



Perrin & Fils Vinsobres Les Cornuds 2006

A ripe, rich and racy Rhône red, with an ample core of black currant, fig paste, hoisin sauce and graphite flavors backed by dark coffee, mesquite and mineral notes on the long, structured finish. Impressive. (Smart Buy)

91 Points

La Vieille Ferme Cotes du Ventoux 2006

Juicy, with a range of dark cherry and currant fruit layered with briar and tar notes on the medium-weight finish. (Best Value)

87 Points

Kaesler Old Bastard Barossa Valley 2005

Lithe and juicy. A lively mouthful of raspberry, currant, coffee and peppery spice flavors, lingering enticingly on the fine-grained finish. Shows a bit of heat on the finish, but has tremendous depth and persistence.

94 Points

Glaetzer Anaperenna Barossa Valley 2006

Brash and youthful, with the juicy currant and cedar flavors of Cabernet whistling through the blackberry and exotic spice of the Shiraz, lending this an upright stance, with lively acidity and firm tannins.

91 Points

Glaetzer Shiraz Barossa Valley Amon-Ra 2006

Firm in texture and deep and distinctive in flavor, offering coffee-tinged cherry and spice flavors that linger against slightly gritty tannins. Needs time to soften and open, but should get there.

91 Points

Kaesler Stonehorse Barossa Valley 2006

Smooth and velvety, with dusky tobacco nuances to the ripe blackberry and spice flavors, gliding nicely on a sleek frame.

90 Points

Kaesler The Bogan Barossa Valley 2006

Firm and chewy, this tough-textured Shiraz has a glowing core of blackberry, cola and spice flavors straining to poke through.

90 Points

Kaesler The Fave Barossa Valley 2006

Lithe, spicy and distinctive for the earthy undertones woven through the cherry, blackberry and clove flavors linger on the polished finish.

90 Points

Charles Cimicky Shiraz Barossa Valley The Autograph 2005

Earthy, gamy notes add interest to the dark cherry and tar flavors. Has excellent persistence and harmony.

89 Points

Langmeil Shiraz Barossa Valley Valley Floor 2006

Firm and chewy, with dense blackberry and spice flavors that persist into a solid and expressive finish. The tannins need time to soften.

89 Points

Glaetzer Shiraz-Grenache Barossa Valley Wallace 2006

Crisp and lively, with black olive and blackberry flavors mingling on the lean structure. The flavors persist nicely.

88 Points

Langmeil Three Gardens Barossa Valley 2006

Firm in texture, with chewy tannins around a modest core of green olive-permeated cherry and tar flavors. Not as generous as previous vintages.

86 Points

Salon Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne Le Mesnil 1997

Subtle ginger, floral and citrus aromas build to flavors of lemon pie, honey and hazelnut. Elegant and refined, with a firm underlying structure and long aftertaste.

93 Points

M. Chapoutier Chateauneuf-du-Pape La Bernardine 2005

A hint of brick dust on the nose gives way quickly to black currant, pepper and melted licorice notes, all supported by fine-grained structure on the lengthy finish.

91 Points

M. Chapoutier Chateauneuf-du-Pape White La Bernardine 2006

Bright and stony, with lots of mineral, lime and blanched almond notes up front, all backed by a broader feel and richer lemon verbena and melon notes on the finish.

91 Points

Philippe & Vincent Jaboulet Crozes-Hermitage 2005

Elegant for the vintage, with sanguine, shaved vanilla bean, incense and black cherry notes allied to a silky frame. A hint of pepper chimes in on the finish.

88 Points

Perrin & Fils Vacqueyras Les Christins 2006

Very racy, with lots of red and black currant fruit backed by a great graphite spine. Offers nice hints of licorice, spice and iron on the finish.

87 Points

Corino Barolo Vigneto Arborina 2004

Very ripe strawberry aromas, with hints of violet and black licorice. Full-bodied, with big, velvety tannins and beautiful ripe fruit. Long and beautiful.

94 Points

Cascina Bongiovanni Barolo Pernanno 2004

Great fruit on the nose, with blackberry, dark chocolate and fresh plum. Full and velvety-textured, with lots of fruit and ripe tannins. Long and beautiful. Very balanced. Impressive for the vintage.

