



**Michael David 2004 Lust Zinfandel (Lodi)**

This is an expensive wine, by Lodi or any standards, but it's also a really good one. Blended with Petite Sirah, it has a soft texture and decadent mouthfeel, and the flavors are of crème de cassis, caramel cream, melted milk chocolate, tangerine zest and cinnamon-spiced gingerbread. It's certainly not an ager, so drink up.

**91 Points**

**Michael David 2003 Rapture Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi)\***

Classic Lodi Cab, from a vintage that wasn't too hot or too cool. The wine is soft and lush, with milk chocolate and cassis flavors and the vanillins and sweet char of oak. Easy and delicious, it's a wine to drink now.

**88 Points**

**A-Mano 2005 Primitivo (Puglia)\***

This is a ready-to-drink informal wine with fresh red fruit and spice aromas. It really comes alive in the mouth though with loads of tasty spice and a firm tannin edge.

**87 Points**

**Cantina Santadi 2005 Villa Solais ( Vermentino di Sardegna)\***

Brilliant golden highlights and penetrating aromas of honey, acacia and stone fruit; the fragrant honey notes are particularly opulent and refined. In the mouth, the wine boasts good intensity, medium length and bright acidity.

**87 Points**

**Yalumba 2006 Y Series Unwooded Chardonnay (South Australia)\***

A well-made, satisfying Chardonnay at a bargain price, this features adequate complexity and mouthfilling flavors of pear, melon and cinnamon. Clean and crisp on the finish.

**86 Points**

**Grant Burge 2006 Barossa Wines Unoaked Chardonnay (Barossa)**

A solid, well-made offering, Grant Burge's unoaked Chardonnay offers a medium-bodied mouthful of authoritative flavor at a reasonable price. Baked apple and poached pear aromas and flavors intensify rather than fall of on the finish, unusual at this price point.

**87 Points**

**Wildberry Estate 2006 Chardonnay (Margaret River)**

Wildberry Estate's 2006 Chardonnay deftly juxtaposes a soft, plump midpalate with a firm, crisp backbone. The structure gives added zip to the lime and honeydew flavors, which finish fresh and clean. Drink now.

**87 Points**

**Poonawatta Estate 2006 The Eden Riesling (Eden Valley)**

Incredibly powerful, with bold lime sherbet aromas that are nearly overwhelming in their intensity. Flavors are strident and linear at this young stage, underscored by vibrant acidity and fantastic length.

**91 Points**

**Mesh 2006 Riesling (Eden Valley)**

This is deceptive, alternating between soft and hard seductive and prickly. Honey and poached pear aromas vie with firm lime and mineral notes, while the flavors contrast lime sherbet with crushed stone. Long and intense on the finish.

**90 Points**

**Pewsey Vale 2006 Individual Vineyard Selection Riesling (Eden Valley)**

This is a reasonably full-bodied, rounded example of Australian Riesling that smells of honey and peaches, but with a sense of underlying stony bedrock. It's minerally on the palate, with just enough frills to dress up, turning lush on the finish. Good price, too.

**89 Points**

**Glen Eldon Riesling (Eden Valley)**

Contrast seductive aromas of fresh flowers, apples, pears and citrus with a firm, unyielding array of stony, minerally flavors. Medium-bodied and a bit viscous, yet finishes clean and refreshing.

**86 Points**

**Faiveley 2005 Chablis**

Soft and creamy, structured with some green apple skin flavors, and easy, fresh acidity. It has good weight alongside tannins and ripe fruit.

**85 Points**

**Villa Matilde 2001 Camarato (Falerno del Massico)**

Dark in color and deep in concentration, this is a ripe Aglianico-Piedirosso blend with tones of mature red cherry, beets, roasted peanut, espresso and roasted red pepper. It's a big wine in every sense with a sticky, almost syrup consistency, power and firm tannins.

**91 Points**

**Cantina Santadi 2005 Cala Silente (Vermentino di Sardegna)**

Crisp, fruity and full of mineral nuances, this faithfully represents Sardinia's winemaking potential, especially when it comes to easy-drinking white wines. Vanilla, stone fruit, apple-nut, citrus peel and honey flavors boost a creamy, almost viscous consistency.

