



MARTIGNETTI Wine Review

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California Grapevine

August - September 2005

ITEM

- 28750 2003 BELLE GLOS TAYLOR LANE VINEYARDS PINOT NOIR, SONOMA COAST**
Medium ruby color; attractive, forward, intense, spicy, complex, cedary, wild berry and red cherry fruit aroma with hints of cola and toasty oak; medium-full to full body; relatively big, forward, rich, plummy, concentrated, ripe cherry and berry fruit flavors with overtones of creamy oak and a velvety mouth feel; medium-full tannin; slightly harsh on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging for the fruit and oak to integrate. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 90**
- 266081 2003 TALLEY VINEYARDS PINOT NOIR, ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY**
Medium ruby; attractive, toasty, black cherry fruit aroma with notes of clove, violets, and charred oak; full body; big, rich, intense, rough, concentrated, cherry and blackberry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Rather oaky though shows good fruit intensity. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 87**
- 28220 2002 ETUDE HEIRLOOM PINOT NOIR, CARNEROS**
Medium-ruby color; attractive, tight, tarrish, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma that has developed depth and some complexity with airing in the glass; medium-full body; tight, lean, tarrish, herbal, cherry and black raspberry fruit flavors; well balanced and firmly structured; medium-full to full tannin; lean, slightly harsh finish; lingering aftertaste. Shows elegance and distinctive character. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 90**
- 27754 2002 WHITEHALL LANE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA**
Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, intense, complex, cedary, blackberry and black cherry fruit aroma with a note of black pepper and overtones of toasty oak; full body; big, forward, rich, textured, concentrated, cedary, black cherry and ripe currant flavors; full tannin; rough, cedary finish; lingering aftertaste. Rather herbal in style though showing some finesse and elegance. Needs several more years of bottle aging. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 87**
- 265641 2001 SILVER OAK CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ALEXANDER VALLEY**
Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, rich, spicy, toasty, plummy, cassis and ripe black cherry and loganberry fruit aroma with notes of dill, olive, sandalwood, and creamy oak; medium-full to full body; supple, rich, herbal, ripe blackberry fruit flavors with an appealing mouth feel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows prominent American oak with lots of forward fruit and is enjoyable to drink now. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 89**



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ITEM

- 231776 2003 TALLEY VINEYARDS ROSEMARY'S CHARDONNAY, ARROYO GRANDE VALLEY**
Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, intense, lemony, spiced apple aroma with notes of mineral and toasted hazelnut; full body; forward, rich, creamy, green apple flavors; well balanced and structured with firm acidity; lingering aftertaste. Shows some complexity. A relatively big wine deserving several more years of bottle aging to round out and reach its potential. **VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 92**
- 27780 2004 WHITEHALL LANE SAUVIGNON BLANC, NAPA**
Medium-light yellow; pleasant, floral, grassy, toasty, spicy, grapefruit and gooseberry aroma with touches of honeydew melon and vanilla; medium-full body; plush, supple, rounded, ripe peach and melon flavors; lingering aftertaste. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. SCORE 86**

Wine Enthusiast

October 2005

- 80312 2002 PENFOLDS RWT SHIRAZ, BAROSSA VALLEY**
Aromas of ripe, soft fruit and ink are compelling. On the palate, it's medium weight, with soft, wooly tannins, and fruit-sweet blackberry fruit in its center. Understated, but hedonistic. **SCORE 90**
- 654541 2000 RODNEY STRONG RESERVE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SONOMA COUNTY**
Considerably more Cabernet-oriented than Rodney Strong's 2000 Meritage, this wine shows pronounced cassis and black currant flavors, as well as some pretty powerful tannins. It's also very oaky. Seems best to let it mellow for a good five years. **SCORE 90**
- 740084 2002 TRINCHERO CHICKEN RANCH CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RUTHERFORD**
This lovely Cabernet shows well-defined black currant, olive and spice flavors, and has a good balance of acidity and grippy tannins. It's rich, dry and complex. The oak is pronounced, but perfectly balanced with the fruit. Really displays class and pedigree. **EDITOR'S CHOICE. SCORE 92**