93 Points

Conterno-Fantino Barolo Sori Ginestra 2004

Beautiful plum, crushed berry and meat aromas lead to a full body, with ripe tannins and a long, powerful finish. Solid and structured, with plenty of ripe fruit to back it up.

93 Points

Conterno-Fantino Barolo Vigna del Gris 2004

Rose petal, lavender and ripe fruit aromas follow through to a full body, with chewy tannins and a medium finish. Has slightly austere tannins, but very good ripe fruit.

92 Points

Luigi Einaudi Barolo 2004

Blackberry and milk chocolate aromas. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a balance of plum and red fruits in the aftertaste.

91 Points

Luigi Einaudi Barolo Costa Grimaldi 2004

Aromas of blueberry, with hints of rose, follow through to a medium- to full-bodied palate, with very fine tannins and a pretty core of ripe fruit. Has a long, silky finish.

91 Points

Luigi Einaudi Barolo Nei Cannubi 2004

Very perfumed and aromatic, with fresh rose and sliced plum. Full-bodied, with refined tannins and a long, focused, subtle finish of pretty, ripe fruit.

91 Points

Fratelli Revello Barolo Vigna Conca 2004

Very floral on the nose, with plenty of ripe strawberry. Full-bodied, with firm, silky tannins and lots of blackberry, dark chocolate and mineral undertones. Long yet subtle.

91 Points

Corino Barolo 2004

Blackberry aromas, with licorice and rose. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long finish.

90 Points

Fratelli Revello Barolo 2004

A balanced, fruity wine, with strawberry and blackberry character and hints of flowers. Full and fruity, with a chewy finish.

90 Points

Cascina Bongiovanni Barolo 2004

Shows sweet strawberry on the nose, with hints of flowers. Medium- to full-bodied, with fine tannins and a caressing finish. Elegant and refined.

89 Points

Marcarini Barolo Brunate 2004

Shows aromas of plum and meat, with a hint of wet earth. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. This is subtle and fruity.

88 Points

Luigi Pira Barolo 2004

Blackberry and plum aromas follow through to a full body, with chewy tannins and chocolate, mineral and fruit character. A little reserved and one-dimensional right now.

88 Points

Marcarini Barolo La Serra 2004

A rather delicate Barolo, with berry and light spice character that turns to cedar and vanilla.

87 Points

Vall Llach Priorat Embruiux 2005

Rich yet focused, this powerful red from Spain delivers plum, black cherry, anise, tobacco and sage flavors over muscular tannins. It's thick on the palate, yet dissolves to licorice, spice and flowers on the finish. (Highly recommended)

93 Points

Vall Llach Priorat Idus 2005

This supple red shows cherry, plum, tobacco and light earth flavors, with firm tannins and a smoky finish. A bit light, but balanced.

88 Points

Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District One Point Five 2005

Rich, deep and complex, with a complex mix of fleshy currant, dried berry, anise, sage and mineral, framed by light cedary oak. Gains depth and complexity on the finish. Elegant and stylish.

92 Points

Pavilion Chardonnay Napa Valley 2006

Light-bodied, with tangy, juicy peach, nectarine and lemon-lime flavors that are delightfully refreshing and focused.

84 Points

Morgan Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Twelve Clones 2006

Marked by a sour cherry and tart wild berry flavor profile, with hints of anise and dusty berry. Ends with a nice cedary oak note.

88 Points

Cline Zinfandel Sonoma County 2006

Tart and juicy, with wild berry and licorice aromas and modesty complex plum and spicy herb flavors.

86 Points

Girard Artistry Napa Valley 2005

Smooth-textured, rich and polished, with layers of currant, spice, sage, toasty oak and herbal scents, all of which fold together nicely.

89 Points

Pavilion Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2006

Vivid ripe blackberry, blueberry and plum notes are intense and flavorful, with cedar, tobacco and savory notes and polished tannins.

87 Points

Shafer Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Red Shoulder Ranch 2006

Rich and creamy, both in flavor and texture, this is bold and extracted, with fleshy fig, apricot and light nutmeg shadings. Yet for all its power this offers a sense of elegance and balance.

89 Points

Cline Zinfandel Sonoma County 2006

Tart and juicy, with wild berry licorice aromas and modesty complex plum and spicy herb flavors.

86 Points

Three Rivers Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2006

Beautifully silky and refined, with lively acidity to keep the plush grapefruit-accented pineapple, spice and cream flavors zippy, finishing harmoniously.

91 Points