



# MARTIGNETTI Wine Review

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## Quarterly Review of Wines

Spring 2006

### ITEM #

**39662 2002 MARQUES DE CACERES RIOJA CRIANZA, RIOJA, SPAIN**  
Soft aroma of spice and fresh berry; nice silky texture, with more berry and oak notes; nicely balanced; elegant with fairly long finish. This should be your next everyday kind of wine.

**31465 2000 MARQUES DE CACERES RIOJA RESERVE, RIOJA, SPAIN**  
Black cherry aroma with gentle spice and oak tones. Touch of sweetness upfront, with ripe blackberry, chocolate and coffee nuances in mid-palate and finish. Some cherry in finish, which is engaging and long.

**31462 1995 MARQUES DE CACERES RIOJA GRAN RESERVA, RIOJA, SPAIN**  
A splendid wine, with deep ruby color. Nice roasted coffee feel, with plum flavors. Hint of olive oil in mid-palate. Tongue coating and nicely textured, soft with hint of sweetness in finish. Delicious!

### *Best of Best - Five Star California Syrah*

**262361 2002 SHAFER SYRAH RELENTLESS, NAPA VALLEY**  
Deep, pure, chewy, ultrarefined (as in "superbly well-balanced") blackberry and spice flavors. **CO-BEST OF SHOW.**

### *Best of Best - Five Star California Sauvignon Blancs*

**27007 2004 RUTHERFORD RANCH SAUVIGNON BLANC, NAPA VALLEY**  
Combines a rich, creamy, vanilla overlay with pert, zesty and most importantly long Granny Smith flavors. **BEST VALUE.**

**23446 2004 ST. SUPERY SAUVIGNON BLANC VIRTU, SONOMA COUNTY**  
Combines subtly knit apple and fennel flavors with a fresh, crisp, almondy finish.

### *Central Coast Standout*

*Morgan Winery produces stellar wines from Monterey and Santa Lucia Highlands*

**230701 2004 MORGAN SAUVIGNON BLANC, MONTEREY**  
Half barrel fermented in 12% new French oak that adds richness and character, emphasizing melon, apricot, white peach and sweet grass, without getting into the hay spectrum. Dan Lee is not interested in steely Sauvignon Blanc because he finds it thin and often too high in acid. At 15%, Semillon adds palate interest.

**MARTIGNETTI COMPANIES** Carolina Wine & Spirits · Silenus Wine Selections · Gilman Wine & Spirits

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### *The Wizard of Oz*

*Penfold's Peter Gago makes some of Australia's greatest wines*

- 80274 2002 PENFOLDS BIN 707 CABERNET SAUVIGNON KOONUNGA HILL, BAROSSA VALLEY**  
The 2002 is a 5-star vintage, so buy as much as you can. Inky, black color; anise, olive, and black current nuances in the aroma; intense, mildly tannic, with deep berry flavors. Big, assertive structure, with long-very long-finish. Drink some now and cellar a few bottles up to 2010 or more.
- 80311 2002 PENFOLDS YATTARNA CHARDONNAY, ADELAIDE HILLS, TUMBARUMBA**  
The color is unremarkable, but the aromas and flavors are not. Citrus (grapefruit and lemon), apple, gentle oak, with soft spice notes in the nose. The flavors are complex, with almonds, and rich pear and lemon notes; generous texture. Surprisingly big Chardonnay. Delicious.

## California Grapevine

February-March 2006

- 28179 2003 DUCKHORN VINEYARDS DECOY, NAPA VALLEY**  
Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, forward, plummy, slightly herbaceous, very ripe raspberry and black cherry aroma with hints of black olive, cedar, and vanilla; full body; forward, plush, plummy, blackberry and blueberry fruit flavors with a silky mouth feel, though lacking a bit in depth; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now though deserves several more years of bottle aging. Good value. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 87**
- 26502 2002 EHLERS ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON ST. HELENA, NAPA VALLEY**  
Medium to medium-dark ruby with purplish tinges; attractive, intense, spicy, red berry fruit aroma with notes of green olive and tobacco; full body; forward, rich, plush, plummy, concentrated, cedary, dark currant and black cherry fruit flavors with a note of cocoa; well balanced; full tannin; drying on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now and also has good aging potential. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 89**
- 48275 2003 GIRARD OLD VINE ZINFANDEL, NAPA VALLEY**  
Medium-dark ruby; peppery, cedary, raspberry fruit aroma with a hint of coffee and overtones of toasty oak; full body; rich, briary, mouth-filling; ripe blackberry fruit flavors; full tannin; tight, oaky finish; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 88**

