



MARTIGNETTI Wine Review

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Gambero Rosso

Number 46, 2006

ITEM #

WHOLESALE
PRICE

Best Wine Buys

39709	2004	MASTROBERARDINO SANNIO FALANGHINA, AVELLINO	\$128
<p>Many winemakers in the Irpinia zone have added a Falanghina to their line in recent years, more to enhance their commercial presence than because they can produce a good label. So we're grateful when we taste one like this 2004 bottle from Mastroberardino that doesn't limit itself to the flower-fruit-acidity paradigm, but also displays hints of sulphur and tones of wild flowers as well as full, ripe structures.</p>			

Connoisseur's Guide

April 2006

260030	2002	CLOS PEGASE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY	\$240
<p>Complex and nicely composed from beginning to end even if leaning hard in the direction of ripeness, this big but well-balanced wine offers up lots of black cherry fruit, a full measure of sweet oak and more than a hint of milk chocolate. It finishes firmly after a slight feint to softness on entry, and it buffers its alcohols with fruity extract to spare. Look for three or four years of improvement here. ONE STAR. SCORE 90</p>			
25097	2002	ROBERT MONDAVI CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE, NAPA VALLEY	6PK/\$500
<p>Here is a beautifully made wine that reminds that Cabernet is and should not be defined solely by ripeness and hard-charging oak, for, while it may have plenty of each, it shows exceptional balance and genuine finesse, and it is defined first and last by its precise and unwavering curranty fruit. It is wine with plenty of potential, its polish and poise notwithstanding, and it deserves at least a four or five years in the cellar in which to deepen and more fully unfold. TWO STARS. SCORE 91</p>			
29132	2002	NICKEL & NICKEL CABERNET SAUVIGNON SULLENGER VINEYARD, OAKVILLE	6PK/\$350
<p>One of five highly rated wines from the Nickel & Nickel stash, this one entertains with a full-on aroma of currants and red cherries all buttressed by caramel and vanilla bean oak. It is full yet supple at entry, and its light-medium tannins provide plenty of grip and more than a little astringency and pretty much demand a fair bit of cellaring. Still, the wine never loses sight of its central fruit and impresses us as one that will easily stand up to six or more years of bottle age. ONE STAR. SCORE 90</p>			

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ITEM #		WHOLESALE PRICE
29153	2002 NICKEL & NICKEL CABERNET SAUVIGNON BRANDING IRON, OAKVILLE Touches of chocolate boost the ripe black cherry fruit aromas at work in this full-bodied working, and the blend of compact, somewhat dry yet insistent fruit gives the wine more of a direct character than its mates. It is a steady performer, and despite its latter palate rush of tannin, it would seem to be one to drink sooner than later. ONE STAR. SCORE 89	6PK/\$350
29133	NICKEL & NICKEL CABERNET SAUVIGNON CARPENTER VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY This is attractive in its own right for its ripe cherry fruit tinged with the slightest note of dried herbs and its rich, milk chocolate overlay. It is fairly full in body and has a fleshy first impression at entry but soon gives way to a firmer, drier and ultimately slightly tart latter half and finish. Like its mates, it would seem to want a bit of bottle aging. ONE STAR. SCORE 88	6PK/\$350
27505	JOSEPH PHELPS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY From its very well-proportioned, handsomely defined aromas of ripe currants, balanced oak and subtle suggestions of chocolate to its tasty and solidly extracted flavors of cassis and sweet spice, this delicious wine is convincingly keyed on Cabernet Sauvignon varietal characteristics. It is moderately full in body and slightly supple in feel on the palate, and it is firmed by a solid measure of integral tannins. It warrants at least a few years of age and will reward as many as five to eight. ONE STAR. SCORE 89	\$380
263086	STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS CABERNET SAUVIGNON CASK 23, NAPA VALLEY The most complex of the Stag's Leap lot, this fascinating effort is simply brimming with ripe cherries and very rich oak and shows intriguing touches of leather, coffee, cocoa and caramel throughout its length. It is fairly full and broad on the palate with fine balance and a mannerly, well-polished feel, and, if a slight touch of last-minute tannin jumps up at its finish, there is no doubt that a few years in a bottle will smooth things out completely. TWO STARS. SCORE 92	6PK/\$750
265456	STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS CABERNET SAUVIGNON SLV, NAPA VALLEY A touch less herbal and a little richer in sweet oak spice than its sibling from the Fay Vineyard, this bottling shares a certain familial plumpness and palatal suppleness nonetheless. It juxtaposes lots of ripe cherries and deep, cassis-like fruit with elements of milk chocolate, vanilla and cream-sweetened coffee in its very long and nicely layered flavors. It is bound to tempt early drinking owing to its oblivious polish, but its stuffing and essential structure insure that it will hold up nicely for at least a half-dozen years. TWO STARS. SCORE 91	6PK/\$515

