



JULY 2015

Blue Reviews EXTRA! July-August 2015

By: Anthony Dias Blue

WHITE

91 Vinakoper 2011 Capo d'Istria Refosk, Slovenian Istria (\$30)

Dark and dense with juicy, bright flavors; fresh, clean and racy with lovely notes of raspberry and cassis; long and balanced. Refosk TRI-WINES, INC.

91 Balletto Vineyards 2013 Estate Chardonnay, Russian River Valley (\$28)

Crisp and tangy with juicy style and smooth texture; rich with vanilla and smooth oak; fresh and balanced, long and lush.

90 Balletto Vineyards 2014 Teresa's Unoaked Chardonnay, Russian River Valley (\$20)

Clean, juicy and crisp with racy acidity and pure, tangy fruit; silky and bright; long and lively.

91 Balletto Vineyards 2013 Chardonnay, Cider Ridge Vineyard, Russian River Valley (\$38)

Smooth and lush with ripe fruit and creamy style; balanced and rich with juicy style and good balance; long and deep.

88 Balletto Vineyards 2013 Pinot Gris, Russian River Valley (\$18)

Fresh and juicy with lively acidity and mineral notes; clean, racy and long.

90 Clos du Val 2013 Chardonnay, Carneros (\$28)

Smooth, clean and restrained with good balance and firm structure; long silky and juicy; fresh and bright. GWE AMERICAS

88 Concha y Toro 2014 Casillero del Diablo Chardonnay, Limari Valley (\$12)

Ripe, lush and creamy with juicy acidity and dense, rich style; juicy and crisp with clean, racy flavors; long and balanced. EXCELSIOR WINES

90 Edi Simcic 2010 Pinot Grigio, Sivi Pinot Reserva, Goriška Brda, Slovenia (\$35)

Golden color; creamy and clean with smooth oak and spice; complex and long with idiosyncratic style; long, lush and dense; eclectic; not your typical Pinot Grigio. SMALL VINEYARDS

90 Edi Simcic 2012 Chardonnay, Riserva, Goriška Brda, Slovenia (\$35)

Golden color; smooth, dense and showing toasty oak and ripe pear; creamy, lush and balanced; long and rich. SMALL VINEYARDS

90 Edi Simcic 2009 Sauvignon Riserva, Goriška Brda, Slovenia (\$38)

Deep golden color; round and smooth with fresh, dense style; rich with oak, spice and lovely texture; layered, lush and long. SMALL VINEYARDS

88 Ernesto Catena Vineyards 2013 Padrillos Torrontès, Salta, Argentina (\$12)

Smooth, fresh and aromatic with spice, soft fruit and juicy acidity; bright and balanced, clean and long. VINEYARD BRANDS

90 Franciscan 2014 Equilibrium, Napa Valley (\$23)

Smooth and aromatic with floral notes plus ripe pear and melon; exotic and balanced; long and harmonious. Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Muscat. CONSTELLATION WINE U.S.

90 Graziano Family of Wines 2011 Monte Volpe Late Harvest Tocai Friulano, Mendocino County (\$20)

Dark amber color; lush, botrytis nose; creamy and thick with syrupy sweet fruit; mushrooms and honey; intensely sweet and long.

90 Landmark Vineyards 2013 Chardonnay, Charles Heintz Vineyard, Sonoma Coast (\$45)

Silky smooth and bright with racy acidity and lush texture; dense and rich with creamy texture and a long finish. RESNICKS

90 Landmark Vineyards 2013 Chardonnay, Rodgers Creek Vineyard, Sonoma Coast (\$45)

Bright and juicy with ripe pear and racy acidity; crisp and tangy, fresh and long. RESNICKS

90 Landmark Vineyards 2013 Damaris Reserve Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast (\$35)

Smooth and creamy with juicy acidity and tangy acidity; crisp and balanced with ripe pear and clean style; long and fresh.

90 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2013 Chardonnay, Napa Valley (\$28)

Silky and crisp with juicy fruit and tangy style; lifted and bright with notes of vanilla and minerals; lively and long. KOBRAND CORP.

91 Shaw & Smith 2013 Chardonnay, M3, Adelaide Hill (\$35)

Smooth and crisp with racy acidity and lively citrus; fresh, brisk and bracing; long and balanced. MARTIN SCOTT WINES LTD

RED

88 Balletto Vineyards 2012 Estate Zinfandel, Russian River Valley (\$24)

Spicy nose; tangy and juicy with racy acidity and bright plum and raspberry; silky, long and tangy with balance and style.

91 Balletto Vineyards 2013 Pinot Noir, Winery Block, Russian River Valley (\$42)

Smooth and ripe with juicy cherry and raspberry fruit; bright, balanced and fresh, deep and lovely.

90 Balletto Vineyards 2013 Pinot Noir, BCD, Russian River Valley (\$42)

Lush, smooth and showing ripe cherry and silky texture; tangy, bright and long; fresh and balanced.

