

**East Bay Branch of the International Wine and Food Society
May 23, 2012**

Top 100 Part Deux tasting Wine Descriptions

77 90 \$16 Peter Lehmann Clancy's Barossa 2007



winemaker's notes:

#77 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2010

A dark center with a garnet rim. The nose shows lots of Barossa chocolate, dark plum and hints of violet. It is a wine with good fruit complexity which draws upon the attributes of each variety in the blend: Shiraz gives richness and fruit, Merlot adds a textural softness and the Cabernet Sauvignon with its firm tannins reins in the fruit to give a wine of flavor, balance and structure.

Clancy's is a wine to enjoy with friends over a bowl of pasta, platters of pizza, and sizzling roast chicken. It will always be a welcome guest at a BBQ!

critical acclaim:

"There's a nice transparency to the dark berry, licorice, smoke and herb flavors, playing out over a medium-weight frame and lingering well. Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2013."

90 Points

Wine Spectator

46 92 \$20 Greppicante 2007 Bolgheri WS Top 100 for 2009

Wine Advocate's Antonio Galloni notes: "I Greppi is an excellent source for wines that deliver tons of Maremma and Bolgheri character at reasonable prices...The estate's 2007 Greppicante is a much more serious wine, yet it too **offers terrific value**. A fragrant, seamless wine, **the 2007 Greppicante captures the essence of Bolgheri** in its dark fruit, spices, minerals and herbs, **showing outstanding balance and tons of style**. The finish is long, sweet and harmonious. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2012. "



Wine Spectator writes: Delivers currant, toasty oak and coffee aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a lot of rich fruit. **Very polished and attractive**. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best after 2012.

Buyer's notes: The 2007 Greppicante is a very Bordeaux-like blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, aged in French oak barrels for 10 months before bottling.

44 90 \$12 Bodegas LAN Rioja Crianza 2006 #44 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2010



winemaker's notes:

#44 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2010

100% Tempranillo Brilliant red cherry with violet hues. Elegant ageing aromas with fruity notes. It shows good balance on the palate coming from the sweet and elegant tannins. The wine is delicious paired with cold starters, pasta, cheeses. Also perfect as a wine by the glass.

alcohol by volume: 13.5%

critical acclaim:

"Fresh and balanced, this red brims with cherry, spice and licorice, with light, firm tannins and vibrant acidity. The texture is generous yet delicate. Not heavy, but vivacious. Drink now through 2014. 200,000 cases made."

90 Points

Wine Spectator

22 96 \$65 2007 Quinta do Vallado Reserva Douro

#22 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2010

winemaker's notes:

This blend is very dark red, with crimson highlights with fig and black plum aromas, as well as tobacco and a hint of balsamic oak. The palate shows great structure and a full-bodied firmness, with mature, silky tannins. Mineral notes mix with the aforementioned fruit, leading to a very elegant, complex and persistent finish.



critical acclaim:

"This is rich, powerful and finely crafted, with layers of concentrated red plum, currant, blueberry and kirsch flavors. Silky tannins knit it seamlessly together. Elegant and refined finish is filled with mineral, smoke and spice. Drink now through 2016."

96 Points

Wine Spectator

"Once a part of Dona Antonia de Ferreira's extensive holdings in Douro, the Quinto do Vallado is still in the hands of her descendants. The property rises above the confluence of the Douro and Corgo rivers, just east of Regua, the wine produced by another Ferreira descendant, Francisco Olazabal, whose family runs the Quinta do Vale Meao. Olazabal's hand is apparent in this wine, which could stand in for a great vintage Vale Meao in its brilliant richness and acidity. The schist hillsides come through in powerful minerality, the glints of red fruits and black stone reflecting across a vast expanse of flavor. The texture is supple; the heady spice and floral finish last for minutes. This is destined to be a classic, with the potential to develop for a decade or more."

95 Points

Wine & Spirits

"From old, mixed planting vineyards in the Quinta do Vallado, this is an impressively complex blend of flavors, from rich spice, smooth tannins, the richest plum juice and a gorgeous, opulent texture. It is ripe, drinkable now, but likely to benefit from several years aging."

94 Points

Wine Enthusiast

"The 2007 RESERVA is an old vines (80-90 years) Douro field blend (70%), and younger vines (15 years) Touriga Nacional (30%). This adds a layer of depth—and some oak—as compared to the regular 2007 Tinto reviewed this issue. Smooth and rounded on the edges, it seems potentially exceptional, as long as the oak integrates better with a year or two in the cellar. As it stands now, I rather enjoyed the regular Tinto reviewed this issue more—a word to the wise for bargain hunters. I don't think that will be the answer in five years, though, even though this should be approachable young. The tannins are rather ripe. Typical of this estate's elegant wines, this should turn into a graceful and harmonious wine that should be a pleasure to drink. There were 4,113 six-pack cases produced. Drink 2011-2020. "

92 Points The Wine Advocate

54 92 \$20 Vincent Girardin Moulin-à-Vent Domaine de La Tour du Bief Clos de la Tour 2009

#54 on the Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2011

Eddie Wolowski, JJ Buckley, December 2011



Deep in color, beautiful nose of berry and ripe cherry, complemented by crushed rock, rose petal, and exotic spice. The dense palate is sleek and restrained, but there's power beneath, leading to a focused finish. This is a very classy Cru Beaujolais that can be consumed now, but will easily age for several years.

