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IN THIS ISSUE

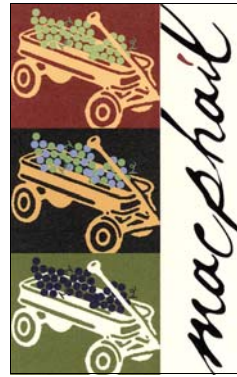
Tasting Notes on New Releases

<i>Pinot Noir</i>	Page 1
<i>Zinfandel</i>	3
<i>Syrah</i>	4
<i>Grenache</i>	4
<i>Sauvignon Blanc</i>	5
<i>Chardonnay</i>	6
<i>Viognier</i>	7
<i>In the Wine Library by Bob Foster</i>	7
<i>Summary of Wines Reviewed in this Issue</i>	8

PINOT NOIR

New Releases

1. **2014 Black Kite**, "River Turn," Anderson Valley (\$60) – Medium ruby color; attractive, forward, fragrant, deep, complex, black raspberry and black cherry fruit aroma with herbal notes and hints of cola, black tea, and forest floor; medium to medium-full body; rich, fleshy, black cherry and red berry fruit flavors with good depth and balance, bright acidity, and a velvety mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to drink now as it developed with airing in the glass, though best to bottle age for a few more years. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 193 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 16.7 of 20 points, 5 of 9 first-place votes/2 seconds/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)
2. **2014 MacPhail**, "Toulouse Vineyard," Anderson Valley (\$49) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, deep, earthy, spicy, dark cherry and raspberry fruit aroma that developed richness and some complexity at it aired in the glass; medium-full body; forward, rich, ripe, fleshy, nicely balanced and elegantly styled, red fruit flavors with some plushness in the mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to drink now and over the next year or two. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 229 cases; 100% PN; to be released Spring 2017.* (Group Score: 16.6, 2/1/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)
3. **2014 Black Kite**, "Redwoods' Edge," Anderson Valley (\$60) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, fragrant, deep, strawberry and black cherry fruit aroma with spicy notes and hints of cardamon, cola, and forest floor; medium to medium-full body; deep, rich, nicely balanced, red fruit flavors with a velvety mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to drink now and over the next year or two. Very highly recommended. *14.7% alcohol; 193 cases; 100% PN; released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 16.6, 0/1/1; My Score: 17 [92/100], third place)
4. **2014 Talley Vineyards**, "Rosemary's Vineyard," Arroyo Grande Valley (\$75) – Medium ruby; attractive, forward, deep, ripe, intense, black cherry fruit aroma with a note of toasty oak and hints of baking spices; medium-full body; tight,



5. **2014 Joseph Phelps**, "Freestone Vineyards," Sonoma Coast (\$55) – Medium-light to medium ruby; forward, moderately intense, raspberry and cherry fruit aroma with spicy notes and hints of clove and forest floor; medium body; nicely balanced, elegant, red fruit flavors with good depth and richness, hints of baking spices and cola, and a crisp finish; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *13.5% alcohol; 11,600 cases; 100% PN; released November 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], fifth place)
6. **2014 Black Kite**, "Stony Terrace," Anderson Valley (\$60) Medium-light ruby; attractive, forward, fragrant, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of black tea, sandalwood, and Asian spices; medium body; elegant, spicy, nicely balanced, red and dark fruit flavors with good depth, bright acidity, and a hint of cola; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very appealing to drink now and over the next year or two. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 193 cases; 100% PN; released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/0/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], sixth place)
7. **2014 Talley Vineyards**, "East Rincon Vineyard," Arroyo Grande Valley (\$60) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, deep, black cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of baking spices and forest floor; medium-full body; deep, rich, spicy, nicely balanced, red fruit flavors with herbal notes and bright acidity; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 221 cases; 100% PN; released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], seventh place)

Continued on Next Page

8. **2014 Talley Vineyards**, “Rincon Vineyard,” Arroyo Grande Valley (\$64) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, earthy, raspberry and black cherry fruit aroma with spicy notes and hints of clove and forest floor; medium-full body; deep, rich, herbal, spicy, red fruit flavors with bright acidity; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Still a bit tight, deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *13.9% alcohol; 548 cases; 100% PN; released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], eighth place)

9. **2014 Black Kite**, “Kite’s Rest,” Anderson Valley (\$50) Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, spicy, raspberry and red cherry fruit aroma with hints of Asian spices; medium body; forward, elegant, red and dark berry fruit flavors with good depth and richness; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 1,254 cases; 100% PN; released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 16.2, 2/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], ninth place)

10. **2014 MacPhail**, “Ferrington Vineyard,” Anderson Valley (\$49) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, bright, red cherry fruit aroma with hints of cinnamon and Asian spices; medium to medium-full body; earthy, herbal, fleshy, red cherry fruit flavors with spicy notes and good acid balance; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows some elegance and enjoyable to drink over the near term. Highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; only 94 cases; 100% PN; to be released Spring 2017.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], tenth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] [9, 10]

PINOT NOIR

More New Releases

1. **2014 Black Kite**, “Soberanes Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium-light ruby color; attractive, forward, fragrant, red cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with spicy notes and hints of dried herbs, rose petal, milk chocolate, and forest floor; medium to medium-full body; forward, rich, fleshy, elegantly styled, red fruit flavors with herbal notes, bright acidity, a hint of cola, and a velvety mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Developed depth and some complexity as it aired in the glass, and very appealing to drink now, though best to bottle age for a few more years. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; 572 cases; 100% Pinot Noir (PN); released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 3 of 9 first-place votes/1 second/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2014 Black Kite**, “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, ripe, black cherry, raspberry, and cranberry fruit aroma with spicy notes and a hint of mocha; medium body; rich, fleshy, red and dark fruit flavors with bright acidity, and a silky mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Showed good depth and some complexity as it aired in the glass. Appealing now, though best to age for a few more years. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 120 cases; 100% PN; released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

