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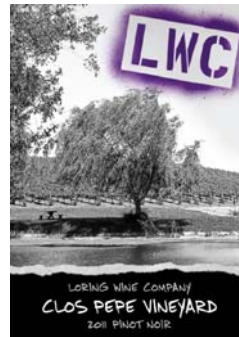
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PINOT NOIR

New Releases

1. **2011 Loring Wine Company, "Clos Pepe Vineyard,"** Sta. Rita Hills (\$54) – Medium-light to medium ruby color; attractive, intense, herbal, cherry fruit aroma that developed with airing in the glass; medium-full body; assertive, cranberry and red cherry fruit flavors with good depth and balance; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows distinctive varietal character and some complexity, though needing a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15.1% alcohol; 600 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released February 2013.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 2 of 10 first-place votes/1 second/3 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)
2. **2011 Loring Wine Company, "Aubaine Vineyard,"** San Luis Obispo County (\$54) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, cedary, raspberry and black cherry fruit aroma with hints of clove and saffras; medium-full body; forward, rich, plush, textured, black cherry fruit flavors with some earthy notes and a slightly creamy mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to taste now as it developed with airing in the glass. Very highly recommended. *15.1% alcohol; 400 cases; 100% PN; released February 2013.* (Group Score: 16.4, 3/1/3; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)
3. **2011 ZD, Carneros** (\$48) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, fragrant, spicy, elegant, cranberry and black cherry fruit aroma with hints of clove, lavender, and rhubarb; medium to medium-full body; supple, bright red fruit flavors with good balance and a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 4,700 cases; 100% PN; released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/1/3; My Score: 17 [92/100], third place)
4. **2011 Loring Wine Company, "Cargasacchi Vineyard,"** Sta. Rita Hills (\$54) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, initially tight, earthy, toasty, black cherry fruit aroma with hints of clove, forest floor, and vanilla; medium-full body; rich, earthy, dark cherry and red berry fruit flavors with a trace of toasty oak; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 400 cases; 100% PN; released February 2013.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/0; My Score: 17 [92/100], second place)



5. **2011 Loring Wine Company, "Russell Family Vineyard,"** Paso Robles (\$54) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, initially tight, earthy, plum and dark cherry aroma with a hint of cola; medium-full body; rich, plush, raspberry and black cherry fruit flavors with undertones of vanilla and a fleshy mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *15.2% alcohol; 700 cases; 100% PN; released February 2013.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/2/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)
6. **2011 Meiomi, Monterey County 51%, Santa Barbara County 23%, Sonoma County 26%** (\$22) – Medium purplish ruby; attractive, forward, plummy, dark cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of Asian spice, cola, and caramel; medium-full body; fairly rich, plush, plummy, dark cherry fruit flavors with a slightly creamy mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Good value and enjoyable to drink now. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 92,000 cases; 100% PN; released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.0, 1/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)
7. **2011 CrossBarn by Paul Hobbs, Sonoma Coast** (\$35) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, moderately intense, black cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of rhubarb, vanilla, and anise; medium-full body; spicy, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with bright acidity and hints of clove and toasty oak; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 4,370 cases; 100% PN; released Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)
8. **2011 Kenwood Vineyards, Russian River Valley** (\$18) – Medium-light ruby; pleasant, fragrant, dark plum and black cherry fruit aroma with hints of rhubarb and cola; medium-full body; forward, rich, plush, toasty, somewhat elegant, black cherry fruit flavors with a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Good value and easy to drink now. Recommended. *13.5% alcohol; 43,600 cases; blended with 2% Syrah; released October 2012.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)
9. **2011 River Road Family Vineyards and Winery, "Reserve,"** Russian River Valley (\$19) – Medium-light ruby;

pleasant, herbal, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with a trace of toasty oak; medium body; soft, plush, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with bright acidity; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Good value and easy to drink now. Recommended. *13.2% alcohol; case production not available; 100% PN; released Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 15.7, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], ninth place)

10. **2011 Masút Vineyard & Winery**, “Estate Vineyard,” Mendocino County (\$40) – Medium-light ruby; herbal, spicy, smoky, cherry and strawberry fruit aroma with notes of clove, cinnamon, and charred oak; medium to medium-full body; tight, herbal, spicy, cherry fruit flavors with a hint of cocoa; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 1,041 cases; 100% PN; released January 2013.* (Group Score: 15.7, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], tenth place) [*Masút also released four separate “block designate” bottlings from their Estate Vineyard, each being of a specific clone and priced at \$55. Informally tasting these four wines later I scored their “Block 1” and “Block 7” 90 points each and their “Block 11” and Block 13” 89 points.*]

11. **2011 Windsor Oaks Vineyards**, Russian River Valley (\$35) – Light to medium-light ruby; pleasant, floral, slightly stemmy, cherry and raspberry aroma with hints of saffras, nutmeg, and spearmint; medium body; tight, lean, herbal, red fruit flavors with a slightly tart finish; medium-light to medium tannin; slightly lingering aftertaste. Recommended. *14% alcohol; 225 cases; 100% PN; released June 2012.* (Group Score: 15.6, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], twelfth place)

