



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.



For this holiday season, these are some of my top choices for gift-giving. —A. D. B.

DOMESTIC

92 Hilliard Bruce 2009 Chardonnay, Sta. Rita Hills (\$45) Bright and juicy with elegance, style and great balance between fruit and structure; creamy, lush and tangy with lovely depth and length.



93 Patz & Hall 2009 Chardonnay, Zio Tony Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$60) Bright and silky with ripe fruit and stunning acidity; powerful but still elegant and complex; juicy, pure, intense and amazing.



91 Kenwood Vineyards 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Artist Series, Sonoma County (\$70) Supple and smooth with notes of cinnamon and spice in the nose; soft and lush, with plum and nice flesh; long and seamless, deep and rich.

91 Francis Coppola 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Archimedes, Sonoma County (\$52) Smooth, lush and dense with lovely plum and berry fruit; rich, supple and concentrated; ripe, sweet and intense; long and balanced.

93 Howell at the Moon 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain (\$75) Velvety and smooth with ripe, generous plum, minerals and berry fruit; elegantly structured and juicy with great balance and a long, tangy finish; fresh, stylish and quite impressive.



92 Boyanci 2008 Inspire Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$60) Smooth and luscious, dense and rich with plum, black cherry and spice; concentrated and ripe with good structure and length.



94 Coup de Foudre 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$95) Dark, dense and ripe with lovely sweet plum, blackberry and cassis; rich and concentrated but neatly balanced by a core of firm acidity; supple and showing notes of toasty oak, chocolate and coffee; long, intense and harmonious.

93 Ladera Vineyards 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, Howell Mountain Vineyard, Napa Valley (\$70) Deep and tannic with black plum, blueberry and blackberry; nice minerals and spice; balanced and made for aging; long and complex.