bodied richness, ripe tannin and a rocking finish **RP 93+**

Ramey Syrah 2010----- Sonoma Coast

Blackberries, smoke, tar, game & incense emerge from this inky-hued, huge, structured Syrah, combining the best elements of the house style! **RP 94**

Sanguis "Misfit" Syrah 2011----- Central Coast

Extremely rich and a good value, 100% Syrah from Bien Nacido and John Sebastiano vineyards. Juicy berry, olive, peppered steak and hints of gaminess to go with a medium to full-bodied, rich, nicely textured style. There's bright acidity here, but it's nicely integrated and adds freshness to the finish **RP 92**

SYRAH/SHIRAZ

Blair Fox Syrah (Fox Family Vineyard) 2010 ----- Ballard Canyon, Santa Ynez
This wine has terrific acids buttressing a dense, full-bodied Syrah with black fruits and attractive herbal notes. Full, thick, and juicy, this wine needs just a little time to open, but is a tremendous example of what is wonderful about Syrah from our area: Fruit forward but not at the expense of the other elements that make a great wine: balance, terroir, and complexity. **RP 93**

Foxen Syrah "Williamson-Dore" 2011 ----- Santa Ynez
Ripe, meaty, and earthy, with loads of black fruit, licorice, olive paste and green peppercorns, the 2011 Syrah Williamson-Dore Vineyard is 100% Syrah that spent 16 months in 60% new Hungarian puncheons. Medium-bodied, rich and supple on the palate, with lively acidity and a great finish. **RP 90**

Alban Syrah Estate "Patrina" 2009----- Edna Valley
It is a gorgeous, inviting wine laced with expressive aromatics and layers of supple, generous fruit. The radiance of the vintage is on full display **RP 90-93**

Stolpman Syrah "Hilltops" 2010----- Santa Ynez
The 2010 Syrah Hilltop comes across as massively powerful yet compact. Its bouquet is expressive, where sweet white flowers and all sorts of minerals add considerable complexity and a higher-toned register to the fruit. A blast of dark raspberries and black plums frames the long, intense finish. **RP 92**

*****Shafer "Relentless" Syrah 2009** ----- Santa Ynez
Brimming with dark, rich berry, loamy earth, crushed rock and espresso: powerful expression yet also tapered and sophisticated, ending with subtle nuances that come alive on the finish. Syrah & Petite Sirah. The 2008 was Wine Spectator's #1 wine of the year. This is a more than worthy follow-up. **WS 95**

***Two Hands Shiraz "Bella's Garden" 2010**----- McLaren Vale, Australia
Pepper, clove and plum flavors weave through dense dark cherry and roasted plum fruit, melding together smoothly on the complex and expansive finish. A big wine with depth and harmony. **WS 95, #3 in top 100.**

SYRAH/SHIRAZ

*****Saxum Syrah/ Mourvedre “Booker Vyd” 2010** -----Paso Robles
From another of the great vineyards in Westside Paso Robles, the 2010 Booker Vineyard comes across as big, dark and brooding. Black fruit, game, licorice and tar are some of the many notes that take shape in this huge, intense Syrah-based wine. The 2010 was aged in 350-liter barrels, 60-70% new, all of which the wine handles beautifully. Layers of fruit continue to blossom in the imposing, expansive finish. The blend is 81% Syrah and 19% Mourvedre. This wine needs decanting **RP 94-96**

*****Jonata Le Sangre Syrah 2008**-----Santa Ynez
A rustic, gritty style, with expansive flavors and chewy tannins woven into the snappy, vivid dark berry, cedar, mocha and espresso notes, maintaining a dense, chewy profile through the finish **RP95**

ZINFANDEL

Rancho Zabaco 2013 ----- Sonoma

Sleek and tart, showing modest cherry, plum and herb notes wrapped in vanilla-scented oak. Finishes tangy and bright.

Ancient Peaks 2012 ----- Paso Robles

Soft, ripe and jammy, offering black raspberry and jalapeño aromas, and focused, firm red plum & mineral flavors that finish with lively tannins & acidity.

Seghesio 2013 ----- Sonoma

A lively, zesty red offering bright cherry & tarragon aromas and sleekly layered flavors of briary raspberry, nutmeg and fresh-cracked black pepper **WS 92**

Turley "Juveniles" Zinfandel 2013 ----- California

A killer Zinfandel, the 2013 Zinfandel Juvenile is a blend from younger vines replanted on old-vine sites. For the statisticians, this wine is made from Zinfandel vines ranging from six to 25 years of age across 15 different vineyards, including such hallowed Zin terroir as Hayne, Ueberroth, Pesenti, Salvador, and Vineyard 101. This is a stunning example that shouldn't be discounted just because it is not a single-vineyard wine. Deep ruby/purple, with oodles of black cherry, raspberry and blackcurrant fruit as well as some pepper and spice, the wine is plump, full-bodied, sexy and delicious. Sporting 15.5% natural alcohol, this is a lusty, extroverted Zinfandel that has been brilliantly put together by the Turley winemaking crew. Drink it over the next 4-5 years. **RP 94**

Turley Rattlesnake 2012 ----- Paso Robles

Concentrated, expressive and exuberant, this wine is bursting with bright berry flavor, yet reined in by refreshing acidity. A great wine in a great vintage. **RP 94**

*****Turley "Dusi Vyd" 2011** ----- Paso Robles

Rich and powerful, but focused like a laser, with wild berry and toasty briar aromas that lead to ripe but complex flavors of black cherry, licorice and spicy orange peel. The tannins are big but fleshy. **WS 95**

ZINFANDEL

Turley “Hayne Vyd” 2009 ----- Napa

Turley’s flagship offering, the 2009 Zinfandel Hayne Vineyard is one of the top Zinfandels of the vintage. Super-rich black raspberry, black currant, pepper, crushed rock and floral aromas are followed by a deep, full-bodied, stunningly concentrated Zinfandel with superb purity and close to 16% alcohol. This powerhouse is atypically rich and concentrated for a 2009. **RP 92-95**

Ridge Lytton Springs Zinfandel 2013 ----- Sonoma

Refreshingly old-school in style, with floral dill and raspberry aromas and elegant, layered flavors of cherry, anise and pepper. Zinfandel, Petite Sirah, Carginane and Mataro. **WS 91**

Frog’s Leap 2012----- Napa

An elegant style w/restrained berry fruit & attractive oaky finish framing the fruit.