12. **2011 Windsor Oaks Vineyards**, “Reserve,” Russian River Valley (\$45) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, earthy, cherry and strawberry fruit aroma with a note of toasty oak; medium-full body; tight, sharp, earthy, cherry and red berry fruit flavors; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Recommended. *14% alcohol; 175 cases; 100% PN; released January 2013.* (Group Score: 15.6, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eleventh place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]



ABOUT OUR TASTING NOTES

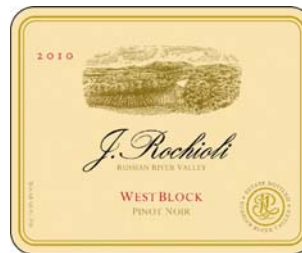
OUR TASTING NOTES are the result of weekly double-blind tastings held in San Diego and sponsored by the *California Grapevine*. Our scoring system at these tastings is based on the traditional 20-point Davis scale for wine evaluation. I also include a score using the currently more popular 100-point scale.

The group score and the number of first, second, and third-place votes appear, along with my (editor Nick Ponomareff’s) own scores and relative ranking, in parentheses after the comments on each wine.

A “True Ranking” based on a statistical analysis of the results appears at the end of each set of tasting notes. Wines that do not differ significantly are grouped in brackets.

Please also note that many of the wines we taste are only available direct from the winery through their mailing list or wine club. Information about a wine’s availability is best checked by visiting the winery’s website.

PINOT NOIR More New Releases



1. **2010 J. Rochioli**, “West Block,” Russian River Valley (\$100) – Medium ruby color with a purplish tinge; attractive, deep, intense, spicy, ripe, black cherry and red berry fruit aroma with earthy notes and a trace of vanilla; medium-full to full body; big, forward, rich, spicy, ripe red fruit flavors with good depth and concentration; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Developed complexity as it aired and shows a bit more extraction and depth than the other four Rochioli wines in this tasting. Deserves three to five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 165 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 3 of 14 first-place votes/3 seconds/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [93 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2010 J. Rochioli**, “Three Corner Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$80) – Medium ruby with a purplish tinge; attractive, toasty, spicy, red cherry fruit aroma with earthy notes and hints of mushrooms and forest floor; medium-full body; forward, rich, fleshy, plummy, ripe red fruit flavors with hints of vanilla and cola; well balanced and firmly structured; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good depth and concentration, and developed some complexity as it aired in the glass. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 163 cases; 100% PN; released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/2/2; My Score: 17 [92/100], second place)

3. **2010 Black Kite**, “River Turn,” Anderson Valley (\$55) – Medium purplish ruby; attractive, forward, intense, spicy, earthy, plum and black cherry fruit aroma with hints of anise and cola; medium-full body; deep, herbal, earthy, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with spicy notes, though a bit rough on the finish; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. A relatively big, concentrated wine that deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 150 cases; 100% PN; released to their mailing list in Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 16.4, 3/0/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

4. **2010 Ten Acre**, “Stephens Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$55) – Medium ruby; attractive, herbal, spicy, ripe red cherry fruit aroma with hints of clove, violets, white pepper, and rhubarb; medium-full body; forward, complex, well balanced, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with spicy notes and a hint of cola; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good depth as it developed with airing in the glass. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 190 cases; 100% PN; released April 2012.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/3/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], seventh place)

5. **2010 J. Rochioli**, “Little Hill Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$72) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, fragrant, complex, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with spicy notes and hints of mocha and orange zest; medium-full body; rich, firmly structured, cherry and raspberry fruit flavors with spice on the mid-palate and bright acidity that leaves a slight

tartness on the finish; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good depth, balance, and some elegance, though best to age for a few more years. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 372 cases; 100% PN; released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], fifth place)

6. **2010 MacMurray Ranch**, “Winemaker’s Block Selection,” Russian River Valley (\$60) – Medium ruby; attractive, forward, very ripe, plummy, cherry and strawberry fruit aroma with herbal notes and hints of vanilla and cola; medium-full body; forward, plummy, herbal, spicy, layered, red fruit flavors with hints of cinnamon and cola, and having a rich, velvety mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Rich and elegant, and very appealing to taste now. Very highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 300 cases; 100% PN; released June 2012.* (Group Score: 16.2, 2/0/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

7. **2010 Black Kite**, “Kite’s Rest,” Anderson Valley (\$45) – Medium ruby; attractive, spicy, Bing cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of clove, sage, and forest floor; medium-full body; fleshy, toasty, spicy, cherry and raspberry fruit flavors with earthy notes and a hint of vanilla; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Rather elegant in style, well balanced, and very approachable now. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 541 cases; 100% PN; released to their mailing list in Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 16.2, 1/2/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], eighth place)

8. **2010 J. Rochioli**, “River Block,” Russian River Valley (\$72) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, herbal, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with floral, spicy notes; medium-full body; rich, fleshy, bright red fruit flavors with good depth and tending to be a bit tight on the finish; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Showed some elegance and complexity as it developed with airing in the glass, though deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 142 cases; 100% PN; released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], sixth place)

