"Wine is one of the most civilized things in the world and one of the most natural things of the world that has been brought to the greatest perfection, and it offers a greater range for enjoyment and appreciation than, possibly, any other purely sensory thing."

-Ernest Hemingway

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Sake

- Kaguyahime, Junmai, Kyoto 500ml. 5. 30. This sake has hints of nuts and cotton candy in the aroma with medium acidity and not too dry. The slightest hint of oiliness exists in the body.
- Kaori, Ginjo, Yamaguchi 1800ml. 6. 99.
 Organically grown, dry and delicate, it has a floral fragrance and a flavor that hints of citrus, melon and banana.
 - Ozeki Dry, Hollister, CA 187ml. 7.
 Floral and fragrant aroma with melon and cucumber notes. This is very savory, sweet corn, herbs and fresh mountain water.
- Ai San San, Junmai, Ehime 300ml. 34. Medium dry sake with clear, refreshing taste with faint aroma of minerals.
- Poochi Poochi Sparkling, Fukushima 330ml. 33. Low-alcohol, lightly sparkling sake. Pleasant and refreshing it is balanced with sweet and acidic flavor.
 - Nanbushi, Yamahai Junmai, Ehime 500ml. 44.
 Medium dry sake with round aroma of rice and soft smooth taste.
 - Trumbull Flight of Sake 9. Ozeki Dry, Kaori and Kaguyahime

Wines by the glass

Sparkling		
Gruet, Blanc de Noirs, Albuquerque	8.	
Zardetto Proscecco, Veneto, Italy [187ml]	9.	
Toad Hollow Risgue, Limoux, France	10.	
Veuve Cliquot, Brut, Reims, France	13.	
Whites		
Canaletto, Pinot Grigio, 2006, Venezie	7.5	
A to Z, Pinot Gris, 2006, OR	9.	
Ca' Montini, Pinot Grigio, 2006, Trentino	10	
Montinore, Riesling, 2006 Willamette Valley	8.	
2 Princes, Riesling, 2006, Germany	9.	
St. Supery, Sauvignon Blanc, 2006, Napa Valley	8.50	
Matua Valley, Sauvignon Blanc, 2007, Marlborough	9.00	
Do Ferreiro , Albarino, 2006, Rias Baixas	11.	
Estancia, Chardonnay, 2006, Monterey	8.	
Hess "Shirtail Creek", Chardonnay, 2006, Monterey	9.	
Sonoma Cutrer, Chardonnay, 2005, Russian River	12.	
Crios, Rose of Malbec, 2007, Mendoza	7.	
F	Reds	
Hob Nob, Pinot Noir, 2006, France	8.	
Martin Ray, Pinot Noir, 2006, Santa Barbara County	10.	
Stimson Estate, Merlot, 2003, Washington	7.	
Coppola, Merlot "Diamond Series," 2005, CA	9.	
Barossa Valley Estate, Shiraz, 2004, Australia	8.	
Rosenblum, "Abba" Syrah, 2005,Lodi	10.	
Cortijo III, Tempranillo, 2006, Rioja	7.	
Familia Mayol, Malbec, 2005, Mendoza	7.5	
Legaris, Tinta Fina, Crianza, 2004, Ribera Del Duero	9.	
Ravenswood, Zinfandel, Vintners Blend, 2005, CA	8.	
14 Hands, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005, WA	7.5	
Guenoc, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2005,CA		
Arboleda, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2003, Maipo Valley	9.5	

Chateau Souverain, 2004, Alexander Valley

12.5

Half Bottles

Veuve Clicquot, Ponsardin, Reims 29.

White fruits, vanilla and brioche notes in the nose, well-balanced fresh and fruity structure.

Schloss Gobelsburg, Riesling, 2004, Austria 25.

Salt, crushed stones begin even with the aroma, then go on to a mediumbody of citrus and tropical fruit. With striking length and mineral complexity it is verdant, and dry. The finish mingles sweet herbs and citrus.

Domaine Henri Bourgeois, "Les Bonnes Bouches" Sancerre, 2005, Loire 26.

This sauvignon blanc is a wine of exotic fruit and citrus aromas, subtle yet powerful.

Robert Sinskey, Pinot Blanc, 2005, Los Carneros 39.

This pinot blanc leaps out of the glass to greet your olfactory sense with an aromatic explosion of honeysuckle, pear and jasmine, followed on the palate by fresh white nectarine and melon that linger far longer than expected. The wine balances a rich, indulgent and persistent mouth feel with bright, focused acidity and just begs for food.