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ITEM

- 48536 2002 GRANT BURGE FILSELL SHIRAZ, BAROSSA VALLEY**
So well done, from beginning to end. The nose offers a good balance of beef, cherry, plum and black cherry, plum and black pepper notes. On the palate, it's mouthwatering, medium sized and moderately oaked—that is, there's no caramel or toast in sight. Focused; flavors of black cherry, blackberry, eucalyptus and black pepper are mouthwatering, and the tannins smooth. **SCORE 91**
- 652470 2000 RODNEY STRONG SYMMETRY MERITAGE, ALEXANDER VALLEY**
Medium-light yellow; pleasant, floral, grassy, toasty, spicy, grapefruit and gooseberry aroma with touches of honeydew melon and vanilla; medium-full body; plush, supple, rounded, ripe peach and melon flavors; lingering aftertaste. **SCORE 91**
- 28989 2002 ROUND HILL MERLOT, CALIFORNIA**
Stands up to wines that cost much more. Yes, it's a bit sharp, but there's ripe black cherry and oak flavors, smooth tannins and some real finesse. **BEST BUY. SCORE 86**
- 34544 2002 BARNETT CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SPRING MOUNTAIN**
Here's a text book Napa Cab. It's concentrated in black currant flavors, with the best tannic structure money can buy. Soft and elegant in the mouth, with a long, elegant finish. **SCORE 91**
- 26511 2001 STUHMULLER VINEYARDS ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, ALEXANDER VALLEY**
This is a young, dynamic wine that's fancy enough to have with your best food. It shows well-ripened fruit flavors, and is very dry, with a good boost of acidity. Also has some pretty good tannins to cut through the beef. I think it's at its best now and for the next three years. **SCORE 90**
- 28771 2002 HESS COLLECTION MOUNTAIN CUVÉE, MOUNT VEEDER**
A successful wine that shows its mountain origins in the density and concentration of tannins and flavors, yet it's so soft, in the modern way, it's immediately drinkable. Dry, robust flavors of black cherries, chocolate and wild herbs. **SCORE 90**
- 232731 2003 SHAFER RED SHOULDER RANCH CHARDONNAY, CARNEROS**
No malolactic fermentation makes this wine very acidic in feeling, with a fresh, green apple crispness. The flavors veer towards apples, limes and Meyer lemons, with complexities of mango and apricot. It's a very intense wine, and a notably good one. One sip is not enough. A bottle may be. **SCORE 93**

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- 80274 2002 PENFOLDS BIN 707 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
The 2002 is a very interesting rendition of the 707. On the palate, juicy plums and berries are doused in Indian spices-curry and the whole lot. Roasted meat, pen ink and nut aromas complete an unusual, compelling, excellent package. **SCORE 90**
- 81004 2004 LITTLE PENGUIN CHARDONNAY, SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIA**
Blooms with vibrant peach and nectarine notes on the nose, which persist in the mouth. The palate also has a slightly honeyed, or gingery character. Soft and slightly sweet, and just the thing for your next big gig. **BEST BUY. SCORE 84**

