

**Marqués De Cáceres Rioja Gaudium Reserva 2004 – Spain - \$82**

This red is broad and generous in texture, but rather austere in flavour, with currant, raisin, sanguine and smoke flavours that turn slightly bitter on the finish. This isn't a cuddly wine, but has authority. Decant. Drink now through 2016. 300 cases imported.

**91 points – Wine Spectator, November 2010**

**Vinedos Y Bodegas Pablo Gran Viu Finca Santiago 2002 – Spain - \$86**

The 2002 Gran Viu Finca Santiago is a blend of 60% Garnacha, 20% Tempranillo, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Vidadillo, aged for a remarkable 40 months in used French oak, and bottled unfiltered. This purple-coloured beauty offers up a spectacular nose of toast, vanilla, spice box, mineral, kirsch, and liquorice, followed by a full-bodied wine in which the oak has been totally absorbed, and the ripe tannins and acidity beautifully balanced. There is opulence and terrific definition to this impressive effort. Allow another 4-6 years of bottle age and drink it for 15+ years thereafter. Kudos to the Pablo family!

**94 points – Jay Miller, The Wine Advocate, February 2007**

**Bodegas del Rosario 3000 Anos 2006 – Spain - \$71**

Unable to find any information on this wine

**Quinta do Passadouro Reserve Port 2007 – Portugal - \$70**

The opaque purple-coloured 2007 Quinta do Passadouro Vintage Port displays notes of olives and other savoury components as well as licorice and blackberry in its enticing perfume. On the palate it has plenty of round, succulent fruit, good depth and concentration, and enough structure to evolve for 6-8 years. It will reach its peak earlier than most of its colleagues but will still offer pleasing drinking through 2022 if not longer.

**89 points – Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate - February 2010**

**Franco Boasso Barolo Margheria 2005 – Piedmont, Italy - \$56**

Barolo Margheria '05 exudes rich, evolved impressions of cinchona, tobacco and gentian wafting over dense berry fruit, then opens huge and succulent. It displays only a touch of dryness from superbly crafted tannins, and faultless progression fuels a long finish, truly worthy of Three Glasses.

**3 Glasses (out of 3) - Gambero Rosso Italian Wines, 2010**

**Palazzo Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2004 – Tuscany, Italy - \$89**

The 2004 Brunello di Montalcino Riserva is quite possibly the finest wine I have tasted from Il Palazzone. The fruit is rich, round and caressing, all qualities that carry through to the round, creamy finish. Red cherries, spices and subtle oak add layers of complexity on the close. This is essentially a fruit-driven, open style of Brunello. The wine is firing on all cylinders today and should drink beautifully

for a number of years. The Riserva is made from vineyards in Montalcino and Castelnuovo dell'Abate. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2022.

**92+ points – Antonio Galloni, eRobertParker - The Wine Advocate, April 2010**

**Agricola Querciabella 2008 Batar Toscana IGT - \$80 – Tuscany, Italy**

The 2008 Batar is rather pointed and focused in this vintage, which also happens to be one of the most elegant I can remember. There is wonderful purity and energy in the ripe peach fruit with subtle undertones of flowers, minerals and French oak that add complexity. The oak seems dialed down in 2008 and what comes through is the exceptional beauty of fruit planted on these high-altitude hillside vineyards. Batar is 50% Pinot Blanc and 50% Chardonnay aged in French oak barrels, 50% new. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2018.

Querciabella has been on a roll over the last few years. I can't say enough good things about these wines, all of which merit your serious consideration.

Querciabella doesn't make a big deal about the fact that their vineyards are now biodynamically farmed, but then again they don't have to?the wines speak for themselves.

**91 points - Antonio Galloni, eRobertParker - The Wine Advocate, October 2010**

**Domaine Robert Chevillon Nuits St. Georges les Chaignots Premiere Cru 2005 – Burgandy, France - \$84**

The Chevillon 2005 Nuits-St.-Georges Les Chaignots boasts a gorgeous aroma of ripe blackberry and red currant with piquant notes of walnut oil, and marrowy meatiness resembling reduced, faintly caramelized pan juices. In the mouth, it displays amazing depth of meat and mineral elements along with persistently tart, juicy and vivid blackberry and red currant. Herbal and fruit pit notes lend a medicinal aspect to the flavours – and who wouldn't want this prescription?! The counterpoint of creaminess of texture with persistent brightness, and of meaty depth with high-toned inner-mouth perfume is striking, and the finish – showcasing ultra-fine tannins – welds together fruit, meat, and mineral with perfect clarity and seamlessness.