E. Guigal, Cotes du Rhone, 2004 Rhone 21.

This deeply–hued, seductive wine is primarily syrah with some grenache included in the blend. It displays loads of berry fruit, beautiful texture, softness, and silkiness.

Castillo di Bossi, Chanti Classico, 2001, Tuscany 25.

Intense ruby colour, of great luminosity. Sweet sensations of toasted oak exalt the fruity component, where one can smell clear scents of mature cherry, refined by very elegant floral notes of violet.

Honig, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2004, Napa 35.

This wine starts with ripe plum and black raspberry aromas that are framed by vanilla, allspice and some toasty oak. Intense fruit flavors and a rich round midpalate are followed by cocoa and black cherry on the finish. The tannins are firm and structured.

Sparkling and Champagne

"In victory, you deserve Champagne, in defeat, you need it."
-Napoleon Bonaparte

Gruet, Blanc de Noirs, Albuguerque 32.

The rich and toasty character is balanced and superb. Aged for two-year minimum, the palate is developed and shows complex flavors. The raspberry aromas and the creamy texture play a leading role and create a great finesse.

Nino Franco, "Rustico", Veneto 35.

Crisp and snappy on the palate, this prosecco gives aromas and flavors of green apple and honeysuckle. Very light-bodied, the bubbles are soft yet provide enough verve to be a perfect antidote to spicy foods.

Toad Hollow, Risque, Limoux 40.

Methode Ancestrale, crisp and fruity with noticeable sweetness and light fizz, flavors of green apples and pears.

Lignot Cerdon, Loire 43.

With the aroma of crushed strawberries, this sparkling French classic is made in the ancient "method ancestral."

Lucien Albrecht, Brut Rose, Cremant d'Alsace 49.

Hand picked whole cluster pressed 100% Pinot Noir in the methode traditionnelle. Bursting with ripe currants and cranberry with noticeable yeast and mineral, it is soft and well rounded.

Veuve Clicquot, Ponsardin, Reims 59.

White fruits, vanilla and brioche notes in the nose, well-balanced fresh and fruity structure.

Perrier Jouet, Grand Brut, Epernay, Champagne 91.

Some spicy yeast complexity and age on nose but still has a lime-citrus freshness. Freshness also evident on palate which is lively, long, elegant and flavorsome. Great acid backbone.

Pierre Peters, "Cuvee Speciale", Blanc de Blancs 1999, Champagne 120.

This Grand Cru is consistently in the pantheon of the greatest Blanc de Blancs. Meyer-lemon and gardenia fragrances; the palate is a juggernaut of body and generosity, with an almost viognier-like wild meadow flower allied to a fiendish soy-saltiness.

Veuve Clicquot, La Grande Dame 1996, Champagne 219.

Made only in exceptional years, La Grande Dame epitomizes the Veuve Clicquot tradition. The rich golden color is accentuated by a fine and delicate effervescence, with generous fruit notes, and a dense, silky texture.

Moet & Chandon, Dom Perignon, 1998 Epernay, Champagne 229.

Yeasty notes, along with tropical fruit and toasted nuts, medium to full bodied, crisp and zesty.

Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio/Pinot Blanc

Canaletto, 2006, Venezie 30

With a lovely floral aroma, masses of fresh fruit flavors on the palate and a rush of citrus acidity this is a classic pinot grigio.

Kris, 2006, Venezie 32

An apple white with some mineral and dried fruit, medium body and light finish.

Trimbach, Pinot Blanc, 2004, Alsace 32

Soft acid with pear, fruit salad and mineral notes, peppery middle palate with a touch of spiced pear, and stainless steel fermented.

A to Z, 2006, OR 36.

Aromas suggestive of citrus, acacia, lime blossom, lychee, mineral, white peaches and nectarines, flavors are focused with crisp ripe acidity.

Ca' Montini, 2006, Trentino 40

Elegant and complex aroma of apples and peaches, has a rich body and persistently long finish for such a delicate white.

Livio Felluga, 2005, Collio 56

Nose of rose petals, tropical fruit and tulips, full body and great acidity finishes with flavors of mango, apples and bananas.

Riesling & Gewurtztraminer

Montinore, 2006, Willamette Valley 32.

