



Tardieu-Laurent Chateauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes

Still shrouded by its bacony toast, this has a lot to resolve, but the massive core of blackberry, black currant, fig, loam, dark tobacco and molten chocolate is very impressive. The finish shows the grip and balance of the vintage.

96 Points

Salon Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Le Mesnil 1996

A deep, vinous style, with understated power and grace. The lemon verbena, toast and honey aromas and flavors are propelled by the well-integrated structure and fine bubbles. There's just a hint of greenness, marking its youthful impetuosity. Has great length.

95 Points

Vina Cono Sur Sauvignon Blanc Casablanca Valley Vision Block Loma Roja 2006

Plump, with nice grapefruit and lemon zest flavors on a round, rich frame, with lingering citrus peel and floral notes on the finish. For fans of the riper style Sauvignon Blanc.

88 Points

Jansz Premium Rose Tasmania NV

Pale cooper color sparkler, smooth in texture, with perky, citrusy acidity upfront. Hints at strawberry as the finish gets softer.

88 Points

Delamotte Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne 1999

This is almost silky in texture, with honey, almond and citrus peel flavors and a crisp, mineral finish. Has great balance and freshness, making it ideal as an aperitif.

90 Points

Charles Lafitte Brut Champagne Cuvee Speciale E.O NV

The grapefruit, candied berry and graphite aromas and flavors are interwoven into the gossamer texture in this refined Champagne. Vibrant and firm, with a lingering grapefruit taste.

91 Points

Laurent-Perrier Brut Champagne Grand Siecle NV

An elegant, graphite-and-citrus-infused bubbly, with plenty of finesse, this is balanced and builds in intensity on along finish. Not an obvious wine, but its appeal is in the details.

91 Points

Delamotte Brut Champagne NV

Hints of malt and multi-grain bread notes marks this Champagne, which is open, with a slight coarseness and a chalklike sensation on the finish.

88 Points

Laurent-Perrier Brut Champagne L-P NV

This honey-and-apple-inflected sparkler is medium-bodied, with richness midpalate. On the soft side, with a straightforward appeal.

87 Points

Charles Lafitte Brut Champagne Orgueil de France 1989

A mellow Champagne, evoking smoke and biscuit flavors, a broad, expansive profile and a fine mousse. There's enough structure to keep this focused on the finish, lingering with mineral and berry candy aftertaste.

92 Points

Tardieu-Laurent Cotes du Rhone Guy Louis 2005

This is amped up with layers of suave mocha and mesquite-tingled toast, showing richly layered blackberry and black currant fruit and a long finish tingled with graphite and iron. Shows serious grip.

91 Points

Tardieu-Laurent Gigondas Vieilles Vignes 2005

Ultramodern, with very suave mocha-and-spice-filled toast leading the way for lush raspberry, boysenberry, licorice and graphite notes. The long finish lets the minerality blaze while still pumping out the fruit in spades.

92 Points

Tardieu-Laurent Vacqueyras Vieilles Vignes 2005

Really exotic, with fig, raspberry, Port reduction, mocha, cinnamon and melted licorice aromas and flavors rippling over creamy tannins. The superlong finish shows notes of sweet earth and fruit mingled together. This has to resolve itself a bit more before it fully hits its stride.

92 Points

J. & H. Selbach Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Fish Label 2006

Pleasant white peach, citrus and white pepper notes, but on the soft, slack side. Tightens up a little on the finish.

87 Points

Schramsberg Brut Rose North Coast Mirabelle NV

An exuberant bubbly, with a light salmon hue and bright cherry and caramel aromas. The flavors burst with fresh, crisp strawberry, citrus and vanilla flavors.

88 Points

Schramsberg Brut North Coast Mirabelle NV

Bright cherry and baked apple aromas lead to focused pear and cinnamon flavors, ending with a dry, flinty finish.

