



Review Round Up

Issue 171

Cono Sur 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon 20 Barrels

Contains 10% Merlot in the blend. It was aged for 16 months in 100% new French oak and comes from the same vineyard as Concha y Toro's flagship Cabernet Sauvignon, Don Melchor, arguably one of Chile's top 5 wines. While the 20 barrels Cabernet is excellent, it leans out in the slightly warm finish.

87 Points

Cono Sur 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Vision

A great value in the Cono Sur Portfolio. Purple-colored, it has a first class nose of black currant and blackberry, layers of ripe fruit, and 3-5 years of aging potential. It is reminiscent of the extraordinary 1974 Souverain Vintage Selection, which is still going on today.

90 Points

Cono Sur 2004 Merlot 20 Barrels

Opaque purple-colored, it offers up an array of pain grille, tobacco, blue and black fruit aromas. This is followed by a layered, tasty wine with soft tannins, excellent balance, and a pure finish.

91 Points

Cono Sur 2005 Pinot Noir 20 Barrels

It is dark ruby-colored with an intense raspberry perfume, almost jammy in its intensity along with plenty of toast and violets. This is followed by a wine with a big mouth-feel, layers of sweet fruit and silky texture. The rich finish suggests that this outstanding Pinot Noir should drink well for up to a decade.

91 Points

Pere & Fils 2005 Pernand-Vergelesses Les Vergelesses

Smells brightly of sour cherry, cherry pit, and smoked meats. Decidedly saline and savory in the mouth, with bitter-sweet, cherry dominated flavors, this finishes with an interesting juxtaposition of bracing salinity and a slightly hard stoniness. I would be tempted to enjoy this now for its vivacious fruit, but two or three years may fill out the finish and add some depth.

87 Points

Pere & Fils Beaune Clos Des Feves

Shares with its better-known neighbor high-toned aromas of cherry and cherry pit. In the mouth, licorice, cherry pit, brown spices and wet stones mingle with promising dynamic against a backdrop of firm, fine tannins, and a decidedly bitter-sweet and stony concentration.

88 Points

Pere & Fils Beaune Clos Des Mouches

Redolent and fresh blackberries, cinnamon, cedar and smoked meat. Firm and substantial on the palate, this finishes with concentrated tart fruit skin, solid meatiness of both flavor and texture, and faintly gumnumbing tannins. As with most of the Chanson I've tasted, this seems to have enough vivacity and intensity of fruit to ride out the tannins over a few years.

88 Points

Bruno Clair 2005 Marsannay Les Longeroies

Bright, sappy, and brisk in its fruit character, tingled with salty, chalky materials and attractively bitter cherry pit, this at the same time displays an incipient creaminess of texture and firm, well-integrated tannins that do not prevent an impression of sleekness and refinement emerging in the finish. This has plenty of ripe fruit acidity, tannin and energy in reserve.

87-89 Points

Bruno-Clair 2005 Chambolle-Musigny Les Verailles

Fresh blackberry, tart cranberry, herbs and flowers. Bright, fresh, sappy, a bit brash in the mouth, this brings a lot of energy to its finish, resulting in a long, savory amalgam of meat, herbs, flowers and bitter-sweet, sappy fruit

89-91 Points

Bruno-Clair 2005 Morey-St. Denis En La Rue De Vergy

Makes lovely aromatic suggestions of herbal and plum distillate with fresh cherry. Wearing its extract as formidable density on the palate, and with persistently juicy, tart black fruit and almost medicinal bitter herbal concentration, this finishes with a decidedly stony, earthy, abundance of mineral as well as smoked meat character. There is an abundant fine tannin here, a somewhat austere personality, and rather tart fresh fruit, but the wine is convincingly well constructed.

89-91 Points

Bruno-Clair 2005 Vosne-Romanee Les Champs Perdrix

Goes right to the dark side with aromas of blackberry, black cherry, peat, lichen and black truffle. Then comes the seeming 2005 paradox: lots of brash, "bright", high-acid, fresh fruit character on the palate. This is formidably concentrated, finely tannic, and positively palate-staining- so severe it makes the Morey seem winsome.

