



MARTIGNETTI Wine Review

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International Wine Cellar

September - October 2005

ITEM

- 29305 2003 DOMAINE LEFLAIVE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET COMBETTES**
Pale medium yellow. Subdued but pure aromas of peach, lemon, flowers and spicy oak. Soft, rich and fresh, with less exotic flavors and less obvious alcohol than the foregoing samples. This finishes with excellent length. **SCORE 90**
- 29298 2003 DOMAINE LEFLAIVE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET PUCELLES**
Pale yellowish in color. Reticent aromas of orange oil and vanillin oak. Quite dry and reserved, with a fine-grained texture and notes of peach and flowers. This vineyard produces wine with delicate aromas and is always among the most affected by the bottling. **SCORE 90**
- 48201 2004 KUMEU RIVER SAUVIGNON BLANC, MARLBOROUGH**
High-toned aromas of citrus skin, pineapple, apple, smoky pepper and spices, with suggestions of exotic fruits. Intensely flavored, shapely Sauvignon with ripe peach and pear notes and lovely inner-mouth verve. Finishes crisp, long and highly aromatic. A terrific, fruit-driven example of Sauvignon Blanc. **SCORE 90**
- 36250 2002 PEGASUS BAY PINOT NOIR, WAIPARA**
Medium red. High-toned aromas of raspberry and resinous oak. Juicy and penetrating, with a primary raw berry character and complicating notes of spices and minerals. Finishes with fine tannins. This could be mistaken for a wine from the Cote de Beaune. **SCORE 89**
- 36252 2004 MARQUES DE CACERES RIOJA BLANCO**
Pure, soil-inflected aromas of lemon, minerals and flowers. Juicy, brisk and dry, with understated lemon and grapefruit flavors complicated by stony and salty traces and perked up by some CO2. Finishes bracing and persistent. Great value. **SCORE 88**

Connoisseur's Guide

November 2005

- 262361 2002 SHAFER VINEYARD SYRAH RELENTLESS**
80% Syrah, 20% Petite Sirah. If ever a name was well-chosen, "Relentless" fits this utterly bombastic wine to a "tee". There is no pretense to polish or concessions to finesse here, but there are few, if any, wines in this issue that can measure up in terms of sheer richness and size. We will concede that it may be a bit overdone and may be seen in some eyes as too much of a good thing, but its extravagant fruit, its very complex combination of coffee, chocolate, and sweet spice, and its remarkable strength and stamina add up to a delicious, head-turning effort that will develop famously for years. **SCORE 94**

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Wine Enthusiast

November 1, 2005

ITEM

- 28523 2003 WILLIAMS SELYEM PINOT NOIR, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY**
This Pinot is so addictively delicious. It's a big wine, in color and even some tannins, with juicy cherry, plum and cola flavors, but somehow manages to maintain elegance and delicacy. What a finish. It goes on for a full minute. **SCORE 92**
- 39656 2003 CASA LAPOSTOLLE CUVÉE ALEXANDRE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, COLCHAGUA VALLEY**
As always, this wine exhibits power and intensity, with leather, earth and beefy dark fruit making for an alluring bouquet. Round and ripe in the mouth, with big-time cherry and chocolate accents. A wine with true start power, and the lasting notes of smoke and charcoal are the real deal. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 91**
- 654072 2001 RODNEY STRONG ALDEN VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ALEXANDER VALLEY**
From a vineyard way high in the Mayacamas Mountains above Alexander Valley, this Cab has massive, palate-numbing tannins. But it's also humongous in blackberries and cherries, and is balanced. There's no reason it shouldn't do fabulous things in the cellar. Drink after 2008. **CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 91**
- 28278 2004 FROG'S LEAP SAUVIGNON BLANC, RUTHERFORD**
Grabs your interest for its intense varietal character and overall balance and harmony. Zesty lemondrop, gooseberry, fig and vanilla flavors dominate, leading to a dry finish that's rich in acids. Has the weight of a Chardonnay. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 90**
- 28298 2003 FROG'S LEAP ZINFANDEL, NAPA VALLEY**
What a good job Frog's Leap has done in crafting a Zin with all the balance and harmony of a fine Cabernet, yet with Zin's distinctive personality. Wild, briary flavors of blueberries and black raspberries drink spicy and rich in this dry, addictive wine. **SCORE 91**
- 28743 2001 HESS COLLECTION CABERNET SAUVIGNON, MOUNT VEEDER**
Very, very tannic and closed now, which isn't surprising given its mountain appellation, this young Cab needs time in the cellar. But it should develop well. It's balanced, and there's a core of sweet blackberry and cherry fruit that should emerge by 2010. **CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 90**
- 28520 2003 WILLIAMS SELYEM PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COUNTY**
Although the immediate impact of this wine is obvious in the soft silk and satin mouthfeel and cherry, cola, mocha and spice flavors, it's not a simple wine. The palate understands the complexity, and wants more..and more..and more. **SCORE 90**
- 652240 2003 RODNEY STRONG CHARDONNAY, SONOMA COUNTY**
Here's a fine, flavorful Chard. It's got jazzy flavors of white peaches, pineapples, vanilla custard, buttered toast and Asian spices, wrapped in a rich, creamy texture. **SCORE 89**

