



Carina Cellars 2005 Syrah Westerly Vineyard Santa Ynez

Reveals good freshness and elegance, but lacks depth and ripeness.

85 Points

Carina Cellars Syrah 7 Percent Santa Ynez

Exhibits lovely floral, black currant, cherry, and earthy notes. In keeping with the vintage character, it possesses tart acidity as well as medium body, and a heady, moderately long finish.

87 Points

Cline Cellars 2005 Mourvedre Ancient Vines Contra Costa

Its medium ruby color is followed by dusty, loamy soil notes interwoven with raspberry and cherry fruit offered in a medium-bodied, fresh style.

85 Points

Core 2005 B. Core Santa Ynez

Reveals a more evolved, darker gold color as well as a heavier style displaying notes of rose oil, spice, and marmalade.

87 Points

Core 2005 Core Red Santa Barbara

Displays a big, sweet perfume of Provencal herbs, cherries, raspberries, and notions of pepper and blueberries.

89 Points

Core 2006 Core Rose California

A superb rose that sells for a song. It is like a kir cocktail with a dollop of strawberry liqueur, candied strawberry and cherry fruit and a long, heady finish.

90 Points

Core 2005 Coreferment Santa Barbara

A deep ruby/purple color is followed by fabulous blueberry, earth, tree bark, and spice notes. Beautifully textured and medium to full-bodied with sweet tannin and a long finish.

91 Points

Core 2005 Elevation Sensation Alta Mesa Vineyard

Exhibits notes of crème de cassis, kirsch, blueberries, licorice, and truffles. Full-bodied, powerful, and silky-textured, it is stunningly complex with notes of flowers, red and black fruits, earth, and spice. Rich, layered and full-bodied.

93 Points

Core 2005 Grenache Alta Mesa Vineyard Santa Barbara

It possesses classic notes of kirsch liqueur, licorice, pepper, spice, and a touch of raspberries. This medium to full-bodied, luscious, sensual wine will provide immense enjoyment.

90 Points

Core 2005 Ground Around California

A dark ruby hue accompanied by aromas of sweet cherries, loamy soil, earth, and underbrush. Abundant fruit is presented in a savory, round, generously-endowed, interesting style.

90 Points

Core 2005 Hard Core Santa Barbara

Boasts terrific aromatics of black currants, cherries, incense, spice, underbrush, and Provencal herbs. With fabulous fruit, medium to full body, a big rich, savory mouthfeel, and a long, textured finish, it is irresistible now.

91 Points

Core 2005 Mister Moreved Alta Mesa Vineyard Santa Barbara

Exhibits a blueberry, raspberry truffle oil filled personality, wonderful ripeness, medium to full body, good acidity, and a dry, heady, firm finish.

94 Points

Core 2005 Syrah Turchi Santa Barbara

It does not possess the depth or complexity of the other Core offerings.

84 Points

Core 2005 White 613 Santa Ynez

A heady, succulent, citrus filled, medium-bodied wine comes from Fess Parker's renowned Rodney's Vineyard.

89 Points

JC Cellars 2005 Marsanne Preston Vineyard Dry Creek

From top-notch red wine estate, attractive citrus and crushed rock-like characteristics emerge from this medium-bodied white. While pleasant and straightforward, it does not possess the depth one expects from a northern Rhone Marsanne.

86 Points

McDowell Vineyards 2004 Syrah Mendocino

Exhibits cherry and black currant fruit in its easy-going personality. It is meant for mainstream consumption.

85 Points

Michael-David Winery 2004 Syrah Earthquake Lodi

Monolithic, earthy, and dusty.

85 Points

Michael-David Winery 2004 Syrah Sixth Sense Lodi

Exhibits soft, easy-going spicy fruit flavors along with a sensual mouthfeel, and a good length.

86 Points

Michael-David Winery 2006 Viognier Incognito Lodi

Fruit forward than the 2005 vintage. Has peach and honeysuckle characteristics.

85 Points

Michael-David Winery 2006 Viognier Incognito Lodi

Slightly more restrained and elegant than the 2006 vintage. Has peach and honeysuckle characteristics.