This wine has a brilliant medium gold color with green tints. The aroma is of fresh wildflowers with a distinct lemon & lime character. On the palate it offers flavors of fresh grapefruit with a background of lemon and lime and floral notes. The finish carries through with a crisp almost dry mineral finish

Leitz, Dragonstone, 2006, Rheingau 33

The nose is offers aromas of caraway, fennel and kirsch. A juicy shot of malic fruit is anchored by significant acidity.

Schloss Wallhausen, 2 Princes, 2006, Nahe 36

Displays a perfect balance between sweetness, acid and minerality, with delicate flowers, apricot and nectarines with a crisp finish.

Trimbach, Gewurztraminer, 2004, Alsace 39.

Think spiced lychee with a crisp dry finish, and a light acidity followed by sweet richness.

Corey Creek, Gewurztraminer, 2006

Long Island 45.

This spectacular wine has been crafted to accentuate the floral and lychee notes from the gewürztraminer grape. The nose showcases floral, peach and honeysuckle leading to a varietally specific oily middle palate and finish.

Charles Schleret Herrenweg, 2000, Alsace 47.

Slightly exotic aromas of butter, honey, and orange, quite dry with suggestions of exotic fruit, nice acid grip in the finish.

Dr. Bürklin-Wolf Estate, 2003, Pfaltz 49.

Sparkling clean pear and peach aromas with a touch of mineral, plenty of acid, a crispy middle and long dry finish, with a hint of spice.

Chardonnay

Estancia, 2006, Monterey 32.

Flavors of ripe pear and a fruit mix of lemon, passion fruit, fig, lychee and apple. Subtle oak with a lingering mouth feel and a mineral finish.

Joel Gott, 2006, Monterey 33.

This wine has flavors of citrus, pear and jasmine with bright acid structure.

With steel barrel fermentation and aging this wine remains true to its

characteristics, a clean, crisp chardonnay.

Hess "Shirtail Creek Vineyard" 2006, Monterey 36.

This wine has bright aromas of Bosc pear and apricot. The texture is ultra rich and viscous as a result of ripe fruit and lees stirring. The acidity the finish brings focus to the fruit complexity.

Joullian, 2005, Monterey 42

Brilliant, green-tinted and straw gold in color. Floral honeysuckle, Asian pear, lychee and roasted grain aromas perfume the nose. An elegant, round, pear-apple beginning and a finish with nuances of citrus, green apples, and hazelnut.

Sonoma Cutrer, 2005, Russian River 48

Crisp and clean with melon and lemony citrus mid palate with a lemon zest finish, medium body long finish.

Boudin, Fourchaume Chablis Premier Cru 2005, Burgundy 49.

Highly nuanced nose features soft citrus fruits, honey, lemon peel and white pepper. Large-scaled, sexy and ripe, with sweet orange and tangerine flavors framed by lively, perfectly integrated acidity. This boasts grand cru richness and depth. Finishes bracing, tactile and bright, with an aromatic suggestion of lemon oil.

Ferrari-Carano, 2005, Alexander Valley 53.

Fruit focus with tropical over tones of papaya and mango supplemented with toasted almonds, well balanced very long finish.

Talley Vineyards, 2005, Arroyo Grande Valley 53.

The wine starts with pronounced notes of vanilla, light pear, green apple and a touch of macadamia nut. It finishes with zesty acidity and a distict mineral note.

Joseph Drouhin, Pouilly Fuissé, 2006

Maconaisse 55.

Floral and fruity nose with hints of fresh almonds, very complex in the mouth, round and dry on the palate.

Louis Latour, 2004, Chassagne-Montrachet 68

Clean nose of fruity wine with small notes of oak, medium acidity is pushed aside by the oak, powerful yet finesse.

Patz & Hall, "Durell Vineyard", 2005, Sonoma 77.

This wine has aromas of toasted brioche, créme brulée, pineapple, and beeswax, which creates an exotic and intense bouquet. The palate is rich, full-bodied and creamy, with ripe tropical fruit, honey and apricot, and a hint of darkly roasted hazelnuts.

James Henry, "Woolsey Road," 2003 Russian River Valley, CA 85.

A deep wine, the Woolsey Road has notes of Meyer lemon pie, citrus and a mouth coating of cashews. Spending a third of it's time in French oak barrels, this wine posses a long lingering finish, resulting in a truly exquisite experience.

Sauvignon Blanc/Sancerre/Fume Blanc

Domaine Le Haut Chesneau, 2006, Loire 30.

Winner of the 2005 Gold Medal at the International Competition in Brussels, this wine has an intense bouquet of fresh flowers and herbs, with slight gooseberry and melon characteristics.