With their structure and complexity as well as the capacity for ageing, wines from Moulin-à-Vent were always cited as excellent among Cru Beaujolais. This 2009 From the Domaine Vincent Girardin is produced from the Clos within the estate. Old vines and low yields mean dense concentration and complexity. Wine Spectator score this wine 92 points saying "Lush fruit flavors of blackberry and blueberry mix with a core of spice and dried herb notes in this fresh and silky red, which has lightly chewy tannins, followed by lingering hints of dark chocolate and cardamom on the finish. Drink now through 2016."



74 90 \$15 Durigutti Malbec Mendoza 2008
Listed in the Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wines of 2010

.90 points from the Wine Spectator: "A lush, toasty style, with lots of cocoa and roasted vanilla up front, followed by dark, well-layered fig, boysenberry and mulled currant fruit flavors. The long finish lets all the fruit hang nicely, with an underlying graphite hint supporting it all. Drink now through 2011. (Feb 28, 2010)



58 91 \$18 Bodegas Ondarre Rioja Reserva 2004
#58 *Wine Spectator* Top 100 of 2010

winemaker's notes:

Intense cherry red color. Aromas of oak ageing with hints of spices. Strong attack, good backbone, full-flavored, with well integrated long-lasting tannins. Long and persistent finish.

alcohol by volume: 13.0%

critical acclaim:

"Black cherry, licorice, smoke, tobacco and tar notes mingle nicely in this firm, lively red. Maturing now, but shows balance and length. Still fresh, it brings you back for another sip. Drink now through 2016. 30,000 cases made."

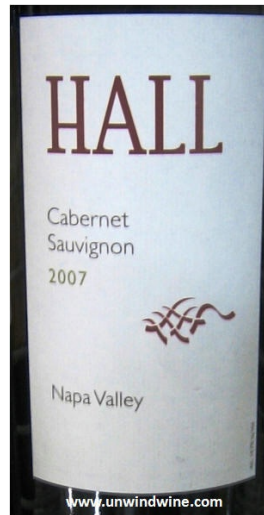
91 Points

Wine Spectator

"If you like gamey reds, here's a wine that is peppery and tart, its cherry flavors balanced by green tomato-skin acidity. A small amount of mazuelo (5 percent) seems to kick up that acidity and direct the wine toward roasted wild mushrooms."

90 Points

Wine & Spirits



\$40 2007 Hall Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

winemaker's notes:

Displaying deep, dark garnet color and lovely aromas of marion berry, bramble, chocolate plum and all-spice; the palate is lush and concentrated with boysenberry, cassis, anise and semisweet chocolate. Rewarding now, this wine will continue to evolve and delight for 5-10 years.

alcohol by volume: 14.7%

2 96 \$90 Hall Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Kathryn Hall 2008 in 2011

7 94 \$20 Schild Shiraz Barossa 2008

94 Points and #7 on Wine Spectator's Top 100 2010 List:

Expert Reviews

The Schild Estate Barossa Shiraz is another fine example of a classic regional style from this renowned area. A true expression of generous Shiraz, this wine exudes great presence, lingering flavours and all the hallmarks of a premium Barossa drop.



"Polished, ripe and complex, this big, smooth wine offers roasted meat and walnut accents to the black cherry, blackberry, tobacco and licorice aromas and flavors. Lingers appealingly on the expansive finish." **Rated: 90** by [Josh Reynolds](#), Sep/Oct 11

[Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar](#)

Opaque ruby. Heady, intensely perfumed bouquet displays cherry-cola, dark berries, olive and violet, along with a smoky overtone. Deeply pitched and sappy but energetic, offering pungent cherry and cassis flavors lifted by zesty acidity. A note of boysenberry comes up on the finish, which leaves notes of mint and cracked pepper behind. For a rich wine this shows very good focus and vivacity.

A nose of ripe cherries, plums, dark chocolate and Christmas cake spice.

PALATE: A middle palate of vibrant, dark berry fruit is supported by clearly defined yet elegant tannin framework and some balanced acidity to provide structure and length.



Bait and Switch?