86 Points

Morgan 2005 Cotes du Crow's Monterey

It offers strawberry, cherry, spice, pepper, and earth characteristics in a medium-bodied format with silky tannin as well as decent acidity.

89 Points

Novy Family Winery 2005 Syrah Napa

Exhibits a dark ruby/purple hue as well as solid fruit, but a little complexity or depth.

85 Points

Novy Family Winery 2005 Syrah Russian River

Offers earthy, briery, Zinfandel-like fruit aromas, darker berries on the mouth with pepper, herb, and spice characteristics, medium body, and well-made style.

87 Points

Novy Family Winery 2005 Syrah Santa Lucia Highlands

Exhibits a dense ruby/purple color along with a beautiful bouquet of crème de cassis, licorice, and spring flowers, a super-ripe palate, good acidity, and a long, pure finish.

89 Points

Saxum 2006 Bone Rock James Berry Vineyard Paso Robles

This wine has a beautiful nose of burning embers, sweet charcoal, kirsch liqueur, blackberry, melted licorice, and a hint of chocolate. This wine has fabulous fruit, loads of spice, gorgeous purity, medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, and a heady finish.

94-96 Points

Saxum 2005 Bone Rock James Berry Vineyard Paso Robles

This is also backward and tannin, with a European structural profile. Dense ruby/purple with generously sweet black raspberry, blackberry, and cassis fruit, a hint of acacia flower, and some underbrush and meatiness, this wine has a little bit of smoke, tremendous density, but also beautifully acidity and superb definition.

96-100 Points

Saxum 2006 Booker Vineyard Paso Robles

Boasts terrific fruit intensity and like most of these wines, has a deep ruby/purple color to the rim and beautiful purity, with floral notes intermixed with smoke, black currant, cherry, and camphor. A fruit-forward palate with supple tannins a beautiful, multi-layered mouthfeel, this is a beauty that offers further evidence of what a top-notch site this Booker Vineyard looks to be.

93-95 Points

Saxum 2005 Booker Vineyard Paso Robles

This is quite full-bodied, powerful wine with loads of structure, unmistakable minerality, and moderately high tannin. The wine has sweet cassis, black cherry, and currant fruit, some hints of wet rocks, and firm tannins in the finish.

92-94 Points

Saxum 2006 Broken Stones Paso Robles

Exhibits loads of fruit, open-knit cassis and black cherry notes, opulence, a heady and seductive mouthfeel, full body, and soft easygoing tannins with decent acidity.

93-95 Points

Saxum 2005 Broken Stones Paso Robles

Notes of licorice, forest floor, pepper, spice box, and loads of black and red fruits jump from the glass as well as saturate palate. This full-bodied, opulent wine has crisp acidity, some heady alcohol, and loads of flavor, depth, and richness.

94+ Points

Saxum 2006 Heart Stone Vineyard Paso Robles

Seems one of the more backward wines with drier tannins, slightly more austerity, and hints of raspberry, blueberry, black currant, licorice, and crushed rock. This wine has superb fruit and a distinctive minerality.

91-94 Points

Saxum 2005 Heart Stone Vineyard Paso Robles

There is a very northern Rhone-like character to this wine, with notes of roasted Provencal herbs, fresh pepper, spring flowers, wet stones, and plenty of red and black fruits. Aromatically complex, rich, structured, with a touch of austerity very much in French style, but with superb fruit, this beauty is broad, expansive, and deep and powerful.

94-96 Points

Saxum 2006 James Berry Vineyard Proprietary Red Paso Robles

Seems more reticent, but certainly full of fruit, with loads of flesh, good structure, but not as weight of the 2005. Beautifully pure, rich, and expressive.

92-94 Points

Saxum 2005 James Berry Vineyard Proprietary Red Paso Robles

This wine exhibits beautiful minerality intermixed with floral notes, crème de cassis, blackberry, and some damp earth and pepper. This wine is structured and rich.

94-96 Points

Saxum 2006 Rocket Block James Berry Vineyard Paso Robles

Has a deep ruby/purple color, excellent ripeness, more tannin and minerality, but with less weight and breadth of flavor than the 2005. Yet it is complex, forward, and seductive.

