

# THE *tastingpanel* MAGAZINE

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Fifth-generation winemaker Joe Wagner is the owner of Copper Cane Wines & Provisions, whose portfolio includes Pinot Noir-centric brands Belle Glos, Elouan, and Böen.

## *Belle* of the **BOLD**

EXPLORING THE  
BRAVE NEW WORLD  
OF PINOT NOIR  
WITH **JOE WAGNER**



## Publisher's PICKS



### Chappellet 2019

#### Merlot, Napa Valley

(\$55) Blended with smaller portions of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, and Petit Verdot, the Merlot grapes for this wine hail from mountain and hillside plantings; their dense and powerful character is balanced by an elegant mouthfeel and flavor profile thanks to winemaker Phillip Corallo-Titus' blending skills. Dark chocolate and black cherry sweep across the palate like a sailing cruiser on a serene sea. Suede tannins are lightly grained, and boysenberry preserves and cinnamon add zing to the lengthy finish. Aged for 22 months in (40% new) French oak barrels. **93**



*Panther Ridge Vineyard owner Suzanne Farver with her dog Gerty.*



### Panther Ridge 2020 Pinot

#### Noir, Petaluma Gap, Sonoma

County (\$60) Vineyards planted on rocky volcanic soils at 1,000 feet in elevation yielded the fruit for this wine, which aged 17 months in (20% new) French oak. The property is owned by Suzanne Farver, who sells 75% of her grapes to other wineries in Sonoma County such as Joseph Jewell, Brooks Note, and Lynmar; crafted by Adrian Manspeaker of Joseph Jewell, this expression of Panther Ridge is a true Earth Mother with a lithe texture. A veil of cinnamon, mocha, and spiced black cherry descends on the palate, made alert by a fine acid structure. It finishes with a zing of cranberry and **94**



### Wise Decision 2020 Cab

#### Sauvignon, Central Coast

extended oak treatment of 24 months in new and neutral French oak barrels in a big red with finesse. Notes of tea, balsamic, and plum skin greet the palate with determined intensity, blackberry, walnut, and smoked paprika shadowed and bold. **93**



### Antigal Winery 2019

#### ONE, La Dolores

#### Vineyard, Gualtallary,

#### Uco Valley, Mendoza,

#### Argentina (\$60) Rich,

ripe, and refined, this limited-edition, single-vineyard Malbec exudes a perfume of black raspberry, mint, and dried herbs before it coats the mouth with flavors of dark plum, black fennel, and soy sauce. Chewy tannins and a dry, dusty coccage solidify its world-class appeal. Aged 24 months in 80% French and 20% American oak. **94**



### Jordan 2019 Cabernet

#### Sauvignon, Alexander

#### Valley, Sonoma County

#### (\$60) Since its founding

#### in 1972, Jordan Vineyard &

#### Winery has produced just

#### one red wine in every single

#### vintage: a Cabernet Sauvignon.

#### Thanks to meticulous

#### craftsmanship, the 2019

#### embodies the standard set

#### for this world-class red. Its sleek mouth-

#### feel is dotted with white-peppered black

#### raspberry, balsamic, and Italian herbs as

#### well as illustrious, glossy tannins. **96**



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grained tannins offer firm structure as notes of coffee and licorice deepen its formidable character. **94**

stone. Dramatic layers of ripe plum, black cherry, and mocha emerge with a rich, robust character. **94**

PAUL HOBBS WINES

# Two Expressions From Neyers

PHOTO: ALEXANDER RUBIN



There are differences between oaked and unoaked expressions from this iconic winery, but the common thread of racy acidity and freshness is remarkable.

**Neyers 2021 Chardonnay 304, Sonoma County (\$35)** No oak here! Offering up lemon sorbet and a wave of crisp pear ignited by white pepper, this Chardonnay has a lightness of being that complements its edgy, Old World persona. The grapes were sourced from the small, rocky Paul Larson Vineyard in Carneros near San Pablo Bay and blended with fruit from the Trinchero family's Russian River estate; planted in 1994 to Wente Selection Chardonnay, Paul Larson is a low-yielding site battered by cooling winds and typically harvested in late October. The grapes are picked at night and gently crushed on a

Champagne cycle in a pneumatic press, then transferred to stainless steel, where the wine remains from native yeast fermentation to bottling. Malolactic fermentation is inhibited after primary, and it ages on its fine lees. **93**

**Neyers 2020 Chardonnay, Carneros District, Sonoma County (\$40)** Aged in (30% new) French oak on the lees with no stirring, this wine opens with piquant notes of spiced mango, almond, and creamed corn before the palate broadens with peach nectar, vanilla wafer, and chamomile. The lush body is balanced by enough striking acidity to keep it bright and fresh. Grapes are sourced from three sites farmed by the Sangiacomo family and one site by the Yamakowa family on the Sonoma side of the Carneros District. **94**

## Jordan 2021 Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County (\$42)

Lemon-blossom aromas fill the glass and lead to additional floral flavors of gardenia and jasmine. Buoyed by a luscious mouthfeel, tangerine glistens with salinity, exuding a jewel-like brilliance. **94**



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CLINE CELLARS

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## MacRostie 2021 Olivet Lane Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County (\$56)

Made with grapes grown in gravelly, well-drained soils on the benchland of the Russian River Valley's Santa Rosa Plains neighborhood, this wine aged in used French oak for ten months. The result is focused and bright, with lemon chiffon, baked apple, fine acidity, and a core of minerality that keeps the richness at bay. Following the toasty midpalate, chamomile and gardenia bloom through the classic finish. **94**



energetic acidity to this wine, partially fermented in new French oak and aged sur lie for nine months. It shows a marvelous balance of mouthfeel: round and sensuous, with vivid notes of citrus and green apple. Basil-seasoned vanilla and salty minerality are layered on the finish. **93**



**Chardonnay, Carneros (\$54)** Burgundian in style but defined by California sunshine, this voluptuous Chardonnay boasts not only generous weight but seductive notes of lemon drop, chamomile, butter-scotch, and oregano. **94**



## CHEV 2020 Chardonnay, Russian River Valley, Sonoma County (\$80)

Aged in concrete eggs, concrete amphorae, and French oak, this round, luscious white fills the mouth with notes of pound cake, pineapple, and toasted hazelnut. The midpalate sings of peach blossom, charred tangerine peel, and chamomile. **94**



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