



Domaine Vincent Dauvissat

2006 Petit Chablis

Bright color. Very ripe aromas of stone fruits and flowers. Ripe and pliant, with integrated acidity framing the juicy flavor crystallized lemon. Usually intense and long for a wine with this appellation.

87-89 Points

2006 Chablis

Ripe lemon drop on the nose along with mineral suggestions. In a fatter style than the Petit Chablis but with more accompanying energy too. This shows distinct iodine and oyster shell notes and a rocky character. Finishes long and strong, with citrus peel flavor.

89-91 Points

2006 Chablis Sechet

Pale, bright yellow. Candied citrus peel, minerals and spices on the nose. Rather round on entry, then brisk and citric in the middle, with a strong calcaire quality giving it energy and cut. Compared to the village wine, this dry to the point of austere, with the nervosité of classic Chablis. Finishes pure and long, with lemon and crushed stone notes.

89-91 Points

2006 Chablis Vaillons

Pure, vibrant aromas of ginger, quinine, lemon and flowers. Dense, ripe and supple, with lovely intensity and cut to the flavors of citrus fruit, minerals and flowers. This has an exhilarating sugar/acid balance. The bracing, persistent finish features citrus zest and tangerine.

90-92 Points

2006 Chablis La Forest

Pale lemon-yellow color. Raw pineapple, chlorophyll, flowers and a subtle smoky nuance on the nose. Rich, silky and fine-grained, with strong mineral character contributing to the impression of precision and inner-mouth tension. A superb expression of stone. Very long, taut, insinuating finish.

91-94 Points

2006 Chablis Preuses

Pale, green-tinged color. Cool, aristocratic, high-pitched aromas of white peach, violet, licorice and minerals. Dense and silky but not at all thick; in fact, there's an uncanny juiciness to the flavors of apricot nectar and citrus fruits. Builds impressively on the back half, finishing chewy and tactile, with considerable power and a strong impression of youthful austerity. This really excites the taste buds, but I'd hold off on drinking it for at least five years.

92-95 Points

2006 Chablis Les Clos

Good pale color. Tight, very reticent aromas of wet stone and iodine; reminded me of Montrachet. Incredibly suave but wound tight today; the flavors of lemon, crushed rock and white flowers convey a powerful impression of mineral energy. Boasts the classic volume of Les Clos without any impression of weight. The mounting finish is classically dry, with a dominant flavor of grapefruit pith. This is outstanding from day one, but at least pliant today of these 2006s.

93-95 Points

2005 Petit Chablis

Pale, green-tinged color. Complex aromas of wet stone, minerals and lemon drop, plus hints of resin and toast. Distinctly minerally and dry, with a strong calcaire quality. There's richness here, but also a slight bitterness to the appley finish. Less pure than the 2006.

87 Points

2005 Chablis

Pale yellow. Lemon drop and a hint of toast on the nose. Soft, rich and broad, with solid acidity framing the candied lemon, soft citrus and spice flavors; showing less mineral precision and sweetness than the young 2006. This comes across as rather closed now, finishing with a metallic suggestion of bitter lemon.

88(+?) Points

2005 Chablis Sechet

Pale color. Discreet nose hints at wet stone and brown spices. Silky on entry, then more brisk and pure than the village wine, with good lift to its citrus peel and crushed stone flavors. Dense and thick in texture but quite bracing. Finishes with a lingering flavor of grapefruit and a calcaire quality that titillates the salivary glands.

90 Points

2005 Chablis Vaillons

Medium-pale yellow. Complex, expressive aromas of orange zest, butter, almond and hazelnut; this could hardly be more different from the Sechet. Silky, fat and dry, with very rich flavors of soft citrus fruits, butter and almond. Finishes fat and quite long. I find some noble rot character here-no surprise, as there's more clay in the soil.

90(+?) Points

2005 Chablis La Forest

Pale yellow. Vibrant, fruit-driven aromas of orange and lemon. Fat and silky on entry, then more austere in the middle, with terrific energy to the flavors of orange, pineapple, ripe grapefruit and wet stone. This boasts a lovely sweetness of flavor but will need good six to seven years to really express itself. Still, young 2006 is more pristine.

91(+?) Points

2005 Chablis Preuses

Good pale yellow. Knockout nose combines peche de vigne and gingery spices, plus the same violet high note I found in the 2006. Rich, broad and tactile, with terrific energy and intensity to the slightly exotic flavors of orange, lemon peel, flowers and licorice. As silky as this, it conveys an outstanding lightness of touch. Best today on the explosive, rocky, palate-staining finish, which offers a real whiplash of iodine, warm stone and citrus peel flavors.

94(+?) Points

2005 Chablis Clos

Bright, pale yellow. Classic, soil-inflected aromas of citrus fruits, clove, wet stone and iodine. Suave on entry, then quite high-pitched in the middle, with superb purity to the flavors of grapefruit, lemon and minerals. At once fine-grained and taut, with captivating floral lift. Like the Preuses, this most impressive today on the highly complex, uncommonly long finish, which throws off notes of sexy brown spices, juniper and white pepper, along with an intriguing saline quality.

95 Points

Domaine Louis Michel

2006 Chablis

Apple, pear and hay on the fairly fresh nose. Fat, ripe and on the soft side, with somewhat blurry flavors and a slightly exotic whiff of banana. Fat for village wine but needs more thrust. A bit warm on the back.

85 Points

2006 Chablis Montmain

Pale color. Citrus and wet stone aromas are reticent but fairly pure. Hints of minerals and lemon in the mouth. Comes across as a bit austere today, and warm on the back end. I found myself looking for more cut and thrust.

86-87 Points

2006 Chablis Vaillons

Pale good color. Subtle aromas of grapefruit, lemon, acacia flower and musky quinine. Firmly built, even a bit youthfully austere, but there's good breath and minerality here. Finishes juicy and dry, with a firm backbone.

87-88 Points

2006 Chablis Montee de Tonnerre

Reserved nose hints at crushed stone, acacia flower, menthol and citrus peel. A step up in intensity over the foregoing premier crus, with brisk mint and mineral notes currently dominating the wine's citrus character. Nothing exotic about this! The firmest and stoniest of these premier crus, and still holding mineral in reserve. Finishes with very good persistence.

88-91 Points

2006 Chablis Vaudesir

Pale yellow. Pear, lemon, minerals and white truffle on the fresh nose. Juicy, intense, fat and rather powerful, but not at all overripe, with notes of pear, flowers and mint. Finishes with lingering sweetness but also a touch of youthful austerity.

88-90 Points

2006 Chablis Les Clos

Pear, hazelnut and white flowers on the nose. Broad and suave but airy rather than fat, with hints of white flower, licorice, herbs and mint. Dry but rich grand cru Chablis in a classic and rather backward style. Finishes long, with notes of raw pineapple and stone.

