

Reviews

2005 Nigl Gruner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Alte Reben 2005

Unctuous, with layers of rich, ripe peach, guava, apricot and cream flavors. Intense and well-structured, with plenty of vanilla, licorice and pineapple notes on the finish.

91 Points

2005 Hiedler Gruner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Kamptal Thal Novemberlese

Rich, supple and honeyed, with loads of baked apple, melon and spice flavors. This is a ripe, exotic-tasting white, with notes of cream and lemon meringue on the finish.

89 Points

2005 Hirsch Gruner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Kamptal Kammern Lamm

This has a creamy texture and shows flavors to match, along with peach, honeydew melon, spice and a hint of smoke. Ripe, with a long, chewy finish filled with mineral and nutmeg notes.

89 Points

2005 Nigl Gruner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Seftenberger Piri

Shows peachy aromas, with flavors to match, along with slate, white pepper, citrus and spice. Impressive for its freshness and verve. The lingering finish features hints of tropical fruits.

89 Points

2005 Selbach-Oster Riesling Auslese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Zeltinger Schlossberg**

Concentrated and round, this is punctured by vivid acidity and packed with ripe apple, pear and quince aromas and flavors. Almost seems soft, yet the structure is there and should meld with the sweetness in time.

96 Points

2005 Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben Riesling Auslese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Urziger Wurzgarten**

A reductive style, with a touch of carbonic gas. Shows lime, vanilla and stone notes, with a vibrant structure and an aftertaste of apple and spice. This is compact now, but should open nicely with some age.

93 Points

2005 H. Donnhoff Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Nahe Schlossbockelheimer Felsenberg

A beautiful auslese, well-defined and complex. Everything is in the right place as the apricot, Golden Delicious apple, spice and mineral flavors unfold on the seamless profile. The finish is long and tasty.

96 Points

2005 H. Donnhoff Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Nahe Oberhauser Brucke

Shows fine intensity on a light-weight frame. Manages to maintain delicacy while expressing apricot, papaya, red berry and floral notes. Balanced and well-structured, this focuses on a beam of fruit on the finish.

95 Points

2005 H. Donnhoff Riesling Auslese Gold Cap Nahe Niederhauser Hermannshohle

Almost racy, this has an edge of acidity that keeps the apple, peach and mineral notes focused and long. Elegant and persistent, with the flavors resonating on the lingering finish.

94 Points

2005 H. Donnhoff Riesling Spatlese Nahe Schlossbockelheimer Felsenberg

Shows delicacy and nuance. Vanilla, apricot, lime and a fireworks of mineral get a lift from the vibrant structure. Long and complex, with a gingerbread and mineral aftertaste.

94 Points

2001 Mastroberardino Taurasi Radici

Balanced, with licorice, vanilla, berry and mineral character on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, silky and very long. Caresse every inch of your palate.

91 Points

2005 Mastroberardino Fiano di Avellino Radici

Aromas of lemon and licorice follow through to a full-bodied palate, with fresh acidity and a long finish. Grown on you.

88 Points

2005 Mastroberardino Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio

Plenty of ripe plum and black pepper character on the nose. Full-bodied, with good fruit and a medium finish.

87 Points

2005 Mastroberardino Falanghina Sannio

Delicious and fruit, with lemon and peach character on the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, with good acidity and a light licorice and apple aftertaste. Crisp and delicious.

87 Points

2005 Mastroberardino Greco di Tufo Novaserra

Aromas of pear and green apple, with hints of mineral. Medium-bodied, with fresh acidity and a medium finish. Crisp and enjoyable.

86 Points

2005 Mastroberardino Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio White

Very pretty apple, melon and honey aromas and flavors. Medium- to full-bodied, with good fruit and a clean finish. Delicious.

86 Points

2005 Villa Russiz Pinot Grigio Collio

A pleasant white, with light tropical fruit, honey and mineral. Medium-bodied, with refreshing acidity and a medium finish.

86 Points

2001 Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Brunello di Montalcino Castelgiocondo Ripe al Convento Riserva

Aromas of blackberry, licorice, and tar. Full-bodied, with silky tannins, great mouthfeel and a caressing finish that's long and exciting. Builds and builds on the palate. Very close to the legendary 1997.