If further proof were needed that the Chevillons are in a class by themselves among the major Nuits-St.-Georges landholders, they certainly delivered it this year. Like so many other vintners, they reported backing off on pigeage this year – and heaven knows, the resultant wines don't lack for concentration. Their Bourgogne Passetoutgrain, Bourgogne, and Nuits-St.-Georges Les Perrieres had all just been sulfured and filtered, so Bertrand Chevillon declined to show them. He was as yet noncommittal, however, about when the other wines would be

bottled, although this would probably continue through Spring, and be accompanied by the estate's usual light filtration.

**92-93 points – David Schildknecht, eRobert Parker - The Wine Advocate, April 2007**

**Robert Chevillon Nuits St George "Les Cailles" 2008 – Burgandy, France - \$99**

Deep and bright red. Super ripe, complex nose melds berries, violet, damp earth and a whiff of balsamic vinegar. Wonderfully silky and suave on entry, then spicy and pure in the middle, with a very fresh black cherry flavour dominating underlying earth and floral notes. This spreads out impressively on the back end, with broad tannins saturating the palate.

**91-94 points – Steven Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, Mar/April 2010**

**Domaine Huet Vouvray 2008 Le Clos du Bourg Moëlleux 1ère Trie - \$68.00 - France**

Light gold. An exotically perfumed bouquet shows passion fruit, mango, poached pear, honey and chamomile qualities, with a lashing of baking spices. Sappy, palate-staining orchard and pit fruit flavors are given a bitter edge by a hint of citrus pith, which adds back end cut. Very rich but surprisingly taut, with strong closing thrust and lingering spiciness. This is less forthcoming than the Le Mont version.

**93(+?) points – Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, May/June 2010**

**Robert Denogent 2008 Pouilly Fuisse La Croix, France, Burgandy - \$50**

The wood is slightly more evident but it still remains well within the bounds of the reasonable, which I define as a level which allows for the clear expression of the underlying fruit. The cool, elegant and admirably pure citrus and white orchard fruit aromas marry into layered, long and refined flavours where there is firm but almost invisible acidity supporting the admirably persistent finish. I very much like this as there is an almost delicate quality to the finish. A wine of finesse.

**92 points – Burghound.com, October 2010**

**John Duval Wines 2007 Entity Shiraz – Australia - \$58**

Inky ruby. Dark berries, iron, Asian spices and cracked pepper on the nose. Silky in texture, offering sweet blackcurrant and blueberry flavours and supple tannins. Turns livelier with air, taking a turn to zestier red fruits while retaining power. Strikingly pure and juicy, with excellent finishing clarity and a strong echo of raspberry fruit.”

**93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, Jul/Aug 2009**

**Chateau Teyssier 2007 Le Dome Saint Emilion Grand Cru – Bordeaux, France - \$185**

Full, intense colour, wonderful expression of Cabernet Franc, still quite shut in and brooding, but wonderful fragrance, quite lush on the palate, combines true ripeness with the liveliness of the vintage, great purity and perfect balance. Drink 2012-20.

**5 Stars – Decanter Magazine, April 2007**

A blend of 73% Cabernet Franc with a whopping 20% pressed wine. Deep black/purple hue. The nose is very closed at the moment with some pure plum-scented, boysenberry fruit. It probably does not have the complexity of the previous two vintages but it has good definition. The palate is full-bodied with vibrant, black fruits, well-integrated vanilla new oak, quite masculine and rather impenetrable at this nascent stage but a little dry on the finish.

**90-92 points – Neil Martins, eRoberParker - The Wine Advocate, April 2008**

**Clos du Val Stags Leap 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon – California - \$81**

Winemaker Tasting Notes

The Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon, Clos Du Vals flagship estate wine, has a deep purple hue that darkens to a black core. Black fruit with dried herbs, spice and a hint of game pervade the nose. On the palate, the wine explodes with rich, mouth-coating flavours of intense fruit. This full bodied Cabernet Sauvignon has a solid middle, velvety tannins and a long finish. It is built to age and can be cellared for at least 10-15 years.

This young wine will benefit from several years in the cellar, but if you drink it now, decant it for a few hours before serving. That will at least give the tannins some chance to breathe and soften, revealing the complex flavours of currants, blackberries, cassis, olive tapenade and sweet oak.

**89 points – Wine Enthusiast, June 2008**

**Markus Molitor 2008 Riesling Auslese Mosel Erdener Treppchen, Germany - \$60**

A brilliant version, with haunting aromas and flavours of slate, apple and peach, with herbs and celery root accents in the background. This is silky and seamless, from the start to its long, long finish. Drink now through 2030. 200 cases made.

**95 points – Wine Spectator – April 30, 2010**

**Saintsbury Stanley Ranch 2007 Pinot Noir – California - \$59**

This wine is from Carneros fruit and bottled at 14%. A restrained but elegant nose of layered red pinot fruit, earth, herb and a hint of minerality gives way to pure, detailed and attractively textured flavours that are on the lighter side but carry fine flavour authority on the balanced, lingering and solidly complex finish. Lovely.

