

Recommended Rhône-Style Wines From California

More than 475 wines were reviewed for this report. A free alphabetical list is available at www.winespectator.com/033112. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
RHÔNE-STYLE REDS		
CARLISLE Syrah Sonoma County 2009 An amazingly gorgeous wine. Pure, rich, layered, complex and elegant.	97	\$25
SAXUM James Berry Vineyard Paso Robles 2009 Strikingly complex and beautifully proportioned. Grenache blend.	97	\$85
JUSTIN Focus Paso Robles 2009 A graceful expression of ripe, elegant fruit. Syrah and Grenache.	96	\$95
SHAFFER Relentless Napa Valley 2008 Muscular, dense and rich. Syrah and Petite Sirah.	96	\$60
FAVIA Rompecabezas Amador County 2009 Offers rich fruit and excellent structure. Grenache blend.	95	\$65
FAVIA Syrah Amador County Quarzo 2009 Beautifully crafted, rich and expressive, graceful yet potent.	95	\$65
TERRY HOAGE Syrah Paso Robles The Hedge 2008 Elegant and supple, with a potent mix of complex flavors.	95	\$48
RELIC Syrah Napa Valley Scarpa 2009 Dense, deep and focused, full-bodied yet graceful.	95	\$50
SAXUM Booker Vineyard Paso Robles 2009 Muscular, yet pure, focused and persistent. Syrah and Mourvèdre.	95	\$85
SAXUM Broken Stones Paso Robles 2009 The most intense and angular of the 2009 Saxums. Syrah blend.	95	\$85
SINE QUA NON Grenache California The Line 2008 Rich and layered, with juicy, racy fruit. Deep and focused.	95	\$145
SINE QUA NON Syrah Sta. Rita Hills Dangerous Birds Eleven Confessions Vineyard 2007 Sleek and elegant, exhibiting a subtle mix of flavors.	95	\$220
JACOB TOFT Sarah's Cuvée Paso Robles 2007 Bursts with fresh, ripe, rich, juicy flavors. Syrah and Grenache.	95	\$40
ALBAN Syrah Edna Valley Alban Estate Reva 2007 Fresh, intense and vivid, with zesty flavors. Firms nicely.	94	\$94
ARATÁS Petite Sirah Napa Valley 2008 Rich, jammy flavors are spicy, intense and powerful.	94	\$42
COLGIN Syrah Napa Valley IX Estate 2008 Impressive for its finesse, this is taut and minerally.	94	\$175
KEPLINGER Lithic Amador County 2009 Beautifully crafted, intense and vibrant. Grenache blend.	94	\$50
LEWIS Alec's Blend Napa Valley 2009 A rich, generous style, this is fleshy yet deep. Syrah blend.	94	\$60
LINNE CALODO Overthinker Paso Robles 2008 Gorgeous, ripe, juicy, supple and elegant. Grenache blend.	94	\$80
RELIC Petite Sirah Napa Valley Old Vines 2009 Muscular yet still graceful, this is dense, tannic and dark.	94	\$52

TOP WINES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
RHÔNE-STYLE WHITES		
ARGOT Happenstance Sonoma County 2009 Elegant, lithe and silky. Roussanne and Chardonnay.	91	\$35
CALERA Viognier Mount Harlan 2009 The flavors harmonize beautifully, with a rich texture.	90	\$30
DENNER Theresa Paso Robles 2010 Mouthwatering flavors are tangy and bright. Roussanne blend.	90	\$32
DENNER Viognier Paso Robles 2009 This aromatic, detailed white ends on a refreshing note.	90	\$32
TERRY HOAGE The Gap Cuvée Blanc Paso Robles 2009 A graceful white, with pretty aromatics. Grenache Blanc blend.	90	\$38
ROAR Viognier Santa Lucia Highlands Sierra Mar Vineyard 2010 Ripe flavors jump out of the glass, with a smooth texture.	90	\$40
HERMAN STORY Tomboy Santa Barbara County 2009 Very floral, with ripe, juicy flavors. Viognier and Roussanne.	90	\$42
TABLAS CREEK Roussanne Paso Robles 2009 Rich-textured, with elegant flavors that stay fresh and focused.	90	\$30
TENSLEY Blanc Camp 4 Vineyard Santa Barbara County 2009 A fragrant, floral, stylish wine. Grenache Blanc and Roussanne.	90	\$28
TOP VALUES		
WINE	SCORE	PRICE
TABLAS CREEK Patelin de Tablas Paso Robles 2010 Serves up a pleasing mix of ripe, vibrant flavors. Syrah blend.	91	\$20
BECKMEN Cuvée Le Bec Santa Ynez Valley 2009 Firm, chunky and rustic, yet charming. Grenache blend.	90	\$18
NOVY Four Mile Creek White North Coast 2009 Intense and refreshing. Bursts with floral notes. Viognier blend.	90	\$10
BOGLE Petite Sirah California 2008 A fragrant, floral version of Petite, with a core of ripe flavors.	88	\$11
CLINE Mourvèdre Contra Costa County Ancient Vines 2010 Well-focused fruit is supple and generous. Intense yet graceful.	88	\$16
GUENOC Petite Sirah Lake County 2009 The flavors are rich and unctuous, with plenty of spice details.	88	\$17
VINA ROBLES White ⁴ Paso Robles 2010 Vivid and fragrant, with plenty of fruit flavors. Viognier blend.	88	\$16
J. LOHR Syrah Paso Robles South Ridge 2009 Full-bodied, ending chewy and chunky, but with nice fruit.	87	\$15
SMOKING LOON Syrah California 2008 Full-bodied and complex, with berry flavors and dashes of spice.	87	\$8
BARREL 27 High On The Hog Paso Robles 2009 Aromatic, juicy and extremely spicy. Grenache Blanc blend.	86	\$18
ROSENBLUM Syrah California Vintner's Cuvée 2009 Offers ripe, generous fruit. More complex than expected.	86	\$12