

## The Classics Collection August 2007

### Tasting notes

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#### Classics Collection August 2007

### France Red Wines - August 2007

#### Bordeaux

#### CHÂTEAU CLERC MILON 2004

5<sup>e</sup> Cru, Pauillac

670174 (XD) 750 mL \$57

TASTING NOTE: This outstanding effort displays loads of cassis fruit interwoven with notions of espresso roast, white chocolate, and menthol. It possesses a terrific front end, good mid-section, and moderately high tannin in the finish. Approximately 15,000 cases were produced.

Anticipated maturity: 2012-2025. Score - **90**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), June 2007)

#### Château Gruaud Larose 2004

2<sup>e</sup> Cru, St.-Julien

663732 (XD) 750 mL \$69

TASTING NOTE: Plummy aromas, with leaf and tobacco undertones. Medium-bodied, with soft, silky tannins and a medium finish. Balanced and delightful already, yet needs a little more concentration to be outstanding. Best after 2010. Score - **89**. (James Suckling, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), March 31, 2007)

#### Château Lafon-Rochet 2004

4<sup>e</sup> Cru, St.-Estèphe

663617 (XD) 750 mL \$49

TASTING NOTE: Beautiful aromas of crushed berries and hints of spices. Medium- to full-bodied, with fine tannins and a fresh, clean finish. Long and caressing. Consistently very good quality. Best after 2010. Score - **88**. (James Suckling, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), March 31, 2007)

**Château Lagrange 2004**  
**3<sup>e</sup> Cru, St.-Julien**

**663773 (XD) 750 mL \$55**

TASTING NOTE: A dense ruby/purple color and a heady, vibrant, crunchy (what the French would call croquant) fruitiness (raspberries and cherries) along with spicy oak and herb notes emerge from this medium-bodied, moderately tannic 2004. Drink it over the next 12-14 years. Drink 2006-2020. Score - **88-90**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), June 2006)

**Château L'Eglise Clinet 2004**  
**Pomerol**

**664227 (XD) 750 mL \$135**

TASTING NOTE: The dense purple-hued 2004 L'Eglise Clinet exhibits classic truffle-infused black raspberry and cherry fruit, a hint of vanilla, a sweet, expansive attack and mid-palate, and a long, opulent, full-bodied, moderately tannic finish. This beauty should be long-lived. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2025. Score - **90-93**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), June 2006)

**Château Montrose 2004**  
**2<sup>e</sup> Cru, St.-Estèphe**

**669713 (XD) 750 mL \$99**

TASTING NOTE: Dark-colored, with beautiful spice, blackberry and licorice aromas. Full-bodied, round and velvety, with wonderful balance and a long, long finish. This is a Montrose that caresses your palate. Best after 2011. Score - **92**. (James Suckling, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), March 31, 2007)

**Château Pichon-Longueville-Baron 2004**  
**2<sup>e</sup> Cru, Pauillac**

**664441 (XD) 750 mL \$105**

TASTING NOTE: Lots of currant, licorice and light tar aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, yet refined and silky on the palate, with a lightly chewy finish. Needs time. Best after 2010. Score - **92**. (James Suckling, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), March 31, 2007)

## Château Rauzan-Ségla 2004

2<sup>e</sup> Cru, Margaux

**672105 (XD) 750 mL \$79**

TASTING NOTE: Very pretty aromas of blackberry and vanilla. Medium- to full-bodied, with silky tannins and a delightful finish. Not a big wine, but pretty and attractive. Hard not to drink now. Best after 2009. Score - **90**. (James Suckling, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), March 31, 2007)

## Château BEAU-SÉJOUR BECOT 2003

1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé (B), St.-Émilion

**591248 (XD) 750 mL \$99**

TASTING NOTE: From a 41-acre vineyard situated on St.-Emilion's limestone plateau, Beau-Sejour-Becot's blend can vary, but it is approximately 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc, and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. Production can be as low as 4,000+ cases (in a tiny vintage such as 2003), or as high as 7,000+ cases (in an abundant year such as 2004). The 2003, which reminds me of a 1990 Right Bank Bordeaux, tips the scales at 13.5% alcohol. Its dark plum/ruby/purple color is followed by a sweet nose of creosote, scorched earth, black cherries, currants, and pain grille. Deep, full-flavored, muscular, textured, and rich with light to moderate tannin in the finish, this lavishly rich, full-bodied effort requires 1-3 years of bottle age, and should drink well over the following 12-15. Drink 2007-2022. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), April 2006)

## Le Fer 2003

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru

**38190 (XD) 750 mL \$74**

TASTING NOTE: Plenty of blackberry and cherry character on the nose. Medium-bodied, with fine tannins and a chocolate, berry aftertaste with just a hint of wet earth. Nicely done for this estate. Best after 2007. Score - **88**. (James Suckling, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), Web Only 2006)

## **Château VRAY CROIX DE GAY 2003**

**Pomerol**

**592832 (XD) 750 mL \$89**

TASTING NOTE: Aromas of blackberry with hints of green olive, plum and flowers. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a medium finish. Subtle and refined. Best after 2008. Score - **88**. (James Suckling, *www.winespectator.com*, March 31, 2006)

## **Château Bourgneuf 2001**

**Pomerol**

**937409 (XD) 750 mL \$64**

TASTING NOTE: An up and coming property, as evidenced by recent vintages, the 2001 Bourgneuf Vayron exhibits more finesse and elegance than typical for this rustic offering. A deep ruby/purple color is followed by a pronounced spicy, fragrant nose of roasted meats, licorice, and sweet red as well as black fruits. With medium to full body, loads of flavor, and more sweet tannin and upfront charm than normal, it is reminiscent of a civilized, more supple style of the famed Chateau Le Gay. Drink 2004-2015. Score - **90**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, June 2004)

## **Château de Sales 2001**

**Pomerol**

**47415 (XD) 750 mL \$44**

TASTING NOTE: This property, the largest vineyard in Pomerol, has been coming on strong over recent vintages. Soft, caramel-infused cherry candy-like aromas jump from the glass of this dark ruby/purple-tinged, hedonistic 2001. Plush, with good expansiveness, sweetness, and a sexy, up-front, opulent personality, it is meant to be enjoyed over the next 7-8 years. Drink 2004-2012. Score - **87**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, June 2004)

## Château LÉOVILLE-BARTON 2001


2<sup>e</sup> Cru, St.-Julien

930313 (XD) 750 mL \$79

TASTING NOTE: Consistent from bottle (I tasted it three times), this is an outstanding offering, although not quite at the prodigious level of the 2000. Civilized and approachable for a young Leoville-Barton, it exhibits a saturated plum/purple color along with classic Bordelais aromas of damp earth, creme de cassis, smoke, vanillin, and tobacco. Medium to full-bodied and rich, with high but well-integrated tannin, and a long, 40+ second finish, it should turn out to be a brilliant effort, and one of the stars of the Medoc. However, patience is essential. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2020. Score - **92**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), June 2004)

## Château D'Arche 2000

2<sup>e</sup> Cru, Haut-Médoc, Cru Bourgeois Supérieur

38216 (XD) 750 mL \$59 

TASTING NOTE: Gorgeous aromas of crushed berries, spices and cherries. Medium-bodied, with a solid core of ripe fruit and silky tannins. Very long finish. Lovely. Best after 2005. Score - **89**. (James Suckling, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), March 31, 2003)

## CHÂTEAU HOSANNA 2000

Pomerol

41665 (XD) 750 mL \$319

TASTING NOTE: Dense ruby/purple, with a glorious nose of blackberries, cassis, white flowers, licorice, and a hint of sweet oak, this seamless wine is a classic example of purity and symmetry. Combining power with charm and finesse in a deeply textured, rich, elegant, yet authoritatively flavorful style, this is a brilliant effort as well as a compliment to proprietor Christian Moueix. Sadly, there are only 1,500 cases of this fabulous offering. It displays a singular style reminiscent of a hypothetical blend of Cheval Blanc and L'Evangile, the famous St.-Emilion and equally renowned Pomerol situated across from each other. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2020. Score - **96**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), April 2003)

**Château Figeac 1999**  
**St.-Émilion Grand Cru**

**694596 (XD) 750 mL \$139**

TASTING NOTE: Complex aromas of figs, ripe plums, sweet cedar, tobacco, and new wood jump from the glass of this Burgundian-like St.-Emilion. It is medium-bodied, lush, and elegant, rather than powerful. The wine possesses supple tannin and a distinctive personality. Although it will not make old bones, it will offer graceful, well-balanced drinking over the next 12 years. Drink 2002-2014. Score - **89**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, April 2002)

**CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION 1999**  
**1<sup>er</sup> Cru, Pessac-Léognan**

**998989 (XD) 750 mL \$399**

TASTING NOTE: Deep plum, currant, and mineral notes emerge from the concentrated, beautifully balanced, pure 1999 Haut Brion. It seems to be cut from the same mold as years such as 1979 and 1985. There is a hint of graphite in the abundant fruit. The wine is medium to full-bodied, nuanced, subtle, deep, and provocatively elegant. It is made in a style that only Haut Brion appears capable of achieving. The finish is extremely long, the tannins sweet, and the overall impression one of delicacy interwoven with power and ripeness. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2025. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, April 2002)

