



MARTIGNETTI Wine Review

Prices quoted reflect the deepest quantity discount published pricing as of date of publication, and are subject to change. All items subject to availability. For detailed information, please view the Beverage Journal or sign-up for the Martignetti Companies on-line ordering site*

Connoisseur's Guide

August 2005

ITEM

- 28364 2002 DIAMOND CREEK GRAVELLY MEADOW CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA**
From its very deep, convincingly Cabernet aromas to its substantial, insistently fruity flavors, this outstanding wine exhibits a compelling sense of layered richness with creamy oak, caramel, loamy earth and glimmers of dried herbs appended to its deep and succulent themes of ripe currants. For all of its very impressive richness and its initially outgoing manner, however, it sports a streak of youthfully tough astringency at the finish, and we suspect that it will show its full potential only after some six to ten years have passed. **THREE STARS. SCORE 95**
- 28360 2002 DIAMOND CREEK VOLCANIC HILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA**
If slightly chocolately and a touch riper in overall character than either of its two siblings, this big, mouthfilling working still has more than enough fruit going for it, and its slightly stark tannins are countered by an unmistakable sense of incipient suppleness. Like its mates, it is not one for near-term drinking, and there is no question that its insistent themes of concentrated currants will carry it through to a tasty maturity after its youthful toughness has been tamed by seven or eight years of time in the cellar. **SCORE 92**
- 28358 2002 DUCKHORN CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA**
Very much adhering to the fully extracted style we have come to expect from Duckhorn, this outgoing bottling sports very well concentrated black cherry and curranty fruit scents as well as a full range of loamy, caramelly, creamy and somewhat juicy notes. It is full on the palate and a bit brusque in tannin while never losing sight of central fruit, and while it will not disappoint when partnered with a hunk of roasted meat, it needs a bit of bottle age to lose its tougher aspects. **SCORE 88**
- 26510 2002 EHLERS ESTATE 1886 ST. HELENA CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA**
This is a certain youthful restraint about both the aromas and flavors of this carefully constructed offering, yet it shows a good sense of fundamental Cabernet fruit from start to finish while teasing with touches of sweet oak, caramel and loamy spice. It is fully ripened without the least suggestion of excess, and its overall impressions of proportion and polish and its fine line of integrated tannins make three to five years of improvement a close to certain bet. **SCORE 91**



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- 34305 2002 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAG'S LEAP DISTRICT, NAPA**
Solidly varietal from its deep, slightly brooding black fruit nose to its fleshy, well stuffed flavors of currants, cherries and black loam, this full sized Cabernet veers to ripeness at the eleventh hour and a slight tag end of heat peeks through at the finish. **SCORE 90**

Best Buys in the Market

- 652240 2003 RODNEY STRONG CHARDONNAY, SONOMA COUNTY**
A rounded and well fruited effort that is similarly in wide distribution.
- 231351 2004 HOGUE PINOT GRIGIO, COLUMBIA VALLEY**
A flat out steal for the money.

Connoisseur's Guide

July 2005

- 261811 2002 BISHOP'S PEAK SYRAH, EDNA VALLEY**
Produced by Talley Winery. A giant step up for this second label from Talley, this Syrah, is focused on on the variety's gamy, spicy side and succeeds. It is full in body and softish on the palate with ripe, slightly stolid yet focused flavors and will be liked by those who favor wines that are open and youthfully accessible in style. **GOOD VALUE. SCORE 86**
- 264581 2002 NEYER'S SYRAH CUVÉE D'HONNEUR, NAPA**
Expansive, complex, stunning aromas filled with an exciting mix of ripe berries, clove, smoke, game and even a hint of pastrami separate this wine from the crowd, and its mouthfilling, dense and enveloping flavors are of a magnitude that suggest a touch of syrupy concentration. Yet, the wine displays all the balance that it needs and its long, admittedly slightly hot finish has both the fruit and depth for cellar aging of a half dozen years at the very least. **SCORE 92**



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Saveur

August-September 2005

ITEM

33021 2002 CHATEAU DE BEAUCASTEL CHATEANEUF-DU-PAPE BLANC

From one of the appellation's most respected estates. Redolent of hay, flowers, and yellow squash. Full and honeyed on the palate, with hints of tasted nuts over persistent mineral character; full bodied and lively. Very fine. **FROM SAVEUR CELLAR TASTING NOTES**

Wine Spectator

August 22, 2005

Wine of the Week

233611 2004 HEDGES CMS WHITE, COLUMBIA VALLEY

Lively and generous. Fruit centered and appealing for its juicy flavors, brimming with pear, grapefruit and a touch of fig as the finish sails on and on. Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Marsanne. Drink now. **SCORE 89**

Wine Enthusiast

September 2005

39712 2000 MASTROBERARDINO RADICI TAURASI

A bottle to save for a special, home cooked dinner. The nose has black cherry, dried fruit, spice, cinnamon and intense mineral notes typical of Campanian wines. The tannins are present but softened beautifully with age. Zesty and crisp on the finish. **CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 91**

39700 2004 MASTROBERARDINO RADICI FIANO DI AVELLINO

A wonderful expression of one of Campania's most consistent varieties. Aged four months in oak; acacia, toasted almond and Golden Delicious apples round off a well balanced and crisp feel in the mouth. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 90**



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Wine Enthusiast

September 2005

- ITEM #**
- 262361 2002 SHAFER RELENTLESS, NAPA**
Epitomizes the rich, extracted style of Napa Syrah, cramming jammy blackberries onto a large, sturdy structure, framed by considerable toasty oak. Yet despite the concentration, it doesn't lack for complexity; there are hints of coffee, chocolate, meat and leather to be sniffed out, and these should become even more notable after cellaring. Drink 2008-2015, maybe beyond. **CELLAR SELECTION.**
SCORE 91
- 35073 2004 MASI MASIANCO, DELLE VENEZIE**
A happy marriage between two white grapes from a winery known for its deep, rich reds. Pinot Grigio adds cut grass and zest and the slightly over ripened Veruzzo gives structure and smoothness. **BEST BUY. SCORE 89**
- 261811 2002 BISHOP'S PEAK SYRAH, EDNA VALLEY**
An offshoot of the Talley winery, Bishop's Peak wines typically represent fine value, and this Syrah is no exception. Charred meat, marinade and coffee mark the nose, while the flavors are on the meaty, savory side but feature just enough lush blackberry fruit to carry them. Ready to drink now. **BEST BUY. SCORE 89**