PINOT NOIR

Tolosa Pinot Noir Edna Ranch (1/2 Btl Only) 2012-Edna Valley

Lean and delicate but well-structured, with cherry, herbal and toast aromas, and well-integrated tannins.

La Vie “Pretty in Pink” 2008----- Santa Cruz

As the name implies, this is a very pretty wine, delicate but delicious and flavorful to a depth beyond its medium body suggests. Rose petal notes and soft cherry flavors play out against a subtle structure of gentle tannins and discreet acidity, which leads to a lingering finish that echoes the earlier notes.

Lucia (1/2 Btl only) 2013-----Santa Lucia Highlands

Pure and rich, with vivid, ripe wild berry and blackberry, revealing an enticing touch of minty spiciness. Holds and gains depth on the long, deep finish **WS 92**

Bishop’s Peak Pinot Noir (From Talley) 2013----- Central Coast

This offers soft cherry and plum flavors, with spice and earth tones adding structure and support. A very well made wine, easy to drink and a good value.

Cloudy Bay Pinot Noir 2012-----Marlborough, New Zealand

Elegant, with pure, plush raspberry coulis and cherry flavors at the core, gaining momentum as the layers of clove, pine, lavender and red licorice come in. Exhibits power on the finish. **WS 90**

Laetitia 2013-----Arroyo Grande

Ripe, with very good depth to currant, wild berry and plum flavors. Round, solid tannins and generous toasty oak notes linger on the finish

Melville “Verna’s” 2013-----Santa Barbara County

The 2013 Pinot Noir Estate Verna's is intense, potent, and bursting with flavor in every direction, with sweet dried cherries, herbs, mint and fennel, all of which come together in a refined, medium-bodied style that is highly appealing. A sweet, perfumed finish rounds things out nicely.

PINOT NOIR

Melville Pinot Noir M Block 2013 One of the top Pinot Noirs in our area, Melville's Pinot Noir Block M is a fabulous wine that gives up notions of ripe currants, plum, underbrush, caramelized meats and spice in its rich, voluptuous and decadently styled palate. The texture here is something, and yet it stays classy and pure, with blockbuster length. It's hard to resist now, yet should evolve gracefully going forward. **RP 97**

Au Bon Climat 2014----- Santa Barbara
Floral, perfumed and peppery berry aromas are medium-weight, delicate and easy-drinking. More like a young French Burgundy in its restraint and bright cherry flavors.

Stoller 2011----- Dundee Hills, Oregon
Fresh and inviting, with pear-accented blackberry and sassafras notes, coming together smoothly against firm tannins on the finish

Cambria (Julia's Vyd) "Clone 4" 2013 ----- Santa Maria Valley
Offering fabulous fruit and a rounded, supple profile, the 2013 Pinot Noir Clone 4 gives up perfumed strawberry, Asian spice, wild flowers and dried underbrush in a medium-bodied, pure and layered package. **RP 91**

Gainey 2012----- Santa Rita Hills
Gainey's 2012 Pinot Noir is a solid value that shows classic cola, spice, licorice and red berry fruit on both the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, straightforward and delicious, it's a solid and a very good wine in its price range

Paring Pinot Noir 2014----- Santa Barbara County
This shows a darker slant to its classic Pinot Noir fruit and reveals lots of black cherry and black raspberry, crushed rock and peppery herbs on the nose. Medium-bodied, nicely textured, with notable density and fine tannin, it's the real deal, yet sells for a song. **RP 90**

PINOT NOIR

Pence Ranch 2013----- Santa Rita Hills

Another great value in local wine from the Santa Rita Hills. It's medium bodied, with light red and black fruits, spice and underbrush, with a clean feel on the palate. A very well-made wine.

Foxen 2013----- Santa Maria Valley

Fruit forward, vibrant, with great acidity and vivid cherry and cranberry flavors. Long finish. For a young wine a tremendous value.

Foxen (John Sebastiano) 2012----- Santa Rita Hills

Slightly tannic, with a light grip around vivid ripe red and dark berry fruit, with touches of anise and spice. Ends on a cedary note, with a lingering finish.

J. Wilkes 2012----- Santa Maria Valley

The 2012 Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley is a medium-bodied, nicely textured Pinot Noir that has subtle sweet and sour cherries, underbrush, earth and floral aromas and flavors. Hints of well-integrated oak lead to a graceful finish.

Siduri 2013----- Santa Rita Hills

Presents Pinot in a savory, herb-driven style, with dry, loamy tannins and darker berry fruit notes with hints of smoke. . This has a distinctive personality and subtle flavor nuances throughout. Medium-bodied , long finish **RP 89-91**

Hartford Court 2013----- Russian River

This red strikes a beautiful balance between moderately rich red berry, blackberry, subtle earth, spice and dried herb notes, with a complex, graceful finish.

Ken Brown 2012----- Santa Barbara County

Soft red fruit tones mix with notes of violet and hints of spice, with a delicate touch of earth. Ken Browns always have a gentle finesse to them and great varietal typicity, making them a great match for our cuisine.

PINOT NOIR

Rusack 2013----- Santa Rita Hills

Medium-bodied, this wine offers pretty spice, sweet cherries and hints of flowers on the nose. A little tight, we recommend decanting to allow this wine to open up properly.

