



Review Round-Up – April 2008

Clos Pegase Cabernet Sauvignon Hommage Napa Valley 2004

Far richer and fuller in style than its cellarmate, the Clos Pegase Hommage bottling is at once very ripe, long on extract and fit with a wealth of rich oak and woody, vaguely leathery spice. Its principal theme is one of deep, curranty fruit, however, and, if giving lots of play to youthful tannins just now.

91 Points

Corison Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2003

Richness, elegance, power and grace all come together in this remarkable wine, and, from its first layered scents of currants, cocoa, wildflowers and sandalwood spice. It is big and expressive but never less than perfectly balanced, and its exceptionally fine and long lasting flavors show great range and depth.

93 Points

Darioush Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2005

Once again, Darioush races to the top of the listings with a big, rich, hedonistically overachieving Cabernet. The 2005 seem to produce somewhat less lush, plush wines, and there are those who will applaud.

93 Points

Earthquake Cabernet Sauvignon Lodi 2004

It delivers a straightforward mouthful of rich, ripe, cassis and Dr. Pepper-like sweet flavor with hints of raisin and cocoa popping up at every stop.

87 Points

Corison Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004

Lightly dusty with deft touches of briar and loam comfortably tied to its classic, ripe-currant fruit, the wine has plenty of mass but it always lightly on its feet with integral tannins doing their part in providing structural spine.

95 Points

Girard Cabernet Sauvignon Artistry Napa Valley 2005

This deep and well-filled mix of Bordeaux varietals exhibits plenty of richness and a full measure of nicely ripened cassis and black-cherry fruit from beginning to end, and it sports a bit early suppleness before being closed out by firming tannins

87 Points

Honig Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2005*

Here is a wine that takes a step back from overt ripeness and keys on straightforward cherries with accents of cassis, raspberry and a bit of sweet oak. It is medium-full-bodied and slightly fleshy in feel, it hangs on to a nice bit of fruit and does not dry out.

87 Points

Oberon Oso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2005

Scent of dried brush, leather and tree bark sit lightly atop those of crème de cassis in its medium-deep aromas and this wine shows a bent to woody spice on the palate, its flavors are appointed with enough fruity to keep on the varietal path and ensure that with time it will weather the obvious tannins that push through at the finish.

87 Points

Oberon Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2005

Limited fruit is overlain by touches of tobacco and dried herbs in the nose here, and this mid-sized wine similarly stints with fruit in its flavors as well. Leaning to dryness if not quite drying out, it shortens up at the end and shows more astringency than its center can comfortably support.

85 Points

Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon One Point Five SLD Napa Valley 2005

Moderately fruity, nicely extracted and showing highlights of loam and woody spice in its ample aromas, this rounded and fairly full-bodied effort is all about ripe cherries on the palate and smacks faintly of good Merlot in its juicy style. It finds plenty of firming Cabernet Sauvignon tannins on the back end.

90 Points

Silverado Cabernet Sauvignon Solo SLD Napa Valley 2004

This dense and generously filled offering gets good marks for its richness and its sense of fruity substance. Its touches of dusty spice and loamy earth are underlain by a broad sweep of very ripe black-cherry fruit, and ripeness gradually becomes one of its dominant traits. While fairly tannic, it does not dry out at the end.

89 Points

Silverado Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004

If somewhat lacking in drama, this clean, nicely balanced, medium-bodied wine is comfortably on track as far as varietal fruit is concerned. It falters a bit and lets up a hard-charging tannins take hold at the finish.

86 Points

Spellbound Cabernet Sauvignon California 2004

This wine suffers from winemaking neglect as evidenced by the obvious spritz in the glass and the offputting, earthy aromas and flavors.

75 Points

Starlane Cabernet Sauvignon Santa Ynez Valley 2005

This deep and densely fruited bottling is a top-shelf cabernet. From its concentrated nose of cassis, cream and loam to its extracted and incisively varietal flavors, this wine hits all of the right marks and ends with a lengthy albeit moderately tannic finish. It stands comfortably alongside its pricier cousins.

91 Points

Trefethen Cabernet Sauvignon Oak Knoll District Napa Valley 2004

Ripe enough for its cassis-and-cherry-like fruit to be nicely concentrated and taking on attractively rich notes of crème brulee and caramel in both its aromas and supple-textured palatal impressions, this wine is fairly full in bottle and holds very well at the end despite its light to medium tannins. It has solid structure and ample depth.

90 Points