Star Lane, 2005, Santa Ynez Valley 33

Bottling un-filtered, the wine is full and expansive in the mouth, yet reigned in by an exciting burst of acid. Flavors of lemon curd and honeydew melon are accented by aromas of sweet pea and crushed gravel.

St. Supery, 2006, Napa Valley 34

Wonderful aromas of ruby grapefruit, lime juice and honeysuckle join with a vibrant core of grapefruit, hints of pineapple, nectarine and lemon grass. The texture is inviting and supple with enough acid to keep it all focused.

Matua Valley, 2007, Marlborough 36

Signature notes of gooseberry, honeysuckle, white grapefruit and passion fruit. Loads of grass. Bone dry and tart.

Robert Mondavi, 2005, Napa Valley 42

Honeydew, grass, peach and passion fruit in character with hints of apple complimented by a lush creamy finish.

Serge Laloue, 2006, Sancerre 45.

Aromatic with gooseberries, balanced with acidity. Nice balance of citrus, hints of green fruit. A classic example of Old World Sauvignon Blanc.

Cloudy Bay, 2006, Marlborough 79

Bracing fruit carry throughout leaving a long finish, red currants, juicy mandarins, and lemon zest.

Rosé and Interesting Whites

Crios, Rose of Malbec, 2007, Mendoza 28.

On the nose raspberries lead, with a note of strawberry jam and a little cherry. The palate nicely echoes the aromatic notes, balancing the acidity with a touch of sweetness and a little jam to result in a clean finish.

Huber, "Hugo" Gruner Veltliner, 2005, Austria 30.

Displaying flavors of lemon, lime and peaches has a solid fruit core is rich in finesse with a beautiful length and mineral tones.

Domaine Tessier, "La Porte Doree" 2004, Loire 40

The grape is romorantin, a delicious wild flower and tropical fruit aroma on the nose. Flavors of mineral, citrus, butterscotch, cinnamon and clove. The finish is especially long and creamy with balanced flint and flowers

Do Ferreiro, Albarino, 2006, Rias Baixes 44

Aromas of herb and floral citrus lead into firm lemon and guince flavors. This is all followed with a chalky mineral guality and smoky undertone.

Domaine des Forges, 1994, Savennieres, Loire 44.

The bouguet is subtle mineral with hints of mint and gunpowder. Flavors of gooseberries, honey, flint, and vanilla grace the palate. Time has tamed its piercing tannins, so that what you get is a maturity and complexity.

Coeur D'Alene Cellars, Viognier, 2004, WA 45.

Spicy apricot, floral and citrus notes blend with vanilla and buttery notes on the palate to lead to a gently lingering finish

Tablas Creek, Clos Blanc, 2003, Paso Robles 48

Rousanne, viognier, marsanne, and grenache make up this blend with a nutty nose of honey, spice and ripe pear, moderate acid flavors of honey and clove, long finish.

Robert Sinskey, Vin Gris, 2007, Carneros 48.

From pinot noir grapes this vin gris has fresh aromas of strawberries and citrus, flavors of cranberry, tangerines, and honeydew melon ahead of mouth watering, refreshing acidity.

Pinot Noir

Hob Nob Vineyards, 2006, France 32.

This is a fruit forward wine showing blackberries and a bit of spice. Less earth tones then most French pinot noir with a touch of tannins that provide great balance.

Martin Ray, 2006, Santa Barbara County 40.

Beautiful garnet color and aromas of berries and candied fruit. The palate is full and sensual with ripe raspberry and strawberry, elegantly balanced with vanilla. The mouth boasts creamy, supple texture and opulent fruit, fused with smooth but bright flavors on the finish.

Willamette Valley Vineyards 2006, Oregon 43.

Vibrant aromas of black cherries, brown sugar, and rose petals, flavors of nutmeg, toasted oak, strawberry and mineral, ripe sweet tannins.

Willakenzie Estate, 2005, Willamette Valley 48.

Fresh, bright red and black fruits, enhanced by subtle floral tones and an appealing touch of earthiness.

Menetou-Salon Rouge, Cuvée Exception 2003 Chavet et Fils, Loire 52.

Cuvee Exception is a classic Loire Pinot Noir that begins with a bouquet of cherry, strawberry, and plum with a hint of roses and geraniums. The palate has a buttery consistency, well balanced fruit and tannins, flavors of white chocolate, cherry, vanilla and caramel.

Hendry, 2005, Napa Valley 63.