3. **2014 Black Kite**, “Gap’s Crown Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$60) – Medium-light ruby; attractive, forward, earthy, Bing cherry and raspberry fruit aroma with floral notes and hints of clove and forest floor; medium body; rich, fleshy, spicy, red fruit flavors with earthy notes and bright acidity; medium

tannin; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and showing richness and elegance. Very appealing to drink now, though deserving several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.6% alcohol; 292 cases; 100% PN; released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

4. **2014 MacPhail**, “Sundawg Ridge,” Green Valley of the Russian River Valley (\$49) – Medium-light to medium ruby; attractive, ripe, raspberry and black cherry fruit aroma with hints of cinnamon and mocha; medium to medium-full body; rich, moderately concentrated, cranberry and black cherry fruit flavors with bright acidity and a hint of cola; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy to drink and enjoy now. Very highly recommended. *14.3% alcohol; 409 cases; 100% PN; to be released Spring 2017.* (Group Score: 16.4, 2/1/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

5. **2014 Ancien**, Carneros (\$38) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, spicy, dark cherry and black raspberry fruit aroma with floral notes and hints of mocha and dried herbs; medium body; silky, elegantly styled, red fruit flavors that are nicely balanced and show a slight hint of cola; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Easy and enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *13% alcohol; 724 cases; 100% PN; released August 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/2/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2014 Merry Edwards**, “Coopersmith,” Russian River Valley (\$66) – Medium to medium-dark purplish ruby; deep, cedary, black cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of baking spices and damp earth; medium-full body; tight, textured, cherry and dark berry fruit flavors with a hint of cola; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. A rather big style of Pinot that is currently a bit rough and needing a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 865 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/2/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

7. **2014 Merry Edwards**, “Georganne,” Russian River Valley (\$63) – Medium to medium dark purplish ruby; attractive, rich, tight, intense, spicy, black cherry and dark berry fruit aroma with herbal notes and a hint of cola; medium-full body; rich, extracted, textured, cedary, firmly structured, red and black fruit flavors with some roughness and grip in the mouthfeel; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 545 cases; 100% PN; released Spring 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 0/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], seventh place)

8. **2014 Baileyana**, “Halcon Rojo,” Edna Valley (\$35) – Medium ruby; fragrant, floral, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of cola, cedar chest, and baking spices; medium body; tight, elegantly styled, red fruit flavors with herbal notes, firm acidity, and a silky mouthfeel; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Developed with airing in the glass and enjoyable to drink now, though best to age for a few more years. Sold exclusively at the winery. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 350 cases; 100% PN; released November 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 0/1/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], eighth place)

9. **2014 MacPhail**, Sonoma Coast (\$40) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, raspberry and cherry fruit aroma with floral notes and hints of dried herbs and baking spices; medium body; earthy, red fruit flavors; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced, and easy to drink and enjoy now. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 2,350*

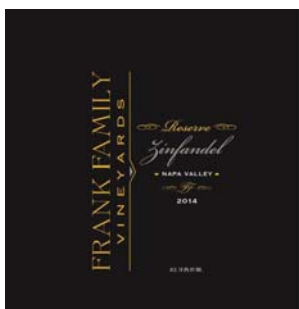
cases; 100% PN; released Fall 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], ninth place)

10. **2014 Byron**, “La Encantada Vineyard,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$55) – Medium-light to medium ruby; forward, moderately deep, spicy, earthy, cherry and red berry fruit aroma with a light smoky note and hints of cocoa and forest floor; medium to medium-full body; assertive, toasty, cherry and red berry fruit flavors; medium to medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 14.4% alcohol; 277 cases; 100% PN; released October 2016. (Group Score: 16.1, 1/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], tenth place)

11. **2014 Byron**, “Monument,” Santa Maria Valley (\$65) – Medium-light ruby; earthy, raspberry and cherry fruit aroma with a hint of sandalwood and a trace of sulfur; medium body; fleshy, red fruit flavors with some softness in the mouthfeel; medium tannin; lingering aftertaste. 13.3% alcohol; 390 cases; 100% PN; released October 2016. (Group Score: 15.7, 0/0/0; My Score: 16 [86/100], eleventh place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] [10, 11]

ZINFANDEL New Releases



1. **2014 Frank Family Vineyards**, “Reserve,” Napa Valley (\$55) – Medium to medium-dark ruby color; attractive, rich, ripe, intense, jammy, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma; full body; forward, rich, plummy, blackberry fruit flavors with a slight creaminess in the full, rounded mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Forward, rich fruit makes this wine very appealing to drink and enjoy now. Very highly recommended. 14.9% alcohol; 1,000 cases; blended with 11% Petite Sirah (PS); released December 2016. (Group Score: 16.6 of 20 points, 4 of 7 first-place votes/1 second/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2014 Louis M. Martini**, “Gnarly Vine, Monte Rosso Vineyard,” Sonoma Valley (\$60) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, intense, spicy, briary, cedary, red berry fruit aroma; full body; big, rich, fleshy, jammy, red and black fruit flavors with a note of mocha, firm acidity, some creaminess in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows forward, rich fruit and appealing to drink now in its youth. Very highly recommended. 16.2% alcohol; case production not available; blended with 3% PS; released Fall 2016. (Group Score: 16.5, 2/1/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

