

**AJ's 2009 Summer Wine Spectacular
Cellar Master Tasting Notes & Ratings**

WINE NAME & VARIETAL	ORIGIN	YEAR	PRICE	CELLAR MASTER	SIGHT	NOSE	TASTE	OVERALL RATING	OVERALL IMPRESSION & CELLAR MASTER NOTES
					APPEARANCE OF WINE	AROMA DESCRIPTION	TASTE DESCRIPTION		
Caldora Montepulciano d'Abruzzo	Italy	2007	\$10.99	Jim	garnet/purple	prune, cherry, raspberry, tobacco, dusty, vanilla	Dry with medium acidity; light to medium in body; finishes medium	5.0	Great alternative to Chianti or Rosso wines. Serve this wine slightly chilled to bring out its bright fruit characters and this will keep the acidity in balance and not over power its character. www.caldoravini.it
Evodia Old vine Garnacha	Spain	2007	\$9.99	Laura	purple/black	blackberry, raspberry, pepper, spice, mineral	Juicy, jammy fruit	5.0	New to the market, this is a Spanish wine that balances the fruit forward style Americans love with the dark, dusty old world character of Spain. The intense inky color only enhances the rich aromas of blackberry, black currant and cassis. The flavors linger on the palate as it develops a soft, velvety texture on the finish
Maestri Chianti	Italy	2007	\$6.99	Jim	ruby red	Cherry, raspberry, strawberry, violet, tobacco, dusty	Light acidity with soft tannins and a soft finish	5.0	For an inexpensive Chianti, this wine shows very well. Bright acidity with aromas of dried cherry, dusty, subtle raisin character and balanced tannins. Serve slightly chilled and the wine will show fresh red fruit as well as light, vibrant body on the palate. Pleasant and surprisingly well crafted.
Sideyard Chardonnay	California	2006	\$6.99	Mark S.	light yellow	Red apple, pear, melon, banana, butter	Fruit impressions show a medium dry style light to medium in body it finishes medium with tropical fruit character	5.0	This 2006 chardonnay has held both fruit and body very well. Touches of butterscotch, vanilla, banana and melon show clearly on the nose, with light to medium body on the palate. The fruit stays vibrant on the palate and leads to a lush finish. A stand out for 6.99
Hugues Beaulieu Picpoul de Pinet	France	2008	\$10.99	Laura	hint of straw	Peach, grapefruit, lime	Focused acidity finishing clean, crisp and palate cleansing.	5.0	A true surprise, this French white wine is a beautiful reflection of well made European white wines. Crisp and clean wine it is very focused on the palate, directing the right amount of acid and fruit (mostly dominated by citrus) to mingle on the palate maintaining a bright fresh texture.
R Winery Bon Bon Rose	Australia	2007	\$9.99	Mark S.	light ruby	cherry, raspberry, strawberry, cinnamon, vanilla, musk	Off dry with medium body; palate exhibits a red berry fruit and candy palate	4.75	Always a favorite when tasted in a group. Refreshingly bright with fruit, not a wine to over think, but one to enjoy poolside. For the sweeter Rose drinkers this will truly treat your palate. www.gratefulpalateimports.com
Montecillo Crianza	Spain	2004	\$10.99	Steve	garnet/purple	cherry, blackberry, cinnamon, tea, oak, cedar	Dry with medium acidity and tannins; finishes dry with a dusty quality	4.75	An old world style of Spanish Tempranillo, the acidity is subtle to medium -normal in European wines. The dry mature fruit aromas are forward in the nose, and are shared with touches of oak and vanilla. I love the old world style wines, they marry well with the rich dishes of old world cuisine
Pillar Box Reds	Australia	2007	\$11.99	Jonpol	purple/black	blackberry, blueberry, black currant, mint, chocolate, smoke, cedar	Round on the palate with full tannins and a harmonious finish	4.75	A great under rated Australian red wine, shows good fruit with soft round body on the palate. The tannins are full, yet restrained, helping to give the wine a velvet finish. www.quintessentialwines.com
Santa Rita Carmenere	Chile	2008	\$6.99	Rock	purple/black	blackberry, black currant, rose, violet, pepper, tobacco, vanilla	Soft tannins with a long finish	4.75	Balanced fruit and structure. Carmenere can sometimes give an under ripe quality, yet this vintage brings more dark fruit, medium body and finishes strong. Chilean wiens are the strongest valued wines on the market. www.santarita.com
