



MARTIGNETTI Wine Review

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International Wine Cellar

January-February 2006

ITEM

- 362631 2003 DOMAINE COURBIS SAINT-JOSEPH LES ROYES, NORTHERN RHONE**
Dense purple color. Intensely smoky, ripe aromas of creme de framboise, rose and violet, plus exotic oak spices. Creamy, even unctuous, with concentrated red berry flavors that build and gain in sweetness through the long, supple finish. **SCORE 91**
- 362701 2003 DOMAINE COURBIS CORNAS LA SABAROTTE, NORTHERN RHONE**
Bright purple. Rich, powerful velvety, with powerful but lush flavors of berries and plum, accented by exotic spices. The tannins are barely noticeable here and the fat, sweet finishing flavors really cling to the palate. **SCORE 93**
- 32891 2003 CHATEAU DE BEUCASTEL CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE, SOUTHERN RHONE**
Deep, dense red color. Vibrant aromas of aromas of cherry, overripe qualities; offers a silky, suave texture and wonderfully pure red berry, fresh plum, kirsch and fig flavors. **SCORE 93**
- 365861 2003 DOMAINE PAUL AUTARD CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE, SOUTHERN RHONE**
Dark red. Rich, powerful scents of dark cherry, roasted plum, cured meat and black tea. Firm, well-focused flavors of bitter cherry, licorice and grilled meat are nicely defined and bright. Long, fresh, lively on the finish, with dusky, fine tannins. **SCORE 90**
- 362581 2003 DOMAINE PAUL AUTARD CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE LA COTE RONDE, SOUTHERN RHONE**
Deep red. Spicy and energetic on the nose, with vibrant blackberry, cherry and sweet floral aromas. This displays more energy and vivacity than the 2004 version today. Sweet, velvety and round, with lush dark berry, mocha and coffee flavors that build and expand through the finish. A serious wine that should age extremely well. **SCORE 93**
- 367241 2003 CHATEAU DU TRIGNON GIGONDAS, SOUTHERN RHONE**
Pale red. Fragrant aromas of pepper-tinged bright red berries and fresh violet. On the palate, fresh acids frame the tangy redcurrant and wild strawberry fruit. Finishes exuberant, crisp and long. I could easily have been fooled into thinking this was a 2004. **SCORE 89**
- 369161 2003 DOMAINE DU VIEUX TELEGRAPHE CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE VIEUX MAS DE PAPES, SOUTHERN RHONE**
Deep red. Spicy, tangy and fresh, with aromas of raspberry preserves, wild strawberry, singed herbs and dried lavender. Quite fat and direct, with very sweet red berry and floral flavors accented by a suggestion of sweet mocha. Finishes broad and lush, very much in the style of the year. **SCORE 88**
- 260891 2004 MORGAN WINERY PINOT NOIR TWELVE CLONES SANTA LUCIA, HIGHLANDS**
Good bright red. Musky aromas of currant, chocolate, raspberry and espresso. This boasts lovely life in the mouth. Finishes with ripe tannins and lingering sweet oak. **SCORE 90**

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

975 University Avenue, Norwood, MA 02062 800-USA-WINE



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- 34308 2002 CLIFF LEDE VINEYARDS POETRY RED WINE, STAG'S LEAP DISTRICT**
Bright ruby-red. Black cherry, blackberry and minerals on the nose, with good floral lift. Supple and sappy in the mouth, with spicy blackberry flavor showing a good bit of oaky torrefaction. Sappy acids carry the wine's finish, which features sweet tannins. **SCORE 90**
- 28551 2002 DUNN VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Full ruby-red. Aromas of cassis, graphite, mint and chocolate, plus a whiff of band-aid. Then surprisingly pliant and creamy for a Dunn cabernet, with accessible flavors of currant, licorice and milk chocolate. Finishes with rather suave tannins and some juicy acidity. Suppler than it appeared to be last Spring when I tasted it from the barrel, and considerably softer than the Howell Mountain bottling. **SCORE 90**
- 28590 2002 DUNN VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON, HOWELL MOUNTAIN**
Bright, saturated ruby-red. Vibrant nose offers cassis, minerals, gunpowder and spices. Densely packed but nicely delineated, with primary, fruit-driven flavors of blackcurrant and spices. Very juicy and suave but still quite youthfully unevolved. Finishes with firm but smooth tannins. This calls for considerably more patience than the Napa Valley bottling, but even today there's a pleasing pliancy of texture. **SCORE 93**
- 48280 2002 GIRARD WINERY RED WINE, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium ruby. Superripe aromas of black raspberry and espresso. Ripe and lively on the palate, with flavors of roasted black raspberry, chocolate, herbs and sweet oak. Finishes with substantial dusty tannins and solid structure. **SCORE 88**
- 611861 2003 QUINTA DO NOVAL PORT, PORTUGAL**
Saturated deep ruby. Sweet aromas of black cherry, cassis, licorice, molasses, minerals, toffee and violet. Dense, sweet and pliant, with outstanding precision and depth of flavor. Like the Silval, this boasts a seductively creamy texture. The explosive, mounting finish offers a fine dusting of ripe, suave tannins and great breadth. Deceptively easy to taste today owing to its finesse, but it's hard to believe that it won't shut down in bottle in the near future. **SCORE 94**
- 41804 2003 WARRES & CA. WARRE'S PORT, PORTUGAL**
Deep ruby. Brooding aromas of blackberry, black cherry, licorice and bitter chocolate. Broad, dense and deep, with compelling purity, lift and sweetness and captivating flavors of black cherry and dark chocolate and minerals. Finishes with broad, sweet tannins and superb chewiness and length. Has the structure and depth for extended cellaring. **SCORE 92**