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Wine Enthusiast

November 1, 2005

ITEM

- 39643 2003 CASA LAPOSTOLLE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RAPEL VALLEY**
Intense and saturated, with dark aromas of pencil lead, tree bark, cola and black fruits. In the mouth, it's full-force Cabernet. The blackberry and black cherry flavors are pure and satisfying, while the finish offers smoke, chocolate and coffee. This wine features ripeness and an overall quality rarely achieved by others in the price range. **BEST BUY. SCORE 90**
- 25490 2001 OPUS ONE RED WINE, NAPA VALLEY**
Starts with tons of rich new oak in the aroma, showing the most inviting notes of cedar, cigar box and pencil lead that segue to the remarkable fruit. That attack is powerful, with a punch of cassis spreading broadly and deeply across the palate. With its sturdy, clean tannins, this beautiful wine displays classic power, elegance and balance. **CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 95**
- 28931 2001 PARADIGM CABERNET SAUVIGNON, OAKVILLE**
Made by Heidi Barrett, a gracefully soft, impressively balanced wine, with ripe, almost sweet cassis, cherry and cocoa flavors. Sure is easy to drink, but also has the structural harmony to hang in there for up to 10 years. **SCORE 91**
- 28376 2003 VINE CLIFF CHARDONNAY, CARNEROS**
Hits the jackpot with incredibly intense swirls of pineapple, mango, orange blossom, butterscotch, lemon custard, vanilla and spice flavors that come together in a rich, creamy drink. Fabulous intensity and length to this completely satisfying Chardonnay. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 94**
- 46735 1998 FABIANO I FONDATORI, AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO**
Good and rich, with bacon, lavender, leather and prune aromas. At all points this wine comes across well balanced, with ace-level tannins and just the right amount of acidity. Finishes long and leathery, with hints of chocolate and supple tannins. Features a splendid mix of finesse and power. **SCORE 91**
- 35030 1999 MASI CAMPOLONGO DI TORBE, AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO**
Dried fruit with a lot of woody, spicy aromas make for an alluring, somewhat rustic nose. The palate, however, delivers round fruit flavors touched up by plenty of sweet mocha and vanilla notes. Finely textured, with a long, supple finish. Almost a no-brainer as goes Amarone. **SCORE 91**
- 35031 1999 MASI SEREGO ALIGHIERI VAIO AMARON, AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA**
One whiff is all it takes to draw you in, and subsequent sniffs bring you back for more. Cherry liqueur, toasted wheat bread and leather are all convincing, attractive aromas, while the palate is snappy and racy, with no dead weight at all. This is a tight, structured wine with textbook flavors and a long, chocolate-laden finish. **SCORE 91**
- 263236 2003 BOGLE PETITE SIRAH**
This is the perfect inexpensive wine. It's full-bodied and brawny, and totally dry, with big tannins and fresh, deep flavors of blackberries, coffee, cocoa and dried leather. Shows real character, and will develop for a few years. **BEST BUY SCORE 87**

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Wine Spectator

October 15th, 2005

ITEM

- 34127 2001 STEFANO FARINA BAROLO**
This is very concentrated on the nose with plum, dried flowers and fruits. Full-bodied, with big velvety tannins and a deep palate of ripe and wild fruits. Port-like. Better than the 2000. Best after 2008. **SCORE 92**