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## California Grapevine

February-March 2006

### ITEM #

- 31866 2003 NEYERS PATO VINEYARD ZINFANDEL, CONTRA COAST COUNTY**  
Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, intense, herbal, spicy, briary, strawberry jam aroma with a floral note; full body; forward, rich, intense, textured, cedary, red berry fruit flavors with overtones of creamy oak; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows distinctive varietal character and is very enjoyable to drink now, though should continue to develop with another year or two of bottle aging. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 90**
- 264701 2004 SEGHE SIO ZINFANDEL, SONOMA COUNTY**  
Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, spicy, cedary, briary, red berry fruit aroma with oaky overtones; medium-full to full body; rich, plush, herbal, plummy, briary, berry fruit flavors with notes of tar and chocolate; well balanced; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy to drink now. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 89**
- 28172 2003 DUCKHORN VINEYARDS MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY**  
Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, intense, toasty, black cherry fruit aroma with notes of vanilla and green olive; full body; big, rich, concentrated, cedary, black cherry fruit flavors with good depth; well balanced and firmly structured; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now, though deserves several more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 89**
- 652441 2004 RODNEY STRONG CHARLOTTE'S HOME SAUVIGNON BLANC, SONOMA COUNTY**  
Light to medium-light yellow; attractive, floral, slightly grassy, elegant varietal aroma; medium-full to full body; forward, rich flavors with a pleasing mouth feel; well balanced; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 89**
- 235662 2004 KENDALL JACKSON GRAND RESERVE CHARDONNAY, MONTEREY-SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES**  
Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, toasty, green apple and tropical fruit aroma with a note of vanilla; medium-full body; plush, tangerine, green apple, and pineapple flavors with overtones of toasty oak; well balanced and structured; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 88**
- 232661 2004 STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS CHARDONNAY, NAPA VALLEY**  
Medium-light yellow color; attractive, floral, spicy, green apple aroma with a touch of citrus; medium-full body; crisp, lemony, green apple flavors; well balanced and structured; slightly tart finish; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 89**
- 231791 2004 TALLEY CHARDONNAY, ARROYO GRAND VALLEY**  
Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, buttery aroma with overtones of vanilla; full body; forward, rich, plush peach and apple flavors; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 88**



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## International Wine Cellar

