

## RECOMMENDED RHÔNE-STYLE WINES FROM CALIFORNIA

For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com).  
An alphabetical listing of all wines tasted for this report is available at [www.winespectator.com/033109](http://www.winespectator.com/033109).

### TOP WINES

| WINE  | SCORE | PRICE |
|---|-------|-------|
| <b>ALBAN</b> Syrah Edna Valley Seymour's Vineyard 2004<br>Shows amazing depth, richness and concentration. Dark and savory, with tiers of blackberry, blueberry and wild berry fruit.                             | 98    | \$145 |
| <b>ALBAN</b> Grenache Edna Valley<br>Alban Estate Vineyard 2006<br>Dark, rich and savory, intense and full-bodied, with concentrated layers of blackberry, wild berry and boysenberry flavors.                    | 96    | \$94  |
| <b>CARLISLE</b> Syrah Santa Lucia Highlands<br>Rosella's Vineyard 2006<br>Amazing for its purity of fruit, range of flavor, depth and delicacy. Shows ripe, juicy plum and blackberry fruit.                      | 96    | \$43  |
| <b>SAXUM</b> Broken Stones Paso Robles 2006<br>Offers waves of ripe, exotic dark berry fruit, with wild berry, raspberry and blackberry jam. Syrah blend.   | 96    | \$45  |
| <b>COLGIN</b> Syrah Napa Valley IX Estate 2006<br>Vivid, juicy and concentrated, delivering blackberry and wild berry fruit. A complex, full-bodied beauty.   | 95    | \$NA  |
| <b>DUTTON ESTATE</b> Syrah Russian River Valley<br>Dutton Ranch Cherry Ridge Vineyard 2005<br>Rich, layered, intense and vibrant, with dense blackberry, wild berry, anise, fresh earth, cedar and mineral notes. | 95    | \$34  |
| <b>JC CELLARS</b> Syrah Rockpile Haley<br>Rockpile Vineyard 2006<br>Intense and vibrant, with rich blackberry, wild berry and blueberry fruit that's deep, concentrated, focused and pure.                        | 95    | \$60  |
| <b>LEWIS</b> Alec's Blend Napa Valley 2006<br>Very rich and concentrated, with savory blueberry and blackberry fruit, mineral, sage and loamy earth notes. Syrah blend.   | 95    | \$60  |
| <b>DENNER</b> Syrah Paso Robles 2006<br>Combines richness with complexity, depth and balance, offering wild berry and blackberry fruit, with spice and cedar.   | 94    | \$38  |
| <b>DUMOL</b> Syrah Russian River Valley<br>Jack Robert's Run 2006<br>A brilliant effort, with ripe, dense, detailed blackberry and wild berry fruit that's full-bodied, complex and concentrated.                 | 94    | \$70  |
| <b>ERIC KENT</b> Syrah Sonoma County<br>Kalen's Big Boy Blend 2006<br>Ripe, firm and complex, with spice, blackberry, wild berry, cedar, sage and pepper. Tightly focused and well-structured.                    | 94    | \$42  |
| <b>JAFFURS</b> Syrah Santa Barbara County 2007<br>An open-throttle Syrah, with blackberry, wild berry and black cherry cobbler flavors. Tight, deep and persistent.   | 94    | \$25  |
| <b>LANDMARK</b> Syrah Sonoma Valley Steel Plow 2006<br>Shows loads of pepper, beef, dark berry, teriyaki, mineral and spice. Intense, distinctive, full-bodied and focused.                                       | 94    | \$30  |
| <b>NEYERS</b> Syrah Sonoma Coast Old Lakeville Road 2007<br>Offers wonderful focus and purity of flavor. Intense and concentrated, with blackberry, boysenberry and huckleberry fruit.                            | 94    | \$30  |
| <b>SAXUM</b> Booker Vineyard Paso Robles 2006<br>Bold, ripe, intense and vibrant, with a full-throttle core of dark berry fruit that's rich, focused and full-bodied. Syrah.                                      | 94    | \$55  |

### TOP WINES (continued)

| WINE  | SCORE | PRICE |
|---|-------|-------|
| <b>TENSLEY</b> Syrah Santa Barbara County<br>Colson Canyon Vineyard 2007<br>Firm and muscle-bound, with rich, chewy tannins. Full-bodied, this is the most complex and potent of the 2007 Tensleys. | 94    | \$38  |

### TOP VALUES

| WINE   | SCORE | PRICE |
|--|-------|-------|
| <b>ZACA MESA</b> Syrah Santa Ynez Valley 2005<br>Tight and beefy, with focused blueberry and wild berry flavors that are spicy and complex. Full-bodied.   | 92    | \$22  |
| <b>NOVY</b> Syrah Sonoma County 2006<br>This is notably peppery, but joined by fresh plum and wild berry fruit that's supple, graceful, complex and spicy.   | 90    | \$19  |
| <b>BARREL 27</b> Syrah Central Coast 2005<br>Well-proportioned, ripe and juicy, with supple wild berry and blackberry fruit that's smooth and elegant.   | 89    | \$18  |
| <b>KINTON</b> Syrah Santa Barbara County 2006<br>Serves up a tasty mix of blackberry and wild berry flavors woven in with mineral and pebble notes.  | 89    | \$19  |
| <b>CLINE</b> Syrah Sonoma Coast Cool Climate 2006<br>Marked by exotic spices, pepper and nutmeg, this is full-bodied, supple and elegant.  | 88    | \$9   |
| <b>DOMAINE DE LA TERRE ROUGE</b> Syrah California<br>Les Côtes De L'Ouest 2006<br>There's lots to enjoy in this fleshy, ripe mix of wild berry, black cherry, pepper and spice. Full-bodied and easy-drinking. | 87    | \$16  |
| <b>EDNA VALLEY</b> Syrah Edna Valley Paragon 2006<br>There's lots of smoky cedar and tobacco notes in this full-bodied effort, with complex berry flavors.   | 87    | \$12  |
| <b>ESTANCIA</b> Shiraz Central Coast 2005<br>Tightly wound, offering firm mineral, dried berry and currant flavors, with a touch of graphite.  | 87    | \$12  |
| <b>CLINE</b> Syrah Sonoma County 2007<br>Grapey, peppery wild berry flavors are clean, complex and full-bodied, ending with a hint of mineral.   | 86    | \$10  |
| <b>CLOS DU BOIS</b> Shiraz North Coast 2004<br>Shades of fresh earth, mineral, leather and game give this a rustic edge. Ends with dried berry, sage and mineral notes.  | 86    | \$14  |
| <b>HAHN</b> Syrah Central Coast 2007<br>Pomegranate, berry and cherry flavors are ripe and tangy, with thick tannins, a full body, spice and mineral notes.  | 86    | \$14  |
| <b>VIRGIN VINES</b> Shiraz California 2006<br>This is smooth, with ripe, juicy plum and wild berry fruit that drinks easy.   | 86    | \$10  |
| <b>MCMANIS</b> Petite Sirah California 2007<br>Heavy on the cola, spice and cedar notes, showing ripe dark fruit flavors on a medium body, with chunky tannins.  | 85    | \$11  |
| <b>SMOKING LOON</b> Syrah California 2006<br>Sleek and earthy, with mineral, dried berry, sage and underbrush notes that are complex and appealing.  | 85    | \$9   |