**90 points – Burghound.com, October 2009**

Supple, elegant and stylish, showing rich blackberry and blueberry fruit, with pretty loamy, earthy shadings. Gains traction and depth, ending with firm tannins and a pleasing mineral edge. Drink now through 2013.

**92 points – Wine Spectator, August 2009**

**Chateau Prieure Lichine 2005 – Bordeaux, France - \$97**

Bright ruby-red. Cassis, bitter chocolate, nutty oak and a whiff of sweet butter on the nose. Fat, sweet and fairly full-bodied, with mocha and smoke notes and a suggestion of lees (consultant Stephane Derenoncourt does a lot of work with the lees and minimal racking here). At once fruity and solid, finishing with ripe, granular tannins.

**90 points – Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, May/June 2008**

**Chateau Bourgneuf-Vayron Pomerol 2005 – Bordeaux, France - \$94**

Very pretty aromas of blackberry, with hints of Indian spices and liquorice, follow through to a full body, with velvety tannins and a fruity aftertaste. Has lots of green olive, dark olive and plum on the finish. Very balanced. Best after 2014.

**91 points – Wine Spectator, March 2008**

Good medium, bright red. Restrained aromas of medicinal cherry, leather and liquorice. Sweet and fairly deep, with brooding, slightly coarse flavours of dark raspberry and blueberry. Finishes with dusty, broad tannins and a slight greenness.

**87 points – Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, May/Jun 2008**

**Champagne Deutz Rose NV, France, \$98**

This elegant rosé mixes mouth-watering acidity with appealing flavours of violet, lilac, ripe cherry and cassis. Aromatic and lightly spiced, displaying fine length and texture, with a hint of graphite on the finish. Drink now through 2014. 300 cases imported.

**90 points – Wine Spectator, November 2010**

Pale orange-pink. Low-key, mineral-laced citrus and strawberry aromas, with notes of honeysuckle and baking spices. Light-bodied and precise citrus flavours are given depth by tarragon and pear skin notes, with a candied rose quality lending an exotic touch. In a graceful, precise style, with very good finishing clarity and spicy persistence.

**91 points – Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, Dec 2010**

**Twomey 2006 Merlot – California - \$65**

Good deep red-ruby. Black fruits, licorice and menthol on the brooding, rather inexpressive nose. Juicy, fruit-driven and bright but with only moderate depth and flesh. Quite primary but it comes across as a bit stunted, with the tannins currently cutting off the fruit. Winemaker Baron described 2006 as a difficult vintage for merlot owing to the July heatwave, which resulted in an uneven veraison "The challenge was to get enough maturity without exaggerated alcohol," he explained. Incidentally, the 2005 merlot, which I rated 89 last fall, merited a solid 90 points in March, as some intriguing minerality was emerging,

and the wine was offering a bit more sweetness and spine than my earlier sample.

**87-89 points – Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar, May/June 2009**

**William Fèvre 2008 Chablis Grand Cru Bougros Côte Bouguerots, Burgandy, France - \$82**

An exceptionally elegant high-toned and strikingly layered nose of oyster shell, mineral reduction and perfumed cool green fruit is extremely seductive and serves as a fascinating introduction to the concentrated, serious and powerful yet refined flavours that ooze a fine minerality on the mouth coating and hugely long finish. This is blessed with buckets of sap that completely buffer the firm acid spine. This is a flat out great effort that is indisputably a "wow" wine.

**94 points – Burghound.com, October 2010**

**Santa Ema Icon ‘Catalina’ 2006 – Chile - \$58**

A deep, bright red color, this Icon wine is classic and elegant with aromas of red fruits, prunes, and cherries that blend with notes of tobacco and vanilla that lend great complexity. On the palate, the Catalina is intense and well-structured with ripe tannins. It is a mouth-filling wine with tremendous fruit expression that is reflected in an ample and long finish.

The flagship 2006 Catalina is composed of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Carmenere, and 7% Cabernet Franc aged for 14 months in new French oak. It delivers an expressive perfume of pain grille, pencil lead, mineral, blackcurrant, and blackberry. Round, ripe, and plush on the palate, it has excellent grip, savoury flavours, and a long, fruit-filled finish. Its drinking window will be open from 2013 to 2026.

