



Clos Pegase 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley)

This is Clos Pegase's basic, least expensive Cabernet. It's quite a good wine, rich with gorgeous tannins framing ripe curren, cassis, chocolate and licorice flavors. This 100% Cab is, in a word, luscious.

92 Points

Frog's Leap 2004 Rutherford (Rutherford)

A beautiful young Rutherford Cabernet, showing the dusty elegance and complexity of a top estate. There's a rich herblity to the cherry, cassis and blackberry fruit, suggesting fresh green chervil, sage and thyme. Oak adds harmonious notes of vanilla, cedar and char. The tannins are thick and juvenile, but very finely ground. (Cellar Selection)

94 Points

Guicciardini Strozzi 2005 Ocra (Bolgheri)

It's amazing how much this wine smells like peppermint. A blend of distinctive wine that offers playful aromas of clove, cardamom, chocolate and rhubarb behind a solid wall of spearmint. It has tight tannins, a solid structure and fresh acidity.

90 Points

Poggio Antico 2005 Madre (Toscana)

This vintage of Madre features pretty aromas, inspired by fruit and flower-based elements. This wine boasts a deep ruby color and full concentration in the mouth. The finish is long and satisfying.

90 Points

Terrabianca 2004 Campaccio (Toscana)

The match of 70% Sangiovese and 30% Merlot seems perfect. The wine's great ability is in offering soft, rounded cherry tones backed by more typical notes of forest berry and blue flower. Its texture is plush, and the vibrant mid-palate closes with bright fruit.

90 Points

Marques de Caceres 2002 Gaudium Gran Vino (Rioja)

Very nice for a 2002. The wine is elegant and delivers aromas of violets, minerals and dried fruits. The palate folds in chocolate and spice along with a layer of blackberry flavor. We wouldn't call it super-concentrated or complex, but it is driven, pure and pleasurable. Smells, weighs and tastes a lot like Bordeaux.

89 Points

Frog's Leap 2006 Chardonnay (Napa Valley)

Frog's Leap Chards always have a softly herbal earthiness, even though there's plenty of pineapple, green apple, apricot and vanilla oaky flavor. That herbaceousness keeps the wine from soaring.

86 Points

The Four Graces 2006 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)

Light, tart and carrying its cherry, pomegranate and cranberry fruit with precision, this lovely bottle will satisfy those who like their fruit upfront, and also those who want some substance on the back end. Pleasing roasted coffee and chocolate streaks reflect the aging over 10 months in French oak. There's a well-managed earthy note also, adding depth and interest.

89 Points

Duck Pond 2006 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)

Tart and forward, with cranberry and raspberry fruit front and center, this is tasty, acidic and lightly spice effort that shows some nice precision. It's not a big wine, but balanced and based upon sharp acids that carry the fruit and cut through the finish.

87 Points

Stoller 2005 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills)

This is soft, fruity and very approachable, with flavors of strawberry jam. Highlights of sassafras and a pleasing spiciness add texture and interest.

87 Points