92 Balletto Vineyards 2012 Pinot Noir, Burnside Road, Russian River Valley (\$42)

Silky, spicy and lush with juicy black cherry; ripe, fresh and tangy; long and lifted, bright and balanced.

92 Balletto Vineyards 2012 Pinot Noir, Sexton Hill, Russian River Valley (\$42)

Smooth and juicy with bright red cherry; smooth and clean, racy and bright; long and balanced.

90 Balletto Vineyards 2013 Estate Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley (\$29)

Juicy, spiced and showing ripe cherry and raspberry; tangy and ripe, smooth and bright.

90 Balletto Vineyards 2012 Estate Syrah, Russian River Valley (\$28)

Smooth, lush and dark with spice, cassis and juicy fruit; rich, balanced and lifted with intensity and racy acid structure; lifted and fresh with bright style.

90 Clos du Val 2012 Merlot, Napa Valley (\$32)

Smooth and mellow with lush plum, lovely texture and bright structure; balanced, long and rich. GWE AMERICAS

90 Colomé 2012 Estate Malbec, Valle Calchaquí, Argentina (\$25)

Smooth and dense with ripe berries and spice; mellow, rich and balanced with juicy style and a long finish. HESS COLLECTION

90 Cooper Mountain Vineyards 2012 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley (\$28)

Lush and smooth with ripe cherry and spice; juicy and bright with balance and tangy style; biodynamic.

93 Dominus Estate 2012 Napanook, Napa Valley (\$69)

Lovely spice and herb nose; silky and smooth with lovely vanilla oak and dusty plum and cassis fruit; lush notes of earth, spice and lovely fruit; long, balanced and stylish; charming. 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot.

90 Edi Simcic 2010 Duet, Goriška Brda, Slovenia (\$50)

Smooth and dusty with mineral and spice; elegant and rich with soft tannins, plum and raspberry; balanced and complex, juicy and long. 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. SMALL VINEYARDS

90 Edi Simcic 2006 Duet Lex, Goriška Brda, Slovenia (\$60)

Smooth, mature and rich with soft tannins and spice; plum, cassis and nice integration; long and balanced. 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. SMALL VINEYARDS

92 Edi Simcic 2009 Kolos, Goriška Brda, Slovenia (\$140)

Smooth and lush, ripe and juicy with plum, cassis and spice; lush and complex with balance and a long, seamless finish. 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. SMALL VINEYARDS

86 Ernesto Catena Selections 2012 Tahuan Bonarda, Mendoza, Argentina (\$16)

Smooth and earthy with blackberry and spice; rustic and long. VINEYARD BRANDS

88 Ernesto Catena Vineyards 2013 Pardillos Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina (\$12)

Smooth and lush with ripe blackberry and plum; fresh and balanced with rich texture and a long finish. VINEYARD BRANDS

88 Ernesto Catena Vineyards 2012 Pinot Noir, Siesta, Mendoza, Argentina (\$27)

Crisp and tangy with smooth cherry fruit and juicy style; bright, fresh and balanced. VINEYARD BRANDS

90 Fulcrum Wines 2013 On Point Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast (\$36)

Silky and smooth with raspberry fruit and juicy acidity; clean, savory and long with lively acid structure and bright style.

92 Goldeneye 2012 Pinot Noir, Gowan Creek Vineyard, Anderson Valley (\$82)

Dense and rich with smooth texture and ripe cherry fruit; juicy, spicy and clean with a long, bright finish.

88 Goldeneye 2012 Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley (\$55)

Silky and smooth with spice and cherry fruit; savory and balanced.

90 Goldeneye 2012 Pinot Noir, The Narrows Vineyard, Anderson Valley (\$82)

Smooth and rich, toasty and bright with tangy cherry and raspberry; mellow, savory and balanced.

92 Goldeneye 2012 Pinot Noir, Split Rail Vineyard, Anderson Valley (\$82)

Smooth, ripe and juicy with lush red cherry and bright acidity; fresh, balanced and deep with good length and lovely style.

89 Goldeneye 2012 Pinot Noir, Confluence Vineyard, Anderson Valley (\$82)

Bright and juicy with lively crisp cherry and some earthy notes; smooth and long.

90 Goldschmidt 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon, Forefathers, Lone Tree Vineyard, Alexander Valley (\$50)

Dense, tangy and structured with racy tannins; smooth texture and ripe berries; soft herbs and spice.

90 MAAL 2012 Bestial Malbec, Mendoza, Argentina (\$45)

Silky and bright with tangy berry fruit; juicy, dense with spice and good balance; long and toasty. VINEYARD BRANDS

91 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$38)

Smooth, lush and spicy with sweet oak, ripe plum and black raspberry fruit; juicy and rich, velvety and long with a tangy, balanced finish. KOBRAND CORP.

