

Colorado, \$21, has aromas of smoky oak, white pepper, light cherry, and rhubarb. Sweet cherry, raspberry, and rhubarb flavors finish medium-broad and truncated with persistent and increasing pepper.

Oerso

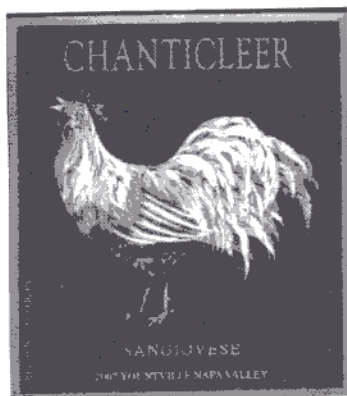
The **2005 Cabernet Sauvignon**, Colorado, \$18, has a bouquet of smoke, bacon, barnyard, plum, and cherry which repeat as round, mouthfilling flavors and finish long and narrow at the front and broad at the back. Well put together for drinking now.

ARIZONA

Dos Cabezas Wineworks

The **2008 Meskioli, Cimmarron Vineyard**, Cochise County, \$20, 180 cases, is a blend of mostly Rhône varieties with floral, lemon, apple, and oak aromas which continue onto the palate which adds a mineral note. It finishes medium-long and narrow at the front and broad at the back. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Tasty.

CALIFORNIA NAPA VALLEY



Chanticleer Estate Wines

The **2007 Sangiovese**, [Morningside Vineyard, Yountville] Napa Valley, \$45, 389 cases, is 87% sangiovese and 13% cabernet sauvignon. It was aged for seventeen months in 55% new French oak and opens with toast, blueberry, salty pork, baked tomato, pastry dough, and black raspberry on the nose. Flavors of toast, blueberry, and black raspberry are laced

with a significant amount of fine tannin before a long, medium-broad finish which adds dark toast and a touch of alcohol. Very new world in style, it is well balanced, structured, and integrated. Very Tasty.

The **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon**, [Morningside Vineyard, Yountville] Napa Valley, \$58, 403 cases, contains 4% sangiovese, and spent twenty-one months in a combination of French oak, 70% new, and American oak, 90% new. A light nose of linen, floral, red currant, raspberry, cherry, rust, and smoky oak lifted by alcohol introduces bright, juicy flavors of the same fruit plus spice, fine, tooth-coating tannin and nice acidity. The medium-broad, medium-long finish has focused flavors and adds persistent crushed black pepper. Well balanced, structured, and integrated, it will complement food. Tasty.

Clif Bar

The **2009 The Climber White Wine**, California, \$14, is a blend of 88% sauvignon blanc, 4% muscat, 3% each of riesling and chardonnay, and 2% chenin blanc. It saw no oak or malolactic fermentation. Very light aromas of talc and grapefruit introduce juicy, mouth filling flavors of grapefruit, green apple, lemon, and talc that finish long and medium-broad. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Very Tasty.

The **2006 The Climber Red Wine**, California, \$17, contains 32% zinfandel, 29% syrah, 25% cabernet sauvignon, 11% merlot, and 4% petite sirah. It was aged in new and used oak barrels for eighteen months. A bouquet of blueberry, blackberry, vanilla, caramel, gooseberry, and oak repeats as rich, smooth flavors with the addition of pepper at the sides. It finishes broad and medium-long. Well balanced, integrated, and structured, it comes across as a mature wine. Very Tasty. Drink Now.

Seven Artisans

The **2007 Meritage**, Suisun Valley, \$18, is a blend of 89.5% merlot, 10% cabernet sauvignon, and 0.25% each of malbec and petite sirah. Aromas of cocoa, boysenberry syrup, and sweet Virginia tobacco introduce juicy, bright boysenberry, dark cherry, tobacco, and cocoa powder flavors laced with good acidity and significant tannin.

The long, medium-broad finish adds persistent pepper at the sides. Medium-bodied, well balanced, structured, and integrated. Very Tasty.

The **2007 Petite Sirah**, [Clayton Road Ranches Vineyard], Suisun Valley, \$18, has a nose of fresh Butternut bread, chocolate, vanilla, and light, smoky oak. Smooth flavors of the same with hints of chocolate and oak plus tooth-coating tannin finish medium-long and somewhat narrow.

Terra Valentine

The **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon**, Spring Mountain District, \$38, contains 6% merlot and 3% cabernet franc. It matured for twenty-two months in French oak, 35% new. Very ripe aromas of chocolate, blackberry, boysenberry, cherry, dusty black pepper, and sweet smoke introduce smooth, somewhat thin-bodied flavors of the same with the additions of pepper at the sides and fine tannin. The pepper is quite persistent.

The **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, Wurtele Vineyard, Estate**, Spring Mountain District, \$60, spent twenty-two months in 45% new French oak before bottling without fining or filtration. An appealing nose of smoky oak, dark chocolate, earth, violets, blackberry, blueberry, dark cherry, wet earth, and dill repeats as clean, medium-bodied flavors accented with a salt note and some vanilla and laced with significant tannin before a medium-broad, medium-long, persistent finish. It needs another year or two in the bottle to develop. Well balanced, structured, and integrated. Good.

The different vineyard source is evident in the **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, Yverdon Vineyard, Estate**, Spring Mountain District, \$70, that was aged for twenty-two months in French oak, 45% new, and bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. It opens with smoky oak, vanilla, dark chocolate covered cherry, blackberry jam, and blueberry before juicy cherry, blackberry, raspberry, currant, and chocolate toffee flavors laced with smoky oak and fine tannin. It finishes medium-broad and medium-long. Well integrated, structured, and balanced, it will improve with another year in the bottle to develop. Tasty.