



# WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **JULY 31, 2009** ISSUE

*Wine Spectator's* July 31 Summer Entertaining issue offers delicious grilling menus to pair with Chardonnay, which is also the focus of one of our tasting reports. The best reds of Washington are covered in the issue as well. Plus, don't miss our great wine-and-cheese matches.

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

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- 95** **K Syrah** Walla Walla Valley Cougar Hills 2006 • \$50  
Big, dense and complex, this red hits hard, then backs off, leaving a trail of plum, blackberry, black olive, smoke and mineral flavors that linger. Tannins are present and crisp, but don't get in the way. Best from 2012 through 2018.—*H.S.*
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- 95** **LONDER** Chardonnay Anderson Valley Corby Vineyards 2007 • \$30  
Offers wonderful intensity and purity of fruit, with ripe, rich, zesty green apple, tangerine, nectarine and subtle mineral notes, followed by a long, lively, engaging finish. There's no oak to speak of. Drink now through 2013.—*J.L.*
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- 94** **CHAPPELLET** Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Signature 2006 • \$42  
Assertive herb, anise, blackberry and wild berry fruit is tight, firm, tannic and well-structured, picking up depth and length on the finish. Best from 2010 through 2016.—*J.L.*
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- 93** **NOVY** Syrah Russian River Valley 2006 • \$27  
A sleek, elegant style that's trim and balanced, slowly building depth, with tight dark berry, pepper, spice and tobacco leaf flavors that gain traction. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*

## COLLECTIBLES

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- 97** **SINE QUA NON** Grenache California Raven 2006 • \$135  
Deliciously complex, bold, rich and layered, with dark berry, plum, mocha and spice. Full-bodied and mouthcoating, this is dense without being heavy. Ends with a long, persistent finish. Drink now through 2015.—*J.L.*
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- 95** **SINE QUA NON** Syrah California Raven 2006 • \$135  
A delightful mix of big aromas and a gentler texture, this shows rich, bold blackberry jam, pepper, mineral and sage notes that are elegant and supple on the palate, ending with a chicory edge. Drink now through 2014.—*J.L.*
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- 94** **QUILCEDA CREEK** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2006 • \$125  
Very ripe and generous. Not a big wine, but brims with plum, currant, black olive, cedar and roasted meat flavors that play against crisp tannins and linger on the tight finish. Needs time. Best from 2012 through 2020.—*H.S.*

## SMART BUYS

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- 92** **BODEGA COLOMÉ** Malbec Calchaquí Valley 2007 • \$25  
This Argentine red is quite ripe, with nearly exotic plum sauce, braised fig and crushed blueberry notes rolled together, while spice, mocha and incense hints help stretch out the juicy, dense finish. A flashy style, but well-balanced. Drink now through 2012.—*J.M.*
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## SMART BUYS (CONTINUED)

- 92** **NOVELTY HILL** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2006 • \$25  
Dense and chewy, but with a nice lift of acidity and freshness as the finish rolls in, framing the cherry, blackberry, coffee and smoke flavors as they linger expressively. Best from 2011 through 2018.—*H.S.*
- 91** **LINCOURT** Chardonnay Sta. Rita Hills Rancho Santa Rosa 2007 • \$25  
Rich and full-bodied, without being heavy, this offers ripe fig, honeydew melon, green pear and light spicy oak, all well-proportioned. Drink now through 2011.—*J.L.*
- 90** **COORALOOK** Chardonnay Strathbogie Ranges 2008 • \$15  
Bright and tart, with lime- and quince-accented apple and pear flavors that linger on the lively finish, hinting at mineral as the finish lasts and lasts. Drink now through 2016.—*H.S.*
- 90** **NINE STONES** Shiraz Hilltops 2007 • \$14  
Ripe and generous, this Australian red has a mineral edge to its blackberry and cardamom flavors, remaining open and inviting through the long, deftly balanced finish. Drink now through 2017.—*H.S.*
- 90** **PERRIN & FILS** Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2007 • \$15  
Very pure, with gorgeous plum and black cherry aromas and flavors laced with enticing spice, graphite and violet notes, followed by a long, silky finish. Delicious. Drink now.—*J.M.*

## BEST VALUES

- 88** **PENFOLDS** Chardonnay South Australia Koonunga Hill 2007 • \$11  
Ripe and generous, remaining light on its feet as the lime-accented pineapple and cream flavors flow. Drink now.—*H.S.*
- 88** **YALUMBA** Viognier South Australia The Y Series 2008 • \$10  
This white is bright and tangy, offering floral and green berry flavors that linger on the citrusy finish. Drink now.—*H.S.*
- 87** **FETZER** Chardonnay California Valley Oaks 2008 • \$9  
Fresh, floral and fleshy, with a citrus and grapefruit edge to the green apple flavors. Drink now.—*J.L.*
- 87** **MEZZACORONA** Pinot Grigio Vigneti delle Dolomiti 2008 • \$10  
Apple pie and cream aromas follow through to a full body, with lively acidity and flavorful fruit. There's good intensity and lemony acidity. Drink now.—*J.S.*
- 87** **OXFORD LANDING** Chardonnay South Australia 2008 • \$9  
This is bright and refreshing, showing pretty flavors of pear and citrus that linger with lime and mineral notes. Drink now.—*H.S.*
- 87** **SNAP DRAGON** Chardonnay California 2007 • \$8  
Elegant, with spicy tangerine, nectarine, pear and honeydew melon fruit that's pure, refreshing and well-balanced, ending with a delicate aftertaste. Drink now.—*J.L.*
- 87** **LA VIEILLE FERME** Côtes du Ventoux 2007 • \$9  
Fresh and stylish, with black cherry, grilled herb and tobacco notes that linger on the tender, mineral-tinged finish. Drink now.—*J.M.*

Initials at the end of each tasting note indicate the *Wine Spectator* editor who blind-tasted and scored the wine and wrote the review. The tasters are as follows: James Laube (*J.L.*); Kim Marcus (*K.M.*); Thomas Matthews (*T.M.*); James Molesworth (*J.M.*); Bruce Sanderson (*B.S.*); Harvey Steiman (*H.S.*); James Suckling (*J.S.*); Jo Cooke (*J.C.*); Tim Fish (*T.F.*); Alison Napjus (*A.N.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*).