3. **2014 Thacher**, Paso Robles (\$38) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; forward, ripe, blackberry jam aroma with a hint of mocha; full body; big, deep, rich, spicy, toasty, black raspberry and blackberry flavors with some creaminess in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. 15.4% alcohol; 325 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released October 2016. (Group Score: 16.5, 1/1/3; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

4. **2015 Hawley**, “Ponzo Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$32) – Medium-dark ruby; forward, brambly, spicy, red berry fruit aroma; full body; rich, ripe, creamy, raspberry and boysenberry flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now and over the next year or two. Very highly recommended. 14.8% alcohol; 378 cases; blended with 3% PS; released October 2016. (Group Score: 16.5, 0/1/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

5. **2014 Dry Creek Vineyard**, “Old Vine,” Dry Creek Valley (\$32) – Medium-dark ruby; ripe, briary, blackberry jam aroma with hints of dried herbs, cocoa, and cracked pepper; full body; big, rich, extracted, briary, peppery, red and black berry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Appealing now and also should benefit with another year or two of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 2,805 cases; blended with 19% PS and 3% Carignane; released October 2016. (Group Score: 16.4, 0/1/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

6. **2014 Castoro Cellars**, “Zinfusion, Reserve,” Paso Robles (\$24) – Medium-dark ruby; deep, rich, intense, raspberry jam aroma with a note of toasty oak; full body; deep, rich, concentrated, jammy, mouth-filling, red and dark berry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 15.8% alcohol; 1,800 cases; percent Zinfandel not available; released Fall 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 0/2/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

7. **2015 J. Lohr Gesture**, “Limited Release,” Paso Robles (\$25) – Medium ruby; forward, ripe, brambly, red and dark berry fruit aroma with a note of toasty oak; full body; fleshy, layered, ripe, black raspberry and blackberry fruit flavors with good depth, hints of pepper and tobacco, and a some creaminess in the full mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.4% alcohol; 304 cases; 100% Zinfandel; released November 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 0/0/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], seventh place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

ABOUT OUR TASTING NOTES

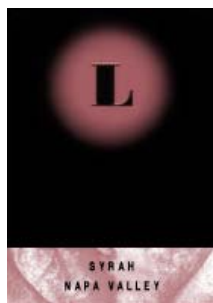
OUR TASTING NOTES are the result of weekly double-blind tastings held in San Diego. Our scoring system at these tastings is based on the traditional 20-point Davis scale for wine evaluation. I also include a score using the currently more popular 100-point scale.

The group score and the number of first, second, and third-place votes appear, along with my (editor Nick Ponomareff’s) own scores and relative ranking, in parentheses after the comments on each wine. A “True Ranking” based on a statistical analysis of the results appears at the end of each set of tasting notes. Wines that do not differ significantly are enclosed within brackets.

Please also note that many of the wines we taste are only available direct from the winery through their mailing list or wine club. Prices quoted are the retail price set by the winery, though many of the wines can be found discounted.

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SYRAH New Releases



1. **2014 Lewis Cellars**, Napa Valley (\$75) – Medium-dark purplish ruby color; attractive, forward, intense, toasty, cedary, blueberry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of smoked meat, cracked pepper, licorice, and roasted coffee bean; full body; big, rich, deep, concentrated, layered, savory, mouth-filling, black fruit flavors with peppery notes and a hint of dark chocolate; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable and appealing to taste now, showing lots of forward, rich fruit and some complexity as it developed with airing in the glass, though deserving a good three to five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 175 cases; 100% Syrah; released August 2016.* (Group Score: 16.7 of 20 points, 4 of 9 first-place votes/2 seconds/1 third; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)
2. **2014 Groundwork**, Santa Barbara County (\$20) – Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, forward, intense, spicy, cedary, blackberry and blueberry fruit aroma with hints of peppercorn and baking spices; full body; forward, big, plush, layered, dark berry fruit flavors with good depth, and appealing richness and creaminess in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very approachable to drink now and over the near term. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 475 cases; 100% Syrah; released June 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 3/1/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)
3. **2013 Shafer**, “Relentless,” Napa Valley (\$87) – Dark purplish ruby; forward, intense, cedary, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of smoked meat, cracked pepper, black olive, and toasty oak; full body; big, rich, extracted, meaty, mouth-filling, black fruit flavors with notes of dark chocolate and espresso; full tannin and a bit rough in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Nicely balanced and structured for such a big wine, though needing a good three to five more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15.8% alcohol; 3,300 cases; blended with 3% Petite Sirah; released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/2/1; My Score: 17 [92/100], second place)
4. **2013 The Farm Winery**, “Primal Scream,” Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$60) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, briary, cedary, dark berry fruit aroma with spicy notes, and hints of chocolate covered cherries and cracked pepper; full body; blue and black fruit flavors with firm structure, bright acidity, and a note of toasty oak; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Well balanced and showing very appealing ripe fruit that make the wine approachable now, though best to age for several more years. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; only 62 cases; blend of 73% Syrah and 27% Grenache; released November 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 0/1/4; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)
5. **2014 Sobon Estate**, Amador County (\$18) – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, forward, deep, toasty, meaty, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of baking spices, black

olive, milk chocolate, and graphite; full body; plush, ripe, layered, black fruit flavors with meaty notes, hints of licorice and mocha, and a creamy mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Forward and very easy and enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *14.2% alcohol; 1,155 cases; blended with 2% Zinfandel; released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 2/2/0; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

