

The Wine Cellar



Vinous Ravings

Spring Whites

Telmo Rodriguez Basa 2006 Rueda, Spain...\$11.99. *Wine Spectator*: 89 pts. "Exuberant, with bold flavors of guava, lychee and lime, this expressive white has ample structure, yet remains graceful and lively through the fruity finish. Verdejo, Viura and Sauvignon Blanc. Drink now." (Apr 08)

Bodegas Naia Las Brisas 2006 Rueda, Spain...\$11.99. *International Wine Cellar*: 89 pts. "Greenish straw. Vibrant, mineral-accented citrus and orchard fruit scents pack serious punch, with a complex array of pungent herbs adding complexity. Fresh, sharply focused lime and grapefruit flavors carry impressively on the spicy finish. This is an outrageous bargain." (Sep 07)

Gainey Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Santa Ynez Valley...\$12.99. *Wine Enthusiast*: 91 pts. "The Santa Ynez Valley is one of the best homes for Sauvignon Blanc in California, and Gainey is one of the best producers, so this wine is a no-brainer. Even at \$20, it would be a great value for its crisp dryness, elegance, and subtle, complex flavors of citrus fruits, figs, melons, minerals and subtle oak flavors. With alcohol under 13%, it's totally dry, like a fine Loire. At this price, it's an unbelievable bargain." (Feb 08)

Mason Cellars Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Napa Valley...\$16.99. *Wine Advocate*: 89 pts. "Always one of California's better Sauvignon Blancs, Mason's medium-bodied 2006 possesses exuberant tropical fruit, honeyed melon, and spice characteristics. Drink it over the next 1-2 years." (Dec 07)

Morgan Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Monterey...\$15.99. *Wine Enthusiast*: 90 pts. "This Sauvignon Blanc comes from two areas, the Arroyo Seco, which is such a great home to dry whites, and the warmer San Lucas appellation. Blended with small amounts of the Musqué clone and Semillon, the wine is bone dry, refreshingly crisp, and a close approximation of the famous wines of New Zealand's Marlborough. The flavors, of gooseberries, limes, Meyer lemons, figs and wildflowers, are deep and impressively long-lasting." (Dec 07)

Westerly Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc 2006 Santa Ynez Valley...\$18.99. *Wine Spectator*: 88 pts. "Tangy, with focused lemon cheesecake, key lime and guava flavors. A surge of grapefruit, passion fruit and grass gains momentum on the juicy finish." (Aug 07)

Palmina Pinot Grigio 2006 Alisos Vineyard Santa Barbara County...\$21.99. *Wine Advocate*: 89 pts. "Fresh apple, pear, and orange blossom scents along with a distinctive minerality and impeccable elegance characterize the 2006 Pinot Grigio Alisos Vineyard. Palmina's white wines stand alone as California's most brilliant examples

of stainless steel fermented and aged, crisp, Italian-inspired dry whites. What proprietors Crystal and Steve Clifton have achieved with these efforts is amazing. As good as the reds are, they are a few steps behind the overall quality of the whites. Yet I suspect, given Clifton's talent and his meticulous approach to vineyard management and winemaking, the reds will ultimately catch up to the whites. The white wines are all crisp, dry, wonderfully aromatic, light to medium-bodied efforts with considerable personalities. They are meant to be consumed during their first 12-24 months of life, so purchasers should not hold on to them too long as virtually all of their charm comes from their ebullient aromatics and zesty, fruit-driven flavors. If you haven't yet discovered Palmina, these are very impressive Italian-inspired wines from one of California's most brilliant winemakers." (Aug 07)

Mer Soleil Chardonnay Silver Santa Lucia Highlands 2006...\$35.99. *Wine Enthusiast*: 92 pts. "Probably the most expensive unoaked Chard out there, this is a stunning wine, showing the laserlike purity and bright acids that this northwestern part of the Highlands coaxes from the grapes. The brilliantly illuminated flavors range from limes and kiwis to green apples, peaches and guavas. The finish is dry, but with a honeyed unctuousness that could be a touch of botrytis." (Dec 07)

Core B. Core 2005 Santa Ynez Valley...\$23.99. *Wine Advocate*: 87 pts. "The 2005 B. Core is a blend of 73% Roussanne and 27% Marsanne from Rodney's Vineyard. It reveals an evolved, dark gold color as well as a heavy style displaying notes of rose oil, spice, and marmalade. It should be drunk over the next year." (Aug 07)