9. **2010 J. Rochioli**, “Sweetwater Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$72) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, black cherry and red berry fruit aroma with earthy and toasty notes, and hints of tea, cola, and forest floor; medium-full body; tight, textured, bright cherry and raspberry flavors that are firmly structured and have good depth and concentration; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Needs a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 348 cases; 100% PN; released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], ninth place)

10. **2010 Black Kite**, “Redwoods’ Edge,” Anderson Valley (\$55) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with a hint of cola; medium-full body; rich, fleshy, layered, cherry and raspberry fruit flavors with cedary, spicy notes; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Well balanced and shows some elegance and complexity. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 149 cases; 100% PN; released to their mailing list in Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], tenth place)

11. **2010 Black Kite**, “Stony Terrace,” Anderson Valley (\$55) – Medium-light to medium ruby; pleasant, earthy, spicy, cherry fruit aroma with toasty notes and a hint of cola; medium-full body; black cherry and berry fruit flavors with hints of mocha and a slightly creamy mouthfeel, though a bit

astringent on the finish; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 153 cases; 100% PN; released to their mailing list in Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], eleventh place)

12. **2010 Black Kite**, “Soberanes Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$55) – Medium ruby; forward, intense, herbal, spicy, slightly cedary, cherry fruit aroma with hints of rhubarb and charred oak; medium-full body; supple, toasty, cherry fruit flavors with hints of graphite and dark chocolate; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. A bit more forward and dense in style than the other Black Kite Pinots in this tasting. Highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 149 cases; 100% PN; released to their mailing list in Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 15.8, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], twelfth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11] [12]

PINOT NOIR More New Releases



1. **2011 Sojourn**, “Sangiacomo Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$48) – Medium-light to medium ruby color; attractive, spicy, complex, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of vanilla, cardamon, and light, briary notes; medium-full body; forward, rich, spicy, slightly plummy, red berry fruit flavors with a silky mouthfeel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to taste now with its precocious richness and elegance, though deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 600 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released Spring 2013.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 6 of 13 first-place votes/1 second/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2011 Sojourn**, “Gap’s Crown Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$54) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, forward, spicy, cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with hints of clove and a light smokiness; medium-full body; rich, slightly plummy, bright red berry fruit flavors with good depth and a slightly creamy mouthfeel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Show distinctive varietal character and deserve a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 800 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2013.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/5/1; My Score: 17 [92/100], second place)

3. **2009 Scherrer**, “Platt Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$75) – Medium ruby; attractive, forward, fragrant, spicy, dark plum and black cherry aroma with light toasty notes and hints of

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black tea and clove; medium-full body; tight, herbal, complex, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with firm acidity; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Developed depth and intensity as it aired in the glass. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 100 cases; 100% PN; released July 2012.* (Group Score: 16.4, 3/0/2; My Score: 17 [92/100], third place)

4. **2010 Alysian**, “Floodgate Vineyard, Rock Hill,” Russian River Valley (\$55) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, tight, cherry and cranberry aroma with good depth and a hint of charred oak; medium-full body; tight, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with bright acidity; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows some elegance, though a bit restrained at present, deserving several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *13.3% alcohol; 158 cases; 100% PN; released March 2013.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/0; My Score: 17 [92/100], fourth place)

5. **2010 Foley**, “JA Ranch,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$55) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, earthy, black cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with light hints of rhubarb and vanilla; medium-full body; rich, fleshy, spicy, red fruit flavors with good depth and length on the finish; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Developed nicely with airing in the glass. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 389 cases; 100% PN; released January 2013.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

6. **2011 Rochioli**, “Estate,” Russian River Valley (\$54) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, spicy, cherry fruit aroma with hints of cinnamon, clove, and cola; medium-full body; spicy, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with good depth and richness; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 1,780 cases; 100% PN; released January 2013.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/1/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], seventh place)

7. **2011 Sojourn**, “Rodgers Creek Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$48) – Medium-light ruby with a slight brickish hue on the edges; attractive, fragrant, slightly smoky, red berry fruit aroma with notes of clove and cola; medium to medium-full body; a bit lean on the palate with tight cherry and red berry fruit flavors and supported by bright acidity; slightly tart on the finish; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 550 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2013.* (Group Score: 16.0, 1/1/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], fifth place)

8. **2011 Sojourn**, Sonoma Coast (\$39) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, fragrant, spicy, bright red berry fruit aroma with hints of vanilla and saffras; medium to medium-full body; tight, moderately rich, cherry and raspberry fruit flavors that are well balanced and somewhat elegant; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 1,250 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2013.* (Group Score: 16.0, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], eighth place)

9. **2009 Scherrer**, “Big Brother,” Sonoma Coast (\$50) – Medium ruby with a purplish tinge; attractive, forward, spicy, cherry and cranberry aroma with earthy and toasty notes and a hint of cola; medium-full body; deep, rich, textured, earthy, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with firm acidity and a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 150 cases; 100% PN; released November 2012.* (Group Score: 16.0, 0/1/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], ninth place)

