



ISSUE #186 (December 2009)
GRAPE BEGINNINGS WINES

2006 Altamura Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 94

The 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon (100% Cabernet Sauvignon) possesses aromas of creme de cassis, white chocolate, espresso roast, dusty, loamy soil, and a full-bodied structure. With rich, powerful flavors that cascade over the palate as well as beautiful purity and depth, it will be even better with another 2-4 years of cellaring, and is capable of lasting 20-25 years. Frank Altamura and I agree on the fact that 90% of a wine's quality comes from the vineyard, and the winemaker accounts for 10% of the finished product. This huge 400-acre ranch in the Wooden Valley, nine miles northeast of Napa, has 65 acres of hillside vineyards. One of the most under-the-radar wineries in all of Napa, Altamura's Sangiovese makes a mockery of all the mediocre Sangioveses produced in California. Altamura also produces a terrific Sauvignon Blanc that is aged in wood for 8 months. Tel. (707) 253-2000; Fax (707) 255-3937

2006 Altamura Sangiovese

A Sangiovese Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 92

The dark plum/ruby-hued, seductive 2006 Sangiovese exhibits notes of sweet cigar tobacco intermixed with plums, balsamic, strawberries, and black cherries. Round, generous, medium to full-bodied, and disarming, it should be consumed over the next 4-6 years. Frank Altamura and I agree on the fact that 90% of a wine's quality comes from the vineyard, and the winemaker accounts for 10% of the finished product. This huge 400-acre ranch in the Wooden Valley, nine miles northeast of Napa, has 65 acres of hillside vineyards. One of the most under-the-radar wineries in all of Napa, Altamura's Sangiovese makes a mockery of all the mediocre Sangioveses produced in California. Altamura also produces a terrific Sauvignon Blanc that is aged in wood for 8 months. Tel. (707) 253-2000; Fax (707) 255-3937

2007 Altamura Sauvignon Blanc

A Sauvignon Blanc Dry White Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 90

The wood aging is not apparent when tasting the 2007 Sauvignon Blanc, although it does possess more texture and depth than most Napa Sauvignons. It offers hints of nectarines, exotic melons, honeysuckle, grapefruit, and orange blossoms in its medium-bodied, delicious, textured, dry personality. Enjoy it over the next several years. Frank Altamura and I agree on the fact that 90% of a wine's quality comes from the vineyard, and the winemaker accounts for 10% of the finished product. This huge 400-acre ranch in the Wooden Valley, nine miles northeast of Napa, has 65 acres of hillside vineyards. One of the most under-the-radar wineries in all of Napa, Altamura's Sangiovese makes a mockery of all the mediocre Sangioveses produced in California. Altamura also produces a terrific Sauvignon Blanc that is aged in wood for 8 months. Tel. (707) 253-2000; Fax (707) 255-3937

2007 Cade Winery Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 91+

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa (4,000 cases produced) is a serious effort revealing delicious blue and black fruits intermixed with notes of crushed rocks and spring flowers. With supple tannins, loads of fruit and flavor, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and no hard edges, it should be even better in 2-3 years, and last for 12-15. Not surprisingly, it comes from a blend of fruit from some extraordinary vineyards Beckstoffer George III in Rutherford, the Kenefick Ranch in Calistoga, and the Beckstoffer Dr. Crane in St. Helena. The proprietor of Cade Winery is a member of San Francisco's Getty family who has partnered up with the city's mayor, Gavin Newsome. Tel. (707) 965-2746; Fax (707) 965-2750

2007 Cade Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 90+

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain, a blend of estate and non-estate fruit (from mountain vineyards such as Ink Grade, Outpost, True, and Pestoni), is closed at present, but it appears to be loaded with potential. Abundant notes of cassis, black raspberry and blackberry fruit intermixed with notions of chocolate, cocoa, and bay leaf are followed by a structured, tannic, medium to full-bodied wine that needs some time in the bottle. Give this well-built, masculine Cabernet Sauvignon 4-5 years of cellaring, and consume it over the following two decades. The proprietor of Cade Winery is a member of San Francisco's Getty family who has partnered up with the city's mayor, Gavin Newsome. Tel. (707) 965-2746; Fax (707) 965-2750

2007 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon Hillside Reserve

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Rutherford , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 95+

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Hillside Reserve, from a vineyard planted in Rutherford's famed red soils, is a classic Rutherford Bench wine with exceptional concentration as well as depth. Brambleberry, cassis, black cherry, spice box, and cedar notes are accompanied by superb, full-bodied flavors, exceptional polished, refined tannins, and a finish that lasts nearly 45 seconds. It can be drunk now or cellared for 25 or more years. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2006 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 87

The 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa is a solidly made wine exhibiting attractive black currant fruit, underbrush, and oak characteristics. Although uninspiring, it is a good example of a Napa Cabernet. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2007 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 89

A sleeper of the vintage, the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa possesses abundant black currant and black cherry fruit, and hints of white chocolate, espresso, and loamy soil. This terrific value in Napa Valley Cabernet is soft, silky, and opulent with 10-12 years of life ahead of it. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive

vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2007 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon Holy Smoke Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 94

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Holy Smoke, which comes from an Oakville site, exhibits classic Pauillac-like notes of creme de cassis, cedar, licorice, and incense. It is a full-bodied, powerful effort with stunning concentration, richness, and length. Drink it over the next 20-25 years. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2007 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon Out Of Sight Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 93

Nearly as impressive, the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Out of Sight is produced from the Stags Leap area, and possesses more graphite and floral notes along with red and black currants and licorice. Its saturated purple color is among the darkest of all these wines. This elegant yet substantial 2007 should drink well for 15-20 years. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2007 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon Rennie Reserve

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from St Helena , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 93+

A wine I had not seen before is the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Rennie Reserve, which comes from a different block of their Rutherford holdings, located on the valley floor rather than the hillsides. This block of vines has been the foundation for Flora Springs' 20th and 25th Anniversary offerings. The 2007 Rennie Reserve reveals beautifully sweet blackberry and black currant fruit, incredible charm and suppleness, and perhaps the most endearing and seductive personality of all these 2007 Cabernets. It is drinkable already, and I suspect it has two decades of life ahead of it. The wine is impeccably balanced, opulent, and voluptuous with loads of red and black fruits kissed gently by toasty oak, licorice, and spice box. A beauty! One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2007 Flora Springs Cabernet Sauvignon Wild Boar Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Pope Valley , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 91

Meat juice, roasted herb, and charcuterie aromas jump from the glass of the peppery, earthy, potent, almost savage 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Wild Boar. Coming from Pope Valley, this cuvee can have an excess of tannins, but that component has been tamed in the 2007. It is a big, tannic, impressive, full-bodied, muscular example of Napa Cabernet. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2006 Flora Springs Trilogy Proprietary Red Wine

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 90

The outstanding 2006 Trilogy (73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot) is a large production cuvee of 6,500 cases. Revealing lots of roasted herb, cedar, black currant, and sweet cherry notes, an endearing, medium to full-bodied texture, exceptional elegance, purity, and length, stunning balance, and ripe tannins (no easy task in a vintage such as 2006), it should drink well for 10-15 years. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2007 Flora Springs Trilogy Proprietary Red Wine

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 93

The 2007 Trilogy might be called a Napa version of St.-Emilion blended with a Margaux. A harmonious blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, and 5% Petit Verdot, it offers undeniable elegance as well as lovely black currant and black cherry notes intermixed with hints of cocoa, roasted herbs, cedar, and licorice. This textured, lush, medium to full-bodied, beautifully constructed 2007 can be drunk now or cellared for 15-20 years. One of the most impressive portfolios from Flora Springs that I have tasted has emerged from their extensive vineyard holdings. Flora Springs' single vineyard offerings are all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon with somewhat limited availability production ranges from 370-400 cases of each. Tel. (707) 963-5711; Fax (707) 963-7518

