Rooted in Washington

Spoken Barrel Celebrates Washington as the New Darling of the Pacific Northwest

Chef Derek Simcik and Wine Director/Restaurant Manager Daniele DalleCave bring the cuisine of the Pacific Northwest to the forefront at Scout PNW in the Thompson Hotel Seattle.
DOMESTIC

**93** Testarossa Winery 2016 Fogstone Vineyard Chardonnay, Santa Lucia Highlands ($51) Juicy and crisp with racy acidity and tangy style; a balanced and ultra-smooth wine from a vineyard on the northern end of the region with rocky loam soils.

**91** Baileyana 2016 Firepeak Chardonnay, Paragon Vineyard, Edna Valley ($28) Silky and bright with vibrant acidity and notes of pear and toast; fresh and long from an SIP Certified Sustainable vineyard.

**95** Ledson Winery & Vineyards 2015 Alexander Valley Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, Sonoma Valley ($110) Lovely, rich, and elegant with blackberry, spice, and toast; one of Sonoma’s finest, it’s ready now but worth a few years of cellaring; complex and long with considerable finesse.

**92** Bonny Doon Vineyard 2016 Vin Gris de Cigare Réserve, Central Coast ($35) Smooth and mellow; light salmon pink and dry; lush, deep, and balanced with an underlying core of crisp acidity; 50% Grenache, 15% Grenache Blanc, 12% Cinsaut, 12% Mourvèdre, 8% Carignan, and 3% Roussanne.

**92** Ponzi Vineyards 2015 Classico Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley ($43) Crisp and tangy with sweet cherry and spice; a balanced and long blend of grapes from 11 vineyards throughout Willamette Valley; another winner from one of Oregon’s mainstays.

**92** Silver Wines 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon, Santa Barbara ($45) Ripe with luscious plum notes and a creamy texture; rich and nicely structured; deep, mellow, and balanced.

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 he samples over the course of a month. The reviews are subjective editorial evaluations, made without regard to advertising, and products are scored on a 100-point scale:

- **85-89:** VERY GOOD
- **90-94:** OUTSTANDING
- **95-100:** CLASSIC

Once products are selected for publication, producers and importers will be offered the option of having their review accompanied by an image (bottle photo or label art) for a nominal fee. There is no obligation to add an image, nor does the decision affect the review or score in any way.

The “twisty” icon indicates wines sealed with a screwcap closure.

For additional Blue Reviews, go to www.bluelifestyle.com.

Prices are for 750 ml bottles unless otherwise noted.
Rodney Strong Vineyards 2014 Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley ($75) Dark ruby hue with a ripe nose; flavorful and dense with notes of rich chocolate and a velvety texture; generous and intense.

Kenwood Vineyards 2016 Six Ridges Chardonnay, Russian River Valley ($26) Creamy with flavorful notes of vanilla oak and toast; clean, fresh, and tangy with bright acidity. Sur-lie aged.

McClelland Cellars 2015 Chardonnay, Oak Knoll District, Napa Valley ($35) Bright and juicy with a solid core of tight acidity; long and elegant; a smooth and refined release from the Scotto family.

Morgan 2016 Double L Vineyard Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands ($64) Soft cherry and earth nose; silky texture with notes of cherry and spice; showing ripe fruit and good length. Aged ten months in 50% new French oak.

Jordan 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley ($56) A smooth and tangy Bordeaux-style wine with lively plum and berry fruit; medium-bodied and elegant; another winner in a long line from this acclaimed winery. 79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13.7% Merlot, 5.8% Petit Verdot, 1.2% Malbec, and 0.3% Cabernet Franc.

Spring Mountain Vineyard 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mountain District ($85) Opulent with spice and crisp notes of bright plum, toasted oak, and generous berry fruit; intense and long from an 845-acre estate with just 225 acres planted to vine.

Merry Edwards Winery 2016 Olivet Lane Vineyard Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley ($68) Deep ruby color; a lovely and food-friendly expression of this famed vineyard; rich and deep with abundant minerals and spices; ripe with soft tannins and great depth; long and graceful.

Dolin 2012 The Troubadour Red, Malibu Coast ($45) Deep ruby color; smooth, bright, and softly tannic with deep berry fruit, plum, and hints of spice; restrained and pretty. 42% Cabernet Franc, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Syrah, and 9% Petit Verdot.

Robert Hall 2016 Cavern Select GSM, Paso Robles ($45) Spiced nose; creamy, nuanced, and lush; dense and rich with pronounced tanginess; clean, crisp, and long. 34% Grenache, 34% Syrah, and 32% Mourvèdre.

Elk Cove Vineyards 2017 Pinot Blanc, Willamette Valley ($19) Smooth and lush; creamy and ripe with tangy, crisp acidity; a lovely, well-made wine made from fruit hand-harvested from Elk Cove’s hillside vineyards.

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