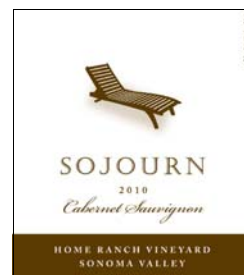
10. **2010 Foley**, “T Anchor Ranch,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$55) – Medium ruby; earthy, black cherry fruit aroma with herbal notes; medium-full body; forward, rich, textured, cherry and pomegranate flavors with crisp acidity; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 394 cases; 100% PN; released September 2012.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], tenth place)

11. **2010 Foley**, “Barrel Select,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$60) – Medium-light to medium ruby; forward, earthy, herbal, slightly stemmy, plum and cherry fruit aroma with a trace of charred oak; medium-full body; fleshy, herbal, cedary, cherry fruit flavors with a slightly hard finish; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 297 cases; 100% PN; released May 2012.* (Group Score: 15.8, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eleventh place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] [10, 11]

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

New Releases



1. **2010 Sojourn**, “Home Ranch Vineyard,” Sonoma Valley (\$48) – Medium-dark purplish ruby color; attractive, spicy, cassis and dark cherry fruit aroma with hints of pepper, tobacco, and dried herbs; full body; forward, big, rich, extracted, spicy, cedary, dark berry fruit flavors and a bit rough on the finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good varietal character and some complexity that developed with airing. A bit more forward and precocious than their Beckstoffer bottling at this point in time, though still deserving several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 150 cases; 100% Cabernet Sauvignon (CS); released Spring 2013.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 2 of 13 first-place votes/6 seconds/2 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], third place)

2. **2010 Sojourn**, “Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III,” Rutherford, Napa Valley (\$95) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, intense, complex, spicy, cassis and black cherry fruit aroma with a note of new French oak; full body; big, rich, intense, concentrated, ripe, dark berry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and firmly structured, with hints of elegance and complexity, deserving a good five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 225 cases; 100% CS; released Spring 2013.* (Group Score: 16.5, 2/3/4; My Score: 17 [92/100], second place)

3. **2010 Caymus Vineyards**, Napa Valley (\$72) – Dark purplish ruby; attractive, big, intense, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma with spicy notes and a hint of vanilla; full body; forward, big, rich, extracted, brambly, spicy, dark berry fruit flavors with hints of cedar and graphite; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good aging potential. Very highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 58,300 cases; blended with 20% mix of other red varietals; released June 2012.* (Group Score: 16.4, 3/2/1; My Score: 17 [92/100], first place)

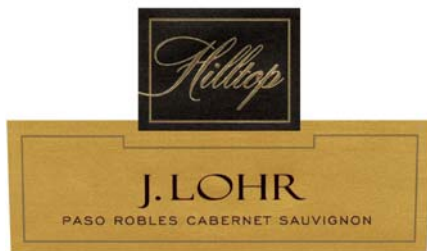
4. **2010 Chappellet**, “Signature,” Napa Valley (\$52) – Medium-dark to dark purplish ruby; attractive, spicy, cedary, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma; full body; forward, rich, fleshy, currant and dark berry fruit flavors that tighten a bit on the finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Needs a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 730 cases; blended with 14% Merlot, 6% Malbec, and 4% Petit Verdot (PV); released October 2012.* (Group Score: 16.3, 3/0/5; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

5. **2010 Rodney Strong**, “Symmetry, Meritage,” Alexander Valley (\$55) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, moderately intense, spicy, cassis, dark cherry, and blackberry fruit aroma with green olive and herbal notes; full body; forward, rich, cassis and dark cherry fruit flavors with good depth and balance, and hints of mint and dried herbs; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable and easy to drink now. Very highly recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 3,936 cases; a blend of 75% CS, 12% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot, and 1% PV; released November 2012.* (Group Score: 16.3, 3/2/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

More New Releases



1. **2009 J. Lohr**, “Hilltop,” Paso Robles (\$35) – Medium-dark purplish ruby color; attractive, forward, rich, spicy, ripe black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with cedary notes and hints of cassis, green olive, chocolate, and dried herbs; full body; forward, rich, plush, layered, spicy, dark cherry and ripe berry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows very appealing, rich fruit and drinking very nicely now in its youth. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 8,300 cases; blended with 14% Petite Sirah (PS), 3% Syrah, 2% Petit Verdot (PV), and 1% Cabernet Franc (CF); released August 2012.* (Group Score: 16.4 of 20 points, 5 of 10 first-place votes/1 second/1 third; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2008 Castello di Amorosa**, “La Castellana,” Napa Valley (\$68) – Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, forward, spicy, blackberry fruit aroma with hints of mocha and dried herbs; full body; big, rich, extracted, textured, currant and dark berry fruit flavors with good depth and balance; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows some elegance, though still fairly astringent, deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Described as a “super Tuscan blend” and available only direct from the winery. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 1,634 cases; blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon (CS), 16% Merlot, and 14% Sangiovese; released Fall 2012.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/3/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

3. **2009 Ramey**, “Annum,” Napa Valley (\$95) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, spicy, plummy, blackberry fruit aroma with hints of graphite, pepper, black olive, and vanilla; full

body; forward, rich, spicy, cedary, cassis and dark berry fruit flavors with good depth and structure; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a good five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15% alcohol; 350 cases; blended with 17% PV; released September 2012.* (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