Core White 613 2005 Santa Ynez Valley...\$21.99. *Wine Advocate*: 89 pts. "The heady, succulent, citrus-filled, medium-bodied 2005 White 613 (40% Roussanne, 40% Grenache Blanc, and 20% Marsanne) comes from Fess Parker's renowned Rodney's Vineyard. These are all creative, individualistic wines that reveal considerable soul and character. One has to admire the wacky art on the label as well as the non-conformist blends. Most important from a consumer's perspective, the wines are very interesting and deliver loads of pleasure. All of them possess terrific aromatics." (Aug 07)

Cold Heaven Viognier 2006 Le Bon Climat Santa Barbara County...\$30.99. *International Wine Cellar*: 90 pts. "Green gold color fresh pear, peach and nectarine aromas are underscored by zesty minerals and white flowers, with an exotic anise quality building with air. Fleshy pit fruit flavors are braced by racy acidity, adding zip to the finish. An exotic orange creamsicle flavor lingers enticingly,

Protocolo 2005 Tempranillo
Case Price \$76
"Great Spanish bargain"

6.99
Reg. \$8.99

Butterfield Station 2006 Chardonnay
Case Price \$76
"Apple and pear fruits...light oak"

6.99
Reg. \$7.99

Paul Mas 2006 Sauvignon Blanc
Case Price \$87
"Light, clean and crisp"

7.99
Reg. \$8.99

Routas 2006 Rosé
Case Price \$108
"Crisp, red fruits, floral"

9.99
Reg. \$11.99

Red Rock 2005 Merlot
Case Price \$108
"Soft and smooth...plum and berry fruit"

9.99
Reg. \$14.99

Tarrica Cellars 2005 Cabernet
Case Price \$108
"Black fruits and cedary spice"

9.99
Reg. \$11.99

Winesmith Cellars 2005 Miser Meritage
Case Price \$108
"Dense, ripe, Cab/Cab Franc"

9.99
Reg. \$10.99

Blue Lady 2005 Sauvignon Blanc
Case Price \$108
"Melons, grapefruit, touch of peach"

9.99

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adding depth and sweetness. Pretty stuff." (Nov 07)

Camelot Highlands Chardonnay 2006 Santa Maria Valley...\$22.99. *Wine Advocate:* 92 pts. "The 2006 Chardonnay Camelot Highland Estates from the Santa Maria Valley is a stunning Chardonnay with light gold color and a gorgeous nose of honeyed tropical fruits intermixed with hints of hazelnut and subtle oak. The wine is fleshy, rich, pure, and a total delight to drink. It should be consumed over the next 2-3 years." (Dec 07)

Krupp Brothers Black Bart Marsanne 2005 Napa Valley...\$37.99. *Wine Spectator:* 90 pts. "Fragrant floral, honey, peach and pear aromas are rich and creamy. Well-focused, intense and concentrated without being heavy. One of California's best Marsannes. Drink now through 2011." (Dec 07)

New Stuff

Michael David Viognier Incognito 2006 Lodi...\$12.99. *Wine Enthusiast:* 88 pts. "Rich, very exotic, decadently drinkable, like an entire fruit store in a glass. Peaches, pears, pineapples, nectarines, mangoes, papayas, they flood the palate, with just enough acidity for balance, and a honeyed finish. Made with a dash of Roussanne and Marsanne." (Oct 07)

Vinas Del Cenit Tempranillo 2004 Venta Mazzaron Zamora, Spain...\$12.99. *Wine Advocate:* 88 pts. "The 2004 Venta Mazzaron, made from old Tinta de Toro vines and aged in French oak, exhibits lovely sweet cherries in an up-front, fruit-driven style, medium body, and no evidence of wood. This is a tasty, value-priced wine." (Aug 06)

Vina Cobos Merlot 2006 La Garto Mendoza, Argentina...\$18.99. *Wine Advocate:* 90 pts. "The 2006 La Garto Merlot spent 9 months in French and American oak, 21% new. It is dark ruby-colored with an expressive perfume of red and black currants. This is followed by a ripe, flavorful Merlot with a smooth texture, good concentration, and some elegance. This lengthy, pure wine is an excellent value." (Dec 07)