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ITEM #		WHOLESALE PRICE
265436	2002 STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS CABERNET SAUVIGNON FAY VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY With a wealth of rich, smoky, slightly herbal and somewhat coffee-like themes lending singular identity to both its complex aromas and layered flavors, this supple, medium-bodied effort is keyed more on sweet ripe cherries than classic cassis. It is easy on the palate and firmed by fine-grained tannins at the finish and suggests that optimal drinking should arrive in three to five years. ONE STAR. SCORE 89	6PK/\$375
265721	2002 STUHMULLER CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ALEXANDER VALLEY Ripe, incisively varietal and mixing richness with plenty of sweet, curranty fruit, this intriguing wine starts with outgoing aromas and follows with a supple, slightly fleshy but balanced quality at the front of the palate. It is wonderfully precise and long-lasting in its fruit flavors, and despite a momentary intrusion of youthful tannin, it is more open than not in construction. Enjoyable now, it can age for another few years. ONE STAR. SCORE 89	\$304
<i>Best Buys in the Market - One Star</i>		
641051	2003 ROBERT HALL MERLOT, PASO ROBLES Long on sweet, cherry-like fruit and filled out with creamy oak, this deserves a special search.	\$168

California Grapevine

April-May 2006

29004	2004 BELLE GLOS TAYLOR LANE VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST Medium ruby; attractive, spicy, sour cherry aroma with notes of clove, red licorice, and charred oak that developed with airing in the glass; medium-full to full body; rich, plush, cedary, black cherry fruit flavors with a rounded, velvety mouth feel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very enjoyable to drink now. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.	6PK/\$240
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California Grapevine

April-May 2006

ITEM #			WHOLESALE PRICE
29755	2004	BELLE GLOS PINOT NOIR LAS ALTURAS VINEYARD, SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS Medium to medium-dark ruby with purplish tinges; attractive, spicy, cranberry and black cherry fruit aroma with a prominent note of charred oak; full body; forward, very rich, textured, concentrated, cedary, toasty, dark berry fruit flavors that are highly extracted and appearing a bit ponderous; full tannin. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.	6PK/\$220
28065	2002	ALTAMURA CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY Medium-dark to dark purplish ruby; forward, intense, cedary, plummy, black currant and blackberry fruit aroma with a hint of dark chocolate; full body; big, highly extracted, rough, coarse, cedary, dark berry fruit flavors with a note of mocha; full tannin; rough, harsh finish; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing fruit though not strongly varietal. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.	\$560
28722	2003	CAYMUS VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON SPECIAL SELECTION, NAPA VALLEY Medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, ripe, plummy, cedary, spicy, dark currant and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of sweet oak and roasted coffee bean; full body; forward, rich, plush, textured, plummy, mouth-filling sweet berry fruit flavors with overtones of creamy oak; well balanced and structured for some bottle aging; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now, showing good depth and intensity of fruit, though deserving another five more years of bottle aging. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.	\$600
27505	2003	JOSEPH PHELPS VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY Medium-dark ruby; attractive, herbal, spicy, cedary, plummy, blackberry fruit aroma that developed with airing in the glass; full body; rich, textured, concentrated, red currant and cherry fruit flavors with hints of cinnamon and dark chocolate, and overtones of creamy oak; medium-full to full tannin; slightly hard on the finish; lingering aftertaste. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.	\$380
266061	2003	SHAFER CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY Medium-dark ruby; assertive, herbal, spicy, black fruit aroma with notes of leather and creamy oak; full body; big, rich, textured, cedary, concentrated, blackberry and black cherry fruit flavors with notes of black pepper and mocha; full tannin; chalky finish; lingering aftertaste. Needs some bottle aging. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.	\$504
233354	2005	ST. SUPERY SAUVIGNON BLANC, NAPA VALLEY Medium-light yellow color; attractive, floral, grassy, distinctively varietal aroma that continued to develop with airing in the glass; medium-full to full body; forward, rich, fleshy, melon and grapefruit flavors with a rounded mouth feel; well balanced; lingering aftertaste. Relatively grassy in style. VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.	375ML/\$80

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California Grapevine

April-May 2006

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| 48281 | 2005 | GIRARD SAUVIGNON BLANC, NAPA VALLEY
Light to medium-light yellow; attractive, floral, spicy, grassy, ripe melon and white peach aroma; medium-full body; moderately rich, citrus and honeydew melon with an appealing mouth feel and clean finish; lingering aftertaste. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. | \$128 |
| 28853 | 2003 | GIRARD PETITE SIRAH, NAPA VALLEY
Medium-dark purplish ruby; intense, briary, cedary, leathery, blackberry fruit aroma; full body; rich, plummy, ripe blackberry fruit aroma; tannin; harsh finish; lingering aftertaste. Needs bottle aging to help resolve the tannin. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. | \$184 |