4. **2009 Anderson Conn Valley Vineyards**, “Estate Reserve,” Napa Valley (\$75) – Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, spicy, currant and dark berry fruit aroma with hints of cassis, tobacco, and dried herbs; full body; forward, rich, textured, concentrated, dark berry fruit flavors with herbal notes and a hint of graphite; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows appealing fruit, along with some rough edges on the finish that will soften with some bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 2,250 cases; 100% CS; released March 2012.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/1/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

5. **2009 V. Sattui Winery**, “Paradiso,” Napa Valley (\$85) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, cedary, spicy, dark berry fruit aroma with hints of green olive, tobacco, and overtones of toasty oak; full body; forward, rich, textured, cedary, dark currant and blackberry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now, though still a bit rough and hard on the finish, deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 682 cases; a blend of 70% CS, 28% Merlot, and 2% PV; released Winter 2012.* (Group Score: 16.0, 1/0/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2009 Windsor Oaks Vineyards**, “Reserve,” Chalk Hill (\$45) – Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, spicy, cedary, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma; full body; tight, spicy, dark fruit flavors with herbal notes; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now and shows a good fruit to tannin balance. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 109 cases; 100% CS; released September 2012.* (Group Score: 15.8, 1/2/3; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

7. **2008 Emblem**, “Oso Vineyard,” Napa Valley (\$50) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, intense, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with spicy notes and hints of tobacco and dark chocolate; full body; big, rich, concentrated, textured, cedary, dark fruit flavors with good depth; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and structured and deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; case production not disclosed; 100% CS; released December 2012.* (Group Score: 15.8, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)

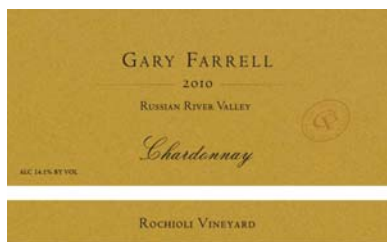
8. **2008 Silver Oak**, Alexander Valley (\$70) – Medium ruby; attractive, spicy, cassis, cherry, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dill and black licorice; medium-full to full body; moderately rich, herbal, dark berry fruit flavors with overtones of American oak; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Somewhat rough at present, though drinkable now and should please Silver Oak fans. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; case production not available; 100% CS; released August 2012.* (Group Score: 15.7, 1/1/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eighth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] [6, 7, 8]



CHARDONNAY

New Releases



1. **2010 Gary Farrell**, “Rochioli Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$45) – Medium-light golden yellow color; attractive, slightly buttery, green apple aroma with light tropical notes and hints of lemon zest and vanilla; medium-full body; forward, layered, citrus, apple, and stone fruit flavors with good depth and crisp acidity; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 288 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% barrel fermented (BF); 100% malolactic fermentation (ML); released November 2012.* (Group Score: 16.3 of 20 points, 3 of 10 first-place votes/2 seconds/2 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], third place)

2. **2010 Grgich Hill Estate**, Napa Valley (\$42) – Medium-light yellow; attractive, assertive, baked apple and white peach aroma with tropical notes and a slight hint of butterscotch; medium-full body; rich, textured, toasty, tropical fruit flavors with a slightly creamy mouthfeel and supported with firm, bright acidity; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended, though marked down by some tasters for a trace of sulfur. *14.1% alcohol; 25,853 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 0% ML; released Spring 2013.* (Group Score: 16.2, 3/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

3. **2010 Stonestreet**, “Broken Road,” Alexander Valley (\$40) Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, nutty, baked apple aroma with mineral notes and a hint of butterscotch; medium-full body; rich, plush, fleshy, green apple and tropical fruit flavors with a velvety mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 845 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released June 2012.* (Group Score: 16.2, 0/4/3; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

4. **2010 Gary Farrell**, “Rochioli Vineyard–Allen Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$45) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, pear and apple aroma with hints of honeysuckle, pineapple, and mandarin orange; medium-full body; crisp, zesty, spicy, pear and apple flavors with a complimenting layer of toasty oak; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.0% alcohol; 298 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released February 2013.* (Group Score: 16.1, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

5. **2010 Ten Acre**, “Sangiaco Vineyards, Green Acre Hills,” Sonoma Coast (\$48) – Medium-light to medium golden yellow; attractive, forward, buttery, citrus and tropical fruit aroma with a trace of vanilla; medium-full body; rich, buttery, slightly creamy, tropical fruit flavors with lemony notes and hints of hazelnut and vanilla; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 250 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released April 2012.* (Group Score: 15.9, 2/1/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2010 Gary Farrell**, “Westside Farms,” Russian River Valley (\$38) – Medium-light golden yellow; restrained, apple and citrus aroma with light tropical and toasty notes; medium-

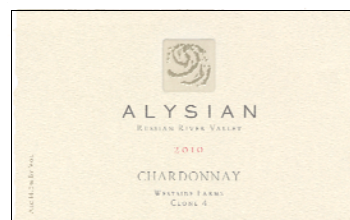
full body; tight, elegant, lemony, apple and stone fruit flavors with bright acidity; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and the complimenting oak is unobtrusive. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 372 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released May 2012.* (Group Score: 15.8, 1/1/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

CHARDONNAY

More New Releases

THE FOLLOWING TASTING NOTES on Chardonnays are from editor Nick Ponomareff. These wines were the best of those tasted during the past month outside of the normal *Grapevine* tasting panel format.