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International Wine Cellar

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ITEM

- 48275 2003 GIRARD WINERY OLD VINE ZINFANDEL, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium red. Aromas of currant, plum, spices and tobacco leaf. Round and supple, with claret-like flavors of currant, black cherry, tobacco, spices and herbs. A rather easygoing but juicy and firm-edged style of zinfandel with medium body and smooth tannins. Not at all fat or over the top. These vineyards are planted at an altitude of 2,750 feet, at the top of Mt. Veeder. **SCORE 88**
- 263791 2003 SAINTSBURY PINOT NOIR, CARNEROS**
Good full red. Raspberry, pomegranate, menthol and spicy oak on the nose. Richer, sweeter and more velvety than the Garnet, with deeper flavors of red fruits, minerals and spices. Sound ripe acidity gives this pinot a very pleasing balance. Finishes sweet and long, with lush, tannins. **SCORE 89**
- 262971 2003 SAINTSBURY PINOT NOIR RESERVE, CARNEROS**
Good, dark red. Restrained but pure nose of raspberry and sexy oak spices. Fat, rich, sweet and very ripe, with almost candied red fruit flavors and a creamy, mouthfilling texture. This, too, offers lovely balance. Finishes with dusty, oak-driven tannins and very good length. **SCORE 90**
- 262351 2003 SHAFER VINEYARDS MERLOT, NAPA VALLEY**
Good red-ruby color. Wild aromas of bitter cherry, spice cake, tobacco, meat and leather; conveys a strong impression of soil. Supple, pliant and deep; round but firm. This boasts a lovely sugar/acid balance and firm underlying structure. Intriguing hints of minerals, fresh herbs, leather, tobacco and mint on the long finish. Merlot with real personality, which is hard to find in California. **SCORE 90**
- 265436 2002 STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS CABERNET SAUVIGNON FAY, NAPA VALLEY**
Bright ruby-red. Dark raspberry, chocolatey oak and hints of celery and mint on the nose; offers more flavors of raspberry, spices and earth; grew more chocolaty as it opened in the glass. The firm finish features substantial but sweet tannins. **SCORE 89**
- 231791 2004 TALLEY VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY ESTATE, ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY**
Pure, scented nose offers peach, flowers and spicy oak, with melon and lime nuances emerging as the wine opens in the glass. Supple, spicy and dry, with fresh flavors of ripe peach, pineapple and nutmeg. Finishes with sneaky persistence. **SCORE 90**



