

## Canada

### **89 2027 Fox Croft Vineyards Riesling 2009, Twenty Mile Bench (\$24.95)**

Kevin Panagapka, the owner of this one man band virtual winery continues to impress with his single vineyard Rieslings. Bergamot, minerals, lime, grapefruit and minerals are built on loads of fresh acid. Dry, this wine will show its best with food, so serve it with fresh oysters or veal cutlets topped with a lemon/butter/caper sauce. (ES)

### **88 Henry of Pelham Speck Family Reserve Riesling 2007, Short Hills Bench (\$30)**

This version of HOP's top Riesling Cuvee shows mature aromas of petrol, as well as peach, lime, minerals and some honey. On the palate, the minerals come to bear with citrus and lime flavours. It is dry with a very good length. (ES)

### **87 The Good Earth Vineyard & Winery Inc. Riesling 2009, Niagara (\$20)**

The Good earth, originally a pre-eminent cooking school in Niagara, has now been reborn with a winery. Their inaugural Riesling possesses a water colour and a bouquet of lime, grapefruit and minerals. The fresh acid and very good length round out the experience of this light wine. (ES)

## Greece

## White

**91 Domaine Sigalas Santorini 2009, Santorini (\$24.95)**

Without a doubt, Paris Sigalas is the master of Assyrtiko. I had a chance to do a mini vertical of this wine (going back to 2003) while visiting the winery this past summer, and I was deeply impressed. The current offering is still tightly wound, but at this early stage, there are discernable minerals, apples and citrus, all built on a full bodied frame. Assyrtiko's intense acid will ensure great longevity for this wine. Hold it for at least 2 years before opening, as time will only improve its majestic nature. As a side note, Paris feels that this wine is equal to, and may even be better, than his awesome 2003, which I gave 92 points. If he is correct, this score will undoubtedly rise. (ES)

**89 Ktima Pavlidis White 2009, Drama (\$18.95)**

A blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Assyrtiko, this wine serves up a bouquet of lime, grapefruit, stone fruit, minerals, spice and yeast. In the mouth, it is dry with crisp acid giving a clean and lengthy finish. Pair this with grilled eggplant topped with feta cheese and tomatoes and you will experience a sublime moment. (ES)

**Red**

**92 Domaine Economou Oikonomoy 1998, Crete (\$30)**

Owner/winemaker Yannis Economou obtained his oenology degree from the University of Alba in Piedmont. After which, he apprenticed under famed Barolo producers Ceretto and Scavino. So it comes as no surprise that his wines, even though made from the Cretan grapes of Liatico and Mandilaria, have a distinct mature Barolo personality. This wine, like its younger version, is full bodied with great depth and persistency, as well as having no sulfur added whatsoever. Distinctive, it is a fabulous value in the realm of aged wines. Drink over the next 7 years. (ES)

**92 Domaine Economou Oikonomoy 2000, Crete (\$30)**

I fell in love with this dead ringer for an aged Barolo, when I tasted it this past summer, while visiting Crete. This blend of 80% Liatico and 20% Mandilaria offers superb concentration and length, with a personality of dark fruits, tar, leather, spice and roses. It is ready to drink now, but can still age for another decade. Buy as much of this gem as you can. (ES)

**89 Sigalas Mavrotragano 2007, Santorini (\$51.95)**

Mavrotragano is a Santorini only red grape, which, thanks to the determination of the island's best winemakers, has been brought back from the brink of extinction. The 07 version offers up sweet bing cherries, cassis, violets, plum and vanilla. There is a slightly harsh edge on the finale, so pair this wine with grilled lamb chops to soften the edge. I should also mention that I tried the 08 vintage which will be released next year. It is a solid 90 point wine. (ES)

**89 Kir Yianni Ramnista 2007, Naoussa (\$18.95)**

Ramnista is made from 100% Xinomavro, a grape notorious for its tannins, which at times can be somewhat abrasive. Some even compare the varietal to Nebbiolo. So, with this in mind, make sure there is some serious protein available to tame this wild child. Aromas and flavours of plum, spice, vanilla, and earth are all found. Personally, I would like to hold it for 5 years before drinking. (ES)

**89 Boutari Skalani 2007, Heraklion (\$33.75)**

This wine, a blend of equal parts of Kotsifali and Syrah, comes from the island of Crete. It is defined by an in your face style with loads of plum, blackberries, rubber, vanilla, smoke, spice and ground espresso. There is very good length with firm tannins. Drink it now to 2015. (ES)

**88 Ktima Pavlidis Red 2007, Drama (\$19.95)**

This mid weight combination of Syrah and Agiorgitiko greets the taster with a black cherry colour, after which, the aromas of plums, cassis, cocoa, spice and flowers meet up with flavours

of vanilla on the palate. Tannins are supple, so drink it over the next three years. Serve with beef tartare or duck confit. (ES)

## California

### White

#### **91 Beringer Sbragia Limited Release Chardonnay 2007, Napa Valley (\$54.95)**

Full bodied with aromas of apples, pear, honey, citrus, vanilla and figs flatter the nose. In the mouth, the wine is concentrated and creamy with a lengthy finale. Enjoy it over the next 2 to 3 years. (ES)

#### **89 Newton Unfiltered Chardonnay 2007, Napa Valley (\$62.50)**

Medium yellow in colour, this wine is a combination of toast, caramel, honey, banana and tropical fruits built on a medium to full bodied frame. There is fresh acid which lifts it, making for a wine that is well suited for lobster based dishes or seabass with a carmalized onion/aspergaus sauce. (ES)

## Red

### **93 Beringer Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2005, Napa (\$128.95)**

I have tried this wine on 3 different occasions recently. Every time, the mark has been the same, signifying the consistent quality. The dark cherry colour leads into a volley of plum, mint, cassis, smoke and violets. This concentrated beauty will age for 15 years, but is also ready to go right now. (ES)

### **93 Newton The Puzzle Spring Mountain Estate 2005, Napa Valley (\$80)**

The Puzzle is Newton's top Cuvee. The name is in reference to the complex nature by which the wine is made. Every year, depending on the quality of the different grapes, a different assemblage will be created, using only the finest vinous material. This particular vintage contains 46% Cab Sauv, 29% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc and 4% Verdot. It has an opaque colour and a killer nose of cassis, spice, licorice, mint and earth. Full bodied with loads of ripe tannins, the palate is inundated with dark fruits and spice. Powerful, the finale keeps on going. Drink it now to 2025. (ES)

### **91 Darioush Signature Cabernet Sauvignon 2006, Napa Valley (\$110)**

My first introduction to the wines of Darioush was back in 2006 when I visited the winery. The wines then, as now, are of high quality. This vintage delivers plum, cassis, vanilla, herbs and roasted nuts. Full bodied, this is a hearty wine with a firm backbone of tannins to compliment the excellent length. Drink it over the next 8 to 10 years. (ES)

**88 Darioush Merlot 2006, Napa Valley (\$65)**

This offering is a lighter style of Cali Merlot with pleasing qualities of plums, spice, mint, cocoa and cherries. There is very good length with supple tannins. And, it is ready to drink. (ES