6. **2014 Limerick Lane**, Russian River Valley (\$45) – Medium-dark ruby; forward, deep, briary, cedary, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with notes of dried herbs and toasty oak; full body; rich, fleshy, spicy, red and dark berry fruit flavors; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now, though showing some roughness in the mouthfeel that should smooth out with a few years of aging. Very highly recommended. *14.4% alcohol; 585 cases; blend of 70% Syrah and 30% Grenache; released October 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 0/1/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], sixth place)

7. **2014 Melville**, “Estate,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$32) – Medium-dark ruby; intense, deep, blueberry and blackberry fruit aroma with herbal notes and hints of peppercorn and tapenade; full body; big, rich, concentrated, dark berry fruit flavors with hints of black olive, tobacco, and cocoa; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now, though deserving several more years of bottle aging. Highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 1,750 cases; 100% Syrah; released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 16.1, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)

8. **2014 Ramey**, Sonoma Coast (\$40) – Medium-dark ruby; moderately intense, earthy, cedary, blackberry fruit aroma with spicy and herbal notes; full body; forward, rich, concentrated, dark berry fruit flavors with a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel, though currently a bit hard and astringent on the finish; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Needs a few more years of aging. Highly recommended. *14.5% alcohol; 1,400 cases; blended with 3% Viognier; released April 2016.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], eighth place)

9. **2014 Copain**, “Tous Ensemble,” Mendocino County (\$24) Medium to medium-dark ruby; spicy, cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with herbal notes and a hint of graphite; full body; tight, lean, dark berry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Drinkable over the near term. *12.9% alcohol; 2,400 cases; 100% Syrah; released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 15.4, 0/0/0; My Score: 16 [84/100], ninth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] [7, 8] [9]

GRENAICHE New Releases

1. **2014 The Farm Winery**, “The Dish,” Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$60) – Medium to medium-dark ruby color; attractive, forward, ripe, spicy, earthy, red cherry fruit aroma; full body; spicy, nicely balanced, cherry and red berry fruit flavors with some richness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very enjoyable to drink now, though best to age for several more years. Very highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; only 68 cases; 100% Grenache; to be released March 2017.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 5 of 9 first-place votes/0 seconds/1 third; My Score: 17 [92 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2014 McPrice Myers**, “High on the Hog,” Santa Barbara County (\$35) – Medium-dark ruby; assertive, cherry and wild berry fruit aroma with notes of baking spices; full body; forward, rich, ripe, plummy, extracted, red fruit flavors with

good depth and vibrant acidity; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows forward, rich fruit that's appealing to taste now, though worthy of a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15.2% alcohol; 543 cases; blended with 15% Syrah; released September 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5, 2/2/3; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

3. **2014 The Farm Winery**, "Touchy-Feely," Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$60) – Medium-dark ruby; deep, intense, spicy, raspberry and cherry fruit aroma with cedary notes and hints of chocolate and cracked pepper; full body; assertive, red fruit flavors with bright acidity and hints of baking spices; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable now, though deserving several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *14.9% alcohol; 241 cases; blended with 20% Syrah; released November 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 2/2/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

4. **2013 San Liege Wines**, "En Gedi," Santa Barbara County (\$45) – Medium-dark to dark ruby; attractive, spicy, raspberry and cherry fruit aroma with a hint of dark chocolate; full body; ripe, fleshy, red fruit flavors with good depth and acid balance; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now. Very highly recommended. *15.4% alcohol; 200 cases; 100% Grenache; released October 2016.* (Group Score: 16.3, 0/3/2; My Score: 17 [91/100], third place)

5. **2013 Eos**, "Estate," Santa Ynez Valley (\$28) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; cherry and wild berry fruit aroma with hints of cinnamon and cardamom; full body; deep, ripe, plummy, red fruit flavors with some richness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. *14.8% alcohol; only 84 cases; blended with 10% Syrah; released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 15.9, 0/2/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fifth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4] [5]

GRENAICHE

More New Releases

1. **2014 Neyers**, "Rossi Ranch," Sonoma Valley (\$33) – Medium ruby color; attractive, ripe, dark cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of licorice, black olive, and cola; medium-full to full body; dark cherry and strawberry fruit flavors with herbal and peppery notes, and nicely balanced with firm acidity; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Enjoyable to drink now, though should continue to develop with several more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *13.6% alcohol; only 95 cases; 100% Grenache; released January 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4 of 20 points, 3 of 9 first-place votes/2 seconds/2 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], first place)

2. **2014 Beckmen Vineyards**, Santa Ynez Valley (\$32) – Medium-light to medium ruby; fragrant, spicy, candied, red and dark berry fruit aroma with a note of dried herbs; medium-full body; ripe, rustic, cedary, cherry and dark berry fruit flavors; medium-full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Ready and easy to drink now. Very highly recommended. *15.5% alcohol; 500 cases; 100% Grenache; released November 2015.* (Group Score: 16.4, 3/3/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

3. **2013 Denner Vineyards**, Willow Creek District, Paso Robles (\$65) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; forward, deep, intense, dark cherry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs; full body; big, rich, deep, cedary, dark cherry and blackberry fruit flavors with spicy and peppery notes; full tannin; lingering