90-92 Points

Bruno Clair Savigny-Les Beaune La Dominode

Uncompromising concentrated, meaty, salty, and pithy. Scents of wood smoke, tobacco, bitter black fruits and pungent herbs rise from the glass. This stains the palate like a medicinal remedy of black cherry, tincture of iodine, and herbal essences. Amazingly sinewy muscular and energetic, it epitomizes the uncompromising, lean Bruno Clair style.

91-93 Points

Bruno Clair 2005 Gevery- Chambertin

Takes the house style here to extremes. Almost savage in its cut of raw fruit, it reveals meaty and stony dimensions of considerable concentration but beneath an almost touch-me-not exterior. Spare and lean in its finish and likely to remain so for at least several years, this is nevertheless undeniably concentrated and fully ripe, just formidably bright and tight.

86-88 Points

Bruno Clair 2005 Gevery- Chambertin La Petit Chapelle

Smells quite fetchingly of black cherry, licorice and cinnamon. Intense, fresh and juicy but with an almost liqueur-like sweet side to the fruit, and as close to early generosity as any of the wines here come, this finishes strongly with tremendous sap, energy and freshness of fruit, along with decidedly chalky and salty mineral tone and an eventual faint hint of caramel from the oak.

90-92 Points

Bruno Clair 2005 Gevery-Chambertin Clos Du Fonteny

Leads with blackberry and charred meat aromas accented by hints of lily and vanilla. Positively palate-staining with juicy blackberry, charred meat, cherry pit, tactile cinnamon spice, soy, salt, and chalk, this superbly lean, tannic yet fine-grained, densely concentrated wine throws itself energetically into the finish of superb length

91-93 Points

Bruno-Clair 2005 Gevery-Chambertin Les Cazetiers

Smells of ripe blackberries, strong-coffee, licorice and wet stone. Superbly ripe but abundant tannins undergird a mouthful of ripe fruit, with strong mineral character grabbing the baton in the final lap. This embryonic bundle of fruit, mineral and energy need at least 5-7 years.

91-93 Points

Bruno-Clair 2005 Gevery-Chambertin Clos St.-Jacques

Offers the aromatic complexity one has come to expect from this great site in this great vintage: black cherry, cassis, iris, peat, bitter herbs, and roasted meat are all on display. Juicy, dynamic and expansive on the palate, it generates a whirl of black fruits, flowers and bitter-sweet herbs over a low-toned rumbling of stones and deep meaty depth. Athletically energetic and lean like all of the best Clair wines, it displays tenacious grip and finishing intensity.

93-95 Points

Bruno-Clair 2005 Chambertin Clos De Beze

From vines going back to 1913- displays black raspberry, cassis, licorice, and sea spray in the nose. Delivering a formidably concentrated but unusually vigorous and dynamic impression of this great site, it bursts with black fruit and meat juices, along with soy sauce, then showers the palate with site-typical rose petals in a finish of brightness, grip, and vibratory intensity. Here is a thoroughbred that is a real racer....but I would expect to wait a decade after pacing my bets.

94-96 Points

Henri Gouges 2005 Bourgogne

Smelled of dried cherries and smoked meat, then offered mouth filling stewed rhubarb and cherry, underlain by low-toned toasted nut and charred meat.

87 Points

Henri Gouges 2005 Nuits-St.-Georges

Offers sweet-tart aromas and flavors of dried cranberry and black cherry, hints of high-tones herbs, and dusty, chalky, toasted nut finish. This displays a somewhat detached acidity and overt tannins, but also a note of textural creaminess. It appears to need more time to knit its structure and overall concentration to render its relatively age worthy of a village Nuits-St.-Georges.