90-92? Points

Saxum 2005 Rocket Block James Berry Vineyard Paso Robles

A wine of fabulous intensity, broad multi-dimensional flavors, and a texture built like a skyscraper, the wine has sensational definition, intensity, and an amazing finish.

96-98 Points

Shadow Canyon 2006 Grenache Larner Vineyard

Slightly under-whelming. Soft and forward without the depth found in the three previous vintages.

87-89 Points

Shadow Canyon 2005 Grenache Larner Vineyard

Offers fabulous black raspberry, cherry, and berry fruit infused with floral character, medium to full body, and stunning vibrancy.

91 Points

Shadow Canyon 2005 Rose Central Coast

A dead-ringer for an old style travel, it exhibits an orange/salmon color, elegant, dry, austere flavors, and loads of complex earthy, berry fruit intermixed with notions of spice and forest floor.

89 Points

Shadow Canyon 2006 Syrah Shadow Canyon Vineyard York Mtn.

Slightly under-whelming. Soft and forward without the depth found in the three previous vintages.

88-90 Points

Shadow Canyon 2005 Syrah Shadow Canyon Vineyard York Mtn.

Reveals aromas of smoky bacon fat, roasted meats, lard, blackberries, and cassis, soft tannin, and medium body. It offers delicate fruit, an enticing texture, and a long finish.

90 Points

Spencer-Roloson 2004 Palaterra California

Dark ruby-hued. Reveals tangy, Barbera-like characteristics along with toasty oak, spice, and berry fruit notes. Reminiscent of Zinfandel blended with top-notch Piedmontese red, this is a tasty, bistro styled effort.

87 Points

Spencer-Roloson 2004 Syrah La Herradura Vineyard Napa

Glorious notes of bacon fat, roasted meat, smoke, blackberries, and black currants emerge from the dark ruby/purple-colored wine. It is complex, sexy, lush, opulent, and enticing.

92 Points

Spencer-Roloson 2004 Syrah Madder lake Vineyard Clear Lake

Offers a pure blackberry and cassis fruit along with hints of acacia flowers and licorice. Medium to full-bodied, pure and nicely delineated, it is not as complex and exuberant as the Napa bottling.

90 Points

Spencer-Roloson 2005 Viognier Noble Vineyard Knight's Valley

Exhibits litchi nut, honeysuckle, nectarine, and apricot characteristics, medium to full body, good acidity, and fine definition.

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Antithesis (Chardonnay) Paso Robles

The complex 2006 Antithesis Chardonnay may turn out to be even better than the 2005. Steely notes of citrus oil, honeyed grapefruit, and white currants are present in this crisp, zesty, medium to full-bodied white. Beautifully pure fruit is unobstructed by new oak.

91-93 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Antithesis (Chardonnay) Paso Robles

The 2005 Antithesis Chardonnay (which gets its name from the fact that no new oak is used) offers up aromas of lemon meringue interwoven with notions of white peaches, chalk, and white currants. This distinctive, medium to full-bodied, beautifully floral offering is about as close to a classic Chablis as one will find in a Chardonnay from California.

91 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Cotes De Tablas Paso Robles

Shows complex notes of soy, roasted meat, black cherry, currant, resin, and roasted herbs. Spicy, rich, broad, and quite full-bodied, this is serious and well-endowed wine reminiscent of a top-flight Cotes du Rhone from southern France.

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2004 Cotes De Tablas Paso Robles

I re-tasted a few of the 2004 reds, and the medium-bodied 2004 Cotes de Tablas exhibits lovely peppery, berry fruit, roasted herb, and gamy scents. It is a top-notch example of a California version of a Cotes du Rhone.

89 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Cotes De Tablas Blanc Paso Robles

The 2006 Cotes de Tablas reveals plenty of citrus, lemon oil, rose petal, anise seed, and earthy characteristics.

87-89 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Cotes De Tablas Blanc Paso Robles

Offers up aromas of honeyed grapefruit, orange rind, tropical fruits, and lemon zest along with a hint of crushed rocks. Medium to full-bodied with surprising dryness as well as intensity

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Counoise Paso Robles

The 2005 Counoise is solidly made, but lacks the complexity, breadth of flavor and richness of the blend.

