

James Laube's Recommended California Chardonnays

For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or www.winespectator.com.
An alphabetical listing of all wines tasted for this report is available at www.winespectator.com/073109.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
SHIBUMI KNOLL Chardonnay Russian River Valley Buena Tierra Vineyard 2005 Pure and delicious, this rich, elegant, layered expression of Chardonnay is focused and smooth, offering a wealth of flavor built around green apple, fig, melon and spice.	97	\$45
MARCASSIN Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Zio Tony Ranch 2004 Springs to life on the palate, with ultrarich layers of fig, nectarine, smoke and mineral. Full-bodied, elegant and focused, ending with apple, lime and subtle butterscotch.	96	\$75
KAZMER & BLAISE Chardonnay Carneros Boonfly's Hill 2006 Deliciously complex, rich and layered, showing a mix of fig, apricot, spice and smoky, toasty oak, with a wonderful finish.	95	\$50
KISTLER Chardonnay Sonoma Mountain McCrea Vineyard 2006 Fresh, rich and vibrant, deep and concentrated, with spicy green apple and pear flavors and a lemon-citrus shading.	95	\$75
LEWIS Chardonnay Russian River Valley 2007 This opulent, full-bodied version has amazing richness, focus, complexity and range of flavor, with pear, fig and citrus.	95	\$48
LONDER Chardonnay Anderson Valley Corby Vineyards 2007 Offers wonderful intensity and purity of fruit, with ripe, zesty green apple, tangerine, nectarine and subtle mineral notes.	95	\$30
PETER MICHAEL Chardonnay Sonoma County Ma Belle-Fille 2007 Deliciously complex, with a rich, elegant, layered presentation of citrus-infused green apple, spice and toasty oak.	95	\$85
RAMEY Chardonnay Russian River Valley Ritchie Vineyard 2006 Shows citrus and tropical fruit, with hints of anise and buttery oak, yet the acidity keeps the flavors tangy and vibrant.	95	\$70
THREE STICKS Chardonnay Sonoma Valley Durell Vineyard 2006 Rich and creamy, with ripe fig, apricot, melon and smoky hazelnut flavors that are pure, complex, deep and persistent.	95	\$45
TOR Chardonnay Sonoma Valley Durell Vineyard Wente Clone 2007 Opulent yet elegant, offering tiers of fig, honeydew melon and spicy, toasty oak, with hints of hazelnut.	95	\$60

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
AU BON CLIMAT Chardonnay Santa Barbara County 2007 Crisp and tightly wound, with sleek pineapple, melon and green apple notes that are firm, focused and full-bodied.	91	\$20
MOUNT EDEN Chardonnay Edna Valley Wolff Vineyard 2007 Ripe and floral, with fleshy peach, nectarine, melon and spice. Full-bodied, focused and elegant.	91	\$20

TOP VALUES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
BEAULIEU VINEYARD Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros 2007 Shows ripe, complex and well-defined nectarine, tangerine and spicy pear flavors. Gains depth and richness on the finish.	90	\$17
BUEHLER Chardonnay Russian River Valley 2007 Fresh, lively and medium-bodied, with alluring floral, peach and honeysuckle fruit that's smooth and creamy.	90	\$16
SOUVERAIN Chardonnay Alexander Valley 2007 Complex aromas of citrus, pear, apple and honeysuckle, with touches of toasty oak. Full-bodied, rich and elegant.	90	\$17
ANGELINE Chardonnay Sonoma County 2007 Pure, clean and delicate, with a beam of spicy pear, floral and honeysuckle flavors that are long and lingering.	88	\$15
CUPCAKE Chardonnay Central Coast 2007 Offers citrus blossom and grapefruit pith, with fresh, snappy acidity, tangerine-laced flavors and a clean finish.	88	\$13
HEALDSBURG RANCHES Chardonnay Sonoma County Unoaked 2007 Intense, with green pineapple, green apple and tropical fruit.	88	\$14
SEBASTIANI Chardonnay Sonoma County 2007 Fresh floral, honeysuckle and honeydew melon aromas fold over to the palate, where they're focused and full-bodied.	88	\$13
STERLING Chardonnay Central Coast Vintner's Collection 2007 Honeysuckle, citrus and Key lime aromas are fresh and lively, with an array of ripe fruit flavors.	88	\$10
WINE CUBE Chardonnay California 2007 This complex, floral version is intense yet supple and fleshy.	88	\$17 3L
BOGLE Chardonnay California 2007 Intense and vibrant, with pear, citrus, green apple and melon.	87	\$10
DYNAMITE Chardonnay North Coast 2007 Pithy citrus and apple skin flavors are sleek and focused.	87	\$11
EDNA VALLEY Chardonnay San Luis Obispo County Paragon 2007 Ripe, clean, floral and spicy, with green apple and citrus.	87	\$12
FETZER Chardonnay California Valley Oaks 2008 Floral and fleshy, with a citrus edge to the green apple flavors.	87	\$9
SNAP DRAGON Chardonnay California 2007 Elegant, with spicy tangerine, nectarine, pear and honeydew melon fruit that's pure and refreshing.	87	\$8
STERLING Chardonnay Mendocino 2007 Flinty, with tart sour lemon, citrus and green racy fruit flavors.	87	\$13
WHITE TRUCK Chardonnay Santa Barbara County Unoaked 2007 Shows fragrant floral notes, with pear, spice and honeysuckle.	87	\$12
SMOKING LOON Chardonnay California 2006 Balanced, with smoky cedar, pear and green apple flavors.	86	\$9
ROUND HILL Chardonnay California 2007 Creamy peach, apricot and honeydew melon flavors are supple and cleansing.	85	\$8