

Jim Barry Shiraz Clare Valley The Lodge Hill 2005

Smooth and ripe, with hints of eucalyptus and caramel sneaking into the blackberry and tar flavor profile. Finishes with an open texture and refined tannins.

90 Points

Marques de Caceres Rioja Rosado 2006

A bold rose, delivering cherry, rose, menthol and herb flavors in a firm, full-bodied style. A bit rich on its own, but a good match for food.

87 Points

Henschke Shiraz Eden Valley Hill of Grace 2003

Rich, polished and absolutely seamless, this harmonious and expressive, with tremendous depth. Offers licorice-scented blackberry, black cherry, pomegranate and dusky spices in such a cohesive package that it's hard to pick them out. Hints of mineral and spice add nuance to the finish. Will only get better with cellaring.

99 Points

Henschke Shiraz Eden Valley Mount Edelstone 2004

Smooth, round and distinctive for its meaty, mineral-scented dark berry and cherry flavors, this is refreshingly balanced with just enough acidity to keep it honest. Refined tannins envelop the finish.

94 Points

Redbank Shiraz Victoria The Long Paddock 2004

Crisp in texture, with a velvety feel to the dark berry and savory pepper flavors. The fine-grained frame lets the fruit come through best on the finish.

88 Points

Water Wheel Memsie Bendigo Red 2006

Crisp in texture, with generous, licorice-scented currant fruit that lingers on the open-weave finish.

87 Points

Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon Eden Valley Cyril Henschke 2003

Supple, round and appealing for its plush texture supporting plum, prune, sage and thyme notes, which mingle well right through the long finish. A beautifully integrated wine, with impressive length and a real future.

92 Points

Yalumba Tempranillo-Grenache-Viognier Barossa 2005

Polished and generous with its pure cherry and blackberry fruit, this persists nicely on the round, well-buffed finish.

90 Points

Yalumba The Reserve Barossa 2001

Firm and chewy, with a pulsing core of currant and plum fruit under a layer of spicy, earthy tannins. Has presence and depth. Needs time to soften.

89 Points

Jim Barry The Cover Drive South Australia 2005

Bright and lively. A juicy mouthful of currant fruit, with hints of savory herbs as the finish lingers nicely against fine tannins.

88 Points

Bleasdale Cabernet Sauvignon Langhorne Creek Mulberry Tree 2004

Smooth and ripe, with generous blackberry and currant fruit shaded with refined tannins, lingering nicely.

88 Points

Yalumba Grenache Barossa Blush Vine 2006

Bright, almost crisp in texture, with juicy currant and red berry flavors, hinting at sweet spices as the finish lingers.

88 Points

Yalumba Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia The Y Series 2006

Ripe and generous on a medium-weight frame, offering currant and herb flavors against refined tannins.

87 Points

Bernard Morey Chassagne-Montrachet Clos St.-Jean 2005

A tight, bracing version, with spice and white peach flavors accented by a flinty, chalky note. This builds in intensity across the palate and remains taut and stony through the long finish.

92 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Meursault Perrieres 2005

A strong apple note gets some support from spicy oak in this firm, medium-bodied white. A little astringent, but time and food should smooth this out.

88 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Puligny-Montrachet Champs Gains 2005

Refined and racy, with plenty of structure to support the lemon, apple, and hazelnut flavors. A mineral element shines through on the finish, and this lingers with subtle spice notes.

92 Points

Bernard Morey Puligny-Montrachet 2005

A rich white, with apple, peach and lemon flavors softened by oak. This has fine intensity and builds on the palate with citrus and herb notes. The finish is still tight, yet fine and elegant.

90 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Puligny-Montrachet 2005

A lush yet refined white, with lemon cream, apple and hazelnut flavors shaded by spicy oak. Glides to a long, zesty finish. Already well-integrated, this will be better in a year or so.

90 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Corton White Vergennes 2005

Lean and tight, with a "green" character-aromas and flavors of lime, green plum, a hint of mint and bright herb-deftly shaded by oak. Beautifully balanced, but needs time. The finish is lovely, with a lime and vanilla aftertaste.

93 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Pernard-Vergelesses White Les Caradeux 2005

Has ample flesh, but also a bracing spine of acidity that keeps this lithe and lively. A core of mineral gains depth from the lemon and green apple notes, with good length.