87 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Esprit De Beaucastel Paso Robles

This wine has a dense ruby/purple color, a beautiful nose of incense, melted licorice, roasted herbs, pepper, smoked meats, and black fruits. It hits the palate with substantial authority yet shows impressive definition to buttress its striking richness, muscle, and depth.

92-94 Points

Tablas Creek 2004 Esprit De Beaucastel Paso Robles

This is a beautifully complex effort (3,500 cases produced) displaying a dense ruby/purple color as well as a sumptuous perfume of earthy black cherries and cassis intermixed with new saddle leather, roasted meat, and Provencal herbs. With great intensity, medium to full body, and silky tannin, it tastes like a top-notch southern Rhone.

92 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Esprit De Beaucastel Blanc Paso Robles

Beautiful notes of orange blossoms, lemon oil, assorted tropical fruits, white currants, rose water, and spice emerge from the 2006 Esprit de Beaucastel. Full-bodied, rich, intense, dry, and stony in its minerality.

92-95 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Esprit De Beaucastel Blanc Paso Robles

It reveals classic notes of honeyed marmalade, intense tropical fruits, impressive underlying minerality, and a chalky character in its big, dry, full-throttle personality that is bursting with character as well as intensity.

93 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Grenache Blanc Paso Robles

The 2006 Grenache Blanc does not possess the weight of its 2005 counterpart, but it exhibits attractive custardy, lemon oil, hazelnut, honeysuckle, and orange peel-like notes.

88-90 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Grenache Blanc Paso Robles

The 2005 Grenache Blanc exhibits orange blossom and lemon oil notes along with crisp acidity. It is one of the few successful white Grenaches made in California.

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Mourvedre Paso Robles

Reveals smoky bacon and meaty notes, hints of fresh mushrooms, a touch of chocolate, and a penetrating, tannic mouthfeel with some angularity. It's not for everybody, but it is an interesting wine and much better than the more herbal/vegetal 2004.

87 Points

Tablas Creek 2004 Mourvedre Paso Robles

I am not as high on the single varietal offerings such as the 2004 Mourvedre. The wine is solidly made, but lacks the complexity, breadth of flavor, and richness of the blend.

84 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Panoplie Paso Robles

Beautiful melted licorice, black truffle, and roasted meat notes interwoven with pepper, cassis, blackberry, and herbs are present in this wine, which has exquisite concentration, seamless integration of acidity, tannin, and alcohol, and a fabulous finish close to 50+ seconds long.

94-96 Points

Tablas Creek 2004 Panoplie Paso Robles

This wine is showing fabulously well out of bottle, with complex earthy, gamey, smoky notes of burning embers and charcoal as well as black cherry and black currant fruit. The wine is broad, full-bodied, powerful, and rich. It is a beautiful homage to the famed luxury cuvee called Jacques Perrin from Chateau Beaucastel.

95 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Rose Paso Robles

Offers up aromas of plums, figs, earth, red currants, and strawberries. This full-bodied, dry, heady rose can stand up to full-flavored food given its strong personality and beautiful fruit. A knock-out example of an old style rose made in a modern winery/

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Roussanne Paso Robles

The big, bold, flamboyant 2006 Roussanne displays plenty of complexity in its bouquet of candle wax, citrus oil, marmalade, and mango fruit. Elegant, full-bodied, and rich, it should be consumed with grilled fish or roast chicken dishes

90-92 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Roussanne Paso Robles

An enticing white is the stunning 2005 Roussanne, which offers terrific fruit, good acidity, and excellent freshness. Rose water-like notes intermixed with smoke, flower, and waxy citrus scents emerge from this full-bodied effort.

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Syrah Paso Robles

The 2005 Syrah is a big improvement over the 2004 and reminded me of a meaty, roasted, earthy, and mineral-dominated Cornas from France's northern Rhone. Deep ruby, the wine shows pepper, minerals, and black fruits.

