

[My WineAccess](#) > [IWC](#) > Ramey Wine Cellars



[My Wine Portfolio](#) • [A](#)

Search



[More Search Options](#)

[Wine Glossary](#)

Current Issue

- [Market Monitor](#)
- [Focus on California](#)
- [The Annual Red Bordeaux Report](#)
- [The Wine Analyst Goes Live](#)

[The Wine Analyst](#)

[Home](#)

[Discussion Forums](#)

[Back Issues](#)

The consumer's passp

Ramey Wine Cellars

By [Stephen Tanzer](#)

The peripatetic David Ramey, who previously made wines for Matanzas Creek, Chalk Hill, Dominus and Rudd Estate, finally has his own home, having recently rented and furnished a warehouse-like space in Healdsburg. In contrast to numerous negociants around the world, Ramey believes that if he's going to make a good wine, he might as well be able to offer a decent quantity of it, so there will typically be at least 1,000 or 2,000 cases of even the wines Ramey refers to as his "premier crus." Ramey describes his wines with less pronounced site specificity as his "village wines"; I give him credit for not even using the G word.) Ramey's 2000 chardonnays from the Hyde and Hudson vineyards, two of California's top sites for this variety, were especially impressive in late February. This is now a consistent source for outstanding California chardonnay.

[2001 Ramey Chardonnay Russian River Valley](#) **91**

IN STOCK

(\$36; bottled the week prior to my visit) Explosively aromatic nose of sappy yellow plum and smoky, charry, resinous oak. Very rich, generous and expansive on the palate but thoroughly dry and airy. Succulent, harmonious acidity frames the fruit. Finishes with a firmly stony note and excellent length. Richer and longer than the 2000 version of this wine.

[2001 Ramey Chardonnay Carneros](#) **IN STOCK** **90**

(\$36) Tighter on the nose than the RRV example. Then spicy, juicy and intensely flavored, with lovely, sweet, mouthcoating fruit. Dense, sappy and spicy. Finishes quite dry, with a lingering pineapple flavor.

[2000 Ramey Chardonnay Hyde Vineyard](#) **IN STOCK** **93**

(\$56; this was aged for 21 months in 65% new French oak) Deep, smoky, musky aromas of nectarine, peach and oak char. Powerful, dense and impressively deep; compared to the basic Carneros chardonnay, this is three-dimensional, with the volume turned up. Intriguing flavors of minerals, peach and peach skin perfectly supported by ripe acids. Finishes dense, thick, bright and powerful, with terrific persistence.

[2000 Ramey Chardonnay Hudson Vineyard](#) **94**

Carneros **IN STOCK**

(\$56) Full palish yellow color. Knockout aromas of yellow plum, toasted hazelnut, smoke, clove and iodine; downright Burgundian. A wine of superb sweetness leavened by sheer mineral grip. Very deep, layered and powerful, with compellingly intense fruit that expands with aeration to take over the palate. Lively acids give this wine terrific structure and verve. Finishes very long, with no sign of alcohol. Stunning chardonnay.

[2001 Ramey Claret Napa Valley](#)**87-89**

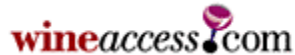
(\$36; Ramey's "quaffing wine," representing the "outtakes" from three vineyards) Deep, saturated ruby-red. Superripe, expressive aromas of slightly stewed fruits, maple syrup and mocha. Sweet, lush and dense, with concentrated, slightly port-like flavors of baked fruits. A bit warm with alcohol. A huge, rather inelegant wine finishing with substantial tannins and a flavor of dark chocolate.

[2001 Ramey Red Wine Diamond Mountain District Napa Valley](#)**91-93**

(\$56) Opaque medium ruby. Sappy aromas of black raspberry, mocha and exotic spices. Much denser and sweeter than the Claret, with superb mouth feel. Flavors of black raspberry, currant and chocolate offer a penetrating sweetness. A huge wine with a boatload of tannins and a finishing flavor of bitter chocolate. "The young-vines tannins are not yet noble," admits Ramey.

[2001 Ramey Red Wine Jericho Canyon Vineyard Napa Valley](#)**93-95**

(\$85) Saturated ruby to the rim. Perfumed nose is at once cool and superripe, melding cassis, black licorice, bitter chocolate, mocha and espresso. Lush but penetrating in the mouth, with hugely concentrated, urgent, liqueur-like fruit that currently makes the 15+% alcohol disappear. Here the huge tannins are noticeably smooth and fine, and the fruit shows terrific staying power on the aftertaste.

[▲ Back to](#)[Home](#) | [Discussion Forums](#) | [Back Issues](#) | [My Wine Portfolio](#) | [Account](#) | [Help](#)The logo for wineaccess.com features the word "wineaccess" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with "wine" in red and "access" in black. To the right of "access" is a small red icon of a wine glass. The ".com" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Copyright 2000, WineAccess, Inc.

Copyright 2000, Tanzer Business Communications, Inc.

[Terms of use.](#)