2010 Alysian, “Westside Farms, Clone 4,” Russian River Valley (\$40) – Medium-light yellow color; very attractive, fragrant, apple and white peach aroma with mineral notes and a hint of cinnamon; medium-full body; tight, clean, crisp, apple and stone fruit flavors with bright acidity and excellent balance; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.0% alcohol; 158 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% barrel fermented (BF); 35% malolactic fermentation (ML); released March 2013.* (My Score: 93 of 100 points)

2010 El Molino, Rutherford (\$50) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, citrusy, buttery, pear and pineapple aroma with mineral notes and a trace of vanilla; medium-full body; crisp, textured, honeyed, tropical fruit flavors with good depth and bright acidity; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 650 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 0% ML; released April 2012.* (My Score: 92)

2011 Sojourn, “Sangiaco Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$45) Medium-light yellow; attractive, intense, lemony, spicy, green apple aroma with spicy notes and a hint of hazelnut; medium-full body; rich, fleshy, pear and baked apple flavors with mineral notes, bright acidity, and a crisp finish; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 250 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Spring 2013.* (My Score: 91)

2011 Loring Wine Company, “Rosella’s Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium to medium-dark golden yellow; attractive, stylish, buttery, toasty, baked apple pie aroma with notes of lemon and vanilla; medium-full to full body; plush, slightly viscous, vanilla coated, baked apple flavors with a creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Stylistic, forward, intense, ripe fruit that stands up to the abundant, toasty oak and also balanced with firm, core acidity. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 250 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released November 2012.* (My Score: 90)

2011 Loring Wine Company, “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium golden yellow; tight, herbal, earthy, lemon and baked apple aroma with spicy notes and a

trace of vanilla; medium-full to full body; rich, plush, toasty, citrus and baked apple flavors with firm acidity and a slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Big, forward and stylish. Very highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 400 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released February 2013.* (My Score: 90)

2010 Scherrer, "Scherrer Vineyard," Alexander Valley (\$34) Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, floral, herbal, pear and apple aroma with hints of lemon and honeysuckle; medium to medium-full body; fleshy, apple and pear flavors with bright acidity and a slightly plush mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 200 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released November 2012.* (My Score: 90)

2010 Smith-Madrone, Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley (\$30) – Medium-light yellow; attractive, spicy, apple, pear, and white peach aroma; medium-full body; lemony, green apple flavors that are well balanced and have a silky mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 703 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 0% ML; released Fall 2012.* (My Score: 90)

2011 Cambria, "Katherine's Vineyard," Santa Maria Valley (\$22) – Medium-light yellow; pleasant, herbal scented, lemony, apple and stone fruit aroma; medium-full body; apple, melon, and lemon flavors with a touch of vanilla and a slightly fleshy mouthfeel; crisp finish; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 50,000 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released August 2012.* (My Score: 89)

2011 Isabel Mondavi, Carneros (\$25) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, buttery, baked apple pie a la mode aroma; medium-full body; crisp, pear and apple flavors with a velvety mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *13.7% alcohol; case production not released; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released October 2012.* (My Score: 89)

2011 Rochioli, "Estate," Russian River Valley (\$42) – Medium-light golden yellow; assertive, slightly tropical, white peach and baked apple aroma with notes of mineral and tropical fruit; medium-full body; earthy, toasty, layered, apple and stone fruit flavors with firm acidity and a slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 1,964 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released August 2012.* (My Score: 89)

2011 Hahn Estate, "SLH," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$25) – Medium-light golden yellow; pleasant, citrus and apple aroma with hints of minerals and apricot; medium-full body; fleshy, spicy, apple and tropical fruit flavors with a slightly creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 6,561 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; partial ML; released Fall 2012.* (My Score: 88)

2011 MacMurray Ranch, Russian River Valley (\$20) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, slightly buttery, citrus and baked apple aroma with a light touch of vanilla; medium-full body; citrus and baked apple flavors with fleshy richness and crisp on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Recommended. *14% alcohol; 24,300 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 45% BF; 100% ML; released December 2012.* (My Score: 88)



IN THE WINE LIBRARY

By Bob Foster

Wineocology: Uncork the Power of Your Palate with Sensory Secrets From Hollywood's Sommelier, Caitlin Stansbury with Heidi Shink, Skirt Publishing, an imprint of Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut, 2012, 274 pages, paperback, \$18.95. Given the myriad of introductory wine books on the market, an author venturing into this territory needs to have something new to say, or find a way to say well established material in a clever new way. The primary author is a sommelier in Hollywood who has received local notoriety. She presents her material in an upbeat, casual style that is entertaining and often funny and a bit risqué. (At one point she thanks the Japanese for the invention of umami, Hello Kitty and the rabbit vibrator.)