**Château La Tour Figeac 1999**  
**St.-Émilion Grand Cru**

**47423 (XD) 750 mL \$64**

TASTING NOTE: Red-ruby. Aromas of redcurrant, raspberry, tobacco, smoked meat and minerals. Fat and ripe in the mouth, with rather complex flavors of red berries, earth, burning tobacco and minerals. Offers good density in the middle but showed some slightly drying tannins as it opened in the glass. Score - **88**. (Stephen Tanzer, *International Wine Cellar*, May/June 2001)

## CHÂTEAU BEAUSÉJOUR DUFFAU-LAGAROSSE 1998

1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé (B), St.-Émilion

47183 (XD) 750 mL \$135

TASTING NOTE: Slinky. Loads of milk chocolate and berry aromas, with hints of stone and earth. Full-bodied, with superpolished tannins and a long, silky finish. A beauty. Best after 2008. Score - **92**. (James Suckling, *www.winespectator.com*, Jan. 31, 2001)

## France Red Wines - August 2007

### Burgundy – Côte de Nuits

#### Maison Champy Gevrey-Chambertin Cazetiers 2005

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

46169 (XD) 750 mL \$85 

TASTING NOTE: A more elegant and distinctly more floral nose of earthy red, black and violet aromas nuanced by hints of game and spice leads to fleshy, ripe and solidly rich big-bodied flavors that are a bit animale in character on the chewy but not hard finish. This will require up to a decade of cellar time to really round out. Outstanding! Drink: 2013+. Score - **89-92**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, April 1, 2007)

#### Faiveley Gevrey-Chambertin Cazetiers 2004

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

736090 (XD) 750 mL \$69 

TASTING NOTE: Upper register aromas of both red and black pinot fruit aromas tinged with nuances of plum, menthol and mocha plus undertones of something distinctly animale in character lead to mouth coating, intense and this is perhaps even bigger and more powerful yet with slightly better depth and concentration. Outstanding! Drink: 2014+. Score - **89-92**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, Jan. 1, 2006)

#### Faiveley Nuits-St-Georges Aux Chaignots 2004

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

722090 (XD) 750 mL \$65 

TASTING NOTE: A lightly mentholated character combines with the dark berry and earthy aromas that also displays attractive spice hints to the rich, sweet and notably ripe flavors supported by dusty tannins and a persistent finish. This is not quite as concentrated and it's certainly less structured, indeed even rather forward. Drink: 2011+. Score - **88-90**. (Allen Meadows, [www.burghound.com](http://www.burghound.com), Jan. 1, 2006)

**Faiveley Nuits-St-Georges Les Porets Saint-Georges 2004**  
1<sup>er</sup> Cru

728568 (XD) 750 mL \$59 

TASTING NOTE: Surprisingly high-toned for [a wine from the village of] Prémieux with intensely floral and redcurrant aromas sitting atop supple, forward and earthy medium full flavors that possess a beguiling texture that is at once firm yet velvety though there is a somewhat dry quality to the moderately long finish. Drink 2012+. Score - **87-89**. (Allen Meadows, [www.burghound.com](http://www.burghound.com), Jan. 1, 2006)

**France White Wines - August 2007**

**Burgundy – Côte de Nuits**

**BERTAGNA LES CRAS VOUGEOT BLANC 2003**  
1<sup>er</sup> Cru

29017 (XD) 750 mL \$119 

TASTING NOTE: Nuts, pears, minerals, anise, and toasty oak can be found in the nose of the 2003 Vougeot Les Cras. Lush, sensual, and satin-textured, this medium-bodied wine bursts with pears, yellow plums, and candied apples. While it will require near-term drinking, it is sure to please. Projected maturity: now-2009. Score - **90**. (Pierre Rovani, [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Aug. 2005)

**France Red Wines - August 2007**

**Burgundy – Côte de Beaune**

## DOMAINE JACQUES PRIEUR BEAUNE GRÈVES 2005

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

46995 (XD) 750 mL \$70 

TASTING NOTE: Deep ruby-red. Primary aromas of black raspberry, dark cherry, violet and minerals. Suave on entry, then juicy and tight in the middle, with relatively unevolved flavors of black fruits and violet. This one finished its malolactic fermentation later than the Clos de la Feguine and is considerably more backward. Finishes aromatic, firmly tannic and long. Score - **88-91**. (Stephen Tanzer, *International Wine Cellar*, March/April 2007)

## Maison Champy Corton 2005


Grand Cru

46177 (XD) 750 mL \$75 

TASTING NOTE: More discreet toast aromas set off distinct floral notes and ripe red berry and pinot fruit notes that can also be found on the intensely earthy, rich and mineral flavors that are powerful and well-muscled on the suave yet firm finish that displays admirable length. A very solid wine that will require at least a decade to really come into its own. Score - **89-92**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, April 1, 2007)

## Faiveley Beaune 2004

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

39826 (XD) 750 mL \$49 

Gently scented and fruited, this round, medium-bodied Beaune displays pretty aromas and flavours of red currant and spice. Exquisite with lamb or perfect for an evening of wine and French cheeses such as Reblochon, Morbier, Comté and Beaufort.

## France White Wines - August 2007

Burgundy – Côte de Beaune

## DOMAINE DU CHÂTEAU DE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 2002

21741 (XD) 750 mL \$65 

TASTING NOTE: This is a small but noticeable step up in both elegance and complexity with pretty white fruit and honeysuckle aromas that merge into sweet, precise and admirably pure flavors that are both defined and refined and possess excellent length. This is a wine of understatement and obvious minerality if not necessarily great density. Outstanding! Drink 2007-12. Score - **88-90**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, July 1, 2004)

## DOMAINE DU CHÂTEAU DE PULIGNY-MONTRACHET PULIGNY-MONTRACHET 2003

21725 (XD) 750 mL \$79 

TASTING NOTE: Indisputably the most elegant of these five villages wines with beautiful and nicely detailed white flower and green apple aromas that precede the delicious, sweet and notably complex medium full flavors that possess both style and grace, all wrapped in a persistent, mouth coating finish. Drink: 2007+. Score - **86-89**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, July 1, 2005)

## Maison Champy Corton Charlemagne 2005 Grand Cru

46151 (XD) 750 mL \$119 

TASTING NOTE: As one would reasonably expect, this is a substantial step up in quality with vanilla and wood spice notes marrying into airy, pure and ripe aromas of green fruit and floral notes that continue onto the rich, sweet and very full-bodied flavors that possess both good power and energy on the mineral and linear finish that is quite long but not strict. Drink: 2011+. Score - **91**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, July 1, 2007)

## France White Wines - August 2007

### Burgundy – Chablis

## DOMAINE LOUIS MICHEL CHABLIS MONTÉE DE TONNERRE 2005

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

717231 (XD) 750 mL \$45 

TASTING NOTE: This too is much more classic in style than many of the preceding wines with upper register green fruit, oyster shell, algae and sea breeze nuances that introduce intensely stony, delicious and generous flavors that are at once round yet retain a good sense of underlying precision on the bone dry and persistent finish. Classy juice and worth a close look. Sweet spot outstanding! Drink: 2009+. Score - **90-92**. (Allen Meadows, [www.burghound.com](http://www.burghound.com), Oct. 1, 2006)

## DOMAINE Louis Michel Chablis Butteaux 2005

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

41426 (XD) 750 mL \$39 

TASTING NOTE: This is the most aromatically complex of the three climats [vineyards] eligible to be included under the umbrella of Montmains (Montmains proper, Forêts and Butteaux) with floral and airy aromas trimmed by subtle spice and oyster shell notes that introduce rich, full and intense flavors that display a distinct saline character, all wrapped in a punchy, racy and vibrant finish. Lovely and distinctly different from its two counterparts. Drink: 2009+. Score - **88-91**. (Allen Meadows, [www.burghound.com](http://www.burghound.com), Oct. 1, 2006)

## DOMAINE Louis Michel Chablis Fourchaume 2005

1<sup>er</sup> Cru

41418 (XD) 750 mL \$45 

TASTING NOTE: A beautifully elegant and refined nose of white flowers, green fruit and iodine and marine nuances that transition gracefully into rich, defined and impressively pure flavors that are harmonious and understated plus this offers the most evident Chablis character of any wine to this point as the oyster shell and saline hints are prominent. This finishes quite dry as well which is in contrast to the average wine in this vintage. Outstanding! Drink: 2009+. Score - **89-91**. (Allen Meadows, [www.burghound.com](http://www.burghound.com), Oct. 1, 2006)

**Domaine Louis Michel Chablis Grenouilles 2005**  
**Grand Cru**

**720490 (XD) 750 mL \$69** 

**TASTING NOTE:** A fruity, floral and notably spicy nose of moderate elegance leads to round but impressively focused flavors that like the Vaudésir, possess more minerality than usual for both the cru and the vintage, all wrapped in a finish that offers ample Chablis character and outstanding power and length. This too could surprise to the upside. Drink: 2009+.  
Score - **90-92**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, Oct. 1, 2006)

