



Lucien Barrot & Fils Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2005

Dark and muscular, this is layered with lots of plum, blackberry and black cherry fruit backed by mocha, game, plum sauce and graphite notes. The long, fleshy finish lets the fruit and minerality sing. The best in a long time from this producer.

93 Points

Marques de Caceres Rioja Reserva 2001

This well-structured red delivers deep flavors of plum, tobacco, mineral and spice over firm tannins. A bit austere, but shows complexity and harmony, with a spicy, floral finish.

90 Points

Vina Cono Sur Chardonnay Colchagua Valley 2006

A flinty style, with some crunchy lime and green apple notes that linger on the finish.

85 Points

Marc Kreydenweiss Riesling Alsace Grand Cru Wiebelsberg La Dame 2005

This white shows nutmeg and cardamom spice flavors laced through peach, floral and pastry notes. There's fresh acidity and a fleshy texture, with a modest finish of candied fruit. .

90 Points

Josmeyer Pinot Auxerrois Alsace H Vieilles Vignes 2005

This delicate white exhibits dried fruit flavors of pear and green apple, with a hint of petrol. There's an underlying note of earth, and a spicy element weaves through the wine. Fresh.

87 Points

Bollinger Brut Champagne La Grande Année 1999

A beautiful Champagne, from the complex floral, coffee-and brioche-scented nose to the graphite, vanilla and citrus flavors. Light-weight and intense, with a lively structure and a long, lingering finish.

94 Points

Vranken Brut Champagne Diamant Bleu 1999

An elegant style, with a gossamer texture as the perfect foil for its toast, graphite, dried citrus and coffee aromas and flavors. Shows fine balance, with a lingering finish. There's plenty in reserve.

92 Points

Laurent-Perrier Brut Champagne 1999

This is sumptuous and delicate, offering peach, beeswax and ginger notes. Firmly structured, with a chalklike sensation underneath that emerges on the finish.

90 Points

Domaine St.-Gayan Cotes du Rhone 2005

Alluring, with raspberry ganache, cocoa powder and sweet earth notes that run over graphite and fruitcake hints. The fleshy, spicy finish lingers nicely.

89 Points

Clos Mogador Priorat 2004

This elegant red is balanced and lively, with black cherry, raspberry, mineral, mountain herb and floral notes framed by well-integrated tannins and fresh acidity. Has the density to age.

92 Points

Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard 2004

Subtle aromas of ripe currant, black cherry and plum are rich and riveting on the palate, coating the mouth with tiers of flavor. Sleek polished, with hints of anise and mocha, this finishes with a long, focused, lingering aftertaste.

95 Points

Fisher Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Coach Insignia 2003

Generous, with ripe plum, black cherry and fleshy Cabernet fruit that's smooth-textured and unfolds in layers, gaining depth and complexity. Ends with a long, lingering finish.

92 Points

Whitehall Lane Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Silver Anniversary Reserve 2004

Smooth, rich and fleshy, with concentrated currant, mineral and blackberry fruit that's supple and engaging. Well-proportioned, ending with dusty, cedary oak that adds a nice dimension.

92 Points

Ramey Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Jericho Canyon Vineyard 2004

Intense, vibrant and focused, with spicy currant and blackberry fruit that's well-defined, complex and supple-textured. Yet this has the desire backbone of acidity and earthy tannins. Decant.

90 Points

Blankiet Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Paradise Hills Vineyard 2004

Tight, with spicy currant, herb, mineral and herb leather notes. Complex but restrained, this is balanced, yet leaves you hoping for much more richness and depth.

88 Points

Honig Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2004

Rich and focused, with a mix of black cherry, currant and black olive flavors that are tight and focused, turning supple and then firming up tightly on the finish.

88 Points

Stuhlmuller Cabernet sauvignon Alexander Valley 2004

Starts out rich and creamy, with currant and berry flavors that are complex and concentrated, even rustic and earthy. Keeps its focus, offering depth and dimension and ending with pure currant and cherry fruit that's long and persistent.

88 Points

Girard Artistry Napa Valley 2004

Intense, with ripe currant, cherry and wild berry notes that have a spicy edge, supported by firm tannins and showing a touch of cedary oak.

87 Points

Silverado Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Solo 2004

Firm and compact, with dried currant, anise, mineral and pencil lead notes that turn tight on the finish, with minerally tannins.

86 Points

Pride Merlot Napa-Sonoma Counties 2005

Rich and concentrated, with bold aromas of plum, currant and mocha leading to complex, layered blackberry, licorice and spice flavors that finish with a flourish of ripe, minerally tannins.

93 Points

Burgess Merlot Napa Valley 2004

Understated and slightly lean, with notes of cherry, green tea and spice, followed by a firm, minerally finish.

86 Points

Spencer Roloson Syrah Napa Valley La Herradura vineyard 2004

Fresh, ripe and zesty blackberry and boysenberry aromas are complex, pure and focused on the palate, with excellent balance and persistence. The long, lingering finish keeps the dark fruit center stage.

93 Points

JC Cellars Syrah Santa Barbara County Fees Parker's Vineyard 2005

Rustic, showing intense, ripe dried currant and berry fruit, with anise, mineral and stage notes. Gains depth and richness, smoothing out the tannins on the finish.

91 Points

JC Cellars Syrah Arroyo Seco Ventana Vineyard 2004

Complex, with an earthy, peppery profile and taut beef and berry flavors. The firm tannins highlight the spice attributes.

89 Points

Novy Syrah Santa Lucia Highlands 2005

Dark, rich and intense, this is plush and fleshy at time, showing savory berry, beef and dried currant, with hints of anise and sage. Well-proportioned given its size. Finishes with a burst of concentrated fruit.

88 Points

DuMoL Pinot Noir Sonoma County Green Valley Ryan 2005

Fresh aromas of wild berry, cola, sage and mint are rich and concentrated, with a nice fresh earth loaminess to the texture and finish. Young and tight.

90 Points

Spencer Roloson Viognier Knights Valley Noble Vineyard 2005

Pretty honeysuckle and apricot aromas lead to a supple, spicy melon and fig flavors that take on richness toward the minerally finish.

89 Points

Siduri Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2006

Dry and austere, with a candied cherry and beet note in the aroma. Pleasant, turning supple. Medium weight.

85 Points