



**La Bienfaisance 2005 Red Bordeaux Blend St.-Emilion**

Made in a flamboyant style for the vintage, it reveals a dense purple color along with an expressive, ostentatious nose of sweet cherry liqueur intermixed with creme de cassis, toast, spring flowers, incense, melted licorice, and chocolate. Full-bodied with high but sweet, velvety tannins, it is already approachable,

**92 Points**

**Fougeres 2005 La Folie Pessac-Leognan**

This beautiful Pessac-Leognan exhibits notes of charcoal, scorched earth, and sweet black currant and cherry fruit. With soft tannins, a lush mouthfeel, and a pure finish, it will drink well for 5-6 years.

**90 Points**

**Calbello 2005 Rosso di Montalcino Tuscany**

The 2005 Rosso di Montalcino Calbello is made in a fresh, easygoing style. It is a delicate wine with notes of flowers, spices and red fruits. It doesn't quite have enough generosity in its fruit so the structural components tend to dominate, giving the wine a somewhat firm, austere personality.

**87 Points**

**Collosorbo 2006 Rosso di Montalcino Tuscany**

Characterized by its seductive aromatics and layered fruit. This is a soft, caressing style of Rosso that presents the feminine side of Sangiovese in its sweet, ripe red fruit, tobacco, spices and toasted oak. The tannins are firm, yet well-integrated and the wine offers compelling overall balance.

**90 Points**

**Collosorbo 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

Smoke, tar, earthiness and toasted oak emerge from Collosorbo's brooding 2003 Brunello di Montalcino, Today the wine comes across as surprisingly fresh with a perfumed inner sweetness to the fruit that gives the mid-palate an attractive juiciness. Although the tannins could use a little more polish, this is a superb effort.

**91 Points**

**Costanti 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

The wine reveals lovely depth and purity. Fragrant aromatics meld seamlessly onto the palate, where layers of dark cherries, spices and toasted oak come to life in a very pretty expression of Sangiovese from Montalcino. There is plenty of volume and depth here to insure at least another decade of superb drinking.

**93 Points**

**Fuligni 2006 Rosso di Montalcino Ginestreto Tuscany**

A deeply-colored offering redolent of black cherries, violets, smoke and minerals. It is made in a fairly full-bodied style, but it comes across as somewhat linear and lacking sheer volume.

**89 Points**

**Fuligni 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

It presents a very attractive array of ripe red fruits, smoke, tar and tobacco and toasted oak on a firm, classically-built frame. Its seamless texture and silky tannins make for a beautifully-balanced wine to enjoy now and over the next dozen years or so.

**93 Points**

**Lisini 2006 Rosso di Montalcino Tuscany**

Lisini's 2006 Rosso di Montalcino is especially generous in this vintage. It reveals attractive notes of black cherries, wild herbs, menthol and smoke on a medium-bodied frame, with excellent length and lovely balance.

**89 Points**

**Lisini 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

This big, rich offering is loaded with dark cherries, plum and violets. It shows outstanding depth and surprising freshness, yet the hard tannins of the vintage lurk beneath.

**90 Points**

**Livio Sassetti-Pertimali 2006 Rosso di Montalcino Tuscany**

Captures the essence of Sangiovese from Montalcino in its generous black cherries, underbrush, smoke, tar and licorice. A powerful, serious Rosso, it offers great length as well as superb overall harmony.

**90 Points**

**Livo Sassetti-Pertimali 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

This intense, powerful Brunello exhibits the essence of flowers, tar, smoke, dark cherries and wild herbs as it opens to reveal superb depth and concentration. The tannins of the vintage are present, but the wine's sheer richness provides more than enough balance. A surprisingly fresh, long finish rounds out the wine.

**92 Points**

**Poggio Antico 2006 Rosso di Montalcino Tuscany**

Poggio Antico's 2006 Rosso di Montalcino is terrific. This full-bodied, sumptuously-textured wine caresses the palate with layers of sweet dark fruit, smoke, tar, toasted oak and underbrush.

**90 Points**

**Poggio Antico 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

It reveals a pretty, accessible expression of earthiness, tobacco and ripe red fruit with lovely density and purity. The tannins are particularly finessed within the context of the vintage yet the wine comes across as more tightly wound than normal. On the plus side, a lingering note of sweetness from the oak frames the long finish.

**89 Points**

**Peggo Antico 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Altero Tuscany**

Offers attractive density as flowers, spices, ripe red fruit, chocolate and sweet toasted oak flow from the glass. The wine possesses outstanding nuance and complexity. In this vintage the use of smaller French oak barrels is somewhat penalizing as it accentuates the hard, unripe tannins that are already present in the fruit.