89-91 Points

2006 Chablis Grenouilles

Good pale color. Expressive, slightly exotic aromas of apricot and nuts. Large-scaled, sweet, rich and showy, but less pure than the Clos. Solid acids frame the citrus and stone fruit flavors. But today I find the back end of the wine a bit alcoholic, with a note of banana showing. An awkward showing today.

87-90? Points

2005 Chablis Montmain (screwcap version)

Aromas of citrus peel, smoke and baked bread. Rich and chewy, with mineral, spice and mint flavors complemented by toasted bread and oatmeal. This has good stuffing but I picked up a slightly tired nutty note on the back.

86 Points

2005 Chablis Montmain (bottle with a regular cork)

Pale yellow. Purer, more mineral nose than the screwcap version, offering lemon and acacia blossom notes. Brisk and firm-edged, with very good cut and intensity to its lemon and mineral flavors. The screwcap bottling seems simple my comparison. Finishes classically dry, with juicy citric and stone quality and very good cut and length. Here's at least one case where I preferred a standard cork to a screwcap.

88 Points

2005 Chablis Vaudesir

Pale lemon-yellow color. Tightly wound, subtle nose hints at lemon and acacia flower. At once dense and juicy, with firm acids framing and lifting the lemon and mint flavors. On the lean side and a bit youthfully disjointed, even austere, but finishes with more grip than the 2006 and very good length.

90 Points

2005 Chablis Les Clos

Good bright, pale yellow. High complex nose melds silex, ferri, wild herbs, smoke and flowers. Very suave on entry, then concentrated and rather powerful in the middle, with terrific thrust and classically dry-but-rich flavors of raw pineapple, citrus peel and wet stone. Quite austere-almost astringent-on the back end, today, in need of a good seven or eight years of patience.

92(+?) Points

2005 Chablis Grenouilles

Good pale color. Musky, reticent aromas of lemon, menthol and white truffle. Rich and silky, with nicely integrated acidity framing the supple flavors of lemon and white flowers. Conveys a slightly sweet impression but the flavors are classic. Finishes dense and aromatic, with perfumed note of raw pineapple. This has turned out well.

91 Points

Domaine Laurent Tribut

2006 Chablis

Lemon, hay and minerals on the nose. Juicy, ripe and supple, with flavor of crystallized lemon peel. In a very rich, round, rather soft style, with a slightly aggressive impression of alcohol.

85-87 Points

2006 Chablis Cote de Lechet

Good pale color. Reticent but Chablis-typical aromas of lemon, menthol and wet stone. Offers good intensity and better lemony cut than the village example. In a mineral style, with a distinctly lemony, slightly tart finish.

89 Points

2006 Chablis Beauroy

Minerals, wet stone and raw pineapple on the nose. Sweeter and more pliant than the Cote de Lechet, with ripe but very lively flavors of crystallized lemon peel, pineapple, crushed stone and minerals. A bracing, gripping wine that finishes with a positive youthful austerity that argues for some bottle aging.

88-91 Points

Black Chook

2006 VMR McLaren Vale & Langhorne Creek

Pale gold. Intensely perfumed nose features powerful peach, pear and kiwi fruit aromas brightened by stony minerality and white flowers. Ripe orchard and tropical fruit flavors envelop the palate and extend through the long, juicy finish. A real fruit basket, with wonderful freshness and precision, not to mention persistence. This is flat out delicious, and a great choice to serve alongside lighter Asian dishes.

90 Points

2006 Shiraz/Viognier South Australia

Dark violet. Intensely floral nose offers pungent blackberry and cassis aromas underscored by exotic magnolia of baking spices. Sweet dark berry flavors are energized by Asian spice and mineral notes that linger impressively on the juicy finish. Lots of complexity for the money here.

90 Points

NV Sparkling Shiraz McLaren Vale & Langhorne Creek

Dark purple. Powerful raspberry and blackberry on the nose with a subtle floral accent. Sweet red and dark berry flavors are braced by zesty minerality and flesh out with air. Juicy, nicely focused cassis and blueberry on the finish, which unusually energetic for this genre.

88 Points

Branson Coach House

2005 Shiraz Coach House Block Greenock Barossa

Inky ruby. Powerful raspberry and blackberry aromas are complicated by Asian spices and fresh flowers, with a suave overlay of sexy oak. Creamy dark fruit flavors displays a brooding quality; this took on blueberry and crème de cassis qualities with air. A weighty, layered shiraz with a long, sweet finish featuring slow-mounting tannins and a strong impression of plum compote.

92 Points

2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Coach House Block Greenock Barossa

Opaque ruby. Explosively perfumed aromas of exotic boysenberry, cassis, graphite, floral and spicy vanillin oak. Concentrated kirsch and dark berry preserve flavors are given a pleasingly bitter edge by sassafras and licorice, with a late note of floral pastille adding complexity. Finishes sappy and remarkably persistent, with a strong impression of boysenberry.

93 Points

Charles Cimicky Wines

2005 Trumps Grenache/Shiraz Barossa

Bright red. Intensely spicy red berry aromas remind me of high-end New World pinot; this boasts impressive purity and thrust. Exotic baking spices accent fresh strawberry and raspberry fruit, with silky tannins adding gentle support. Sweetness builds on the long, juicy, very precise finish. It's hard to believe that this wine is carrying 15.5% alcohol.

90 Points

2004 Autograph Shiraz Barossa Valley

Saturated violet. Huge, room-filling bouquet runs the range of red and dark berries, with sexy vanillin oak and sandalwood adding complexity. Come-hither raspberry and blackberry flavors are gently supported by soft, velvety tannins and pick up floral pastille and sweet tobacco notes with air. Wonderfully fresh and flat-out delicious.

92 Points

Corrina Rayment

2006 Revolution Shiraz McLaren Vale

Opaque ruby. Inky cherry and blackberry scents are given depth by espresso, dark chocolate and smoked meat. Ripe, dense and chewy, with weighty cassis and plum flavors. Takes a dry turn on the finish, showing solid tannins and slow-mounting kirsch quality. Give this brooding shiraz some air of you're opening it any time soon.

88(+?) Points

De Lisio

2005 Quarterback McLaren Vale

Dark red. Tarry redcurrant and cherry on the nose, with subtle tobacco and underbrush accents. Linear red fruit flavors are braced by zesty minerals, which build through the finish. Impressively bright and focused-the polar opposite of the Aussie red stereotype.

90 Points

2005 Shiraz Krystina McLaren Vale

Saturated ruby. Intensely aromatic nose features explosive blackberry, cassis and cherry cola scents underscored by vanilla and mocha. Suave and velvety in the mouth, with deep berry preserve flavors and no rough edges. This supple and strikingly concentrated shiraz boasts excellent finishing thrust and persistence. And there's terrific energy here to counter the lush, sweet berry fruit, giving this considerable appeal.

