



**Rutherford Ranch 2006 Chardonnay Napa Valley**

A fruity, full bodied Chardonnay, with light oakiness, good balance, and a toasty finish, tasting of peach, pineapple, roasted nut, and spicy oak.

**4 Stars**

**Buehler Vineyards 2006 Chardonnay Reserve Russian River Valley**

Round and full-bodied, this is a well balanced, easy to appreciate wine, with crisp acidity, delicate flavors, and medium length.

**4 Stars**

**Girard 2006 Chardonnay Russian River Valley**

A full bodied, moderately oaky Chardonnay, with smooth texture, and a citrus-like fruitiness (grapefruit, lemon), with a touch of pineapple.

**3+ Stars**

**Gundlach Bundschu 2005 Chardonnay Rhinefarm Vineyard, Sonoma County**

Fine quality Chardonnay: full bodied, finely flavored, crisp, and long on the finish, tasting of pear, honey, roasted nut, lemon peel, and pineapple.

**4+ Stars**

**Morgan 2006 Chardonnay Highland, Santa Lucia Highlands**

Full bodied, crisp, and elegantly flavored, with light oakiness and a very long finish. An exceptional Chardonnay. tasting of lemon peel, toast, peach, cherimoya, and spicy oak.

**5 Stars**

**Terlato Vineyards 2005 Chardonnay Russian River Valley**

Round, full bodied, and lightly oaky in style; this is a fairly delicate Chardonnay, tasting of citrus fruit, peach, and toast, with crisp acidity and a medium long finish.

**4 Stars**

**Ramey 2005 Chardonnay Hyde Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley**

The Hyde bottling is full bodied and medium rich; a very fine Chardonnay, with breadth and depth of flavor, and a very long finish, tasting of pear, apple, roasted nut, toast, and pineapple.

**4+ Stars**

**Ramey 2005 Chardonnay Hudson Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley**

The Hudson is superb: supple and ripely flavored, with rich fruitiness, evident complexity, and a very long finish, tasting of roasted nut, pear, pineapple, lime, vanilla, and new oak.

**5 Stars**

**Ramey 2005 Chardonnay Ritchie Vineyard, Russian River Valley**

The Ritchie is also exceptional: a very elegantly styled Chardonnay, that is full-bodied, refined in flavor (lemon peel, pink grapefruit, peach, toast, roasted nut), crisp, and very long on the finish.

**5 Stars**

**Morgan 2006 Pinot Gris R&D Franscioni Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands**

Delicious Pinot Gris, in a full, fruity, supple style. It is quite intensely flavored (Lemon peel, roasted nut, pear, pink grapefruit, honey), well balanced, and very long on the finish.

**5 Stars**

**Gainey Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Limited Selection, Santa Ynez Valley**

Fine Sauvignon: ripely flavored, full bodied, lightly oaked, and long on the palate, with a persistent finish, tasting of apple, melon, lemon, toast, and lemon grass.

**4+ Stars**

**Whitehall Lane 2006 Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley**

Screw cap. Excellent Sauvignon, in a soft, full, lightly oaked style. It has ripe fruit flavor (apple, peach, melon), with overtones of lemon grass and roasted nut. Very long finish.

**4+ Stars**

**Clos Pegase 2006 Sauvignon Blanc Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley**

Fine Sauvignon, in a fruity, elegant, lightly oaked style. It is supple, full-bodied, well balanced, and long on the finish, tasting of peach, lime, guava, toast, and lemon grass. Excellent value.

**5 Stars**

**Spottswoode 2006 Sauvignon Blanc Napa County 65%, Sonoma County 35%**

Round and full-bodied, this is a finely balanced, lightly oaked, fruity Sauvignon, with a long finish, tasting of lemon, pear, apple, vanilla, and spicy oak.

**4 Stars**

**Rutherford Ranch 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Rhiannon, Napa Valley**

Delicious blend, with fine fruit character (cherry, boysenberry), light oakiness (toast, roasted nut), and excellent balance. Long finish. Fine value.

**5 Stars**

**Girard 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Artistry Napa Valley**

Rich, depth, complexity; this blend has it all. It is supple, well balanced, quite long on the palate, and persistent in the finish. Tastes of blackberry, cherry, toast, licorice, and cedar.

**5 Stars**

**Hendry 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Hendry Vineyard, Napa Valley**

Fleshy and rich, this is a full bodied Cabernet, with blackberry, black licorice, toast, spicy oak, and cedar aromas/flavors. Very long finish. One of the best-ever Cabernets from Hendry.