March-April 2006

### ITEM #

- 31866 2003 DOMAINE DUJAC CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY LES GRUENCHERS, COTE DE NUITS**  
Good, bright, deep red. Candied strawberry, raspberry and mocha on the nose. Juicy, bright and fine grained, with cherry and raspberry fruit complicated by an herbal element. Boasts lovely sweetness but also very good lift. Finishes aromatic and long. Here's a fresh 2003 that should age well. **SCORE 90**
- 31859 2003 DOMAINE DUJAC CHAMBERTIN**  
Good, deep bright red-ruby color. Aromas of dark berries, underbrush, flowers and tobacco. Suave, concentrated and nicely delineated, with lovely acidity and finesse for the vintage. Finishes with substantial ripe tannins and very good length. **SCORE 90**
- 31869 2003 DOMAINE DUJAC CLOS SAINT-DENIS**  
Good full, deep red. Musky, decadent aromas of red fruits, flowers, truffle and sweet oak. Concentrated, superripe and broad, with atypical weight for this cuvee. Rather firm and unforthcoming today. Very horizontal on the finish, with fine tannins coating the palate. **SCORE 90**
- 31861 2003 DOMAINE DUJAC CLOS DE LA ROCHE**  
Medium bright, deep red. Highly nuanced nose combines red fruits, minerals and flowers. Silky-sweet, thick and sappy, with outstanding richness and volume; this has fruit of steel. A perfect example of a 2003 that's superripe without being cooked. One to buy and cellar. **SCORE 93**
- 39618 2004 CASA LAPOSTOLLE CHARDONNAY CUVEE ALEXANDRE, CHILE**  
Light gold. Ripe pear and apple aromas are accented by subtle, sexy oak and a hint of spearmint. Suave and velvety, showing ripe orchard fruit and baking spice flavors. An oak-influenced wine that has more than ample density of fruit to retain focus and balance, finishing fresh and long. **SCORE 89**
- 39054 2004 ERRAZURIZ LATE HARVEST SAUVIGNON BLANC, CHILE**  
Light gold. Very spicy, energetic aromas of tangy pear and apple tinged by a mineral element. Nery and fresh in the mouth, the orchard fruit tones taking on a more tropical note of mango. This has excellent lift on the tangy, spicy long finish. **GREAT VALUE. SCORE 89**
- 401686 2002 ALOIS LAGEDER CHARDONNAY LOWENGANG, ALTO ADIGE**  
Enticing aromas of vanilla, white flowers, pineapple and banana. Then rich and full without being clumsy. Avoids the candied, toffee quality of many overoaked chardonnays found around the world, Italy included. Consistently one of Italy's better chardonnays, atypically layered and unusually complex, even if it's not shy in its use of oak. That said, older vintages have shown that the oak integrates with the wine over time. **SCORE 89**

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- 35890**    **2003**    **PIEROPAN LA ROCCA SOAVE CLASSICO, ITALY**  
Floral aroma enlivened by pineapple, orange marmalade and mint. Rich and viscous, with citrus fruit, dried apricot and candied pineapple flavors complicated by oaky vanilla and nutmeg. Offers a lovely silky texture and refined tannins. A vibrant, long and important wine of real complexity. Another great vintage for La Rocca, and this release appears to be handling the barrique influence particularly well. **SCORE 90**
- 51000**    **2003**    **CASA DO SANTAR TINTO DOA, PORTUGAL**  
Wild and meaty aromas of ripe red and dark berries. Round and sweet, with supple raspberry flavor and notes of smoked meat, olive and cured tobacco. Finishes lush, round and ripe, with an almost sticky texture. **SCORE 89**

## Wine Spectator

March 31, 2006

- 31465**    **2000**    **MARQUES DE CACERES RIOJA RESERVA, SPAIN**  
Black cherry, tobacco and licorice flavors mingle in this firm red. The tannins are a bit obtrusive, but should balance with food. A solid wine with good typicity. Drink now through 2009. **SMART BUY. SCORE 88**
- 42570**    **2003**    **CHATEAU LASCOMBES MARGAUX, FRANCE**  
Aromas of blackberry and chocolate follow through to a full-bodied palate, with big velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Best after 2010. **SCORE 91**