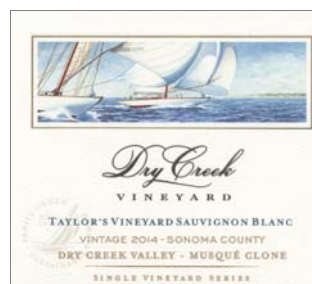
aftertaste. Approachable now, though deserving a few more years of bottle aging. Very highly recommended. *15.0% alcohol; 769 cases; blended with 4% Mourvèdre and 4% Syrah; released Fall 2015.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/4/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], second place)

4. **2013 Herman Story**, "On The Road," California (\$48) – Medium to medium-dark ruby; forward, intense, spicy, plummy, black cherry and red berry fruit aroma with hints of white pepper and bacon fat; full body; big, rich, ripe, concentrated, raspberry licquer flavors with peppery notes and hints of mocha and licorice; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *16.1% alcohol; 1,210 cases; 100% Grenache; released Spring 2015.* (Group Score: 16.1, 2/0/4; My Score: 17 [90/100], fourth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4]

SAUVIGNON BLANC

New Releases



1. **2014 Dry Creek Vineyard**, "Taylor's Vineyard, Musqué Clone," Dry Creek Valley (\$28) – Medium-light yellow color; assertive, grassy, spicy, grapefruit and passion fruit aroma with hints of white pepper, honeysuckle, and lemon zest; medium body; crisp, lemony, grassy, white peach flavors with a slightly rich, rounded, pleasing mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 425 cases; 100% Sauvignon Blanc (SB); 0% barrel fermented (BF); released February 2016.* (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 3 of 8 first-place votes/0 seconds/4 thirds; My Score: 17 [91 of 100 points], third place)

2. **2015 Ferrari-Carano**, "Fumé Blanc," Sonoma County (\$14) – Medium-light yellow; initially restrained, herbal, grassy, melon, grapefruit, and white peach aroma with tropical notes and hints of lychee and kiwi; medium body; forward, melon, mandarin orange, and grapefruit flavors with bright acidity and some fleshiness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. *13.8% alcohol; 85,000 cases; 100% SB; partial BF in older French oak; released Summer 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 2/2/1; My Score: 17 [90/100], fifth place)

3. **2015 Merry Edwards**, Russian River Valley (\$34) – Medium-light yellow; attractive, forward, citrus, melon, and white peach aroma with floral notes of jasmine and honeysuckle, and a touch of oak; medium to medium-full body; elegant, fleshy, citrus, melon, and stone fruit flavors with a note of minerality and a silky mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Typical of their style, but not as strong of a vote getter as their 2014 bottling. Very highly recommended. *14.1% alcohol; 9,500 cases; 100% SB; 100% BF; released Fall 2016.* (Group Score: 16.4, 1/1/0; My Score: 17 [92/100], first place)

4. **2015 Ferrari-Carano**, Alexander Valley (\$32) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, earthy, nectarine, white peach, and kiwi aroma with hints of honeysuckle,

jasmine, and gooseberry; medium body; fresh, crisp, grassy, citrusy, stone fruit flavors with tropical notes, sharp acidity, and a slight creaminess in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 400 cases; 100% SB; 100% BF; released May 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 1/1/1; My Score: 17 [91/100], fourth place)

5. **2015 Grgich Hills Estate**, “Essence, Miljenko’s Selection,” Napa Valley (\$55) – Medium-light golden yellow; forward, intense, herbal, grassy varietal aroma with hints of lychee, honeysuckle, and grapefruit; medium to medium-full body; citrusy, apple and tropical fruit flavors with bright acidity, and a slight richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 13.5% alcohol; 646 cases; 100% SB; 100% BF in 1,500 gallon oak casks; released December 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 0/1/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], second place)

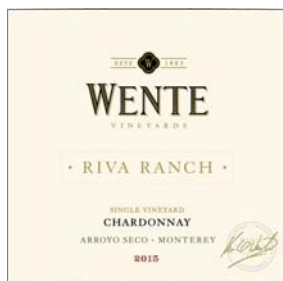
6. **2014 Lancaster Estate**, “Samantha’s,” Alexander Valley (\$30) – Medium-light yellow; assertive, herbal, melon and grapefruit aroma with floral notes and hints of jasmine and honeysuckle; medium body; crisp, lemony, herbal, melon and white peach flavors with mineral notes, a touch of vanilla, and a slight richness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 13.4% alcohol; 520 cases; 100% SB; 100% BF; released Spring 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 1/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

7. **2015 Chalk Hill**, “Estate Bottled,” Chalk Hill (\$30) – Medium-light yellow; earthy, herbal, grassy aroma with hints of gooseberry, grapefruit, and passion fruit; medium to medium-full body; herbal, grassy, nectarine and melon flavors with a touch of oak and a slight plushness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 8,200 cases; 100% SB; 100% BF; released Fall 2016. (Group Score: 16.2, 0/2/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], seventh place)

8. **2015 Davis Bynum**, “Virginia’s Block, Jane’s Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$25) – Light yellow; muted, earthy, melon and passion fruit aroma with tropical notes and hints of grapefruit and green olive; medium body; crisp, lemony, green apple flavors with a slight richness in the mouthfeel and a tight finish; lingering aftertaste. Recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 1,159 cases; 100% SB; partial BF; released May 2016. (Group Score: 15.9, 0/0/0; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] [8]