Far Niente's En Route Pinot Noir "Les Pommiers" 2013----- Russian River

A big, rich, charming and graceful effort, with tiers of red berry, raspberry, plum and cherry flavors, accented by black licorice and floral scents. Gains depth and momentum, ending with chewy tannins. Decanting recommended. **WS 90**

Fiddlehead "Seven Twenty Eight" (Fiddlestix) 2011----- Santa Rita Hills

Typical SRH black fruit and spice on the nose, this balanced medium-bodied wine rounds out on the palate with soft cranberry, black cherry and spices. Elements of earth and forest floor in the mid-palate. Very satisfying mouthfeel as it opens up and leads to a long finish. Does need aeration to show all of its richness so decanting is recommended.

Carr "Turner Vyd" 2009----- Santa Rita Hills

A more fruit forward style, with black cherry fruit, cola, herb, and wood notes. It is a darker colored, slightly riper, elegant Pinot with crisp acidity.

Kosta Browne (1/2 Bottle Only) 2010----- Sonoma Coast

Displays a firm, generous mix of dried berry, mineral, cedar and sage, with touches of wilted rose, raspberry and cranberry, ending with fine, detailed tannins **WS 92**

Kosta Browne "Gap's Crowne" 2010----- Sonoma Coast

Broad-shouldered, very ripe and rich, with great intensity and concentration to the baked berry notes, mixing blueberry, wild berry, plum and raspberry. Ends with fresh earth, wilted rose and subtle berry flavors **WS 94**

PINOT NOIR

JCR Ranch "Estate" 2012 ----- Santa Barbara County
Medium bodied with bright cherry flavors and red fruits, along with toasty notes from the well-integrated oak. Full-flavored but still displaying the elegance of Pinot Noir.

Dragonette 2013----- Santa Rita Hills
Showing classic, earthy notes of underbrush, forest floor, spice and assorted red berry fruits, it's medium-bodied, supple and beautifully textured. **RP 90**

Patz and Hall 2012 ----- Sonoma Coast
This beauty is a real steal in terms of high quality at a reasonable price. Deep ruby, this exuberant, delicious Pinot offers up notes of roasted herbs, forest floor, plum sauce and black cherries followed by a deep, rich, full-bodied, round and luscious wine finish **RP 90**

Roar 2012----- Santa Lucia Highlands
Coming from five different vineyards, the 2012 Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands is another outstanding effort from this team. Loaded with ripe raspberry, licorice and crushed-flower nuances, this beautiful 2012 has a supple, forward and delicious profile that's hard to resist. **RP 91**

Roar "Garys' Vyd" 2011/12 ----- Santa Lucia Highlands
Showing more black fruits, with hints of currants, black cherries, crushed stone and a touch of herb, the 2011 Pinot Noir Garys' Vineyard has a slight Burgundian feel in its texture and acid profile. Nevertheless, there's a core of sweet fruit that's all California. Enjoy this balanced, richly textured effort over the coming 7-8 years **RP 93**

Twomey 2012 ----- Russian River
Focused well-structured, typical Russian River fruit purity: black cherry and blackberry fruit enlivened by citrusy acidity, ending with a pithy edge that leads to a soft elegant finish.

PINOT NOIR

Halleck "Hillside Cuvee" 2008 ----- Sonoma Coast

Elegant wine that tames the wild berry notes and earthy tones this wine presents by weaving them into a delicate tapestry of soft fruit and persistent but soft tannic structure, rendered lively through the long finish by great acidity.

Davis Bynum Dijon Clone 115 "Jane's Vineyard" 2012 ----- Russian River

A delicate style, with fragrant rose petal scents. At points supple, this offers plum, blueberry and raspberry flavors, firming pleasantly on the finish. **WS 90**

Paul Hobbs 2011 ----- Russian River

A delicious wine, the 2011 Pinot Noir is a great example of the year. Sweet floral notes, red berries, mint & anise notes weave together in the glass in this expressive, beautiful wine. Juicy and radiant, this captures the very best qualities of Sonoma Pinot Noir in this cold vintage: a terrific showing. **RP 90-92**

*****Domaine Serene "Evenstad Reserve" 2010** ---- Willamette Valley Oregon

No 3 in WS Top 100. A vibrant, focused and deliciously complex red, offering raspberry, cherry, cinnamon, mocha and subtle sage notes rolling through the long and expressive finish. Deft. **WS 95**

*****Pisoni Estate "Pisoni Vyd" 2007** ----- Santa Lucia Highlands

An exceptional effort from 10-year-old vines, this dense ruby/purple-hued, full-bodied Pinot Noir exhibits a killer aromatic display of black raspberries, forest floor, spring flowers, cola, and a subtle hint of smoke. Although extravagantly rich, it is not overweight, but rather well-delineated and pure. This is a full-bodied tour de force in Pinot Noir winemaking that has the aromatic complexity of a grand cru Burgundy, but the sensational fruit, glycerin, texture, and mouthfeel of the golden state of California **RP 96**

PINOT NOIR

Bergstrom (Silice Vyd) Pinot Noir 2013 ----- Chehelam Oregon

Firm in texture, this lithe bundle of black cherry, raspberry, espresso and smoke flavors comes together with integrity on the harmonious finish. **WS 92**

Sea Smoke "Southing" 2012 ----- Santa Rita Hills

A gorgeous nose of spiced berries, violets, sous-bois, and a hint of vanilla. The flamboyantly flavored core of black raspberry & plum fruit is accented with spice and an undertone of earthy flora. With intense fruit flavor, yet still angelic, this wine has a soft and seamless demeanor, w/ oak adding complimentary seasoning & typically bright Santa Rita Hills acidity adding vibrancy.

Paul Lato "La Suerte" (Solomon Hills) 2011 ----- Santa Maria Valley

Burgundian, w/ sweet red fruits, flowers, mint & forest floor aromas and flavors, the 2011 Pinot Noir Suerte Solomon Hills Vineyard has fantastic purity and detail on the palate, with polished tannin and notable structure. **RP 96+**

Calera "Jensen" Pinot Noir 2011 ----- Mt Harlan

Beautifully complex, Calera's 2011 Pinot Noir Jensen Vineyard offers a lively, fresh feel in its sweet cherry, strawberry, sappy spring flowers and subtle mint-driven bouquet. Medium-bodied, layered and seamless, it's an elegant and silky example of this cuvee to drink over the coming decade or more. **RP 93**

OTHER RED WINES

Lapostolle Canto de Apalta 2010----- Rapel Valley, Chile

A rich, smoky red, sporting dark cassis, grilled fig and macerated cherry notes to the iron, smoke and dark spice flavors that linger through the mocha-tinged finish. Carmenère, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah **WS 90**

Honoro Vera Garnacha 2014 ----- Calayatud, Spain

Berry and cherry flavors mark this juicy red, with accents of herbs and smoke. Light tannins, with lively acidity.