This wine has attractive, classic pinot noir aromas of baked cherry and spice. Flavors and aromas include orange peel, cassis, spice, tea and caramelized sugar. The oak, while lending further layers of spice, is still soft and well integrated.

Morgan, Twelve Clones, 2005, Monterey 66.

Medium to full body with garnet color and fine clarity. Nose and palate of blackberry, hard spices and mineral notes, softly integrated tannins lead into a long and balanced finish

David Bruce, 2005, Russian River Valley 69.

A captivating bouquet of fresh fruit and herbs leads into exquisitely succulent fruit flavors of spicy bing cherries and spices in delicious harmony with complex lavender, cloves, and a hint of black olives combined with an elegant layer of soft oak and plush tannins on the smooth finish.

Addamo, 2004, Santa Barbara 71

A blend of traditional Burgundian clones hand-picked at optimum ripeness producing a wine with rich complexity and dark color. This wine exhibits flavors of black cherry, dried currents and toasted oak. Lively acidity and soft yet firm tannins create amazing balance and a long finish.

Dierberg, 2004, Santa Maria 79

This wine shows aromas of wild sage, blackberry and some wild raspberry notes, crushed red and green peppercorns and a licorice note that reflect the concentration of the vintage. The blackberry theme continues on the palate with a firm structure and just enough acid to keep things fresh.

Domaine Serene, Evenstad Reserve, 2004 Willamette Valley 95.

Beautiful aromas of dark cherry, red raspberry, pipe tobacco, milk chocolate, pomegranate and earth. The palate is rich and supple, showing black raspberry, cherry pie, black currant, rose, violet and oak spice with a persistent and seamless finish.

Merlot

Stimson Estate, 2003, Washington 28.

Traditional raspberry, cherry characters with a touch of vanilla and toast

Coppola, "Diamond Series", 2005, CA 36.

cherry and blueberry integrating with black pepper, game and wood chip flavors. Smooth up front, followed by a thick oak finish.

Norton Ridge, 2004, Napa 39

Nice, dry and fruity in plumy chocolate flavors, also has some well-sculpted tannins. The ripe fruitiness lasts into a long finish.

Swanson, 2003, Napa 57.

Meld of mocha, black cherry liqueur, smoke and blackberries, full-bodied, with great density, focus, moderate acidity and an unctuous texture. The finish is long and alluring.

Miner Family Vineyards, "Stagecoach Vineyard" 2004, Napa 67

Richly woven red fruit flavors with mocha and some slight earthy-cedar box aromas, our Merlot has a wonderful round mouthfeel. Challenged by the rocky volcanic soils of this mountainous vineyard site, the vines at Stagecoach produce fruit of extraordinary quality and intensity.

Duckhorn, 2005, Napa 99

This blend of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, petit verdot, cabernet franc is dominated by ripe fruit-blackberry, plum, and cherry accented by notes of toasted oak, vanilla, cedar, and tobacco. The flavors are rich with chocolate, blackberry, blueberry, plum, cassis, white pepper, and dried herbs.

Duckhorn, "Three Palms", 2002, Napa 165.

A blend of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, petit verdot, cabernet franc. The aroma is a mix of raspberry, strawberry, black currant, and cassis highlighted by smoky bacon and mint. Ripe fruit flavors of raspberry, strawberry, and cherry are complemented by toasty oak and vanilla.

Syrah & Shiraz

Barossa Valley Estate "E Minor", 2005

Australia 32.

It has rich aromas of cherries, spice, and pepper. It's nicely balanced with healthy and ripe flavors of black cherries, black pepper to spice it up, and an earthy note to give it body.

Thorn-Clarke, "Shotfire", 2006, Barossa Valley 37.

The nose has plums and sweet spice – cardoman and cinnamon, with choc mint oak characters. The tannins are velvety and combined with the rich fruit and spicy oak gives the wine great length of flavor.

Rosenblum, "Abba", 2005, Lodi 40

This wine is a great example of syrah finding another hot-climate home. Exuberant and rich aromatics and mouthfeel highlight the blackberry and chocolate aspects of this enticing wine.

Tintara, 2004, McLaren Vale 48.

Sweet notes of black currant and plum fruit accented by hints of anise, mocha and coffee. The juicy palate with fine, integrated tannins leads to a silky finish.

Luca, 2005, Mendoza 65.

This syrah from Argentina has been blended with a touch of malbec. Fresh, bright and haunting with aromas of bright cherries and orange blossoms and flavors of blackberries and baked cherries.