CHARDONNAY New Releases



1. **2015 Wente Vineyards**, “Riva Ranch,” Arroyo Seco (\$22) Medium-light golden yellow color; attractive, fragrant, spicy, pear and tropical fruit aroma with a light buttery note and a hint of orange blossom; medium to medium-full body; forward, fleshy, pear and white peach flavors with bright acidity and slightly buttery and creamy in the mouthfeel;

lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; case production not available; blended with 2% Gewürztraminer; 90% barrel fermented (BF); 100% malolactic fermentation (ML); released September 2016. (Group Score: 16.4 of 20 points, 4 of 9 first-place votes/2 seconds/1 third; My Score: 17 [90 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2015 Trefethen Family Vineyards**, Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley (\$36) – Light to medium-light golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, apple and pear aroma with light tropical notes and hints of lemon and honeysuckle; medium to medium-full body; crisp, well balanced, green apple and white peach flavors with bright acidity, complementary, well integrated oak, and a silky mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 13.5% alcohol; 20,200 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 74% BF; 4% ML; released October 2016. (Group Score: 16.4, 3/2/0; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

3. **2015 Patz & Hall**, “Dutton Ranch,” Russian River Valley (\$44) – Medium-light golden yellow; initially subdued, toasty, green apple and spiced pear aroma with a hint of butterscotch; medium-full body; tight, pear, tangerine, and green apple flavors with crisp acidity and some creaminess in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.2% alcohol; 6,500 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released August 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 0/0/4; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

4. **2015 J Vineyards**, Russian River Valley (\$30) – Medium-light golden yellow; fragrant, pear, mandarin orange, and white peach aroma with tropical notes; medium-full body; crisp, lemony, pear and stone fruit flavors with a slight plushness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 14% alcohol; 12,000 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released June 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 1/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], sixth place)

5. **2015 Hartford Court**, Russian River Valley (\$32) – Medium-light golden yellow; assertive, earthy, baked apple and pear aroma with hints of baking spices; medium to medium-full body; lemony, toasty, apple and white peach flavors with bright acidity; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 9,500 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released November 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 0/1/1; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fifth place)

6. **2015 Rombauer Vineyards**, Carneros (\$36) – Medium-light golden yellow; forward, buttery, apple and melon aroma with hints of butterscotch and nutmeg; medium to medium-full body; plush, fleshy, buttery, baked apple and tropical fruit flavors with overtones of toasty oak and a creamy mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Stylistic. Highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 175,000 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released August 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 0/2/0; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fourth place)

7. **2015 Dry Creek Vineyard**, “DCV Estate Block 10,” Russian River Valley (\$32) – Medium-light golden yellow; hints of apple and lemon meringue pie in the aroma; medium to medium-full body; buttery, lemony, baked apple flavors with good depth and firm acidity; slightly harsh on the finish; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 988 cases; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 50% ML; released November 2016. (Group Score: 16.0, 0/0/1; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], seventh place)

8. **2015 Sonoma-Cutrer**, Sonoma Coast (\$23) – Medium-light golden yellow; forward, nectarine, green apple, and white peach aroma with tropical notes and a slight hint of

butterscotch; medium body; crisp, lemony, pear and stone fruit flavors with good depth and acid balance; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 13.9% alcohol; case production not available; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Fall 2016. (Group Score: 15.9, 1/0/2; My Score: 16.5 [88/100], eighth place)

9. **2015 DAOU**, "Reserve," Willow Creek District, Paso Robles (\$46) – Slightly cloudy, golden yellow; toasty, buttery, baked apple aroma; medium-full body; dull, oaky, apple and pear flavors that appear a bit flat and harsh; lingering aftertaste. 14.5% alcohol; case production not available; 100% Chardonnay; 100% BF; 100% ML; released Fall 2016. (Group Score: 15.3, 0/0/0; My Score: 15 [80/100], ninth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] [9]

VIIGNIER New Releases



1. **2015 J. Loehr Gesture**, "Limited Release," Paso Robles (\$30) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, fragrant, floral, white peach and nectarine aroma with hints of jasmine and honeysuckle; medium body; crisp, lemony, stone and tropical fruit flavors with bright acidity, mineral notes, and some richness in the silky mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.5% alcohol; 317 cases; 100% Viognier; released May 2016. (Group Score: 16.5 of 20 points, 3 of 9 first-place votes/4 seconds/0 thirds; My Score: 17 [90 of 100 points], second place)

2. **2015 Pride Mountain Vineyards**, Sonoma County (\$42) Medium-light to medium golden yellow; attractive, forward, nectarine and peach cobbler aroma with hints of jasmine and lemon curd; medium to medium-full body; ripe, slightly viscous, melon and some fruit flavors with firm acidity and some plushness in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.6% alcohol; 1,120 cases; 100% Viognier; released April 2016. (Group Score: 16.4, 3/3/2; My Score: 17 [90/100], third place)

3. **2014 Calera**, Mt. Harlan (\$32) – Medium-light golden yellow; attractive, forward, fragrant, earthy, apple and white peach aroma with tropical notes and a hint of honeysuckle; medium to medium-full body; fairly rich, apple and stone fruit flavors with crisp acidity and some creaminess in the mouthfeel; lingering aftertaste. Very highly recommended. 14.2% alcohol; 590 cases; 100% Viognier; released April 2016. (Group Score: 16.3, 2/1/4; My Score: 17 [91/100], first place)

4. **2015 Hawley**, "Hawley Vineyard," Dry Creek Valley (\$34) Medium-light golden yellow; forward, apricot and pineapple aroma with hints of jasmine and caramel; medium body; crisp, lemony, apple and stone fruit flavors; lingering aftertaste. Highly recommended. 13.9% alcohol; 147 cases; 100% Viognier; released December 2016. (Group Score: 16.0, 1/1/3; My Score: 16.5 [89/100], fourth place)

True Ranking: [1, 2, 3, 4]

IN THE WINE LIBRARY

By Bob Foster

The Sweet Wine Lovers' Manifesto, Tim Hanni, HanniCo LLC, Bend, Oregon, 138 pages, softback, \$12.95. This book is an expansion of a point made by Hanni in his earlier book, *Why You Like the Wines You Like*. In that work Hanni posts that there are four different groups of people with distinctly different sensory sensitivity levels. The differences are the result of both physiological and psychological factors beginning with palate sensitivity.

