



2012 WINE SPECTATOR TOP 100: #84

"Elegant, with rich base notes of toasted brioche and smoke adding depth, this integrates finely honed acidity, detailed texture and flavors of black cherry puree, apple tarte Tatin, kumquat and grated ginger. Provides a creamy, mineral-tinged finish. Drink now through 2022. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 50,000 cases made." (WS)

"Ripe pears, crisp green apples and flowers emerge from Piper-Heidsieck's NV Brut Cuvee. This medium-bodied non-vintage Champagne offers excellent persistence and a long, clean finish. It is a very solid effort at this level. The Brut Cuvee is 55% Pinot Noir, 30% Pinot Meunier and 15% Chardonnay. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2010.

Piper-Heidsieck is another of Champagne's best-known brands. The house traces its history back to the original Heidsieck and Co., which was founded in 1785." (WA)

"(\$35): Light gold. Smoky, energetic aromas of grapefruit, green apple and lemon thyme, with a deeper hint of licorice. Light-bodied and gently smoky, offering candied citrus flavors and a deeper pear skin quality. Comes up a bit short on the broad, fruity finish." (IWC)

"Hinting at proofing bread dough and distant citrus in the nose, this creamy and well-composed sparkler shows fine balance, a steady mousse



2012 EBB IW&FS Holiday Dinner Wine Explanations

and good Champagne precision in the mouth. It is driven by delicacy in a way that reminds of a Blanc de Blancs bottling, yet it teases with enough autolyzed richness to invite service with food. It among the better big-name, non-vintaged Bruts we have tasted of late, and it is in such wide distribution that it should be easy to find. Reviewed: December 2011" (CG)

"Toasty aromas leap from the glass in this deliciously mature wine. It is soft but still very dry, with acidity tamed by both fine, mature fruit and a creamy texture that sits well in the mouth. This is a very fine, tasty wine." (WE)

"I was in Chicago last weekend and having recently enjoyed the 2000 vintage Piper-Heidsieck, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to give the non vintage version a try. As you will find out with our soon to be launched (massive) Facebook campaign, I don't need a celebratory excuse to drink Champagne, but in this case I was celebrating meeting up with the family in the Second City.

Much like Chicago, this Champagne is clean, crisp and a little nutty. Unlike Chicago, it's best enjoyed on ice. Totally unrelated to Chicago it has a really nice citric note and a creamy mouthfeel with a complexity rarely found in Champagne at this price point. I loved Piper-Heidsieck's vintage bottling, but at less than half the price I'm having trouble coming up with a reason not to just drink the NV version twice as often. It's really good.

I love California sparkling wine but Champagne (meaning sparkling wine from the Champagne region of France) has a certain dryness and complexity that I haven't tasted in the domestic version. If you're just getting into Champagne or you're a long time fan, this is a perfect expression of the style that anyone can enjoy." (Nickel & Dime)





A by Acacia Pinot Noir

Offers lush aromas and flavors of ripe plum and dark cherry, with hints of rose and oak spices. Smooth, supple tannins frame the beautifully balanced flavors and carry them through the long, fruit-imbued finish.

APPLEJACK: The myriad of dark fruit and floral notes in this Pinot Noir come from the cool, windy Los Carneros American Viticultural Area (AVA) in the southern reaches of Napa Valley. Satsuma plum, blackberry, red rose and violet notes weave through the enticing aromas, mingled with warm nuances of vanilla and toasted oak from barrel aging. Silky, elegant flavors echo the aromas, adding blueberry and plum to the rich fruit complexity.

You'll find this wine's lush flavors, bright acidity and fine tannins are perfectly balanced to complement a broad range of foods, from grilled salmon and chicken, to lamb and wild mushrooms.

BevMo: The A by Acacia Pinot Noir is soft and smooth, with fine elegant red fruit flavors; layered on the palate and easy in the finish.





Bought in 1991 by Stephan Von Neipperg, also owner of Chateau Canon la Gaffelière and La Mondotte, this wine has a strong color, revealing a mature bouquet, fruity and woody. Medium-bodied it is powerful, fresh and very appealing. Due to its great concentration, coupled with impressive tannins, this wine requires many years of aging before being delighted

- Pays/région : [Bordeaux](#)
- Appellation : [Saint-Émilion](#)
- Classement : [Grand Cru Classé](#)
- Couleur : [Red](#)
- Propriétaire* : [Comte de Neipperg](#)
- Superficie* : [10.3 ha](#)
- Production* : [55000 bouteilles](#)
- Encépagement* : [90% merlot, 5% cabernet franc, 5% cabernet sauvignon](#)





88 points

ROBERT PARKER'S WINE ADVOCATE, JANUARY 1998

The 1995 builds on the success of the 1994, offering more fatness, glycerin, and extraction, a deeper color, more alcohol, and lower acidity, thus emphasizing the wine's opulence, charm, and up-front character. It is a delicious, juicy, succulently-textured Gloria that should drink well during its first decade of life. Given this estate's pricing policy, the 1995 is unquestionably a sleeper of the vintage. Last tasted 3/96

Wine Spectator gave a rating of 90 out of 100 to the 1995.