2006 Ghost Block Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Napa, North Coast, California, USA

Rating: 91

Better balanced is the impressive 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon. Its deep ruby/purple color is followed by plenty of creme de cassis, charcoal, roasted herb, and licorice notes. Medium to full-bodied and ripe with elegance, substance, and well-integrated tannins, it should drink well for 15-20 years. Tel. (707) 945-1213

2006 Ghost Block Cabernet Sauvignon Single Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Oakville, Napa, North Coast, California, USA

Rating: 88

The more expensive offering, the opaque purple-colored 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Single Vineyard, possesses tremendously ferocious tannins. While it is obviously packed and stacked in the mouth, the tannins are astringent and bitter, raising serious questions about whether this wine will dry out before the tannins resolve themselves. Tel. (707) 945-1213

2007 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon Hyde Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Los Carneros, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 95

The saturated ruby/purple-hued 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Hyde Vineyard exhibits subtle smoky, bay leaf notes intermixed with scents of burning embers, charcoal, blackberries, and cassis. The finest red wine I have tasted from this vineyard, it is a beautifully proportioned, full-bodied Cabernet with a hint of a cool climate character as well as impressive precision and purity. It will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age, and last for 25+ years. This is a brilliant portfolio of Cabernet Sauvignons from Paul Hobbs, one of the wine world's top consultants whose own California projects are augmented by his superb work in Argentina. Paul Hobbs' Syrahs, Chardonnays, and Pinot Noirs from outside of Napa will be reviewed in the next issue. Tel. (707) 824-9879; Fax (707) 824-5843

2007 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 93

The least expensive effort is the opaque purple-colored 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa. A blockbuster, it offers up classic notes of charcoal, subtle smoke, black currants, black berries, lead pencil shavings, and earth. This deep, opulent, full-bodied Cabernet possesses terrific purity as well as length. It should drink well for 15+ years. This is a brilliant portfolio of Cabernet Sauvignons from Paul Hobbs, one of the wine world's top consultants whose own California projects are augmented by his superb work in Argentina. Paul Hobbs' Syrahs, Chardonnays, and Pinot Noirs from outside of Napa will be reviewed in the next issue. Tel. (707) 824-9879; Fax (707) 824-5843

2007 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Oakville , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 98+

From the amazing Beckstoffer To-Kalon Vineyard, Hobbs' 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon is a slightly more opulent, broader, savory effort that comes close to the perfect 2002. The 2007 has more noticeable tannin than the 2002 did at the same stage as well as more obvious minerality, but notes of graphite, black currant liqueur, licorice, cedar, and spice box are found in this full-bodied, multidimensional, fabulously concentrated wine. It was aged in 100% new Taransaud French oak barrels. Give it 5-6 years of cellaring, and drink it over the following three decades. This is a brilliant portfolio of Cabernet Sauvignons from Paul Hobbs, one of the wine world's top consultants whose own California projects are augmented by his superb work in Argentina. Paul Hobbs' Syrahs, Chardonnays, and Pinot Noirs from outside of Napa will be reviewed in the next issue. Tel. (707) 824-9879; Fax (707) 824-5843

2007 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon Dr Crane Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 96

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard exhibits a rocky, stony, gravelly, hot pebble-sort of nose that I often associate with wines such as Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion. Beautifully sweet blueberry and blackberry fruit along with a note of lead pencil shavings jump from the glass of this opaque purple-colored, full-bodied, intense wine. This brilliant Cabernet Sauvignon should evolve gracefully for 25-30+ years. This is a brilliant portfolio of Cabernet Sauvignons from Paul Hobbs, one of the wine world's top consultants whose own California projects are augmented by his superb work in Argentina. Paul Hobbs' Syrahs, Chardonnays, and Pinot Noirs from outside of Napa will be reviewed in the next issue. Tel. (707) 824-9879; Fax (707) 824-5843

2007 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon Stagecoach Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 92+

A wine that remains somewhat closed and austere is the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Stagecoach Vineyard. Performing better than it did last year, it needs 5-6 years of bottle age, and should keep for 25-30 years. Its dense purple color is followed by notes of wet stones, smoked herbs, black currants, and ink. Deep, rich, backward, and ageworthy, it should be forgotten for a few years, and drunk over the following three decades. This is a brilliant portfolio of Cabernet Sauvignons from Paul Hobbs, one of the wine world's top consultants whose own California projects are augmented by his superb work in Argentina. Paul Hobbs' Syrahs, Chardonnays, and Pinot Noirs from outside of Napa will be reviewed in the next issue. Tel. (707) 824-9879; Fax (707) 824-5843

2007 O'Shaughnessy Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Mount Veeder , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 96

A staggering wine of exceptional concentration, flavor dimension, and texture, the opaque blue/purple-tinged 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Mt. Veeder boasts copious notes of smoked meats, subtle barbecue smoke, creme de cassis, charcoal, licorice, and background mountain flora. With terrific intensity as well as full-bodied power, this is a brilliant Mt. Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon to drink over the next 25-30 years. One of the superstar estates on Howell Mountain, winemaker Sean Capioux is the force behind these impressive reds. Capioux also makes his own wines (almost all Pinot Noirs) under the Capioux Cellars label. Those cuvees will be reviewed in the February, 2010 issue in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mendocino, and Sonoma report. Tel. (707) 965-2898; Fax (707) 965-3010

2008 O'Shaughnessy Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Mount Veeder , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (90-93)

The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Mt. Veeder reveals aromas of creme de cassis and blueberries along with an inky richness and supple fleshiness that will be hard to ignore. Both wines should have 20+ years of longevity, but more extensive notes will be published after the wines are bottled. (Not yet released) One of the superstar estates on Howell Mountain, winemaker Sean Capioux is the force behind these impressive reds. Capioux also makes his own wines (almost all Pinot Noirs) under the Capioux Cellars label. Those cuvees will be reviewed in the February, 2010 issue in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mendocino, and Sonoma report. Tel. (707) 965-2898; Fax (707) 965-3010

2006 O'Shaughnessy Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 94

The only 2006 I tasted is a re-evaluation of the 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain, which 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. One of the superstar estates on Howell Mountain, winemaker Sean Capioux is the force behind these impressive reds. Capioux also makes his own wines (almost all Pinot Noirs) under the Capioux Cellars label. Those cuvees will be reviewed in the February, 2010 issue in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mendocino, and Sonoma report. Tel. (707) 965-2898; Fax (707) 965-3010

2007 O'Shaughnessy Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 95

The stunning 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain (83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot, and the rest Malbec and Petit Verdot) is the finest Cabernet this estate has yet produced from their Howell Mountain holdings. A dense purple color to the rim as well as an exquisite bouquet of black raspberries, blueberries, camphor, creme de cassis, smoke, and crushed rocks are followed by sweet fruit, gorgeous density, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and a layered, multidimensional mid-palate and length. With no hard edges, this flawless wine should drink well for 20-25 years. One of the superstar estates on Howell Mountain, winemaker Sean Capioux is the force behind these

impressive reds. Capioux also makes his own wines (almost all Pinot Noirs) under the Capioux Cellars label. Those cuvees will be reviewed in the February, 2010 issue in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mendocino, and Sonoma report. Tel. (707) 965-2898; Fax (707) 965-3010

2008 O'Shaughnessy Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (90-93)

The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain is slightly less prodigious than the 2007, but it offers lots of minerality, black fruits, and floral notes. Both wines should have 20+ years of longevity, but more extensive notes will be published after the wines are bottled. (Not yet released) One of the superstar estates on Howell Mountain, winemaker Sean Capioux is the force behind these impressive reds. Capioux also makes his own wines (almost all Pinot Noirs) under the Capioux Cellars label. Those cuvees will be reviewed in the February, 2010 issue in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mendocino, and Sonoma report. Tel. (707) 965-2898; Fax (707) 965-3010

