

# CONNOISSEURS' GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA WINE



## SEPTEMBER 2002 INDEX

### MERLOT

○	■	BALLENTEINE Napa Valley	1999	○	■	MASON Young Mill Vineyards	1999
		BLACKSTONE Napa Valley	2000			MATANZAS CREEK Sonoma	1999
		BELLA NOVELLO Napa Valley	2000	○	■	MERRYVALE Las Arriegas Vyd	1999
		BOOKWALTER Columbia Vly	1999			MIEZT Sonoma County	1999
○○○	■	CH STE MICHELLE Reserve	1999			MILAT St. Helena Napa Valley	2000
		CLOS LA CHANCE Central Ct	2000			MILL CREEK Dry Creek Valley	1999
○	■	CLOS PEGASE Mitsuko's Vyd	1999			MIRASSOU Harvest Reserve	1999
		COLUMBIA CREST Merlot-Gab	1999			MUTT DYNCH Merlot OverPlay Dead	1999
		COLUMBIA CREST Grd Estates	1999			NEVADA CITY Sierra Foothills	2000
○	■	CONGANNON Central Coast	1998			NEWTON Unfiltered Napa Valley	1999
○○	■	Intg. DE CONINCK Napa Vly	1998	○	■	NEWTON Special Cuvee	1999
		F. COPPOLA Diamond Series	2000			NICKEL & NICKEL Suscol Ranch	1999
		CROCKER STARR Stone Place	1998	○○	■	NORTHSTAR Columbia Valley	1999
○	GV	DARK STAR Paso Robles	1999			PEJU PROVINCE Res Rutherford	1999
		DRAPER & ESQUIN Monterey	1999			PEJU PROVINCE Napa Valley	1999
		DRY CREEK VYD Reserve	1998			PELLEGRINI Couverdale Farm	2000
○○	■	DUCKHORN Estate Grown	1999			PRIDE MOUNTAIN 61% Napa	2000
		DUCKHORN Howell Mountain	1998			RAMSAY Lot #5 Napa Valley	2000
○	■	DUCKHORN Three Palms Vyd	1999			RAVENSWOOD Napa Valley	1998
		DYNAMITE North Coast	2000			Martin RAY Diamond Mountain	1999
		EAGLE & ROSE Napa Valley	1999			Martin RAY Marriage Sonoma	1999
		ERIC ROSS Russian River Valley	1998			ROMBAUER Napa Valley	1999
○○	■	ETUDE Napa Valley	1999			RUBISSOW-SARGENT Mt. Veeder	1999
○	■	FERRARI-CARANO Sonoma	1999	○	■	RUSTON FAMILY Napa Valley	1999
		FERRARI-CARANO Tre Monte	1999			SAGELANDS Four Corners	2000
		FISHER RIF Vineyard	1999	○	■	V. SATTU Napa Valley	1999
○	■	FLORA SPRINGS Estate	2000	○○	■	SAWYER Rutherford Napa Valley	1999
		T. FOGARTY Santa Cruz Mtns	1998	○○	■	SELBINE Napa Valley	1999
○	■	FRANCOISAN Napa Valley	2000			SILVAN RIDGE Rogue Valley	1998
		FREESTONE Napa Valley	1999			Robert SINSKEY Los Carneros	1999
○	■	GANEY Santa Ynez Valley	1999			Robert STEMMER Sonoma	1999
		GEYSER PEAK Reserve	1999	○	■	STERLING Napa Valley	1999
		GREENWOOD RIDGE Mendocino Rdg	1999			STORRS San Ysidro District	1999
		HANNA Alexander Valley	1999			TEATOWN Napa Valley	2000
		HAVENS Napa Valley	1999			TREFEITHEN Napa Valley	1999
○	■	HUNTINGTON Alexander Valley	2000	○	■	TRUCHARD Carneros	1999
		JADE MOUNTAIN Caldwell Vyd	1999			TURNSHULL Oakville Napa Valley	1998
		JARVIS Estate Grown	1999			TWOMEY Napa Valley	1999
		KENDALL-JACKSON Gr Est Sonoma	1998	○	■	VINE CLIFF Reserve Napa Valley	1999
		KENDALL-JACKSON Vintners Res	1999			VINE CLIFF Napa Valley	1999
○	■	KIRKLAND RANCH Napa Valley	1998			WELLINGTON Sonoma Valley	1999
		KUNDE Sonoma Valley	2000			WENTE Crane Ridge Reserve	1999
		LOOKWOOD Monterey	1999	○	■	WHITE OAK Alexander Valley	2000
○	■	MARLYN MERLOT Napa Valley	2000			WHITE OAK Napa Valley	2000

## BEST BUYS IN THE MARKET

**CABERNET SAUVIGNON** Generally among the more challenging varietals when it comes to finding wines of genuine "Best Buy" status, Cabernet Sauvignon is ever resistant to price reductions regardless of seeming market pressure. As always, however, a careful eye can find good values even with Cabernet, and the deep, keenly crafted **CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE 1998 Reserve** (\$33.00) remains our premier pick. The rich, slightly smoky **HOGUE 1999 Vineyard Selection** (\$18.00) is among the better Cabernet values earning **B** award, and it is joined in the recommended ranks by the complex, impressively fruited **CHARLES KRUG 1999** (\$21.00) and the well-defined, mildly olivaceous **DRY CREEK VINEYARD 1999** (\$21.00). Finally, if just shy of winning a star, the nicely balanced **JOEL GOIT 2000 California** (\$15.00) delivers convincing Cabernet fruit at a most inviting price.

**SAUVIGNON BLANC** Picking good-value favorites among California Sauvignon Blanc bottlings is an equally difficult task as choosing among Cabernets, but the difficulty here lies in surplus rather than surfeit. Competing for top honors from a field crowded with worthies, the fleshy deeply fruited **MASON 2001** (\$16.00) and the zesty, brilliantly balanced **VOSS 2001** (\$20.00) are outstanding Napa Valley bottlings whose grassy intensity and varietal substance net them easy **B** ranking. Among **C** stand-outs, the bright, herbal, palate-cleansing **CHATEAU SOUVERAIN 2001** (\$12.00) delivers enormously appeal at the price, and the plump, generously fruity **PARADISE RIDGE 2001 Grandview Vineyard** (\$14.00) scores especially well. Consider too the richly oaked, but insistently grassy **VAN ASPEREN 2000 Napa Valley** (\$12.00), and the very attractive **RODNEY STRONG 2001 Charlotte's Home** (\$12.00) deserves a round of applause for its fresh, lightly herbal, downright juicy presentation of melons and sweet limes.

MERLOT PG 162

BORDEAUX STYLE BLENDS CENTERFOLD

CHARDONNAY PG 171

SEPTEMBER 2002