**Domaine Louis Michel Chablis Vaudésir 2005**  
**Grand Cru**

**665018 (XD) 750 mL \$65** 

**TASTING NOTE:** This too is very pure and classic in character with wonderfully forceful notes of seaweed and green fruit that complement perfectly the rich, punchy, intense, powerful, concentrated and sappy flavors that finish with remarkable length on the very dry finish. This is unusually minerally for both Vaudésir and the vintage and at this stage, it's the clear class of the cellar in 2005. Don't miss! Drink: 2009+. Score - **91-93**. (Allen Meadows, *www.burghound.com*, Oct. 1, 2006)

**Domaine William Fèvre Chablis Bougros 2005**  
**Grand Cru**

**941229 (XD) 750 mL \$59** 

**TASTING NOTE:** Pale, green-tinged color. Ripe aromas of crystallized citrus peel and stone. Very ripe and creamy but high-pitched, with an exhilarating sugar/acid balance. Still holding a bit of gas. A very elegant Bougros with creaminess and cut. Conveys a strong sense of sucrosite but this is thoroughly dry. You don't have to be a Chablis connoisseur to enjoy this! Score - **92-94**. (Stephen Tanzer, *International Wine Cellar*, Nov./Dec. 2006)

**Domaine William Fèvre Chablis Montée de Tonnerre 2005**  
**1<sup>er</sup> Cru**

977579 (XD) 750 mL \$39 

TASTING NOTE: An unmistakable step up on almost every dimension as this is more elegant, more refined, more sophisticated and more complex, particularly on the airy white flower fruit and menthol nose that introduces powerful, concentrated and gorgeously intense flavors that feature an explosively long finish. This has real energy to it plus grand cru caliber class. Sweet spot outstanding! Drink: 2010+. Score - **90-93**. (Allen Meadows, [www.burghound.com](http://www.burghound.com), Oct. 1, 2006)

**DOMAINE WILLIAM Fèvre LES CLOS CHABLIS 2004**  
Grand Cru

641381 (XD) 750 mL \$79 

TASTING NOTE: Stylistically, this closely resembles the Valmur with its ultra elegant and pure aromas featuring white flowers, oyster shell and subtle spice notes that perfectly complement the round, powerful, rich and full-bodied flavors that coating the mouth and culminate in a saliva-inducing, incredibly intense finish that reminded me more than a little of a great Corton-Charlemagne. This just oozes minerality and the texture is minerally to the point of this resembling a block of stone. A great Les Clos. Drink 2012+. Score - **95**. (Allen Meadows, [www.burghound.com](http://www.burghound.com), Oct. 1, 2006)

**France Red Wines - August 2007**

**Rhône – Northern Rhône**

**M. Chapoutier L'Ermitage Ermitage 2004**

13102 (XD) 750 mL \$229 

TASTING NOTE: All of the single vineyard Ermitages turned out as good as I had hoped, possibly even better. In short they are among the strongest wines one could hope for in this vintage. The 2004 Ermitage l'Ermitage exhibits blueberry and floral notes with that undeniable minerality lurking beneath the surface. It is full-bodied, which is rather remarkable in this vintage, with serious concentration for a 2004 and sweetness to the tannin. This wine might well be the most approachable of these wines, and drink well young yet last for 15 or more years. Drink 2007-2022. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), April 2007)

## M. Chapoutier La Mordorée Côte Rôtie 2004

13169 (XD) 750 mL \$139 

TASTING NOTE: Similar to the 1995, the 2005 Cote Rotie La Mordoree has elegant olive notes intermixed with peppery black cherry and raspberry, some hints of fig and tobacco leaf, and a nice, spicy, medium-bodied richness with superb concentration and purity. Copious tannins are in the finish. Chapoutier's Cote Rotie is probably the most backward of all the top Cote Roties made. This wine will need 5-7 years of cellaring and keep for 20-25 years. Score - **92-94**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), April 2007)

## M. Chapoutier Le Pavillon Ermitage 2004

13144 (XD) 750 mL \$199 

TASTING NOTE: All of the single vineyard Ermitages turned out as good as I had hoped, possibly even better. In short they are among the strongest wines one could hope for in this vintage. The 2004 Ermitage Le Pavillon is outstanding, but certainly not one of the most compelling wines Michel Chapoutier has made. It is dense, dark ruby/purple, and seems more austere and backward than the Le Meal, but I still think these are 15- to 20-year wines as opposed to the normal 50+ that the top vintages of these single vineyard Ermitages produce. Dense with black currant fruit intermixed with licorice, sweet blackberries, and white chocolate, this is an elegant, mid-weight Pavillon that should be drinking well in about 5-6 years and last 15-20. Drink 2012-2027. Score - **92**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), April 2007)

## M. Chapoutier Les Granits Saint-Joseph 2004

13185 (XD) 750 mL \$49 

TASTING NOTE: Ruby-red. Intense red fruit aromas are underscored by a stony tone, along with strong graphite and iron qualities. Lush and sweet, with cherry preserve and raspberry flavors deepened by tobacco and succulent herb notes. Finishes sweet and juicy, with excellent focus and length. An impressively balanced wine that should repay cellaring. Score - **92**. (Josh Reynolds, *International Wine Cellar*, Jan./Feb. 2007)

## HERMITAGE GAMBERT DE LOCHE 2003

941849 (XD) 750 mL \$79 

TASTING NOTE: Terrific fruit--fig, blackberry and boysenberry--with licorice, dark chocolate and tar notes as well. Stays fleshy and silky through the long finish, with mineral hints peeking in for added effect. Drink now through 2014. Score - **92**. (James Molesworth, *www.winespectator.com*, May 31, 2006)

## France White Wines - August 2007

### Rhône – Northern Rhône

#### M. Chapoutier Vin de Paille Hermitage Blanc 2003

13219 (S) 375 mL \$169 

TASTING NOTE: Deep gold. Intense, complex aromas of dried apricot and honey. Thick, silky and superconcentrated, with distinctly wild flavors of apricot, truffle and damp earth. Conveys a tactile impression of extract. The '02 version is much fresher but not as honeyed, notes Mazoyer. Finishes silky and impressively long. This is 14% alcohol with 160 grams per liter of residual sugar. Score - **93**. (Stephen Tanzer, *International Wine Cellar*, Jan./Feb. 2005)

## France Red Wines - August 2007

### Rhône – Southern Rhône

#### DOMAINE DU VIEUX TÉLÉGRAPHE CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE 2004

951475 (XD) 750 mL \$59 

TASTING NOTE: Certainly Vieux Telegraphe has acquitted itself well in these two vintages with the 2004 Vieux Telegraphe Chateauneuf du Pape boasting big, smoky, peppery, garrigue notes intermixed with black cherry, licorice, smoke, and sweet currants. The wine is ripe and full-bodied with decent acidity and some mineral notes. Daniel Brunier stated it actually tips the scales at 15% alcohol, which is high for this vintage. It should drink well for 12-15 more years. Drink 2007-2022. Score - **92**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Feb. 2007)

### **M. Chapoutier Barbe Rac Châteauneuf du Pape 2004**

**13177 (XD) 750 mL \$69** 

TASTING NOTE: Displaying a deep ruby hue, the 2004 Chateauneuf du Pape Barbe Rac is a classic example of Chateauneuf offering superb aromas of roasted herbs, licorice, ground pepper, and sweet black cherry fruit. It, too, tips the scales at over 16% natural alcohol, but doesn't show it, which is a tribute to these ancient Grenache vines. Deep, full-bodied, and opulent, it is best consumed during its first 15 years of life. Drink 2007-2022. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Feb. 2007)

### **Champagne & Sparkling Wines - August 2007**

#### **Champagne**

#### **Drappier Grande Sendrée Rosé Champagne 2002**

**967406 (XD) 750 mL \$84**

Drappier's rosé champagne is made in a fresh and fruity style. This creamy textured and well-balanced champagne serves up mouth-watering cherry and red berry flavours. A real crowd-pleaser and terrific value.

## **Drappier Grande Sendrée CuvÉE de Prestige Brut MillÉsime 2000**

**955633 (XD) 750 mL \$64**

The Grande Sendrée is Drappier's luxury cuvée. Rich and intense, complex and elegant with lovely hints of white peach. A full-flavoured cuvée that will make Sunday brunch a thing of beauty. In the world of luxury cuvées, this represents an exceptional value.

## **France Red Wines - August 2007**

### **Midi**

#### **Mas de Daumas Gassac 2005**

#### **VdP de l'Herault Haute Vallée du Gassac**

**910687 (XD) 750 mL \$47**

Robert Parker Jr. appears to be a fan of this domaine. He remarked: "This was one of the first Languedoc-Roussillon estates to fully exploit the potential that exists in this windswept, sunny region. I have had the pleasure of buying, cellaring, and drinking all of the Mas de Daumas Gassac reds since 1978." ([www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com)) Hailing from France's 'New World', this Languedoc red is well-structured yet it also displays an exuberant fruitiness. A lovely wine that will be a hit at any dinner party. Enjoy over the next 3-5 years.