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2004 Syrah Paso Robles

I am not as high on the single varietal offerings such as the 2004 Syrah. The wine is solidly made, but lacks the complexity, breadth of flavor, and richness of the blend.

87 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Vermentino Paso Robles

Light, delicious, and crisp with hints of lemon zest and underripe apricots, it is a fresh, lively white that hits the palate with surprising personality as well as intensity. The overall impression is one of lightness and freshness despite its 14.5% alcohol.

89 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Vin De Paille Paso Robles

An amazing nose of black truffles followed by marmalade and honeyed tea notes jumps from the glass of this full-bodied wine that carries its 10% alcohol very gracefully.

90 Points

Tablas Creek 2005 Vin De Paille Quintessence Paso Robles

The knock-out 2005 Vin de Paille Quintessence is unctuously textured, full-bodied, rich, thick, and juicy, with loads of glycerin, and plenty of honeyed orange, peach, and syrupy marmalade-like notes. A high level of residual sugar and a good 12-13% alcohol give this wine plenty of punch, power, and potential longevity

94 Points

Tablas Creek 2006 Viognier Paso Robles

Few California Viogniers exhibit as much minerality and chalkiness as Tablas Creek's 2006 Viognier. Atypically mineral in its personality, it possesses excellent definition as well as notions of tropical fruits, peaches, and apricot jam.

90-92 Points

Tensley 2006 Blanc Camp 4 Vineyard Santa Ynez

Exhibits aromas of white peaches, citrus oil, and honeysuckle, medium body, loads of fruit, a hint of minerality, and surprising complexity. This flamboyant wine could easily pass for a top-notch white southern Rhone.

90 Points

Tensley 2005 Syrah BMT Santa Barbara

Revealing a sweeter, more succulent character, it is the most open-knit of these rather broodingly thick, backward wines. A touch of kirsch adds sweetness to the aromatic and flavor profiles. The color is an opaque ruby/purple, and the wine exhibits plenty of black cherry liqueur notes interwoven with blackberries, licorice, pepper, roasted herbs, and smoke. Full-bodied, powerful, and rich.

95 Points

Tensley 2005 Syrah Colson canyon Vineyard Santa Barbara

Its opaque purple color is followed by notes of beef blood, tar, blueberry and blackberry liqueur, licorice, and acacia flowers. It is a full-bodied, dense, rich, impressively endowed effort which, like its siblings, needs several years of bottle age.

94 Points

Tensley 2005 Syrah OGT Santa Barbara

Bottled only in magnums, it possesses a dense purple color as well as notes of blackberries, black currants, flowers, scorched earth, and coffee beans. Thick and viscous, with plenty of definition as well as a savory quality, this wine should age beautifully for 15-20 years.

93 Points

Tensley 2005 Syrah Thompson Vineyard Santa Barbara

The inky/blue/purple-hued, tannic, backward 2005 Syrah Thompson Vineyard displays superb fruit purity, a full-bodied, powerful, muscular style, abundant tannin, and beautiful depth as well as freshness. While impressively endowed, it requires some bottle age to round into shape.

91+ Points

Tensley Syrah Three Creek Vineyard Santa Barbara

The Hermitage-like 2005 Syrah Three Creek Vineyard possesses creosote, scorched earth, blackberry, creme de cassis, tar, and blueberry characteristics. Ripe, full-bodied, big, chewy, and French-styled.

92+ points

Tensley Syrah Tierra Alta Vineyard Santa Barbara

Reveals vivid notes of espresso roast, chocolate, scorched earth, black fruits, charcoal, and underbrush. This full-bodied, expressive, intense, structured, backward Syrah begs for 2-3 years of cellaring.

91+ Points

Tensley 2005 Syrah Turner Vineyard Santa Barbara

Tends towards a riper expression of dark fruit and a more opulent texture than the 2004 with more prominent earthy undertones. It offers excellent length, with slightly harder tannins, showing a pretty note of sweetness on the finish.

92 points

Zaca Mesa 2004 Syrah Estate Santa Ynez

The 2004 Syrah Estate tastes like a lightweight French Crozes-Hermitage. Olive and cherry notes intermixed with disjointed acidity give the wine a tart feel in the mouth.