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## Wine Enthusiast

April 2006

### ITEM #

- 28249 2002 ETUDE MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY**  
It's hard to imagine a more voluptuous wine, but it's also powerful and complex, offering up endlessly changing palate impressions. The primary flavor is ripe, juicy blackberries, while fine oak does it's thing. The tannins are wonderfully soft and refined. With no Cabernet Sauvignon, and just a little Cab Franc and Petit Verdot, this wine restores faith in Merlot as the seductive, sensual alternative to Cab. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 95**
- 235251 2003 KENDALL-JACKSON GRAND RESERVE MERLOT, SONOMA-NAPA VALLEY**  
A first-rate Merlot at a good price for the quality. Dry and complex, with a soft, velvety texture, this supple wine features blackberry, red cherry, cocoa and sweet dried herb flavors, finished with toasty oak. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 91**
- 235662 2004 KENDALL-JACKSON GRAND RESERVE CHARDONNAY, MONTEREY-SANTA BARBARA**  
A huge, complex wine that flatters the palate with enormously rich, layered flavors of lemongrass, vanilla custard and butterscotch flavors. Fortunately, there's crisp Central Coast acidity. **SCORE 90**
- 265456 2002 STAG'S LEAP CELLARS S.L.V. CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**  
Massive and tannic, and dry to the point of astringency, all this Cab needs is a decade or so to come around. The tannins are bigtime, locking the wine down, but there's a solid core of blackberry and cassis fruit. Once the wine has aged, the sweet fruit will emerge. Don't even think about it until 2010. **CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 91**
- 263086 2002 STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS FAY CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**  
The immediate impression of extreme youth and mandatory cellaring. Bluntly, this is not an easy wine to like now. It has a peppery edge, and the blackberry fruit is buried under tons of dark, brooding tannins. Best to age until at least 2009, but it should be worth the wait. **CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 90**
- 48462 2002 ROSEMOUNT ROXBURGH CHARDONNAY, HUNTER VALLEY**  
Rosemount's most famous Chard is a success again, with ample nut, vanilla bean, hickory, grilled meat and stone fruit flavors, coming to a lemony point on the finish. A flamboyant style of wine, its smokiness a fine complement to fresh-off-the-grill seafood. **SCORE 89**
- 48542 2002 GRANT BURGE CAMERON VALE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, BAROSSA**  
Has aromas of crisp fruit, cola and bramble. On the palate the wine's plum and earth flavors are more restrained than rambunctious. An elegant style with fine, tea-like tannins on the finish. **SCORE 88**



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- 29295 2003 OLIVER LEFLAIVE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET, FRANCE**  
Shows more acid and minerality than many 2003's. There's apple, pear and citrus, all wrapped around a mineral core, with hints of honey and anise on the finish. **SCORE 89**
- 740058 2003 TRINCHERO PETIT VERDOT, ST. HELENA**  
From a small vineyard at the winery, a fascinating wine of place. It's black as night, dry as dust and so tannic, it shuts down the palate. Chew on it, and you'll find deep, ripe, black raspberry flavors of great purity. It's worth cellaring this puppy for a good five years and possibly longer. **CELLAR SELECTION. SCORE 88**
- 265021 2003 DELILLE CELLARS D2 RED WINE, COLUMBIA VALLEY**  
The '03 vintage is a particularly good year for D2. The warm, ripe vintage means that this second wine of DeLille has unusual sweetness and richness across the palate. Toasty and laden with cherry/berry flavors, good weight and concentration, and enough stuffing to hang in there though a long satisfying finish. **SCORE 90**
- 264841 2003 HEDGES THREE VINEYARDS, RED MOUNTAIN**  
Concentrated and supple, this meaty and tannic blend of 56% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and a smattering of Cab Franc and Syrah comes from estate vineyards on Red Mountain. Broad-shouldered and powerful, it shows excellent cassis and red currant fruit and plenty of concentration. **SCORE 89**
- 263606 2002 HEDGES TWO VINEYARDS RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RED MOUNTAIN**  
This is a bit bigger than the "regular" 2003 Two Vineyards red wine, but doesn't have the same level of complexity and finesse. Ripe, tannic, hearty and a bit chalky, this 95% Cab Sauvignon gets the "reserve" tag due to its size rather than its subtlety. **SCORE 88**
- 266321 2003 WATERBROOK MERLOT, COLUMBIA VALLEY**  
Plump, soft and appealing with cherry tobacco scents and fruit flavors mixing berry, black cherry, plum and fig. Smoke, hints of herb and green tea-flavored tannins lead into a substantial finish with buttery cocoa, coffee and spice. **SCORE 88**
- 265091 2003 DELILLE CELLARS DOYENNE SYRAH, COLUMBIA VALLEY**  
Though still a dense, chalky mouthful of wine, the 2003 Doyenne is a bit more restrained than the over-the-top 2002. Dark streaks of smoke, earth, tar, roasted meat and barrel spices dominate; it takes a lot of breathing time to bring out the underlying fruit. **SCORE 90**



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- 423931 2000 POGGIO ANTICO ALTERO, BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO**  
Concentrated and superripe with blackberry, plum, cedar, clove and coffee over a long, spicy finish. Firm, velvety tannins and toasted notes render a modern yet age-worthy wine. **SCORE 90**