Juan Gil Monastrell (Mourvedre) 2013----- Jumilla, Spain

Deep, bright ruby. Aromas of black raspberry, cola, oak spices and black tea. Musky and penetrating, offering spicy and almost sweet red and dark berry flavors that show a suave blend of richness and vivacity. Fine-grained tannins add grip to the long, subtly smoky finish.

Numanthia “Termes” 2010----- Toro, Spain

This expressive red offers blackberry, chocolate, toast and mineral notes, with firm, well-integrated tannins supporting a plush texture. Ripe yet focused, in the modern style. **WS 91**

Bodegas El Nido “Clio”(Cab/ Mourvedre) 2009- Jumilla, Spain

The 2009 Clio is a blend of 70% Monastrell and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in new French and American oak for 24 months. While the bouquet is ineluctably very oaky, there is clearly sufficient fruit to support it, so it retains freshness and clarity with copious black fruit and a hint of licorice. The palate is soft and plush in the mouth, caressing and velvety with a rounded, sensual, black cherry and sloe-tinged finish that you cannot help but fall for. It certainly disguises its 15.5% alcohol well. While it does not express its terroir, that is not the intention of Clio, and it is a delicious Jumilla red. **RP 90-93**

OTHER RED WINES

Bodegas Alto Moncayo (Grenache) 2009 ----- Aragon, Spain

Espresso, toasty vanilla and licorice flavors are dark and sweet in this rich red, which features linzer torte, fig pudding & dried cherry flavors, a plush, generous texture & soft, thick tannins. Extreme, but sensuous and appealing **WS 93**

Bodegas Puerto Salinas 2009 (Cab, Mourv, Gren)-Yecla Spain-69.00

Composed of 66% Monastrell, 19% Garnacha and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon aged for one year in both new and 2-year-old French oak, it displays an inky/purple color along with notes of road tar, melted asphalt, blackberry liqueur, camphor, graphite and forest floor. The wine is complex, full-bodied, rich and intense with terrific purity and wonderful overall balance. It is one more example of a wine that completely over-delivers. **RP 92**

Colome Malbec 2013----- Calchaqui, Argentina

This bursts with fresh, pure-tasting flavors of raspberry, blackberry and roasted plum, supported by firm acidity and tannins. Notes of slate and black pepper show midpalate, with a finish that offers dark chocolate accents. **WS 90**

***Catena Malbec 2012**----- Mendoza, Argentina

An intense red, showing concentrated flavors of dark plum, kirsch, dried beef and baker's chocolate flanked by notes of tobacco leaf and ginger. The powerful finish is filled with sanguine details **WS 90**

Fess Parker's Hodge Du Podge Syrah Rhone Blend ----- Santa Barbara County

Mostly Syrah, this easy-drinking, lively blend displays black cherry, chocolate, vanilla, and anise notes, leading to a smooth finish.

Carina Cellars Sibylline (GSM) 2009 ----- Paso Robles

Pretty blackberry fruit, spring flowers, mint and pepper in its medium-bodied, pure, supple and elegant style. **RP 90**

OTHER RED WINES

Margerum “M5” (GSM, Counoise and Cinsault) 2013 ----- Santa Barbara
Well done, with an elegant, complex array of red and black fruits and light oak, dried herb and cedary notes. Impressively delicate and gracefully balanced. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault and Counoise. **WS 90**

Larner Elemental (GSM) 2010

Meaty, dark and rich, with loads of blackcurrants, licorice, ground herbs and pepper, this big, up-front and ripe effort is a classic California wine, with tremendous fruit purity

Orin Swift “The Prisoner” (Zin/ Syrah/ Cab) 2013 Napa

A Perennial favorite, this remains a bold, rich red blend that's jammed with flavor. Aromas of blackberry and caramel lead to ripe plum, licorice and spicy vanilla flavors. Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Syrah, Charbono and Grenache. **WS 90**

Beckmen Cuvee Le Bec (GSM+ Counoise) 2013-----Santa Ynez

Earthy but with a significant fruit component of black raspberry and cherry, with an herbal note chiming in on the finish.

Foxen Cuvee Jean Marie “Williamson-Dore Vyd” (GSM) 2013 -----Santa Ynez

Tight and spicy, full-bodied and garnet in color, with red candy, raspberry, licorice and anise notes. Finishes with firm, fine-grained tannins. Grenache and Mourvèdre. We recommend decanting.

J Lohr “Tower Road” Petite Sirah 2013----- Paso Robles

Rich, full-bodied, fruit-forward, rich blackberry and spice tones. Grounded by subtle earth tones and smooth but firm tannins. Hits the right notes that many Petite Sirahs fail to get. Finishes with a hint of oaky Vanilla. Delicious and a great value!