92 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon, Henry Brothers Vineyard, Rutherford (\$90)

Lush and rich nose; smooth, juicy and bright with tangy plum, blackberry and spice; long, rich and dense. 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 2% Syrah, 1% Petit Verdot. KOBRAND CORP.

93 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon, Stagecoach Vineyard, Rutherford (\$90)

Smooth and luscious with ripe plum, black raspberry and cassis; dense, juicy and showing mocha and spice; a lovely example of this famous vineyard; long and balanced. 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc. KOBRAND CORP.

94 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon, Tonella Vineyard, Rutherford (\$90)

Smooth spice and pepper nose; smooth, ripe and lush with lovely vanilla, plum, blackberry and cassis; rich, deep and seamless with balance, style and a long, mellow finish. 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc. KOBRAND CORP.

93 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2011 Cambium, Napa Valley (\$125)

Lush, smooth and supple with bright plum, cassis and juicy acidity; rich with soft herbs, spice and notes of chocolate; deep, long and balanced; long, elegant and lovely. 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Cabernet Franc. KOBRAND CORP.

90 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2012 Cabernet Franc, Napa Valley (\$48)

Smooth and lush with juicy plum and blackberry with notes of earth and soft herbs; silky and supple with depth and balance; long and toasty. 87% Cabernet Franc, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Syrah. KOBRAND CORP.

92 Sequoia Grove Vineyards 2012 Malbec, Napa Valley (\$44)

Smooth and lush with ripe blackberry, cassis and warm spices; juicy, balanced and rich; deep and dense, intense, complex and long. 87% Malbec, 3% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. KOBRAND CORP.

91 Shaw & Smith 2013 Pinot Noir, Adelaide Hills, Australia (\$35)

Silky and fresh with clean, juicy berry and cherry fruit; lively and fresh with balance, racy acidity and purity; long and stylish. MARTIN SCOTT WINES LTD

92 Shaw & Smith 2013 Shiraz, Adelaide Hills, Australia (\$35)

Lush, dense and juicy with ripe, smooth style and tangy acidity; blackberry, blueberry and velvety texture; generous and rich, long and balanced. MARTIN SCOTT WINES LTD

91 Tenuta Caparzo 2010 "Elisabetta Gnudi Angelini" Brunello di Montalcino, Italy (\$48)

Smooth and generous with ripe cherry and black raspberry and notes of earth and spice; long and seamless, complex and deep. VINEYARD BRANDS

88 Villa Trasqua 2013 Traluna, IGT di Toscana, Italy (\$16)

Smooth, generous and juicy with lush style and good depth; bright plum and blackberry; long and lively. 95% Sangiovese, 5% Alicante Bouschet. PALMATEER WINE GROUP

90 Villa Trasqua 2011 Evoluto, Chianti Classico DOCG, Italy (\$19)

Dark, lush and juicy with tangy blackberry and cassis; silky and lush, long and dense; rich and balanced. 95% Sangiovese, 5% Colorino and Malvasia Nera. PALMATEER WINE GROUP

91 Villa Trasqua 2009 Fanatico, Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG, Italy (\$25)

Smooth and lush with juicy plum and raspberry; lush, long and balanced; fresh, tangy and elegant. PALMATEER WINE GROUP

91 Villa Trasqua 2007 Nerento Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG, Italy (\$27)

Lush, ripe and smooth with juicy, toasted notes; plum, berries and spice; long and complex. PALMATEER WINE GROUP

92 Villa Trasqua 2008 Trasgaia, IGT di Toscana, Italy (\$48)

Silky and juicy with mature flavors of berry fruit and spice; lively, clean and balanced with oak, rich style and good length; fresh, long and juicy. 50% Sangiovese, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc. PALMATEER WINE GROUP

89 Balletto Vineyards 2014 Pinot Noir Rosé, Russian River Valley (\$18)

Soft pink; smooth, silky and dry with juicy style; tangy, crisp and long; dry and bright, long and balanced. fresh and lively.

ROSÉ AND VERMOUTH

90 Lasseter Family Winery 2014 Enjoué, Sonoma Valley (\$28)

Salmon color; rich and creamy with clean, dry and tangy flavors; complex, elegant and lovely with depth and style. 70% Clone 470 Syrah, 19% Alban Clone Grenache, 11% Clone 369 Mourvèdre.

91 La Quintinye 20 Charente Vermouth Royal Extra Dry, France (\$15)

Golden color; lovely botanical nose with notes of bitterness; lush and juicy with crisp, dry, tangy, floral style; long and aromatic. EWG SPIRITS & WINE

92 La Quintinye NV Charente Vermouth Royal Rouge, France (\$15)

Bright caramel color; lush, bitters nose; sweet, smooth and rich with spice, caramel and aromatic herbs; long and rich. EWG SPIRITS & WINE