89 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Savigny-les-Beaune Hauts Marconnets 2005

A round style, with apple and butter flavors up front, then turning firm and almost severe on the finish. Balanced, but needs time to resolve its components.

89 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Montagny Premier Cru 2005

This is refined and delicate, showing lime and mineral flavors, with a floral hint. Tails off a little on the finish, but displays balance and harmony overall.

87 Points

Chanson Pere & Fils Pouilly-Fuisse 2005

Fresh and fruity, this displays peach, apple and citrus peel notes, with a hint of mineral and a firm, tactile finish. Starts out better than it finishes. A few months or decanting may help.

87 Points

Domaines Leflaive Macon-Verze 2004

A smoky, seductive white, with a viscous texture and citronella and mineral flavors. Intense, with a lemony finish.

87 Points

M. Chapoutier Chateaneuf-du-Pape Barbe Rac 2004

Combines fruit and terrior in spades, with notes of raspberry ganache and fig layered with tar, loam and garrigue. Builds slowly through the finish, delivering an encore of dark fruit and minerality, with a hint of grilled beef. A huge wine that demands cellaring.

95 Points

M. Chapoutier Chateaneuf-du-Pape Crix de Bois 2004

Has a gorgeous, silky mouthfeel, with a superb core of pure sweet fruit-cassis and raspberry ganache- that builds slowly through the dark spice and tobacco-filled finish. Has a suave, fine-grained structure.

94 Points

M. Chapoutier Ermitage L'Ermit 2004

Shows a mix of dark bramble notes and zesty wild berry profile, with dark coca, tar and graphite in the background. The muscular edge on the finish is a typical for the vintage.

94 Points

M. Chapoutier Ermitage Le Meal 2004

Has fine purity for the vintage, with silky-textured red cherry, raspberry and plum fruit flavors intertwined with mineral, light coca and floral notes. Gains weight through the lengthy finish.

93 Points

M. Chapoutier Ermitage Le Pavillon 2004

Shows a super tight focus, with black currant, plum and blackberry fruit harnessed by supple tannins, dark coca and a buried minerality. The long finish really fleshes out nicely in the glass.

93 Points

M. Chapoutier Ermitage Led Greffieux 2004

Juicy, this almost high-toned, showing bright floral notes backed by red plum and red currant fruit, with red licorice and a tangy minerality. The long, taut finish needs to unwind a bit, but this has superb precision for the vintage.

93 Points

Perrin & Fils Gigondas Vieilles Vignes 2004

Very perfumy and elegant up front, with cherry, floral and spice hints, this quickly builds on the back end, showing structured tar, tobacco and fig notes. The lovely minerality frames the fine-grained finish. Deceptively concentrated.

92 Points

M. Chapoutier St.-Josephs Les Granits 2004

Nice lacy tannins support bright mineral, red cherry and grilled herb flavors. The long finish lets the minerality stretch out. This should put on some weight in the cellar.

91 Points

M. Chapoutier Crozes-Ermitage Les Varonniers 2004

Nice black cherry, red plum, tobacco and mineral notes run through this focused, medium-weight Syrah. This elegant, mineral finish has a nice length.

90 Points

M. Chapoutier Ermitage White L' Ermite 2004

This is packed tight, with a racy minerality holding the dried peach, apricot and macadamia nut flavors at bay. The long, tangy finish is all lean muscle, with a note de fleur de sel that really stretches this out nicely.

97 Points**M. Chapoutier Ermitage White de l' Oree 2004**

This just gushes with gorgeous, creamy layers of mango, papaya, green plum, apricot and glazed tangerine, yet never gets heady or overripe, thanks to a buried spine of mineral and citrus peel. The long, powerful finish has a waxy feel, with a lingering floral note. A gorgeous combination of power and finesse.

96 Points**M. Chapoutier Ermitage White Le Meal 2004**

Bold and honeyed, with dried tropical fruit flavors-papaya and mango- layered with fresh, sweetened butter, green almond and mineral notes. Flashy and powerful up front, but supper refined through the finish.

