

HIP HIP SYRAH

Washington has established itself as an excellent source of Syrah. Better yet, many of the wines are easily affordable. Novy, the lone California representative, also makes a range of Syrahs, most of which are solid values.

K Syrah Wahluke Slope Northridge 2007 (96, \$35) Concentrated; cherry, pomegranate, plum

K Syrah Wahluke Slope The Deal Sundance Vineyard 2007 (94, \$35) Ripe; blackberry, plum, fresh currant, cedar, black pepper, bacon

DARBY Syrah Columbia Valley Aunt Lee 2007 (93, \$30) Blackberry, plum, black olive, mineral

SAVIAH Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2007 (93, \$32) Smoke, blackberry, black cherry; focused

DARBY Syrah Columbia Valley The Dark Side 2007 (90, \$25) Blueberry, currant, clove; firm

NOVY Syrah Russian River Valley Amber Ridge Vineyard 2007 (90, \$19) Roasted herb, dried currant, hot brick, pepper, loamy earth

AROUND THE WORLD

Here's a diverse group of wines—red and white, Old and New World—that offer fine examples of their respective regions, from Oregon to Beaujolais to Spain's Basque country, where the distinctive white Txakolina is made from the Hondarrabi Zuri grape.

BRADFORD MOUNTAIN Syrah Dry Creek Valley Grist Vineyard 2007 (91, \$24) Dark berry, earth; rustic

FOUR VINES Zinfandel Sonoma County The Sophisticate 2008 (91, \$25) Jammy; berry, olive, licorice, pepper

HIPPOLYTE REVERDY Sancerre 2009 (91, \$23) Floral, citrus, quince, butter

DOMAINE ROCHETTE Morgon Les Micouds 2009 (91, \$17) Juicy; berry, anise, smoke, iron

A TO Z Wineworks Pinot Noir Oregon 2008 (90, \$20) Raspberry, cherry, spice, chalk

BEDROCK Mourvèdre Sonoma Valley Rosé Ode to Lulu 2009 (90, \$22) Ripe; berry, spice, cinnamon, licorice

BODEGA CATENA ZAPATA Malbec Mendoza 2008 (90, \$22) Cassis, berry, spice, toast

DOMAINE ROCHETTE Morgon Côte de Py 2009 (90, \$18) Supple; cherry, boysenberry

GLENELLY Chardonnay Stellenbosch The Glass Collection 2010 (88, \$18) Peach, apple, melon, blanched almond; racy

BODEGAS ITSAS-MENDI Hondarrabi Zuri Bizkaiko Txakolina 2009 (88, \$18) Brisk, spritzy; savory, mineral



LOUIS JADOT Moulin-à-Vent Chateau des Jacques 2009 (90, \$18) **SMART BUY** Bright; graphite, vanilla, raspberry coulis, fig, cherry

CLEAN SLATE

The 2009 vintage is shaping up to be a great year for German Riesling, rivaling 2007, 2005 and 2001 as the best of the decade. The Mosel fielded wonderful spätlesen—luscious and creamy, ripe and racy. The northern climate gives them a lightness and precision, while the slate soils impart a tangy mineral character.

DR. HEIDEMANNS-BERGWEILER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg 2009 (95, \$25) Velvety; golden raisin, peach, Key lime pie, apricot

SCHLOSS LIESER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Lieser Niederberg Helden 2009 (95, \$32) Slate, graphite, apple, cherry, lime, berry; racy

DR. HEIDEMANNS-BERGWEILER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Graacher Himmelreich 2009 (94, \$25) Tropical fruit, glazed citrus, herb

PETER NICOLAY Riesling Spätlese Mosel Ürziger Goldwingert 2009 (94, \$30) Pure, creamy; apricot, guava, pineapple, apple tart

ROBERT EYMAEL (MÖNCHHOF) Riesling Spätlese Mosel Ürziger Würzgarten 2009 (93, \$27) Baked peach, apricot, tangerine, slate

DR. LOOSEN Riesling Spätlese Mosel Wehlener Sonnenuhr 2009 (93, \$30) Lush; apple, peach, smoke, mineral, citrus peel

MAX FERD. RICHTER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr 2009 (93, \$32)** Apricot, mango, apple, pineapple

MORE REDS

This selection shows that Washington is successful with more than just Syrah. The proprietary blends rely mostly on Bordeaux varieties, while the Alexandria Nicole and Columbia Crest bottles add Syrah to the mix.

CHANDLER REACH Monte Regalo Yakima Valley 2007 (92, \$22) Berry, currant, licorice

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Merlot Horse Heaven Hills Canoe Ridge Estate 2007 (92, \$22) Blueberry, currant; supple

DISTEFANO Meritage Columbia Valley 2005 (92, \$20) Red berry, red pepper, balsamic

DUNHAM Chardonnay Columbia Valley Shirley Mays Lewis Estate Vineyard 2009 (92, \$24) Light-bodied; nectarine, pear

ALEXANDRIA NICOLE Quarry Butte Destiny Ridge Vineyards Horse Heaven Hills 2007 (91, \$20) Berry, black tea, tobacco

COLUMBIA CREST H3 Les Chevaux Horse Heaven Hills 2008 (91, \$15) Blueberry, currant, espresso, spice; generous

—Bruce Sanderson

SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

97 Alban Syrah Edna Valley Alban Estate Reva 2006 \$74

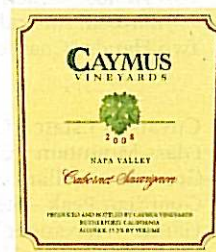
A luxurious style, this California red exhibits a fleshy core of deep blackberry, wild berry and plum flavors, with shades of mineral, pepper and sage.



COLLECTIBLE

93 Caymus Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2008 \$70

Openly fruity, rich and layered, serving up a complex mix of plum, blackberry, black licorice and spice flavors.



SMART BUY

94 Schild Shiraz Barossa 2008 \$20

Polished and complex, this big, smooth Aussie red offers roasted meat and walnut accents to its black fruit and licorice flavors.



BEST VALUE

89 Charles Smith Riesling Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen Vineyard 2009 \$12

A light, fragrant Washington white, on the dry side, featuring tangy grapefruit and apple flavors that linger gently.



IN THIS ISSUE'S BUYING GUIDE

You'll find **18 classic wines** and nearly **300 outstanding wines** from among reviews of more than **600 new releases**.

Tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with nearly **150 additional wines** reviewed since our last issue, can be found at WineSpectator.com using the Wine Ratings search, a members-only service