OTHER RED WINES

Rangeland “Mistletoe: Cabernet/Syrah Blend 2012-----Paso Robles

Loaded with dark plummy fruits, charcoal, licorice and spice, this beauty hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, fabulous purity of fruit and notable, sweet tannin. Very well-done. **RP 90**

Villa Creek Avenger (GSM) 2010 ----- Paso Robles

An enticing mix of ripe berry, hot brick, white pepper & spice. Holds focus thru the finish, ending with subtle earthiness. Syrah, Mourvèdre & Grenache. **WS 92**

L’Aventure Optimus (Syrah, Cab, Petite Verdot) 2011 ----- Paso Robles

The 2011 Optimus is a rocking value that gives more than a glimpse into the style and quality of this estate. A blend of 50% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Petit Verdot and spending 14 months in 70% new French oak, it delivers fantastic black and blue fruits, tobacco, violets and cedar aromas and flavors to go with a full-bodied, supple and beautifully polished mouthfeel that stays fresh and lively. Gorgeous all around. **RP 94**

Linne Calodo “Problem Child” (Zin, Syrah, Mourvedre) 2011 ----- Paso Robles

possesses a sweet core of fruit as well as a medium to full-bodied, voluptuously textured profile. Blackberry, currants, exotic flowers and violets all show on the nose, and it continually changes in the glass and is beautifully complex. **RP 94**

*****Linne Calodo “Sticks and Stones” GSM 2012**- Paso Robles

This is a smoking blend of 63% Grenache, 19% Mourvedre and 18% Syrah. Cherry blossom, cassis, wild flowers and licorice can all be found in this full-bodied, supple and elegant wine. It has no hard edges, but thrilling purity and a sexy style that keeps you coming back **RP 95**

OTHER RED WINES

Denner Ditch Digger GSM 2011-----Paso Robles

The 2011 Ditch Digger is just reaching its drinking window, so decanting still advised. Offering up beautiful black fruits, smoke and pepper intermixed with spice and earthy nuances, it flows onto the palate with a medium to full-bodied, elegant feel that carries rich flavors and sweet tannin. It's nicely done and possesses an outstanding mix of richness and freshness. **RP 92**

Saxum Syrah/Grenache/ Mourvedre "Terry Hoage" 2010 -----Paso Robles

Here in its first vintage, the 2010 Terry Hoage Vineyard bursts onto the palate with rich, dark fruit. The weight power and richness of Syrah comes through beautifully in the layered, sumptuous wine. Flowers, licorice, mint, tobacco and grilled herbs wrap around the finish. The 2010 boasts serious density and fabulous overall balance. It is terrific first effort. Ask us to decant. **RP 94+**

*****Saxum "Broken Stones" 2009 (Rhone Blend)** - Paso Robles

This muscle-bound red offers a firm backbone of mineral, loamy earth, spice and cedar, with blackberry, licorice and berry pie flavors folding in behind. We recommend decanting. **WS 95, RP 96**

Palmina Nebbiola (Stolpman Vyd) 2007 ----- **Santa Ynez**

This winery specializes in Italian varietals grown in our area and they do a great job at it. This wine shows dried cherries, crushed flowers and spices, and although deceptively medium in body, it possesses gorgeous underlying depth and richness. Hints of these flavors linger on the finish. As is typical with Nebbiolo, this is still a bit tannic, so decanting is recommended, but it quickly opens up to show the exceptional character describe above. Compared to its Italian counterparts it represents an amazing value.

Makor Sangiovese (White Hawk Vyd) 2011 ----- Santa Barbara County

A staff favorite, this is light to medium bodied but full-flavored, complex, with notes of red fruit, spice, mineral and earth, great acidity, & Italian character married to California fruit. It works extremely well with much of our cuisine.

OTHER RED WINES

Tre Anelli Sangiovese 2013----- Santa Barbara County

Boasting rich California fruit, this wine shows bright blackberry notes, herbal hints and a caramel oaky finish.

Jaffurs Petite Sirah (Thompson Vyd) 2011 ----- Santa Barbara

One of the most elegant Petite Sirahs out there, the 2011 Petite Sirah Thompson Vineyard is a knockout that offers up thrilling aromas of smoky black and red raspberries, tar, licorice, mineral and dark chocolate. Full-bodied, tannic and structured, yet also seamless and silky, with loads of depth and richness. **RP 94**

ITALIAN RED

La Valentina “Spelt” Montepulciano D’Abruzzo 2010 -----Italy

The delicious 2010 Montepulciano d’Abruzzo Riserva Spelt is an opulent and bold wine with meaty dark tones of prune and plum followed by barbecue spice, tobacco and leather. What stands out most is the softness of the tannins and the velvety rich nature of the mouthfeel. **RP 91**

Feudi Del Pisciotto Cabernet Sauvignon 2012-----Sicily

Aromatic, with potpourri and sandalwood notes, this sinewy red blends dried currant, grilled plum, anise and bergamot accents. Balanced, but firm on the finish. This is a great value in an Italian Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vignamaggio Chianti Classico (Prenzano) 2012 -- -----Tuscany, Italy

This is rich and powerful, and matches a beefy structure with cherry, almond and briar flavors. The tannins are a bit assertive now, but should soften with time. Benefits from decanting as it keeps getting better and better with aeration.

Belguardo Serrata Toscana (Sangiovese, Alicante) 2011-----Tuscany, Italy

Embedded with fine tannins, this features a gossamer structure for its cherry, raspberry, tea and spice flavors. Firm, yet balanced and long, with an aftertaste of fruit and spice. Again you should decant this wine for maximum enjoyment. **90 WS**

Felsina Chianti Classico (1/2 and Full) 2011 -----Tuscany, Italy

The 2010 Chianti Classico is beautiful, pointed and articulate. Sweet red berries, anise, flowers, spices and licorice are some of the many notes that flow from this gorgeous Chianti. The freshness and vibrancy are pure 2010. The Chianti Classico is 100% Sangiovese aged in a combination of casks and smaller French oak barrels Year in year out Felsina’s Chianti Classico is a reference point wine for the region. **RP 91**

ITALIAN RED

Fontodi Chianti Classico 2007----- Tuscan, Italy

Blackberry and dark plum aromas follow through to a full body, w/ silky tannins and bright, fruity finish. Nice combination of bright fruit and clean acidity. **WS 91**

Col D'Orcia Brunello Di Montalcino 2007 ----- Tuscan, Italy

The 2007 Brunello di Montalcino is very beautiful in this vintage. Ripe, silky tannins frame expressive red cherries, flowers, licorice and tobacco. Sweet floral notes add lift on the delicate finish. Col d'Orcia's 2007 is pure elegance and finesse from start to finish. The wine spent 36 months in oak, all of which it has handled with grace **RP 93**