## **Germany White Wines - August 2007**

### **Mosel-Saar-Ruwer**

#### **EGON MÜLLER SCHARZHOFBERGER RIESLING AUSLESE 2005**

**720359 (MS) 750 mL \$249**

TASTING NOTE: Pale golden yellow. Baked apple, quince and cinnamon on the nose. The creamy, rich tropical fruit flavors are highlighted by spicy botrytis, with firm underlying acidity giving the wine a delicate, airy quality. Offers a wonderfully elegant spiciness, hidden depths and impressive complexity. The finish is dazzlingly long, slate-driven and gripping for a "simple" auslese! Score - **95**. (Joel B. Payne, *International Wine Cellar*, Jan./Feb. 2007)

## **Greece Red Wines - August 2007**

**Amethystos Cava 2002**  
**(Domaine Constantin Lazaridi)**

**912980 (XD) 750 mL \$49**

A Gold Medal winner at Paris' prestigious Vinalies internationales in 2006. Aged for 18 months in new oak casks, the Amethystos conjures up multiple aromatic layers from its delicious, sweet black fruit to its underpinning notes of coffee, mint, eucalyptus and herbs. A great candidate for mid-term cellaring (3-5 years) or exquisite now with pheasant.

**Italy Red Wines - August 2007**

**Piedmont**

**ASCHERI BAROLO DI SORANO 2001**  
**DOCG**

**711077 (S) 750 mL \$54**

TASTING NOTE: The Barolo Sorano shows forest floor, blueberries and currants mingling with leather and cocoa powder, giving the lie to those who claim large wood does not produce sweet, balanced tannins. It is true to type, velvet-smooth and very long.

Score - **2 Glasses** (out of 3). (*Gambero Rosso Italian Wines*, 2007)

**Michele Chiarlo Barolo Cannubi 2001**  
**DOCG**

**914879 (XD) 750 mL \$75**

TASTING NOTE: Complex, multi-dimensional nose of flowers, sweet fruit and toasted oak. The beautiful 2001 is classic in every way, revealing layers of sweet fruit, licorice, tar, mineral, and toasted oak flavors, with great length and freshness on the finish. A wine of great class and elegance that combines the richness of the 2000 and the power of the 1999. Drink after 2009.

Score - **93**. (Antonio Galloni, *www.erobertparker.com*, April 2007)

**SILVIO GRASSO BRICCO LUCIANI BAROLO 2001  
DOCG**

**715904 (XD) 750 mL \$69**

TASTING NOTE: Aromas of blackberries and coffee follow through to a full-bodied palate, with velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. A beauty. Very fine. Best after 2008. Score - **93**. (James Suckling, *www.winespectator.com*, Oct. 15, 2005)

**Italy Red Wines - August 2007**

**Tuscany**

**CASTELLARE VIGNA IL POGGIALE CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA 2003  
DOCG**

**606947 (XD) 750 mL \$43**

TASTING NOTE: The 2001 Chianti Classico Riserva Vigna Poggiale, the single-vineyard Riserva, is sweet and spicy on the nose, round and full in flavor, and long on the flow. It will drink well for another decade. Drink 2006-2016. Score - **90**. (Daniel Thomases, *www.erobertparker.com*, April 2006)

**CASTELLO BANFI BRUNELLO di Montalcino POGGIO ALLE MURA 2001  
DOCG**

**673715 (XD) 750 mL \$75**

TASTING NOTE: Loads of blackberry and currant on the nose with hints of cooked fruit. Full-bodied, silky and refined with a beautiful structure and refinement. Goes on for minutes. Best after 2009. Score - **94**. (James Suckling, *www.winespectator.com*, April 30, 2006)

**FONTODI VIGNA DEL SORBO CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA 2003  
DOCG**

**963827 (XD) 750 mL \$59**

TASTING NOTE: Fontodi's 2003 Chianti Classico Riserva Vigna del Sorbo is a single-vineyard blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon aged 12 months in Allier oak. The 2003 is an especially full-bodied, opulent version of this wine, showing masses of ripe dark fruit and sweet toasted oak along with an ample personality. Still extremely primary, it will require some bottle age to settle down and develop the range of expression for which it is known. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2018. Score - **93**. (Antonio Galloni, *www.erobertparker.com*, June 2007)

**IL PALAZZONE BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO 2000  
DOCG**

**21105 (XD) 750 mL \$65**

TASTING NOTE: Extremely attractive aromas of plum and coffee follow through to a full-bodied palate, with velvety tannins and a medium finish. Delicious already. Very close to the 1999 in quality. Always outstanding. Best from 2006 through 2009. Score - **90**. (James Suckling, *www.winespectator.com*, May 31, 2005)

**IL PALAZZONE BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO RISERVA 1999  
DOCG**

**21063 (XD) 750 mL \$89**

TASTING NOTE: Three unanimous glasses went to the Riserva '99, a wine from a seriously superior growing season. The fruity sensations run from the territory's typical blackberry and morello cherry with further hints of balsam and rosemary in the background that add breadth to the spectrum of aromatics. The attack on the palate is austere, sustained by balanced alcohol that heralds a broad, winning progression, thanks above all to the lovely balance of fine-grained tannins and textbook acidity that is an integral feature of all sangiovese-based wines. The finish is broad and deep. Score - **3 Glasses** (out of 3). (*Gambero Rosso Italian Wines*, 2006)

**Le Salette PERGOLE VECE AMARONE della Valpolicella Classico 2001  
DOC**

**19984 (XD) 750 mL \$100**

Pergole Vece is Le Salette's flagship wine. This modern styled Amarone is made only in the best years from a selection of their finest grapes and sourced from their three top vineyards. It is cellar worthy but will shine now when matched with pheasant or mature cheeses.

**La Querce 2004  
IGT Toscana**

**48835 (D) 750 mL \$44**

TASTING NOTE: Gorgeous aromas of ripe plum, currant and Indian spices. Full-bodied, with a wonderfully concentrated palate of silky tannins and ripe fruit. Long and powerful finish. Sangiovese and Colorino. Best after 2007. Score - **93**. (James Suckling, *www.winespectator.com*, Oct. 31, 2006)

**POGGIO ANTICO BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO RISERVA 2000  
DOCG**

**700443 (XD) 750 mL \$99**

TASTING NOTE: Impressive for the vintage. Loads of blackberry, chocolate and floral aromas follow through to a full-bodied palate, with silky, refined tannins and a long, long finish. Best after 2006. Score - **93**. (James Suckling, *www.winespectator.com*, July 31, 2006)

**Italy Red Wines - August 2007**

**Veneto**

## QUINTARELLI ROSSO CA'DEL MERLO 1999

IGT

958595 (XD) 750 mL \$75

Giuseppe Quintarelli's wines inspire the mild mannered and reserved to be uncontrollably effusive. His wines are legendary for a very good reason. "When you meet Bepi Quintarelli, you are instinctively reminded of Michelangelo."(2005 *Gambero Rosso Italian Wines*). His Rosso Ca'del Merlo is a single vineyard Valpolicella, though he uses the broader IGT designation. Merlo means bird and is a tribute to a large winged creature that used to sit on a tree glaring down at the workers as they moved through the vineyard.

## QUINTARELLI ROSSO DEL BEPI 1999

IGT

991356 (XD) 750 mL \$199

TASTING NOTE: Delicious, showing exotic plum-based fruit, spice and earth on the nose, following through to a silky, full-bodied palate, with very fine, fruit-coated tannins and a long finish. Nicely done, with lots of clean, spicy fruit character. Quintarelli declassified his Amarone to this red in 1999. Drink now. Score - **90**. (Jo Cooke, *www.winespectator.com*, April 30, 2007)

## QUINTARELLI VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE 1999

DOC

986117 (XD) 750 mL \$75

TASTING NOTE: But the champion this year is the splendid Valpolicella Classico 1999, mouthfilling and velvety, it gives gamey, warm aromas rich in red berry fruit and so aristocratic you would almost think it was an Amarone. All in all, it's a peerless, starry wine that won our tasting panel over unreservedly and was awarded Three resounding Glasses. Score - **3 Glasses** (out of 3). (*Gambero Rosso Italian Wines*, 2007)

**Portugal Red Wines - August 2007**

## Niepoort Redoma Red 2003

Douro

694919 (XD) 750 mL \$49

TASTING NOTE: A seductive aroma of rose petals and violets launches into a broad array of delicious crushed red fruit flavors. Quite pure-tasting and structured, with a long finish of mineral, mocha and hints of smoke. Drink now through 2009. Score - **92**. (Kim Marcus, *www.winespectator.com*, Dec. 31, 2005)

## Spain Red Wines - August 2007

Bodegas Sierra Salinas Casa Mira 2003

DO Alicante

38620 (XD) 750 mL \$54

TASTING NOTE: Good ruby-red. Aroma of currant, licorice, graphite and truffle. Minerally and firm if a bit dry-edged, with spicy dark berry flavors showing a slightly port-like richness. Then finishes firmly tannic, with a lingering currant flavor. Score - **88**. (Stephen Tanzer, *International Wine Cellar*, Sept./Oct. 2005)