88 Points

Henri Gouges 2005 Nuits-St.-Georges Les Chenes Carteaux

Leads with tart red currant aromas, then offers more black fruit suggestions on the palate, along with underlying nuttiness, smoked meat and mineral salts. Quite firm in tannin, and faintly bitter in its iodine-like way, the finish is nevertheless also persistently bright and invigorating in its salinity.

88+ ? Points

Henri Gouges 2005 Nuits-St.-Georges Clos des Porrets St. Georges

Offers a meld of tart and lightly cooked cherry, abundant tannins conducive to a somewhat fury mouth feel, and a smoky, roasted meat, cooked cherry and cherry pit finish. There is no question about this wine's overall destiny, nor its intensity of ripe fruit.

89+ Points

Henri Gouges 2005 Nuits-St.-Georges Les Pruliers

Offered smoke-tingled, lightly cooked black raspberry and dried cherry fruit, sweet underlying nuttiness, and a juicier, more invigorating personality than any of the already bottled wines in this year's collection. A really imposing spread of berry, floral, roasted meat and saline mineral elements coat the palate. Abundant but fine tannin never interferes with the wine's generosity.

90-92 Points

Henri Gouges 2005 Nuits-St.-Georges Les Vaucrains

Displays intense aromas of cherries and their pits. While richer, fuller and broader than any of its predecessors in this collection, this Vaucrains also offer a suffusion of remarkably fine tannins and invigorating juicy fruit. Roasted meat richness, stony, alkaline minerality, and bitter coffee grounds well up from the considerable depths of this imposing long pinot.

91-93 Points

Henri Gouges 2005 Nuits-St.-Georges Les St.-Georges

Displays a fascinating nose of black cherry, wood smoke, sandalwood, and sea breeze. Rich, deep, charred meat, toasted nut, lightly cooked black fruit and myriad mineral notes lead to a palate-saturating spread of flavors, finishing vividly bright and above all- with its elements of wet stone, salts, iodine and ore-like ineffable essences- memorably mineral. Fine-grained in tannin and formidably concentrated.

92-94 Points

Thibault Liger-Belair 2005 Bourgogne Grands Chaillots

Offers aromas and flavors of ripe blackberry and beef marrow, with a subtle hint of vanilla. Polished and creamy on the palate, it finished with a soothing richness and persistent blackberry and marrow..

88 Points

Thibault Liger-Belair 2005 Hautes Cote de Nutis Clos de Prieure

A nose-wrinkling medicinal meld of herbal concentrates, iodine, tart black fruits and ocean breeze leads to ripe black raspberry and cherry, marrow and meat-stock mingle on a strikingly creamy palate, tingled with chalk, iodine and wet stone. This really sticks to the gums with memorable depth of fruit and mineral complexity.

91 Points

Thibault Liger- Belair 2005 Nutis.-St. Georges La Charmotte

Offers somewhat reduced aromas of wood smoke and well aged game, along with ripe cherry and cherry pit. Tart fruit skin and high-toned inner-mouth esters, ashen smokiness, and rather somber notes of moss, forest floor and wet stone persist into a finish that approaches bitter concentration of fruit skin and mineral. This highly impressive in its relatively dark, austere way, and would be fascinating to revisit in a few years.

88-90 Points

Thibault Liger-Belair 2005 Vosne-Romanee Aux Reas

Smells of machine oil in Cabernet Franc-like way, along with ripe cherry and medicinal herbal concentrates. Overtly meaty and stony on the palate-indeed acting more like Nutis-St.-Georges than Vosne-the wine finishes richly on salted meat and soy.

89-91 Points

Thibault Liger-Belair 2005 Corton Les Rognets

Smells tartly and pungently of sour cherry and herbs. This refined in tannins, silky in feel and with an intricate interplay of fresh cherry, cherry pit, chalk and high-toned herbs. A rich, low-toned resonance of fruit pit, chalk and roasted meat rolls along in the finish.