*****Il Poggione Brunello Di Montalcino 2006**----- Tuscan, Italy

The 2006 Brunello di Montalcino is another superb Brunello from Il Poggione. The ripeness of the vintage meets a classic sense of structure as this bold, full-bodied wine opens up. The 2006 offers a decidedly more virile, masculine expression of Sangiovese. Dark cherries, tobacco, smoke and underbrush wrap around a wall of tannin as the finish builds to a majestic close. **RP 94**

Canalicchio Brunello Di Montalcino 2006 ----- Tuscan, Italy

Ripe and juicy, with cherry, raspberry, rose and spice aromas and flavors, all playing out on the elegant frame. Delicate, favoring finesse over power, but w/tannins underneath requiring decanting to integrate. Mineral finish **WS 92 RP 94**

*****Valdicava Brunello Di Montalcino 2004** ----- Tuscan, Italy

Displays complex aromas of blackberry and cherry, with a hint of licorice. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a delicious finish of wonderful yet subtle fruit. Well-integrated and beautiful. Everything is in the right place. **RP 94, WS 95**

ITALIAN RED

Ornellaia “La Serre Nuova” 2010 ----- Tuscany, Italy

The 2010 Le Serre Nuove dell’Ornellaia shows off tons of concentration and sheer depth. Mocha, espresso, dark cherries and plums are some of the many notes that take shape in the glass. The 2010 is a decidedly powerful, virile wine endowed with considerable power. **RP 91-94**

Luce Della Vite Toscana (Super Tuscan) 2008 -- Tuscany, Italy

Blackberry, black currant and spice flavors hold court in this polished, international-style red. The tannins are dense, yet matched by sweet fruit, and the finish evokes tobacco and spice. Merlot and Sangiovese. **WS 90**

Allegrini Palazzo Della Torre 2010----- Veneto Italy

The 2010 Palazzo della Torre is 70% Corvina, 25% Rondinella and 5% Sangiovese. It is air-dried until December after harvest. That brief appassimento shapes a delicious wine with loads of cherry and dark spice. A great value with the depth of concentration and length matching a wine double this price. **RP 90**

Le Ragose Valpolicella 2009 ----- Veneto Italy

Offers up dark cherries, earthiness, tobacco, spices and worn-in leather with gorgeous inner sweetness and depth. Plenty of depth & long, resonating finish. Although slightly rustic, it’s a tremendous value & a great bottle of Italian wine.

Le Ragose Amarone 2005----- Veneto Italy

The 2004 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico is a pretty, understated wine with lovely inner perfume in its sweet roses, raspberries, spices and licorice. The tannins remain fine and silky throughout, conveying elegance. The wine offers outstanding length as well as balance. Though not a blockbuster, the 2004 Amarone impresses for superb drinkability and balance. **RP 92**

ITALIAN RED

Sartori Amarone 2010----- Veneto Italy

A great value at under \$100. This is accessible Amarone, fresh and balanced, with well-meshed tannins and flavors of damson plum, mulberry, forest floor, and cocoa powder. Showing well now but will benefit from decanting. **90 WS**

Il Cascinone Barbera d'Asti Rive 2012 ----- Piedmont, Italy

This is a wonderfully clean, well balanced Italian red, with dark plum notes, smooth tannins, good acid balance, long aftertaste.

***Travaglini Gattinara 2006**----- Piedmont. Italy

Has lots of dried flowers and very ripe fruits, with a Christmas pudding undertone. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins & a long, rich finish. A little Port-like, but rich and impressive. This is consistently delicious. **WS 91, #98 in 2007's Top 100**

Michele Chiarlo Barbaresco "Reyna" 2010 ---Piedmont, Italy

This wine has cherry, menthol, white pepper and tea notes. There are some firm tannins when first opened so it needs to soften a bit- decanting recommended but it is a great wine and a tremendous value at this price. **90 WS**

Pio Cesare Barbaresco 2007 -----Piedmont, Italy

The 2007 Barbaresco is a gorgeous, inviting wine graced with exquisite dark fruit and a supple personality. Fine tannins frame the fruit through to the finish. The Barbaresco is already quite open and accessible, but the tannins remain a touch firm and there is enough freshness in the glass to suggest the wine will be even better in another year or two. This is a very typical 2007. **RP 92**

DiGresy Camp Gros Barbaresco 2004 ----- Piedmont, Italy

The 2004 Barbaresco Camp Gros Martinenga is large-scaled wine. This fresh, vibrant Barbaresco explodes from the glass with a gorgeous array of macerated dark cherries, spices, menthol, pine, minerals and toasted oak. The wine reveals superb depth and clarity, with awesome finesse. **RP 94**

ITALIAN RED

Damilano “ Lecinquevigne” Barolo (1/2 Bottle) 2010-----Piedmont, Italy
Still firm and tightly wound, offering a peek at the wonderful cherry, wild berry, floral and tobacco flavors. Still a little lean and dry, with noticeable tannins coming in on the pleasantly earthy finish, so we recommend decanting. With sufficient aeration it opens up and is a very enjoyable young Barolo. **WS 91**

Michele Chiarlo Barolo (Cerequilo) 2011 -----Piedmont, Italy
The 2011 Barolo Cerequilo is another spectacular offering from Michele Chiarlo, a producer who has a knack for making faithfully consistent wines no matter what the vintage conditions. What stands out here is the balance and the intensity of the fruit. Fragrant tones of dark fruit, dried cherry, liquid smoke, cola and licorice emerge from the bouquet in a steady stream. That continuous and unbroken flow of goodness segues to the palate. **RP 93**

Ceretto “Brunate” Barolo 2000----- Piedmont, Italy
A wine with plum, meat and chocolate aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, with big yet ripe tannins and a round, ultrarich finish. With loads of decadent and wild fruit, this is impressive and generous **WS 93**

BORDEAUX

Cru Monplaisier 2012----- Bordeaux

Great French Red: Dry, earthy, bright cherry fruit, good acidity, clean finish

Chateau Bellevue Peycharneau 2011 ----- Bordeaux Superior

Dark mocha and espresso notes lead the way, melded to a core of plush plum, blackberry paste and fig fruit. The roasted, smoky finish shows enough of a graphite edge to stay honest. A bit revved up, but very enjoyable.

