

RESERVE WINES

2000 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

- 90 POINTS, "The blackberry and herb flavors are enhanced by smoky vanilla, and the dusty tannins on the finish turn dry and puckery. It's an elegant wine, not an opulent one, and should be good with steak." *Wine Enthusiast*, June 2004
- THREE STARS, BEST OF THE BEST "Medium-deep ruby color; graphite, grilled nut and cassis nose; nice, medium-weight black fruit and mocha flavors." *Quarterly Review of Wines*, Summer 2004

1999 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

- SILVER, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
- 91 POINTS, Outstanding California Cabernet Under \$50, *Wine Spectator*, November 2002
- 93 POINTS, "Purple-garnet hue. Fragrant bouquet of red currant, black cherry and maple with earthy cedar box and dust accents. Sweet, complex flavors of raspberry and peppery cedar with balancing mocha, tobacco and espresso notes. Buttery close shows fruit and earth." *Wine News*, June 2003
- DOUBLE GOLD, 2003 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
- GOLD, 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
- GOLD, 2003 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition/National Orange Show
- SILVER, 2003 Orange County Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 Tasters Guild International Wine Judging
- SILVER, 2003 West Coast Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 San Diego National Wine Competition
- 88 POINTS, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, California Grapevine May 2003

1999 Reserve Merlot

- 94 POINTS, "Medium ruby hue. Complex varietal bouquet of plum, berry, cedar, clove and herbs. Rich, juicy, integrated flavors of blackberry, cherry, cedar, earth and leather. Black fruit and oak accent the generous finish." *Wine News*, June 2003
- "...provocative and hypnotic...a wine that seethes with seamless elements of smoke and ash, roots and branches, lavender and violets and minerals and very concentrated cassis, black raspberry and black cherry flavors. This one smolders in the glass. Excellent." Fredric Koeppl
- GOLD, 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
- SILVER, 2003 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
- ONE PUFF, *Connoisseurs Guide to California Wine* "...it is deep and will last a long time, and it is one that fans of bold wines will want to cellar."
- 4 STARS, "deep ruby color; big, earthy, black fruit nose; lush, elegant, mocha, vanilla and black fruit flavors; good, soft, well-integrated tannins; nice, round character." *Quarterly Review of Wines*, Summer 2003

2000 Reserve Pinot Noir

THREE STARS, RECOMMENDED, Intense aromatic fruit, fresh, lively Pinot Noir with good weight. Up to 5 years." *Decanter Buying Guide*, London January 2004

1999 Reserve Pinot Noir

- ONE PUFF, "...this well-filled effort sets more than adequate black cherry fruit alongside complementary nuances of walnuts, minerals and cola within a plush, supple and slightly velvety texture. Tannins are well-integrated and backed up by a hint of firming acidity, and, while it offers lots to like today, this one will be better with a couple of years of bottle age." *Connoisseurs Guide to California Wines*, May 2003
- 88 POINTS, *Wine Enthusiast* "Tart-sweet, with an interesting peach-apricot-mango overlay on the deep cherry fruit core. Smoke and vanilla accents and an even, dense texture give this wine the mouthfeel equivalent of a luxury car ride. Tart, dry fruit shines on the long finish. Drinkable now, it's structured enough to develop over the next two years."
- "...lovely in weight and density, expansive in ripe and intense black cherry and cola scents and flavors, and calls up a complex box of dried spices. Excellent." Fredric Koepfel
- 88 POINTS, Pinot Report, April 2003

2001 Reserve Chardonnay, Carneros

- BRONZE, 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
- 92 POINTS, *Wine Enthusiast* Buying Guide "This tremendously opulent wine opens with a mouthburst of well-ripened tropical fruits such as pineapples and mangoes. All that vanilla and buttered toast is balanced and harmonious. Feels lush and creamy-smooth all the way through the long sweetish finish."

2000 Carneros Reserve Chardonnay

- 92 POINTS, *Wine Enthusiast*, December 2003
- ONE PUFF "anything but conventional in its complex and outgoing aromatic display of honey, toast, lees, herbs and slightly developed apple-like fruit, this fat, big-bodied wine follows with like-minded flavors that place a premium on the same leesy, oaky, honeyed qualities in lieu of typical fruit. It is fairly intense and sure to hold attention when teamed with highly flavored foods, and, even if wandering off the beaten path, it wins a star entirely by virtue of its insistent sense of richness." *Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wines*
- SILVER, 2002 Tasters Guild International