85 Points

Zaca Mesa 2004 Syrah Black Bear Block Estate Santa Ynez

Acidic and out of balance is the 2004 Syrah Black Bear Block Estate, which is a shame as it possesses generous quantities of red and black fruits, a judicious touch of wood, and seemingly impressive purity. However, the acidity keeps the wine clipped and one-dimensional.

86? Points

Zaca Mesa 2004 Syrah Black Bear Block Estate Santa Ynez

The finest of this group is the seriously-constructed 2003 Syrah Black Bear Block Estate. Revealing a deep ruby/purple hue, aromas of smoke, blackberries, underbrush, licorice, and barbecue spice, excellent balance, good acidity, full-bodied richness, and ripe tannin, it should drink well for 7-8 years.

90 points

Zaca Mesa 2004 Z Cuvee Estate Santa Ynez

Usually a good bargain, the tart, medium-bodied 2004 Z Cuvee, a Cotes du Rhone blend of Grenache, Mourvedre, Syrah, and Cinsault, reveals cherry and loamy soil-like aromas, sweet and sour flavors, and shrill acidity in the clipped finish.

85 Points

Zaca Mesa 2004 Z Three Estate Santa Ynez

The medium-bodied 2004 Z Three exhibits a dark ruby/purple color as well as a sweet nose of red and black currants, cherries, smoke, and flowers. An elegant attack is followed by tart acids, which seem to exacerbate the tannins

86 points

Andrew Will Cellars 2003 Annie Camarda Syrah Washington State

Purple-colored, it has a nose of smoke, espresso roast, scorched earth, licorice, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Despite (or perhaps because of) the lengthy stay in new oak, the wine comes off as four-square, tannic, and lacking complexity. It is intense and mouth-filling, so perhaps time will treat it kindly but that is a gamble.

88 Points

Andrew Will Cellars 2004 Ciel Du Cheval Vineyard Red Mountain

Dark ruby-colored, it delivers a restrained nose of herbs, clove, menthol, cedar, tobacco, cassis, and black cherry. This is followed by a medium-bodied, moderately complex wine with light tannins but a short finish.

89 Points

Andrew Will Cellars 2004 Champoux Vineyard Horse Heaven Hills

Less marked by oak and more complex than the Sorella bottling, it has a splendid bouquet of cedar, tobacco, vanilla, leather, cassis, and black currants. This is followed by a concentrated, dense wine with gobs of flavor, a velvety texture, excellent integration of oak, tannin, and acidity, and a seamless, 60+ second finish

93 Points

Andrew Will Cellars 2004 Merlot "Cuvee Lucia" Washington State

It offers a fragrant bouquet of cedar, tobacco, cassis, cherry, and black currant. Medium-bodied, it has a supple texture, ripe, forward, spicy red and black fruit flavors, and a seamless, medium-long finish.

89 Points

Andrew Wine Cellars 2004 Sheridan Vineyard Yakima Valley

Dark ruby-colored, the aromatics are muted. With coaxing, pain grille, spice box, cassis, clove, and red currants emerge. On the palate it exhibits sweet fruit, spicy flavors, and ripe tannin but lacks breadth.

89 Points

Andrew Will Cellars 2004 Sorella Horse Heaven Hills

Dark ruby-colored, it presents a fragrant perfume of pain grille, scorched earth, sweet spices, clove, mint, cassis, and black currants. This leads to a medium-bodied, velvety-textured, seamless, full-flavored wine with excellent balance and enough structure to evolve for 3-5 years.

92 points

Andrew Will Cellars 2004 Two Blondes Vineyard Yakima Valley

Dark ruby-colored, it offers a nose of violets, damp earth, cloves, cranberry, wild raspberry, and cassis. Supple and ripe, with excellent extraction, light tannin, and a long, pure finish.

91 points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Chardonnay Ashley's Santa Rita Hills

The 2005 Chardonnay Ashley's represents the essence of Chardonnay with its notes of ripe pears, brioche, peaches, apricots, honeysuckle, and flowers. It is full-bodied and rich, with great acidity and depth.

