

## The Chronicle panel wine recommendations

The Chronicle's wine selections *Thanksgiving wines**These wines are some selections from our panel tastings this past year.*

| Wine   | Price | Rating | Body         | Dryness     | Comments  |
|--|-------|--------|--------------|-------------|---|
| 2001 Mason Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc                           | \$17  | ★★★★   | Medium       | Dry         | Floral nose, honeydew, Meyer lemon, grassy w/ some mineral; creamy fig & banana flavors; weighty on palate, great length on finish.                               |
| 2001 Geyser Peak California Sauvignon Blanc                      | \$10  | ★★★    | Light        | Dry         | Simple light aromas of grapefruit, Meyer lemon; light orange-blossom flavors; good weight on palate, great acidity, nicely balanced. Great value.                 |
| 2001 Canyon Road California Sauvignon Blanc                      | \$9   | ★★★    | Light        | Dry         | Clean, bright citrus and light grassy aromas and flavors with some peach and apricot; good weight, acidity and balance. Great value.                              |
| 2001 St. Supery Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc                      | \$16  | ★★★★½  | Medium       | Dry         | Good varietal character, lemongrass nose, with peach & apricot, grapefruit & melon aroma & flavors, grassy, balanced, good acidity & length.                      |
| 2000 Rex Hill Willamette Valley Pinot Gris                       | \$14  | ★★★    | Medium       | Dry         | Light crisp fruit expression, young almond, pine-needle nose with touch of spice; bright and juicy, crisp finish, layered, balanced.                              |
| 2000 WillaKenzie Estate Willamette Valley Pinot Gris             | \$18  | ★★★★½  | Light-Medium | Dry-Semidry | Citrus, floral, spiced nose, full fruit expression; sweet juicy fruit; mouth-filling, good integrated acid, clean, long, balanced finish, refreshing.             |
| 2000 King Estate Oregon Pinot Gris                               | \$15  | ★★★    | Light-Medium | Dry         | Fruit-cocktail nose, flowery, perfumed; peaches, Meyer lemon, bright lively flavors with slight mineral overtones; good mouth-feel                                |
| 2001 Sutter Home California Gewurztraminer                       | \$6   | ★★★    | Light-Medium | Semidry     | Sweet-tart, ripe melon on nose w/rose petals; lovely spicy aromatics; finishes with a perfume nuance; soft palate; clean, full finish. Exceptional value.         |
| 2001 Claiborne & Churchill/ Central Coast Gewurztraminer         | \$15  | ★★★    | Medium-Full  | Dry         | Peach, nectarine on complex nose with burnt sugar, spice, some heat on finish, varietal character; nice finish, good palate structure, full body; Alsatian style. |
| 2001 Concannon California Righteously Rosé                       | \$10  | ★★★    | Light        | Dry         | Strawberry nose, peach and nectarine mid-palate, good fruit qualities; some Sauvignon Blanc herbaceousness; light but crisp profile.                              |
| 2000 Brancott Vnyds. Marlborough, NZ Reserve Pinot Noir          | \$18  | ★★★    | Medium       | Dry         | Subtle cherry, strawberry aromas with hints of earth and leather, fig, currants, light juicy fruit; long mouth-feel, balanced acidity.                            |
| 2000 Palliser Estate Martinborough, NZ Pinot Noir                | \$20  | ★★★    | Medium       | Dry         | Rich, meaty aromas, some leather and green nose; mushroom, red licorice, rhubarb flavors; full mouth-feel; silky, good balance and finish.                        |
| 1999 Lockwood Monterey Syrah                                     | \$16  | ★★★★½  | Medium-Full  | Dry         | Deep ripe-berry and smokey-oak nose; concentrated flavors, richly textured layered fruit, firm tannins; good length. Value.                                       |
| 2000 Pepperwood Grove California Syrah                           | \$9   | ★★★★   | Medium-Full  | Dry         | Deep color, purple edge; complex berry and anise aromas, hints of smokey oak; lush, concentrated flavors; long rich finish. Great value.                          |
| 2000 Robert Mondavi Winery/Napa Valley Zinfandel                 | \$21  | ★★★★½  | Medium       | Dry         | Coffee, cocoa, boysenberry, fruit-generous; intense w/nice core of acidity, lots of good tannin structure; could be even better with time.                        |
| 2000 Rosenblum Cellars Napa Valley/Rust Ridge Vineyard Zinfandel | \$24  | ★★½    | Medium       | Dry         | Black currants, bright raspberry, vanilla aromas with spice and menthol; very lush, soft in mouth; balanced finish, nice wine.                                    |

## RATING KEY

★★★★ Extraordinary ★★★ Excellent ★★ Good ★ Fair  
 Wines listed above are generally available but may not be in all stores. To locate them, start with your local wine merchant, but also try larger stores and supermarkets.