

TASTING NOTES



WHEELER CELLARS

2007 FIANO, SICILIA IGT, MANDRAROSSA, SICILY, ITALY

A delightful nose of honey and apple notes and hints of minerals. A medium bodied and inviting palate offers lots of tropical fruit flavours and more mineral hints. The fruit flavours are wonderfully balanced here and the finish is crisp, clean and fresh. Fiano really is a varietal one must try this summer!

2006 CHARDONNAY, ARBOLEDA, CASABLANCA VALLEY, CHILE

Arboleda's carefully sited vineyards produce wines that show real varietal character. Wonderful oak integration adds aromas of rich buttery brioche to the classic Chardonnay ripe melon. The palate is rich and generous displaying tropical fruits with a sumptuous creamy texture. Not unlike a good Bourgogne blanc, but with more of a ripe-fruit lift. Excellent.

2007 SAUVIGNON BLANC, MOA RIDGE, MARLBOROUGH, NEW ZEALAND

This is classic Marlborough sauvignon blanc produced by Lawson's Dry Hills. Vibrant and aromatic with notes of passionfruit, gooseberry and white currant, as well as a fresh, grassy, herbaceous character. Lively acidity gives this wine a delightful lift and freshness on the palate. Beautiful purity of fruit here - and a little extra bottle age lends a luscious rounded texture. Terrific value and highly-drinkable.

2006 DOMAINE MOURGUES DU GRES, FLEUR D'EGLANLINE ROSÉ, COSTIERES DE NIMES, FRANCE

'The Eglantine is a sweet-scented wild dog rose, the perfect name for this pale, rose-coloured wine. Fresh and vibrant with lovely acidity and beautiful balance, this has the scent and flavour of fresh, ripe strawberries. An elegant rosé with great length, this is the ultimate summer wine and good value too.

2006 MERLOT, VIGNES DES DEUX SOLEILS, VIN DE PAYS D'OC, FRANCE

The 2006 Cuvée Merlot is produced from the best merlot grapes from the oldest vines in the Deux Soleils vineyard and matured in the finest French oak barriques. It has an intense deep red colour with scents combining luscious black and red berries laced with spice. The palate is bursting with intense, vibrant summer fruit with hints of creamy vanilla from the oak ageing. Profound, elegant and well structured, it offers a splendid balance between delicious ripe fruit and balmy soft tannins.

continued overleaf

2002 CHÂTEAU MUSAR ROUGE, SERGE HOCHAR, BEKAA VALLEY, LEBANON

Approximately a third each of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan makes up the latest release from this famous Château which shows dark winter fruits, raisin, prune and vanilla spice aromas on the nose. The palate has immense power dominated by dark plum, damson, liquorice and a toasty, spicy finish. The wine was racked 6 months after the harvest and put in French Nevers oak barrels for one year. It was blended in the following summer, then left to rest for one year before bottling in July & August 2005 and will be stored in the Musar cellars until May of this year. The 2002 is one of the best vintages in recent years, which is thoroughly enjoyable now and will continue to develop for a further 10 years.



2003 CHÂTEAU MUSAR BLANC, SERGE HOCHAR, BEKAA VALLEY, LEBANON

The two indigenous grape varieties – Obaideh and Merwah were picked and pressed separately and only blended together at the end of Spring 2004 to create Chateau Musar white which was bottled in September 2004 and stored at the vast Musar underground cellars for 5 years before being released this year. Beautiful straw gold in appearance, this mature Musar white displays aromas of orange peel, sweet spice and stewed pears. The palate is rich and generous with almond and citrus fruit flavours. Serve at room temperature and treat it as if it were a red wine!