One of these groups is comprised of those individuals who have more taste buds on their tongues. As a result they are more sensitive to things such as the burn of alcohol or bitterness. Because sweetness in wines hides the burn of alcohol, they prefer sweet wines.

The traditionally accepted assumption in the wine world is that individuals start by liking sweet wines and then, as they gain experience and their palate "matures" they will graduate to dry red wines. Hanni rejects this assumption. Given the physical reasons these persons like sweet wines, they will never like dry red wines. To them those wines will always be unpalatable.

The traditional wine world and its emphasis on matching food and wine seldom accommodates such sweet loving wine drinkers. But, as Hanni illustrates, in the 1800s sweet wines were often served with meat and seafood. It is only in the 1900s that the red wine with meat, white wines with fish "rule" developed.

This manifesto is designed to give these sweet wine lovers support, to encourage them to embrace their personal preferences and to not to bend to the conventional wisdom. As Hanni notes, even some in the wine industry have such sweet wine preferences, with the legendary Harvey Possert of Robert Mondavi's publicity department, being the prime example. Along the way, in showing how sweetness can make a wine more enjoyable, Hanni notes that the 1947 Chateau Cheval Blanc, perhaps the most prized red wine of that century had 3 grams of sugar per liter, giving it a sweet almost port like taste.

Hanni's bottom line is drink what tastes good to you. If you prefer sweet wine, drink sweet wine and don't fear the traditionalists who may sneer at you. We should match the wine to the diner not the dinner. Hanni seeks to persuade the hospitality industry to embrace these individuals.

My only negative for this book is the lack of an index. It would have helped. Regardless this is a work that should cause all wine lovers to rethink their view of the maturation of a novice's palate and accept those people who only like sweet wines. Highly recommended.

I Taste Red: The Science of Tasting Wine, Jamie Goode, University of California Press, Oakland, California 2016, 224 pages, hardback, \$29.95. Wine writer Jamie Goode sets out to boldly go where no wine writer has gone before. He assembles numerous scientific studies, articles and research into how our sensory system, psychology, philosophy, and flavor chemistry all play a central part in our perception and enjoyment of wine.

Much of the work is highly detailed and complex. He covers an amazing variety of topics from how the brain receives taste sensations from the nose and palate to the role saliva plays in tasting wine (or anything else one drinks or eats.) Some of the studies mentioned are in conflict with each other. For example, two studies on how to restore palate

Continued on Next Page

IN THE WINE LIBRARY (Continued from Page 7)

sensitivity are in conflict. One study concluded that plain white crackers are the best reviver while another found CBMC and water mixture (carbonmethylcellulose in a solution of one gram per liter) is superior.

Goode carefully examines the role that each of the components in wine has on the flavor. There are discussions of “impact compounds,” organic acids, sugars, polyphenols, alcohol, glycerol, and even acetaldehydes. It is very complex material probably beyond the realm of those wine lovers without a strong science background.

Along the way there are numerous fascinating bits of information. For example, it is generally accepted that there are five basic tastes: sweet, sour, salt, bitter, and umami. But now a sixth taste has been proposed, that of fat (non-esterified fatty acids produced during the breakdown of fat) which has a unique taste sensation.

In the last chapter, Goode pulls together all of this material and offers his conclusions for analytical wine tasting. First he suggests that the location be in a clean well-lit location without competing smells. (Didn't we all already know this?) He then goes on to use studies to show that it is possible for almost anyone to become an expert wine taster with practice. Goode notes that words used by wine critics are important as they can either delineate the taste or can distort the actual tasting of the wine by a reader.

Wine lovers need to understand that each individual has a unique set of flavor perceptions. This is why wine tasters, even professional wine tasters, may sharply disagree about a particular wine. Additionally Goode notes that individual wine tasters preferences change over time. He believes critics, who in their youth may prefer Cabernet, may find a penchant for lighter, fruitier wines as they grow older.

The only minor drawback to this book is the paper it is printed on. The paper is so thick that it continually gave the impression of pages being stuck together as the reader turns pages. Thankfully there is a detailed bibliography and index. Highly recommended.

Wines of the Walla Walla Valley; A Deep Rooted History, *Catie McIntyre Walker, 2014, 144 pages, softback, \$19.95.* This is a clever little book exploring not only the geography but also the history of the Walla Walla region in Washington State. Along the way there are photographs from personal collections of early settlers. I especially liked the ornate souvenir spoon with an elaborate grape design handle. Additionally there are recipes for various traditional dishes from the region. Interesting material. There are no specific tastings notes or visiting information for the wineries of the region. Recommended.