Casa Cisca Monastrell 2004

DO Yecla

(Bodegas Castaño)

998187 (D) 750 mL \$65

TASTING NOTE: The 2004 Casa Cisca, the estate's flagship wine, is 100% old-vine Monastrell (70+ years of age) aged for 14 months in American oak. Dark ruby/purple-colored, it emits an attractive array of Asian spice, tobacco, cedar, and blueberry pie aromas. On the palate additional flavors of cherry and chocolate emerge. The wine has a firm structure, excellent balance, and a long finish. It should evolve for several years and drink well through 2022. Score - **92**. (Jay Miller, *www.erobertparker.com*, Feb. 2007)

**Finca Sandoval 2004**  
**DO Manchuela**

**48694 (D) 750 mL \$45**

TASTING NOTE: The brilliant 2004 Finca Sandoval (83% Syrah, 9% Monastrell, and 8% Bobal) is produced from a vineyard situated on a plateau at 2250 feet elevation. Consequently, there is an unexpected freshness and uplift to this cuvee. Aged completely in French oak for 11 months, and bottled unfined and unfiltered, it exhibits a dense ruby/purple hue as well as a full-bodied, scorched earth character reminiscent of a French Graves. Sweet blackberry and cassis fruit, underlying minerality, silky tannin, and a textured, rich mouthfeel suggest this beautiful wine should drink well for a decade or more. Drink 2006-2016. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Aug. 2006)

**Marques de Murrieta Castillo Ygay Tinto Gran Reserva 1998**  
**DOCa Rioja**

**43935 (XD) 750 mL \$59**

TASTING NOTE: Spent 41 months in oak. Complex yet still tight spicy, earthy, perfumed casky nose. The palate is soft, bold, complex and spicy with a nice savoury edge. It's a really expressive wine. Delicious. Very good/excellent. Score - **92**. (Jamie Goode, *www.wineanorak.com*, April 2006)

**Muga Prado Enea Gran Reserva 1998**  
**DOCa Rioja**

**743310 (XD) 750 mL \$55**

TASTING NOTE: The 1998 Prado Enea Gran Reserva is 80% Tempranillo and the balance Garnacha, Mazuelo, and Graciano. It is aged for one year in large oak followed by 3 years in new French oak and 3 years in bottle prior to release. This medium ruby colored wine seems to combine traditional and modern elements beginning with a classic nose of earth, cedar, tobacco, spice box, and red currants. Medium-bodied with a velvety texture, the wine offers elegance and lovely balance but also plenty of fleshy flavor. The fruit has enough structure to drink well for at least another 6-8 years. Score - **91**. (Jay Miller, *www.erobertparker.com*, Feb. 2007)

**Torre Muga 2003**  
**DOCa Rioja**

**719609 (XD) 750 mL \$79**

TASTING NOTE: The 2003 Torre Muga is 75% Tempranillo, 15% Mazuelo, and 10% Graciano made in a modern style. The wine spends 22 months in large American oak vats followed by 16 months in new French barriques before being bottled unfiltered. The wine is a saturated purple with fragrant aromas of earth, smoke, vanilla, blueberry, and blackberry jam. On the palate it is tannic and chunky but packed with intense black fruits. There is plenty of pure power but also the lack of breadth due to the searing heat of the vintage. Score - **92**. (Jay Miller, *www.erobertparker.com*, Feb. 2007)

**Australia White Wine - August 2007**

**Two Hands For Love or Money Cane Cut Semillon 2006**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**52688 (S) 500 mL \$43**

Robert Parker Jr. is a fan of this white. He has consistently awarded this 'dead-ringer for a top-notch Sauternes' scores in the 90s. In fact, he awarded the 2005 vintage a remarkable 96! Though this recent release had not yet been reviewed, the meticulous winemaking of Michael Twelftree promises more of the same. From its golden, honeyed hue to its abundant caramel, crème brûlée and tropical fruit flavours, this wine will hold you spellbound. Delicious now but will keep on giving for a decade or more.

**Australia Red Wine - August 2007**

**Amarone Joseph Moda Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot 2004**  
**McLaren Vale, South Australia**

**745331 (XD) 750 mL \$42**

Wine critic, Jeremy Oliver, awarded this wine a score of 93. (*www.jeremyoliver.com.au*) Aged in one third new French, American and German oak for 20 months, this complex 85% Cabernet, 15% Merlot blend exhibits luscious black fruit flavours with attractive notes of mocha, vanilla, cinnamon and cedar, as well as complementary fine tannins and beautifully integrated oak. Engaging now but this red will be irresistible in about five years.

**BAROSSA OLD VINE WINE COMPANY SHIRAZ 2003**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**604033 (D) 750 mL \$95**

TASTING NOTE: A limited cuvee produced from 109-, 127-, and 152-year-old vineyards, this 2003 Shiraz was aged 24 months in a combination of new French and American wood as well as a small amount of older oak. Huge, ripe, surprisingly subtle and polished, this dense purple-hued wine offers layers of blackberry and currant fruit intermingled with spicy new oak, licorice, cedar, and loamy soil characteristics. Full-bodied and voluptuous, but not over the top, this beauty should drink well for 10-15 years. Drink 2005-2020. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Oct. 2005)

**Brokenwood Rayner Vineyard Shiraz 2004**  
**McLaren Vale, South Australia**

**903922 (XD) 750 mL \$55**

TASTING NOTE: My favorite wine in this portfolio is the 2004 Shiraz Rayner Vineyard. This blockbuster, dense purple-hued Shiraz exhibits aromas of mocha, chocolate, sweet berry fruit, blackberries, and earth. Rich, chewy, full-bodied, ripe, and well-balanced, this beauty can be drunk now and over the next 10-15 years. Drink 2006-2021. Score - **91**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Dec. 2006)

**Burge Family D & Oh Shiraz-Grenache 2004**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**27359 (XD) 750 mL \$44**

TASTING NOTE: Medium red. Dried cherry, cranberry, spices and underbrush on the nose, with a suggestion of dried herbs. Firmly built but also deep and fat, the fruit tones taking a dark turn with aeration. Finishes on a note of dried cherry, with lingering sweetness. This manages to be lush and structured at the same time. Score - **89**. (Josh Reynolds, *International Wine Cellar*, July/Aug. 2006)

**Charles Cimicky Reserve Shiraz 2004**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**685594 (XD) 750 mL \$46**

**TASTING NOTE:** The tightly-knit, awesomely endowed 2004 Shiraz Reserve is a potential blockbuster. Produced from a 40-year-old vineyard in the Lyndoch sector of Barossa, it spent 18 months in American hogsheads. Its inky/purple color reluctantly gives up aromas of roasted meats, smoked herbs, black cherries, and blackberries. This multidimensional wine boasts layers of fruit and glycerin as well as remarkable structure and equilibrium. A fabulous example of old vine Shiraz from Barossa, with more elegance and sophistication than many Eurocentric wine elitists would care to acknowledge, it should be consumed over the next 12-15 years. For some reason, this high quality winery never receives the press it merits. Drink 2005-2020. Score - **93-95**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Oct. 2005)

**DOMAINE TERLATO & CHAPOUTIER lieu dit MALAKOFF SHIRAZ 2004**  
**Pyrenees, Victoria**

**19513 (D) 750 mL \$48**

**TASTING NOTE:** A joint project between Chicago's Terlato family and France's Michel Chapoutier, this offering, produced from Pyrenees vineyards cropped at ten hectoliters per hectare, boasts sumptuously concentrated fruit (blackberries, cherries) in addition to melted licorice, espresso roast, and smoke characteristics. Ripe, opulent, and medium to full-bodied, if this delicious 2004 gets into the bottle without being fined or filtered (Chapoutier rarely fines or filters), it will be a lusty Australian blockbuster to enjoy during its first 7-10 years of life. Drink 2004-2014. Score - **90-92**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Oct. 2004)

**Elderton Ashmead Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**952309 (D) 750 mL \$74**

Winestate Magazine awarded this wine \*\*\*\* (out of five). ([www.winestate.com.au](http://www.winestate.com.au))

**TASTING NOTE:** There was no 2003 produced, but the backward, primary 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Ashmead is loaded with potential. Its inky/ruby/purple hue is followed by aromas of vanilla, barbecue smoke, roasted meats, creme de cassis, and new leather. This dense, rich, powerful effort requires 3-4 years of bottle age, and should last for 15-20 years. Drink 2009-2026. Score - **91**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Oct. 2006)

**Katnook Estate Prodigy Shiraz 2003**  
**Coonawarra, South Australia**

**742395 (XD) 750 mL \$69**

TASTING NOTE: The pedigree of this wine was evident from the very first vintage which won the prestigious Jimmy Watson trophy. This latest offering, crafted by Wayne Stehbens, is right up there with its seductive aromas of berries, plums, licorice and spices on the nose and palate, supple mouthfeel and smooth tannin structure. Drink it with rare fillet of beef. (Kerry Skinner, *Illawarra Mercury*, Feb. 21, 2007)