Kevin Arnold, "Nadine", 2002, Stellenbosch 75

Dark fruit laced with spice and roast coffee beans, spice, licorice and mocha, concentrated with intense flavors of raw dark berries and wood smoke.

Interesting Reds

Familia Mayol, Malbec, 2005, Mendoza 30.

Blackberry, plums and boysenberry with sweet toast aromas. Spice and mineral notes blend with sweet tannins and oak to provide complexity and a velvety long finish.

Huber, Zweigelt, 2004, Austria 35.

Fully ripe sour cherries on the nose, compact on the palate with fine tannins, flavors of red berries and prunes echoed by minty tones.

Tikal, Patriota, 2005, Mendoza 55.

An almost equal mix of bonarda and malbec combine for grapey nose hints of black cherry and licorice with an exotic suggestion of marmalade.

Sweet, fat, round and smooth.

Jonathan Edwards, Petite Sirah, 2005 Napa Valley 65.

This petite sirah reveals an inky dark color, has a wonderful bouquet of plums and spice, and is followed by a long soft finish.

Zinfandel

Ravenswood, Vintners Blend, 2005, CA 32.

Bright, flashy, ripe raspberry, blackberry and vanilla flavors are wrapped around a soft sweet fruit core highlighted by scents of cinnamon.

Cline, "Ancient Vines", 2006, CA 36.

This zinfandel has a little carignane and is made from 100 year old vines, dusty raspberry, blackberry, white pepper, coffee and chocolate, ripe fruit and soft tannins.

Ridge, Three Valleys, 2006, CA 42.

Concentrated blackberry, dusty briar, sweet leather, cocoa, flint, and exotic spice. Full bodied, viscous, balanced. Chalky tannins, lingering flavors.

Ottimino, "Von Weidlich", 2002, Russian River 67.

The distinct character of Von Weidlich Zinfandel comes through in aromas dense with blackberry, ripe plum and spicy raspberry, overlain with clove and toasty oak. The palate displays layers of spiced berry and cherry.

Cabernet Sauvignon

14 Hands, 2005, WA 30.

A lively cabernet sauvignon with aromas of berries and cherries. Soft, round tannins create a lingering finish.

Guenoc, 2005, CA 33.

This cabernet has lots of dark blackberry fruit and a touch of tobacco. Tasting reveals generous spice notes, especially pepper and more dark fruit characteristics. The finish is of medium length and there is some white pepper that coats the back of the throat as it closes out.

Arboleda, 2003, Maipo Valley 38

The black cherry aromas are complemented by floral accents and vanilla toast characters, notes of plum and cranberry with mint and cigar box.

Chateau Souverain, 2004, Alexander Valley 50.

Nose of saddle leather and rich aromatics of black stone fruit, ripe flavors of black plum and black cherry, complex undertones of bittersweet chocolate, spices and cedar from new oak

Merryvale, "Starmont", 2004, Napa 54.

This blend includes Merlot to round out the tannins, Cabernet Franc for additional aromatic complexity and Petit Verdot for dark fruit flavor.

"75", Amber Knolls Vineyard, 2005, Red Hills 60.

This wine has bright aromas of cherries, cranberries, and roses. It leads into a deep layering of earthy spices, vanilla, and cocoa.

Mt. Veeder, 2004, Napa 75

Blackberry fruit with aromas of cocoa and tanned leather. Deep blackberry and dark plum spiked with spice, chocolate and toasty oak.

Jordan, 2003, Alexander Valley 85

This wine is very rich in texture with opulent flavors, a restrained framework of oak and a lingering finish of subtle earth, cigar tobacco and cedar.

Frog's Leap, 2004, Napa 89

Aromas of cassis with a mineral tone and a touch of warm spices Flavors of blackberry, pepper and vanilla, clean finish with soft, resolved tannins.

Stag's Leap, "Artemis", 2005, Napa 99.

Vibrant nose of plum, cassis, nutmeg, black licorice and hints of rosemary Concentrated flavors of black cherry, plum, cassis, baked cherry pie, cocoa, toast, and allspice with dusty tannins, hints of pepper and tobacco.

Groth, 2004, Oakville, Napa 101.

Full, rich aromas and flavors redolent of ripe stone fruit and dark berries.

This is a lush wine with subtle tannins, allowing it to age
beautifully in the bottle.

Von Strasser, "Rainin Vineyard", 2004 Diamond Mountain 109.