WINES TASTED FOR THIS ISSUE

<u>Wine</u>	<u>My Score*</u>
CHARDONNAY	
2015 DAOU “Reserve,” Paso Robles (\$46)	80
2015 Dry Creek Vineyard “DCV Estate Block 10,” Russian River Valley (\$32)	88
2015 Hartford Court Russian River Valley (\$32)	89
2015 J Vineyards Russian River Valley (\$30)	89
2015 Patz & Hall “Dutton Ranch,” Russian River Valley (\$44)	90
2015 Rombauer Vineyards Carneros (\$36)	89
2015 Sonoma-Cutrer Sonoma Coast (\$23)	88
2015 Trefethen Family Vineyards Oak Knoll District (\$36)	91
2015 Wente Vineyards “Riva Ranch,” Arroyo Seco (\$22)	90
GRENACHE	
2014 Beckmen Vineyards Santa Ynez Valley (\$32)	90

<u>Wine</u>	<u>My Score*</u>
2013 Eos “Estate,” Santa Ynez Valley (\$28)	89
2013 Herman Story “On The Road,” California (\$48)	90
2014 McPrice Myers “High on the Hog,” Santa Barbara County (\$35)	90
2014 Neyers “Rossi Ranch,” Sonoma Valley (\$33)	91
2013 San Liege Wines “En Gedi,” Santa Barbara County (\$45)	91
2014 The Farm Winery “The Dish,” Paso Robles (\$60)	92
2014 The Farm Winery “Touchy-Feely,” Paso Robles (\$60)	91
PINOT NOIR	
2014 Ancien Carneros (\$38)	90
2014 Baileyana “Halcon Rojo,” Edna Valley (\$35)	90
2014 Black Kite “Gap’s Crown Vineyard,” Sonoma Coast (\$60)	91
2014 Black Kite “Kite’s Rest,” Anderson Valley (\$50)	90
2014 Black Kite “Redwoods’ Edge,” Anderson Valley (\$60)	92
2014 Black Kite “River Turn,” Anderson Valley (\$60)	92
2014 Black Kite “Sierra Mar Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50)	91
2014 Black Kite “Soberanes Vineyard,” Santa Lucia Highlands (\$50)	91
2014 Black Kite “Stony Terrace,” Anderson Valley (\$60)	91
2014 Byron “La Encantada Vineyard,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$55)	88
2014 Byron “Monument,” Santa Maria Valley (\$65)	86
2014 Joseph Phelps “Freestone Vineyards,” Sonoma Coast (\$55)	91
2014 MacPhail “Ferrington,” Anderson Valley (\$49)	89
2014 MacPhail, Sonoma Coast (\$40)	89
2014 MacPhail “Sundawg Ridge,” Green Valley (\$49)	90
2014 MacPhail “Toulouse Vineyard,” Anderson Valley (\$49)	91
2014 Merry Edwards “Coopersmith,” Russian River Valley (\$66)	90
2014 Merry Edwards “Georganne,” Russian River Valley (\$63)	90
2014 Talley Vineyards “East Rincon Vineyard,” Arroyo Grande Valley (\$60)	91
2014 Talley Vineyards “Rincon Vineyard,” Arroyo Grande Valley (\$64)	91
2014 Talley Vineyards “Rosemary’s Vineyard,” Arroyo Grande Valley (\$75)	92
SAUVIGNON BLANC	
2015 Chalk Hill “Estate Bottled,” Chalk Hill (\$30)	89
2015 Davis Bynum “Virginia’s Block, Jane’s Vyard,” Russian River Valley (\$25)	88
2014 Dry Creek Vineyard “Taylor’s Vineyard,” Dry Creek Valley (\$28)	91
2015 Ferrari-Carano Alexander Valley (\$32)	91
2015 Ferrari-Carano “Fumé Blanc,” Sonoma County (\$14)	90
2015 Grgich Hills Estate “Essence, Miljenko’s Selection,” Napa Valley (\$55)	91
2014 Lancaster Estate “Samantha’s,” Alexander Valley (\$30)	89
2015 Merry Edwards Russian River Valley (\$34)	92
SYRAH	
2014 Copain “Tous Ensemble,” Mendocino County (\$24)	84
2014 Groundwork Santa Barbara County (\$20)	90
2014 Lewis Cellars Napa Valley (\$75)	92
2013 Limerick Lane Russian River Valley (\$45)	90
2014 Melville “Estate,” Sta. Rita Hills (\$32)	89
2014 Ramey Sonoma Coast (\$40)	89
2013 Shafer “Relentless,” Napa Valley (\$87)	92
2014 Sobon Estate Amador County (\$18)	90
2013 The Farm Winery “Primal Scream,” Paso Robles (\$60)	91
VIIGNIER	
2014 Calera Mt. Harlan (\$32)	91
2015 Hawley “Hawley Vineyard,” Dry Creek Valley (\$34)	89
2015 J. Lohr Gesture “Limited Release,” Paso Robles (\$30)	90
2015 Pride Mountain Vineyards Sonoma County (\$42)	90
ZINFANDEL	
2014 Castoro Cellars “Zinfusion, Reserve,” Paso Robles (\$24)	91
2014 Dry Creek Vineyard “Old Vine,” Dry Creek Valley (\$32)	90
2014 Frank Family Vineyards “Reserve,” Napa Valley (\$55)	92
2015 Hawley “Ponzo Vineyard,” Russian River Valley (\$32)	90
2015 J. Lohr Gesture “Limited Release,” Paso Robles (\$25)	90
2014 Louis M. Martini “Gnarly Vine, Monte Rosso,” Sonoma Valley (\$60)	91
2014 Thacher, Paso Robles (\$38)	91

* Editor Nick Ponomareff’s scores based on the 100-point scoring system.