2007 O'Shaughnessy Merlot

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 92

It is difficult to find top quality Merlot in California, but O'Shaughnessy's 2007 Merlot is a real winner. Abundant chocolate fudge, coffee, dark berry, underbrush, earth, and new oak characteristics result in a big, dense, full-bodied mouthfeel. This up-front, delicious Merlot possesses a plush texture as well as a heady finish. It should drink well for 10-12 years. One of the superstar estates on Howell Mountain, winemaker Sean Capioux is the force behind these impressive reds. Capioux also makes his own wines (almost all Pinot Noirs) under the Capioux Cellars label. Those cuvees will be reviewed in the February, 2010 issue in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mendocino, and Sonoma report. Tel. (707) 965-2898; Fax (707) 965-3010

2007 Plumpjack Cabernet Sauvignon Estate

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Oakville , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 95

The virtually perfect 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve (94% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petit Verdot) does indeed recall those great Villa Mt. Eden Cabernets of 1974 and 1978. An inky/purple hue is accompanied by a provocative aromatic display of blackberries, blueberries, cassis, spring flowers, and graphite. The wine's extraordinary purity, unbelievable density of fruit, and full-bodied mouthfeel result in an awesome Cabernet Sauvignon that should drink well for three decades or more. This modern day legend is the finest wine to emerge from the Plumpjack winery. Bravo! Winemaker Tony Biagia continues to fashion prodigious wines for both the Getty family and its partner, San Francisco's mayor, Gavin Newsom. The 2007s are the most impressive group of wines Plumpjack has released to date. Tel. (707) 945-1220; Fax (707) 944-0744

2007 Plumpjack Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Oakville , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 99

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate is a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon cuvee from Plumpjack's Oakville ranch, where Nils Venge once made the famed Cabernet Sauvignons under the Villa Mt. Eden label. (The 1974s and 1978s are still going strong.) Floral notes intermixed with creme de cassis, white chocolate, plum, and licorice characteristics are followed by a wine with supple tannins, fabulous concentration, a multilayered mouthfeel, and a finish that lasts 40+ seconds. This incredible Cabernet can be drunk now or cellared for 20-25 years. Winemaker Tony Biagia continues to fashion

prodigious wines for both the Getty family and its partner, San Francisco's mayor, Gavin Newsom. The 2007s are the most impressive group of wines Plumpjack has released to date. Tel. (707) 945-1220; Fax (707) 944-0744

2007 Plumpjack Merlot

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from Rutherford, Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 92

The 2007 Merlot (91% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc) boasts a dense purple color as well as a gorgeously sweet perfume of white chocolate, coffee beans, plums, black currants, and a hint of mocha. Full-bodied and dense with layers of fruit and glycerin as well as a sumptuous texture, this terrific wine can be drunk over the next 10-15+ years. Winemaker Tony Biagia continues to fashion prodigious wines for both the Getty family and its partner, San Francisco's mayor, Gavin Newsom. The 2007s are the most impressive group of wines Plumpjack has released to date. Tel. (707) 945-1220; Fax (707) 944-0744

2007 Plumpjack Syrah

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from, Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 93+

One of Napa Valley's finest Syrahs is Plumpjack's offering. The blockbuster 2007 Syrah was produced from two sources, the Stagecoach Vineyard in Oakville and Carneros' Hudson Vineyard. This wine, which includes 35% whole clusters, exhibits an incredible perfume of creosote, blackberries, bacon fat, licorice, and a subtle touch of peppers as well as truffles. Sweet tannins, palate-staining levels of richness, and a sumptuous mouthfeel with no hard edges are the stuff of Syrah dreams. It's a steal at this price, and should evolve easily for a decade or more. Winemaker Tony Biagia continues to fashion prodigious wines for both the Getty family and its partner, San Francisco's mayor, Gavin Newsom. The 2007s are the most impressive group of wines Plumpjack has released to date. Tel. (707) 945-1220; Fax (707) 944-0744

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Charbono Tofanelli Vineyard

A Charbono Dry Red Table wine from, Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 89

A California Cotes du Rhone look-alike is the 2008 Charbono Tofanelli Vineyard. It exhibits plenty of earthy blue and red fruits intertwined with gamy, smoky notes, rustic tannins, and lots of spice and herbs. It is a wine to enjoy with a good pizza or at an Italian trattoria over the next 1-2 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Petite Sirah Pesenti Vineyard

A Petite Sirah Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (93-95)

All five of Turley's 2008 Petite Syrahs (they do not spell it "Sirah") are extraordinary, and I could probably write the same tasting notes for each. My favorites include the Hayne Vineyard and Library Vineyard, followed by the Pesenti Vineyard, which shows more chalky graphite characteristics. They

all possess huge aromas of blackberries, blueberries, and ink, massive fruit concentration, enormous body, and a lot less alcohol than the Zinfandels (a character of this varietal). Readers who purchase any of these cuvees should forget them for 10 years, and drink them over the following 25-30 years. They will handsomely repay the investment in patience. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Petite Syrah Estate

A Petite Sirah Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (90-93)

All five of Turley's 2008 Petite Syrahs (they do not spell it "Sirah") are extraordinary, and I could probably write the same tasting notes for each. My favorites include the Hayne Vineyard and Library Vineyard, followed by the Pesenti Vineyard, which shows more chalky graphite characteristics. They all possess huge aromas of blackberries, blueberries, and ink, massive fruit concentration, enormous body, and a lot less alcohol than the Zinfandels (a character of this varietal). Readers who purchase any of these cuvees should forget them for 10 years, and drink them over the following 25-30 years. They will handsomely repay the investment in patience. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Petite Syrah Hayne Vineyard

A Petite Sirah Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (94-96+)

All five of Turley's 2008 Petite Syrahs (they do not spell it "Sirah") are extraordinary, and I could probably write the same tasting notes for each. My favorites include the Hayne Vineyard and Library Vineyard, followed by the Pesenti Vineyard, which shows more chalky graphite characteristics. They all possess huge aromas of blackberries, blueberries, and ink, massive fruit concentration, enormous body, and a lot less alcohol than the Zinfandels (a character of this varietal). Readers who purchase any of these cuvees should forget them for 10 years, and drink them over the following 25-30 years. They will handsomely repay the investment in patience. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Petite Syrah Library Vineyard

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (95-97)

All five of Turley's 2008 Petite Syrahs (they do not spell it "Sirah") are extraordinary, and I could probably write the same tasting notes for each. My favorites include the Hayne Vineyard and Library Vineyard, followed by the Pesenti Vineyard, which shows more chalky graphite characteristics. They all possess huge aromas of blackberries, blueberries, and ink, massive fruit concentration, enormous body, and a lot less alcohol than the Zinfandels (a character of this varietal). Readers who purchase any of these cuvees should forget them for 10 years, and drink them over the following 25-30 years. They will handsomely repay the investment in patience. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Petite Syrah Rattlesnake Ridge

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (90-92)

All five of Turley's 2008 Petite Syrahs (they do not spell it "Sirah") are extraordinary, and I could probably write the same tasting notes for each. My favorites include the Hayne Vineyard and Library Vineyard, followed by the Pesenti Vineyard, which shows more chalky graphite characteristics. They all possess huge aromas of blackberries, blueberries, and ink, massive fruit concentration, enormous body, and a lot less alcohol than the Zinfandels (a character of this varietal). Readers who purchase any of these cuvees should forget them for 10 years, and drink them over the following 25-30 years. They will handsomely repay the investment in patience. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Juvenile

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from California, USA,

Rating: 89

The 2008 Zinfandel Juvenile, produced from a collection of lots from their youngest vines, is a delicious, forward Zinfandel with good black cherry and berry fruit, spice box, pepper, and roasted herb characteristics. Drink this medium to full-bodied, hedonistic offering during its first 2-3 years of life. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are

massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Old Vines

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from California, USA,

Rating: 89

Made from parcels culled out from the single vineyard lots and blended with some tiny parcels that are too small to bottle on their own, the 2008 Zinfandel Old Vines is a fuller effort displaying a deep ruby/plum color along with a big, sweet bouquet of gamy roasted herbs, sweet cherries and berries, plush, heady flavors, and a luscious finish. It should drink well for 3-4 years. There are mind-boggling numbers of old vine Zinfandels produced, most of them hitting 14.5%-16% natural alcohol. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Duarte Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Contra Costa, Central Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 89

