

Anthony Dias

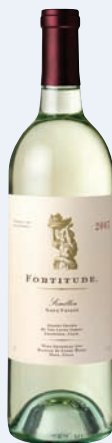
Blue Reviews

In each issue, Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dias Blue selects a wide range of the best wines and spirits from among the more than 500 that he reviews over the course of a month. The scores—subjective editorial valuations, made without regard to advertising—indicate how each product rates on a 100-point scale: 85-89 VERY GOOD; 90-94 OUTSTANDING; 95-100 CLASSIC. Importers, marketing firms and parent companies are listed where appropriate.

domestic

90 **Benessere** 2006 Muscat Canelli, Scintillare, Napa Valley

(\$18) Lively peach fruit and lovely flavors and wonderful balance.



90 **Morgan** 2006 Chardonnay, Metallico, Monterey **(\$22)**

No oak means clean, pure flavors; long and lifted with excellent structure.

90 **Etude** 2006 Fortitude Semillon, Luvisi Vineyard, Napa Valley **(\$18)**

Soft and round with spice and rich, subtle flavors of fruit.

FOSTER'S GROUP

91 **Edward Sellers** 2006 Viognier, Paso Robles **(\$29)**

Lush with creamy texture, vanilla and bold citrus fruit; complex and charming.

90 **Nadia** 2006 White, Santa Barbara Highlands Vineyard, Santa Barbara **(\$30)**

A forward and racy Rhône-style blend (64% Viognier, 29% Grenache Blanc, 7% Roussanne) with intense fruit and edgy acidity; new label from Laetitia owners.

90 **Mayacamas Vineyards** 2002 Merlot, Mt. Veeder, Napa Valley **(\$35)**

Smooth with complex plum and berry flavors; balanced and seamless with depth; 6% Cabernet Sauvignon.



90 **Sequoia Grove** 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley **(\$32)**

Sweet plum backed with lively acidity; clean, pure varietal fruit and good balance. KOBRAND CORP.

91 **Pali Wine Co.** 2005 Pinot Noir, Durell Vineyard, Sonoma Coast **(\$44)**

Smooth, fleshy and dense with ripe cherry fruit and spice; good acidity.

91 **Envy Wines** 2005 Petite Sirah, Napa Valley **(\$45)**

Showing excellent acid structure as well as stylish, delicious flavors; exemplary Petite Sirah.



91 **Austin Hope** 2005 Grenache, Hope Family Vineyard, Paso Robles **(\$42)**

Ripe with spicy berry fruit; lively and showing tannins and enticing flavors.

imports



91 Villa Maria 2007 Sauvignon Blanc, Private Bin, Marlborough (\$16)

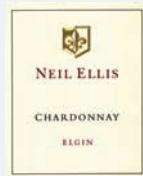
Long and quintessential NZ; lifted and fresh with herbs citrus and gooseberries.

VINEYARD BRANDS

88 Mt. Difficulty 2006 Pinot Gris, Central Otago (\$20)

Lush and sweet Pinot Gris from New Zealand, with vibrant citrus and round, balanced flavors.

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS



89 Neil Ellis Wines 2006 Chardonnay, Elgin (\$27)

Bold South African Chard with a linear palate of pure, citrus fruit and minerals.

VINEYARD BRANDS

90 Bucci 2004 Villa Bucci, Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi (\$44) Racy and clean with appealing fruit and acid structure; beautifully balanced.

EMPSON



89 Bodegas Peique 2004 Viñedos Viejos, Bierzo (\$30)

100% Mencia from Spain with fresh cherry and lively spice; long and charming.

RINASCIMENTO WINE CO.

92 Cloudy Bay 2005 Pinot Noir, Marlborough (\$35)

Juicy and long with bright cherry fruit and racy bracing acidity.

MOËT-HENNESSY USA

90 Loimer 2006 Riesling, Kamptal (\$19) Limey with juicy peach fruit and pure, lively acidity; vibrant with balance,

style and smooth texture; one of Austria's best producers.

VINDIVINO

90 Larry Cherubino 2005 The Yard Shiraz, Powderbark, Frankland River (\$40)

Good acid structure, more French than Aussie; powerful yet complex; deep and dense with finesse and restraint.

TOM EDDY WINES



89 Glatzer 2005 Zweigelt, Riedencuvée, Carnuntum (\$17)

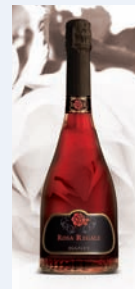
An intriguing Austrian red with ruby color and juicy black-cherry and blueberry fruit; lively and charming.