90-92 Points

Thibault Liger-Belair 2005 Clos Vougeot

Smells of beef jerky, ripe blackberry, and pungent herbal distillate. Grainy and substantial in the mouth, it stains the palate with salted beef and blackberry while contra-bass notes of roasted meat, medicinal bitter herbs, and wet stone lead into an impressive long, deep-massaging finish.

92-94 Points

Thibault Liger-Belair 2005 Nutis-St.-Georges Les St.-Georges

Displays both roasted, charred and raw meat meatiness to a degree unusual for a Nutis-St.-Georges. Ripe black cherry and blackberry are also very much present, but this wine is not about sweetness of fruit. Substantial, firm but finely tannic are formidably concentrated, it finishes with dark, faintly bitter berries, roasted meats, beef blood, and soy-like savor, and an intense yet hard to describe minerality. This wine tastes like something one should if anemic.

91-93 Points

Thibault Liger-Belair 2005 Richebourg

Palate-staining bitter blackberry and cassis concentrates, roasted, singled meat, and pan juices, intense smokiness, and plenty of earthiness mount a veritable siege of the palate. An oaky whiff of coconut and caramel is extraneous, but in this context hardly annoying.

92-94 Points

Doamine Du Clos De Tart 2005 Clos De Tart

Exhibits remarkably “cool” aromas of blueberry, greenhouse vegetation and flowers, smoked meats, sea breeze. Nor does its silken-textures, blue- and black-fruited palate impression, while voluminous, evince any heat. Juicy in fruit, savory, saline, and stony throughout, this wine finishes with a lasting impression of concentrated fresh blueberry and blackberry, along with a stony, alkaline minerality.

94 Points

Boscarelli 2003 Vino Nobile Di Montepuciano

A terrific effort at this level. It offers much persistence and intensity in its spiced black cherry, plum and road tar flavors, with a dark, brooding personality and plenty of grip on the finish.

90 Points

Boscarelli 2003 Vino Nobile Di Montepuciano Nocio Dei Boscarelli

Reveals red cherries, underbrush and sweet toasted oak in a style that marries superb concentration to a palate sensation of lightness, with outstanding balance and a lingering note of sweetness on the finish.

92 Points

Boscarelli 2003 IGT Boscarelli dei Boscarelli

Bursts the palate with an exciting array of perfumed super-ripe dark fruit, licorice, menthol, toasted oak and earthiness, shoeing outstanding follow-through on the palate and a terrific overall balance.

91 Points

Capannelle 2001 Chianti Classico Riserva

It exhibits expressive aromatics and very attractive sweet dark red fruit intermingled with tobacco, mineral, licorice, tar and toasted oak nuances, showing terrific balance in a style that is at once delicate and powerful.

92 Points

Capannelle 2000 Chianti Calssico Riserva

It displays a profile of leather, earthiness, and truffles that complement its brighter, fresher dark red fruit and sweet oak flavors, with good length on the palate, and slightly coarser tannins than the 2001.

90 Points

Capanelle 2001 IGT 50 & 50

It exhibits an opaque ruby color, along with generous notes of blueberries, vanilla, spices and earthiness. Though medium in body, it is ample and generous on the palate, where it reveals superb concentration, and sumptuous, luxurious personality, with outstanding length and a sweet note of menthol on the finish.

92 Points

Capanelle 1999 IGT Solare

It is a powerful, masculine expression of Chianti Classico terrior, with notes of earthiness, tobacco, herbs, black cherries and superbly well-integrated oak.

92 Points

Castello Di Nipozzano 2004 Chianti Rufina Vigneto Montesodi

It presents expressive aromatics followed by layers of black fruits, violets, licorice, sweet spices and menthol that flow from the glass with notable concentration as well as weight on the palate. A note of freshness gives the wine a beautiful sense of lift on the finish.

92 Points

Castello Di Nipozzano 2003 Chianti Rufina Riserva

Exhibits a similarly sweet, open nose along with plenty of vibrant, super-ripe dark fruit, outstanding length and lovely overall balance in a style that is plump and accessible without sacrificing the wine's underlying structure.