FAMILY WINES

2001 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County

- GOLD, 2004 California State Fair
- SILVER, *Decanter* World Wine Awards, May 2004
- 89 POINTS, "Balance and user-friendliness are what this wine is all about. The blackberry and herb flavors aren't overdone. The tannins are thick and dusty, but negotiable. There's a dab of smoky oak, but just enough to season. The result is a very good dinner wine, from fast food to cookbook special." *Wine Enthusiast*, June 2004
- FOUR STARS, BEST OF THE BEST, "Medium-deep ruby color; somewhat closed cassis and mineral nose; ripe, plump, succulent, well-knit, plum, cherry and nutty oak flavors; nicely balanced." *Quarterly Review of Wines*, Summer 2004
- THREE STARS "A pleasant cab, with fruit flavors of plum, blackberry and cherry. Aromas of cassis and tobacco. Medium bodied. *The Press Democrat*, Tasting Room, January 7, 2004
- BEST RED, *Decanter* Magazine, March 2004

2000 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County

- Top 100 Wines 2003, *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 7, 2003
A jammy crowd-pleaser with aromas of plum, black fruit and pleasant wet wool and lively, concentrated flavors of currant, herbs and sweet oak.
- SMART BUY, 87 POINTS "You don't have to open an expensive bottle of Bordeaux to have a great Cabernet Sauvignon with dinner. Ripe plum and cherry flavors are accented with tasty oak features -- vanilla, toast and cedar -- along with an enticing tasty chocolate flavor on the smooth finish. From California. Drink now through 2007." *Wine Spectator*
- "Medium-full in body and nicely balanced, this pleasant wine stays true to Cabernet in its ripe black cherry fruit, its firm yet not abrasive tannins, its length on the palate and its potential to grow a bit with bottle age. It is sweetened by the influence of an oaky, vanilla bean edge. Although the wine is not so opulent or powerful as those costing twice to five times its price, its flavors are definitely in the same camp." Charles Olken, *Oakland Tribune*, October 2003
- ONE PUFF, "This nicely balanced wine stays within the limits imposed by the lighter 2000 vintage, and, while it is never opulent or especially powerful, it is always fruity and focused. Its attractive cherry-like fruit is sweetened with hints of vanilla and cream, and it sports a fine spine of careful tannins that provide both good structure and the potential for modest growth." *Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine*, August 2003
- GOLD, BEST OF CLASS 2003 West Coast Wine Competition
- GOLD, 2003 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
- GOLD, 2003 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition
- 91 POINTS, "Black-garnet hue. Complex scents of red currant, blueberry, earth, cedar and dust. Velvety, forward flavors of sweet blackberry, plum, tobacco and spice. Lengthy close features black pepper and oak." *Wine News*, June 2003
- 89 POINTS, "Soft and very dry, with completely melted tannins. Flavors are classic Cabernet, showing black currant, cassis, dried herbs and green olives." *Wine Enthusiast*, October 2003
- SILVER, 2003 Los Angeles County Fair Wines of the World Competition
- SILVER, 2003 Tasters Guild International Wine Judging

- SILVER, 2003 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition/National Orange Show
- SILVER, 2003 San Diego National Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2002 Sonoma County Harvest Fair

2001 Merlot, Sonoma County

- 88 POINTS, "Benziger keeps the good wines coming. This one straddles the line between ripe cherry and berry fruit flavors and earthier notes of mushrooms and dried herbs. Oak provides the bass. It's dry and tannic, and cries out for fine, rich meats and cheeses." *Wine Enthusiast*, June 2004
- SILVER, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2000 Merlot, Sonoma County

- DOUBLE GOLD, 2003 Tasters Guild International Wine Judging
- GOLD, 2003 San Diego National Wine Competition
- GOLD, 2002 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
- SILVER, 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
- SILVER, 2003 Orange County Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 West Coast Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 Los Angeles County Fair Wines of the World Competition
- ONE PUFF, 87 Points, "In truth, this well-filled bottling gives a bit too much play to the grape's slightly herbal side, but once past its "greener" quirks, it shows plenty of fruit, nicely proportioned sweet oak spice and a slightly fleshy feel that is all Merlot. In spite of its fundamentally forward manner, it is presently closed off by a bit of undisguised tannin at the end, and its best face may not be revealed until a couple of years have passed." *Connoisseur's Guide to California Wines*, July 2003