96 Points**M. Chapoutier St.-Joseph White Les Grantis**

Fat and juicy, with lots of melon, creamed peach, dried pineapple and butter notes, all framed nicely by a hint of hazelnut and a buried minerality. The long finish lets the fruit, mineral and floral notes strut their stuff. This should gain greater elegance as it ages.

94 Points**Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Rosso di Montalcino Castelgiocondo Campo ai Sassi 2005**

A compact Rosso, with lots of crushed blackberry and hints of stony mineral and flowers. Medium – to-full-bodied, with fine tannins and a slightly tannic finish.

87 Points**Fattoria Uccelliera Toscana Rapace 2004**

Plum skin and light raisin aromas, with hints of licorice, follow through to a full-bodied palate. Silky tannins and a long finish. Firm and tight now. Give this time.

91 Points**Voss Pinot Noir Martinborough 2005**

Serves up a formidable core of spicy black cherry, pomegranate, black pepper and crushed stone flavors. The firm, lively structure, green tea notes and nicely integrated oak extended through the lingering finish.

92 Points**Pegasus Bay Riesling Waipara Valley 2006**

Orange blossom, peach and lime peel flavors have very good depth, with lingering stone accents and a sweet-sour finish.

87 Points

Sherwood Estate Pinot Noir Martinborough 2006

Generous, with ripe red currant, root beer and spice box flavors highlighted by lively acidity, mineral accents and a hint of cedary oak.

87 Points

Goats do Roam Wine Company Goats do Roam In Villages Red Coastal Region 2005

Shows nice medium-weight blackberry and plum flavors, with lots of white pepper and coca framing the finish.

88 Points

Cims de Porrera Priorat Solanes 2003

Plush and alluring, this red offers cherry, berry and vanilla flavors on a broad frame, with just enough tannins for grip. Generous, with a touch of sweetness.

87 Points

I'M Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Rose 2006

A jammy, juicy rose, with aromas of cherry and spice and ripe, full-bodied flavors that end on a tannic note.

85 Points

Breggo Sauvignon Blanc Anderson Valley Ferrington Vineyard 2006

Fresh, vibrant peach, pear, apple, passion fruit and mango flavors glide across a spicy undertone. Juicy grace notes of pineapple, Key lime and nectarine echo on the long finish.

90 Points

Voss Sauvignon Blanc Rutherford 2006

Lemonade, mango and papaya flavors are ripe and tasty, taking on more intensity on the finish. Great fleshy texture and zesty acidity give this a wonderful finish.

96 Points

Rochioli Sauvignon Blanc Russian River Valley 2006

A rich, grassy style, with refreshing acidity and tart lime, grapefruit and papaya flavors. Ends with a touch of herb and cedar.

88 Points

Sauvignon Republic Sauvignon Blanc Russian River Valley 2006

Passion fruit, guava and pineapple notes are juicy and friendly, with a pretty air of fresh-cut grass and sweet pea. Tightly focused and refreshing, with flavors lingering on the long finish.

88 Points

Whitehall Lane Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2006

A pretty herbal note of mint and cut grass give this freshness, with lime peel and fresh squeezed orange juice notes and a jazzy acidity. The melon and grapefruit nuances are perfumed.

88 Points

Girard Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2006

Citrus flavors take an herb and jalapeno detour, which adds to the complexity. Juicy and refreshing, with a grass and lime finish.

87 Points

Honig Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2006

Pear, peach and lemon-lime flavors mingle with roasted nut notes, herbal nuances and a straightforward acidity.

87 Points

Mason Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2005

Pungent, with gooseberry, grass, grapefruit and lime notes and a juicy acidity that really makes the flavors sing. Mango, guava and passion fruit notes crescendo on the finish.

87 Points

Pomelo Sauvignon Blanc California 2006

Pungent gooseberry, lime, green papaya and pear notes have zippy acidity, a fresh fragrance and a juicy finish.

87 Points

Silverado Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley Miller Ranch 2005

This is smoky-reminiscent of tobacco spiciness- with vibrant acidity and juicy lemon-lime flavors. Has good intensity and lots of personality, with refreshing acidity.

87 Points

Domaine Serene Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Jerusalem Hill Vineyard 2004

Ripe and round, with toasty currant and blueberry flavors, finishing with a dried fruit note. Has density. Needs time.

89 Points