**Mitolo G.A.M. Shiraz 2005**  
**McLaren Vale, South Australia**

**596031 (XD) 750 mL \$49**

TASTING NOTE: Fashioned from a McLaren Vale vineyard, the 2005 Shiraz G.A.M. (named after the Mitolo children – Gemma, Alexander, and Marco) is a deep ruby/purple-hued effort displaying beautiful blackberry, white pepper, licorice, and toasty oak notes. Rich, full-bodied, and intense, with blueberry and blackberry flavors, sweet tannin, and excellent purity, it is a tour de force in winemaking. Enjoy it over the next decade. Drink 2006-2016. Score - **95**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Oct. 2006)

**Mitolo Reiver Shiraz 2005**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**41145 (XD) 750 mL \$49**

TASTING NOTE: The 2005 Shiraz Reiver, made from 60-year-old Shiraz vines in the Greenock area of the Barossa, was aged 18 months in lightly toasted French oak. Its inky/blue/purple hue is followed by a lovely perfume of flowers, blackberries, espresso, and licorice. Aged completely in 300 liter hogsheads, it offers stunning richness and length, and should drink well for 10-12 years. Drink 2006-2018. Score - **94**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Oct. 2006)

**Penley Special Select Shiraz 2004**  
**Coonawarra, South Australia**

**627943 (XD) 750 mL \$59**

TASTING NOTE: I hope someone serves this to me in 15 year's time, because I'd love to see how it turns out. Right now it looks a little caricatured, with warm alcohol and a blast of mint matched to thick, bold, soupy plums and tar, the texture silken and the amount of fruit quite substantial. It's a grunty wine, but it's also quite impeccable. The tannins are ripe and fine, the flavour full, the texture soft. My hesitation is based around the fact that it also seems simple and warm, but time in the bottle may well fix that. Drink: 2012-2019. Score - **91**. (Campbell Mattinson, [www.winefront.com.au](http://www.winefront.com.au), Jan. 14, 2007)

**Rolf Binder Heysen Shiraz 2004**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**27300 (XD) 750 mL \$49**

TASTING NOTE: The backward 2004 Shiraz Heysen, aged 20 months in a combination of American and French oak, possesses a dense purple color as well as rich notes of blackberries, licorice, creosote, and camphor. This dense, full-bodied, ripe, powerful Shiraz includes 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, which is impossible to detect. Give it 2-3 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 12-15+. Drink 2008-2023. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Oct. 2006)

**Schubert Estate Goose-yard Block Shiraz 2004**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**45799 (XD) 750 mL \$119**

TASTING NOTE: This deep, fat, black/purple-hued Shiraz boasts loads of exuberant blackberry and cassis fruit along with hints of leather, game, and smoked meats. Drink this full-bodied, rich, pure, impressive effort over the next decade or more. Drink 2006-2016. Score - **92**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Oct. 2006)

**Tapanappa Whalebone Vineyard Cabernet Shiraz 2004**  
**Wrattobully, South Australia**

**52670 (XD) 750 mL \$79**

In the February 2007 issue of *Decanter* magazine, wine critic Steven Spurrier declared this wine the 'Best New World Red.'

**TASTING NOTE:** Distinctively spicy, with warm, earthy overtones to the beautifully framed currant, black cherry and nutmeg aromas and flavors. Impressive length to the finish, which is generous and harmonious against firm tannins. Needs time to gain some flesh, but should be a beauty. Best from 2008 through 2016. Score - **93**. (Harvey Steiman, *www.winespectator.com*, Oct. 15, 2006)

**Two Hands BRAVE FACES SHIRAZ/GRENACHE 2006**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**660035 (XD) 750 mL \$34**

While there were no reviews available at press time, it is noteworthy that Robert Parker Jr. has awarded this luscious blend of 70% Shiraz and 30% Grenache scores in the 90s for the last four consecutive vintages. This exuberant, fruit-forward offering invokes heady aromas of red and black fruits, flowers, toast and spice box. A full-throttle red that will pair nicely with roast duck or beef pot pie.

**TWO HANDS LILY'S GARDEN SHIRAZ 2005**  
**McLaren Vale, South Australia**

**683086 (D) 750 mL \$65**

**TASTING NOTE:** Ripe and generous, with a remarkably open texture for a wine so rich in flavor. The beautifully delineated blackberry, black cherry and anise flavors sail on through the long, long finish. Best from 2009 through 2016. Score - **94**. (Harvey Steiman, *www.winespectator.com*, May 31, 2007)

## **TWO HANDS SAMANTHA'S GARDEN SHIRAZ 2004**

**Clare Valley, South Australia**

**16121 (D) 750 mL \$50**

TASTING NOTE: The expressive 2004 Shiraz Samantha's Garden offers a dark ruby/purple color and a beautiful, sweet nose of black raspberries, black currants, licorice, smoke, and toast. Full-bodied, rich, and heady, this gorgeous Shiraz should drink well for a decade. Drink 2006-2016. Score - **93**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Oct. 2006)

## **YALUMBA HAND-PICKED MGS 2004**

**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**588178 (D) 750 mL \$39**

TASTING NOTE: Another upgrade in the huge hierarchy at Yalumba, the Hand Picked selections are all impressive. The outstanding 2004 [MGS] Mourvedre/Grenache/Shiraz (60%, 21%, and 19% respectively) exhibits a dense ruby/purple color along with a big, earthy perfume of blueberries, black currants, fresh mushrooms, tree bark, and spice. Superbly concentrated, with medium to full body and a long finish, it should drink well for 4-6 years. Drink 2005-2011. Score - **90**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Oct. 2005)

## **YALUMBA HAND-PICKED SHIRAZ VIOGNIER 2004**

**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**976100 (D) 750 mL \$39**

TASTING NOTE: A terrific little wine – spicy, peppery, meaty and gamey, with a spicy, clove and cinnamon-scented bouquet of dark plums, blackberries and apricot blossom. Smooth and juicy, it's long, even and brightly flavoured with intense small black and red berry fruit framed by a firmish cut of pliant tannins. It finishes fresh, spicy and savoury. Drink 2006-2009+. Score - **89**. (Jeremy Oliver, [www.jeremyoliver.com.au](http://www.jeremyoliver.com.au), June 20, 2007)

**YALUMBA HAND-PICKED TGV 2005**  
**Barossa Valley, South Australia**

**40006 (D) 750 mL \$39**

TASTING NOTE: Blended from three varieties [Tempranillo, Grenache, Viognier], two of which fit the 'recent arrival' bill, this delicious red is a fine, elegant and Burgundy-weighted wine of smoothness and character. Musky and aromatic, its spicy perfume of blackberries, plums and lifted floral notes overlies mocha and dark chocolate-like oak nuances. Slightly confectionary, its supple and juicy palate of small berries, cherries and dark plums is framed by a fine, willowy cut of tannin. It finishes long and fresh, with a lingering core of tangy fruit wrapped in clean acids and backed by emerging meaty and slightly reductive, rustic complexity. Drink 2007-2010+. Score - **92**. (Jeremy Oliver, *www.jeremyoliver.com.au*, Aug. 18, 2006)

**New Zealand White Wine - August 2007**

**CONIGLIO HAWKES BAY CHARDONNAY 2000**  
**Hawkes Bay, North Island**

**25460 (XD) 750 mL \$90**

Launched by Morton Estate from 1998, Coniglio is one of New Zealand's most expensive Chardonnays. A Rolls-Royce version of the company's famous Black Label Chardonnay, it is typically an arresting wine, powerful and concentrated. Grown in the cool, elevated (150 metres above sea level) Riverview vineyard at Mangatahi, Hawke's Bay, it is hand-picked from mature vines and fermented and lees-aged in all-new French oak barriques, with malolactic fermentation according to the season. (Michael Cooper's Buyer's Guide to New Zealand Wines 2007) This wine won the Regional New Zealand Chardonnay Over £10 Trophy at the 2005 *Decanter World Wine Awards*.

