

WHITES

2008 Beringer Napa Chardonnay

The Wine Advocate – 89 Points

“A sleeper of the vintage as well as a stunning value, the 2008 Chardonnay Napa ranks alongside some of the great bargains in California Chardonnay. Orange blossom, lemon oil, peach, and pineapple notes are restrained, but noticeable in this medium-bodied, fruit-driven effort. A subtle note of oak provides structure and delineation. This, too, will drink well for several years.”

2008 Greg Norman Chardonnay

The Wine Advocate – 87 Points

“Greg Norman’s 2008 Chardonnay was partially barrel-fermented and aged in seasoned French oak. Medium straw-colored, it offers up a nose of toasty oak, a touch of mineral, white peach, poached pear, and hazelnuts. Light-bodied, restrained and creamy-textured, it has plenty of spicy fruit, good balance, and a medium-long finish. Drink it over the next 3-4 years.”

REDS

2007 Bastide Syrah VV

The Wine Advocate – 90 Points

“The 2007 Syrah Vieilles Vignes came in at close to 15% alcohol, yet its wonderfully-concentrated, brown-spiced, sweetly-ripe cassis, black cherry, and purple plum retain a refreshing brightness and are not in the least marred by bitterness or heat. Anything this wine lacks in complexity it makes up for in seamlessness and generosity, not to mention ridiculously good value. Enjoy it over the next 2-3 years.”

2006 BV Carneros Pinot Noir

This is a cleaner, slightly riper Pinot that isn’t Burgundian. It has the tiniest hint of earth in the aroma with candied cherry fruit. It’s quite smooth and rich on the palate with ripe red fruits – raspberries & strawberries – and a hint of spice. The mid-palate is creamy with luxurious flavors and vanilla notes. The finish shows good length, soft texture, light tannins, and berry fruit.

2005 Hesketh Protagonist

This Barossa Shiraz is a great wine – big flavors, but very well-balanced. It starts with concentrated black raspberry aromas which leads to a smooth mouthfeel. It’s quite lush with “black” fruit and vanilla, from American oak, on the palate. It shows good concentration and good acidity as well. The finish is very full-flavored with lengthy, black raspberry, spice, and caramel flavors. Nice wine!

2006 12 Gauge Cabernet

I’ve been looking for a good, user-friendly \$10 Cabernet and here it is! This one has a wonderful aroma of fresh cherry fruit with hints of vanilla. It’s clean & juicy on the palate with gobs of ripe, cherry flavors neatly framed with the perfect amount of acidity. The finish is nice also – plenty of medium-ripe berry fruit. Good fruit plus good structure equals one crowd pleaser!

2007 Turn 4 Napa Cabernet

Perfect Napa Cab! Aromas of “blue” fruits – blueberry, black raspberry – lead to thick and rich cherry fruit on the palate. This wine has great fruit almost a liqueur-like quality to it. Luckily there’s enough acidity or this lovely fruit would overwhelm the wine. The finish is quite lengthy with more cherry flavors.

2008 7 Lagos Cabernet/Malbec

With the focus on Malbec, Argentina’s blends can be forgotten. This example is a terrific value. It has a bright aroma and is smooth on the palate. This blend has a great fruit component with pretty berry fruit. This wine is surprisingly elegant with lovely flavors and excellent structure. It even has a nice finish! Wines with this balance usually come with a significantly higher price tag. **Tremendous value!**

2008 Bitch Grenache

The Wine Advocate – 89 Points

"The 2008 Bitch Grenache is about as good as it gets for \$12. Earthy, herbal, sage and garrigue-like aromas mingle with lovely rose petal and cherry scents. Smooth, ripe, flavorful, and seamless on the palate, this friendly effort is all about pleasure. Drink it over the next 2-3 years."

2007 Martini Sonoma Cabernet

The Wine Advocate – 90 Points

"I am also including their Sonoma Cabernet a blend of 92% Cabernet and the rest the other Bordeaux varietals. An exquisite value, this is a seductive, fleshy, fruity wine with excellent texture, body, and balance. Lots of cassis as well as silky tannins characterize this top bargain pick! Drink it over the next 5-7 years."

2007 Apothic Red

The Wine Advocate – 87 Points

"This is one of the greatest bargains I have ever tasted from California. Made by Gallo, it is a blend of 45% Syrah, 44% Zinfandel 9% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet. A hedonist's dream, this fruit-bomb exhibits loads of berry fruit, pepper, and spice, silky tannins, and an attractive mouthfeel. Neither heavy nor overly alcoholic, which will provide enormous relief for weary, recession-challenged wine consumers. It should drink well for 1-2 yrs. Bravo to Gallo!"