94 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Chardonnay Mount Carmel Santa Rita Hills

The 2005 exhibits honeysuckle, lemon butter, a hint of popcorn, and orange rind in a full-bodied, deep, chewy style that reminds me of some of the old Batard-Montrachets made by Domaine Michel Niellon in the late seventies and eighties.

94 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Chardonnay Rancho Santa Rosa Santa Rita Hills

Exhibits notes of honey, marmalade, lemon rind, and pineapple. Full-bodied, with superb acidity, no evidence of wood, a touch of minerality, and a full-throttle, Corton-Charlemagne-like richness and definition.

94 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Chardonnay Sea Smoke Santa Rita Hills

Revealing more orange rind, lemon zest, honeyed grapefruit, and restrained minerals in a full-bodied, closer to the vest-style is the 2005 Chardonnay Sea Smoke.

92 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Chardonnay Sweeny Canyon Santa Rita Hills

This full-bodied, powerful white boasts an amazing liqueur of minerals intermixed with bees' wax, honeysuckle, marmalade, and lemon butter. With an attractive citrus/orange rind character, and a full-bodied, layered, super-duper mouthfeel as well as richness. .

94 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Pinot Noir Ashley's Santa Rita Hills

Floral, blueberry, raspberry, and sweet currant aromas jump from the glass of the firmer, more structured 2005 Pinot Noir Ashley's.

93 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Pinot Noir Cargasacchi Santa Rita Hills

Fresh mushrooms, forest floor, pomegranate, sweet cherry, and pepper characteristics are found in the deep ruby-hued, medium to full-bodied 2005 Pinot Noir Cargasacchi. Its earthy, peppery, black fruited character is reminiscent of a premier cru from Nuits St.-Georges.

92+ Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Pinot Noir Clos Pepe Santa Rita Hills

The most monolithic effort here is the spicy, sweet and sour cherry-flavored, medium-bodied 2005 Pinot Noir Clos Pepe. The Clos Pepe reveals zesty acidity along with attractive spicy, cinnamon, and pomegranate notes, but is firmly knit.

91+? Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Pinot Noir Melville Santa Rita Hills

Always one of the purest expressions of Pinot Noir fruit, the deep ruby-colored 2005 Melville reveals grand cru-like blueberry, black raspberry, plum, floral, and currant characteristics along with fabulous fruit, a sweet, expansive mouthfeel, and a full-bodied, silky finish.

95 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Pinot Noir Mount Carmel Santa Rita Hills

Exhibits a medium ruby hue as well as a big, expansive aromatic display of forest floor, sweet cherries, pomegranate, fresh mushrooms, and spring flowers. Fabulous fruit, a silky mouthfeel, a long, heady richness, full body, and moderate tannin.

94 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Pinot Noir Rancho Santa Rosa Santa Rita Hills

One of the darkest-colored wines in this portfolio, it offers deep, complex notes of underbrush/forest floor, sassafras, earth, and sweet blackberry, currant, and raspberry fruit are present in this full-bodied, fragrant, multi-dimensional, expansive Pinot.

94 Points

Brewer-Clifton 2005 Pinot Noir Rio Vista Santa Rita Hills

The sexy, medium ruby-colored 2005 Pinot Noir Rio Vista reveals earthy, Allspice, raspberry, and black cherry notes, a broad, textural mouthfeel, full body, and a 7-10 year window of drinkability.

93 Points

Melville 2006 Chardonnay Clone 76 Inox Santa Rita Hills

Arguably one of the finest stainless steel-fermented and aged Chardonnays made in California is Melville's Chardonnay Clone 76 Inox. The 2006 offers beautiful, clean, lemon butter, honeysuckle, and orange/tangerine characteristics, medium body, and stunning elegance and precision.

90 Points

Melville 2005 Chardonnay Estate Verna's Santa Rita Hills

Reveals notes of poached pears, honeysuckle, brioche, and pineapples. This medium to full-bodied, deep, concentrated effort displays superb acidity, richness, and length. It is reminiscent of a top-notch French Batard-Montrachet.