**Kim Crawford Pia Wood Aged Sauvignon Blanc 2004**  
**Marlborough, South Island**

**38257 (XD) 750 mL \$33**

TASTING NOTE: The 2004 vintage is a gently wooded style. Grown at three sites, it was mostly handled in tanks, but 25 per cent of the blend was fermented with indigenous yeasts in seasoned oak casks. Pale, with a grassy, nettley bouquet, it is weighty and creamy, with good intensity of tight, tropical-fruit and herbaceous flavours, slightly flinty and nutty, and some complexity. Score - \*\*\*\* (out of 5). (Michael Cooper, *Buyer's Guide to New Zealand Wines*, 2007)

## Argentina Red Wine - August 2007

**POESIA 2004**

**Mendoza**

**53579 (XD) 750 mL \$75**

TASTING NOTE: A finished barrel sample of the 2004 Poesia, a 2,000-case blend of 70% Malbec and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon (from a vineyard planted in 1935), reveals great potential. Its deep purple color is accompanied by a sumptuous perfume of white chocolate interwoven with blackberries, cassis, spice box, and flowers. With great density, beautiful precision, and a long, medium to full-bodied finish revealing decent acidity as well as impressive purity, it should drink well for 12-14 years. Drink 2005-2019. Score - **92-94**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), June 2005)

## Chile Red Wine - August 2007

**CASA LAPOSTOLLE CLOS APALTA 2004**

**Colchagua**

**723676 (D) 750 mL \$96**

TASTING NOTE: The 2004 Clos Apalta is composed of 86% Carmenere and 14 % Merlot. Purple colored, it has a splendid bouquet of pain grille, spice box, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. This is followed by a rich, layered wine with excellent grip and plenty of ripe tannins. This nicely balanced effort should reach its peak in 5-6 years and drink well through 2027. Score - **91**. (Jay Miller, [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), June 2007)

## USA White Wines - August 2007

**California**

**JORDAN CHARDONNAY 2004**

**Russian River Valley**

**932392 (XD) 750 mL \$39**

Partial malolactic fermentation permitted the wine to retain its natural, crisp acidity - a hallmark of Russian River Valley fruit. The citrus and mineral bouquet displays delicate aromas of green apple, kiwi, honey and lightly toasted oak. The balance of green apple fruit and crisp acidity provide lasting flavours that make this Chardonnay a beautiful match for salmon potpie.

**KEENAN Chardonnay 2005**  
**Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley**

**46383 (D) 750 mL \$39**

TASTING NOTE: The non-malolactic 2005 Chardonnay was aged in both new wood and stainless steel. It offers fresh citrus, pear, and lanolin-like characteristics along with attractive minerality, crispness, and a lively personality. Consume it over the next 1-3 years. Michael Keenan has been pushing the quality of these offerings to exciting levels over the last several vintages, and this Spring Mountain winery is poised to garner more and more accolades from consumers for their impeccably made wines. Drink 2006-2009. Score - **89**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Dec. 2006)

**Sbragia Gamble Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay 2005**  
**Napa Valley**

**52720 (D) 750 mL \$49**

TASTING NOTE: Intense, ripe, rich and opulent. Well-constructed, with pear, melon and hazelnut flavors that are deep and concentrated, ending with a toasty oak presence but also lots of ripe fruit. Drink now through 2010. Score - **91**. (James Laube, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), June 15, 2007)

**USA Red Wines - August 2007**

**California**

**Chateau St. Jean Cinq CÉpages Cabernet Sauvignon 2001**  
**Sonoma County**

**710913 (XD) 750 mL \$99**

TASTING NOTE: Beautifully crafted, dark, rich and layered, with blackberry, cherry, plum and wild berry fruit that zooms across the palate, holding a tight focus and finishing with a long, complex aftertaste. The tannins firm up nicely on the finish. Drink now through 2011. Score - **92**. (James Laube, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com), Nov. 15, 2004)

**CLARK-CLAUDON VINEYARDS ESTATE GROWN CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2002**  
**Napa Valley**

**14118 (XD) 750 mL \$119**

TASTING NOTE: From lower Howell Mountain, this 100% Cab has bigtime tannins and tremendous authority. It's dry, shut down and slightly rustic now, with an edgy feel, but the core of ripe Cabernet fruit suggests that it will blossom and improve by 2008, and then hold until at least 2015. A Cellar Selection. Score - **91**. (Steve Heimoff, *Wine Enthusiast*, Aug. 1, 2006)

**CONIGLIO SPRING MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2002**  
**Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley**

**39859 (XD) 750 mL \$63**

Started in 2001, this is only the second vintage for this California Boutique winery. Purchasing grapes from the well respected Wurtele Vineyard in the Spring Mountain District, the total production for this wine is only 600 cases. Packed with flavours of ripe mountain cassis, cedar and spice, with a wisp of smoky oak. The palate is rich and concentrated with silky tannins. Though tempting to drink now, it will not show its best for at least two or three more years.

**David Arthur Meritaggio 2003**

**954610 (XD) 750 mL \$74**

David Arthur is a small Napa winery with a cult following. This unique Bordeaux-Tuscan blend (Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Sangiovese) is one of the reasons. This full-bodied offering exhibits impressive purity and length. A highly accessible red that generously serves up delicious aromas of black fruit and savoury notes of truffles, vanilla, cedar and earth. Enjoy now with 2-3 hours of decanting for optimal enjoyment or let it become even more expressive with 5+ years of cellaring.

**DOMINUS 2003**  
**Napa Valley**

**703637 (XD) 1500 mL \$245**

**TASTING NOTE:** The 2003 Dominus has turned out even better than I thought from barrel. There are 4,800 cases of this 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Petit Verdot blend. A big, sweet nose of roasted coffee, Provencal herbs, black currants, cherry jam, plums, allspice, and forest floor is followed by a spicy, rich, full-bodied, fragrant, intense wine. The tannins are sweet, but noticeable in this beautifully complex, strikingly aromatic 2003. It has much more similarity to a great Bordeaux than anything from Napa Valley. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2025. The most European-styled of all the Napa Valley Bordeaux blends, Dominus is owned by Petrus winemaker Christian Moueix, who works from one of region's most historic vineyards, the renowned Napanook site from which many of the famed Inglenook wines of the fifties and sixties were produced. Interestingly, I tasted both decanted and recently opened bottles of each of these wines, and the additional aeration unquestionably revealed more nuances and character. I wouldn't be surprised if 5-10 hours of decanting resulted in significant improvement for these young wines. P.S. When I asked Christian Moueix to briefly summarize the last three Dominus vintages, he called 2001 "classic and elegant," 2002 "exuberant and rich in more of a California style," and 2003 "extremely aromatic and supple." Score - **95**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Dec. 2005)

**ETUDE PINOT NOIR 2004**  
**Carneros**

**29256 (D) 750 mL \$69**

**TASTING NOTE:** The 2004 Pinot Noir reveals a dark plum/ruby color, sweet forest floor, pomegranate, plum, and cherry notes, medium to full body, superb integration of wood, acidity, and tannin, and an attractive, complex finish. Already drinking well, this wine should continue to drink well for another 5-7 years. Drink 2006-2013. Score - **90**. (Robert Parker Jr., [www.erobertparker.com](http://www.erobertparker.com), Dec. 2006)

**Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**  
**Oakville, Napa Valley**

**539098 (XD) 750 mL \$149**

Elegance abounds in this medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon. Soft tannins and a fine balance focuses one's attention on the fragrant aromas of dark fruit, black currant, dark chocolate, earth and cedar that replay handsomely on the palate. A classic match for roast leg of lamb wrapped in rosemary.

**Hitching Post Generation Red 2005**  
**Santa Barbara County**  
**(Hartley Ostini)**

**36723 (D) 750 mL \$27**

Hitching Post Generation Red is a Cabernet Franc-dominated blend that often includes Merlot and Syrah. The percentages fluctuate depending on the vintage. The 2005 vintage is an extremely well-balanced, very fruit-forward, and structured wine. Delectable with grilled steaks or cellar it 2-4 years.

**Hitching Post Highliner Pinot Noir 2005**  
**Santa Barbara County**  
**(Hartley Ostini)**

**36715 (D) 750 mL \$57**

Highliner is a name taken from the fishing industry where the best fishers on the best boats were so named. Fittingly, Highliner is Hitching Post's top-of-the-line bottling from their best vineyards and their finest vintages. It is an elegant and well-structured wine with aromas of intense dark fruits and hints of white pepper spice all tightly wound in a seamless package. Savour this Pinot with slow-roasted duck or cellar it 3-5 years.

**Hitching Post Pinot Noir 2005****Santa Maria Valley****(Hartley Ostini)****36681 (D) 750 mL \$47**

Not surprisingly, Hitching Post is just as popular for its restaurant as it is for its winery because it crafts all of its wines to match with an array of fine foods. Historically, the winery's Santa Maria bottling is elegant yet flavourful that manages to combine refinement and intensity. Try this one with grilled salmon with a light fruit salsa or grilled stuffed pork tenderloin.

**Hitching Post St. Rita's Earth Pinot Noir 2005****Santa Rita Hills****(Hartley Ostini)****36699 (D) 750 mL \$47**

Have your own "Sideways" moment with this great Pinot from Hitching Post. Their St. Rita's Earth Pinot is a blend of fruit from three vineyards: Sanford & Benedict, Fiddlestix and Clos Pepe. All three vineyards are located in cooler areas of Santa Rita Hills, so the wines show an exceptional balance of the cherry, raspberry and earth aromas and flavours and the bright acids and silky tannins. An exquisite complement to lamb chops with rosemary and garlic or cellar 3+ years.

**JORDAN CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2003****Alexander Valley****932434 (XD) 750 mL \$64**

The blending of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot with the Cabernet Sauvignon is responsible for the well-integrated flavours, deep colour and full mouth feel of this attractive red. Richly textured and opulently flavoured with a restrained framework of oak and lingering finish of subtle earth, tobacco and cedar make this an ideal match for roast quail.