97 Points

2001 Lisini Brunello di Montalcino Ugolaia

Lots of black cherry and spices on the nose. Slightly raisiny. Full-bodied, thick and chewy, with lots of fruit and a long, long finish. Builds on the palate. Muscular and powerful, if a bit traditional in character.

96 Points

2001 Conti Costanti Brunello di Montalcino Riserva

Shows bright, almost floral aromas, with plum and cherry undertones. Full-bodied, with a solid core of ripe fruit, silky tannins and a long, bright aftertaste of citrus and berry. Tight and structured. Still needs time.

93 Points

2001 Poggio Antico Brunello di Montalcino Riserva

Gorgeous aromas of crushed blackberry, rose and mineral follow through to a full-bodied palate, with velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Rich, layered and powerful.

93 Points

2001 II Palazzone Brunello di Montalcino Riserva

Shows fantastic aromas of crushed blackberry, with beautiful undertones of cream and vanilla. Full-bodied, with loads of new oak. Perhaps a little too much. But has outstanding fruit, with polished tannins.

92 Points

2005 Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago

Sylsh and very intense, with outstanding concentration to an impressive array of pomegranate, spice, soya and stone flavors. Cedary oak and firm, fine-grained tannins underscore the finish.

91 Points

2005 Nautilus Pinot Noir Marlborough

Loads of cedary oak frame intense flavors of wild berry, fresh herbs and crushed stone. The tangy structure will soften with a few additional months in bottle.

87 Points

2004 Pegasus Bay Pinot Noir Waipara Valley

Ripe, with fine concentration to wild berry, mint, toasty oak and stone flavors. The lively, firm structure focuses the herb-tinged finish.

87 Points

2005 Palliser Pinot Noir Martinborough

Intense and tangy, with very good intensity to cherry, plum and balsamic flavors.

86 Points

2006 Nautilus Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough

Grass, lime skin and grapefruit flavors have very good intensity.

85 Points

2006 Sauvignon Republic Sauvignon Blanc

Grass, lime and jalapeno flavors have very good intensity, with fried clay notes.

85 Points

2006 Sherwood Estate Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough

Crushed stone, tart quince and grass flavors have good concentration.

85 Points

2006 Neil Ellis Sauvignon Blanc Groenekloof

Juicy, showing vibrant lemon, lime, straw, chive and mineral flavors, with nice length and focus on the finish.

88 Points

2004 Shafer Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District One Point Five

Intense and concentrated, with vivid currant and blackberry flavors that are shaded by light toasty oak and mocha coffee scents. Smooth-textured, with ripe, fine-grained tannins, ending with a long, complex aftertaste.

93 Points

2004 HdV Chardonnay Los Carneros

A brilliant effort. Intense, deep and concentrated, with pure, sharply focused fruit with reverberated with flavor, offering tiers of fresh-cut apple, pear and citrus flavors that are crisp and lively. Has the richness and density to age a decade.

94 Points

2004 DuMol Chardonnay Russian River Valley Chloe

Shows fresh, floral aromas, with apple and pear blossom scents and the same flavors on the palate. Has good intensity and length, turning more complex on the finish, where the flavors linger, picking up a hint of hazelnut.

92 Points

2004 DuMol Chardonnay Sonoma County Green Valley Isobel

Fresh and fruit, teetering on sweet, with tangerine, peach and nectarine fruit that's pure and juicy. Turns a little simpler on the finish, but holds its fruit nicely.

90 Points

2005 Siduri Pinot Noir Santa Lucia Highlands Pisoni Vineyard

Fragrant and delicate, with subtle intensity that builds on the palate, showing a deft balance between earthy, minerally raspberry and blackberry fruit that gains momentum on the finish.

92 Points

2005 W.H. Smith Wines Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast

Fresh and vibrant, with delicate, vivid cranberry, black cherry and raspberry fruit that's lively and complex, ending with a refreshing aftertaste.

92 Points

2005 W.H. Smith Wines Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Maritime Vineyard

Aromas of ripe, plum, blackberry, cedar and spice turn elegant and supple on the palate, with smooth tannins and good length. Turns delicate, with excellent balance.

90 Points

2003 Schramsberg Brut Blanc de Noirs Napa-Medocino-Sonoma Counties

A rich, vibrant mouthful of a bubbly, with bold, complex aromas of cinnamon, yeasty vanilla, apple and cherry, with subtle spicy flavors that build to a fresh hint of minerality on the finish.

92 Points