85 Points

Schramsberg Brut Blanc de Blancs North Coast 2003

Crisp and rich, with lemon custard and bread dough aromas and layered apple, citrus and spice flavors that take on finesse on the finish.

90 Points

Schramsberg Brut Rose North Coast 2004

Fresh rose petal and cherry aromas lead to crisp, creamy raspberry, white chocolate and mineral flavors that builds intensity and finesse on the finish.

89 Points

Schramsberg Brut Blanc de Noirs North Coast 2004

Offers zesty aromas of vanilla, apple and cherry, with racy, toasty spice and pear flavors that finish with a dry, mineral note.

88 Points

Schramsberg Brut Blanc de Blancs North Coast 2004

A festive bubbly, showing appealing citrus zest and ginger aromas, with crisp lemon curd and yeasty spice flavors that take on richness toward the finish.

87 Points

Schramsberg Cremant North Coast Demi-Sec 2004

Strikes a good balance between creamy sweetness and crisp acidity. Displays appealing aromas of toast and spiced pear, with luscious vanilla cream and apple fruit.

87 Points

Zaca Mesa Z Three Santa Ynez Valley 2004

Firm and muscular, with taut wild berry and blackberry fruit that's well-structured, gaining depth and complexity and ending with sage and mineral notes and chewy tannins.

86 Points

Cline Syrah California 2005

Intense, beefy and savory, with exotic spice, dried berry, sage and herbal notes, ending with firm, dry tannins.

86 Points

Morgan Chardonnay Monterey Metallico 2006

Tart and flinty, displaying green apple and citrus flavors that have lively acidity, with floral, spicy notes.

86 Points

Fisher Chardonnay Sonoma County Mountain Estate Vineyard 2005

Floral, apple, spice and melon flavors provide a complex range of fruit flavors. A bit simpler on the palate, but clean and lively.

85 Points

Adelsheim Chardonnay Willamette Valley CH 2006

Light and spicy. A polished style of Chardonnay, with nutmeg note adding interest to the pear and apple flavors, lingering gently.

89 Points

Chehalem Pinot Gris Willamette Valley 2006

A tangy, refreshing style, with a vibrant core of distinctive honeydew melon and green tea flavors that linger with some zing of acidity to balance.

89 Points

Ponzi Pinot Gris Willamette Valley 2006

Lively and spicy, with pear and citrus flavors at the core and hints of hay and guava sneaking in on the finish, which persists well.

89 Points

Adelsheim Pinot Gris Willamette Valley 2006

Bright, with pretty green apple and peach flavors, persisting gently.

87 Points

WillaKenzie Pinot Gris Willamette Valley 2006

Lean, with modest pear and rhubarb flavors lurking under the citrusy freshness.

86 Points

Chehalem Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge Ridgecrest 2005

Impressive for its expressive range of flavors, this stylish Pinot centers its blueberry, dark plum and currant flavors over a bed of fine-grained tannins. Velvety and open-textured, hinting at coffee and grilled meat as the finish rolls on and on.

91 Points

Chehalem Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains Corral Creek 2005

Lithe, open-textured and pure of flavor, offering plum and currant fruit surrounded by hints of coffee and clove, lingering gently but persistently.

90 Points

WillaKenzie Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Aliette 2004

Light and crisp, showing a delicate rose petal overtone to the strawberry and red cherry flavors, lingering on the lithe finish.

90 Points

Siduri Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2006

Crisp in texture, with an open feel to the plum and floral aromas and flavors, lingering on the delicate finish.

87 Points

WillaKenzie Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Emery 2004

Silky, with pretty cherry and spice flavors on a gentle frame, finishing with enough acidity to keep it juicy.

87 Points

WillaKenzie Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2005

Light, almost fragile, with modest spice and strawberry flavors lurking under a fine layer of tannin.

85 Points

WillaKenzie Pinot Blanc Willamette Valley 2006

Bright and appealing for its delicacy, with pretty green apple and melon fruit that lingers on the refreshing finish.

89 Points