Cartlidge & Browne Chardonnay	California	2007	\$9.99	Laura	light yellow	peach, apricot, pear, spice, butterscotch, oak, vanilla	Smooth texture on the palate, low acidity with medium body; finishes medium	4.75	Rated as a Best Value Chardonnay - great apple, pear aromas are rounded out with hints of oak. Allowing this wine to be a focal point in a dinner party. Guests will enjoy this well made quality wine
Stephan Vincent Crimson	California	2006	\$9.99	Jonpol	garnet/purple	plum, blackberry, cassis, cinnamon, anise, oak	soft tannins	4.75	This red blend is mostly Syrah based. It brings an almost sweet perfume aroma, yet the taste is soft, rounded out with bolder flavors on the palate. The hints of spice and cinnamon appear in the finish of this wines, showing depth. Nicely complex from start to finish.
Portuga Red Blend	Portugal	2007	\$6.99	Ed	purple/black	Plum, blackberry, blueberry, pepper, herbs, cola	Fleshy fruit forward wine with soft to low tannins and a soft finish	4.75	These little red wines from Portugal are sleepers. They continue to show nice balanced fruit, accessibility and texture on the palate. Ripe black fruit aromas, followed by rich black fruit flavors, hints of cola and tea on the palate as well and the finish. Nicely wrapped in this little gem.
Ciao Bella Sangiovese	Italy	2007	\$10.99	Mark S.	garnet/purple	Cherry, plum, strawberry, rose, clove, cola	Lighter style dry wine with low acidity and soft tannins. Light to medium in body it finishes thin.	4.75	Lighter in body this wine stays soft on the palate. Touches of cherry, cola and strawberry are clean flavors that come though on the taste. A very young red wine from Italy, this will show best if drunk young, keeping the bright fruit forward on the palate without losing its freshness.
St Clement Chardonnay	California; Napa Valley	2007	\$12.99	Jonpol	yellow gold	Pear, lime, cantaloupe, honeydew, spice, mineral, vanilla	Soft and balanced acidity with medium to full body. Finishes clean and refreshing with a touch of mineral.	4.75	A brilliant Chardonnay from Napa Valley. Soft creamy texture, layered with tropical melon flavors and aromas. Clean tree fruit character and hints of mineral and lime on the finish. Full flavor, satisfying balance and character - enjoyable as a meal starter or for afternoon fun.
Sagelands Cabernet	Washington; Columbia Valley	2006	\$11.99	Ed	garnet/purple	Lime, guava, gooseberry, honeysuckle, mineral	Subtle acidity with smooth tannins and medium body. The dark mixed berry fruit taste brings a hearty finish.	4.75	This Washington wine shows the depth that the state is bringing to the wine industry. Intensely rich in aromas, with touches of earth and dust, bring an added character. Known for big red wines, Washington State creates great values in all price points. One of the Cellars favorite Cabernets for under \$15.00

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A by Acacia Red Blend	California	2007	\$9.99	Rock	garnet/purple	Plum, dark cherry, raspberry, mocha	Low acidity with velvety soft tannins and medium body; touches of spice and mocha melt into the finish	4.75	Love this wine for its soft and approachable style. The blend is mostly Syrah, showing soft fruit texture, balanced by touches of nutmeg, clove and sweet spice. Easy on the aroma and the palate, great for a lighter style red blend
Piatelli Torrontes	Argentina	2008	\$12.99	Rick	Light straw	White peach, honey, apricot, nectarine, touch of lime	Medium bodies, presentation of sweet, yet maintains a clean fresh fruit texture. Low acidity, intense aromas followed by a rounded mouth feel	4.5	Torrontes wines can range from sweet to dry, the Piatelli shows a semi dry character. Very aromatic and lush in aromas of stone fruits. This wines offers a clean texture on the palate, not cloying, soft fruit tastes and a lingerign finish of apricot, honey and a bit of cinnamon.