92 Points

Glaetzer

2005 Wallace Barossa Valley

Inky violet. Intensely perfumed nose melds dark berry and plum compote aromas with exotic incense and baking spices. Fresh, focused and pure, with vibrant red and dark berry flavors, a silky texture and slowing mounting cinnamon and clove notes. Finishes vibrant, spicy and long.

90 Points

2005 Bishop Shiraz Barossa Valley

Inky ruby. Ripe boysenberry and crème de cassis on the nose, plus a pungent yellow rose quality. The lush, creamy dark berry flavors veer toward inky but are lifted by bright mineral and floral pastille notes. Exotic spices arrive on the finish, which is seductively sweet yet precise. There's lots going on here.

91 Points

2005 Godolphin Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley

Dark purple. The nose offers an explosively aromatic array of sexy red and dark berry scents accompanied by vanilla, sandalwood, cola and baking spices. Precise blackberry and boysenberry flavors reach every nook and cranny of the palate and seem to gain energy on the finish. Extremely appealing, suave and fresh, offering a striking mélange of bright and ripe qualities.

93 Points

Glen Eldon

2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley

Dark violet. Smoky cassis and blueberry aromas are accented by incense, graphite and dried flowers. Spicy red and dark berry flavors are impressively precise and nicely framed by fine-grained tannins. Develops a chewy texture with air and finishes bright and fresh, with repeating mineral and floral pastille notes and impressive persistence.

90 Points

2004 Dry Bore Shiraz Barossa Valley

Bright red. Intensely aromatic note shows a fresh red berry personality with seductive notes of smoke and incense. There are no rough edges or herbacity to the lush raspberry and blackberry flavors, which expand and deepen on the long, juicy finish. Fine-grained tannins add a lightly chewy quality. A suave, creamy and utterly seductive shiraz that's drinking awfully well already.

91 Points

Grant Burge Wines

2006 Unoaked Chardonnay Barossa

Light gold. Honeyed pear and apple aromas are complemented by hints of sweet butter and anise. Ripe pear and orange on the palate, which shows creamy texture and good depth. The orange notes echoes on the warm, supple finish, which features a gentle note of buttery brioche.

88 Points

2005 Barossa Vines Shiraz Barossa

Ruby-red. Subdued cherry and plum on the nose, which opens slowly to show bitter chocolate and candied licorice. Tangy, youthfully taut dark berry flavors possess good energy and cut but seem a tad clenched now.

87(+?) Points

2005 Miamba Shiraz Barossa

Inky ruby. Crushed blackberry and boysenberry scents are complicated by gunflint. Juicy dark berry flavors show a youthful bitterness and are supported by bright acidity. Tannins build on the finish but are in harmony with the sweet berry qualities.

88 Points

2004 Filsell Shiraz Barossa

Dark red. Spicy, herb-accented red berries and cherry on the nose, with a deeper tobacco note adding complexity. Taut, minerally cherry and cherry pit flavors are braced by firm tannins and bright acidity. Youthfully wound up on the finish, which features a musky licorice quality.

87(+?) Points

2002 Meshach Shiraz Barossa

Ruby-red. Intensely perfumed nose features ripe cherry, blackberry and cassis accented by sexy vanillin oak and violet. Deep, rich and suave, with jammy dark berry and plum flavors, youthful tannins and pronounced notes of oak spice. Finishes sweet, juicy and very long.

92 Points

Hann

2004 Prestige Merlot Barossa Valley

Dark red. Potent kirsch and blackberry aromas deepened by dark chocolate and espresso. Ripe and dense, with weighty cherry and bitter chocolate flavors that are a bit inexpressive at present. Picks up solid tannins on the back. With air, powerful crème de mure and cherry-cola notes emerge, along with an espresso quality.

88(+?) Points

2004 Wilhalmus Barossa Valley

Inky ruby. Strongly perfumed aromas of ripe blackberry and candied plum. Smoothly textured and sweet, showing impressive density and clean dark berry flavors. Gentle tannins build on the long, juicy finish. Impressively harmonious wine, with an intriguing mix of fresh and candied fruits lingering tenaciously.

90 Points

Heartland Wines

2006 Stickleback White South Australia

Green-tingled straw. Waxy pear and deep floral honey aromas. Fresh and nervy, offering an interesting blend of tangy citrus and richer pit fruit flavors. The zesty qualities gin the upper hand on the brisk finish, which features a strong citrus pith element.

88 Points

2006 Viognier/Pinot Gris Langhorne Creek

Lightgold. Spicy pear and apple on the nose, with complicating mineral and jasmine nuances. Lively citrus and mint flavors deepen with air, picking up peach and melon notes. The wine's brightness gives way to ripeness on the close, leaving an impression of peach skin and honeydew.

88 Points

2005 Stickleback Red South Australia

Redcurrant, bitter cherry and chocolate aromas are sharply focused, even a bit pinched. Tangy red fruit flavors on a light framework, with firm tannins adding structure. Loosens up with air, taking on a darker fruit character and finishing on a juicy note.

87 Points

2005 Shiraz Limestone Coast & Langhorne Creek

Deep ruby. Vibrant, smoky raspberry and cherry preserve aromas offer excellent clarity and are complimented by suave mineral and floral notes. Focused red berry flavors possess impressive energy and take pepper and spice notes with air. The spice notes build on the lightly tannic finish, giving the sweet raspberry and cherry flavors a lively quality. Outstanding value here.

90 Points

2005 Director's Cut Shiraz Limestone Coast & Langhorne Creek

Bright purple. Exotic, floral-accented blackberry and crème de cassis on the nose, with sexy mocha and violet notes adding complexity; this smells like a Peter Sisseck wine. Pure dark berry flavors explode on the palate, which displays an impressively silky texture and slowly mounting vanilla and coffee notes. Sweet, vibrant and persistent on the expansive finish, with lingering blackcurrant and mocha clinging tenaciously. Really seductive and an outrageous bargain.

92 Points

Kaesler Wines

2006 Semillon Old Vine Barossa Valley

Bright straw. High-pitched mineral-and fresh grass-accented citrus aromas are reminiscent of Sancerre. Lively lemon-lime and green apple flavors are precise and concentrated, with lipsmacking acidity carrying through the finish. Impressive for its balance of power and precise citrus and mineral flavors.

89 Points

2005 Stonehorse Shiraz Barossa Valley

Deep ruby. Powerful raspberry and cassis aromas accented by exotic Asian spices and floral oils. Liqueur-like dark berry flavors are impressively poised on a silky, midweight frame, with gentle tannins building on the back. Takes a turn to the bitter cherry on the long, juicy finish, with the sexy spice notes repeating.