MICHAEL SKURNIK WINES

90 Banfi 2006 Brachetto, Rosa Regale, d'Acqui (\$24)

A superb everyday sparkling wine with charming rose color; crisp and juicy with fresh, spicy flavors.

BANFI VINTNERS



value and by-the-glass recommendations



88 Hugues Beaulieu 2006 Picpoul de Pinet, Coteaux de Languedoc (\$9) A smooth, creamy white with clean, juicy fruit and vibrant, fruit.

KYSELA PÈRE & FILS

88 Washington Hills 2006 Late Harvest Riesling, Columbia Valley (\$8) Fresh and balanced sweet peach; winning demeanor.

PRECEPT BRANDS

88 Tangent 2006 Sauvignon Blanc, Paragon Vineyard, Edna Valley (\$13) Fresh and bright with edgy peach fruit; vibrant, long and crisp; spin-off label from Baileyana.

88 Chateau St. Jean 2006 Fumé Blanc, Sonoma (\$13) Ripe, smoky with mellow fruit and soft herbs; clean and tangy.

FOSTER'S GROUP

88 Irony 2005 Chardonnay, Napa Valley (\$14.0) New label from DFV Wines; tropical fruit, vanilla and racy acidity; fresh, long and lively with balance and style;



88 MAN Vintners 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, Coastal South Africa (\$10)

Smooth and silky with bright acidity and juicy plum fruit; 5% Merlot.

VINEYARD BRANDS

88 Pertinace 2005 Barbera d'Alba (\$15) Juicy and bright with clean, racy berry fruit and zesty, youthful flavors.

MIONETTO USA

89 Zantho 2006 St. Laurent, Burgenland (\$15) A fresh, youthful Austrian red with velvety smooth texture and spicy berry fruit.

VINDIVINO

88 J. Lohr 2005 Merlot, Los Osos Vineyard, Paso Robles (\$15) Plummy with herbs, tannins and a supple texture; rich and dense.

88 Red Knot 2006 Shiraz, McLaren Vale (\$12) Lean black-berry fruit and clean, racy acidity; brisk, tangy and delightful.

PRECEPT BRANDS

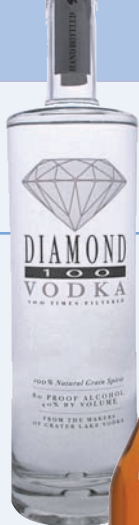


spirits

92 Diamond 100 Vodka (\$50)

From Oregon; creamy and smooth with amazing silky texture and notes of vanilla and absolutely no rough edges; long, rich and velvety.

BENDISTILLERY



silky and rich with depth and complexity.

BROWN-FORMAN



92 Martin Miller's London Dry

Gin (\$28) Juniper nose; smooth and dry with citrus and pepper; long, mellow and fresh with charming, elegant flavors.

KINDRED SPIRITS



91 Maison Surene Petite Champagne Cognac (\$35)

Fresh with mellow hints of dried flowers, fruit and vanilla; elegant, ripe and feminine; charming and smooth; 13 years old.

CRAFT DISTILLERS

93 4 Copas Tequila Blanco (\$50)

Certified organic; spicy and rustic nose; rustic agave flavors and thick texture with notes of earth and exotic spices.

4 COPAS USA

95 Oban 1992 Distillers Edition Single Malt Scotch Whisky (\$80)

Smooth, rich and toasty with honey, caramel, treacle and edgy dried fruits; light peat, vanilla and spice, really complex and supple.



90 Crispin Rose Liqueur (\$85)

Dark amber color; lovely rose-petal nose with sweet and intense flavors of authentic rose; long, rich and slightly tannic.

CRAFT DISTILLERS

90 Cockspur 12 Year Old Fine Rum (\$30)

Mellow and silky Barbados rum with toasty oak, brown sugar and dry, spiced flavors; a clean medium-bodied rum with a long, smooth finish.

HOOD RIVER DISTILLERS

92 Carnivo XO Liqueur (\$30)

Bright, electric green; lively and bursting with bright, juicy tropical fruit including tart apple, passion fruit, cherry, citrus, mango-steen, peach and citrus; delicious.

CARNIVO UNLIMITED



93 Old Forester Birthday Bourbon (\$40)

Deep amber color; spice, tea, toasty oak and dried fruit; hot,