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California Grapevine

December 2005-January 2006

ITEM

- 28920 2002 THE OJAI VINEYARD BIEN NACIDO PINOT NOIR, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**
Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, forward, intense, brambly, blackberry fruit aroma with a hint of graphite; full body; tight, herbal, tarrish, blackberry fruit flavors with a relatively silky mouth feel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 28148 2003 TABLAS CREEK VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, PASO ROBLES**
Medium-dark ruby; attractive, brambly, peppery, jammy, black raspberry and blackberry jam aroma with notes of anise and leather; full body; big, concentrated, highly extracted, spicy, ripe blackberry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Needs some bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 263981 2003 SEGHEISIO OLD VINE ZINFANDEL, SONOMA COUNTY**
Medium to medium-dark ruby with purplish tinges; attractive, spicy, blackberry fruit aroma that developed with airing; full body; forward, moderately rich, spicy, somewhat tight, black currant and dark berry fruit flavors with a hint of bitterness on the finish; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 266151 2003 SEGHEISIO CORTINA ZINFANDEL, DRY CREEK VALLEY**
Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, plummy, briary, spicy, red berry fruit aroma with oaky overtones; medium-full body; forward, rich, briary, black raspberry and sour cherry fruit flavors that are slightly tart and tight on the dry finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 744546 2003 MONTEVINA ZINFANDEL TERRA D'ORO HOME VINEYARD, AMADOR COUNTY**
Medium-light to medium-ruby color; attractive, floral, smoky, cedary, briary, plummy, red currant and ripe strawberry fruit aroma; full body; big, rich, jammy, chocolate, ripe dark fruit flavors with a smooth, creamy mouth-feel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows hints of a port-like character and some alcoholic heat on the finish. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 28935 2002 SILVERADO VINEYARDS SOLO STAGS LEAP CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium-dark ruby with purplish tinges; attractive, spicy, cassis and ripe blackberry fruit aroma with notes of green olive and vanilla; medium-full to full body; big, full, herbal, cedary, slightly stemmy, ripe blackberry fruit flavors with a velvety mouth feel and notes of green olive tobacco; full tannin; tight, harsh finish; lingering aftertaste. Needs several more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**



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California Grapevine

December 2005-January 2006

ITEM

- 28197 2002 DUCKHORN VINEYARDS ESTATE GROWN CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, complex, cedary, cassis and ripe black cherry fruit aroma with notes of toasted oak and mocha; full body; forward, rich, plush, textured, mouth filling, very ripe black cherry and blackberry fruit flavors; well balanced and structured; relatively soft, full tannin; lingering aftertastes. Shows some finesse and is very appealing to taste now, though deserving another two to four more years of bottle aging. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 28168 2002 DUCKHORN VINEYARDS MONITOR LEDGE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, cedary, plummy, spicy, cassis and ripe black cherry fruit aroma with hints of vanilla, coffee bean, and black pepper; full body; forward, rich, plummy, ripe blackberry and black cherry fruit flavors with a layer of creamy oak; well balanced and structured; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows a lot of forward fruit and some elegance, deserving of another three to five more years of bottle aging. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 28495 2002 FROG'S LEAP RUTHERFORD CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium-dark ruby; attractive, herbal, cassis and black cherry fruit aroma with notes of cinnamon, cola, and tobacco; medium-full to full body; tight, lean, tart, herbal, cedary, berry fruit flavors tending to be a bit dry on the finish; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows hints of complexity in the aroma. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 263086 2002 STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS CASK 23 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium-dark ruby color; attractive, intense, spicy, cedary, complex, cassis and black cherry fruit aroma that opened and developed with airing in the glass; full body; rich, textured, cedary, red berry and black cherry fruit flavors; well balanced and structured for bottle aging; full tannin; appearing a bit hard and harsh on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a good five more years of bottle aging. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 28844 2002 HESS COLLECTION MOUNT VEEDER CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium-dark ruby with a tinge of purple; attractive, forward, plummy, earthy, cedary, cassis and ripe black cherry fruit aroma with notes of pepper and charred oak; medium-full to full body; forward, plush, supple, dark berry fruit flavors with a touch of anise and dark chocolate; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now though deserves several more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**



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California Grapevine

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ITEM

- 265456 2002 STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS S.L.V. CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, spicy, cedary, cassis, dark plum, and black cherry fruit aroma with notes of tar and pencil lead; medium-full to full body; forward, herbal, cedary, black cherry fruit flavors with a touch of green live and a dark chocolate; firmly structured; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Can use a good three to five more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 265436 2002 STAG'S LEAP WINE CELLARS FAY CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY**
Medium to medium-dark ruby; forward, relatively herbal, ceary, dark cherry fruit aroma with notes of rhubarb, green olive, tobacco, leather, and a slight hint of mercaptan; medium-full to full body; forward, supple cedary, black cherry fruit flavors with a silky mouth feel; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now, though deserving several more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 28804 2003 MER SOLEIL CHARDONNAY, CENTRAL COAST**
Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, intense, oily, ripe Asian pear aroma with notes of pineapple and butterscotch; full body; rich, lush, ripe tropical fruit flavors with overtones of creamy oak and a smooth, rounded mouth feel; lingering aftertaste. Shows abundant, forward, very ripe fruit and is very appealing to drink now. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**
- 233501 2004 NEYERS CHARDONNAY, CARNEROS DISTRICT**
Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, buttery, apple and ripe tropical fruit aroma; full body; big, rich, lush, buttery, ripe tropical fruit flavors with a rounded mouth feel; slightly harsh, woody finish; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**