Chateau Blaignan 2010 ----- Medoc

A bright, fresh style, with a violet note leading the way for cherry and cassis notes. Reveals a lightly stony frame on the finish.

Chateau Mongravey 2009 ----- Margaux

This has a lightly firm dusting of cocoa, offering crushed plum and fig fruit flavors, with a perfumy espresso edge chiming in on the medium-weight finish.

Chateau Haut Beausejour 2011 ----- St Estephe

A good mix of dark plum, raspberry coulis and red currant fruit flavors, with a high-pitched floral hint that weaves through the lively finish.

Chateau Pontet Canet (1/2 Btl only) 2003----- Pauillac

Shows beautiful aromas of crushed berries and currant, with hints of mineral. Full-bodied, with lovely currant, licorice and mint. Long and caressing. Very refined and balanced. Another winner from Pontet-Canet **WS 93**

Chateau Fonbodet 2011 ----- Pauillac

Solid, with a bolt of graphite running from start to finish, connecting the plum cake, blackberry coulis and briar notes. Delivers a streak of underlying acidity that carries through on the long finish.

BORDEAUX

Chateau Tour Grand Faurie (Grand Cru) 2003--- St Emilion

Herbal style, with soft black cherry and classic earth and tar notes. Due to the heat of the vintage, the fruit dominates and this wine is drinking very attractively right now.

Chateau Beauregard 2000-----Pomerol

A subtle yet rich Pomerol. Intense aromas of plums, minerals and light spice. Medium- to full-bodied, with fine, silky tannins and a mineral, berry aftertaste. Ask to have it decanted or give it time to open up. **WS 90**

BURGUNDY

Patrick Size Mercurey 2007 ----- Cote Chalonnaise

Dark cherry red color; exhibits a raspberry, cherry nose; on the palate vibrant cherry and red fruit notes, a hint of minerality runs through leading to a finish of medium length. All in all a very good value in Burgundy.

Tollot-Beaut Aloxe-Corton Les Vercots 2001 ----- Cote De Beaune

Bursting with vibrant flavors, this impresses with silky texture & fat tannins. Full-bodied, w/crushed raspberries & cassis flavors, a pleasure from start to finish **WS 91**

Chanson Beaune-Bastion 2005----- Cote De Beaune

If it's elegance and finesse you want, this red has it. A linear profile contains cherry, strawberry and currant flavors adorning the firm structure. It's balanced, but needs a little aeration to come together. **WS 91**

Domaine de L'Arlot "Cote De Nuits Village" 2008 Cote De Nuits

A great value in Burgundy, this offers bright blackberry/cherry & high-toned evocations of almond extract & herbal notes. Surprisingly creamy in texture yet also vintage-typically bright, it finishes with levity and lip-smacking savor.

Gerard Seguin Chambolle-Musigny (Derriere Le Four) 2010----- Cote De Nuits

Easy on the palate, elegant with soft berry notes and the clear influence of oak, well-matched to the fruit. After it opens up, this is a real crowd pleaser, smoothly expressive, with very pretty fruit.

Gerard Seguin Gevrey-Chambertin (1er Cru Craipillot) 2010 ----- Cote De Nuits

After aeration, this wine reveals cherry notes with good acidity but still soft for such a young wine. Gentle tannins create structure, and as the wine breathes, savory tones emerge, leading to a lengthy finish with a pleasing "slatey" minerality.

BURGUNDY

Nicolas Potel Nuits St George 2003 -----Cote De Nuits

The aromas evoke dark fruits--blackberry, black cherry and plum--with hints of licorice and spice, but it's more refined on the palate. Rich and supple, its tannins are embedded, emerging on the finish. Very long. **WS 91**

Alex Gambal Chambolle Musigny 2002 -----Cote De Nuits

Sweet spice and berry flavors are the hallmarks of this supple, refined red. Medium-bodied, with an intensity that builds to a long finish. Lovely balance and length. Best from 2006 through 2012. 225 cases made. **WS 90**

Alex Gambal Vosne Romanee (Vielle Vignes) 2002 ---Vosne Romanee

Classy, exhibiting cherry, strawberry & spice flavors matched to an elegant profile. Very silky & firm, w/ intensity and vibrancy midpalate. Fine length **WS 90**

Dom. Denis Bachelet Gevrey-Chambertin (Vielles Vignes) 03 -Cote De Nuits

A solid Gevrey, with bright cherry and earth notes, clean and polished.

Dufouleur Fixin "1er Cru" 2006 ----- Cote De Nuits

Good depth of fruit, vibrant cherry and pleasant earth tones dominate now, but this wine will open up more with decanting. Clean finish.

BEAUJOLAIS, RHONE, AND OTHER FRENCH RED

Chateau Puech Haut “Le Prestige” 2011 ----- Languedoc, France

A sensational offering, the 2011 Prestige is an outstanding value. A blend of 60-75-year-old vine Grenache (55%) and 40-year old Syrah (45%), all grown on limestone soils dominated by the famous large rocks (galets rous) also found in parts of Chateauneuf du Pape. Some of the vineyards are farmed organically and others biodynamically. The wine exhibits a tremendous perfume of sweet raspberries, spring flowers, forest floor, truffles and lavender as well as a beautiful texture, a full-bodied mouthfeel, stunning velvety tannins and purity, and a long finish. This is the “real deal.” **RP 91**

Domaine Du seminaire Cote Du Rhone 2014----- Rhone

Offers juicy dark plum and blackberry notes, with sweet licorice and toasted spice details through the finish. A solid value in a crowd-pleasing style

Coursodon St Joseph 2010----- Rhone

This winery style has solid underlying grip, which allows the muscular core of blackberry paste, briar and toasted anise flavors to drive along through a lengthy finish. A strong chalky edge is buried on the finish. **WS 92**

