

THE WASHINGTON PANEL

OCTOBER 2012 · 3.95

Role Model

*A Vintner of Many Talents,
Carolyn Wentz Is Second to None
When It Comes to Running
a Family Wine Empire*

Anthony Dias BLUE REVIEWS

In each issue, Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dias Blue selects a wide range of the best wines and spirits from among the more than 500 he samples over the course of a month. The reviews are subjective editorial evaluations, made without regard to advertising, and products are scored on a 100-point scale:

85-89: VERY GOOD

90-94: OUTSTANDING


95-100: CLASSIC

Once products are selected for publication, producers and importers will be offered the option of having their review accompanied by an image (bottle photo or label art) for a nominal fee. There is no obligation to add an image, nor does the decision affect the review or score in any way.

The “twisty” icon indicates wines sealed with a screwcap closure. 

For additional Blue Reviews, go to www.tastingpanelmag.com.

DOMESTIC

90 Raptor Ridge Winery 2011 Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley (\$18) Bright, clean and peachy with fresh, smooth flavors; long and tangy with balance and length. 



90 Bernardus 2011 Sauvignon Blanc, Griva Vineyard, Arroyo Seco (\$22) Lovely citrus and minerals with silky texture and nice depth; fresh, smooth, lush and seamless with balance and a long, mellow finish. 



93 The Calling 2010 Chardonnay, Dutton Ranch, Russian River Valley (\$32) Silky and elegant with lovely texture and pure, articulate fruit; great finesse and style with layers of complexity and charming style; a collaboration between sportscaster Jim Nantz and industry heavyweight Peter Deutsch.



DEUTSCH FAMILY WINE & SPIRITS

90 Frenchie 2009 Louis XIV Cabernet Sauvignon, California (\$30) Lush and ripe with deep plum and cassis; dense, balanced and generous with a long finish; 61% Sonoma, 39% Napa fruit.



BOISSSET USA

90 Buty Winery 2010 Chardonnay, Conner Lee Vineyard, Columbia Valley (\$35) Tangy and bright with minerals, lively citrus and firm acid structure; fresh and balanced with juicy, vibrant fruit; long and stylish.

CALEB FOSTER WINES

91 Dunstan Wines 2009 Pinot Noir, Durell Vineyard, Sonoma Coast (\$50) Silky and juicy with bright spice, cherry and racy acidity; fresh, tangy and showing style and good length; impressive.



92 Laird Family Estate 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$54) Dark and earthy with spice, black plum and depth; rich, intense and ripe with depth and concentration; long and balanced.

93 Duckhorn 2009 Merlot, Three Palms Vineyard, Napa Valley (\$85) Smooth and lush with lovely density and ripe flavors; juicy and clean with focus, depth and complexity; lovely structure and classic style from the winery that put Merlot on the map.

93 Silverado Vineyards 2009 SOLO Cabernet Sauvignon, Stags Leap District (\$100) Exclusively from the winery's Stags Leap Vineyard; lush, rich and balanced with ripe plum, smooth texture and good acid structure; elegant, supple and long.