



MARTIGNETTI Wine Review

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Boston Globe

July 21, 2005

ITEM

39034 2002 JOLY LES CLOS SACRES SAVENNIERES

"Joly's 2002 Les Clos Sacres has the quintessential elements of great Savennieres, a unique combination of honeylike ripeness but without sweetness intertwined with an alluring minerality. It's a versatile wine for food because it complements a steamed lobster but can also stand up to tuna and wasabi". **A MATCH FOR EITHER BURGERS OR LOBSTERS.**

Decanter

July 2005

39505 NV HIDALGO LA GITANA MANZANILLA, SPAIN

Spain's largest selling manzanilla. A hint of fresh almonds, a touch of lor, a touch of nutty complexity and bone dry on the finish. **BEST WHITE WINES FOR SUMMER; EVERYDAY DRINKING. Four out of Five Stars.**

Wine Spectator

August 1, 2005

233261 2003 MORGAN CHARDONNAY, MONTEREY

A touch floral and leafy in the aroma, but very rich and complex on the palate, with concentrated apple, pear, melon, spice and citrus notes all adding to the wine's range of flavors, with the acidity giving the finish a lively edge. Drink now. **WINE OF THE WEEK. SCORE: 90**

Wine Spectator

August 8, 2005

80706 2003 FIFTH LEG RED, WESTERNAUSTRALIA

Smooth and generous, offering a cascade of sage-accented cherry and plum flavors, mingling black olive and herb notes as the fruit persists gracefully with a welcome sense of sweetness on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2008. **SCORE: 89**

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California Grapevine

June-July 2005

ITEM

235873 2002 KENDALL JACKSON GRAND RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA/MENDOCINO

Medium-dark ruby; attractive, fragrant, spicy, sweet black cherry and cassis aroma with hints of green olive, mint and tobacco; full body; moderately rich, textured, cedary, tarrish, ripe black cherry and black berry flavors with notes of mocha and green olive; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. **WINE OF THE WEEK. SCORE 89**

28779 2002 JOSEPH PHELPS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA

Medium-dark ruby; attractive, plummy, slightly herbaceous, cassis and sweet blackberry fruit aroma; full body; forward, rich, plummy, textured, cedary, dark currant and blackberry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; rough finish; lingering aftertaste. Needs a few more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 88**

260210 2001 ST. SUPERY LIMITED EDITION RUTHERFORD CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA

Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, forward, tarrish, spicy, cassis and black cherry fruit aroma that developed with airing in the glass to show notes of green olive and black pepper; full body; forward, rich, textured, cedary, elegant, herbal-toned, ripe black cherry fruit flavors with notes of green olive and vanilla; firmly structured; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Needs a good several more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 89**

654072 2001 RODNEY STRONG ALDEN VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ALEXANDER VALLEY

Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, rich, plummy, cedary, red currant and red berry fruit aroma with notes of dill and vanilla; full body; big, rich, cedary, highly extracted, berry fruit flavors with overtones of vanilla; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 87**

261081 2003 SEGHEISIO ZINFANDEL HOME RANCH, ALEXANDER VALLEY

Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, intense, peppery, jammy, ripe raspberry fruit aroma with overtones of creamy oak; full body; big, concentrated, jammy, red berry fruit flavors with overtones of sweet oak; full tannin; some bitterness on the finish; lingering aftertaste. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 90**

28564 2002 THE OJAI VINEYARD SYRAH, ROLL RANCH VINEYARD, CALIFORNIA

Dark, inky, purplish ruby; attractive, intense, spicy, jammy, peppery, earthy, very ripe blackberry fruit aroma with notes of tobacco, pencil shavings, and smoked meat; full body; big, forward, concentrated, layered, plummy, very ripe blackberry flavors; full tannin; hard edges on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Deserves several more years of bottle aging. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 90**

232261 2003 MORGAN CHARDONNAY, MONTEREY

Medium-light golden yellow; pleasant, earthy, herbal, pear and white peach aroma with a floral, mineral-like component; medium-full to full body; apple and ripe melon flavors with a silky mouth feel; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 88**

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California Grapevine

June-July 2005

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- 264936 2002 SAINTSBURY BROWN RANCH CHARDONNAY, CARNEROS**
Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, toasty, butter, baked apple pie aroma; medium-full to full body; fleshy, toasty, buttery, green apple flavors with a hard edge on the slightly harsh finish; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 87**
- 231751 2003 TALLEY VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY, ARROYO GRANDE**
Medium-light golden yellow; earthy, slightly candied, lemony, appley aroma with notes of vanilla; medium-full body; appely flavors with a slightly sweet component and a creamy mouth feel; slightly hard on the finish; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 86**