tangent Ecclestone	California; San Luis Obispo County	2007	\$12.99	Sharon	light yellow	peach, apricot, pineapple, honeysuckle, orange blossom	Light to medium body; crisp with a touch of sweet on the palate; balanced acidity makes it good for food pairing; finishes light	4.5	A definite food wine, I like the balance of fruit, aroma and taste, refreshing and perfect for spicy food pairing. Noted for its balance, blending and woven characteristics www.tangentwines.com
Louis Latour Grand Ardeche Chardonnay	Burgundy, France	2006	\$10.99	Kevin A.	light yellow	red apple, melon, spice, oak vanilla	Medium dry & in body; finishes medium, balanced & soft	4.5	Value burgundy at its best. Longtime producer of French wines, this 100% chardonnay reflects a cleaner stylised wine, with balance of oak character. www.louislatour.com
Veramonte Chardonnay	Chile	2007	\$10.99	Jonpol	yellow gold	lemon, pineapple, honeysuckle, floral, mineral	Low to medium acidity with a nice finish	4.5	Youthful display of fruit show this Chilean chardonnay to be a great representation of South American wine. Great alternative to California Chardonnays. One of our best sellers last year and this vintage shows better than 2006. www.veramonte.com
Marraso Malbec	Argetina	2006	\$8.99	Kevin	purple/black	cherry, strawberry, vanilla, toast	Dry with soft fruit present; soft tannins; more intense bigger body alcohol 14%; treat finish of fruit and earth	4.5	A favorite last year it still shows great Malbec character, stellar dark fruit, medium body and lingering finish for such a great value. This South American import, price to quality ratio is still one of the best. www.marraso.es
Simi Sauvignon Blanc	California; Sonoma County	2008	\$10.99	Jonpol	hint of straw	apricot, green apple, lemon, melon	Crisp fresh citrus flavors, hints of grass and lime; medium & balanced acidity; finishes short palate cleansing	4.5	Great reflection of California Sauvignon Blanc with young bright aromas. The concise fruit forward style lends itself to pair with salads, cheeses, appetizers and seafood. I like the simplicity of the style and texture. www.simiwinery.com
Stella Montepulciano d'Abruzzo	Italy	2007	\$7.99	Ed	garnet/purple	cherry, raspberry, strawberry, tobacco, dusty	Light body with low acidity, soft tannins, lightly fruity	4.5	Not overly complex. Great with a slight chill for gourmet cheese, appetizers. This light to medium body wine has good fruit and aroma. An enjoyable starter wine for the evening, even a great light red for beginning wine drinkers.
Varichon Clere Blanc de Blanc	France	nv	\$11.99	Jim	hint of straw	floral, herb, mineral, vanilla, toasted bread	Light to medium in body it finishes with hints of vanilla and toast	4.5	A value sparkling wine from France, this shows great texture, balance and body for the price. Hints of mineral, vanilla, and oak lay pleasantly on the palate without the acidity being over bearing. The wine maintains its bright character through to the finish.
