



HARTFORD
COURT

Stephen Tanzer's

INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

May/June 2011

93
POINTS

2009
SEASCAPE VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

Bright gold. Pungent aromas of citrus pith, pear and flowers, plus a suggestion of smoky lees. Penetrating, minerally and uncompromisingly dry, offering intense orchard fruit and bitter citrus flavors that gain sweetness with air. An elegant, nervy and tactile wine that should age gracefully. Finishes chewy and very long, repeating the floral note.

92
POINTS

2009
FAR COAST VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

Bright gold. High-pitched aromas of orange zest, green apple, nutmeg and wet stone, with a building suggestion of exotic fruits. Dense and chewy but also fine-grained and bright, conveying a strong impression of extract without weight. Offers considerable immediate appeal, but also has the backbone for mid-term aging. Finishes long, with resonating mineral and spice notes.

92
POINTS

2009
FOG DANCE VINEYARD
GREEN VALLEY OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
CHARDONNAY

Vivid yellow-gold. Floral, mineral-accented nose displays fresh orchard fruits, spices and a strong jasmine quality. Shapely and focused, with noteworthy purity and cut to its pear, nectarine and floral flavors. Fine-grained and gripping on the back end, finishing pure, stony and very long. Quite concentrated and tactile but there's nothing heavy about this....

91
POINTS

2009
FOUR HEARTS VINEYARDS
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY SONOMA
CHARDONNAY

Bright yellow. Restrained but focused aromas of pear, dusty stone, jasmine and vanillin oak. Broad, dense and tactile, with good mineral lift to the urgent flavors of white peach, orchard fruits and white flowers. The long, energetic finish displays admirable finesse and clarity.

90
POINTS

2009
STONE CÔTE VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
CHARDONNAY

Bright gold. Lemon zest, apple and baking spices on the nose, plus a slightly honeyed nuance. Juicy, clean and linear on entry, then richer in the middle, with good mineral lift to its juicy orchard fruit flavors. Finishes with very good length and focus, repeating the spice and honey note strongly.

94
POINTS

2009
ARRENDELL VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Bright ruby-red. Intensely perfumed bouquet of fresh red berries, cherry-cola and Asian spices. Sweet raspberry and gingerbread on the palate, with silky tannins adding shape. Gains sweetness and intensity with air, picking up black raspberry and floral character while maintaining superb clarity. This very elegant pinot is balanced to age.

93
POINTS

2009
FOG DANCE VINEYARD
GREEN VALLEY OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Bright ruby-red. Complex, high-pitched aromas of raspberry, licorice, potpourri and gingerbread, lifted by an exotic bergamot topnote. Sweet, broad and generous, conveying a strong impression of spiciness and deep red berry and rose pastille flavors. Distinctly elegant and precise pinot with a sweet, floral, spicy finish that hangs on tenaciously.

92
POINTS

2009
SEASCAPE VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

Vivid ruby. Highly perfumed nose offers raspberry, Asian spices, flowers and a sexy vanilla note. Suave and supple, coating the palate in sweet red fruit and floral nuances without giving any impression of weight. Finishes sweet and persistent, with noteworthy clarity and cut.

92
POINTS

2009
LAND'S EDGE VINEYARDS
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

Bright ruby. Musky, sappy nose and palate evoke wild strawberry, raspberry, Asian spices, minerals and orange zest. Sweet, sappy and mineral-driven, with lovely clarity and cut. Shows admirable refinement and finishes very long, with silky tannins spreading out to coat the palate. Very nicely balanced.

92
POINTS

2009
FAR COAST VINEYARD
SONOMA COAST
PINOT NOIR

Vivid ruby. Pungent aromas of cherry, black raspberry and violet. Lively dark fruit flavors are lifted by lively, integrated acidity. Dense but nicely delineated, with a sexy floral nuance emerging with aeration. Finishes with fine-grained tannins and notes of candied rose and mocha. This benefits a lot from air.

92
POINTS

2009
JENNIFER'S
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Deep ruby. Sappy aromas of redcurrant, cherry, licorice and minerals. Sweet on entry, then pungently mineral and smoky in the mid-palate, with terrific grip and structure to its bitter cherry and red berry flavors. Finishes with youthfully gripping tannins and superb breadth and length, with the cherry note repeating.

91+
POINTS

2009
MACLEAN'S BLOCK
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
PINOT NOIR

Bright ruby. Aromas of blackberry, violet and licorice pastille, with a subtle meaty nuance. Juicy, minerally and penetrating but tightly coiled and on the youthful side, with medicinal red and dark fruit flavors showing a slightly bitter edge. Finishes on a note of licorice, with excellent clarity and serious grip.

90+
POINTS

2009
SEVENS BENCH VINEYARD
CARNEROS
PINOT NOIR

Bright ruby. Cherry, dark berries and minerals on the nose, with hints of licorice and pepper. Offers a restrained sweetness and good depth to its dark fruit flavors. Shows a youthful, medicinal quality, a hint of black cardamom and dusty tannins on the long, incisive yet broad finish. This could use a bit of time to stretch out.

Stephen Tanzer's

INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

May/June 2011

HARTFORD



94
POINTS

2009
HIGHWIRE VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Inky purple. Highly perfumed aromas of raspberry, cherry, Asian spices and potpourri, with a note of cracked pepper in the background. Juicy, precise and palate-staining, with impressively deep red fruit liqueur flavors giving way to darker fruits with air. Rich but surprisingly light on its feet, finishing with excellent clarity and persistence....

93
POINTS

2009
FANUCCHI-WOOD ROAD VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Inky ruby. Expansive, flamboyant bouquet evokes dark berry preserves, cola, incense and violet, with hints of smoke and fruitcake building with aeration. Lush, creamy and broad, with dense dark fruit and floral flavors enlivened by zesty spices. Very rich but almost shockingly lithe, with intense finishing spiciness and repeating florality.

93
POINTS

2009
DINA'S VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Opaque ruby. Explosive aromas of black and blue fruit preserves, cola, licorice and violet, plus an intense spiciness that builds with aeration. Broad, sappy and sweet, with potent blackberry and mulberry flavors lifted by tangy acidity. Ample but in no way heavy, this zinfandel finishes with strong thrust and resonating spiciness.

93
POINTS

2009
JOLENE'S VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Glass-staining violet. Deep, floral-accented aromas of blackberry, cassis and cola, with a strong violet pastille quality and a touch of allspice adding interest. Palate-coating dark berry flavors are given spine by fresh acidity and show a seamless, velvety texture. Dense and weighty on the finish, leaving behind a sweet dark berry preserve note....

92
POINTS

2009
HARTFORD VINEYARD
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Glass-staining ruby. Cool, complex aromas of blueberry, mulberry and dried flowers, complemented by a hint of minerality. Creamy and sweet, but with firm acidity leavening the wine's dark fruit preserve-like flavors. Wonderfully sappy and expansive zin, finishing with smooth tannins and excellent length....

90
POINTS

2009
ZINFANDEL
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
OLD VINE ZINFANDEL

Deep violet. Blackberry and boysenberry aromas are complicated by white pepper, mocha and licorice. Sappy, palate-coating dark berry flavors show liqueur-like richness and a touch of bitter chocolate. Quite full in the mouth, with good finishing breadth and persistent black and blue fruit nuances....