**4+ Stars**

**Pine Ridge 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Onyx Napa Valley**

Excellent blend: luscious and full-bodied, with layers of fruit and complexity. It is well balanced and long on the finish, tasting of blackberry, spicy oak, roasted nut, pepper, baked cherry, and black licorice.

**4 Stars**

**Terlato Vineyards 2004 Devil's Peak Napa Valley**

Smoothly textured and complex in flavor, with spicy, toasty, fruity aromas/flavors, and a long, lightly tannic finish.

**4 Stars**

**Clos Pegase 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Hommage Napa Valley**

Very supple and ripely flavored, this is a splendid Cabernet, with intense blackberry, blackcurrant, and black cherry aromas/flavors, with layers of spicy oak, roasted nut. Very long finish.

**5 Stars**

**Spottswoode 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena**

Full bodied, round, intensely flavored, and quite woody; a wine with cherry, black currant , toast, and cedar aromas/flavors. Quite powerful.

**4 Stars**

**Clos Pegase 2004 Merlot Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley**

Full bodied, supple in texture, and somewhat woody in style, this is nevertheless a medium rich Merlot, with good depth, and a long finish, tasting of blackcurrant, blueberry, cedar, and tobacco.

**4 Stars**

**Girard 2005 Petite Sirah Napa Valley**

Full bodied and supple, this medium rich Petite Sirah, with evident oakiness, and a very long finish, tasting of plum, blueberry, toast, cedar, and black licorice. Excellent value.

**4+ Stars**

**Tablas Creek Vineyard 2005 Cotes de Tablas Red Rhone Paso Robles**

Delicious blend: supple, full-bodied, and both spicy and fruity in flavor (strawberry, black currant, aniseed, toast, pepper), and long on the finish.

**4+ Stars**

**Clos Pegase 2005 Pinot Noir Mitsuko's Vineyard, Carneros, Napa Valley**

Full-bodied, supple, and intensely flavored, this rich Pinot Noir, with evident new oak character (toast, cedar, spicy oak), and blueberry, plum, and cherry fruitiness. Long finish. Excellent value.

**4 Stars**

**Dutton-Goldfield 2005 Pinot Noir McDougall Vineyard, Sonoma Coast**

Elegant in style; full bodied, finely flavored (plum, violet, cherry, red currant, vanilla, toast), crisp and very long on the palate, with a persistent finish. Fine quality.

**4 Stars**

**Ponzi 2005 Pinot Noir Reserve Willamette Valley, OR**

Finely flavored, full-bodied, and well balanced, this is an excellent Pinot, with red currant, plum, cherry, tobacco, and mild oak aromas/flavors. Long finish. Finest Pinot we've ever tasted from Ponzi.

**4+ Stars**

**Sonoma Coast Vineyards 2004 Syrah, Sonoma Coast**

Fragrant and full bodied, this medium rich, crisp Syrah, tasting of boysenberry, toast, red licorice, and cedar. Long persistent finish.

**4 Stars**

**Rutherford Ranch 2005 Zinfandel Napa Valley**

Excellent: ripely flavored, well-balanced, lightly oaked, and persistent on the finish, tasting of spicy oak, cherry, and blackberry.

**4 Stars**

**Girard 2005 Old Vine Zinfandel Napa Valley**

Exceptional Zin: fleshy, full bodied, finely balanced, and very long on the finish, tasting of plum, blackberry, cedar, and spicy oak.

**5 Stars**

**Hendry 2005 Hendry Block 7 Zinfandel Napa Valley**

Rich and nearly robust in style, this is a full bodied Zin, with intense pepper, plum, and blackberry aromas/flavors. Lightly oaked. Great value.

**4+ Stars**

**Dona Paula Los Cardos 2007 Sauvignon Blanc , Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

It is intensely flavored (grapefruit, lime, lemon grass, sweet pepper), full bodied, crisp, and very long on the finish.

**4+ Stars**

**Dona Paula Los Cardos 2006 Chardonnay, Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

The los Cardos Chardonnay is full bodied and fruity in style, with smooth texture, ripe fruit character (peach, grapefruit, pineapple), and a medium long finish.

**4+ Stars**

**Dona Paula 2006 Chardonnay Estate, Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

The Estate bottling is exceptional: full, supple, finely flavored, and complex, with good balance, and a medium long finish. It tastes of vanilla, pineapple, toast, pear, and peach.

**5 Stars**

**Dona Paula Los Cardos 2007 Malbec Rose, Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

Medium pink red color. Very fruity in aroma (raspberry, plum), full bodied, well balanced, and long on the finish. Great value.