90 Points

2005 The Bogan Shiraz Barossa Valley

Inky violet. Explosively perfumed bouquet of crème de mure, blueberry, vanilla, rose, clove and cinnamon. Velvety in texture and strikingly sweet, with powerful dark berry, and cherry flavors underscored by strong vanilla oak. But this doesn't come off as woody, thanks to immensely concentrated dark berry fruit, which seems to explode on the aftertaste.

93 Points

Langmeil Winery

2005 Three Gardens Barossa Valley

Ruby-red. Ripe blackberry and cassis on the nose, with complicating accents of black pepper and Asian spices. A chewy, deeply flavored midweight with dense dark berry and cherry flavors but surprising energy thanks to vibrant acidity. Dusty tannins arrive with air and build through the long, juicy finish. A nicely structured, focused blend with no excess weight or flab. And an outstanding bargain.

90 Points

2005 Valley Floor Shiraz Barossa Valley

Bright ruby. Smoky cherry and dark chocolate on the nose, with a bright hint of fresh rose. Spicy, tightly wounded red berry flavors gain depth with air, picking up bitter chocolate and candied violet notes. Tangy red-and blackcurrant flavors dominate the long, juicy finish, which displays noteworthy clarity and persistence.

89 Points

Massena

2005 Moonlight Run Barossa Valley

Bright ruby. Vibrant, perfumed aromas of cherry and raspberry liqueur underscored by cracked pepper and dried floral notes. Deeply concentrated, almost medicinal cherry and dark berry flavors gain sweetness with air, with chewy but harmonious tannins emerging. Finishes spicy and energetic, with excellent clarity and persistence.

91 Points

Penny's Hill

2005 Shiraz McLaren Vale

Inky ruby. Smoky cherry and cassis on the nose, boosted by bright minerality. Spicy red and dark berry flavors are concentrated and lively, with a refreshing bitter skin note arriving with aeration. The youthfully taut finish echoes with tangy crushed berries.

91 Points

Poonawatta Estate

2006 Riesling Eden Valley

Light straw. Racy, sharply etched citrus, pear and green apple scents are impressively pungent and underscored by vibrant minerality. Deep but restrained melon and peach flavors are energized by crisp lime and grapefruit. This really clings to the palate, with the finish emphasizing the orchard fruit tones. Excellent precision here.

90 Points

S.C. Pannell

2006 Sauvignon Blanc Adelaide Hills

Straw-green color. Lively aromas of citrus fruits, pear and melon, with an overlay of pungent herbs and white pepper. Creamy orange and pear flavors are lifted by crisp mineral and citrus zest flavors, giving this sauvignon an intriguing complexity. Gains weight and a sweet, poached pear quality on the spicy finish.

89 Points

2006 Grenache Rose McLaren Vale

Lurid pink. Explosively perfumed aromas of fresh raspberry, strawberry preserves and cherry, brightened by mineral and lavender notes. Silky in texture, with sweet, impressively concentrated red berry flavors complicated by a late kick of floral pastille. The fruit builds on the energetic, sharply focused finish. This reminded me of a Gigondas rose, and excellent one at that.

90 Points

2005 Shiraz/Grenache McLaren Vale

Bright ruby. Open-knit raspberry and kirsch aromas are subtly accented by vanilla and incense, with slow-building impression of cracked pepper. Expands and deepens on the finish, taking on plum jam and bitter chocolate qualities but maintaining admirable freshness and precision. Very impressive balance here.

91 Points

2005 Shiraz McLaren Vale

Inky violet. Highly perfumed boysenberry and blueberry aromas are enlivened by exotic floral pastille, vanilla and incense notes, plus a subtle hint of graphite. Suave and silky in texture, showing impressively pure dark berry and fresh cherry flavors on a midweight frame. Whatever tannins might be here are buried under an avalanche of pure, sweet fruit. Downright sexy shiraz, finishing sweet and long, with a persistent candied violet note.

93 Points

Slipstream

2005 Shiraz/Grenache McLaren Vale

Deep violet. Ripe raspberry and blackberry aromas show good freshness, with a candied licorice note adding depth. Crisp, energetic dark berry flavors are concentrated and impressively pure, with a late hit of mocha adding sweetness. This spicy, suave midweight finishes with good acid lift.

89 Points

Tatiarra

2005 Cambrian Shiraz Heathcote

Inky ruby. Deep, powerfully aromatic red berry and cherry aromas are complemented by exotic Asian spices and vanilla, with a slow-mounting floral note adding interest. Weighty red and dark fruit flavors are gently supported by soft acidity and sneaky minerality. Gains sweetness with air, taking a jammy turn on the finish but maintaining superb energy and precision. The tannins here are impressively silky, giving the wine a very seductive character. Really captivating stuff.

93 Points

Domaine Terlato & Chapoutier

2005 Shiraz/Viognier Victoria

Ruby-red. Open knit, seductive cherry and dark berry aromas lifted by gentle floral topnote. Sweet and fleshy, with jammy dark berry flavors, soft tannins and a silky, refreshing finish. This is pretty tasty now.

88 Points

2005 Shiraz Lieu Dit Malakoff Pyrenees

Dark ruby. Classic syrah bouquet of dark berries, underbrush, flowers and minerals, with Asian spice and oak notes adding complexity. Powerful blackberry and cassis flavor are enlivened by zest minerality and framed by firm but harmonious tannins. Picks up a hint of candied licorice on the long, juicy finish.

90 Points

Two Hands Wines

2007 Brilliant Disguise Moscato Barossa Valley

Pale silver. Spicy orange, white peach, pear and quince on the nose, with a deeper suggestion of mango. Dry and crisp, but with a load of exotic and pit fruit flavors. This is quite firm compared to most Moscato d'Asti bottlings, perhaps because it was picked with 10g/l of acidity. Finishes on the brisk, stony pear note, with excellent length.

90 Points

2006 Yesterday's Hero Grenache Barossa Valley

Bright red. Suave redcurrant and strawberry aromas, with deeper suggestions of cured meat. and rose oil. Silky, sweet red berry flavors show a nice mix of brightness and depth, and a round, fleshy texture. Dusty tannins build on the finish, which features a zesty mineral tone and excellent length.

91 Points

2005 Aerope Grenache Barossa Valley

Medium red. An exotic bouquet includes raspberry, candied cherry, sandalwood, vanilla and pungent herbs. Lush, creamy and sweet, with deeply concentrated red fruit and smoky herb flavors and deftly knit, silky tannins. Finishes on notes of pure red berries and red licorice, with outstanding persistence.