Don Cristobal 1492 Verdelho	Argentina	2008	\$8.99	Ann	light yellow	Red apple, pineapple, melon, banana, honeysuckle, orange blossom, vanilla	Initially sweet, stays crisp on the palate to the finish	4.5	An intensely aromatic wine, showing lush tropical fruits. Outstanding value on this little known varietal, good alternative to chardonnay and sauvignon blanc. www.doncristobal.com
La Posta Cocina Blend	Argentina	2007	\$12.99	Steve	purple/black	Cherry, plum, blackberry, raspberry, black currant, sweet spice, vanilla, coffee	Ripe and intense with velvety tannins and a richly textured finish	4.5	An awesome little wine, this South American blend of Malbec, syrah and bonarda, presents an intense inky coloration. This packs a lot of fruit and is a little jammy on the palate, but shows depth in the back palate and finish
Valckenberg Gewurtraminer	Germany	2007	\$10.99	Mark S.	hint of straw	Peach, rose, clove, cinnamon, nutmeg	Dry style with low acidity, medium body and ffinshes medium showing fruit and mineral.	4.5	Dry in style this is an excellent wine for spicy foods and gourmet cheese. Usually thought to be sweet, it maintains a drier style. Hints of petrol, tree fruits (pear, apple) and spice on the nose, really help to develop this wine on the palate. Complex fruit, balanced by a hint of acid, show that this dry style wine can deliver fruit taste without the sugar.
Sacred Stone Red Blend	California	NV	\$9.99	Rock	garnet/purple	Plum, raspberry, raisin, pepper	A fruit forward wine with soft, approachable tannins and medium body	4.5	This red blend delivers on texture and taste. A lovely little starter wine, soft, velvety and lush on the palate allows for easy drinking and food pairing
Viridian Pinot Noir	Oregon	2006	\$12.99	Sharon	light ruby red	Cherry, rose, violet, dusty	Good fruit with somewhat subtle sweetness. Balanced acidity with soft tannins and medium body.	4.5	Well made Pinot Noirs are difficult to find in this price range. This Oregon winery has done a superb job in crafting a balanced wine for the price. Displaying standard cherry, strawberry and earth aromas without the fruit being over ripe or fleshy. This wine displays a nice medium body, with a nice balance of fruit and soft tannins. This helps focus the wine on the palate and finish soft.

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Midnight Cellars Zinfandel	California	2005	\$12.99	Rock	purple/black	Blackberry, strawberry, pepper, chocolate, mineral	Rich on the forward palate with overy jammy flavors.	4.5	This Crescent Zinfandel is reflective of a true Zinfandel character. The touch of sweet fruit on the palate is only enhanced by the high alcohol, this is not alcohol taste but comes though in a sweet character texture. Great for grilled meats and BBQ
Cescon Pinot Grigio	Italy	2008	\$12.99	Ann	hint of straw	Grapefruit, lime, lemon, mineral, stone	Crisp and lean with medium acidity. Light to medium in body it finishes clean and palate cleansing	4.5	This Pinot Grigio is very focused with its aroma of citrus. Crisp, clean and bright with fruit, this wine maintains its medium body through to the finish. This Cescon shows its youthful character in its aroma and taste. Perfect for Seafood pairing, salads and cheese.
Campus Oak Old Vine Zinfandel	California	2006	\$12.99	Dennis	garnet/purple	Prune, raspberry, blueberry, black currant, pepper, nutmeg, cola	Jammy and full-bodied	4.5	One of my favorites, this zinfandel shows jammy raspberry fruit on the forward pallette, with touches of sweet fruit as it develops in the mouth. Full bodied, rich, great aromas of sweet raspberry, blackberry and hints of pepper and spice. Great for BBQ
New Harbor Sauvignon Blanc	New Zealand	2008	\$9.99	Jim	hint of straw	Lime, guava, gooseberry, honeysuckle, mineral	Intense aromatics and flavor with medium to high acidity. Medium in body it finishes with touches of mineral.	4.5	Well rounded Sauvignon Blanc and shows the value that New Zealand wines display. Tropical fruit aromas and tastes are balanced by a medium acidity, which is shown through bright citrus flavors. Really pleasant as appetitif or food pairing.