2008 Pillar Box Red

The Wine Advocate – 89 Points

"A perennial Best Buy in these pages, the 2008 Pillar Box doesn't disappoint. A blend of 66% Shiraz, 25% Cabernet & 9% Merlot, it is purple-colored with an enticing nose of cherry blossom, cinnamon, blueberry, and licorice. Ripe and rich for its humble price, it has plenty of savory fruit, good balance, and a seamless, fruit-filled finish."

2008 Marquis Philips Cabernet

The Wine Advocate – 90 Points

"The 2008 Cabernet is purple/black-colored with a nose of toasty black currants, spice box, and licorice. Velvety, sweet, and opulent on the palate, it has plenty of concentration, enough structure for balance, and a pure, fruit-filled finish."

2008 Marquis Philips Sarah's Blend

The Wine Advocate – 91 Points

"The purple/black 2008 Sarah's Blend is composed of 63% Shiraz, 26% Cabernet & the balance Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Notes of smoke, espresso, damp earth, spice box, and assorted black fruits lead to a full-bodied, already complex, rich wine with loads of ripe fruit. The finish is long, smooth, and filled with flavor."

2008 Marquis Philips Shiraz

The Wine Advocate – 91 Points

"The 2008 Shiraz offers up aromas of cigar box, damp earth, smoked meat, bacon, and blueberry. Packed with flavor on the palate, it is full-bodied, round, and altogether pleasure-bent. Drink it over the next 4-5 years."

2008 Marquis Philips Merlot

The Wine Advocate – 90 Points

"The 2008 Merlot will go a long way toward repairing the grape's reputation as a libido killer. Purple-colored, it sports an enticing bouquet of cedar, black cherry, plum, and violets. Full-bodied, layered, and succulent on the palate, this ripe effort is well balanced despite its size, and has a lengthy, fruit-filled finish. Drink it over the next 5 years."

ADVENTUROUS

Bookwalter Subplot #23

Killer wine! This Washington State, multi-vintage blend includes all 5 Bordeaux grapes as and Syrah and Barbera. It has a cherry, chocolate aroma and is very smooth on the palate. Pleasantly ripe berry/cherry flavors fill the mouth with lovely hints of vanilla and cedar. It has a dry backbone which provides perfect structure. The mid-palate shows hints of bittersweet chocolate. The finish is slightly bright with good length and cherry fruit. **VERY enjoyable!**

Morgenhof Estate Brut Reserve

Who wants a sparkler that tastes like French Champagne AND is priced under \$20? Why everyone of course. This sparkler is **AMAZING!** Yeasty, nutty aromas lead to a smooth mouthfeel with flavors of crisp apples, truffles, and hints of toast on the palate. If I didn't see the label I'd swear this was true Champagne. The finish is dry and quite lengthy too. Bravo!

2006 O'Shaughnessy Cabernet Howell Mountain

The Wine Advocate – 94 Points

"The 2006 Cabernet Howell Mountain is performing better now than it did last year. A dense purple color in addition to plenty of creme de cassis, crushed rock, blueberry, and brioche-like notes are found in this full-bodied Cabernet. It avoids the rustic tannins of this vintage, and exhibits good sweetness and purity of fruit. Consume it over the next 15-20 years."

2007 Snowden Ranch Cabernet

The Wine Advocate – 95 Points

"The 2007 Cabernet The Ranch (90% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot) is sensational. Dense ruby/purple-hued with notes of cassis, licorice, chocolate, cedar, and coffee, it is a long, rich, flamboyant, exuberant effort whose minerality/burning ember component in the finish gives the wine considerable definition. This full-bodied offering is a classic Napa Cab combined with a finesse and mineral-ity that is unusual in California. It should drink well for 20-30 years."

2007 Snowden Reserve Cabernet

The Wine Advocate – 97+ Points!

"The dazzling 2007 Reserve Cabernet (86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Cabernet Franc) requires 2-5 more years of bottle age, but should evolve for three decades. Its dense purple color is accompanied by a thrilling bouquet of espresso roast, smoked herbs, licorice, creme de cassis, blackberries, and ink. The wine hits the palate with a blast of fruit, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and tremendous purity, definition, and length. The sensational purity and exquisite balance between all its elements are impressive as well as noteworthy."