94 Points

2005 Bad Impersonator Single Vineyard Shiraz Barossa

Dark ruby. Smoky, graphite-accented blackberry and cassis aromas, with suave toasty oak adding complexity. Broad, fleshy and sweet, with deeply blueberry and plum flavors gently lifted by slow-mounting acidity. Gains brightness on the finish, which features impressive sweetness allied with subtle mineral tones.

90 Points

2005 Brave Faces Shiraz/Grenache Barossa Valley

Bright ruby. Intensely floral nose offers spicy raspberry and strawberry preserve aromas underscored by zesty minerality. Deeper blue fruits on the palate, with subtle baking spice notes arriving on the back. Gains structure and focus with air, finishing on a bright, youthfully taut note of red berry skin, with not4 worthy persistence.

91 Points

2006 Angles Share Shiraz McLaren Vale

Inky purple. Intensely perfumed nose offers vibrant dark berry and candied plum aromas, with an exotic twist of floral oils and baking spices. Broad and sweet in the mouth, with juicy blackberry and cassis flavors perked up by slow-building cinnamon and clove spiciness. Finishes with excellent precision and persistence.

90 Points

2005 Gnarly Dudes Shiraz Barossa Valley

Ruby-red. Energetic strawberry and raspberry scents are brightened by fresh mineral and floral qualities on the highly perfumed nose. This reminds me of a top-notch New World pinot, with impressively energetic red fruits flavors expanding across the palate. No excess weight here, and no rough edges either. Finishes suave, sweet and very long.

91 Points

2005 The Bull and the Bear Shiraz/Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley

Inky ruby. Smoky cherry and dark berry aromas are complicated by cured tobacco, mocha and bright minerality. A fresh, juicy midweight whose blackcurrant and plum flavors are nicely firmed by fine-grained tannins. This slowly expands on the finish with extensive aeration but seems a bit youthful wound up right now.

90(+?) Points

2005 Samantha's Garden Shiraz Clare Valley

Ruby-red. Exuberant strawberry and raspberry nose boasts wonderful clarity; notes of Asian spice and orange peel add complexity. Suave and silky in texture but also fresh and juicy, with explosive red berry flavors and tangy minerality. I barely noticed tannins in this one. Deepens and expands on the long, spicy finish, where the fresh red fruit flavors are repeated. This is seriously delicious.

93 Points

2005 Max's Garden Shiraz Heathcote

Dark red. A mélange of dark berry, ripe cherry, plum and underbrush notes on the nose, with accents of anise and tobacco. Firm, focused and deep cherry and dark berry flavors pick up aged beef and licorice qualities with air. Youthfully solid wine with a powerful, dense tone on the finish, which is a touch wound up today.

91(+?) Points

2005 Harry & Edwards Garden Shiraz Langhorne Creek

Bright ruby. Spicy red and dark berry aromas complicated by cured tobacco, cedar and dark chocolate. Firm and juicy, with vibrant red fruit flavors and a zesty cracked pepper quality. The spice notes build through the long, energetic finish, which features repeating red berry and pepper elements. I really like the vivacity here.

92 Points

2005 Lily's Garden Shiraz McLaren Vale

Dark purple. Fresh red and dark berry aromas are accented by sexy floral and mineral nuances. This suave, silky midweight features luscious raspberry and blueberry flavors brightened by zesty minerality and firmed by youthful tannins. A subtle vanilla note come up on the finish, which features powerful red and blue fruit flavors, a velvety texture and excellent persistence.

93 Points

2005 Bella's Garden Shiraz Barossa Valley

Opaque inky ruby. Powerful blue and black fruit aromas are complicated by pungent floral notes and cracked pepper. Resinous dark berry and plum flavors possess admirable depth and sweetness, with youthfully firm tannins adding support. Gains brightness with air, taking on raspberry and exotic orange zest qualities. Finishes with a lively berry skin flavor and outstanding persistence.

94 Points

2005 Sophie's Garden Shiraz Padthaway

Inky violet. Exotically perfumed nose combines vibrant red and dark berry aromas with smoked meat, graphite and dried flowers. On the palate, this strongly channels the northern Rhone, with juicy blackcurrant and cured meat flavors braced by zesty minerality. Gains depth and sweetness on the back, where the mineral and meat qualities persist. Very complex stuff.

92 Points

2005 Aphrodite Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley

Deep ruby. Explosive, captivating bouquet of kirsch, cassis, blackberry and plum compote lifted by fresh violet and rose. Full, fleshy and sweet but at the same time bright and minerally, with a vibrant quality to the dark berry flavors that reminded me of a big-time Napa cabernet. Picks up exotic vanilla, cola and baking spice notes on the expansive, ridiculously long finish, along with brighter red berry flavors and a delicate touch of white pepper. This pulls off the neat trick of perfectly balancing sweetness and vibrancy.

95 Points

2005 Ares Shiraz Barossa Valley

Inky violet. Outrageously scented nose combines pungent floral, spice and mineral tones with kirsch, blackcurrant and blueberry aromas. Surprisingly zesty in the mouth, with vibrant red, black and blue fruit flavors sharpened by peppery minerality and sweetened by hints of floral pastille and mocha. There's energy and cut here that remind me of cabernet more than shiraz. The incisive finish features a dark berry skin tone and a bright jolt cracked pepper.

95 Points

Winner's Tank

2006 Shiraz Langhorne Creek

Inky purple. Exotically perfumed aromas of fresh blackberry, mulberry and mocha, accented by violet and sandalwood. Lush, impressively sweet dark berry flavors verge on jammy but maintain energy thanks to lively minerality. Fine-grained tannins build on the long, juicy finish. Extremely impressive for the price and utterly delicious right now.

90 Points

Woop Woop

2006 Chardonnay South Australia

Light gold. Honeyed pear and peach aromas are brightened by white pepper and mineral notes. Creamy pit fruit flavors are gently supported by soft acidity and complicated by nutmeg and anise. Offers good energy on the finish, which has a pleasantly juicy personality. Terrific value

88 Points

2006 Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia

Deep ruby. Intensely perfumed, seductive aromas of blackberry, cassis, coca and minerals. Lush dark berry flavors display very good focus and sweetness, finishing with good energy. This has the complexity and depth of fruit of wines costing two or three times more.

89 Points

2006 Shiraz South Australia

Bright red. Jammy raspberry and kirsch on the nose, with gently spice and floral notes adding interest. Juicy red and dark berry flavors pick up a deeper cassis note with air. This supple midweight finishes with bright dark berry flavors, a kiss of baking spices and very food length. Here's another outstanding bargain.

89 Points

Ambra

2006 Barco Reale di Carmignano

Medium ruby. Delicious pomegranate, redcurrant and almond flower aromas are followed up on the palate by more crunchy redcurrant and sour cherry fruit flavors. Vibrant and pristine, with lots of juicy freshness and noteworthy finesse. This appealing and easy-to-drink wine is a steal as a house wine.