The 2008 Zinfandel Duarte Vineyard from the Contra Costa appellation exhibits plenty of loamy soil notes intermixed with sweet kirsch, licorice, and lavender in its Rhone Valley-like personality. It reveals abundant texture, a supple, full-bodied mouthfeel, and a layered finish. Consume it over the next 5-7 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Salvador Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Contra Costa, Central Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (90-92)

From a vineyard planted in the 1890s, the 2008 Zinfandel Salvador Vineyard possesses terrific mulberry and black currant fruit intertwined with a note of roasted herbs, striking minerality and earthiness, a big, sweet, full-bodied mouthfeel, and a heady, succulent finish. This is another beauty to enjoy over the next 7-8 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-

10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Dusi Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (90-92)

Strong earthy, meaty, smoked game, and underbrush characteristics are present in the dark plum-colored 2008 Zinfandel Dusi Vineyard. This outstanding Zinfandel reveals a more herbal, spicy personality. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Pesenti Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 91

From the limestone soils of the Turley-owned Pesenti Vineyard, the 2008 Zinfandel Pesenti exhibits zippy, fresh, sweet and sour cherry and raspberry notes, tart acids, medium body, and a Burgundian-like personality. It should drink well for 7-8 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Ueberroth Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Paso Robles , San Luis Obispo, Central Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (94-96)

Perhaps the finest example yet made from Paso Robles, the 2008 Zinfandel Ueberroth Vineyard (a site planted in 1885) tastes like a Chapoutier Ermitage because of its liqueur of minerality. This vineyard's chalky limestone soils have given the wine extraordinary definition, fabulous concentration, and a style that seems like a hypothetical blend of a great grand cru Burgundy with an outstanding wine from St.-Emilion's limestone hillsides. This sensational 2008 needs 1-2 years of cellaring, and should keep for a decade thereafter. Black cherry, black currant, and crushed chalky notes along with terrific acidity and sensational concentration and depth are all present in this beauty. It's good to see the Turleys exploit this vineyard to its maximum potential. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty

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2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Dogtown Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Lodi, Central Valley, California, USA,

Rating: (92-94)

Absolutely sensational, the dense ruby/purple-colored 2008 Zinfandel Dogtown Vineyard may be the finest effort I have yet tasted from this vineyard. Its fruit intensity even surpasses the brilliant 2007. Blackberry, black raspberry, roasted Provencal herb, and pepper aromas are followed by a meaty, thick, chewy Zinfandel with admirable purity, length, texture, and richness. This super wine should drink well for 5-8 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Cedarman Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (93-95)

A prodigious effort, the 2008 Zinfandel Cedarman comes from some of the younger vines (25 years old), but wow, what an impressive example! Its deep purple color is accompanied by a glorious bouquet of blueberries, black raspberries, incense, crushed rocks, and spring flowers. Full-bodied, heady, dense, and sensationally textured as well as long, it should drink well for a decade. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Dragon

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (93-95)

More structured with more obvious tannin, minerality, and graphite notes is the blue and black fruit-filled, dark purple-hued 2008 Zinfandel Dragon Vineyard. From Howell Mountain, it is one of the strongest Zinfandels produced by Turley. The wine exhibits lots of structure as well as considerable aging potential for a Zinfandel (10+ years). It offers loads of mineral-laced blue and black fruits combined with notions of new saddle leather, crushed rocks, flowers, and berries. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am

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2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Estate

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (92-94)

From the home vineyard, the 2008 Zinfandel Turley Estate displays a dark ruby/purple color in addition to copious amounts of sweet blueberries, black raspberries, pepper, garrigue (those Provencal wild herb notes), smoke, and subtle background oak. Lush and heady, it is ideal for drinking over the next 7-8 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Hayne Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (95-97)

A classic Zinfandel emerges from a vineyard in St. Helena, the 2008 Zinfandel Hayne Vineyard. As always, the 2008 is a prodigious effort. Dramatically better than the 2007, 2006, or 2005, it reveals a dense purple color along with an extraordinary bouquet of pure black raspberries, l de cassis, licorice, roasted herbs, and pepper. Dense, with massive body and flavor concentration yet silky tannin and well-integrated spice, acidity, and alcohol, this wine should drink well for 10-12 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Mead Ranch Atlas Peak

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (94-96)

An absolutely glorious effort, the 2008 Zinfandel Mead Ranch Atlas Peak is out of this world. It boasts a dense purple color along with abundant notes of sweet black cherries, black currants, licorice, mountain flora, and a subtle hint of forest floor, full body, superb fruit, and long, pure, beautifully textured flavors. This mouthfilling, palate staining Zinfandel should be drunk over the next decade. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are

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2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Moore (Earthquake) Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (94-97)

One of the old classics, Turley's 2008 Zinfandel Moore Earthquake Vineyard (made from extremely old vines) it exhibits southern Rhone-like characteristics of roasted peppers, licorice, lavender, crushed rocks, kirsch, and other black fruits. With excellent intensity, richness, and full body, it is another example of this sensationally strong, impressive vintage for Turley Wine Cellars. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Rattlesnake Ridge

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Howell Mountain , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (92-94)

The brilliant dark ruby/plum-colored 2008 Zinfandel Rattlesnake Ridge exhibits lots of blueberry, blackberry, and forest floor notes, but the blue fruit spectrum of aromas and flavors dominate. Full-bodied with sweet tannin and a layered, textured mouthfeel, it should drink well for a decade. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Tofanelli Vineyard

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Napa, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 91

The dark ruby/plum-colored 2008 Zinfandel Tofanelli Vineyard offers up aromas of raspberries and black cherries, and heady alcohol in the finish that provides glycerol sweetness. However, the wine is technically dry as well as round, generous, and plump. Drink it during its first 4-5 years of life. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be

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2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Fredericks Vyd

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Sonoma Valley , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (94-96)

The 2008 Zinfandel Fredericks Vineyard is another awesome example of this varietal. About as good as Zinfandel can be, it is a sexy, voluptuously-textured effort displaying extravagant levels of sweet black and blue fruits intertwined with cedar, spice box, pepper, and foresty notes. The wine possesses a super texture, a full-bodied mouthfeel, and a long finish with no hard edges. It will offer irresistible drinking over the next 7-10 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Grist Vineyard Bradford Mountain

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Dry Creek Valley , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: 93

Damp earth, loamy soil, pepper, black currant, raspberry, and cherry aromas soar from the glass of the dark plum/ruby-colored 2008 Zinfandel Grist Vineyard. A sweet attack (from high alcohol and glycerin) is followed by a fleshy, earthy, spicy wine. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Vineyard 101

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from Alexander Valley , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (91-93)

An impressive effort, the dark ruby/purple-tinged 2008 Zinfandel Vineyard 101 possesses notes of crushed rocks, smoke, raspberries, black cherries, currants, and sagebrush. This full-bodied, luscious, deep, concentrated 2008 is capable of lasting 7-8 years. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2008 Turley Wine Cellars Zinfandel Zampatti Vyd

A Zinfandel Dry Red Table wine from , Sonoma, North Coast, California, USA,

Rating: (92-94)

Another big, concentrated effort is the dense ruby/plum/purple-hued 2008 Zinfandel Zampatti Vineyard. From vines planted in 1905, this cuvee boasts loads of kirsch, black currant, licorice, and smoky, meaty notes as well as sensational fruit purity and texture. This full-bodied, dense wine is already impressive, and should continue to drink well for 7-8 years, possibly longer. As I have said many times, the most underrated varietal (especially if you are a connoisseur or collector wanting to age California wines for 10-20 years) is Petite Sirah, which ages just as well as the finest Cabernet Sauvignons. In fact, it ages more slowly, and in 2009, well-cellared examples from the late 1960s and early 1970s continue to be remarkable wines. All of the following wines are noteworthy, and I am sure they will still be drinking beautifully in 25, 35, perhaps even 40 or more years. They need plenty of time to age, and because they have never been fashionable, their prices tend to be realistic. That said, you have to be a masochist to drink these wines young as they are massive, inky/blue/black, super-concentrated offerings that need at least 8-10 years of bottle age. Tel. (707) 963-0940; Fax (707) 963-8683