90 Points

Castello Di Nipozzano 2004 Mormoreto

It offers expressive aromatics and jammy sweet dark fruit with an expansive personality and excellent length, although the tannins are not as refined as I would have hoped in this vintage.

89 Points

Castello Di Querceto 2003 IGT Cignale

A deep, almost-saturated ruby, explodes from the glass in an intense, powerful expression of dark, super-ripe fruit, earthiness, cassis, herbs, chocolate and toasted oak. It shows superb balance for the vintage, the warmth of which is felt on the sweet, alcoholic note that frames the finish.

93 Points

Castello Di Querceto 2001 IGT Cignale

Perhaps slightly more nuanced in its aromatics than the 2003, the 2001 presents layers of sweet dark fruit, earthiness and tobacco that flow onto the palate with notable concentration and the right word- it beautifully balances opulence with the wine's structural components. The tannins are bug and building on the finish.

93 Points

Tenuta Di Castiglioni 2005 IGT Tenuta Di Castiglioni

Displays an open, ripe nose and generous, sweet fruit, showing exciting length and plenty of style. It is an attractive, plum wine to drink over the next three to four years.

89 Points

Tenuta Di Castiglioni 2004 IGT Giramonte

Is a rich, weighty wine that offers the dark fruit and plushness of the former along with the underlying structure of the latter, with excellent length and fine overall balance.

90 Points

Fattoria Di Felsina 2005 Chianti Classico

Offers perfumed, spiced red fruit on a medium-bodied frame, with excellent length and lovely overall balance.

88 Points

Fattoria Di Felsina 2004 Chianti Classico

A lively medium ruby, is fresh and vibrant, with gorgeous aromatics and plenty of fruit, showing excellent length, fine tannins and a delicate personality.

89 Points

Fattoria Di Felsina 2003 Chianti Classico Riserva

Is ample and warm on the palate, offering notable intensity in its dark red cherry fruit, tobacco and herb flavors, with outstanding length and a very finessed finish supported by an underlying note of minerality that provides freshness as well as balance.

91 Points

Fattoria Di Felsina 2003 Chianti Classico Riserva Rancia

Presents more overt toasted oak notes along with darker, ripe fruit in a structured expression of Chianti Classico. With sometime in the glass complex notes of smoke, tobacco, licorice, mint and black cherries emerge, completing this gorgeous and intensely satisfying wine.

93 Points

Fattoria Di Felsina 2003 Fontalloro

Is perhaps slightly weightier and fresher than the Rancia. Made in a more flashy and opulent style, it exhibits a primary quality to its super-ripe red fruit, with notable intensity on the palate and plenty of grip on the finish.

92 Points

Fattoria Di Felsina 1998 Vin Santo

A beautifully poised, understated Vin Santo, it reveals perfumed aromatics along with a delicate core of dried figs, apricots and spices, showing outstanding length and a long, clean finish.

92 Points

Fattoria Di Lucignano 2005 Chianti Colli Fiorentini

Is a soft, fruity-wine to drink now and over the next three years. It offers much pleasure at a great price.

87 Points

Monte Antico 2003 IGT Monte Antico

Is always a superb value and the 2003 is no exception. Its pretty nose and generous, plump fruit make it a terrific choice for everyday drinking.

87 Points

Monte Antico 2004 IGT Monte Antico

Is perhaps more complex than the 2003. It presents a darker, livelier color typical of the cooler vintage along with expressive, perfumed aromatics and plenty of vibrant dark cherry fruit. Outstanding value.

88 Points

Tenuta Dell'Ornellaia 2005 Le Volte

Delivers considerable pleasure in its fresh, vinous aromatics, perfumed sweet dark fruit and irresistibly soft-textured personality.

