

## WORLD OF WINE

By Denman Moody  
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# Great Values from Washington State and More

*From champagne to reds and rosés*



Denman Moody was the Editor and Publisher of *Moody's Wine Review* for six years and Contributing Editor on *Rare Wine for International Wine Review* in New York for six years. He has published or had published over 400 articles on wine, including *The International Wine and Food Society Journal* in London, *Revue du Vin de France* in Paris and *The Robb Report* in Malibu. He is or has been a member of The International Wine and Food Society, Confrerie Saint-Etienne d'Alsace, The German Wine Society, Commanderie de Bordeaux, Chaine des Rotisseurs, Les Amis d'Escoffier and The Knights of the Vine.

**W**hereas Oregon is producing winning Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir, Washington State is producing equally great Riesling, Syrah, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon! The following are the best values from tasting through about 50 Washington State wines over the last several months:

- ❖ **Charles Smith The Velvet Devil Merlot 2014** \$12.99
- ❖ **Charles Smith Eve Chardonnay 2014** \$12.99
- ❖ **Chateau Smith Cabernet Sauvignon 2014** \$18.99
- ❖ **Chateau Ste. Michelle EROICA Riesling Columbia Valley 2015** \$20
- ❖ **Slight of Hand Cellars The Enchantress Chardonnay Yakima Valley 2014** \$28
- ❖ **Seven Hills Merlot Walla Walla 2014** \$45
- ❖ **Spring Valley Cabernet Franc Katherine Corkrum Vineyard Walla Walla 2014** \$50
- ❖ **Cadence Bel Canto Red Mountain Red 2013** \$60

## ❖ **Avennia Sestina Columbia Valley Red Wine 2014** \$65.

### Winning Champagne and Sparkling Wines:

Jean-Charles Boisset, "King" of northern California wine country, is certainly making a splash in this area. Big, new winners are **JCB Brut de Bourgogne** \$23 and **JCB Brut Rosé de Bourgogne** \$25; the **Boisset Collection Haute Couture Blanc and Rosé** (very, very cool bottle presentation, and available in 750 ml and 187 ml) \$29.99 for the 750; and finally, a partnership between his newly restored Buena Vista Winery and the largest privately owned proprietors of vineyards in Champagne, **Buena Vista Champagne Brut "La Victoire."** \$50. Another excellent California sparkler with French roots is the newly released **Louis Pommery California Sparkling Wine.** At its price point, it is said to be an "everyday luxury." \$24

Moët & Chandon has just released its **Grand Vintage Brut 2008**, the 72nd vintage wine since the first was released in 1842. I think they have it right by now!! I was fortunate to taste it alongside the 1998 and 1988. Impressive is an understatement! I would drink one now, cellar one for five years and another for 10 years. Refined elegance. \$64

### Beautiful, High-End Pinot Noir:

- ❖ **MacRostie Pinot Noir Wildcat Mountain Sonoma Coast 2014** \$56
- ❖ **Sonoma-Loeb Pinot Noir Bateman Vineyard Russian River Valley 2015** \$60
- ❖ **Lynmar Estate Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2013** \$60
- ❖ **Robert Mondavi Reserve Pinot Noir Carneros 2014** \$60
- ❖ **Benziger de Coelo Pinot Noir, Quintos Sonoma Coast 2014** \$75
- ❖ **Goldeneye Pinot Noir Ten Degrees Estate Grown Anderson Valley** \$120



### Fabulous, High-End Cabernet and Merlot:

- ❖ **Heitz Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2012** \$55
- ❖ **Jordan Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley 2013** \$55 (The '12 is Margaux; the '13 Pauillac)
- ❖ **Ladera Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2014** \$60
- ❖ **Raymond Generations Napa Valley 2013** \$60
- ❖ **Bella Union Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2014** \$85 (New release from Far Niente)
- ❖ **Duckhorn Merlot Three Palms Vineyard Napa Valley 2014** \$98
- ❖ **Venge Cabernet Sauvignon Bone Ash Vineyard Napa Valley 2013** \$105
- ❖ **Nickel & Nicel Cabernet Sauvignon State Ranch Vineyard Napa Valley 2014** \$115
- ❖ **Clos du Val Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Hirondelle Vineyard Stags Leap District 2014** \$120
- ❖ **Pine Ridge Fortis Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2013** \$170 →

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### Other Great Reds (and 2 Rosés) Under \$50:

- ❖ **Gnarly Head Authentic Black Red Wine Blend Lodi**  
2014 \$10
- ❖ **Cupcake Rosé California** 2016 \$11
- ❖ **Artezin Zinfandel Mendocino County** 2015 \$14
- ❖ **Callie Collection Fresh Red Blend Central Coast**  
2014 \$15
- ❖ **Peachy Canyon Westside Zinfandel Paso Robles**  
2014 \$16
- ❖ **Gabbiano Dark Knight Toscana Red Wine (Cab,**  
**Merlot, Sangiovese)** 2015 \$17
- ❖ **Chateau Ste Michelle 50th Anniversary Cabernet**  
**Sauvignon (Washington)** \$20
- ❖ **Purple Heart Cabernet Sauvignon Napa**  
**Valley** 2014 \$22
- ❖ **Ruffino Modus Toscana (Sangiovese, Cab, Merlot)**  
2013 \$22
- ❖ **Chateau Ste Michelle Canoe Ridge Estate Merlot**  
**Horse Heaven Hills** 2013 \$23
- ❖ **Smith & Hook Proprietary Red Blend Central Coast**  
**(Merlot, Petite Sirah, Malbec)** 2014 \$24
- ❖ **Raymond Reserve Merlot Napa Valley** 2013 \$24
- ❖ **Max's Shiraz Cabernet South Australia** 2015 \$25
- ❖ **Kokomo Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley** 2014 \$26
- ❖ **Justin Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles** 2015 \$26
- ❖ **Lynmar Estate Rosé Russian River Valley** 2015 \$26
- ❖ **Beronia Rioja Gran Reserva** 2006  
(current release) \$29
- ❖ **Golan Heights Winery YARDEN Cabernet**  
**Sauvignon Galilee** 2013 About four years ago, I had a  
lovely al fresco luncheon at a seaside restaurant in Tel Aviv  
with Victor Shoenfeld, winemaker then and now for  
YARDEN. I have not had a better wine from Israel at any  
price. Kudos to Victor! \$29.99
- ❖ **Diora Pinot Noir La Petite Grace Monterey** 2013 \$30
- ❖ **Cameron Hughes Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley**  
**Lot 608** 2014 \$29, and **Lot 601** 2014 \$32
- ❖ **J. Lohr Highlands Bench Pinot Noir Santa Lucia**  
**Highlands** 2014 \$35
- ❖ **Marchese di Frescobaldi Chianti Ruffina Nipozzano**  
**Vecchie Viti** 2011 \$30
- ❖ **Castello di Albola Chianti Classico Gran Selezione**  
2013 \$40
- ❖ **Raymond Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Napa Valley**  
**40th Anniversary** 2014 \$40
- ❖ **Kokomo Cabernet Sauvignon Ruth's Vineyard**  
**Alexander Valley** 2014 \$42
- ❖ **J Lohr Cuvée ST. E. Paso Robles** 2013 \$45 ●