International Wine Cellar

July-August 2005

- 28094 2002 TABLAS CREEK COTES DE TABLAS RED, PASO ROBLES**
Explosive cherry liqueur and spice aromas, complicated by licorice and leather. Ripe but quite dry in the mouth; with aromatic fruit and spice flavors. Big and broad on the back end, finishing with spicy, peppery tannins and a saline note. **SCORE 89**
- 32969 2002 TABLAS CREEK ESPIRIT DE BEAUCASTEL RED, PASO ROBLES**
Moderately saturated, bright medium ruby. Aromas of black cherry, minerals, tree bark and forest floor. A step up in concentration from the Cotes de Tablas; sweet, dense and spicy, showcasing the very ripe, rich mourvedre. Finishes complex, dry and saline, with a savory persistence. **SCORE 91**
- 231766 2003 TALLEY VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY, ARROYO GRAND VALLEY**
Slightly less lucid pale yellow-straw color. Subdued but pure, fruit-driven aromas of pineapple, nectarine, peach and nutmeg. Then spicy and firm in the mouth, with a solid mineral spine and plenty of extract. A distinctly hillside style of chardonnay, finishing uncompromisingly dry and quite youthful. **SCORE 90**
- 266081 2003 TALLEY VINEYARDS PINOT NOIR, ARROYO GRAND VALLEY**
Red-ruby. Musky aromas of roasted red berries, coffee and earth, with floral and chocolatey suggestions. Sweet, supple and fat with fruit, with a fine-grained texture. Shows more structure and finishing grip than the Edna Valley offering. **SCORE 88**

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International Wine Cellar July-August 2005

- ITEM #**
- 28361 2002 DIAMOND CREEK VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON RED ROCK, NAPA**
Ruby-red. Inky aromas of raspberry and dark chocolate, lifted by a floral nuance. Juicy and penetrating, with varietally accurate flavors of currant, raspberry and mint. Rather austere, even a bit pinched toward the back, conveying an impression of brisk acidity, but there's a sweet core of fruit lurking. **SCORE 88**
- 28364 2002 DIAMOND CREEK VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON GRAVELLY MEADOW, NAPA**
Bright ruby-red. Cassis, spice cake and exotic dark chocolate on the nose, lifted by a floral perfume. Sweet, dense and youthfully unevolved, with classic cabernet flavors of dark berries, chocolate, licorice, leather and flowers. A very backward wine that's currently dominated by its rather powerful structure. Broadens out impressively on the back end, finishing quite long and leathery, with dusty tannins. Showed increasing sweetness of fruit with extended aeration. **SCORE 92**
- 28559 2003 OJAI VINEYARD SYRAH, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**
Medium ruby-red. Perfumed aromas of raspberry, flowers and chocolate, with an intriguing suggestion of dried herbs. Silky on entry, then sweet and aromatic in the middle, with juicy dark berry flavors lifted by a floral element. Not hugely complex, but the pliant berry fruit offers considerable appeal. **SCORE 89**
- 34500 2003 NINE STONES SHIRAZ, MCLAREN VALE**
Deep ruby. Superripe aromas of dark berries, plum, dates, molasses, clove and vanilla. Very thick and dense, offering flavors of dark berry preserves, cassis and licorice along with a strong vanilla note. Round and long on the finish, the sweet impression lingering. **SCORE 88**
- 34504 2003 NINE STONES SHIRAZ, BAROSSA**
Medium red. Smoky cherry, anise, clove and cured tobacco on the nose, with high-toned floral notes of violet and magnolia. Thick, round and supple, with sweet flavors of strawberry and raspberry preserves and an oily, clinging texture. Modern-style, up front, fruit-driven shiraz. **SCORE 88**
- 80314 2001 PENFOLDS ST. HENRI SHIRAZ, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
Medium-ruby. Fresh crushed blackcurrant, dark cherry, peat, cigar box, tar and a meaty suggestion of iron on the nose. Meaty and chewy, but also endowed with ripe, deep berry flavors and a vaguely licorice quality. Conveys an impression of strong extract. Finishes with sweet, subtly oaky suggestions of charred meat and anise. **SCORE 91**
- 80312 2002 PENFOLDS RWT SHIRAZ, BAROSSA**
Deep ruby. Ripe, fresh aromas of sweet cherry, blackcurrant and chocolate, accented by gentle, sexy (French) oak spice. Remarkably supple and elegant on the palate, with juicy, vibrant redcurrant and raspberry flavors, supported and enhanced by cinnamon, mace and candied violet. This has weight, structure and depth but it's also balanced, precise and suave, finishing on a bright, silky note, with polished, ripe tannins. **SCORE 93**