**88 Points**

**Rotllan Torra 2003 Amadis (Priorat)**

A barrel buster, with huge barrique qualities including char, chocolate and vanilla along with ripe black-fruit aromas. Spirited is the best way to describe this masculine, tannic bruiser, which is a blend of old-vines Garnacha and Carignan. Hold a couple of years to let it settle, then enjoy.

**92 Points**

**Do Ferreira 2005 Albarino (Rias Baixas)**

Waxy melon and apple aromas are intricate and welcoming, while the melon and citrus flavors are just as they should be. Do Ferreira is a consistent high-end producer in Rias Baixas and its' 05 Albarino is great. It picks up steam as it goes along and will go great with salads and seafood.

**90 Points**

**Piedra Hill 2004 Purple Label Cabernet Sauvignon**

Dry, rich and balanced, fruit is the star here, with explosive blackberries and cherries, while 100% new oak adds lush layers of cedar and smoke.

**94 Points**

**Siduri 2005 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands)**

Pale in color and sharp in youthful acids, this Pinot needs time to show its stuff. It tastes good now, with rich cola, cherry, herb tea and cinnamon spice flavors, but the parts separately need time to knit together.

**91 Points**

**Siduri 2005 Keefer Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley)**

I like the elegance, but it seems like it was rushed to market. It will certainly benefit from cellaring, as it's young and rude acids right now, and not showing well. But there's something here in the vast heart of cherries and pomegranates and overall balance.

**91 Points**

**Alderbrook 2005 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley)**

Pale, light-bodied, fruity and dry, this is the un-Cabernet, the red for white wines lovers. So easy to enjoy, you might overlook its complexities. Red cherries, cola, pomegranate, rosehip tea, cinnamon and ginger candy, it's really delicious.

**90 Points**

**Siduri 2005 Van der Kamp Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain)**

This is one of the riper of Siduri's crop of '05 single-vineyard Pinots. It bursts with cherry jam, sweet cola, vanilla and coffee fudge flavors that make it delicious, but it's no mere fruit bomb. The complex of acids, tannins and oak give it dimensions worth pondering.

**90 Points**

**Siduri 2005 Sapphire Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley)**

High in acidity and bone dry, this light-colored Pinot seems a bit one-dimensional right now, but I think it was released too early. It should gain momentum by the end of 2007, when the cherry, rhubarb and cola flavors become more integrated with the tannins and oak.

**89 Points**

**Siduri 2005 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands)**

A good example of the principle that you get what you pay for, this regional Pinot almost as good as Siduri's Rosella's Vineyard bottling. It's dry, crisp and silky, with delicious cola, cherry, vanilla and cinnamon spice flavors.

**88 Points**

**Alderbrook 2005 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley)**

Alderbrook is one of those insider wineries that does a good job at a fair price. This crisp, dry Chard is an elegant example of the long hangtime '05 vintage, with spicy tropical fruit, butterscotch and vanilla cream flavors.

**87 Points**

**J.C Cellars 2005 Preston Vineyard Marsanne (Dry Creek Valley)**

Dry Creek Valley has a natural affinity for Marsanne, and particularly in this balanced vintage. The grapes got ripe in lemon chiffon, peach and honeysuckle flavors, while clean crispness and minerality add length and palate interest. Sur lies aging in the barrel brings even richer notes of cream and smoky vanilla.

**92 Points**

**Hedges 2004 Three Vineyards (Red Mountain)**

Grapes are sourced from three different estate vineyards on Red Mountain. It's acidic and extracted, but opens up with exposure to air into supple, rich, muscular, raspberry and cherry-flavored red blend. There are hints of rock, fennel and smoke, and a long, concentrated and well-rounded finish.

**90 Points**

**Hedges 2005 CMS (Columbia Valley)**

For the first time this popular blend contains no Yakima Valley fruit. The savvy blend of Cabernet sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah works like a charm. Outside of the Ste. Michelle brands, this is probably the most consistent, balanced and expressive red wine blend that is value-priced and widely available from Washington state. It's elegant, somewhat European in style, with light, polished fruit flavors of plum, berry and cherry. Best Buy.

**88 Points**