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: 89

The first-ever wine of village appellation chez Raveneau, their 2007 Chablis represents the initial crop from less than a hectare of young vines in the Montmains sector, a mixture of selection massale from the estate with diverse clones. Smelling bitter-sweetly of citrus oil along with hints of lanolin from its brief stay in cask, this comes onto the palate full of ripe peach, pineapple, and citrus and strikingly delicate and energizing, yet alluringly creamy in texture. With less grip or sense of finishing mineral character than the best of its fellow 2007 generics – a circumstance one is tempted to attribute to young vines – it is nonetheless a real charmer, with plenty of zesty and herbal subtlety and a buoyant, refreshing finish. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their elevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis Blanchots

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Blanchot, Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: (94-95)

From barrel, the 2007 Chablis Blanchots – from a high-elevation eastern exposure, and some of the estate's oldest vines – displays aromas of high-toned citrus oil, toasted nuts, ocean breezes, and quarry dust. Startlingly gripping and pungent, this might not represent the last word in finesse, but it makes an emphatic, zesty, intensely saline and stony statement that I am very timid to contradict! This really tugs at the salivary glands, and finishes with an energetic crescendo of citrus and diverse expressions of things mineral. When questions are raised about the ability of great Chablis – and Burgundy in general – to transcend what one can imagine issuing from grapes, here is a prime exhibit to offer. I suspect this will be engrossing to follow for 8-10 years, if not longer. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their elevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or

summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis les Butteaux

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Butteaux, Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: (92-93)

Raveneau's 2007 Chablis Butteaux smells uncannily of the sea and beach detritus, marking the greatest imaginable contrast to the exotically, lushly-fruited aromas of the 2006. Brine, iodine, and things crustacean and bivalvular mark the palate here, too, along with refreshing lemon, bittersweet floral perfume, and hints of tart red berry. The suggestions of cask should prove well-integrated in the final assemblage (portions of the initial blend had, unsurprisingly, been returned to newer barrels than had others) and a long finish of truly lip-smacking and thought-provoking savor is assured over the better part of the next decade. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their elevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis les Clos

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Les Clos, Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: (97-98)

Raveneau's 2007 Chablis Les Clos is less severe, intractably dense, or obdurately stony than most of the vintage's representations of this great site, being at once electrically energized and practically ethereal in its high-toned expressions of bitter-sweet floral and pit fruit distillates, citrus zest, white truffle, quarry dust, and ocean breezes. Luscious grapefruit and white peach seem to be mingled with a sea water reduction on the palate, leading to a finish that tugs relentlessly at the salivary glands and practically seems to suck blood from your gums, all the while displaying buoyancy that defies gravity. This is magical. If lucky enough to acquire multiple bottles, I would plan to stretch out the experience of them over at least a dozen years. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their elevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis Montee de Tonnerre

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Montee de Tonnerre, Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: (93-94)

Toasted nuts and lemon oil in the nose of the Raveneau 2007 Chablis Montee de Tonnerre (whose quantities were drastically reduced by hail) put one in mind of the Cote d'Or. But from that point on, it turns in a direction not possible anywhere other than Chablis. Honey, citrus oil, and fresh ginger reinforce an impression of bitter-sweetness on the palate, along with suggestions of musk, crustacean reduction, and brine. This finishes with electric vivacity and implacable grip, the sharp concentration of ginger, iodine, lemon zest, and white pepper creating a memorable sense of

vibrancy. One should be able to marvel at this for 10-12 years. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their élevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis Montmain

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Montmains, Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: (90-91)

In tank awaiting imminent fining and bottling, Raveneau's 2007 Chablis Montmains displays a personality slightly split between brash citricity on the one hand and, on the other, a combination of textural waxiness and creaminess with lanolin and vanillin notes from barrel. A gentian-like floral note wafts all the way through to a finish uniting a bite of citrus rind and white pepper with chalk dust, salt, and refreshing citrus. This will need some time in bottle, but I suspect will be well worth following for at least 5-7 years. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their élevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis Vaillons

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Vaillons, Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: (91-92)

The Raveneau 2007 Chablis Vaillons (from the core site of that name, with just a few rows lapping into Sechet) was picked on their second day of harvest due to rot pressure on account of clusters having been lightly impacted by hail. From tank, it offers a prime example of the sort of blazing brightness of citrus and almost visceral energy as well as the palpable underlying density and extract that inherently characterize its vintage. The mineral dimension here is equal parts adamant stoniness and savory, invigorating salinity, which makes for a shimmering exchange with fresh citrus in a zesty, ginger-spiced, lip-smacking, practically electrically-charged finish. To the possible extent that any of this wine's intense concentration might reveal itself to have been influenced by botrytis, its evolution bears careful watching, but for now it seems as pure as it is bright and likely destined for at least 6-8 years of fascinating enjoyment. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their élevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2007 Domaine Francois et Jean Marie Raveneau Chablis Valmur

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from , Valmur, Chablis, Burgundy, France,

Rating: (94-95)

In tank awaiting bottling, the Raveneau 2007 Chablis Valmur smells alluringly of iris, basswood, mint,

and lemon, with a pungent hint of white pepper. With terrific pungency and cut on the palate yet, at the same time, superb textural refinement, this combines refreshment, invigorating piquancy, and vivid chalkiness with subtle creaminess of texture and an effortless sense of finishing buoyancy that perfectly fits its persistently wafting floral perfume. Once again with this cru chez Raveneau, we have truly grand cru magic that should continue in bottle for at least 12-15 years. Bernard Raveneau views his bright, mineral-inflected 2007s – picked from September 10-16 – as potentially richer versions of 2004, since the former, he indicates, have gained in textural allure during their elevage. That also explains why he did not plan to bottle most of these 2007s until late spring or summer, and I have accordingly not tasted them since bottling. (Incidentally, Raveneau is very excited and intrigued by his 2008s, wines with an effusion of floral and herbal youthful aromatics that he says he has never before encountered, but whose finished results he speculated might combine aspects of 2006 and 2007.) Importer: Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA; tel (510) 524-1524

2002 J Lassalle Cuvee Angeline Brut

A Champagne Blend Dry White Sparkling wine from Champagne, France,

Rating: 90

The 2002 Brut Premier Cru Cuvee Angeline is gorgeous in the way it comes together in the glass, showing expressive aromatics, ripe fruit and a long, polished finish. The Angeline offers an additional level of refinement and precision that is missing in the 2002 Blanc de Blancs. Ash, smoke and minerals linger on the close. Disgorged: February 2, 2009 (not indicated on the bottle). Anticipated maturity: 2009-2014. Importer: Kermit Lynch, Berkeley, CA; tel. (510) 524-1524

NV J Lassalle Brut Premier Cru Cachet d'Or Gold Label Chigny les Roses

A Champagne Blend Dry White Sparkling wine from Chigny Les Roses, Champagne, France,

Rating: 88

Lassalle's NV Brut Premier Cru Cachet Or is a pretty, creamy-textured wine blessed with an expressive, generous core of fruit. The wine shows lovely depth in the glass, with fine balance throughout and a poised finish. The Cachet Or is a terrific Champagne in this price range. Disgorged: September 4, 2008, (not indicated on the bottle). Anticipated maturity: 2009-2014. Importer: Kermit Lynch, Berkeley, CA; tel. (510) 524-1524

NV J Lassalle Brut Premier Cru Preference

A Champagne Blend Dry White Sparkling wine from Chigny Les Roses, Champagne, France,

