

Australia

94 Henschke Hill of Grace Shiraz 2001, Eden Valley (\$515)

Ok, let's face facts, unless you live in Dubai, the average wine lover is not able to afford this wine. Regardless, it is indeed an impressive offering with a hedonistic perfume of plums, spice, eucalyptus, raspberries and cocoa. Long and concentrated with no harsh edges. It shows enough velvety tannins to allow aging until 2015, and maybe even longer. (ES)

France

92 □ Chateau Gillette Crème de Tête 1979, Sauternes (\$195/500ml)

Gillette is unique amongst Sauternes producers as they age their wines for a minimum of 20 years in concrete vats. This way, the wines keep their youthfulness. The '79 reveals a deep golden amber colour as well as a profile of thyme honey, dried apricots, caramel, porcini mushrooms and coconut. Full bodied and viscous with a long finish which reverberates with dried fruit, caramel and spice. (ES)

Germany

90 Bischöflische Riesling Kabinett 2005, Mosel (\$20.95)

This is a great wine, from a great vintage and for a great price. The classic Mosel nose of lime, slate, petrol and hints of stone fruit combine with off dry palate which showcases lots of minerality and lime. There is excellent length with lots of fresh acid. Drink over the next decade.(ES)

88 Dr. Loosen □ Dr. L Riesling 2007, Mosel (\$14.95)

Come on, who are we kidding? For under \$15 a bottle, buy as much as you can! Peach, honey, flowers and mineral worth their way around a medium bodied frame. Very good length. Drink over the next 5 to 7 years. (ES)

Italy

91 Vietti Barolo 2004, Piedmont (\$120)

A beautiful perfume of flowers, cherry jam, toast, tar, leather and plum lead into Nebbiolo's typically elevated acid and tannin. It is full bodied with a long finish. Hold until 2012 and drink over the subsequent 12 years. (ES)

Canada

White

90 Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Reserve Chardonnay 2007, Niagara (\$38)

This is a full bodied Chardonnay that has seen a good amount of oak. That being said, it is not a 2x4, as the wood has been absorbed into the concentration of the wine, giving it a beautiful nose of peach, tropical fruit, honey, caramel and spice. On the palate there is excellent length and a very Burgundian hazelnut quality that combines with caramel, green apple and pineapple. Drink over the next 5 years. (ES)

88 Soutbrook Vineyards Poetica Chardonnay 2003, Niagara (\$59)

Poetica is Soutbrook's top wine from each vintage. In 2003, they only produced two cases of this unfiltered wine. This might be to everyone's taste as it has reached maturity and offers an evolved nose of hay, corn on the cob, calvados and cream. Dry with fresh acid and a creamy/caramel finish. Drink now. (ES)

88 Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Chardonnay 2007, Niagara (\$24)

This is more elegant than the Reserve bottling, but is still very much a delicious drop of wine. It is mid weight with peach, apples, hazelnut and caramel all the way around. Very good length and ready to drink now over the next 3 years. (ES)

88 Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Riesling 2007, St Davids Bench (\$28)

Light yellow colour, this wine was partially affected with botrytis. Its bouquet is that of peaches, honey, lime, pineapple and flowers. The palate shows a Kabinett level of sweetness with fresh acid backing it up. (ES)

87 Inniskillin Winemaker's Series Riesling Two Vineyards 2007, Niagara

This mid weight Riesling showcases lime, minerals and peach. Very refreshin on the palate with a beautiful acid backbone, this wine should age well for the 4 or 5 years. (ES)

86 Rosehall Run Chardonnay Sur Lie 2007, Ontario (\$14.95)

Located in Prince Edward County, Rosehall Run's Chardonnay is a crisp, non-oaked offering

that delivers green apples, lemon zest, melon and minerals both on the nose and palate. Medium length and ready to drink with a civiche or a mild brie. (ES)

Rose

87 Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Cabernet Franc Rosé 2007, Niagara (\$17)

A serious rosé with strawberries, plum, earth and green tobacco qualities. It is refreshing on the palate with a chocolate tone adding an extra layer to the complexity. Drink over the summer. (ES)

Red

88 Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery Merlot Reserve 2007, St Davids Bench (\$55)

Reminds me of a very good St-Emilion! This Merlot contains 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, giving it an undercurrent of mint which combines with the more pronounced cocoa, smoke, plums, cassis and dark cherries. There is a lingering finish with lots of tannin, but my preference would be to drink it over the next 4 to 6 years with a nice cut of prime rib.

87 Rosehall Run Cabernet Sauvignon 2007, Ontario (\$29.95)

Made from 4 year old vines, this wine really benefited from the intense heat and low yields of the 2005 vintage. It displays an 'Aussie' nose of blackberries, plums, black cherries and smoke. The palate returns to its Canuck origins, becoming elegant with a good acid and a lengthy finish endowed with smoke and small berry fruit. Drink over the next 2 to 3 years. (ES)