**5 Stars**

**Dona Paula Los Cardos 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon, Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

The Cabernet is full bodied, well balanced, ripely flavored (black currant, blackberry, toast, oak), and long and smooth on the finish.

**4+ Stars**

**Dona Paula Los Cardos 2006 Malbec, Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

The Malbec is supple and full bodied, and emphasizes fruitiness and drinkability; it is smooth and long on the finish, with a hint of oak. It taste of plum, blackberry, cedar, toast, and black licorice.

**5 Stars**

**Dona Paula Los Cardos 2006 Syrah, Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

The Syrah is a top value: smoothly textured, nearly grapy in flavor, with light oak character, good balance, and a medium long finish, tasting of blackberry, aniseed, and toast.

**5 Stars**

**Dona Paula Los Cardos 2006 Malbec Estate, Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza**

The Estate Malbec is smoothly textured, full bodied, and lightly oaky, yet with intense fruitiness (blackberry, toast, cedar) and a very long finish. Tremendous value!

**5 Stars**

**Vina Cobos Cocodrillo 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, Mendoza**

The Cabernet is fleshy and medium rich, with evident oakiness, excellent flavor and long finish, tasting of ripe fruit (berries), toast, and spicy oak.

**5 Stars**

**Vina Cobos El Felino 2006 Malbec, Mendoza**

The Malbec is very ripe in style, smoothly textured, and very long on the finish, tasting of spicy oak, plum, and blackberry aromas/flavors. Long aftertaste.

**4 Stars**

**Vina Cobos La Garto 2006 Merlot, Mendoza**

The Merlot is a full bodied, richly flavored wine, with intense black currant, plum, blackberry, cedar, and tobacco aromas/flavors. Long finish.

**5 Stars**

**Bramare 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Marchiori Vineyard, Mendoza**

The Cabernet is fleshy, supple, and full bodied; ripely flavored wine, with rich blackberry, cedar, and spicy oak aromas/flavors, and a very long finish.

**4 Stars**

**Bramare 2005 Malbec Marchiori Vineyard, Mendoza**

The Malbec is exceptional: fleshy and complex; a wine with intense ripe fruit character (blackberry, plum), and layers of oak complexity (toast, cedar, roasted nut, tobacco). Very long finish.

**5 Stars**

**Vina Cobos 2005 Cobos Malbec, Marchiori Vineyard, Mendoza**

The Cobos Malbec is the "polished" version of the Bramare Malbec from the same vineyard. It is luscious in texture, finer in flavor (blackberry, plum, toast), very long and well balanced on the finish, with a firm, persistent finish.

**5 Stars**

**Grant Burge 2004 Shiraz Filsell Barossa**

Rich, round, and well balanced; a full flavored Shiraz, with blackberry, plum, black licorice, toast, and spicy oak aromas/flavors. Very long finish. Great value.

**5 Stars**

**Domaine Marc Kreydenweiss 2005 Kritt Pinot Blanc Alsace**

Great value. This is a full bodied, smoothly textured wine, with good balance and length. It taste of apple, roasted nut, and peach.

**4+ Stars**

**Domaine Marc Kreydenweiss 2005 Andlau Riesling Alsace**

Exceptional: intensely fruity and distinct in character (peach, apple, yellow plum), this is a full bodied, dry, and relatively crisp wine, with a very long finish. Classic Alsace Riesling.

**5 Stars**

**Domaine Marc Kreydenweiss 2005 Kritt Gewurztraminer Alsace**

Very fragrant in character, fleshy in texture, and nearly dry; a fine Gewurztraminer, with excellent depth and a very long finish, tasting of litchi nut, pink grapefruit, clove, lime, and gardenia. Excellent value.

**4+ Stars**

**Domaine Marc Kreydenweiss 2005 Wiebelsberg Riesling Alsace Grand Cru**

Very fine quality: a fleshy flavored Riesling that is full bodied, very long on the palate, and extremely persistent. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of honey, peach, melon, and cherimoya. Exceptional.

**5 Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 Bourgogne**

Excellent quality: fresh and fruity in style, with elegant fruitiness, crisp acidity, and a medium long finish. Chablis-like, in the best sense.

**4+ Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 Clos Rochette Mercurey**

Finely flavored and full bodied, this is a stylish wine, with lime, honey, apple, pear, and mint aromas/flavors, crisp acidity, and a long finish. Excellent value.

**3+ Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 Chablis**

Classic Chablis: fresh, delicately flavored, full bodied, and crisp, with a medium long finish, tasting of apple, lemon, and acacia. Excellent value.