Rating: 88

The NV Brut Premier Cru Preference shows a touch more roundness, ripeness and sweetness than the Cachet Or. The wine blossoms on the palate in an expansive, seductive style. This is another gorgeous wine from Lassalle, but as good as it is, I slightly preferred the fresher and more energetic Cachet Or. Disgorged: September 4, 2008 (not indicated on the bottle). Anticipated maturity: 2009-2014. Importer: Kermit Lynch, Berkeley, CA; tel. (510) 524-1524

NV J Lassalle Brut Rose Premier Cru

A Champagne Blend Dry Rose Sparkling wine from Chigny Les Roses, Champagne, France,

Rating: 90

The pale-colored NV Brut Rose Premier Cru isn't an obvious wine but behind its steely lies an elegant, understated Champagne of notable beauty. Chalky, mineral notes frame sensations of berries, flowers and sweet spices. This is a very beautiful, dry style of rose I find especially appealing. Disgorged: September 4, 2008 (not indicated on the bottle). Anticipated maturity: 2010-2014. Importer: Kermit Lynch, Berkeley, CA; tel. (510) 524-1524

2002 J Lassalle Brut Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru

A Chardonnay Dry White Sparkling wine from Chigny Les Roses, Champagne, France,

Rating: 88

The 2002 Brut Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru shows notable balance and harmony in its rich varietal fruit, but ultimately comes across as diffuse and lacking focus. Though delicious, it isn't obvious to me that the vintage Blanc de Blancs is a materially better or more complex wine than the entry-level Cachet Or. Disgorged: June 23, 2009 (not indicated on the bottle). Anticipated maturity: 2009-2013. Importer: Kermit Lynch, Berkeley, CA; tel. (510) 524-1524

2008 Trevor Jones Chardonnay Virgin

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia

Rating: 90

The gold-colored 2008 Virgin Chardonnay offers up a fragrant perfume of pear, spiced apple, and tropical fruit aromas. Vibrant, balanced, and lengthy on the palate, it will drink well for another 2 years. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Marquis Philips Cabernet Sauvignon S2

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: (90-93)

The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon S2 spent 16 months in French oak of various sizes. A glass-coating opaque purple/black, it offers up an enticing nose of cedar, violets, incense, spice box, black currant, and blackberry. Layered and opulent on the palate, this mouth-filling wine is packed with fruit and flavor. There is some underlying structure but this is a wine to drink in its first 6-8 years of life. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Marquis Philips Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon 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. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Marquis Philips Grenache

A Grenache Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 89

The 2008 Grenache was sourced from 30-60 year old, low yielding vines. It was aged for 12 months in predominantly seasoned French and American oak. Medium ruby-colored, it displays an enticing perfume of cedar, earth notes, and cherry. Smooth and seamless on the palate, this is a concentrated, ripe, flavorful, totally pleasurable wine that lacks only complexity. Drink it over the next 4 years. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Marquis Philips Grenache Gg

A Grenache Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90+

The third tier of wines begins with the 2008 Grenache GG sourced from 35-40 year old vines and aged for 16 months in 40% new American oak. It weighs in at a hefty 17.6% alcohol. Medium ruby-colored, it offers up liqueur-like aromas of black cherry and black raspberry. On the mid-palate some alcoholic heat shows through although the wine is exceptionally intense and ripe. As the saying goes, it is what it is. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2009 Marquis Philips Roogle Pink

A Grenache Dry Rose Table wine from Riverland, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 87

The 2009 Roogle Pink was made from 100% Grenache. Salmonpink in color, the nose reveals rose petal, strawberry, and a hint of rhubarb. Ripe, dry, and loaded with fruit, it will provide pleasure over the next 1-2 years. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced

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2008 Marquis Philips Merlot

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

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. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Marquis Philips Sarah's Blend

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 91

The purple/black 2008 Sarah's Blend is composed of 63% Shiraz, 26% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 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. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Marquis Philips Shiraz 9

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: (91-94)

The 2008 Marquis Philips Shiraz S9 displays an aromatic array of smoky bacon, game, scorched earth, incense, mocha, and blueberry. Ripe, layered, and voluptuous, this rich effort is slightly hot from its 17% alcohol. If you are OK with this, you will love this Shiraz. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance

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2008 Marquis Philips Shiraz Integrity

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: (92-95)

The 2008 Marquis Philips Shiraz Integrity (the first since 2003) is also a behemoth at 17.8% alcohol. Black in color, it offers up a superb nose of Asian spices, incense, bacon, lavender, blackberry, and blueberry. Full-bodied, voluptuous, packed and stacked are but a few adjectives that come to mind. On the palate it is dry, rich, long, and pleasure-bent, but there is a bit of heat in the finish. Drink it over the next 8-10 years. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Marquis Philips Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 91

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. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Mollydooker The Maitre d' (Cabernet)

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon The Maitre D' was raised in 50% new French and American oak for 11 months. Opaque purple-colored with legs that ooze down the glass, it displays a reticent bouquet that with coaxing reveals wood smoke, violets, black currant and blackberry. This is followed by a full-bodied wine with a glossy texture, succulent fruit, and excellent concentration. This pleasure bent effort can be enjoyed over the next 6-8 years. Sparky Marquis calls the 2008 vintage in McLaren Vale, "The vintage from hell". A huge heat wave struck in March with 15 consecutive days over 100?

Fahrenheit. As a result of these challenging conditions, the Mollydooker team made no upper level wines in 2008. The grapes for their entry level wines were sourced predominantly from the cooler regions of Langhorne Creek and Padthaway which were less affected by the heat. In retrospect, the timing for bypassing their top cuvees was probably fortunate because selling those higher priced wines in this economy would have been a major struggle. Importer: Mollydooker International; www.mollydookerwines.com.au

2008 Mollydooker Merlot The Scooter

A Merlot Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The 2008 Merlot The Scooter, which was aged in 40% new oak, displays an alluring perfume of cedar, spice box, plum, mulberry, and black currant. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it delivers intense flavors that are already revealing some complexity. Ripe, succulent, and lengthy in the finish, it has enough structure to provide enjoyment over the next 6-8 years. It is a small stepping toward reviving the good name of Merlot. Sparky Marquis calls the 2008 vintage in McLaren Vale, "The vintage from hell". A huge heat wave struck in March with 15 consecutive days over 100? Fahrenheit. As a result of these challenging conditions, the Mollydooker team made no upper level wines in 2008. The grapes for their entry level wines were sourced predominantly from the cooler regions of Langhorne Creek and Padthaway which were less affected by the heat. In retrospect, the timing for bypassing their top cuvees was probably fortunate because selling those higher priced wines in this economy would have been a major struggle. Importer: Mollydooker International; www.mollydookerwines.com.au

2008 Mollydooker Two Left Feet (Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot)

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The 2008 Two Left Feet is a blend of 68% Shiraz, 17% Merlot, and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon which also spent 11 months in 50% new French and American oak. A glass-staining opaque purple color, it emits an enticing aromatic array of sandalwood, Asian spices, incense, blueberry, and blackberry preserves. Dense, sweet, and layered on the palate, it is surprisingly light on its feet despite its size. Concentrated, lengthy, and full-flavored, this wine is all about pleasure. Enjoy it over the next 5-7 years. Sparky Marquis calls the 2008 vintage in McLaren Vale, "The vintage from hell". A huge heat wave struck in March with 15 consecutive days over 100? Fahrenheit. As a result of these challenging conditions, the Mollydooker team made no upper level wines in 2008. The grapes for their entry level wines were sourced predominantly from the cooler regions of Langhorne Creek and Padthaway which were less affected by the heat. In retrospect, the timing for bypassing their top cuvees was probably fortunate because selling those higher priced wines in this economy would have been a major struggle. Importer: Mollydooker International; www.mollydookerwines.com.au