90 Points

Tentua Dell'Ornellaia 2004 IGT Masseto

Presents layers of jammy dark fruit and mineral notes that burst forth from the glass with notable length, purity and delineation. It is decidedly elegant and super-refined Masseto that continues to integrate its 100% new oak well, showing extraordinary class and fine, silky textured tannins that caress the palate on the long finish.

97 Points

IL Palazzino 2004 Chianti Classico Argentina

Boasting a powerful personality, it offers notes of flowers, red cherries earthiness and menthol on a somewhat compact, austere frame, with excellent length and fine overall balance.

88 Points

IL Palazzino 2004 Chianti Classico La Pieve

Is more expansive on the palate, where it reveals generous sensations of dark cherries, plums, licorice and menthol in a powerful, somewhat rustic-but beautiful-expression of Sangiovese from Chianti Classico, with superb definition as well as length.

90 Points

IL Palazzino 2004 Chianti Classico Grosso Sanese

Presents dark, brooding expression of Sangiovese in its herb, tobacco, menthol. Spice and black cherries, with superb ripeness to fill out its classically structured frame. It offers outstanding length on the palate and its big, building tannins.

91 Points

Pomino 2005 Pomino Benefizio

Is a beautiful, understated wine. It reveals perfumed aromatics and pretty, sweet fruit in a hushed, understated style, with excellent length and a lingering note of sweetness from the Gewurztraminer on the finish.

89 Points

Terrabianca 2003 Chianti Classico Scassino

Presents attractive spiced, ripe red cherries and toasted oak notes although awkward green note mars the finish.

86 Points

Terrabianca 2005 Chianti Classico Scassino

Is soft and pleasing, with its perfumed red fruit, elegant personality and long, clean finish.

87 Points

Terrabianca 2003 Chianti Classico Riserva Croce

A dark translucent ruby, exhibits a ripe, open nose, along with super-ripe candied cherries, menthol, herbs, spices, and sweet toasted oak notes on a medium-bodied frame.

88 Points

Terrabianca 2004 Chianti Classico Croce

Of any varietal character the wine may have had. Its profile remains dominated by super-ripe fruit, sweet toasted oak and cola flavors.

87 Points

Terrabianca 2003 Ceppate

An opaque ruby, is a jammy, opulent effort packed layers of ripe dark fruit, spices and sweet toasted on a medium-bodied frame, although ideally there would be more varietal expression. It exhibits notable finesse, as well as enough length and structure.

89 Points

Terrabianca 2004 Ceppate

Doesn't seem to express much varietal character although it does offer generous jammy blueberry and blackberry fruit along with plenty of sweet toasted oak. Made in a rich, full-bodied style, it offers excellent length but somewhat hard tannins on the finish.

88 Points

Terrabianca 2003 Piano Del Cipresso

Sweet and open, with generous varietal tobacco, earth, herb, toasted oak and red cherry notes, its ripeness beautifully balanced by its classic structure and long, clean finish.

91 Points

Terrabianca 2004 Piano Del Cipresso

It reveals sweet red cherries, flowers and spices in a restrained, medium-bodied expression of Sangiovese, with outstanding length and silky tannins to round out the finish.

91 Points

Terrabianca 2003 Villa Il Tesoro

Is redolent of jammy blueberries, licorice, tar, toasted oak and mint. Ample and generous on the palate, it offers outstanding length and a very finessed finish in a somewhat restrained style for the vintage.

90 Points

Terrabianca 2004 Villa Il Tesoro

Is vibrant and full of energy in its expression of plummy dark fruit, cinnamon and sweet toasted oak, with excellent follow-through on the palate and firm, yet fine tannins. The higher acidity typical of the vintage adds pretty note of freshness on the finish.

90 Points

Terrabianca 2003 Campaccio

Presents an herbal, mentholated nose along with dark red cherry and toasted oak flavors. Medium in body, it offers excellent length and enough fruit balance the slightly hard tannins that are typical in this vintage.