**JOSEPH PHELPS LE MISTRAL 2004****Napa Valley****24224 (D) 750 mL \$58**

TASTING NOTE: Monterey County now provides all the fruit for Phelps' blended Rhone Ranger cuvee, the 2004 Le Mistral (70% Syrah, 20% Grenache, and small amounts of Alicante Bouche and Petite Sirah). Juicy, savory, and ripe, with peppery black raspberry and currant aromas, sweet flavors, a hint of tar, no evidence of oak, and a long, heady finish, it will provide pleasure over the next 5-6 years. Drink 2005-2011. Score - **90**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Dec. 2005)

**Keenan Cabernet Sauvignon 2003****Napa Valley****685685 (XD) 750 mL \$54**

TASTING NOTE: Exhibiting cassis, earth, and spice box characteristics, the dark ruby/purple-tinged, medium-bodied 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon possesses soft tannins, good power, and an attractive overall balanced feel. Michael Keenan has been pushing the quality of these offerings to exciting levels over the last several vintages, and this Spring Mountain winery is poised to garner more and more accolades from consumers for their impeccably made wines. Drink 2005-2013. Score - **89**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Dec. 2006)

**Keenan Merlot 2003****Napa Valley****46391 (D) 750 mL \$44**

In December 2006, Robert Parker Jr. remarked: "Michael Keenan has been pushing the quality of these [red wine] offerings to exciting levels over the last several vintages, and this Spring Mountain winery is poised to garner more and more accolades from consumers for their impeccably made wines." (*www.erobertparker.com*) This fresh, lively 2003 Merlot features juicy red cherry and currant aromas and flavours with touches of mocha, spice and herbs. Delectable with roasted lamb.

**Miner Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**  
**Oakville District, Napa Valley**

**745703 (XD) 750 mL \$75**

TASTING NOTE: 8% Cabernet Franc. Miner's big, very outgoing Cabernet places its emphasis on ripeness and rich oak, but beneath its immediate sweetness, it shows a solid measure of persistent black currant fruit. If presently roughed up by both tannin and evident heat at the finish, it finds plenty of fruit powering through at the end, and it has all of the depth and essential extract it needs to age comfortably for a half-dozen years. Score - **91**. (*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wines*, April 2007)

**MINER GARY'S VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2005**  
**Santa Lucia Highlands**

**46375 (XD) 750 mL \$65**

TASTING NOTE: Well-focused on varietal cherries are given a boost in richness by way of its considerable oak, this mid-sized working is at once ripe and brightened by plentiful acidity. Its suggestions of sleek, cool-climate fruit are presently contrasted by a noticeable trim of finishing heat, but it has the sense of a wine whose slightly disparate parts will be best served with a couple of years' rest in the cellar. Score - **89**. (*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wines*, June 2007)

**Miner THE ORACLE 2003**  
**Napa Valley**

**46367 (XD) 750 mL \$79**

TASTING NOTE: 52% Cabernet Sauvignon; 31% Merlot; 17% Cabernet Franc. This masterful blend of Bordelaise varietals fixes on very deep and fairly classic Cabernet fruit while finding nuances of herbs, briary spice and just the right measure of complementary oak within its layered and involving mix. Its fraction of Merlot is made manifest by way of its plump and polished palatal feel, and its long, characterful finish is firmed by perfectly integrated tannins. Despite its many immediate charms, the wine promises more and better to come with cellaring. Score - **93**. (*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wines*, April 2007)

**Ridge Monte Bello Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**  
**Santa Cruz Mountains**

**711085 (XD) 750 mL \$129**

TASTING NOTE: A mix of elegance and power, with deep, concentrated cherry cassis, spicebox and cedar notes. Chewy, rustic nuances of herb, eucalyptus, leather and sage flavors fill out on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Score - **92-94**. (James Laube, *www.winespectator.com*, July 31, 2005)

**ROBERT MONDAVI SLD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 1998**  
**Napa Valley**

**962241 (D) 750 mL \$64**

TASTING NOTE: Purists will find it thin and tannic, but it also defines the iron-fist-in-a-velvet-glove quality of Stags Leap. Dry and structured, with intricate tannins, its initial impression is austere. Then you start to think about it, and royal complexities are revealed. Score - **91**. (Steve Heimoff, *Wine Enthusiast*, Dec. 1, 2001)

**TANDEM SANGIACOMO VINEYARD PINOT NOIR 2003**  
**Sonoma County**

**686816 (D) 750 mL \$61**

TASTING NOTE: Again I really see the French connection in this wine. It is full of cherry, milk chocolate, blackberry, strawberry and smoke. It tastes like a rustic Pommard, a wine style that I happen to be very fond of. The palate has a bushel of red fruit, bright plummy acids and one hell of a finish. (Alan Kerr, *www.gangofpour.com*)

**Volker Eisele Cabernet Sauvignon 2004**  
**Napa Valley**

**53926 (XD) 750 mL \$55**

Rich and ripe, this Napa Valley Cab delivers the goods from its youthful black cherry fruit aromas and flavours to its intriguing crème caramel layer from the oak ageing. A fine complement to grilled steak now but will reward short to mid-term cellaring.

## Fortified Wines - August 2007

### Port

#### Quinta Da Romaneira 2004

Douro

**36228 (S) 750 mL \$54**

TASTING NOTE: This full-throttle red offers impressive minerality, extraction and verve. Rich, ripe flavors of dark plum, blackberry, dark cherry and spice rub elbows with mocha, chocolate and cream on the robust finish. Drink now through 2015. Score - **94**. (Kim Marcus, *www.winespectator.com*, June 15, 2007)

#### QUINTA DO NOVAL VINTAGE PORT 2003

Douro

**672782 (S) 750 mL \$95**

TASTING NOTE: The inky, purple-colored, opaque 2003 Quinta do Noval Vintage Port soars from the glass, revealing dates, black cherries, copious flowers, and plums. Full-bodied, broad, and lush, this top-flight wine is harmonious and exhibits stupendous purity of fruit. Blueberries, cherries, and candied strawberries can be found in its nuanced, lengthy, plum-laced core as well as in its immensely long, dried berry-tinged finish. Drink this beauty between 2020 and 2045 +. Score - **94**. (Pierre Rovani, *www.erobertparker.com*, Oct. 2005)

### Dessert Wine

#### BULLER FINE OLD MUSCAT

**10140 (S) 750 mL \$27**

TASTING NOTE: The medium dark amber-colored Premium Fine Muscat (100% Muscat) reveals terrific aromas of toffee, melted caramel, molasses, brown sugar, hazelnuts, and smoke. This blend represents the newest bottled offerings from this Rutherglen producer, an area that produces spectacular fortifieds, especially the Muscats and Tokays (actually Muscadelle). Its freshness, good acidity, soaring aromatics, and unctuous flavors must be tasted to be believed. Drink 2002-2012. Score - **96**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Oct. 2005)

## BULLER FINE OLD TOKAY

**10165 (S) 750 mL \$27**

**TASTING NOTE:** The dark-amber-hued Premium Fine Tokay offers sumptuous notes of spice box, Christmas pudding, figs, brown sugar, and molasses. This blend represents the newest bottled offerings from this Rutherglen producer, an area that produces spectacular fortifieds, especially the Muscats and Tokays (actually Muscadelle). Its freshness, good acidity, soaring aromatics, and unctuous flavors must be tasted to be believed. Drink 2002-2012. Score - **95**. (Robert Parker Jr., *www.erobertparker.com*, Oct. 2005)

## Spirits - August 2007

### Scotch Whisky

**The Balvenie Cask 191 Aged 50 Years  
(William Grant & Sons)**

**51839 700 mL \$30,000.00**

The Balvenie 50 Year-Old-Scotch is the veritable jewel in the crown for the most serious of collectors. Only 83 bottles were produced (the smallest release ever of The Balvenie) and Vintages has successfully procured two bottles of this luxurious single malt. On January 26, 1952, it was laid down to mature in a single sherry cask. Over half a century later, the cask was emptied on September 6, 2002 allowing for the whisky to be bottled. According to Balvenie's resident malt master, David Stewart, the sherry cask ageing imparted an array of flavours running the gamut "from butterscotch to clover, honey, liquorice and chocolate." Each bottle has been individually dipped in wax, features a hand-written label that is personally signed by David Stewart and is presented in an opulent cherry wood box.

**The Balvenie Vintage Cask 1972  
(William Grant & Sons)**

**954917 700 mL \$899**

The Balvenie Vintage Cask 1972 was recently awarded 'The World's Best New Release Whisky' at the 2007 *Whisky Magazine World Whiskies Awards*.

**TASTING NOTE:** Colour: Rich, warm, gold to amber. Nose: Buttery richness. Butterscotch pudding. Bread and butter pudding. Honey. Body: Rich, soft, delicious. Astonishingly syrupy smooth. Palate: Still evoking thoughts of desserts, but the honeyed pastries of the Balkans. Then a suggestion of chocolate powder hints at tiramisu. Finish: Bitter chocolate. Terry's chocolate oranges. The ultimate dessert whisky. Beautifully composed. Score - **92**. (Michael Jackson, *Malt Whisky Companion*, 5th Edition)