Wine Spectator

November 15, 2005

- 28796 2002 JOSEPH PHELPS INSIGNIA, NAPA VALLEY**
One of California's top reds, rich and polished, with a concentrated mix of currant, blackberry and plum flavors **COLLECTIBLES. SCORE 96**
- 411391 2004 ALOIS LAGEDER PINOT BIANCO, ALTO ADIGE**
Medium-bodied white from Italy with lemon and mineral flavors and lots of lively acidity **BEST VALUES. SCORE 89**
- 412546 2004 ALOIS LAGEDER MOSCATO GIALLO ALTO ADIGE, VOGELMEIER**
Orange peel and spice with hints of lemon rind. Full-bodied, with loads of fruit and spices. Long rich finish. Why drink Chardonnay? Great with rich food. Drink now. **SCORE 90**
- 35774 2003 JERMANN VENEZIA-GIULIA DREAMS**
Lots of dried pineapple and lemon rind on the nose. Full-bodied, oily and fruity with lots of flavor. Long, with a caramel aftertaste. A very well-made Chardonnay. Drink now. **SCORE 91**
- 35803 2003 JERMANN VENEZIA-GIULIA VINTAGE TUNINA**
Aromas of Brazilian limes and fresh pineapple. Full-bodied, with lovely fruit, bright acidity and a long, mineral finish. Drink now. **SCORE 91**
- 34305 2002 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAG'S LEAP DISTRICT**
Tightly wound, with a rich array of currant, black cherry, anise and cedary oak flavors, sharply focused and supported by firm tannins and lively acidity. Most impressive though are the rich flavors that pour through on the finish. Best from 2006 to 2012. **SCORE 92**

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Wine Spectator

November 15th, 2005

- ITEM #**
- 28184 2002 SPOTTSWOODE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Bold, rich and concentrated, with a dense core of spicy currant, plum and blackberry with ripe, fleshy tannins that coat the mouth on the finish. Shows off hints of hint of nutmeg and earth on the finish. Best from 2007 through 2012. **SCORE 90**
- 28565 2003 OJAI CHARDONNAY BIEN NACIDO, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**
A ripe, vibrant, fruit-driven style with a mix of pear, green apple and a hint of quince and lemon-lime, which gives this a mouthwatering aftertaste. With little or no oak showing, this wine should age well over the next few years. Drink now through 2009. **SCORE 89**
- 262361 2002 SHAFER RELENTLESS, NAPA VALLEY**
A tremendous wine from the start, with captivating aromas of rich currant, beef, blackberry and wild berry. Tightly focused and impeccably balanced, this offers wonderful complexity and depth with a long, rich, intense finish. Syrah and Petite Sirah. Drink now through 2010. **SCORE 94**
- 28267 2001 DOLCE LATE HARVEST, NAPA VALLEY**
An exotic style, this dessert wine offers rich, elegant dried apricot, honey, spice and subtle tobacco and cedar notes, all of which add up to a wonderfully complex aftertaste that echoes toasted marshmallow flavors. Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now through 2012. **SCORE 92**
- 57997 NV PIPER HEIDSIECK BRUT CHAMPAGNE NV**
This is creamy, enticing and bursting with honey, vanilla, hints of coffee and candied berry flavors, all matched to a rich texture and firm structure. Fine length and harmony, with time to give. Drink now through 2010. **SCORE 91**
- 57968 NV PIPER HEIDSIECK BRUT ROSE CHAMPAGNE SAUVAGE NV**
A boldly flavored bubbly, displaying vivid cherry and berry flavors with a fine texture. Bracing acidity and a lingering finish of freshly crushed berries completes the presentation. Drink now. **SCORE 90**
- 39075 NV BRUNO PAILLARD BRUT ROSE CHAMPAGNE PREMIERE CUVEE NV**
A firmly structured Champagne with concentrated flavors of ginger, cherry and flowers. This has intensity and character, with a lingering finish. Drink now through 2007. **SCORE 89**
- 750700 NV CHARLES HEIDSIECK BRUT CHAMPAGNE RESERVE NV**
Seductive toast, coffee and hazelnut aromas and flavors highlight this medium-bodied, elegant bubbly. It's intense, yet graceful, with balance and a long, mineral-tinged aftertaste. Would serve well as an aperitif or with food. Drink now through 2010. **SCORE 92**

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Wine Spectator's Advance

November 30th, 2005

ITEM

- 750821 1995 CHARLES HEIDSIECK BRUT CHAMPAGNE, NAPA VALLEY**
Intense aromas and flavors of candied berry and citrus, coffee, pastry and ginger weave a tapestry through the supple mousse in this graceful Champagne. Supported by the lively structure, it's balanced and focused through the finish. Drink now through 2012. **HIGHLY RECOMMEND. SCORE 95**
- 39618 2004 CASA LAPOSTOLLE CUVÉE ALEXANDRE CHARDONNAY CASABLANCA VALLEY**
Focused and elegant, with deceptive length and power, this lets lush apple, pear, fig and toast notes stretch along languidly, yet never becomes tiring to drink. Well done. Drink now through 2006 **SMART BUY. SCORE 90**