88 Points

2004 S. Cristina in Pili Carmignano

Very dark ruby. Reticent nose hints a greater depth of fruit than does the estate's Montefortini bottling, showing pleasant spicy black cherry, blackcurrant and bitter chocolate aromas. Nicely balanced and concentrated, with tightly wounded flavors of ripe plum, mocha and tobacco. Finishes moderately long, with building tannins.

88(+?) Points

Boscarelli

2004 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano

Medium ruby. Moderately rich aroma of fresh red cherry and redcurrant lifted by a citrus quality. More freshness greets you on the palate, with juicy red fruit flavors nicely framed by lively acidity. The slightly warm finish offers moderate length and nuance. Not a blockbuster but very easy to drink.

89 Points

2003 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano

Pretty light-medium ruby. Slightly restrained but charming aromas of sour cherry, bergamot, tobacco and tea leaf. Riper and more interesting on the palate, where there is more obvious rich, sweet red fruit, with bright acids giving it a crunchy, fresh feel. Finishes moderately long, with a suave tannic backbone and a lovely lingering mineral quality.

88(+?)Points

Capannelle

2001 Chianti Classico Riserva

Bright medium ruby. Begins with a slightly reduced aroma of strawberry, then opens up to show bright red cherry, dried flowers and baking spices. Offers primary but pliant flavors of cherry and raspberry, with very typical firm sangiovese tannins and fresh, clean acidity. Finishes long and bright, with mouthcoating fruit and superb vinosity.

90 Points

2001 Solare Toscana Rosso

Saturated medium-dark ruby. Juicy, lean and a bit youthfully tight, with varietally accurate flavors of redcurrant, raspberry and violet given further lift by mint and mineral notes. Elegant and admirably restrained, conveying an impression of brisk acidity, yet with a sweet core of fruit underneath and extremely refined, vibrant tannins. Finishes long and pure, with a pretty floral character.

91 Points

2000 Salare Toscana Rosso

Saturated dark ruby. Pure floral aromas of cherry and currant, with faint licorice and peach pit (the malvasia nera) in the background. Juicy and penetrating yet creamier and sweeter in the mid-palate than the more austere '01, this boasts impeccable balance throughout. Nicely structured and long on the aftertaste.

90 Points

Fattoria di Felsina

2005 Chianti Classico

Full medium-dark ruby. Violet, strawberry and underbrush on the simple, effusively fruit nose. Somewhat more complex on the palate, where meat, sage and mushroom flavors complicate the primary ripe fruits. Soft tannins and a smooth finish left my mouth wanting more.

88 Points

2004 Rancia Chianti Classico Riserva

Impressive dark ruby color. Expressive aromas of blackcurrant, plum, mint and cigar box, all lifted by a mineral element. Dense and rich, combining pinot noir-like texture and refinement with syrah-like flavors of rare meat and raspberry liqueur. This boasts a wonderfully tactile feel and a remarkably long, palate-staining finish. A great Chianti with loads of personality.

95 Points

2003 Rancia Chianti Classico Riserva

Medium-deep ruby. Spectacular nose offers intense strawberry and red cherry fruit with balsamic accents, and a penetrating violet character that contributes to the impression of breathtaking purity. Lovely bright red fruits complemented by a salty mineral edge, with nuances of game and wet earth on the finish-the latter a sure-fire sign of a hot vintage with Rancia, as these flavors normally take longer to emerge in this wine than they do in the Fantalloro.

91 Points

2004 Fontalloro Rosso

Good full ruby. Richer and even more minerally on the nose than the '04 Rancia, offering plenty of orange zest, lily and pleasantly tart red cherry aromas. Lush, very ripe red fruit flavors and a salty edge gave this immediate appeal, but make it a bit less refined than the Rancia in '04. The tannins, though, are smoother and slide effortlessly along the very long finish.

94 Points

2003 Maestro Raro Cabernet Sauvignon Toscana Rosso

Inky ruby. Varietally accurate blackcurrant aroma complicated by obvious bell pepper, graphite and cedar nuances. Very refined and lithe on the palate, with pretty dark fruit, underbrush and inky flavors. Extremely long on the back, with wonderfully smooth tannins. This is quite an achievement in this very hot vintage.

90 Points

1998 Vin Santo del Chianti Classico

Medium golden amber. Very sweet nose offers enticing hazelnut, fig and white chocolate aromas. Much more tropical on the palate, with mango and papaya complementing fig and date flavors. The long and very fresh finish keeps this dancing on your palate long after you've swallowed, but higher acidity would have given even further delineation to the flavors.

91 Points

Frescobaldi

2004 Castello di Pomino Rosso Pomino

Light to medium ruby. Strawberry, hazelnut and orange zest aromas are lifted by ripe acids that give the nose an impression of energy. An elegantly styled, lighter wine with fruity flavors of strawberry and redcurrant and considerable tannic bite on the back. Finishes fresh and moderately long.

87 Points

2004 Nipozzano Chianti Rufina Riserva

Fairly dark ruby. Subdued but pure nose hints at spicy plum, ink, coffee and sweet underbrush. A saline quality and a peppery nuance add to this wine's overall flavor interest. Boasts a rather seamless texture and suave tannins and finishes moderately long if not yet particularly complex.

88 Points

2004 Montesodi Chianti Rufina

Dark ruby. Intense aromas of black cherry and black plum, tingled with ink, smoke and espresso. Very rich yet nicely delineated flavors of bitter chocolate-covered currant, coffee liqueur and smoked meat. Offers a luscious mouth feel but comes across as a bit chunky at present, even if the tannins are fine.

91 Points

2003 Mormoreto Toscana Rosso

Deep ruby-black. Captivating aromas of black cherry, balsamic vinegar and coffee. Pliant in texture, with dark berry, bitter cocoa and balsamic vinegar flavors. This smooth if rather obvious wine is made in an international style. Finishes with moderate nuance and length.

88 Points

Le Cinciole

2004 Le Cinciole Chianti Classico

Medium red-ruby. Downright seductive aromas and flavors of sweet red cherry, strawberry and ripe plum. Supple, sweet and vinous, with an intriguing mineral edge and a lightness that make it hard to put the glass down. Fine tannins echo on the elegant, moderately long finish.

90 Points

Podere Il Palazzino

2004 Grosso Sanese Chianti Classico

Ruby-red. Clean, fresh aromas and flavors of floral red berries, citrus, sage and marjoram. On the light side, with good vinosity and a somewhat short but nicely perfumed, floral finish. The wine's slightly edgy acids and light tannins are in balance with its fruit. Not a blockbuster but enjoyably fruity and fresh.