**3+ Stars**

**Morey-Blanc 2005 Les Pucelles, St. Aubin**

Excellent: a finely flavored wine, which is full bodied, crisp on the palate, and quite long on the finish, tasting of apple, lemon peel, vanilla and toast. An unusually fine St. Aubin.

**4 Stars**

**Morey-Blanc 2005 Corton-Charlemagne**

Very fine quality: fresh and fragrant in character, crisp and full bodied on the palate, and a very persistent on the finish, tasting of apple, vanilla, pear, roasted nut, and spicy oak.

**4+ Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 Les Mauvarenes Mercurey**

Great Value! This is a stylish wine, with medium intensity, fine flavor (raspberry, violet, plum, pepper), crisp acidity, excellent balance, and a very long finish. Delicious.

**4 Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 Domaine de la Criox Jacquet, Mercurey**

Fine quality and value. A medium rich, full bodied wine, with smooth texture and good length, tasting of very ripe fruit (cherry, raspberry, red currant), with a hint of oak. Long flavor persistence.

**4 Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 Clos des Myglands Mercurey**

A complex Mercury, that shows some new character. It is full bodied, complex in flavor (raspberry, violet, toast, vanilla), crisp, and very long on the finish. Excellent!

**4+ Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 La Framboisiere Mercurey**

Fine Mercury: round, full bodied, quite intense and fine flavor (violet, raspberry, red currant), with firm acidity, good balance, and a long finish. Excellent value.

**4+ Stars**

**Domaine Faiveley 2005 Nuits-Saint-Georges**

Wonderful Nuits. It is full bodied, concentrated, mildly tannic, and somewhat powerful on the palate, with a very long finish. It tastes of blueberry, plum, cedar, and spicy oak.

**5 Stars**

**Domaine de Perrieres 2005 Costieres de Nimes**

It is deep in color, very ripe in character (both floral and fruity), with good depth of fruit and a long finish.

**4+ Stars**

**La Vieille Ferme 2006 Cote du Ventoux Red**

A supple, moderately rich blend, with ripe fruit character (berries, pepper, peach, aniseed), good balance, and a long, lightly tannic finish. Delicious.

**4+ Stars**

**Farnese 2006 Chardonnay, Terre di Chieti**

The Chardonnay is quite complex in character (lemon, banana, pear, roasted nut), full bodied but modest in depth, with fine balance and length. Not quite dry.

**5 Stars**

**Farnese 2006 Trebbiano D' Abruzzo**

The Trebbiano is supple, medium bodied, and flavorful (pear, lemon peel, roasted nut); well balanced, with a medium long finish.

**5 Stars**

**Lagaria 2006 Chardonnay Delle Venezie**

A medium bodied Chardonnay, with pear, lemon, and roasted nut aromas/flavors and a medium long, crisp finish. Very good value.

**3+ Stars**

**Az. Agr. Pieropan 2006 Soave Classico**

The 2006 is fragrant and fine in character; an elegant, medium bodied wine, with fine balance and length. It taste of pear, banana, almond, roasted nut, and honeysuckle.

**5 Stars**

**Az. Agr. Pieropan 2005 Calvarino, Soave Classico**

The Cavarino is supple, richly flavored, but only medium full bodied; a wine with fine character (apple, lime blossom, peach), and a very long finish.

**5 Stars**

**Mastroberardino 2006 Radici, Fiano di Avellino**

Round and full bodied, this is a finely flavored wine, with melon, peach, honeysuckle, lime, and toast aromas/flavors. Very long finish.

**4+ Stars**

**Villa Russiz 2006 Pinot Grigio, Collio**

Round and full bodied, this is a fairly rich Pinot Grigio, with citrus apple flavors, and overtones of tropical fruit and peach.

**4 Stars**

**Jermann 2006 Pinot Grigio Venezia Giulia**

Delicious. Fragrant, full bodied, and finely flavored, this is an excellent Pinot Grigio, with smooth texture, good depth, and a very long finish, tasting of pear, lemon peel, toast, and almond.

**4+ Stars**

**Jermann 2006 Chardonnay Venezia Giulia**

Round, full bodied, fruity in flavor, well balanced, and medium on the finish, tasting of pear, peach, honeydew melon, lemon, roasted nut, and passion fruit. Long aftertaste.

**4 Stars**

**Jermann 2006 Vinnae, Venezia Giulia**

An excellent wine: full bodied and crisp, with intense flavors and a long finish, tasting of lemon peel, apple, jasmine, guava, and honey. Long finish.

**4 Stars**

**Jermann 2005 Blau & Blau, Rosso Delle Venezie**

The Blau & Blau is delicious: supple, fruity blend, with fine and complex aromas/flavors (plum, blueberry, toast, pepper, cranberry), firm acidity, and a long finish.