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- 52283 2003 PETER LEHMANN CLANCY'S, BAROSSA**
Medium red. Redcurrant, dark cherry, spice cake, cinnamon and mint aromas on the distinctly cool, restrained nose. A silky midweight with crisp, focused red berry flavors accented by Asian spices and dried herbs. Quite poised, even elegant on the finish, where some well-judged oak spice slowly appears. **SCORE 89**
- 80350 PENFOLD'S NV GRANDFATHER FINE OLD TAWNY PORT, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
Copper-tinged brown. Hallucinatory aromas of baked and candied apple, vanilla-poached pear, toffee, sultana raisin, singed orange peel, chestnut honey, marzipan, dried fig, dates, fruitcake and Cinnamon. Rich and fat on the palate, but remarkably shapely, showing a tangy note of blood orange to lift the supersweet, thick flavors of butter, caramel, cappuccino, vanilla sugar and Frangelico. The long, sappy, almost sticky finish is lifted by bright, tangy acids and a n insinuating note of five-spice powder. **SCORE 93**
- 48472 2001 ROSEMOUNT GSM, MCLAREN VALE**
Deep red. Very grenache on the nose (grenache comprises 48% of the blend), with scents of raspberry, wild strawberry, cracked pepper and wintermint. Juicy and supple in the mouth, with concentrated darker berry flavors and suggestions of vanilla, mocha and attractive oak spice. Long, silky and expansive on the finish. Delicious and approachable. **SCORE 90**
- 34089 2002 TORMARESCA BOCA DI LUPPO CASTEL DEL MONTE**
Deep, almost opaque ruby-red. Refined aromas of blueberry and blackberry jam, with hints of dark tobacco, coffee and spicy, balsamic oak. Offers good grip on entry, then real power in a velvety package. Coats the palate with lush, sweet fruit flavors. Finishes clean, complex and long, with sweet but assertive tannins and remarkable freshness. Probably the best aglianico made outside of Basilicata and Campania. **SCORE 93**

Wine Enthusiast

August 2005

- 39028 2004 SHAW AND SMITH SAUVIGNON BLANC**
This Sauvignon is as crisp and zesty as the Marlborough Sauvignons that are so in vogue right now, minus the lime green flavors. Fresh cut grass aromas usher in a bright, lemon centric palate. As dry as they come; very appealing, and very intense. Just delicious. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 90**
- 260166 2002 PONZI RESERVE CHARDONNAY, WILLAMETTE VALLEY**
Lots of wood flavor comes out, through the winery says just 20% was new. Barrel fermented, 100% malolactic, and weekly lees stirring give the wine plenty of lush texture in a semi tropical fruit context. **SCORE 90**

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- 48525 2002 GRANT BURGE THORN RIESLING, EDEN VALLEY**
*This excellent Riesling puts your salivary glands into overdrive: In the mouth it's refreshing, dry and puckery, with vibrant grapefruit, lemon and melon notes. Finishes long and mouthwatering, and smells much the way it tastes: sweet and sour citrus, with some mineral or dust. **SCORE 90***
- 28137 DELOACH OFS CHARDONNAY, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY**
*Smoke, pear and citrus notes dominate this wine's nose, while the palate features flavors that lean more toward apple and pineapple. It's not a heavy, thick California Chardonnay, but rather one that exhibits good balance and a sense of elegance to its lemon-curd finish. **SCORE 89***
- 654161 2001 RODNEY STRONG ALEXANDER'S CROWN CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ALEXANDER VALLEY**
*Drinkable now for its ripe, sweet tannins, balance and pretty flavors of black cherries and cocoa. Perfectly dry, and leaves a pleasantly spicy aftertaste. **SCORE 88***
- 48486 2001 ROSEMOUNT SHOW RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, COONAWARRA**
*Smells of black pepper, smoke and pastry crust. On the palate, yes it's woody-smoky rather than caramel sweet, though-with tight plum and briary earth underneath. This score reflects my expectation that more of the fruit will come to the fore in a couple of years; try again in 2006. **SCORE 90***
- 52285 1999 PETER LEHMANN EIGHT SONGS SHIRAZ, BAROSSA VALLEY**
*Delicious Barossa, through and through: Chewy tannins, rich plum and cassis flavors, and threads of soil, beef stock and even some amaretto. Finishes long and rich; drinking well now. **SCORE 90***
- 48529 2003 GRANT BURGE SUMMERS CHARDONNAY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
*Round and medium sized on the palate, this Chard shows flavorful citrus and tropical fruit flavors, bolstered by oak-derived smoke and nut notes. Dry and crisp on the finish; a very good wine, with all its elements in balance. **SCORE 89***
- 264921 2000 ST. SUPERY ELU MERITAGE, NAPA VALLEY**
*What a wonderful wine. St. Supery continues to show its mastery with Bordeaux varieties. Rich, polished and refined, with a good balance of ripe fruit and oak, and gentle but complex tannins. **SCORE 91***
- 263741 2003 ELK COVE WINDHILL PINOT NOIR, WILLAMETTE VALLEY**
*These vines are now in their 30th vintage (planted in 1974) and reward you with exceptionally sweet fruit flavors of black cherry and blackberry. Soft and tannic, its loose, easy flavors are a reflection of this extra warm vintage. **SCORE 90***