**90 Points**

**IL Poggione 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

As this full-bodied Brunello opens in the glass, notes of dark fruit, leather, spices, chocolate and tobacco emerge, supported by the firm tannins that are the hallmark of this vintage. There is notable clarity here, but fans of the estate should expect an atypically ripe style in this vintage.

**91 Points**

**IL Poggione 2005 Rosso di Montalcino Tuscany**

Poggione's 2005 Rosso di Montalcino is a lovely, feminine wine redolent of crushed flowers, raspberries and spices. It shows notable clarity and freshness in a mid-weight, classic style.

**89 Points**

**Uccelliera 2006 Rosso di Montalcino Tuscany**

This plush, deep Rosso exudes terrific energy in its plush, dark fruit, minerals, tar and smoke, with outstanding balance and an utterly irresistible personality. This wine an extra level of depth and complexity compared to most Rossos on the market.

**90 Points**

**Uccelliera 20045 Rapace Tuscany**

Perfumed, spiced aromatics lead to layers of sweet dark fruit that unfold with uncommon grace and elegance in the 2005 Rapace. This medium to full-bodied wine literally sparkles on the palate with vibrant black cherries, spices and toasted oak. Sweet notes of licorice, tar and underbrush linger on the long, fresh finish. It is a remarkably complex and nuanced wine in this less than stellar vintage.

**91 Points**

**Uccelliera 2003 Brunello di Montalcino Tuscany**

The 2003 Brunello di Montalcino is very representative of the house style in its intense expression of ripe dark fruit, menthol, leather, chocolate and spices. It offers superb richness and depth, with notable complexity for a wine of its size.

**92 Points**

**Marques de Caceres 2007 Rose Rioja**

Offers an expressive bouquet of rose petals and cherry. Crisp, fruity, and well balanced, it should prove to be versatile with a wide range of foods. (Excellent value)

**87 Points**

**Kumeu River 2005 Chardonnay Auckland**

The 2005 Chardonnay has Kumeu's signature Meursault-like nose with great definition with a touch of petrol developing in the glass, the palate very ripe, a little honeyed and viscous with hints of lychee towards the finish.

**89 Points**

**Kumeu River 2005 Mate's Vineyard Chardonnay Auckland**

Only slightly better than the regular (now Estate) Chardonnay but has better definition and minerality on the nose with vibrant acidity on the palate, notes of lime, white peach and orange zest, finishing slightly reserved.

**90 Points**

**Pegasus Bay 2007 Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon Canterbury**

The 2007 Sauvignon/Semillon is endowed with a vibrant fresh, animated nose so crisp and well-defined. Apple, limestone and a touch of smoke. The palate has a wonderful balance, perfectly-pitched acidity with a crisp, lanolin-tinged finish. This is how Sauvignon should be! Outstanding.

**95 Points**

**Pegasus Bay 2006 Riesling Canterbury**

Meanwhile the 2006 Riesling is a thrilling wine with touches of honeysuckle and limestone on the nose and a palate distantly related to the likes of JJ Prum or Willi Schaeffer.

**93 Points**

**Pegasus Bay 2005 Chardonnay Canterbury**

The 2005 Chardonnay exhibits a more Puligny-style nose with touches of limestone and granite on the palate, still quite tight and needing another year in bottle.

**93 Points**

**Pegasus Bay 2006 Pinot Noir Canterbury**

The intellectual 2006 Pinot Noir has a very natural nose, less fruit-driven than expected with more woodland, tertiary scents. Very well-balanced on the palate, slightly grainy tannins, dark fruit but not the usual black cherry. This has damson and mulberries to the fore, again that beguiling sense of earthiness. Introverted on the very natural elegant dry finish. Superb.

**92 Points**

**Sherwood Estate 2007 Sauvignon Blanc Waipara**

The 2007 Sauvignon Blanc is an orthodox, slightly herbaceous wine, fault free but lacking the complexity the complexity to lift it above others.

**85 Points**

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

Entry-level. It is everything you would want in a commercial, herbaceous gooseberry-tinged Sauvignon Blanc.

**85 Points**

**Villa Maria 2007 Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough**

There is certainly a step up in quality with the 2007 Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc, fresher and more herbaceous on the nose with crisp gooseberry and citrus fruits on the palate.

**88 Points**

**Wairau River 2006 Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough**

The 2006 Sauvignon Blanc has a slightly herbaceous nose with flint and granite, the palate zesty with good acidity: apples, citrus, lemon and minerals with a focused, quite edgy finish.

**89 Points**