Sequoia Grove Cabernet Sauvignon 2009

winemaker's notes:

Dark black in color, the nose gives aromas of fresh raspberries and ripe, red cherries with notes of vanilla and cocoa powder. Background notes come through over time of roasted coffee bean and a touch of pencil lead. The palate is smooth and rich with ripe, developed tannins giving the wine a full arc in the mouth and giving flavors of blackberry and a hint of smoky, sweet oak.

alcohol by volume: 14.2%

“I met my husband at this winery (we both loved the Cabernet long before that). It is juicy and delicious, with fruit and earth and spice and all so smooth and round - one of the best Napa Cabernets and a deal when you taste others in this price range.”

Wine Spectator

“Complete and easy to enjoy, with fresh earth, crushed rock, dried berry and a dash of licorice and sage. Drink now through 2017.” (11/ 2012)

K&L Notes

Sequoia Grove Winery occupies 22 acres in the Napa Valley's Rutherford Bench district, where morning fog and alluvial soils are known to yield fruit that bears a distinctive mineral character when made into wine, commonly referred to as "Rutherford dust". Sequoia Grove's Napa Valley Cabernet is sourced from a combination of their estate vineyards and top Napa growers, including Stagecoach, Morisoli, Lamoreaux, Beckstoffer, Cugat, Healy, Johnson, Madrigal, and Harris. The 2009 offers a nose of ripe cherry and blackberry aromas with earthy cedar and baking spice accents. The palate unfolds to reveal richer, darker flavors of plum, toasted hazelnut, and graphite. It is full in the mouth, with polished tannins and flavors of toasty oak on the finish.



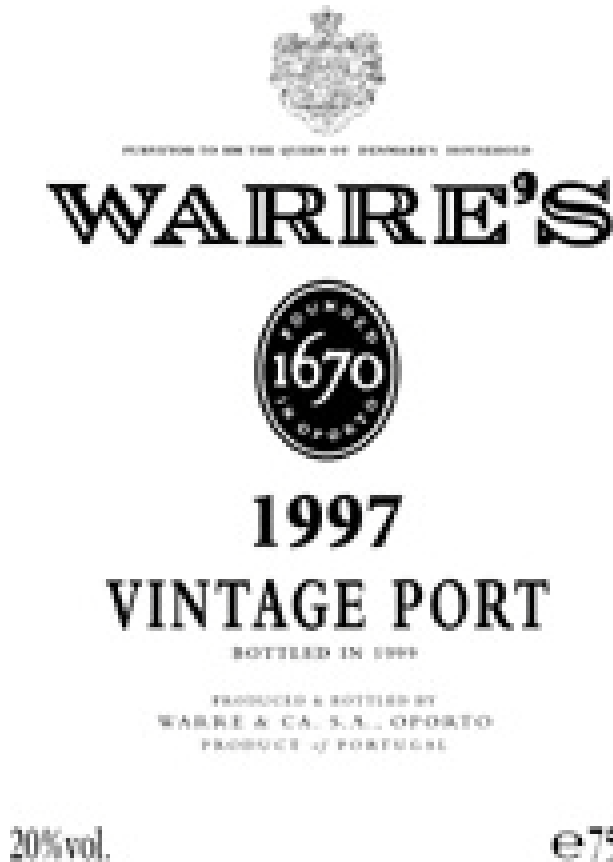


[2010 Mer Soleil Chardonnay](#)

The Mer Soleil Vineyard is named for the two natural forces that create its growing conditions: sea (mer) and sun (soleil). With plantings at two separate locations in the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation of Monterey County, our Mer Soleil Chardonnay vines are nestled on east-facing lower slopes of the Sierra de Salinas range in what is one of the coolest, driest grape-growing areas in California. The climate of this coastal appellation causes morning and evening fogs and warm, bright afternoons, a combination that produces the high-quality fruit we use to make this bright, elegant Chardonnay.

92 PTS WILFRED WONG. Enticing and rich, the tropical-like '10 Mer Soleil Chardonnay is well-textured and refined on the palate; pretty, ripe citrus flavors abound; long, lasting finish.





Warre's, founded in 1670, was the first British Port company established in Portugal and therefore the pioneer of a great tradition; its history is synonymous with that of Port itself. Warre's Ports are distinguished for their structure, power and softly perfumed nose. They have a particularly fresh and elegant style. Warre's premium wines are sourced from Quinta da Cavadinha and Quinta do Bom Retiro Pequeno, two of the finest estates of the Douro

valley. Warre's Vintage Ports are renowned the world over for their excellence and are consistently placed amongst the best in comparative tastings.

[WINE SPECTATOR RATING: 94](#)

WINE SPECTATOR REVIEW: Dark ruby. Subtle and rich aromas of prune, spice, juniper berry and leaves. Full-bodied and medium sweet, with big round tannins. Lasts for minutes on the palate. Still very young. It's lost its youthful toughness, but give it a little more time. '77/'85/'97 blind Port retrospective.