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Connoisseur's Guide

February 2006

ITEM

- 48281 2005 GIRARD SAUVIGNON BLANC, NAPA VALLEY**
Fresh, fruity and charged with plenty of unabashed grassiness in both its intense aromas and medium-deep flavors this bottling is refreshing and briskly balanced, but it is also nicely structured and does not succumb to stark acidity. Its cleansing style makes it a fine match for sundry shellfish and milder, white-fleshed fish dishes, yet it has sufficient fruity substance to succeed equally well with simple poultry. It is well worth its moderate price. **ONE STAR-GOOD VALUE. SCORE 89**
- 234436 2004 ST. SUPERY VIRTU SAUVIGNON BLANC, NAPA VALLEY**
55% Sauvignon Blanc; 45% Semillon. The broader, ripe-melon aspects of Semillon are comfortably combined with the lightly grassy themes of good Sauvignon Blanc, while a good dose of creamy oak lifts and enriches both the wine's composed aromas and deep, quietly complex flavors. Proportion is the watchword here, as bombast is avoided in favor of careful balance, and, if it will not be swept away by richer foods, it strikes us as a fine foil to lightly seasoned sea bass. **ONE STAR. SCORE 90**

Best Buys in the Market

- 266151 2003 SEGHEISIO CORTINA ZINFANDEL, CALIFORNIA**
Emphatically ripe, rich, big-bodied wine that scores high marks for its deep and beautifully defined fruit. **TWO STARS.**
- 252240 2004 RODNEY STRONG CHARDONNAY, SONOMA COUNTY**
Lively, nicely fruited. **ONE STAR.**



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Connoisseur's Guide

February 2006

ITEM

- 260891 2004 MORGAN TWELVE CLONES PINOT NOIR, SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS**
Nicely composed aromas of cherries, creamy oak and a wisp of an earthy, terroir-like note start this ripe, but balanced offering on the right foot, and its somewhat fleshy, lightly velvety feel on the palate extends its charms. Despite its evident ripeness, it is not high on power or bombast and will show well with simple roasts and chops. **ONE STAR. SCORE 89**
- 266086 2003 TALLEY ROSEMARY'S VINEYARD PINOT NOIR, ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY**
Hard-charging ripeness is met by deep, superbly defined fruit at every step of the way here, but the wine is never subtle or soft-spoken, neither does it go spinning off out of control at any point. It is fleshy in feel, very full-bodied and underlain by a bit of palpable heat, but its hold on varietal cherries is tenacious. It is an utterly compelling wine as Pinot Noirs go, and it requires mealtime matching with dishes of equal richness such as a standing prime rib or a crown roast of lamb with wild rice. **TWO STARS. SCORE 93**

Saveur

March 2006

Tasting Notes

- 28030 2004 SAKONNET VINEYARDS VIDAL BLANC, RHODE ISLAND**
Pale in color, with an exuberantly fruity bouquet. Lean and taut in the mouth, with a grapefruit note. Quite nice. **SCORE 91**

Saveur

February 2006

The Saveur 100

Our Favorite Restaurants, Food, Drink, People, Places & Things

No. 44

Michael Laroche releases Chablis in screw-cap bottles and not the ordinary stuff either, but his superlative grands and premiers crus. How cool, how easy.

- 35181 2004 LAROCHE CHABLIS, CHABLIS**
- 35182 2003 LAROCHE CHABLIS ST. MARTIN, CHABLIS**
- 35184 2003 LAROCHE CHABLIS FORCHAUM 1 ER CRU, CHABLIS**
- 35183 2003 LAROCHE VAILLONS 1 ER CRU, CHABLIS**

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Gambero Rosso

Issue # 45, 2006

ITEM

Tre Bicchieri 2006

- | | | |
|--------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| 33479 | 2001 | MARCARINI BAROLO BRUNATE, PIEDMONT |
| 39145 | 2001 | SANDRONE BAROLO CANNUBI BOSCHIS, PIEDMONT |
| 35908 | 2003 | PIEROPAN SOAVE CALVARINO, VENETO |
| 34487 | 1997 | QUINTARELLI AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA, VENETO |
| 420706 | 2001 | ISOLE E OLENA CEPPARELLO, TUSCANY |

