WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE
JULY 2010

BUYING GUIDE

THE GUIDE TO:
Chardonn
TOP PICKS FROM 5 CO

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ZINFANDEL

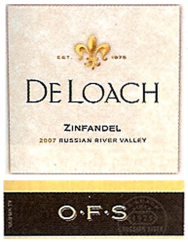
95 De Loach 2007 O.F.S. Zinfandel (Russian River Valley); $30. This is De Loach's finest Zinfandel of their five new releases. In fact, it's their best Zinfandel ever, and one that defines Sonoma County cool-climate Zinfandel. It's brilliant in balance and structure, with beautifully sculpted tannins and fine acidity, and just the right touch of oak. Within that package are savory flavors of wild blackberries, picked at their peak under the summer sun. So easy to drink, yet so complex. ***Editors' Choice.*** —S.H.

94 De Loach 2007 Riebli Valley Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma County); $48. A tremendous Zinfandel. Combines sheer volume of power fruit with finesse to essentially define the variety. With rich acidity and some firm, chewy tannins, it's brilliantly dry, displaying blackberry tart, black currant, cola, mocha, bacon and pepper flavors, dusted with savory Indian spices. A very great Zinfandel whose high alcohol is simply part of the wine's personality. —S.H.

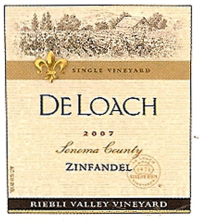
90 De Loach 2008 Von Weidlich Vineyard Zinfandel (Green Valley); $32. With a touch of raisins and some heat in the finish, this is a pretty ripe Zinfandel. It's not for the faint-hearted. But it's classic California Zin, offering huge blackberry, cola, mocha and black pepper flavors that go on and on into a long finish. Demands rich fare, especially spicy, saucy barbecue. —S.H.

88 De Loach 2008 Cool Climate Vineyards Zinfandel (Russian River Valley); $20. A lovely Zinfandel, dry and elegant and balanced. Yet it preserves Zin's briary, brambly character, with wild berry, currant, cola and pepper flavors. Really savory and a delight to drink. —S.H.

ZINFANDEL



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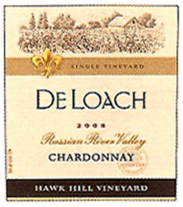


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CHARDONNAY



92 De Loach 2008 Hawk Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley); $50. A flamboyant, crisp Chardonnay made in the popular style of elaborately toasty oak and very ripe fruit, which combine to offer an almost pastry-like dessert taste. Floods the mouth with pineapple tart, Meyer lemondrop and vanilla flavors, with suggestions of kiwis, limes and green apples. Delicious and appealing.



92 De Loach 2008 O.F.S. Chardonnay (Russian River Valley); $32. This is a very pure, fresh and clean Chardonnay. While it's rich in tropical fruit, pear, green apple and smoky oak flavors, it's also well balanced. Shows brisk, citrusy acidity and a firm stream of minerals.

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