But under all this glitz and glitter is a need for accurate material. Here the book stumbles. Time and again I came across flaws or misstatements. For example, in discussing *Brettanomyces* the author declares that it is only found in red wine. This is flat out wrong. As recently as the 2013 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition I encountered white wines loaded with this flaw. One major Sonoma producer had to virtually rebuild their winery to keep the Brett from infecting their white wines. Later in talking about Brett the author states it smells fecal. It certainly can have that aroma but strains of it can have a band-aid like smell or several other odors.

In discussing corkiness the author bemoans the fact that studies show that up to 7% of all wines can be corked. She never names the study but I suspect it is several years old when the problem was at its zenith. In recent major wine competitions in California the rate is running much closer to just 2%. The book fails to note the major improvements by the cork producers in recent years.

In discussing how to open a bottle of wine the author presents only one method, using a waiter's key corkscrew. This requires the user to screw into the bottle using the spiral portion, lever it up, screw some more and lever it out with the deeper part of the corkscrew. For some beginners, it is a difficult and intimidating process. Far easier are openers like the Screwpull (one continuous motion), or the Rabbit or the traditional winged corkscrew. The author's approach takes the student to a one dimensional and needlessly difficult method.

The book also perpetuates the myth that there are secrets about tasting wine that the beginner must understand in order to appreciate wine. Nonsense. Such language makes wine seem more unapproachable. There are no secrets, just techniques and approaches to be used.

Finally, I guess in the world of Hollywood self-aggrandizement is acceptable. This book which is loaded with photographs which is a plus, but the vast majority of them are of the author. I find it way over the top. Not recommended.

Wine Grapes: A Complete Guide to 1,368 Vine Varieties and Their Origins and Flavours, Jancis Robinson, Julia Harding and Jose Vouillamoz, Harper Collins, New York, 2012, 1,242 pages, hardback, \$175. When I first read that someone was going to publish a wine book costing \$175, I thought it was the perfect gift for all the trophy collectors to display with their grossly over-priced, winery mailing list only Napa Cabernets. I assumed trophy value over real substance. I was wrong. This book is superb. It contains an amazing amount of information. It is a reference book beyond peer, organized in an encyclopedic format.

For every known wine grape the authors present information on the berry color using a series of colored dots. They set forth the principal synonyms for the grape and point out the grapes commonly mistaken for the grape. They present the most likely origin of the particular grape (using DNA evidence), but in those instances where there are other theories they present them as well. For example, Zinfandel is said to come from a grape called Tribidrag. There are sections on where the grape grows and what it tastes like.

For some of the major varieties there are additional sections such as the source of the name and historical references to the grape. While the vast majority of the work is text there are five folios each containing 16 color drawings of various grape varieties.

My only quibble comes with some of the production values. The paper seems very thin and delicate. Additionally some of the charts are so tightly bound into the spine that it is difficult to read the material at the inner edge.

While the book is priced at \$175 I found it on Amazon.com for \$99. There is no question that the book belongs in every serious wine library. But, I don't know how often an average wine lover would be consulting the work. Wouldn't it be nice if there were an online copy (or even a disk version) of this work available? Highly recommended.

American Wine: The Ultimate Companion To the Wines and Wineries of the United States, Jancis Robinson and Linda Murphy, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2013, 278 pages, hardback, \$50. Back in the 1970s the legendary Leon Adams wrote the first edition of his amazing work *Wines of America*. But that was over 30 years ago. In the intervening years there has been an explosive growth of U. S. wineries. The numbers have jumped from the low 400s to over 7,000. Wine is now made in every state of the nation. It is hard to keep up on just one area let alone the entire nation. But this survey work accomplishes just that. It is detailed snapshot of every growing region. The reader is given an overview of each region, a list of the grapes grown there, the trailblazers in the area and then the authors' picks of "steady hands", superstars and wineries to watch.

For the most part the work goes first state by state and within the state, AVA by AVA (American Viticulture Area) For those states where no AVAs have been established, the discussion is region by region. There are detailed maps for each region. The maps are top quality reminiscent of the maps used in the *World Atlas of Wine*. Additionally there are color copies of the labels of the best producers in the region.

There is much information already published on major growing regions such as California or Oregon but little is available on smaller regions such as the Midwest. I've been lucky enough to regularly taste wines from that region for the past five years as the Director of the Mid-American Wine Competition. I look at the author's evaluations of places like Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, and Minnesota; I easily see that they did their research and truly understand what is happening in those places. The scope and depth of their research is impressive.

The work is filled with color photographs often showing the winemakers or vineyards in the particular region. (The photo of Larry Mawby, noted Michigan sparkling wine producer, is one of my favorites. The photo captures his warm personality.) Very highly recommended.