When Australia's Schild Estate ran low on an acclaimed wine, they purchased, blended and bottled a new batch



Nigel Parsons

Faced with strong demand for a highly-rated wine, an Australian winery has simply created more of it. *Wine Spectator* has learned through an investigation that Schild Estate, a family-owned winery in the Barossa Valley whose 2008 Shiraz placed in *Wine Spectator's* Top 10 Wines of the Year in 2010, found itself running low on supply and decided to purchase, blend and bottle additional wine under the same label. While technically legal, the decision raises questions about the winery's integrity and philosophical issues of what defines a wine's identity.

According to staff at [Schild Estate](#), the winery produced about 45,600 gallons of 2008 Shiraz from their 400 acres of estate vineyards, bottling it in three batches in November 2009, March 2010 and October 2010. (Wineries will often assemble a blend of their entire production, but then bottle the blend in batches to better handle inventory.) About 5,000 cases were sent to the U.S., where the wine retailed for about \$20.

Wine Spectator rated the wine 94 points (outstanding on our 100-point scale) in the Dec. 15, 2010, issue, and then [ranked it No. 7 in our Top 100 Wines of the year](#), published in the Dec. 31, 2010, issue.

Demand for the wine increased dramatically. Tipped off by an Australian source, *Wine Spectator* recently learned that the winery responded by buying and blending an additional 5,000 cases of 2008 Shiraz, bottling it under the same label.

"We found ourselves in the situation where we are running shorter than expected on domestic stocks of '08 Shiraz," Schild winemaker Scott Hazeldine told *Wine Spectator* when asked about the new bottling. "In order to get us through to a stage when the 2009 will be ready for bottling, I have been asked to put together an additional blend for sale in Australia." The 2009 is scheduled for bottling later this month, to be released in Australia in June.

"The last sourcing was from a local grower, and it has been matched as closely as possible to the original blend," general manager Casey Mohr told *Wine Spectator*. "The sourcing of a second blend was not taken lightly by the team." Hazeldine stressed that wine was not intended for export to North America, but confirmed that the blend was "over and above the original."

Wine Spectator has been able to blind-taste wines from two of the original bottlings and found them consistent in quality and character. However, we have not yet been able to review the new blend from the latest bottling. Schild promised to send samples through its U.S. importer.

Consumers may have difficulty discerning the differences simply by reading the official label. *Wine Spectator* learned that the labels for the original wine and subsequent bottlings all identify the wine as Schild Estate Shiraz Barossa 2008 and list the American importer, making no distinction among the various bottlings. However, after reporters contacted Schild for clarification, the winery offered to affix an extra label to the recent bottlings, identifying them as a second blend.

"This will enable discerning consumers to note that this is a different blend," Mohr said, adding that the winery put itself into a difficult position by reallocating stocks originally meant for the Australian market to meet U.S. demand.

All bottles of Schild also contain a code, usually located under the back label, that identifies when it was bottled. The bottling code begins with the letters BBS, identifying Barossa Bottling Services, Schild's bottler. On some bottles, the next character is the letter L and either a 9, 0 or 1. This refers to the year (2009, 2010 or 2011). The next three digits denote the day of the year, with 001 being January 1 and 365 being December 31. So, a bottle that says BBSL9331 was bottled in 2009 on November 27.

On other bottles, however, the sequence starts with BBS and then there is a four-digit number, which, according to BBS staff, denotes the time the bottle was filled—for example, 1712 means 5:12pm. That's followed by an L, then the last number of the year 9, 0 or 1, and then the 3 digits denoting the day. So, a bottle that's coded BBS1716 L0312 was bottled at 5:16pm on November 8, 2010.

Bottling different blends under the same label is perfectly legal under Australian wine law, so long as the label accurately describes the type and origin of the wines. This is common practice

for low-priced commodity wines, but a rare occurrence for wines that have received high praise from critics or won awards. No winery has been prosecuted for this in Australia.



Laura Johansen

A bottle of the original Schild Estate Shiraz Barossa 2008.

This is partly because of how difficult it is to prove that the wines are not the same, according to Steve Guy, responsible for compliance at the industry organization Wine Australia. "For instance, if one blend had won a trophy at a wine show and then a totally different batch altogether were presented under that brand, carrying the same award, this could be considered to be deceptive," said Guy. It would be up to a separate government commission that monitors trade practices to deal with it.

The additional bottlings came to light because Michael Twelftree, [owner of Two Hands Wines in Barossa](#), also bottles his wines at Barossa Bottling Services. Two Hands winemaker Matt Wenk noticed additional runs under way for Schild Shiraz 2008 late last fall. "We find it incredibly disappointing that a company would take advantage of their position in the Top 100 in this way," said Twelftree.

Apprised of the circumstances of the second bottling, Brian Croser, [dean of Australian winemakers](#) and a longtime industry leader, noted that the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act (which created the group that promotes and oversees the industry) has a catch-all clause about "false and misleading conduct" that could lead to prosecution. "The practice as described is immoral and would be viewed as such by the vast majority of the Australian wine community," said Croser.