**92 points – Jay Miller, eRobertParker - The Wine Advocate, June 2009**

**Kuentz Bas 2007 Peferseigberg Gewurztraminer, France, Alsace, \$60**

Colour is full and bright yellow. Aromas of mirabelle, clove and cured meat. Thicker on entry than the Collection, then an exhilarating shock to the palate in the middle, with racy riesling-like acidity (eight grams) giving grip and verve to the multifaceted, ripe but slightly tart flavours of orange marmalade, pineapple, passion fruit, spices, flowers and honey. The combination of grass and fresh acidity here is utterly compelling, although Tottoli notes that there's only a small amount of botrytis here. A powerful and very pure expression of gewürztraminer fruit has superb thrust and length. This fermented for a long time and went through malolactic fermentation in May of this year. A knockout in the making.

**92-94 points – Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar, Nov/Dec 2008**

**Craggy Range 2007 Le Beaux Cailloux – New Zeland - \$62**

“100% Chardonnay with complex aromatics of peach and citrus flavours. The fermentation and ageing in oak add a pleasant creaminess and toasted characters. The wine's rich texture and flavour are balanced by the ripe fruit and smooth finish, which also boast good stony minerality.”

**5 Stars – Decanter Magazine, December 2007**

**Zenato 2005 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico - \$59.00 – Veneto, Italy**

Pretty aromas of boysenberry and sliced plum lead to a full body, with unctuous ripe fruit. Round and ready. Drink now. 1,000 cases imported.

**90 points – Wine Spectator, July 2010**

Zenato's 2005 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico is a rich, powerful wine. Not for the timid, this massively constituted Amarone offers up sweet red cherries, leather, tobacco, tar and spices, all of which flow through to the long finish. Despite the wine's impressive concentration, a measure of elegance seems missing in this vintage. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2021.

**89 points - Antonio Galloni, eRobertParker - The Wine Advocate, October 2009**

**La Brancaia 2007 Il Blu - \$78.50 – Tuscany, Italy**

The estate's 2007 Il Blu is a dark sweeping Tuscan red graced with exquisite dark black cherries, new leather, licorice, spices and minerals. The 2007 comes across as one of the more open vintages of Il Blu in recent memory. Some of the structure of the superb 2006 is missing, but the 2007 more than compensates with its seductive fruit and opulent, polished finish. Il Blu is Sangiovese and Merlot with a dash of Cabernet Sauvignon that spent 20 months in French oak. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

**94 points - Antonio Galloni, eRobertParker - The Wine Advocate, October 2010**

**Domaine Grand Veneur Chateauneuf-du-Pape Les Origines 2006 – Rhone Valley, France - \$67**

A candidate for wine of the vintage is Grand Veneur's 2006 Chateauneuf du Pape Les Origines. A dense plum/purple color is followed by an intoxicatingly heady perfume of ground pepper, spice box, garrigue, meat juices, and copious quantities of red and black fruits. In the mouth, it exhibits superb texture, silky tannins, and a long, full-bodied, powerful finish with no hard edges. Consume it over the next 10-15 years.

This estate, owned by the Jaume family, has been on fire over the last decade. The wines are made in a polished, civilized, modern style, but they do not lack Provencal or Chateauneuf du Pape typicity. In 2006, they added a third cuvee of Chateauneuf du Pape, an old vine cuvee that was mostly all Grenache in 2006, but a different blend in 2007. The real bargain among the Chateauneuf du Papes is their traditional offering. Over the last 4-5 years, Grand Veneur has produced a bevy of terrific Cotes du Rhones, and the following two cuvees are indicative of what they are capable of achieving.

**94 points – Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, Oct 2008**

**Paitin Sori Barbaresco 2005 – Piedmont, Italy - \$50**

Dense and concentrated, with lots of berries and cherry, with a cut wood note. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a mouth-puckering finish. Needs lots of time in the bottle to come around, but should be really outstanding in the end. Best after 2013. 2,000 cases made.

**93 points – Wine Spectator, Dec 2008**

**André Clouet Grand Cru 1911 NV, France, \$108**

The NV Brut Grand Cru Classe 1911 is best described as a multi-vintage wine, composed of 50% 1996 and 25% each 1995 and 1997. I have had the 1911 at least four times over the last few months and never been anything less than deeply impressed. It is a richly-textured, expansive Champagne, the 1911 bursts from the glass with expressive layers of perfumed Pinot fruit. The wine possesses stunning depth, clarity and precision in an utterly engaging style, with never-ending waves of fruit that caress the palate from start to finish. Precise chalky notes frame a sublime finish. Simply put this is remarkable juice, and one of the best relative values readers will find in Champagne. The 1911 is 100% Pinot Noir made from various lieu-dits in Bouzy. Disgorged: September 7, 2009. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2019.

André Clouet is based in Bouzy, a village where Pinot Noir speaks with great eloquence, as is evident in these superb, pedigreed Champagnes.

**94 points – Antonio Galloni, eRobertParker - The Wine Advocate, Dec 2009**