Wine Enthusiast

June 2006

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| 43521 | 2000 | ROYAL TOKAJI ASZU 5 PUTTONYOS, TOKAJI
An amazing wine that is a benchmark for its class. Pure scents of dried apricot, citrus, jasmine and melon are coated with Asian spices, while the mouth is honeyed but nuanced, with flavors of dried spices, apricot marmalade and citrus fruits. What sets this wine apart is its mouthwatering acidity. A blend of grapes from multiple vineyards, this 26,000 case production wine is a steal at this price. EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 94 | 500ML/6PK/\$120 |
| 43513 | 1995 | ROYAL TOKAJI ASZU ESSENCIA, TOKAJI
The sweetest Aszu wine, with 217 grams per liter of sugar (only pure Essencia is sweeter). Honeyed nuts, brown sugar, orange blossom and chocolate aromas waft from the glass. Full and viscous in the mouth, this balanced wine, with a modest 8.5% alcohol, has beautiful flavors of toffee, caramel and orange tea. Finishes long and complex. SCORE 92 | 500ML/6PK/\$740 |
| 43519 | 1995 | ROYAL TOKAJI SZT. TAMAS ASZU 6 PUTTONYOS, TOKAJI
From a southwest slope facing the village of Mad, this sweet Tokaji is earthier than the Nyulaszo, but also has scents of brown sugar, clove and brown figs. Medium-bodied and complex in the mouth, with citrus, earth and honey flavors, the acidity gives good backing and a citric finish. SCORE 91 | 500ML/6PK/\$340 |

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ITEM #			WHOLESALE PRICE
10698	NV	LOUIS BOUILLOT PERLE D'AURE ROSE BRUT, CREMANT DE BOURGOGNE Made entirely from Pinot Noir from the heartland of Burgundy, this wine has an attractive light-pink color. The taste is very delicate-red currants and crisp raspberries, with just a touch of softness-but leaves a fresh, uplifting taste. SCORE 88	\$120
57654	NV	CANELLA PROSECCO DI CONEGLIANO, ITALY Floral, with dandelions, white roses and jasmine. There's also a bit of fruit in the form of white peach, honeydew melon and green apple. Tart, almost bitter, and very refreshing. BEST BUY. SCORE 89	\$128
27601	2004	PHILIP SHAW NO. 11 CHARDONNAY, ORANGE, AUSTRALIA Delicate and kind of ethereal at first, but seems to grow a spine the longer it sits in the glass. Aromas are of talc, vanilla and citrus; the palate feel reprises the dusty-talcy impression. A dry twist of lemon drop on the finish completes a very pretty picture. SCORE 90	6PK/\$120
28722	2003	CAYMUS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY This extraordinary wine possesses an enormous wealth of black cherry, blueberry, cassis and espresso flavors, wrapped in fine, well-toasted oak. Has that rare quality of elegance, in which all the parts work together in harmony. Thoroughly dry, it's marked by a firm, astringent tannic structure now, but is a certain cellar candidate. Should begin to blossom by 2008 and hold through 2015. CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 94	\$600
231791	2004	TALLEY ESTATE CHARDONNAY, ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY The combination of brisk acidity and perfectly ripened kiwi, tangerine and papaya fruit makes for one beautiful Chardonnay. Oak adds smoky, vanilla and buttered toast notes. The result is a captivating wine, rich and elegantly tailored. SCORE 91	\$240
57652	2001	BELLAVISTA GRAN CUVÉE BRUT, FRANCIACORTA Brilliantly luminous with generous and intense aromas of yellow rose, exotic fruit, almond and melted butter. The wine is creamy and smooth, with sharp points of acidity that keep the mouth lively. The overall effect is a carefully crafted balance between creaminess and crispness. SCORE 90	\$300
423440	NV	SEGURA VIUDAS BRUT RISERVA HEREDAD, CAVA Regal in presentation, with its faux-metal label and broad-based bottle. And in every edition it's one of Spain's more elegant, serious cavas. Look for slightly toasted, charcoal-based aromas backed by ripe apple and sweet citrus flavors. Very good feel and length. One of Spain's truly consistent high-end bubbliies. SCORE 89	\$160

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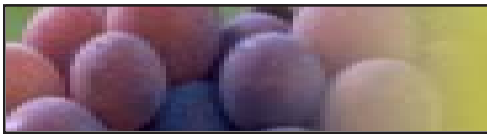
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Wine Spectator