2008 Mollydooker The Boxer (Shiraz)

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 91

The 2008 Shiraz The Boxer is the deepest colored of the Mollydooker wines. Fragrant scents of bacon, game, lavender, plum, and blueberry lead to a dense, layered, ripe, and intense wine that can be enjoyed now but will continue to drink well for another 5-7 years. Sparky Marquis calls the 2008 vintage in McLaren Vale, "The vintage from hell". A huge heat wave struck in March with 15 consecutive days over 100? Fahrenheit. As a result of these challenging conditions, the Mollydooker team made no upper level wines in 2008. The grapes for their entry level wines were sourced predominantly from the cooler regions of Langhorne Creek and Padthaway which were less affected

by the heat. In retrospect, the timing for bypassing their top cuvees was probably fortunate because selling those higher priced wines in this economy would have been a major struggle. Importer: Mollydooker International; www.mollydookerwines.com.au

2009 Mollydooker The Violinist (Verdelho)

A Verdelho Dry White Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The current Mollydooker collection begins with the one white wine, the medium straw-colored 2009 Verdelho The Violinist. It was partially barrel-fermented and aged on its lees in barrel and tank. It gives up fragrant aromas of toast, baked apple, mango, and other tropical aromas. Creamy textured, round, ripe, and concentrated, this long, tasty wine can be enjoyed over the next 2 years. Sparky Marquis calls the 2008 vintage in McLaren Vale, "The vintage from hell". A huge heat wave struck in March with 15 consecutive days over 100° Fahrenheit. As a result of these challenging conditions, the Mollydooker team made no upper level wines in 2008. The grapes for their entry level wines were sourced predominantly from the cooler regions of Langhorne Creek and Padthaway which were less affected by the heat. In retrospect, the timing for bypassing their top cuvees was probably fortunate because selling those higher priced wines in this economy would have been a major struggle. Importer: Mollydooker International; www.mollydookerwines.com.au

2007 Noon Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Langhorne Creek, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 95

The 2007 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon was sourced from a 35 year old vineyard with yields under 1 ton per acre. It was raised in 57% new French oak for 18 months. It displays an enticing perfume of wood smoke, eucalyptus, violets, black currant, and blackberry. Structured and slightly sinewy on the palate, this full-bodied, ripe effort has a slightly tannic finish. It will benefit from 5-7 years of cellaring and drink well through 2027. In a challenging vintage Drew Noon made superb wines, if not quite as sublime as when the weather is more cooperative. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 782-9095

2007 Noon Eclipse Proprietary Red McLaren Vale/Langhorn Creek

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 94

The purple-colored 2007 Eclipse is a blend of 65% Grenache and 35% Shiraz sourced from old vines with tiny yields. It spent 18 months in small and large French and American oak, just 11% new. It delivers an already complex nose of damp earth, mineral, lavender, Asian spices, black cherry, and black raspberry. Full-bodied, rich, and savory, this plush effort conceals enough structure to evolve for 4-6 years. It will offer a drinking window extending from 2014 to 2027. In a challenging vintage Drew Noon made superb wines, if not quite as sublime as when the weather is more cooperative. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 782-9095

2007 Noon Shiraz Reserve

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Langhorne Creek, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 96

The 2007 Reserve Shiraz was sourced from a 45 year old vineyard and aged for 18 months in French and American oak, 50% new. A saturated purple color, it reveals a brooding bouquet of pain grille, lavender, incense, smoked meat, blueberry, and licorice. Back-strapping yet light on its feet, it

is impeccably balanced, exceptionally long, and very cellar worthy. Give it 6-8 years and drink this intellectually and sensually pleasing effort between 2015 and 2027. In a challenging vintage Drew Noon made superb wines, if not quite as sublime as when the weather is more cooperative. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 782-9095

2009 R Wines Southern Gothic Diddley Bow Riesling

A Riesling Medium Dry White Table wine from Western Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The Southern Gothic series begins with the 2009 Diddley Bow Riesling. Light straw-colored, it gives up an enticing aromatic array of spring flowers, baking spices, lemon-lime, and melon. Just off-dry in a Kabinett style, it has lively acidity and the balance to evolve for 2-3 years. It should drink well through 2017. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Chris Ringland Cote Rotie Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 92

This is the third vintage of Chris Ringland Cote Rotie Shiraz. The 2008 was sourced from 20-60 year old Barossa vines and aged in seasoned American oak hogsheads. Deep purple-colored, it emits a captivating, already complex nose of smoke, incense, Asian spices, and blueberry. Velvety-textured, intense, full-bodied, and powerful on the palate, this rich effort will drink well for another 8-10 years. It is a steal at the modest asking price. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Evil Cabernet Sauvignon

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 89

The 2008 Evil Cabernet was partially aged in French and American oak, the balance in tank. It displays violets, black currant and blackberry scents leading to a full-bodied, smooth-textured, layered wine that over-delivers for its modest price. Drink it over the next 3 years. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Pure Evil Chardonnay

A Chardonnay Dry White Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 87

The 2008 Pure Evil Chardonnay received partial barrel fermentation. It offers up a nose of toast, baking spices, baked apple, and tropical aromas. On the palate a hint of butterscotch emerges to complement the wine's lively acidity. Drink this medium-length Chardonnay over the next 2 years. It is a very good value. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Bitch Grenache

A Grenache Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 89

The 2008 Bitch Grenache is about as good as it gets for \$10. 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. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Southern Gothic Poor Thing Grenache

A Grenache Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 91

The 2008 Poor Thing Grenache spent 16 months in neutral French and American oak. Dark ruby-colored, it sports an already complex nose of damp earth, underbrush, garrigue, raspberry and kirsch. Intense, concentrated, and seamless on the palate, it will deliver enjoyment for another 8 years. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2005 R Wines Solita Nebbiolo

A Nebbiolo Dry Red Table wine from Adelaide Hills, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 89

Solita is Chris Ringland's Nebbiolo project. There are a total of 60 cases of the 2005 Nebbiolo which was fermented and matured in one new Radoux demi-muid. Dark ruby colored, it displays a classic Nebbiolo perfume of rose petal, tar, and black cherry. On the palate it is structured, ripe, and balanced with a sense of elegance. This lengthy effort is likely to evolve gracefully for 8-10 years at which time my score is likely to appear conservative. Needless to say, Australian Nebbiolos have virtually no track record. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2007 R Wines Red Light Red

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 87

The 2007 Red Light Red is a tank aged blend of Grenache Shiraz, and Mataro. It delivers an expressive, spicy perfume of underbrush and blue fruits. Sweetly-fruited and pleasure-bent, this will prove to be a crowd pleaser at its nearly giveaway price. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips

for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Roogle Red

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 88

The 2008 Roogle Red is a blend of 75% Shiraz with the balance Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Grenache. With coaxing the slightly reticent nose gives up aromas of spice box, violets, game, and assorted black and blue fruits. Sweet, complex, and expansive on the palate, this lengthy, seamless wine will drink well for another 4 years. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2009 R Wines Mp Riesling 44

A Riesling Dry White Table wine from Clare Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 89

The second level of the portfolio begins with the 2009 Riesling 44 sourced from Clare Valley. It gives up a fragrant bouquet of acacia, lemon-lime, and melon. Crisp, mouth-filling, and vibrant, this lengthy effort will evolve for 2-3 years and drink well through 2018. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2009 R Wines Roogle Riesling

A Riesling Dry White Table wine from Western Australia, Australia,

Rating: 87

The medium straw-colored 2009 Roogle Riesling exhibits aromas of spring flowers and lemon-lime. Dry on the palate but with a good core of fruit, it is not as steely as the more expensive Rieslings, hence more approachable early on. It can be enjoyed over the next 4 years. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines

will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2006 R Wines Longitude Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Australia,

Rating: (96-99)

The same can be said for the 2006 Longitude Shiraz of which two barrels were produced. It offers up a brooding bouquet of Asian spices, garrigue, incense, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Full-bodied, powerful, yet light on its feet, it is already offering considerable complexity which should only be enhanced with another 8-10 years of cellaring. These are stunning efforts that will be criticized by those who prefer less flavor in their wines. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Luchador Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Australia,