Deep red-ruby in appearance and full of black fruits, brown spices, minerals and nutty oak on the nose. Supple, with good density the currant, chocolate and spicy oak flavors really shine. Finishes with substantial dusty tannins and growing firmness.

Corison, 2003, Napa 115

From acclaimed wine maker Cathy Corison comes a wine that is packed with luscious Bing cherry and plum chutney fruit and undertones of cocoa, nutmeg, white pepper and "Rutherford dust". Trademark floral notes are already beginning to develop in the bottle. Lush with gentle, mouth-coating tannins, it gracefully walks the line between power and elegance, perfectly balanced for a long, distinguished life.

Cakebread, 2005, Napa 125.

Our 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon boasts a range of aromas, including ripe black fig, blackberry, cassis, caramel, and mocha. On the richly textured palate, the wine's intense black fruit flavors take on brambly spice, roasted coffee and dark chocolate tones, leading to a long, savory finish. Firmly structured and packed with layers of luxurious flavor.

Shafer, 2004, "One Point Five", Napa 135

The first aromas are of black, chewy fruit, cedar, chocolate, and dried herbs, followed by rich, juicy flavors of blackberry, smoke, dark chocolate, herbs, and tobacco, with a nice long finish. The tannins are ripe and supple.

Nickel & Nickel, 2000, "Dragonfly Vineyard" St Helena 150.

Concentrated flavors of strawberry jam with a plush texture, aromas of penetrating perfume wrapped in layers of soft oak with incredibly supple and long tannins.

Shafer, Hillside Select, 2002, Napa 390.

This Hillside Select is classic Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon from a justly celebrated Napa Valley vintage. Pure, wide-open, dark-fruit aromas seem to push out of the bottle. The movement from nose to mouth to supple tannin to lengthy finish is harmonious, offering a round, expansive, silky liquid feast of black cherry, rich plum, black fruit, cassis, and dark chocolate shot through with toasty vanilla, blueberry, and cedar. Strikes a balance between extract and elegance.

French Varietals & Blends

Domaine Pascal Janvier, Cuvee du Rosier 2006, Touraine, France 30.

The grape, Pineau D'Aunis, is usually used in blends to make Rose. Here unblended, it makes an unusual and delicious light red wine with a distinctive light scarlet color. On the nose, the bouquet is powerful: spices, raspberry, bing cherry and flowers. It is very peppery on the palate with berries and green apple flavors. It has rarely been exported

Marc Kreydenweiss, Perrieres, 2003, Rhone 32.

This blend of carignan, syrah and grenache from the Rhone Valley is a new project for this Alsace producer. Firm tannins, blackberry flavors, good oak and a touch of blueberries.

Roger Belland, Bourgogne, 2005, Santenay 45

This pinot noir is sophisticated and balanced. The nose is rich with notes of cassis and vanilla. Leather and blackberry flavors are finely tuned on the palate. Full and soft yet well structured with integrated tannins. Lingering finish of ripe cherry and oak spice.

Elisabeth Chambellan, 2004 Chateauneuf du Pape 59.

A blend of grenache, syrah, mourvedre, and cinsault. Seductive, heady, with high glycerin and alcohol and loads of cherries and strawberries in a distinctive, fruit-driven style.

Château de Pez, Bourdeaux, 2002, Saint Estèphe 72.

A blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc, and petit verdot. Attractive nose of damp earth and a touch of wild mushroom, savory with noticeable vanilla oak, sweet red fruit, wild strawberry and cranberry.

American Blends

Bonny Doon, Le Cigare Volant, 2003, CA 57.

A blend of syrah, mouvedre, and grenache gives this wine an evocative smoky, meaty, peppery core, topped off by licorice, black cherry, and an electric bolt of black currant.

Robert Sinskey, Vineyard Reserve, 2002, Napa 65.

Merlot, cabernet sauvignon, and cabernet franc come together in this wine to produce a bouquet of mint and spice. Extracted pine in the mouth with a cocoa finish.

Duckhorn, Paraduxx, 2004, Napa 88

Zinfandel and cabernet sauvignon blend for aromas that exude ripe fruit with flavors of strawberry jam, blackberry, cedar, and oak, medium bodied.

Justin, Isosceles, 2004, Paso Robles 110

One the great California Bordeaux style wines. This wine is big and youthful, but has silky tannins and lovely oak sweetness. There are plenty of fruits in the mouth, with blackberry and cassis up front with cocoa and currant notes as well.

Chateau St. Jean, "Cing Cepages," 2001

Sonoma County 142.

