

91 13th Street Wine Corp Sandstone Chardonnay Reserve, Niagara (\$27)

13th continues to produce one of Niagara's most fruity and concentrated Chardonnays. Fresh baked peach pie, caramel, tropical fruit, citrus and honey soar out of the glass. The palate is dense with cream drenched biscuits, caramel and yeasty flavours. Acid is low with a touch of residual sugar and superb length. Drink over the next 3 to 4 years. (ES)

86 Henry of Pelham Off Dry Riesling 2003, Niagara (\$14.95)

The 03 HOP Off Dry is water colour with a nose peach, white flowers, honey, tutti frutti gooseberries and lime. The palate is extremely refreshing with a peach/lime aftertaste. Would be great with civiche. Drink until 2008. (ES)

85 Angels Gate Sussreserve Riesling 2003, Niagara (\$14.95)

Naturally sweet grape juice has been added to balance off the racy acidity of the wine. Very uplifting with peach, lime, white flowers and a touch of honey on the backend. Now to 2008. (ES)

85 13th Street Wine Corp. Funk Riesling 2002, Niagara (\$16)

Crisper than previous vintages with a nose of peaches, orange blossom, flowers and grapefruit. Medium persistency and drinkable until 2008. (ES)

84 Chateau des Charmes Chardonnay Musqué Estate Bottled 2002, Niagara (\$15.95)

This, the first Musqué from CDC is moderately aromatic with a nose of peach and flowers. The palate is dry and lingering with honey, peach and spice flavours and a crisp finish. Drink now. (ES)

89 Angels Gate Angels III 2002, Niagara (\$35)

The 3rd release of A3 lives up to the quality of its predecessors. Medium bodied, the blend is 50% Merlot with the remainder being equal parts of both Cabs. Plums, black cherries, chocolate and coffee are all in the house. Long finish, somewhat thick and ripe tannins. From 2005 to 2011. (ES)

88 Angels Gate Cabernet Sauvignon 2002, Niagara (\$23.95)

Cassis, plums, herbs and vanilla come together in the bouquet. On the palate the cassis comes through as well as the vanilla. Very good length and supple tannins. Now to 2011. (ES)

87 13th Street Wine Corp. Cabernets Merlot Funk Vineyard 2002, Niagara (\$20)

A little closed at the time of tasting but chocolate, coffee, plums, black cherries and raspberries worked their way out of the glass. Medium to full bodied with a peppery, tobacco and raspberry palate. From 2005 to 2010. (ES)

87 13th Street Wine Corp. Merlot 2002, Niagara (\$25)

A black cherry, raspberry, floral bouquet with a sweet mid palate laced with chocolate and cherries. Tannins are supple with very good length. Now to 2009. (ES)

86 Jackson Triggs Proprietors' Reserve Merlot 2002, Okanagan (\$12.95)

A jammy Merlot made in a down under style, but when compared against a comparable Aussie on price, this wine wins hands down. It is definitely one of those good old buy by the case purchases. Ruby/purple colour with a nose of chocolate, plums, black cherries, violets and smoke. Medium bodied and medium length. Drink over the next 2 years. (ES)

85 Chateau des Charmes Cabernet-Merlot 2002, Niagara (\$14.25)

The wine displays Chateau's "tell tale" red wine nose of bell pepper/cigar/spice which is interwoven with cassis, plums, vanilla and red currant. Dry with soft tannins and an easy finish. Drink over the next 2 years. (ES)

Bordeaux

93 Chateau LaRame 2001, Ste Croix du Mont (\$34.75/ 500ml)

Much has been hyped about the dessert wines of Bordeaux in 2001. This wine comes from a lesser known appellation near Sauternes and is an absolute killer, especially for the price. Full bodied with oodles of apricot, peaches, honey, spice and coconut. Drink until 2018. (ES)

92 Chateau Le Bon Pasteur 2001, Pomerol (\$89 Futures)

Bon Pasteur is the home base of Michel Rolland, the world's foremost consultant of Merlot. Plums, spice, vanilla and chocolate on the nose with black raspberry, earth, smoke and chocolate on the palate. The mouth feel is concentrated and long. Drink over the next 10 to 12 years. (ES)

90 Sociando Mallet 2001, Haut Medoc (\$65)

Those who have followed my ratings know my admiration for this house. The quality is constant and even puts to shame 1st and 2nd growths in certain years. Black/purple colour with a bouquet of chocolate, bell pepper, cassis and black cherries. Medium bodied with excellent length and a soft finish. From late 2005 to 2012. (ES)

90 Chateau Quinault L'Enclos 2001, St Emilion (\$120 Futures)

The '01 Quinault is black/purple coloured, medium bodied offering with loads of chocolate covered coffee bean, earth and blackfruits on the nose. Medium to full bodied, the palate is all chocolate, cherries, minerals and flowers. Length is excellent. Drink until 2016. (ES)