



# International Wine Cellar

the consumer's passport to fine wine

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## LANDMARK

### 2007 Overlook Chardonnay 90

Sonoma, Monterey, and Santa Barbara Counties (\$27) Yellow-gold. Ripe Pear, peach and melon on the nose, with suave floral and baking spice notes gaining strength with air. Strikes a balance of richness and vivacity, picking up bitter lemon zest and tarragon character on the nicely focused finish.

### 2007 Damaris Reserve Chardonnay 93

Sonoma County (\$40) Green-gold. Powerful aromas of orchard fruits, orange, sweet butter, lily of the valley and smoky lees, plus a strong undercurrent of iodine; smells like a serious, old-school Chassagne-Montrachet. Round and fleshy, with deep, smoky pear, sweet citrus and licorice flavors and slow-building spiciness. The smoky and floral qualities resonate on the finish, which is impressively incisive and long.

### 2007 Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay 93

Sonoma Coast (\$47) Light gold. Intensely perfumed bouquet of lime zest, lemongrass, pear skin and smoky lees. Nervy citrus and orchard fruit flavors are given depth by sweet butter and tarragon notes and a slow-building iodine quality. The strikingly pure and persistent finish repeats the lime note. I'd put this one away for at least another three years to let it unwind. Some of this fruit was picked on November 1st.

### 2007 Lorenzo Vineyard Chardonnay 94

Russian River Valley (\$55) Yellow-gold. Potent aromas of pear, citrus pith, smoked meat and toasty lees. A sexy floral quality builds with air and carries onto the palate, adding complexity to the spicy orchard fruit and Meyer lemon flavors. The leanness echoes on the finish, which is gently chewy, mineral-driven and impressively long.

### 2007 Grand Detour Pinot Noir 91

Sonoma Coast (\$40) Bright red. Wild strawberry and raspberry on the nose, with suave floral and spice notes adding vivacity. Extremely fresh, nervy red berry flavors pack a serious punch but seem weightless and betray no edges or obvious tannins. This silky, seductive pinot finishes with mineral-laced red fruits and excellent clarity.

### 2007 Kanzler Vineyard Pinot Noir 92

Sonoma Coast (\$65) Deep, vivid red. Black raspberry and candied cherry aromas are complicated by smoky Indian spices, minerals and a touch of black tea. Impressively fresh dark berry flavors manage to be both deep and lively, picking up an exotic floral pastille quality with air. "Tannins creep in on the finish, adding grip to the fleshy black fruit.

### 2007 Solomon Hills Pinot Noir 91

Santa Maria Valley (\$55) Ruby -red. Medicinal cherry and licorice aromas are brightened by zesty mineral and floral notes. Sappy dark berry and cherry preserve flavors are framed by velvety tannins, which gain strength with air. A very rich, deep pinot that softens a bit with aeration, leaving brown spice and bitter cherry notes in its wake.

### 2007 Steel Plow Syrah 91

Sonoma Valley (\$30) Saturated ruby. Extremely primary nose displays dark berry and cherry skin scents, along with cracked pepper and black olive. Deep and sweet on the palate, with chewy dark fruit compote flavors, youthfully firm tannins and a late note of candied violet. Gains energy with air and finishes with impressive lift and cut.