Cing Cépages ("Five Varieties") is a classic Bordeaux-style blend. This wine begins with rich black flavors of blackberries, roasted coffee beans and cocoa. Complex layers of bittersweet chocolate, hibiscus and lavender surround big chewy tannins in the mid-palate. Flavors of sweet oak and spice combined with tobacco and blueberries throughout a lengthy finish.

Joseph Phelps, Insignia 30th Anniversary 2003, Napa 245.

Probably the most Bordeaux-structured of any of the Insignias produced to date. While restrained aromatically, the nose exhibits good spice, ripe black fruits, and hints of new oak and licorice. In the mouth, the wine is dense and rich with mouth-gripping tannins

Italian Varietals & Blends

Moris, Morellino di Scansano, 2004, Tuscany 35.

This is a brilliant ruby red wine of the sangiovese grape, the main grape variety in Chianti. It is a full flavored and harmonious wine with intense fruit flavors that keep the palate feeling fresh.

Allegrini, Palazzo Della Torre, 2003, Veneto 41

This blend of corvina veronese, rondinella and sangiovese is a smooth, full-bodied cru made in an innovative ripasso style. Deep ruby red in color, it has a delicious red berry perfume, with hints of raisins and plums.

Argiano, Non Confunditur, 2005, Tuscany 47

This Super Tuscan has the inherent sweetness of the merlot acting as a bridge between the firm earthiness of the sangiovese grape, the spicy blackcurrant of the cabernet and the warm red fruit of the syrah. It is full-bodied, with soft tannins and a medium finish. Aromas of currant and fresh herbs, with generous fruit flavours.

La Spinetta, "Ca' Di Pian", Barbera d'Asti 2005, Piedmont 61.

Ca di Pian was awarded a bronze medal by Decanter Magazine. The color is ruby tinged with royal purple hues. Dense, with aromas reminiscent of cherries, violets and plum, it is fresh and full of fruit on the palate. The lively acidity is balanced by generous alcohol and mild tannins.

Remo Farina, Amarone, 2001, Veneto 69

Red garnet color with orange edges, and spicy fragrance. In the mouth, it is warm, robust, and full bodied, velvety, pleasantly bitter and harmonious.

Fattoria dei Barbi, Brunello, 2001, Montalcino 85.

Dark ruby in color with a perfumed nose, blackberry and cherry aromas follow through to a full-bodied palate with fine tannins and a long finish.

The finish is persistent with flavors of plum and black cherry.

Spanish Varietals & Blends

Cortijo III, Tempranillo, 2006, Rioja 28.

In the mouth, the texture is nice, with plum flavors, a little dustiness, and good balance with hints of herbs and tobacco.

Legaris, Tinta Fina, Crianza, 2004 Ribera Del Duero 36.

Very complete and complex in nose, elegant harmony of fruit aromas, mature berries, with notes of coffee, spices and vanillas. Flavorful, fleshy, structured well and with intense aromas in mouth.

Alvaro Palacios, "Les Terrasses", 2003, Priorat 55.

The wine is a blend of grenache, carignan, and cabernet sauvignon. Dense, rich and smooth, this polished red offers ripe blackberry, roasted plum, dark chocolate, licorice and tobacco flavors over ripe tannins. So plush and harmonious it's easy to overlook the complexity and concentration.

Finca Sandoval, Proprietary Blend 2004, Manchuela 71.

A beautiful blend of syrah, monastrell, and bobal. On the nose it has intense floral and oak spice and touches of cassis, blackberry and cherry. Complementary notes of bitter chocolate, violet and cola add interest. Finishes with superb intensity, sweetness, clarity and length, with lingering notes of candied licorice, graphite and exotic spices.

Muga, Prado Enea Gran Reserva, 1998, Rioja 80

Incredibly complex, ethereal aromas of raspberry, currant, tobacco, tar and smoke. Dried berry and plum flavors complemented by smoke and coconut.

After Dinner

Quady, "Essencia" Orange Muscat, 2005, CA

From 100% Orange Muscat with an aroma reminiscent of Orange Blossom and Apricot, and a lingering refreshing aftertaste. The wine is lightly fortified to about 15% alcohol and aged for 3 months in French Oak. Its relatively high acidity makes it taste balanced, even with its considerable sweetness, more like the taste of fresh fruit than a sticky sweet muscat.

Olivares, monastrell dulce, 2003, Junilla

It boasts ripe notes of scorched earth, chocolate, and espresso, medium to full body, wonderful intensity, and vibrant acidity as well as freshness.