June 15, 2006

ITEM #			WHOLESALE PRICE
48415	2004	ROSEMOUNT TRAMINER-RIESLING, SOUTH EASTERN, AUSTRALIA Soft and fragrant, a charming white blend brimming with rose petal, carnation and white peach flavors, finishing dry. BEST VALUE. SCORE 87	\$80
27604	2004	PHILIP SHAW SHIRAZ-VIOGNIER NO. 89, ORANGE, AUSTRALIA Bright, bordering on bracing, with juicy plum and spice aromas and flavors, not a big wine but immensely satisfying for its generous fruit, hinting at apricot as the finish lingers against superfine tannins. Drink now through 2012. SCORE 90	6PK/\$200
230471	2005	HOGUE FUME BLANC, COLUMBIA VALLEY Soft, fruity style has pretty pear and floral aromas and flavors, finishing with freshness. Drink now. SCORE 85	\$72
410096	2004	ALOIS LAGEDER PINOT BLANCO HABERLEHOF, ALTO ADIGE, ITALY Apple, mineral and light banana aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, with lots of fruit and a mineral, lively finish. This is always a big and powerful Pinot Bianco. Drink now. SCORE 89	6PK/\$76
231651	2003	CLOS PEGASE HOMMAGE CHARDONNAY MITSUKO'S VINEYARD, CARNEROS Classic toasty oak, roasted marshmallow style and very well done, with layers of ripe, creamy apricot, fig, pineapple, nutmeg and hazelnut flavors that unfold gracefully, especially given its depth and dimension. Drink now through 2009. SCORE 90	\$176
233721	2004	TALLEY CHARDONNAY OLIVER'S VINEYARD, EDNA VALLEY Spicy clove, cinnamon and butterscotch notes lead to a smooth, rich and creamy style Chardonnay that packs in lots of delicate flavors and retains an elegant mouthfeel. Drink now. SCORE 90	\$224
261096	2004	SEGHEISIO HOME RANCH ZINFANDEL, ALEXANDER VALLEY Excellent structure, tight, firm and spicy, with crushed cranberry, wild berry and blackberry fruit that's sleek and well-defined, supported by ripe, chewy tannins. Turns elegant, with a persistent aftertaste. Drink now through 2009. SCORE 90	6PK/\$148
235051	2004	DELILLE CHALEUR ESTATE WHITE, COLUMBIA VALLEY Bright and juicy, with a nice core of pineapple with touches of cream and hay, echoing an apricot and mineral note on the generous finish. Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. Drink now through 2008. SCORE 88	\$315



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May 31, 2006

ITEM #			WHOLESALE PRICE
261941	2002	HOGUE GENESIS MERLOT, COLUMBIA VALLEY Firm, with a supple core of currant and blueberry fruit that lingers attractively on a fine-grained finish that lasts beautifully. Needs time to soften. Best from 2007 through 2012. SMART BUY. SCORE 90	\$120
39615	2003	CASA LAPOSTOLLE CLOS APALTA, COLCHAGUA VALLEY, CHILE Loads of ripe fruit, with plum, blackberry and boysenberry flavors pumping through, backed by suave, mocha-infused toast, mineral and spice notes. Long, fleshy finish has some serious grip. Carmenerre and Merlot with Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2007 through 2012. SCORE 94	6PK/\$280
32914	2003	VINCENT GIRARDIN ECHEZEAUX, FRANCE A seductive, exotic red, bursting with wild berry, cassis and licorice notes. It's supple and seamless, with brightness and subtle tannins on the finish. Good freshness, though I would like just a little more grip. Drink now through 2020. SCORE 93	\$839
32889	2003	CHATEAU DE BEAUCASTEL CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE WHITE, FRANCE Exotically rich, with candied lemon peel, dried pineapple, mango and papaya flavors that glide effortlessly, followed by hints of cardamom, chamomile tea and macadamia nut. Long, creamy finish lets the flavors play out wonderfully. Drink now though 2007. SCORE 94	\$642
39703	2004	MASTROBERARDINO GRECO DI TUFO NOVASERRA, ITALY Smells like Riesling, with mineral, apple and pear notes that follow through to a full-bodied palate with bright acidity and a subtle aftertaste. Complex white. Drink now. SCORE 90	\$160

Spectator Selections - Highly Recommended

32891	2003	CHATEAU DE BEAUCASTEL, CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE Young and tight, with garrigue and roasted game aromas peeking out from a core of ripe black currant, plum and fig fruit. Lots of toast, tobacco and iron as well. The finish is well-endowed with tannins, but they are ripe and pure. Best from 2008 through 2025. SCORE 94	\$720
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