



JC Cellars The Imposter California 2005

As exotic as it is potent, with rich, ripe cassis, blueberry and licorice flavors.

92 Points

Buehler Zinfandel Napa Valley 2006

Soft and elegant, with appealing raspberry, toast and cola aromas and juicy cherry, spice and vanilla flavors.

89 Points

Domaine Leflaive Puligny-Montrachet Clavoillon 2005

A superb white Puligny, offering lime and mineral aromas and flavors, with hints of flowers and vanilla pastry. It's lean and well-toned, with persistence and a crisp, toast-and-mineral-tingled finish.

(Spectator Selection)

93 Points

Jim Barry Shiraz Clare Valley The Lodge Hill 2006

Bright and effusive, slipping a spicy note into the mix as the blackberry and red cherry flavors pop. Veers toward peppermint as the finish lingers with supple texture. (Smart Buy)

91 Points

Luca Malbec Altos de Mendoza 2006

Heady, with raspberry and currant confiture aromas followed by a dense palate of warm fig sauce, crushed boysenberry, bramble, bittersweet ganache and Christmas pudding notes. Long powerful finish.

92 Points

Vina Cobos Malbec Lujan de Cuyo Bramare 2005

Very dark and concentrated, with plum, black currant and fig fruit carried by lush, mocha-tinged tannins. Quite toasty in style, but well-integrated.

90 Points

Mapema Malbec Mendoza 2005

Bright and juicy, with raspberry and plum fruit backed by shaved vanilla and fruitcake notes. Open-knit, juicy finish.

88 Points

Mapema Tempranillo Mendoza Mendoza 2005

Slightly taut at first, with raisin, roasted vanilla, plum and coffee hints that linger on the medium-weight finish. Nice and fleshy on the back end. Opens up with air.

87 Points

Two Hands Shiraz McLaren Vale Lily's Garden 2006

Shows some subtlety, sliding its juicy blackberry and plum fruit through a veil of fine-grained tannins, with pepper and mineral overtones. Has a deft sense of harmony and balance.

93 Points

Two Hands Shiraz Heathcote Max's Garden 2006

A wine of finesse, this strikes an enticing balance between crisp tannins and the supple, generous texture underneath, sporting gorgeous blueberry, blackberry and plum fruit that picks up hints of red pepper and *garrigue* as the finish lingers.

92 Points

Slipstream Shiraz McLaren Vale Fastback 2006

Ripe, focused cherry and blackberry flavors buzz with extra orange peel, mint and spice overtones as they zing through the long, vivid finish. The tannins are beautifully integrated.

91 Points

Two Hands Shiraz Langhorne Creek Harry & Edward's Garden 2006

Brash and bold. A juicy mouthful of molasses-accented plum and blackberry fruit that feels fresher than most Langhorne Creek Shiraz, hovering beautifully over the deft finish.

90 Points

Vincent Girardin Corton-Charlemagne 2005

Rich, yet also bright and restrained, showing apple, yellow plum, lime, mineral and oak spice aromas and flavors. It has a linear profile, with intensity and terrific length.

93 Points

Vincent Girardin Puligny-Montrachet Les Perrieres 2005

A live-wire white. Succulent acidity provides the backdrop for apricot, lemon and oak spice notes. Leaves a juicy impression on the citrusy aftertaste.

89 Points

Jean-Marc Boillot Pommard Jarollieres 2004

There's substance to this, from the meaty, black cherry aromas to the plum and licorice flavors. A mineral element also enters the mix. It's driven by a racy structure that keeps this long and alive.

88 Points

J. Faiveley Montagny Domaine de la Croix Jacquenet 2005

Fresh and lean, a white with lemon, floral and spice notes accentuated by lively acidity. On the racy side, with a crisp, mouthwatering finish.

88 Points

Tardieu-Laurent St.-Joseph Vieilles Vignes 2005

Frankly modern, but beautifully rendered, with mocha, fruitcake, black tea and chocolate notes backed by an ample core of raspberry, fig and black licorice. Yet not at all heavy, with a long, smoldering finish that lets the buried minerality peek in.

93 Points

The Royal Tokaji Wine Co. Tokaji Aszu 6 Puttonyos Betsek 1999

Dried apricot, herbs and orange peel aromas and flavors abound, while crisp structure keeps this racy. It's concentrated, despite its ethereal profile, with a lingering finish.

94 Points

Jermann Delle Venezie Blau & Blau 2005

Aromas of plum skin and berries follow through to a medium body, with simple, jammy palate and a medium finish. A bit simple but fun.

86 Points

Marques de Caceres Rioja Gran Reserva 2001

Still firm, this red offers black cherry, mineral, licorice and tobacco flavors over solid tannins that dissolve on the finish, leaving floral and spicy notes. Four-square and balanced.

90 Points

Cliff Lede Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District 2005

Smooth-textured, with layers of creamy oak, herb, dried currant and loamy earth flavors that give this depth and a complex range of flavors. Ends with a long, focused and persistent finish.

92 Points

Buehler Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Estate 2005

Fragrant currant and wild berry aromas have an attractive floral scent. This is rich, with loamy, mineral flavors and firm, chewy tannins that are evident from mid-palate on. Nicely balanced.

88 Points

Patz & Hall Chardonnay Russian River Valley Zio Tony Ranch 2006

Rich and perfumed, with a mix of honeysuckle, fig, pear and melon flavors that are medium-weight, elegant and stylish.

88 Points

Clos Pegase Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Mitsuko's Vineyard 2006

Fresh and vibrant, with ripe peach, nectarine and pear notes that are crisp and mouthwatering.

87 Points

Morgan Chardonnay Santa Lucia Highlands Double L Vineyard 2006

Offers a mix of tangy pineapple and lemon fruit, with a hint of tangerine and light oak.

87 Points

Stuhlmuller Chardonnay Alexander Valley 2006

Offers a mix of subtle, delicate pear, nectarine and tangerine flavors that are fresh and vibrant.

87 Points

Dierberg Pinot Noir Santa Maria Valley 2005

Beautifully crafted, rich, intense and elegant, with a stylish mix of earthy raspberry, wild berry and blackberry fruit that's complex and concentrated, offering depth and length.

92 Points

Rochioli Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2006

A fragrant, delicate style, with pretty plum, black cherry and wild berry scents that are both rich and elegant. This is sharply focused and displays excellent balance, with a long persistent finish that reveals extra measures of depth.

92 Points

Buehler Zinfandel Napa Valley 2006

Soft and elegant, with appealing raspberry, toast and cola aromas and juicy cherry, spice and vanilla flavors.

89 Points

Cline Zinfandel Contra Costa County Big Break 2006

Juicy and tart, with spicy vanilla and ripe cherry aromas followed by intense plum and licorice flavors.

86 Points

Cline Zinfandel Contra Costa County Live Oak 2006

Spicy blackberry cobbler aromas lead to ripe, zesty blackberry, blueberry and licorice flavors.

86 Points

Bonny Doon Albarino Monterey County Ca' del Solo Estate Vineyard 2007

Fragrant honeysuckle, peach blossom and bubble gum aromatics give way to succulent, juicy lemon-lime, white pepper and fresh-cut grass notes. Terrific balance.

88 Points

Bonny Doon Muscat Monterey County Ca' del Solo Estate Vineyard 2007

Effusively fragrant, with honeysuckle and orange blossom notes, ripe, fleshy peach and nectarine flavors and a wonderfully juicy acidity.

87 Points

Ponzi Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2006

On the lighter side, with floral and roasted beet aromas wafting through the cherry and red berry flavors, persisting nicely on the elegant finish.

90 Points