



THE TASTING PANEL

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Issue: December 2012 Newsletter

Blue Reviews EXTRA! December 2012

by: Anthony Dias Blue

WHITE



88 Gimenez Mendez 2012 Las Brujas Sauvignon Blanc, Canelones, Uruguay (\$17)

Smooth and crisp with citrus and bright acidity; clean and juicy with lively style and good length.
ECO VALLEY

89 Foppiano Vineyards 2011 Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Russian River Valley (\$18)

Clean, fresh and juicy with tangy fruit and good acid structure; nice balance, crisp citrus and a long, smooth finish.

90 Grgich Hills 2011 Sauvignon Blanc, Essence, Napa Valley (\$48)

Juicy grapefruit and lime with gooseberry and herbs; minerally and complex, long and rich, intense and balanced. Organic.

89 Steele Wines 2010 Shooting Star Chardonnay, Steele Cuvée, California (\$19)

Creamy and dense with spicy, oak and bright tropical fruit; lush, balanced and showing lots of character; juicy, complex and long.

90 Stoller Vineyards 2010 Chardonnay Reserve, Dundee Hills (\$28)

Silky and bright with pure, tangy citrus fruit; fresh and juicy with balance and some mineral notes; long and crisp.



90 Hamilton Russell Vineyards 2011 Chardonnay, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, South Africa (\$28)

Crisp and steely with racy acidity and lovely minerality; fresh and pure, toasty and tangy; long and balanced with vibrant notes.
VINEYARD BRANDS

90 Schug Winery 2011 Estate Chardonnay, Carneros (\$28)

Dense and showing minerality, silky texture, bright citrus fruit and firm acid structure; polished, balanced and long with grace and style.

90 Freemark Abbey 2011 Chardonnay, Napa Valley (\$30)

Bright and juicy with notes of citrus, banana and pineapple; silky and nicely structured with balance and excellent length; no malolactic.
JACKSON FAMILY WINES

90 Talley Vineyards 2010 Chardonnay, Rosemary's Vineyard, Arroyo

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STE. MICHELLE WINE ESTATES

90 Trione Vineyards and Winery 2008 Red Wine, Geyserville Ranch, Alexander Valley (\$48)

A smooth, lush blend of all five Bordeaux varieties; dense with spice, black raspberry and plum fruit; lovely texture and a long, rich finish. 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 11% Petite Verdot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec.

88 Tin Roof 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon, California (\$10)

Smooth and fresh with sweet black raspberry and cherry fruit; clean and tangy with balance and length.

O'NEILL VINTNERS



89 Buena Vista 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma (\$15)

Smooth and lush with rich plum and tangy berry fruit; long and balanced, stylish and vivid.

BOISSET FAMILY ESTATES

89 Mossback 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Chalk Hill, Russian River Valley (\$25)

Smooth and ripe with bright plum and berry fruit; balanced and generous with juicy fruit and sweet oak notes; charming, long and fresh. 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot.

CREW WINE COMPANY

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Cold Creek Vineyard, Columbia Valley (\$30)

Lush and bright with smooth plum, ripe blackberry and black currant; spicy with notes of sweet vanilla oak and lovely ripe flavors; balanced, complex and vivid with excellent length. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

STE. MICHELLE WINE ESTATES

90 Falcone Family Vineyards 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles (\$35)

Deep ruby color; lush and ripe with sweet oak, ripe plum and tangy acidity; smooth, ripe and stylish with lovely balance and a long, juicy finish.

90 Trefethen 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley (\$60)

Smooth and medium-weight with elegance and soft texture; plum and juicy berry fruit; balanced and clean with charm and finesse. 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec, 1% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot.



90 Trinchero 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Cloud's Nest Vineyard, Mt. Veeder, Napa Valley (\$70)

Lush and rich with spice, tar and ripe plum, deep and smoky with a bit of mint; smooth, dense and balanced.

TRINCHERO FAMILY ESTATES

91 Oberon 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Hillside Reserve, Napa Valley (\$75)

Smooth and lush with rich blackberry, cassis and plum; supple and dense with notes of spice, mocha and tar; lovely balance and style. 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot, 3% Petite Sirah

FOLIO FINE WINE PARTNERS

90 Stags' Leap Winery 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon "The Leap," Stags Leap District (\$80)

Dark and rich with soft tannins and big flavors of plum, spice and oak; intense with big aging potential.

TREASURY WINE ESTATES

90 Howell at the Moon 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain Vineyard, Napa Valley (\$85)

Supple and fresh with notes of plum, blackberry, mint, violets and spice; charming and balanced with easy-going, lovely style and a long finish.

92 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon "Druthers," Columbia Valley (\$90)

Smooth and toasted with concentration and spice; toasted oak, layers of flavor and showing huge aging potential; plum, cassis and blackberry with depth and complexity; long and balanced. 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot, 1% Petit