



Stephen Tanzer's

International Wine Cellar

2 up

2004 2 up Shiraz

89

Bright ruby. Fresh raspberry and strawberry preserves on the nose, gaining sweetness with air. A real fruit bomb of jammy raspberry and strawberry, with impressive lift provided by fresh acidity. Lush, creamy and spicy on the finish, a bitter note of espresso giving focus and complexity to the sweet red berry flavors. This would be delicious with strongly seasoned grilled steak

Campbells Wines

NV Tokay Rutherglen

89

Amber-tinged gold. Deep, spicy aromas of toffee apple, pear and peach, with a smoky mineral note adding complexity. Quite lush and sweet but also displays structure and energy, with the toffee orchard fruit flavors showing good focus. Finishes sweet but fairly crisp, with a lingering note of marzipan.

NV Muscat Rutherglen

91

Copper-gold color. Deep, rich and dark in fruit tones on the nose, suggesting black toffee, plum preserves and cherry pit. Broad, sweet and complex, the fruit-driven flavors running from apricot to cherry. Rich on the finish but also juicy and penetrating, with impressive clarity and length.

NV Isabella Rare Tokay

94

Deep, amber-rimmed brown. Wild, exotic bouquet encompasses succulent herbs, green Chartreuse, brown butter, toffee, orange marmalade and molasses. Fat, viscous and powerful, with impressively deep, powerful flavors of super ripe orange, tangerine, toffee, butter and herbs. Finishes with expansive toffee, honey and peach flavors and impressive drive. Serve this by the teaspoon.

NV Merchant Prince Rare Muscat

96

Copper-tinted brown. Powerful, brooding nose suggests chocolate-covered cherry, black toffee, mocha, currant and an exotic hint of cured tobacco. Positively explosive on the palate, with potent, almost overwhelmingly rich flavors of marmalade, buttered nuts, raisin and *balsamico* and a viscous, virtually solid texture. The endless finish features toffee, coffee, cherry, plum preserve and fruitcake flavors, all framed and lifted by refreshing notes of baking spices. Remarkable stuff.

Cape Barren

2004 Grenache/Shiraz/Mourvèdre

91

Deep ruby. Intense perfumed, with aromas of raspberry, wild strawberry and sexy oak spice. Juicy and vibrant, the raspberry tone taking a turn toward riper blackberry but with no loss of energy or clarity. Lush, round and full on the palate, with sexy oak tones and supple tannins providing structure. Finishes on a powerful kirsch note, with a suggestion

of musky tobacco.

2003 Old Vine Shiraz 90

Dense purple. Rich and deep, with dark berry aromas conveying a strong sense of sweetness. The blackberry and cassis notes are accented by darker licorice and roasted coffee tones, but this is all about fruit. Lush, round and generous, with an absence of rough edges; the fruit really stains the palate. Finishes on a subtle note of roasted herbs; the sweet berry fruit flavors lingering impressively.

Kangarilla Road

2004 Chardonnay 88

Pale gold color. Strong bouquet of ripe peach, pear, mango and oak spice, with a tangy, peppery accent. Supple and ripe but not blowzy, with leesy, buttery flavors of tropical and orchard fruits supported by sound acidity. The spicy, persistent finish features ripe peach and pear flavors.

2004 Cabernet Sauvignon 90

Dark red. An impressive display of New World cabernet aromas: sweet cherry preserves, cassis, bitter chocolate and roasted coffee, with no green notes. Lush and silky, offering an almost sweet expression of red fruit, with a chewy texture and bright baking spice notes on the finish. Tangy, lively and delicious, with subtle notes of five-spice powder and cured meat coming up on the back.

2004 Shiraz 90

Violet-red. Suave aromas of dark berries and flowers complicated by dark chocolate and cracked pepper accents. Spicy and sweet on the palate, the blackberry and dark cherry flavors gaining richness and power with air and nicely dusted by fine-grained tannins. Plump, supple and sweet on the finish, with a darker *crème de cassis* quality lingering.

Nepenthe

2005 Tryst White 88

Pale gold. Smoky white grapefruit, lemon pith and spearmint on the nose, with a salty mineral accent. Fresh and precise but also rather gentle, the citrus flavors buffered by subtle notes of honey and grilled nuts. This would pair beautifully with buttery seafood dishes.

2004 Unoaked Chardonnay 88

Light yellow. Fresh, racy aromas of lemon, ruby-red grapefruit and candied apple. Plump, juicy and medium in weight, with bright lemon and green apple flavors nicely braced by subtle acids. Finishes crisp and focused, with a firm mineral note adding lift and nerve.

2004 Tryst Red 87

Bright red. Fresh, exuberant red fruit aromas complemented by tar and espresso. Slightly bitter at first but settles down quickly to show juicy cherry and wild strawberry flavors, with tangy acids providing focus. Give this one an hour in the decanter and serve it with Asian-seasoned red meats.

2004 Pinot Noir ~ Charleston 88

Dark red. Spicy cherry, pomegranate and cranberry on the nose, with subtle notes of cracked pepper and baking spices. Nicely focused and bright, the tangy red fruit notes repeating on the palate. Finishes bright and crisp, with juicy acids and a lingering note of bitter cherry.

2002 Fugue	89
Ruby-red. Aromas of cassis, cherry preserves, licorice and cured tobacco, lifted by oak spices. Fairly sweet but with good precision to the dark berry and cherry flavors, with notes of roasted coffee and bitter chocolate adding depth. The oak spices echo on the finish, along with subtle notes of fresh herbs and tobacco. Already complex, this should hold nicely through its tenth birthday.	
2005 Sauvignon Blanc	86
Also recommended.	
Pearson Vineyards	
2003 Cabernet Franc	90
Deep ruby. Inviting aromas of <i>crème de cassis</i> , black raspberry and sweet herbs. Thick but lively, with bright acids and firm tannins supporting rich, concentrated blackberry and dark plum flavors. The faint herbal notes here are in no way intrusive. Finishes sweet, lush and quite long.	
2003 Cabernet Sauvignon	90+
Saturated ruby. Classic cabernet aromas of cherry, red plum, anise and cigar box. Supple in texture but with impressive power, expressing sweet cherry, bitter chocolate, tobacco and floral pastille flavors. Finishes on a chewy tannic note, the fruit gaining sweetness on the back. This impressive cabernet could still use some time.	
RockBare	
2004 Chardonnay	89
Light yellow. Bright scents of Meyer lemon, tangerine, white peach and tangy minerals. Focused and crisp, showing lively citrus flavors that deepen with air without losing their freshness and cut. A subtle white pepper note emerges with aeration, providing even more verve to the long, vibrant finish.	
2004 Shiraz	88
Ruby-red. Tarry cherry, black raspberry and spicy oak notes on the nose. A real fruit bomb in the mouth, with sweet, almost jammy blackberry flavor and gentle framing acidity. Straightforward but brisk and tasty on the finish, where the light tar note repeats.	

The Wine Cellar Rating Scale:	
95-100	Extraordinary
90-94	Outstanding
85-89	Very Good to Excellent
80-84	Good
75-79	Average
70-74	Below Average
Below 70:	Avoid