88 Points

Terrabianca

2004 Croce Chianti Classico Riserva

Medium ruby-red. Extremely ripe and sweet aromas of black cherry, mocha and blackberry syrup. A modern-style wine that leads with its fruit, coating the palate with fleshy, ripe cherry, plum, chocolate and spice flavors. This is very appealing and deceptively long, though almost too obviously sweet and round. But as lush as it is, there's plenty of inner-mouth energy thanks to bright acidity that nicely frames the fruit, suave tannins.

89 Points

2004 Campaccio Toscana Rosso

Saturated dark ruby with blackish highlights. Pungent aromas of black fruits, black pepper and licorice are complicated by a distinctly menthol edge. Broad and uncompromising dry in the mouth, with flavors of spice, licorice and iodine-rich herbs. A hint of drying tannins gives this moderately long wine a slightly austere quality.

87 Points

2004 Ceppate Toscana Rosso

Slightly roasted aromas of dark raspberry, black cherry, sandalwood and graphite, plus a whiff of coffee liqueur. Made in a soft and supple style with broad international appeal, this is sweet on entry, then turns a bit muscular in the middle, with only modest persistence to its cherry, coffee and prune flavors.

87(+?) Points

2003 Campaccio Selezione Riserva Toscana Rosso

Bright medium ruby. Pungent but rather elegant aromas of fresh raspberry, strawberry, blueberry and dark plum are nicely lifted by an enticing menthol note. On the palate this is juicy yet firm, with good precision to its dark berry and herbal flavors. Though the aromas and flavors run deep, there is none of the in-your-face sweetness exhibited by the 204 Campaccio or Ceppate, as this shows very good restraint and verve. The moderately persistent finish features fine-grained, building tannins.

88(+?) Points

Bodegas y Vinedos Alion

2003 Alion Ribera del Duero

Deep violet. Pungent oak spices accent ripe cherry and plum reserve on the nose, with sweet vanilla and mocha notes to the fore today. Lush and cream, with ripe dark berry flavors and a strong, building kirsch quality. Weighty and powerful on the board, sweet finish. Shows the vintage but the ripeness is well managed and there are no rough edges, giving this immediate appeal.

91 Points

Cellars Capafons-Osso

2003 Mas de Masos Priorat

Ruby red. Powerful kirsch and cassis aromas are distinctly ripe and complemented by vanilla and smoky herb qualities. Weighty dark berry and cherry flavors display dense, meaty character, with roasted coffee and bitter chocolate accents. Firm tannins build on the long, vaguely tarry finish. Lots of material here but also lots of 2003 personality.

88 Points

Cims de Porrera

2003 Solanes Priorat

Ruby-red. Smoky, herb-accented cherry and dark berry aromas have a distinctly ripe cast. Deep and lush, with powerful, ripe cherry and blackcurrants flavors further deepened by sweet tobacco and roasted coffee. A chewy, broad-shouldered wine, and ripe in the style of the vintage, finishing on a warm, toasty cherry note.

89 Points

Clos Figueras

2005 Font de la Figuera Priorat

Deep red. Meaty red berry and cherry aromas are brightened by minerals and fresh flowers. A chewy, medium-bodied wine with fresh cherry and plum flavors supported by energizing acidity and moderate tannins. Gains sweetness on the finish, as well as a smoky herb quality. This is already showing very good complexity.

89 Points

Clos Mogador

2005 Nelin Blanco Priorat

Yellow-gold. Smoky pear, apricot and floral honey on the nose; peppery herb and mineral notes come up with air, giving the nose flavors and a bright quality. Full and fleshy but dry, with precise orchard and citrus flavors and a pleasing bitterness on the close.

91 Points

Lager de Fornelos

2006 Lagar de Cervera Albarino Rias Baixas

Light yellow. Meyer lemon, pear and sweet butter on the nose. More open-knit and less vibrant than most albarinos, with a soft, round texture and creamy citrus and orchard fruit flavors. Gentle acidity builds on the supple, persistent finish.

88 Points

Marques de Caceres

2006 Blanco Rioja

Bright straw. Fresh citrus on the nose, with an exotic curry accent. Racy lemon and pink grapefruit flavors show good depth and energy, finishing brisk and nervy. Delicious and very easy to drink.

88 Points

2006 Rose Rioja

Orange-pink. Dried red berry aromas are brightened by orange zest and anise. Crisp, dry and focused, with bright redcurrant and more tangy cranberry flavors. Finishes on a grown-up, dry note, with very good length.

88 Points

2001 Reserva Rioja

Medium red. Musky red berry and cherry scents, with exotic orange peel and dried flowers adding complexity. Firm, slightly dry cherry and cocoa flavors display a wound-up personality and are a bit light. Finishes dry, with moderate depth.

87(+?) Points

Mas de l' Abundancia Montsant

2003 Mas de l' Abundancia Montstant

Deep red. Smoky cherry and plum aromas are deepened by musky underbrush and roasted meat. Full-bodied and slightly warm, showing ripe dark fruit flavors and hint of leather on the back. The dark cherry note recurs on the finish, which is a tad dry.

87 Points

Bodegas y Vinedos Vega Sicilia

2002 Tinto Valbuena 5 Anos Ribera del Duero

Ruby-red. Smoky cherry, plum and blackcurrant on the nose, with suave cigar box, tobacco and anise nuances. A supple, sweet midweight, with stylish red and dark berry flavors underscored by graphite and cured tobacco.

89 Points

1996 Unico Ribera del Duero

Deep ruby. Complex, heady bouquet of kirsch, candied plum, cured tobacco, licorice, dried rose and cedar. Pungent herbal notes build with aeration and repeat on the palate, adding complexity to the deep, ripe cherry and dark berry liqueur flavors. Remarkably elegant wine with precise cherry/berry flavors and a slow-mounting mocha quality on the long, sappy finish. There's very impressive interplay of fruit and tannins here.

94 Points

Josmeyer, Wintzenheim

2005 Pinot Auxerrois "H" Vieilles Vignes

Brooding, deeply pitched aromas of smoke and honey. Fat, round, broad and dry, but with decent acidity; a bit top-heavy today and in need of 12 to 18 months in bottle to sort itself out. A distinctly mouthfilling wine that leaves a tannic impression.

88(+?)

2005 Riesling Le Kottabe

Lime and spice on the nose. Subtle and firm in the mouth if a bit youthfully disassociated, with a dominant flavor of citrus peel. Meyer noted that this wine was easier prior bottling and has tightened up. This sample showed some piquant minerally high tones as well as complicating notes of mint, herbs and caraway seed; on the palate it was firmly structured but slightly tart, suggesting a wide range of ripeness.

87-88 Points

2005 Riesling Le Dragon

Bright, pale yellow. Pineapple and flowers on the nose. Quite dry and tight, with firm, moderately ripe flavors of lemon and lime, plus a whiff of cooked apple. This is quitw strict today. I picked up a distinctly malic note.