Guigal Chateauneuf Du Pape 2007----- Rhone

One of the finest Chateauneufs made by Guigal, the 2007 Chateauneuf du Pape is a blend of 85% Grenache and the rest Syrah and Mourvedre. Full-bodied with lots of kirsch, blackberry, raspberry, camphor and licorice, this is a classic example of both Chateauneuf du Pape. It's exceptional, clean winemaking and beautifully balances the earthiness you expect from a French wine with gorgeous red fruit flavors. **RP93**

Colombier Hermitage Rouge 2009-----Rhone

The 2009 Hermitage is sensational. Abundant aromas of blackberry fruit, white chocolate, espresso roast and acacia flowers jump from the glass of this opulent, full-bodied, powerful Hermitage. With great intensity as well as silky tannins, this chewy, thick, well-endowed wine should evolve for 20-25+ years. **RP 94**

DESSERT /PORT WINE

**(We have the following dessert wines by the glass-
see our dessert menu for details)**

Ojai Riesling Ice Wine (Roll Ranch) 2014----- Ojai

This wine has fantastic purity and definition with notions of peach, apricot and flower oil as well as a full-bodied, decadent palate that balances its sweetness and acidity beautifully. **RP 92**

Carr Viognier Late Harvest (Santa Ynez) 2012 --- Santa Ynez

Rich honeyed notes of Apricot, Mango and Peach with a hint of stony minerality on the clean but lingering finish. Another great local effort.

La Vie Late Harvest Chardonnay 2009----- Santa Lucia Highlands

A wonderful treatment of Chardonnay, rich, with notes of fig, crème brulee, lemon, and pineapple in a wine that is sweet but not cloying.

Jules Taylor Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2014 Marlborough, New Zealand

A delicious dessert wine that manages to concentrate wonderful sweetness without turning syrupy Hints of apricot, pineapple and vanilla form the main flavors and lead to a light but lingering aftertaste. Nicely done

Quady Essensia Orange Muscat 2012 -----California

Wonderful aromas and flavors to match, with lots of orange, nectarine, fig and tangerine flavors that are elegant and lively. **WS 90**

Rodney Strong “A True Gentleman’s Port” 2009----Sonoma

An elegant ruby port with dried plum and raisin notes, and hints of bittersweet chocolate on the finish.

Saucelito Canyon Late Harvest Zinfandel 2013-----California

Dark, intense blackberry and Cassis notes grounded by mild tannins and an earthy streak running down the middle which tames the sweetness and adds an interesting and complementary complexity.

DESSERT /PORT WINE

Roxo Negrette 2009 ----- Paso Robles

An under-the-radar Paso winery that is making stand-out dessert wines. We chose this one because its flavor profile is so like a good vintage Port without the wait for it to age and integrate. Vibrant, with Cassis and Dried plum, a hint of nuttiness and of cocoa. Very good local Port.

*****Alvear Pedro Ximenez “1927 Solera”** ----Spain

The impressive 1927 Pedro Ximenez Solera, from a Solera begun nearly 80 years ago, boasts a dark amber color as well as an extraordinary nose of creme brulee, liquefied nuts, marmalade, and maple syrup. Huge and viscous, yet neither cloyingly sweet nor heavy, it is a profound effort priced unbelievably low. Although it can be drunk alone at the end of a meal, it is incredible with most chocolate desserts. **RP 96**

Yalumba Antique Tawny Port -----Australia

Amber colored, sweet but not unctuous, this has vibrant almond, apricot & spice aromas & flavors, echoing rich notes of cherry & orange peel also. **WS91**

Taylor Fladgate LBV 2009 Port ----- Portugal

Very smooth and refined, a ruby port with notes of dried plum and raisin, caramelized cherry and hints of bittersweet cocoa on the finish.

Graham’s 6 Grape Character Port -----Portugal

Light and fruity, a ruby port with a slightly nutty character. Medium body and sweetness, with a light, silky finish

Warre’s 20 Year Tawny Port Otima -----Portugal

Delicate, with caramel and spice notes, but good focus and length, leading to a creamy almond note on the finish. Elegant.

DESSERT /PORT WINE

Chateau Doisy-Vedrine 2003 ----- Barsac- Sauternes

Intense aromas of dried pineapple, apple tart, & pecan pie with honey. Full-bodied medium-sweet, lovely honey character and medium finish.

Badia Coltibuono Vin Santo 2005----- Tuscany, Italy

Soft, delicate wine laced with orange peel, sweet spices, dried flowers and tobacco, all of which flow together nicely in a fresh, accessible style. The long, caressing finish adds to an impression of elegance. **RP 90**

Donnafugata Ben Rye 2006----- Italy

Very rich wine with lots of dried fruits, especially apricots, apples and figs. Full-bodied, sweet with loads of character, but not overly syrupy as it is very focused and clean. A wonderful dessert wine. **91-93 WS and RP**

Gould Campbell Vintage Port 2003 ----- Portugal

Loads of licorice/berries on the nose follow thru to full-bodied palate, medium sweetness and masses of fruit. Long finish, layered. Tremendous value. **WS 95**

Jonata "La Miel" Dessert Wine 2012-----Santa Ynez

Deliciously complex: Sweet, rich, with Lemon Custard, Orange and Peach notes, and a long caramel finish balanced by a refreshing level of acidity.

Ornus Dell'Ornellaia 2010----- Italy

This 2010 vintage, reflecting the cool, very slow growing season, appears quite "northern" in character but still very classic for Petit Manseng (the grape Varietal). There is abundant vibrant fruit on the nose, with notes of citrus, lemon zest, and mineral nuances. In the mouth, a generous sweetness is well balanced by the tangy acidity and the long-lived, mineral-edged finish. Sumptuous yet light on its feet, the flavors evoke honey, apple pie, vanilla and baking spice notes set in a creamy texture. Ample acidity keeps this clean on the finish. Like many of the best dessert wines, this isn't just sweet but has that lively tangy flavor that great acidity provides. **WS 92+**