WINES TASTED FOR THIS ISSUE

Wine	Score*
CABERNET SAUVIGNON	
2009 Anderson Conn Valley Vineyards "Reserve," Napa Valley (\$75)	90
2008 Castello di Amorosa "La Castellana," Napa Valley (\$68)	90
2010 Caymus Vineyards Napa Valley (\$72)	92
2010 Chappellet "Signature," Napa Valley (\$52)	91
2008 Emblem "Oso Vineyard," Napa Valley (\$50)	89
2009 J. Lohr "Hilltop," Paso Robles (\$35)	91
2009 Ramey "Annum," Napa Valley (\$95)	91
2010 Rodney Strong "Symmetry, Meritage," Alexander Valley (\$55)	90
2008 Silver Oak Alexander Valley (\$70)	89
2010 Sojourn "Beckstoffer Vineyard Georges III," Rutherford (\$95)	92
2010 Sojourn "Home Ranch Vineyard," Sonoma Valley (\$48)	91
2009 V. Sattui Winery "Paradiso," Napa Valley (\$85)	90
2009 Windsor Oaks Vineyards "Reserve," Chalk Hill (\$45)	89
CHARDONNAY	
2010 Alysian "Westside Farms, Clone 4," Russian River Valley (\$40)	93
2011 Cambria "Katherine's Vineyard," Santa Maria Valley (\$22)	89
2010 El Molino Rutherford (\$50)	92
2010 Gary Farrell "Rochioli-Allen," Russian River Valley (\$45)	91
2010 Gary Farrell "Rochioli Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$45)	91
2010 Gary Farrell "Westside Farms," Russian River Valley (\$38)	90
2010 Grgich Hill Estate Napa Valley (\$42)	91
2011 Hahn Estate "SLH," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$25)	88
2011 Isabel Mondavi Carneros (\$25)	89
2011 Loring Wine Co. "Rosella's Vineyard," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50)	90
2011 Loring Wine Co. "Sierra Mar Vineyard," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50)	90
2011 MacMurray Ranch Russian River Valley (\$20)	88
2011 Rochioli "Estate," Russian River Valley (\$42)	89
2010 Scherrer "Scherrer Vineyard," Alexander Valley (\$34)	90
2010 Smith-Madrone Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley (\$30)	90
2011 Sojourn "Sangiacomo Vineyard," Sonoma Coast (\$45)	91
2010 Stonestreet "Broken Road," Alexander Valley (\$40)	91
2010 Ten Acre "Sangiacomo Vineyards," Sonoma Coast (\$48)	90
PINOT NOIR	
2010 Alysian "Floodgate Vineyard, Rock Hill," Russian River Valley (\$55)	92
2010 Black Kite "Kite's Rest," Anderson Valley (\$45)	90
2010 Black Kite "Redwoods' Edge," Anderson Valley (\$55)	90
2010 Black Kite "River Turn," Anderson Valley (\$55)	91
2010 Black Kite "Soberanes Vineyard," Santa Lucia Highlands (\$55)	89
2010 Black Kite "Stony Terrace," Anderson Valley (\$55)	90
2011 CrossBarn by Paul Hobbs Sonoma Coast (\$35)	89
2010 Foley "Barrel Select," Sta. Rita Hills (\$60)	89
2010 Foley "JA Ranch," Sta. Rita Hills (\$55)	90
2010 Foley "T Anchor Ranch," Sta. Rita Hills (\$55)	89
2010 J. Rochioli "Little Hill Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$72)	91
2010 J. Rochioli "River Block," Russian River Valley (\$72)	91
2010 J. Rochioli "Sweetwater Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$72)	90
2010 J. Rochioli "Three Corner Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$80)	92
2010 J. Rochioli "West Block," Russian River Valley (\$100)	93
2011 Kenwood Vineyards Russian River Valley (\$18)	88
2011 Loring Wine Company "Aubaine Vineyard," San Luis Obispo (\$54)	91
2011 Loring Wine Company "Cargasacchi Vineyard," Sta. Rita Hills (\$54)	91
2011 Loring Wine Company "Clos Pepe Vineyard," Sta. Rita Hills (\$54)	92
2011 Loring Wine Company "Russell Family Vineyard," Paso Robles (\$54)	90
2010 MacMurray Ranch "Winemaker's Block Selection," Russian River (\$60)	91
2011 Masút Vineyard & Winery "Estate Vineyard," Mendocino County (\$40)	88
2011 Meiomi Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Sonoma (\$22)	89
2011 River Road "Reserve," Russian River (\$19)	88
2011 Rochioli "Estate," Russian River Valley (\$54)	90
2009 Scherrer "Big Brother," Sonoma Coast (\$50)	90
2009 Scherrer "Platt Vineyard," Sonoma Coast (\$75)	92
2011 Sojourn "Gap's Crown Vineyard," Sonoma Coast (\$54)	92
2011 Sojourn "Rodgers Creek Vineyard," Sonoma Coast (\$48)	91
2011 Sojourn "Sangiacomo Vineyard," Sonoma Coast (\$48)	92
2011 Sojourn Sonoma Coast (\$39)	90
2010 Ten Acre "Stephens Vineyard," Russian River Valley (\$55)	90
2011 Windsor Oaks Vineyards Russian River Valley (\$35)	88
2011 Windsor Oaks Vineyards "Reserve," Russian River Valley (\$45)	88
2011 ZD Carneros (\$48)	92

* Editor Nick Ponomareff's scores based on the 100-point scoring system.