2000 Syrah, California

- 88 Points Best in Market, Particularly Good Value, "Ripe, with chewy tannins and spicy beef, black cherry, pomegranate and fresh herb tones. Mocha-scented oak and broad-shouldered tannins clamp down and extend through the finish. Drink now through 2008. 6,174 cases made." *Wine Spectator*, July 2003
- HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, Beverage Tasting Institute
- GOLD, 2003 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition/National Orange Show
- GOLD, 2003 Orange County Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 San Diego National Wine Competition
- FOUR STARS, "Big, bold and aggress. Ripe, briary blackberry flavors with a hint of caramel. Full-bodied with pronounced oak." *Press Democrat*, October 15, 2003
- ONE PUFF, 89 Points, "A bigger, riper and decidedly more rustic working that its mate from Bien Nacido, Benziger's second Syrah goes for gusto and hits its mark. Full and fleshy at entry, but getting rougher as it goes, it sports both ample fruit and more than a little underlying tannic hardness that will take some time to resolve. Five to six years seem a minimum wait here, but the wine could grow for twice that long." *Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine*, July 2003
- 85 POINTS, "Dark color, with light but pleasant aromas of blackberries and espresso. Drinks soft and fruity, with easy tannins." *Wine Enthusiast*, October 2003

1999 Syrah, Sonoma County

- GOLD, 95 POINTS, 2002 California State Fair

- GOLD, 2002 Orange County Fair
- GOLD, Dallas Morning News
- SILVER, 2002 Tasters Guild International
- 90 POINTS, “Deep garnet hue. Aromas of sweet vanillin oak and the warmth of alcohol mingle with hints of red berry and cherry. Soft, sweet flavors of brambly red fruit, coffee, smoke and tobacco. Smoke echoes in the close.” *Wine News*, June 2003

1999 Zinfandel, Dry Creek Valley

- SILVER, 90 POINTS, 2002 California State Fair

2000 Pinot Noir, Sonoma County

- SILVER, 2004 California State Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition
- “When pinots are good, they possess everything I look for in a red wine: a seductive bouquet, a lush and velvety texture, and shimmering flavors that exquisitely balance elegance with earthiness. They’re the perfect match for grilled salmon, grilled chicken or mushrooms.” Jerry Shriver, *USA Today*, September 19, 2003
- GOLD, 2003 Pacific Rim International Wine Competition/National Orange Show
- GOLD, 2003 Los Angeles County Fair Wines of the World Competition
- THREE STARS, BEST OF THE BEST “Medium-deep ruby/garnet color; fresh, perky, black fruit and spice aromas and flavors; nice taut, well-knit character.” *Quarterly Review of Wines*, Summer 2004
- 3 STARS, *Decanter*, January 2004
- SILVER, 2003 Orange County Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 West Coast Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition
- “...from its first light-medium intensity aroma to its clean but quiet flavors, it is always solid, well-made and correct. Partner it with grilled veal chops.” *Connoisseurs Guide to California Wine*, May 2003
- 2 Stars Quite Good (13.83), *Decanter*, January 2004

1999 Pinot Noir, California

- DOUBLE GOLD, 2002 Tasters Guild International
- GOLD, 2002 Los Angeles County Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, San Francisco Chronicle Wine Awards
- SILVER, 2002 San Francisco International Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2002 Orange County Fair Wine Competition
- HIGHLY RECOMMENDED “Aromas of leather and cloves, big, rich, minty red raspberry flavors, silky and smooth.” Fred Tasker, *The Miami Herald*, November 25, 2001
- SILVER, 2002 San Francisco Wine Competition

2002 Chardonnay, Carneros

- SMART BUY, “Creamy richness, good depth, lively acidity, vibrant apple and pear fruit and zesty oak – yet it’s seamlessly balanced.” *Wine Spectator*, July 31, 2004
- DOUBLE GOLD, BEST OF CALIFORNIA, BEST OF CLASS SONOMA APPELLATIONS, 2004 California State Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2004 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

2001 Chardonnay, Carneros

- GOLD MEDAL, 95 POINTS, 2003 California State Fair
- 88 POINTS, *Wine Enthusiast*, December 2003
- SILVER, 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair
- SILVER, 2003 Orange County Fair Wine Competition
- SILVER, 2003 Tasters Guild International Wine Judging

2002 Fume Blanc, North Coast

- FOUR STARS, BEST OF THE BEST, BEST VALUE “Brilliant green-gold color; bright, fresh, apple and toast aromas and flavors; lush, nougaty underlay; excellent balance; nice, round, nutty finish.” *Quarterly Review of Wines*, Summer 2004
- SILVER, 2004 California State Fair Wine Competition

2001 Fume Blanc, North Coast

- “...one of the winery’s most consistent and good wines and always a reasonable value.” *Decanter*
- SILVER, 2003 San Francisco International Wine Competition