Rating: 91

The 2008 Luchador Shiraz was partially (70%) aged in seasoned American oak hogsheads, the balance in tank. A saturated purple color, it delivers an expressive nose of smoke, scorched earth, smoked meat, espresso, and blueberry. Full-bodied and layered on the palate, it has superior depth, grip, and loads of flavor. Drink this super value over the next 8 years. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2006 R Wines The Wine Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Australia,

Rating: (95-98)

The 2006 The Wine Shiraz is nicknamed "the show pony" by Ringland. It offers a similar aromatic profile and satiny, succulent fruit but comes off as a bit more forward and elegant on the palate. It conceals enough fine-grained tannin to support 6-8 years of additional cellaring. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful

Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2006 R Wines F U Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Ebenezer, New South Wales, Australia,

Rating: (96-99)

The 2006 F U Shiraz exhibits aromas of pencil lead, scorched earth, espresso, truffle, and blueberry compote. It, too, is tasting surprisingly forward but, according to Ringland, "it will go into a black hole and emerge in a new dimension". R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2007 R Wines Boarding Pass Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 91

The 2007 Boarding Pass Shiraz contains 5% Viognier which provides a floral lift to its Cote-Rotie-like bouquet of bacon, smoked meat, and blueberry. Seamless, complex, and layered on the palate, it is way too good to sell for \$18. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2007 R Wines Boarding Pass Shiraz First Class

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The pricier 2007 Boarding Pass First Class Shiraz was aged for 18 months in French and American oak. It exhibits a glass-coating opaque purple color, an expressive nose of smoke, lavender, bacon, and licorice leading to a structured, slightly lean Shiraz that should evolve for 2-3 years and will hopefully fill out its frame. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Mp Grail Of Lisa Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 92

The same can be said for the 2008 Shiraz The Grail of Lisa which carries 18,3% alcohol. Purple/black and brooding aromatically, it is thick, rich, and port-like on the palate but dry. It is a voluptuous wine with a 60-second finish. How something like this will evolve is anyone's guess. I'd opt for drinking it over the next 4-6 years. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of

the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2006 R Wines Evil Incarnate Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: (95-98)

The 2006 Evil Incarnate Shiraz stains the glass as it delivers aromas of sage, rosemary, blueberry, and chocolate. Rich, full-bodied, super-concentrated, and succulent on the palate, this impeccably balanced effort has sucked up all its oak. It has enough structure to evolve for several years and should drink well through 2021. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Southern Gothic Belle Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

The 2008 Southern Belle Shiraz was aged in seasoned oak including some ex-bourbon barrels. A glass-coating opaque purple, it displays a nearly room-filling nose of smoke, game, incense, and blueberry that leaps from the glass. Opulent and full-bodied on the palate, it lacks only complexity. Drink it over the next 6-8 years. It is an outstanding value. R Wines is the label created by Dan Philips for wines sold predominantly but not exclusively for under \$20 a bottle produced in-house under the direction of Chris Ringland. The wines are discussed in the order in which they were presented. The last four wines are made from the grapes grown in the Shiraz vineyard of Adrian Hoffman in the Ebenezer district of Barossa Valley. Hoffman was responsible for all the harvesting decisions, and the wines were made by Chris Ringland. They are all still in barrel but will ultimately receive 36-40 months in new French oak. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Suxx Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 90

Warning: This wine contains 17.7% alcohol. If this is not a problem, then read on because the 2008 Suxx Shiraz was built for pleasure and it is a terrific value. Opaque purple in color, it offers up a fragrant nose of smoked meat, game, violets, incense, and blueberry. Full-bodied, opulent, ripe, and sweetly fruited, this intense, savory, rich effort has exceptional length. Drink it over the next 5-6 years. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Roogle Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 85

The 2008 Roogle Shiraz displays scents of smoke, incense, and blueberry. Tasty but a bit compact on the mid-palate and short in the finish, it offers adequate value for the modest asking price. With veteran vigneron Chris Ringland now in charge of the winemaking, I can state unequivocally that this is the finest collection of Marquis Philips wines since the label was started in 2000. Nevertheless, these wines will be controversial because all but one of the non-Roogle wines is over 16% alcohol. The small but vocal crowd of Australia bashers will have a field day taking these wines to task as they do with the Mollydooker wines (which seem to sell out anyway). Ringland is concerned about flavor and balance which is what these wines are all about. Those seeking low alcohol, subtlety, and finesse should of course look elsewhere. Those who want a big mouthful of sensual pleasure should read on. The Roogle Series is meant to be a bargain-priced introduction to the Marquis Philips upper level wines. The Marquis Philips wines are predominantly sourced from McLaren Vale while the Roogle wines are multi-regional. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 R Wines Strong Arms Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Southeast Australia, Australia,

Rating: 88

The deep crimson-colored 2008 Strong Arms Shiraz spent 12 months in American oak. The nose offers up cedar, plum, and blackberry leading to a lush, sweetly-fruited, full-flavored Shiraz that will provide enjoyment over the next 4 years. Both of the above wines are great values. Chris Ringland states, "2008 was a superb year for Grenache", particularly since he likes working with super-ripe, concentrated grapes. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2001 Chris Ringland (formerly Three Rivers) Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 100

The 2001 Chris Ringland Shiraz offers a sensational bouquet of fruitcake, floral aromas, smoked meat, dried fruits, blueberry, and chocolate. Dense, voluptuous, and elegant, it will continue to evolve for another 8-10 years. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2002 Chris Ringland (formerly Three Rivers) Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 100

The 2002 Chris Ringland Shiraz comes from a great vintage Ringland likens to 1991, 1996, and 1998. It is a more saturated color than the 2001 with a superb perfume of Asian spices, game, bacon, lavender, and blueberry compote. Plush, succulent, and powerful, it will age effortlessly for a decade and provide enjoyment through 2027. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2003 Chris Ringland (formerly Three Rivers) Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 97

The 2003 Chris Ringland Shiraz has according to Ringland, "changed dramatically in the last year, getting denser". Nevertheless, it is not as saturated in color as the two previous vintages and is more advanced in its development. It is still a brilliant wine with glorious aromatics including spice box, fruitcake, dried fruits, and blueberry preserves. Savory, ripe, and elegant on the palate despite its size, it should be cellared for another 5 years and will give pleasure through 2023. Chris Ringland is a relatively modest bloke who gives most of the credit for his extraordinary wines to his nearly 100 year old vineyard. He now has 21 vintages under his belt the results of which place him with Marcel Guigal, Gerard Chave, Christophe Baron, Manfred Krankl, and Michel Chapoutier as the international grandmasters of Syrah/Shiraz. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA;

tel. (805) 278-9095

2004 Chris Ringland (formerly Three Rivers) Shiraz

A Syrah Dry Red Table wine from Barossa Valley, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 100

The 2004 Chris Ringland Shiraz is from another top vintage. Like the other wines, it spent 42 months in new French oak. Aromas of scorched earth, pencil lead, espresso, black currant and blueberry lead to a dense, complex, youthful wine with layer upon layer of succulent fruit, impeccable balance, and a decade of aging potential. Chris Ringland is a relatively modest bloke who gives most of the credit for his extraordinary wines to his nearly 100 year old vineyard. He now has 21 vintages under his belt the results of which place him with Marcel Guigal, Gerard Chave, Christophe Baron, Manfred Krankl, and Michel Chapoutier as the international grandmasters of Syrah/Shiraz. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095

2008 Strong Arms Grenache

A Grenache Dry Red Table wine from McLaren Vale, South Australia, Australia,

Rating: 89

The unoaked 2008 Strong Arms Grenache is medium ruby-colored with an enticing nose of forest floor, spice box, and black cherry. Seamless, ripe, and concentrated on the palate, it is not as luscious as its stable-mate Bitch but is more complex and how many \$10 wines actually offer complexity?. Chris Ringland states, "2008 was a superb year for Grenache", particularly since he likes working with super-ripe, concentrated grapes. Importer: Dan Philips, The Grateful Palate, Oxnard, CA; tel. (805) 278-9095