Top Ten Barolos - No. 5

- | | | |
|-------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 39145 | 2001 | BAROLO CANNUBI BOSCHIS LUCIANO SANDRONE, BAROLO
Can a Barolo be as elegant as a great Burgundy? Tasting this Cannubi Boschis '01 made by Luciano Sandrone, the answer seems to be yes. The Nebbiolo grapes come from a vineyard known for wines like this. This version, however, reminds us of a fantastic '89 that had similar aromas of violets and licorice. On the palate, tannins are not excessive but render the wine velvety and easier to drink. A Barolo with a modest personality, it draws attention to itself for its perfect balance, the result, above all, of a harvest that will go down in history. |
|-------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The Wall Street Journal

February 17, 2006

Taking Sides in the Butter Battle, The Dow Jones "Buttery Chardonnay" Index

Responding to the request of readers, we asked wine shops to recommend "buttery American Chardonnays" to us. Then we bought almost all of their recommendations and tasted them in blind flights, separated by price. Some of these wineries don't like the description "buttery" at all, but, in any event, here are the wines we liked best.

- | | | |
|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28252 | 2004 | FAR NIENTE WINERY CHARDONNAY, NAPA VALLEY
Very Good. The 2002 was our favorite in a tasting of expensive Chardonnay last year, and this is another winner. Elegant and restrained, more austere than buttery. Beautiful. |
|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



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Wine Spectator

January 31-February 28, 2005

ITEM

Top Scores in 2005

28233	2002	ETUDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY SCORE 94
28689	2002	CAYMUS CABERNET SAUVIGNON SPECIAL SELECTION, NAPA VALLEY SCORE 93
28296	2002	FAR NIENTE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, OAKVILLE SCORE 93
262361	2002	SHAFER RELENTLESS SYRAH, NAPA VALLEY SCORE 94
28921	2002	OJAI SYRAH MELVILLE VINEYARDS SYRAH, SANTA RITA HILLS SCORE 93
28853	2003	GIRARD PETITE SIRAH, NAPA VALLEY SCORE 90
25039	2003	ROBERT MONDAVI SAUVIGNON BLANC, STAG'S LEAP DISTRICT SCORE 90
365861	2003	PAUL AUTARD CHATEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE CUVÉE LA COTE RONDE, RHONE SCORE 94
30672	2002	S.A. HUET VOUVRAY DEMI-SEC CLOS DU BOURG, LOIRE SCORE 93
750721	1985	CHARLES HEIDSIECK BRUT CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE, CHAMPAGNE SCORE 96

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Wine Spectator

January 31-February 28, 2005

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Top Scores in 2005 cont.

750821	1995	CHARLES HEIDSIECK BRUT CHAMPAGNE BLANC DES MILLENAIRES, CHAMPAGNE SCORE 95
750166	1995	SALMON BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS CHAMPAGNE LE MESNIL, CHAMPAGNE SCORE 96
39145	2001	LUCIANO SANDRONE BAROLO CANNUBI BOSCHIS, PIEDMONT SCORE 96
39614	2002	CASA LAPOSTOLLE CLOS APALTA COLCHAGUA, CHILE SCORE 93
39657	2003	CASA LAPOSTOLLE SYRAH RAPEL VALLEY CUVÉE ALEXANDRE, CHILE SCORE 91
34679	2003	ENGLEBRECHT-ELS ERNIE ELS STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA SCORE 92
34539	2002	ENGLEBRECHT-ELS ERNIE ELS STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA SCORE 91
34581	2001	RUST EN VREDE STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA SCORE 91



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- 52281** **2003** **PETER LEHMAN SHIRAZ BAROSSA, AUSTRALIA**
Ripe, supple and generous with its blueberry, plum and sweet spice aromas and flavors, finishing with refined tannins and a whiff of licorice. Drink now through 2011. **SCORE 89**
- 30675** **2004** **S.A. HUET VOUVRAY SEC CLOS DU BOURG, LOIRE**
A bit tight, with nervy acidity up front supporting green almond, ginger, humus and clove hints. Turns tender on the finish, with fine minerality stretching it out. Drink now through 2009. **SCORE 90**

Best Value

- 39649** **2002** **CASA LAPOSTOLLE SAUVIGNON BLANC RAPEL, CHILE**
Light in weight, but balanced, with crisp lemon zest, floral and straw notes that are textbook for the grape. Drink now. **SCORE 85**

Wine Spectator

January 31-February 28, 2005

Sips & Tips. Wine Sips - Best Buy of the Week

- 80202** **2002** **PENFOLDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON KOONUNGA HILL, SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIA**
Lithe and appealing for its gentleness, focusing its raspberry, currant and dusky herb flavors into a lovely beam that shines through a refined finish. Drink now through 2009. **SCORE 88**