

Reviews

Seghesio, Old Vine, Sonoma Coast 2005

Polished pure; succulent boysenberry, raspberry fruit, black pepper, baking spice; rich, creamy vanilla close.

5 Stars

Etude, Carneros 2005

Earthy hints of tobacco and rock and bright-red fruit lead to cherry and dark plum. Supple and fit with length.

4 Stars

Calera, Mills Vineyard, Mount Harlan 2005

Complex aromas of sugared, ripe cherry and strawberry compete with scents of plants, branches, leaves, white pepper and sage. Succulent mid-palate and a finish flush with chewy, sweet tannin.

5 Stars

Calera, Ryan Vineyard, Mount Harlan 2005

Wild berries, pepper, mineral and spice. Concentrated with fine acids and sweet tannins.

4 Stars

Morgan 'Double L', Santa Lucia Highlands 2005

Concentrated and tight, with cherry cola, currants and spice.

4 Stars

Brewer-Clifton Mount Carmel, Santa Rita Hills 2005

The pale color belies deep flavor. Herbal and minty with red berries. Supple, round and velvety, the wine finishes with a wisp of fruity spice.

4 Stars

Brewer-Clifton Rio Vista Vineyard, Santa Rita Hills 2005

Complex with hints of rose petals, fresh herbs and ripe plums; savory, peppery palate. Gentle and satisfying finish.

4 Stars

Felton Road, Riesling, New Zealand 2006

Felton Road has produced a stunning Riesling: silver palate, charming softness and sweetness but with zippiness and lift. Generously fruity with a broadness of flavor and crisp acidity that give it a great future.

Best Sweet Wine

Felsina, Fontalloro Tuscan IGT 2004

Vanilla and cherry, cream, complex. Youthful, ripe cherry fruit. Fresh acidity balances well. Long, intense, expressive.

3 Stars

Teruzzi & Puthod, Peperion 2004

Rich, juicy, oaky nose. Undeniably ripe and opulent. Rich, supple, concentrated. Fine texture and balance.

3 Stars

Volpaia, Balifico 2004

Aromatic, floral, oaky and attractive. Firm structure over sweet, ripe blackcurrant and cherry fruit. Stylish and drinkable.

3 Stars

Uccelliera, Repace 2004

Closed nose. Rich, juicy, plump and open. Light tannins, has some vigor as well as concentration. Long, robust finish.

3 Stars

Abbazia Santa Anastasia, Passomaggio, IGT Sicilia 2005

Enticing perfumed notes with berry fruit aromas. Juicy, clean, fresh berry character with moderate weight.

3 Stars

Abbazia Santa Anastasia, Montenero, IGT Sicilia 2004

Sweet spice on the nose. Juicy, rich, full berry fruit palate with grippy tannins.

3 Stars

Redbank, The Long Paddock Chardonnay, Victoria 2006

This Chardonnay possesses a nose of subtle apple aromas backed by a palate full of forward, yet delicate and defined, fruit-no overbearing sweetness here. (Best value white)

3 Points

Farnese, Edizione Limitada, Montepulciano D'Abruzzo 2006

This wine has vibrant, juicy red cherry fruit on the nose with a lively acidity and soft tannins on the palate. (Best value red)

3 Points

Glaetzer, Wallace, Barossa Valley 2006

A modest offering, yet still showcases the talent seemingly inherent in the Glaetzer clan. Sweet red fruit with peppery twist is in the abundance, and is softened and plumped up by toffee-tinted oak.

3 Stars

Joseph Phelps, Le Mistral, Monterey County 2005

Ripe fruit aromas with a touch of pepper. Round palate with well-integrated oak and fruitiness; an attractive and delicious, fruit-driven wine with a long finish. (Splash out red)

4 Stars