93 Points

Melville 2005 Pinot Noir Carrie's Santa Rita Hills

Its deep ruby/purple hue is followed by aromas of plums, blackberries, and blueberries, wonderful purity, richness, and sweetness, and a long, layered mouthfeel as well as finish.

92 Points

Melville 2005 Pinot Noir Clone 115 Indigene Santa Rita Hills

Exhibits a bouquet of sweet black cherries, plums, pomegranate, and blueberries (an aromatic profile characteristic of the finest Santa Rita Pinot Noirs), medium to full body, an attractive spicy character, and good balance.

90 Points

Melville 2005 Pinot Noir Estate Santa Rita Hills

The 2005 Pinot Noir Estate possesses pure blueberry and raspberry fruit as well as an elegant, medium-bodied style with good freshness, acidity, and length. It should drink nicely for up to a decade.

90 Points

Melville 2005 Pinot Noir Estate Verna's Santa Rita Hills

Reveals a dark ruby color along with aromas of plums, cherries, raspberries, and spicy wood in its medium-bodied, attractive, soft personality.

89 Points

Melville 2005 Pinot Noir High Density Santa Rita Hills

The deep ruby-hued, medium-bodied, beautifully pure, long, heady 2005 Pinot Noir High Density offers aromas of sweet raspberries, forest floor, flowers, underbrush, and spice.

93 Points

Melville 2005 Pinot Noir Terraces Santa Rita Hills

Displaying cool climate notes of underbrush, menthol, blueberries, and raspberries, the 2005 Pinot Noir Terraces possesses good acidity, medium to full body, and beautiful richness.

91 Points

Miner Family Winery Pinot noir Rosella's VYD Santa Lucia Highlands

A well-made, but somewhat superficial, one-dimensional effort. Possesses adequate fruit, medium body, and earthy, spicy, sweet currant and cherry characteristics.

85 Points

Morgan 2006 Chardonnay Metallico Monterey

Offers beautiful aromas of sweet corn, white currants, spring flowers, and a touch of honeyed grapefruit. This medium to full-bodied, well-made effort cuts a bigger swath across the palate than the Pinot Gris.

89 Points

Morgan 2006 Pinot Gris R and D Francioni VYD Santa Lucia Highlands

Light to medium-bodied with plenty of orange and sweet apple jam-like fruit notes, it is a dry, refreshing, fruit-driven white to enjoy over the next 1-2 years.

89 Points

Morgan 2005 Pinot Noir Gary's VYD Santa Lucia Highlands

An attractive, up-front effort, the deep ruby-hued 2005 Pinot Noir Garys' Vineyard reveals sweet black cherry and cola notes intermixed with oak, earth, and flowers. Low acidity, ripe tannin, and terrific fruit result in a seductive wine.

90 Points

Morgan 2005 Pinot Noir Rosella's VYD Santa Lucia Highlands

The soft, seductive 2005 Pinot Noir Rosella's Vineyard exhibits abundant amounts of sweet cherry and blacker fruits, silky tannin, low acidity, and a round, plush, succulent mouthfeel.

90 Points

Patz and Hall 2005 Pinot Noir Pisoni Vineyard Santa Lucia Highlands

A lovely combination of raspberries, black cherries, forest floor, and subtle wood emerges from this dark ruby-colored wine. Excellent ripeness and purity as well as an overall savory mouthfeel result in a plush, sensual Pinot Noir.

90 Points

Domaine Des Dorices 2005 Muscadet De Sevre ET Maine Sur Lie Cuvee Choisie

Smells of lime fruit and chalk, with hints of honey and smoke. Chalky and reflecting its old vines material in a remarkably dense yet satisfyingly refreshing palate, it finishes with a lip smacking concentration of lime, salt and chalk.

90 Points

Chateau De La Ragotiere 2005 Muscadet De Sevre ET Maine Sur Lie Vieilles Vignes

Fills the mouth with juicy apple and citrus fruit and a vividly chalky sense of minerality that goes on to lend a serious cast to the still satisfyingly juicy finish.

89 Points

Vincent Delaporte 2005 Sancerre

Is juicy and engaging on the palate, not especially gripping, but instead discrete and well-balanced, with succulent melon, apple and herbs carrying into a gentle finish.