SINGLE VINEYARD WINES

2001 Tribute

- “The nose is aromatic with black berry jam, cassis, pepper, vanilla, coffee and black olive aromas mixed with a background of tobacco, barnyard, licorice and gamey notes. Rich, concentrated, round the tannins are super supple and ripe. Intense vanilla, coffee, tobacco, licorice and pepper flavours mix with mint, olive and black berry jam notes. The finish is slightly, dry and firm at this point with more cassis, violet and coffee. Long, balanced and surprisingly drinkable now it will keep for three to seven years comfortably. Certainly one of the best ever for Benziger and true "tribute" to biodynamic production. Fabulous collector's wine.” Tony Gismondi, Canadian Liquor Board, May 2004
- “Just released Benziger 2001 Tribute. The limited bottling of biodynamically grown (a higher form of organic) blend of four grapes, primarily Cabernet Sauvignon, is simply delicious, with notes of cassis, mocha and ripe tannins.” *New York Post*, June 23, 2004

2000 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma Mountain

- [Food & Wine, January 2004](#), [Wine Guide “Going Green”](#), by Richard Nalley
[10 top Bottles “This well-known Sonoma family winery, now being farmed biodynamically, has turned out a smooth, mouth-filling, deeply colored cabernet.”](#)

2000 Merlot, Blue Rock Vineyard

- 90 POINTS, BEST BUY, Global Vintage Quarterly, Summer 2003
- GOLD, 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair

2000 Merlot, McNab Ranch

- 92 POINTS, BEST BUY, Global Vintage Quarterly, Summer 2003

2000 Syrah, Bien Nacido Vineyard

- 91 POINTS, “Dense and concentrated, a wine of considerable complexity and interest. Has a mélange of aromas including blackberries, white pepper, raw meat and smoky oak. In the mouth, the wine is rich and tannic, with a solid core of blackberry fruit.” *Wine Enthusiast*, October 2003
- 90 POINTS, “Purple hue with a fuchsia rim. Aromas of maple, raspberry and mint. Juicy flavors of plum, tobacco and new oak. Lasting, well-extracted finish displaying a balanced, defined sweetness.” *Wine News*, June 2003
- ONE PUFF, 90 Points, “Many-layered aromas of ripe plums, berries, cocoa, minerals and white pepper are met in kind by the deep and nicely composed flavors of this complex and highly oaked young Syrah. The wine is firmly structured with polished tannins and a twist of evident acidity, and it displays a proper bit of grip to the finish without the cost of coarseness. Its oak gets more than its share of the spotlight just now, but haste in drinking is not necessary, and it will reveal more and better with three to five years of age.” *Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wines*, July 2003
- 87 POINTS, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, Beverage Testing Institute

1999 Syrah, Bien Nacido Vineyard

- 90 POINTS, *Wine Enthusiast* “Opens with a burst of blackberry, mint, game and smoky oak, and turns rich and flavorful in the mouth, with enormous concentration and depth of

flavor. Bone dry, the fancy berry flavors float in a silky texture framed by toasty oak.”
July 2002

- GOLD, 2002 Sonoma County Harvest Fair

2000 Pinot Noir, Bien Nacido

- FOUR STARS, *Press Democrat*, May 2004
- [“Top Ten For March”](#) [“This is a knockout Pinot, with black cherry, bright spice and soft oak.”](#) by Anthony Dias Blue *Bon Appetit Magazine* March 2004
- TWO PUFFS, “Showing some of the complexities exhibited by 1999 Reserve Pinot Noir, this Benziger effort is deep and ripe with a stronger emphasis on terroir-driven, rooty and cola-like notes along with glimpses of tobacco and chocolate. Fairly full in weight and fleshy in feel on the palate, it is open and accessible at every stop and seems to invite early drinking.” *Connoisseurs Guide to California Wine*, May 2003
- 89 POINTS, “Medium ruby hue. Highly perfumed scents of red cherry, raspberry, sweet oak, bay leaf and smoke. Velvety mouthfeel with big flavors of roasted cherry, vanilla, coffee, spicy cedar and a hint of orange peel. Pekoe tea marks the finish.” *Wine News*, June 2003
- 87 POINTS, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, *California Grapevine* May 2003

1999 Pinot Noir, Bien Nacido

- 91 POINTS, *Pinot Report*, April 2003
- 86 POINTS, *Wine Spectator* October 2002 “Cola, bramble and hot, dry wood make up the powerful bouquet, with strawberry and herbal green flavors following. Steeped tea and tangy red fruit carries the finish of this balanced Pinot that offers both nice balance and a full mouthfeel.”

2001 Port

- SILVER, 2003 Sonoma County Harvest Fair