90 Points

Terrabianca 2004 Campaccio

Reveals layers of ripe fruit with notable vitality on the palate and enough concentration to stand up to the oak treatment. It offers outstanding length and fine overall balance.

91 Points

Terrabianca 2001 Campaccio Selezione Riserva

Displays an attractive vibrancy and energy in its expression of earthiness, tobacco, leather, spices, minerals and ripe fruit on a medium-bodied frame, with excellent length and fine overall balance.

91 Points

Terrabianca 2003 Campaccio Selezione Riserva

Presents an unusual combination of opulent, over-ripe fruit with underlying notes of greenness and bitter, somewhat astringent tannins.

88 points

Toscolo 2003 Chianti Classico

Presents fresh aromatics and vibrant dark fruit in a nuanced, elegant style. While it may lack warmth and the generosity of the 2003, it offers slightly better balance and more finessed personality.

88 Points

Toscolo 2003 Chianti Classico

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.

88 points

Toscolo 2003 Chianti Classico Riserva

Opens with a gorgeous nose redolent of crushed flowers, spices, earthiness and tobacco that melds onto the palate, where the wine offers plenty of ripe fruit intermingled with sweet toasted oak.

90 Points

Toscolo 2001 Chianti Classico Riserva

Has begun to develop some complexity in the bottle, with attractive notes of earthiness, leather, herbs and dark fruit. Medium in body, it offers excellent length and lovely balance.

89 points

Villa La Selva 2003 Felciaia Sangiovese

Is sweet and open, with candied cherries, herbs, tobacco and well-integrated oak that carry through onto its medium-bodied frame. It offers excellent length although the tannins are somewhat drying on the finish.

87 points

Villa La Selva 2003 Selvamaggio

Offers intense aromatics along with jammy dark fruit, cassis, smoke, licorice and herbs in a big, powerful style. Its balance is ultimately defined by hard, drying tannins that clamp down on the finish.

89 Points

Villa La Selva 2003 Merlo Rosso

It presents a jammy, opulent personality packed with super-ripe, almost raisiny fruit and sweet toasted oak. Although it offers excellent concentration and persistence, that is not enough to overcome the hard, unpolished tannins that lurk beneath.

88 points

Castello Di Volpaia 2005 Chianti Classico

Fresh and aromatic, with ripe red fruit and a pretty, accessible personality. Medium in body, it is delicious Chianti Classico.

86 Points

Castello Di Volpaia 2004 Chianti Classico Riserva

Presents black cherries, smoke and earthiness on a round, soft-textured frame, with a powerful personality, excellent length and fine tannins.

89 Points

Castello Di Volpaia 2003 Classico Riserva

Is fatter and ampler than the 2004, with a sweet, open-nose followed by generous black cherry and toasted oak notes. It also shows better balance than its younger sibling as there is more plumpness and juiciness in the fruit to match the oak.

90 Points

Castello Di Volpaia 2004 Chianti Classico Riserva Coltassala

It exhibits greater structure than previous bottling, with a deeply aromatic nose and smoke, tobacco, toasted oak and vibrant sweet dark fruit on a medium-bodied frame. It offers excellent length and a lingering note of sweetness from the oak on the finish.

90 Points

Castello Di Volpaia 2004 Balifico

Presents herbs, bell pepper, spiced black pepper, cassis and blackberries with a lovely expressive personality and finessed tannins on the finish. Although it is structured and full-bodied, owing to relatively high attitude it remains somewhat linear in style.

91 Points

Castello Di Volpaia 2003 Balifico

Opens with sweet, open nose followed by cinnamon, spice cake and ripe black cherries, showing outstanding length on the palate. It is richer and more full-bodied than the 2004, but its rougher tannins convey an impression of less elegance. Still, it is a very pretty wine.

90 points

Castello Di Volpaia 2000 Vin Santo

A deep, amber, presents slightly oxidized notes of honey, roasted nuts, toffee, dried roses and candied orange peel. Medium in body, it offers excellent length and a long, clean finish.

90 points