86(+?)

2005 Pinot Gris Fromenteau

Gold-tinged yellow color. High-toned aromas of soft citrus fruits, butter and marzipan. Supple, rich and fairly dry; big broad but a bit stunted today. Possess structure and size but finishes with some drying tannins. Not a fruity style of pinot gris.

86-88 Points

2005 Gewürztraminer Les Folastries

Pale, bright yellow. Captivating aromas of smoked meats, spices, pineapple and floral oils. Fat, dense and sweet but sharply; a plump, opulent wine with strong material and note of licorice.

88 Points

Domaine Marc Kreydenweiss, Andlau

2005 Riesling Clos Rebberg

Medium yellow. Ripe, slightly exotic aromas of soft citrus fruits, honey and spices; pure but restrained. Round, rich and tactile, with very nicely integrated acidity. Fairly big for this, and very sexy.

88 Points

2005 Riesling Weibelsberg

Pale, green-tinged yellow. Subtle aromas of pineapple, nutmeg and crushed stone. Rich, supple and enveloping, with a silky, elegant texture and a very tender quality for young grand cru Riesling. There's a touch of wetness here, but firm spiciness and mineral acidity give this good grip.

90 Points

2005 Riesling Kastelberg

Bright yellow. Deep, brooding aromas of lemon peel, clove and powdered stone; the only 2005 grand cru picked without at least some botrytis. Ripe but subdued, even austere, with a stony ripeness at the core and firm lemony acidity keeping the flavors under wraps.

90(+?) Points

2005 Gewürztraminer Kritt

Pale color. Very fresh, floral nose offers brown spices, rose violet. Sweet, lush and sappy, with perfectly integrated acidity framing the fruit and floral flavors. Finishes dusty but not dry, with moderate sweetness and noteworthy persistence. I find this very easy to drink.

89 Points

Domaine Weinbach, Kayersberg

2005 Pinot Blanc Reserve

Pale color. Pure nose offers a hint of citrus peel and a attractive floral perfume. Then supple and juicy, with restrained flavors of citrus and spice. Quite dry but not austere or hard. This has character and grip.

87 Points

2005 Riesling Reserve Personnelle

Pale, green-tinged yellow. Delicate, steely aromas of powdered stone and lime. Juicy, tight and primary, with firm acids enlivening the lemon, lime and stony flavors. There's plenty of richness here but this wine comes across as quite dry and firm on the finish, with lovely spicy perfume. Just this side of austere but not hard.

88 Points

2005 Riesling Cuvee Theo

Pale, bright yellow. Very pure if subdued aromas of lemon, lime, underripe pineapple and wet stone. Rich and fruity, with firm acids framing the soft citrus flavors. This is at once fuller and deeper than the Reserve Personnelle, but a bit more backward, even austere. Finishes with sneaky persistence and breadth.

89 Points

2005 Riesling Schlossberg

Pale, green-tinged color. Cool, restrained, rather aristocratic aromas of lime, mint and powdered stone. Juicy, pure and detailed, with dusty peach pit and mineral elements perking up the salivary glands. This very dry, long wine is almost painful today. A lovely, pure dry Riesling in the making-but give it a few years in the cellar.

91 Points

2005 Riesling Cuvee Ste. Catherine

Pale green. Complex aromas of citrus skin, ripe peach and spices, with tangy whiff of botrytis. Spicy, dense and rich but quite backward and wound-up. This, too, is classically dry in style, with nearly exotic mace and nutmeg notes perking up the palate. Finishes very dry and very long, with flavors of pineapple and dusty stone. Penetrating and rather austere-in need of aging.

91(+?) Points

2005 Riesling Schlossberg Cuvee Ste. Catherine

Pale yellow. Powerful stony minerality lifts aromas of pineapple, grapefruit and citrus rind. Juicy, high-pitched and penetrating, with powerful mineral character stimulating the salivary glands. This has strong acidity but a touch of sweetness gives it near-perfect balance and prevents it from coming off as hard. The long finish throws off hints of minerals, fresh herbs and mint.

92 points

2005 Riesling Schlossberg Cuvee Ste. Catherine L' Inedit

Pale, green-tinged color. Perfumed nose combines lime blossom and powdered stone. Sweet but tangy, with a lovely touch and noteworthy lift to the citrus and floral flavors. I find this minerally, very long riesling utterly exhilarating.

93(+?) Points

2005 Pinot Gris Cuvee Ste. Catherine

A real botrytis tang to the aromas of honey, spice and strawberry. Sweet, chewy and fairly dry, thanks to live acidity. This juicy wine shows lovely cut and finishes drier than its 14 g/l r.s. would suggest.

88 Points

2005 Pinot Gris Cuvee Laurence

Good pale color. Aromatic spicy, buttery nose lifted by a floral element. Sweet peach and orange flavors show an exotic aspect, but ripe, harmonious acids give shape to the wine. Finishes pure, bright and firm, with excellent grip.

90 Points

2005 Pinot Gris Altenbourg

Pale color. Tangy, slightly high-toned aromas of mandarin orange, honey and spices. Juicy and sweet, but with racy acidity leaving the wine's 42 g/l r.s. Pure botrytis tones, an enticing flavor of fresh apricot and a lovely sugar/acid balance make this brisk wine extremely easy to drink. The fruit shows an almost riesling-like quality.

91 Points

2005 Gewürztraminer Reserve Personnelle

Pale yellow. Precise aromas of cured meats, nutmeg and spring flowers. Dense but juicy, with strong acidity partly hiding the wine's 20 grams of residual sugar. Offers an intriguing meaty complexity. A chewy serious, firmly built gewürztraminer that really needs to be served with food.

89 Points

2005 Gewurztraminer Cuvee Theo

Pale, bright yellow. Pure, vibrant aromas of spiced meats and cinnamon. Penetrating, juicy acidity gives a refreshing sugar/acid cut to the flavors of spices and floral oils-not to mention striking definition. Pure, ripe and intensely flavored gewürztraminer, finishing good, lightly tannic grip.

90 Points

2005 Gewurztraminer Cuvee Laurence

Good pale color. Captivating, high-pitched nose offers yellow plum, gingery spices and licorice. Dense, lush, glyceric and chewy yet almost magically light on its feet, with saline and spice elements framing and lifting the wine's fruit. Floral in the mouth and on the long, vibrant finish.

92 Points

2005 Gewurztraminer Altenbourg Cuvee Laurence

Pale yellow. Expressive aromas of ginger and cured meats. Densely packed, sweet and tactile, with extravagant flavors of Mirabelle, spices and flowers. Offers a near-perfect combination of sugars and acids and a dusty impression of extract. Finishes with excellent length and an absence of phenolic roughness.

93 Points