Keller Estate Pinot Noir 2005 Sonoma Coast...\$38.99. *Wine Enthusiast:* 91 pts. "Keller enters the big leagues with this marvelously layered Pinot Noir. For starters, it's delicious. Dry and crisp, the flavors are of ripe cherries, raspberries, tangerines, pomegranates and cola, with smoky, spicy complexities from new French oak. The mouthfeel is smooth and velvety, leading to a long, fruity finish. Best now and through 2010." (Dec 07)

Snowden Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 The Ranch Napa Valley...\$42.99. *Wine Spectator:* 91 pts. "Dense, rich and concen-

trated, offering a firm core of dried currant, mocha-laced oak, sage, mineral and hazelnut notes, with a long, intense, focused and persistent finish. Best from 2010 through 2016." (May 2008)

Sanguis Syrah 2005 The Bossman Central Coast...\$73.99. *Wine Advocate:* 93 pts. "Floral, with plenty of creamy, toasty oak, espresso roast, blackberry, and cassis notes is the 2005 Syrah Bossman, which comes from the Bien Nacido, Westerly and Tres Burros vineyards. Sadly, there are only 120 cases of this big wine. Carrying its power, weight, and richness in an elegant manner, it should drink well for 7-10 years or longer. The packaging of these outstanding offerings from proprietor Matthias Pippig is reminiscent of that of Elaine and Manfred Krankl's Sine Qua Non (i.e., hand-painted labels and heavy, oversized bottles). Moreover, the wines are top-notch." (Aug 07)

Last Call

Sanguis Syrah 2005 The Optimist Central Coast...\$52.99. *Wine Advocate:* 91 pts. "The dark ruby/purple-hued 2005 Syrah The Optimist (275 cases produced from the Watch Hill Vineyard) possesses a sweet bouquet of blackberries, smoke, espresso roast, chocolate, and earth. Full-bodied, opulent, and voluptuous, with a long, heady finish, it should drink beautifully for 6-7 years." (Aug 07)

Seven Terraces Sauvignon Blanc 2005 Marlborough, New Zealand...\$11.99. *Wine Spectator:* 89 pts. "Lithe and lively. A juicy mouthful of lime-scented apple, with hints of licorice and pepper as the flavors linger." (Nov 06)

Kilikanoon Shiraz 2005 Killerman's Run Clare Valley, Australia...\$22.99. *Wine Advocate:* 92 pts. "The 2005 Shiraz Killerman's Run, which had just been bottled, is unbelievably good. It possesses a deep ruby/purple color, terrific blackberry and cassis fruit, hints of charcoal, licorice, and earth, and an opulent, voluptuous personality. Enjoy this super-sexy Shiraz over the next 3-4 years." (Aug 06)

Bodegas Caro 2006 Amancaya Mendoza, Argentina...\$19.99. *Wine Enthusiast:* 90 pts. "Amancaya, a blend of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, never fails to impress. This wine is rich and controlled but also alert and upright. It is juicy and succulent, with ripe blackberry and cassis at its base. Finishes tight and long, and sports a fine structure throughout." (Dec 07)

Adam Strachan



The Wine Cellar

McManis 2006 Petite Sirah
Case Price \$119 Reg. \$12.99
"Ripe red and black fruits...smooth, long and earthy."

Hess Select 2006 Chardonnay
Case Price \$119 Reg. \$13.99
"Rich, tropical Monterey fruit"

Angeline 2006 Chardonnay
Case Price \$119 Reg. \$16.99
"Light oak, creamy lemony finish"

Woop Woop 2007 Shiraz
Case Price \$130 Reg. \$13.99
"Spicy black fruit...seamless"

Bishop's Peak 2005 Chardonnay
Case Price \$141 Reg. \$14.99
"Bright, precise, balanced and refined"

Tangent 2006 Sauvignon Blanc
Case Price \$141 Reg. \$15.99
"Effusively fruity with grassy melon notes"

Brander 2007 Sauvignon Blanc
Case Price \$152 Reg. \$16.99
"A clean, refreshing classic"

Consilience 2005 Syrah
Case Price \$184 Reg. \$20.99
"Smoky, ripe and amazingly luxurious"