**4 Stars**

**Jermann 2005 Red Angel on the Monlight**

Finely flavored, full bodied, and moderately intense, with complex character (cherry, baked potato, toast), and a crisp long finish.

**4+ Stars**

**Villa Russiz 2004 Graf de la Tour Merlot Collio**

Excellent Merlot, in a full bodied, lightly oaked style. It is moderately rich, tastes of blueberry, cherry, toast, plum, and spicy oak. Long finish.

**4 Stars**

**Az. Agr. Costaripa 2006 Mazana Benaco Bresciano Rosso**

Supple medium full bodied, this is an appealing, moderately intense wine, with floral and cherry-like fruitiness and a hint of wood. Medium long on the finish.

**4 Stars**

**Az. Agr. Bucci 2005 Tenuta Pongelli Rosso Piceno**

Supple and quite fruity in style, with good flavor (plum, pepper, berry jam, honey) and length; nearly Pinot Noir-like style (not flavor). Smooth, persistent finish.

**4 Stars**

**Lagaria 2006 Merlot Sicilia (IGT)**

A round, full bodied, lightly oaked Merlot, with appealing fruitiness (black currant, plum), and a medium long finish. Excellent value.

**4 Stars**

**Terra Dei Re 2004 Vultur Aglianico Del Vulture**

Youthful and fruity (Blackberry, blackcurrant), with full body, good balance, and a long finish. Tastes similar to an excellent claret-style California Zinfandel.

**4 Stars**

**Villa la Selva 2003 Selvamaggio Toscana IGT**

A smoothly textured, full bodied, medium rich Cabernet, tasting of black olive, roasted nut, black licorice, and spicy oak.

**4 Stars**

**Fratelli Speri 2005 Ripasso Valpolicella Classico Superiore**

A supple, medium rich, lightly oaky wine, with good depth and balance, and a long finish, tasting of oak, black licorice, cedar, pepper, and plum.

**4 Stars**

**Villa Maria Private Bin 2007 Unoaked Chardonnay Hawkes Bay**

The Chardonnay is round, full bodied, finely flavored wine (white peach, apple, lime, pineapple, almond), and crisp and long on the palate, with a persistent finish.

**4 Stars**

**Villa Maria 2007 Private Bin Riesling Marlborough**

The Riesling is a fine version of the varietal, in a crisp, medium bodied fragrant style. It is zesty and long on the palate, with persistent finish, tasting of guava, honeysuckle, jasmine, apple, and peach.

**4+ Stars**

**Villa Maria 2007 Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough**

The Sauvignon is the single finest Private Bin Sauvignon yet: very distinct and fragrant, with full body, smooth texture, and a long finish, tasting of lemon grass, lime, grapefruit, and bell pepper.

**5 Stars**

**Villa Maria 2007 Sauvignon Blanc Reserve Clifford Bay**

The Reserve is full bodied, crisp, and very long and persistent on the palate, with lime, lemon grass, apple, and grapefruit aromas/flavors.

**5 Stars**

**Peregrine 2006 Pinot Noir Central Otago**

Crisp, full-bodied, and intensely fruity in character (red currant, raspberry, violet, cherry, plum), with lightly peppery, toasty overtones. Long finish.

**5 Stars**

**Villa Maria 2006 Private Bin Pinot Noir Marlborough**

A supple, full bodied distinct Pinot Noir of excellent quality. It has fine character (plum, rose petal), with overtones of nutmeg, clove, and spicy oak. Long finish.

**4 Stars**

**Pegasus Bay 2005 Pinot Noir Waipara Valley**

Fine quality: supple, full bodied, lightly oaky, and long on the palate, with a smooth finish, tasting of plum, red currant, toast, and spicy oak.

**4+ Stars**

**Altano 2005 Douro Red**

Round and ripely flavored, this is a moderately rich blend, with fruity, floral character (violet, pepper, plum), and a long smooth finish. Great value.

**4+ Stars**

**Altano 2005 Reserva Duro**

Supple, lightly oaked, full bodied, and ripely flavored; long on the finish. It tastes of blackberry, toast, plum, pepper, and oak.

**4 Stars**

**Sauvignon Republic 2007 Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch**

Exceptional: round, full bodied, intensely flavored (pear, yellow plum, lemon grass, lime, bell pepper), and long on the palate, with a persistent finish.

**5 Stars**

**Fairview 2006 Shiraz Coastal Region**

Round, full-bodied, and medium rich; a Syrah with good balance and length, and tastes of blackberry, toast, pepper, and oak.

**5 Stars**