Raw Power Shiraz	Australia; Adelaide Plains	2006	\$9.99	Ed	purple/black	Blackberry, raspberry, sweet fruit, nutmeg, leather, chocolate	Fresh fruit flavors, intense aromas and jammy fruit taste. Light tannins with medium body, enjoy the finish of sweet berry fruit.	4.5	Intensely rich Shiraz, bold in body, style and texture. Maintains a dark fruit character on the palate as well as through to the finish. Bolder than other Australia Shiraz's in this price point. Best from Australia for the past 2 to 3 years
Colosi Rosso Nero d'Avola	Italy	2006	\$10.99	Laura	garnet/purple	dried fruit, dusty & mineral qualities	Light to medium body	4.25	This Rosso, showcases the Nero d'Avola grape variety from Sicily. A body similar to Pinot Noir, yet more dried fruit character. A hidden gem from Southern Italy
Dehesa de Rubiales Alaia	Spain	2006	\$12.99	Mark S.	ruby red	Cherry, blackberry, blueberry, black currant, tea	Intense fruit with a ripe fruit forward note. Mild in acidity with medium soft tannins. Old world finish with a touch of acidity.	4.25	Balanced by the fruit forward characteristics and the intensely aromatic black fruit, this wine maintains a richness that will last through to the finish. A little heavy on the palate and rounding out the textures as it showcases the fruit tastes.
Fog Alley Chardonnay	California	2007	\$12.99	Ann	light yellow	Red apple, pear, melon, floral	Clean with a medium body finishes with true fruit and not mingled with oak	4.25	Always a great effort when a wine can show clean chracter fruit. This unoaked chardonnay really shows bright acidity, through its clean fruit character of pear, apple and a touch of citrus. Beautifully complex and well balanced, this wine is pleasant on the taste and finish - a real surprise of fruit through to the finish.
Balletto Pinto Gris	California	2006	\$11.99	Sharon	light yellow	Fig, peach, apricot, red apple, mineral	Aromatic with soft and balanced acidity and light body	4.25	The soft acidity of this wine allows focus on the subtle peach, apricot and red apple flavors. Sweet to first impression, the taste touches the palate with a crisp dry and lingers flavors of apple and peach. The finish is medium with an undertone of mineral character. Pleasant, richly created and appealing
Sacred Hills Sauvignon Blanc	New Zealand	2007	\$12.99	Steve	hint of straw	Citrus, lemongrass, pineapple, mango, melon	Shows intense flavors with medium acidity and body	4.25	This wine shows more tropical fruit, melon and pinneapple melting with citrus to create a slightly different angle to the usual New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc wines. Well rounded on the palate with a little less acidity compared to New Harbor. Good balance, of fruit and acid without overpowering the wine experience.
A by Acacia Chardonnay	California	2007	\$9.99	Mark S.	light yellow	Pear, citrus, pineapple, melon, floral, mineral, stone	Bright acidity with a creamy, soft medium body. Finish shows a depth of silky texture.	4.25	Less complex than the Acacia Winery Chardonnay, this stylized wine hits the sweet spot in price, taste, texture and balance. The bright citrus shows well in the balanced acidity, great for food pairing. Displays nice tropical fruit in the aroma as well as the palate. Touches of mineral or wet stone aromas round out the character of the wine and brings depth through to the finish.
Joseph Drouhin Macon Villages	France	2007	\$10.99	Rick	light yellow	lime, lemon, rose, mineral	Balanced fruit & acidity;	4.0	Subtle fruit, showcase this chardonnay character. Perfect to pair with fruit, it won't overpower. Taste this wine compared to one of the California chardonnay's and your will start to understand the base quality differences between the two styles.
Trentadue Old patch Red	California	2005	\$11.99	Rick	purple/black	Cherry, plum, raspberry, strawberry, dusty, earth	Medium tannins with medium body	4.0	A very rich, medium bodied wine with intense aromatics of raspberry and strawberry with hints of cassis. Continuing with ripe jammy flavors on the palate, this wine holds its body with medium tannins and a full rounded mouth feel. Almost considered full body, but the jammy flavors soften the tannins.