Wine Spectator

October 15, 2005

- 35066 1999 MASI AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO MAZZANO**
Complex nose, with soft raisins, earth, dried herbs, Indian spices and chocolate. Full-bodied, with loads of spicy fruit coating the tannins and a very long, distinctive mineral finish. Powerful, but remains fresh. This is what Amarone is all about. Drink now, but will age very well. Fantastic. Best ever from Masi. Drink now. **SPECTATOR SELECTION. SCORE 95**
- 39657 2003 CASA LAPOSTOLLE SYRAH ALEXANDRE CUVÉE, CHILE**
Gorgeous nose of blackberry and plum pudding is followed by a rich chocolate, tar and fig-filled wine. The thickly layered finish shows cocoa powder and tobacco, but has length and fruit as well. Unabashedly modern style. Drink now through 2007. **SMART BUY. SCORE 91**
- 233611 2004 HEDGES CMS WHITE, COLUMBIA VALLEY**
Lively and generous. Fruit-centered and appealing for its juicy flavors, brimming with pear, grapefruit and a touch of fig as the finish sails on and on. Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Marsanne. Drink now. **BEST VALUE. SCORE 89**
- 39636 2003 BODEGAS TERRAZAS DE LOS ANDES CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVA**
Big, with flashy coconut and vanilla toast leading the way for ripe blackberry, fig and mocha flavors. Nearly heady, but with lost of suave, creamy fruit on the finish. Drink now through 2006. **SMART BUY. SCORE 90**
- 80020 2004 LINDEMANS BIN 50 SHIRAZ, SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIA**
Lithe, smooth and polished, with pretty blackberry and sweet leather flavors, finishing with a floral note. Drink now through 2008. **BEST VALUE. SCORE 86**
- 80274 2002 PENFOLDS BIN 707 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
Firm, focused and juicy, with an oaky frame around black olive, black cherry and a touch of pepper as the cedary finish sails on and on. Best from 2008 through 2017. **SCORE 91**

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Wine Spectator

October 15, 2005

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- 39651 2003 CASA LAPOSTOLLE CUVÉE ALEXANDRE MERLOT, COLCHAGUA VALLEY**
Ripe and smokey, with lots of plum and blackberry fruit supported by dark cocoa. Rich, fleshy finish. A sure crowd-pleaser. Drink now through 2006. **SCORE 90**
- 33362 2003 WEINBACH GEWURZTRAMINER GRAND CRU MAMBOURG CUVÉE LAURENCE, ALSACE**
Generous and forward, this offers honey, vanilla and spice notes matched to a lush, open texture. Good balance overall, with fine length. Enjoy it for its immediate appeal. Drink now. **SCORE 90**
- 335171 2003 ZIND-HUMBRECHT PINOT GRIS TURCKHEIM HEIMBOURG, ALSACE**
The rose color indicates the ripeness of this variety in 2003. Dry, with strawberry, peach and quince flavors and white pepper and mineral accents on the finish. Balanced and surprisingly deft given the color, this should match well with herb-roasted chicken. Drink now through 2010. **SCORE 90**
- 28194 2002 DUCKHORN ESTATE GROWN MERLOT, NAPA**
Generous in its delivery of supple currant, anise, earth and sage flavors. The texture is polished, with good richness and a long, focused finish that pulls it all together. Drink now through 2012. **SCORE 90**
- 260191 2002 LEONETTI CABERNET SAUVIGNON, WALLA WALLA VALLEY**
Dense, focused and ripe, a spicy mouthful of black currant and meaty flavors that last impressively on the well-formed finish. Oak is present but well-integrated. Needs lots of time to grow. Best from 2009 through 2017. **SCORE 92**

Connoisseur's Guide

September 2005

- 28244 2002 DUCKHORN VINEYARDS PARADUXX, NAPA**
72% Zinfandel; 25% Cabernet Sauvignon; 3% Merlot. Duckhorn rises to the top again with this Zinfandel-based blend. Its initial aromas focus on ripe, almost juicy berryish smells, but the deep notes of cassis and creamy oak are not far removed from center stage. Fairly full in the mouth in a way that says Zinfandel more than it says Cabernet, the wine firms up and gains a useful bit of muscle from tannins that reflect the latter variety and call for three to six years of cellaring. **SCORE 95, 3 PUFFS**
- 261081 2002 SEGHEISIO FAMILY VINEYARDS ZINFANDEL, HOME RANCH**
From its juicy, fruit-laden aromas to its dense flavors of berries, chocolate, dark earth and slate, this impressively filled Zinfandel hits the varietal mark smartly at every stop. If on the one hand open and accessible, it is also a carefully balanced wine, and its combination of structure, solidity and potency points the way to even better a few years hence. **SCORE 92**

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