

2008 BEAUX FRERES Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge

The Beaux Frères Vineyard Oregon 160

Bright red. Highly perfumed, seductive bouquet of black raspberry, cherry-cola, incense and dried rose, with a slow-mounting mineral element. Lively but strikingly concentrated as well, offering incisive red fruit and floral pastille flavors underscored by intense spice and mineral qualities. Really stains the palate and finishes with superb clarity and juicy, spicy raspberry and cherry notes. A tiny bit of stems were used in this year's wine. This wine is deftly balanced to let the gorgeous raspberry, cherry and espresso flavors emerge easily and waft through the long, expressive finish, remarkably without much weight.

Impressive for its style and refinement.

Drink now through 2018. 3,400 cases made.

Rated 93 Points Wine Spectator

Rated 94 Points Stephen Tanzer's Int'l Wine Cellar

2004 VERITE Proprietary Red Blend 'Le Muse' Sonoma 250

The inky/ruby/plum/purple-tinged 2004 La Muse, primarily Merlot with a bit of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon from Bennett Valley, Alexander Valley, and Knight's Valley, is meant to be a Pomerol-styled effort. Notions The Old and New Worlds meet in this massively structured yet agile and balanced blend, which shows aromas of black currant, fresh earth and leather, with lean flavors of blackberry, cedar and mineral that finish with chewy tannins. Abundant spice, subtle notes of French oak, and a full-bodied, fleshy personality result in an enjoyable as well as accessible wine to drink over the next 12-15+ years.

Rated 93 Points Robert Parker

Rated: 87 Wine Spectator



2006 HARLAN ESTATE Proprietary Red Oakville, Napa 640

The 2006 Harlan Estate has turned out better than I originally predicted. Its dense ruby/purple color is followed by classic aromas of crème de cassis, melted licorice, smoked meats, burning embers, and graphite. It has thrown off some of the tannic clout it displayed last year, revealing great balance. A candidate for "wine of the vintage," this dense, full-bodied effort has 25+ years of life ahead of it.

Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot

Rated 96 Points Robert Parker

Score: 94 Wine Spectator

THE BOND STORY

Bond is the world-class project of Harlan Estates owner Bill Harlan. It is a simple concept – take 20+-year leases on some of the finest vineyard sites in all of Napa Valley, bring in your own winemaker (the well-known Bob Levy, along with Michel Rolland in the background), and produce these single vineyard wines, with the stuff considered not good enough culled out and blended together into their second wine, called Matriarch. All of these wines are aged for nearly two years in 100% new French oak and bottled with no fining or filtration. They are all meant for 25 or even possibly 35+ years of aging. There are now five separate vineyards in the Bond portfolio. Quella comes from a 10-acre vineyard in Spring Valley near Howell Mountain, planted on volcanic white ash called tufa. The St. Eden comes from a valley floor vineyard in the Oakville corridor. Melbury is from Pritchard Hill, overlooking Lake Hennessy, Vecina a east-facing hillside neighbor to Harlan Estate, and E Pluribus a Spring Mountain vineyard overlooking St. Helena.

BOND SELECTIONS:

2003 BOND Proprietary Red Wine 'Vecina' Napa Valley 450

The 2003 Vecina, which comes from a site near Harlan Estate, is a firm, tannic, backward wine displaying a gravelly, scorched earth, hot rock, black currant, licorice, and herb-scented bouquet. In the mouth, it is opulent. Tight, rich, and ruggedly constructed with medium to full body. Layers of plum, blackberry and wild berry fruit that manages to straddle the line and avoid being overripe. Rich and fleshy, yet with firm tannins and a trace of heat showing on the palate.

Benefits from cellaring, and consume it over the following 15.

Rated 93 points by Robert Parker

Rated: 88 Wine Spectator

2006 BOND Proprietary Red Wine 'Vecina' Napa Valley 450

The 2006 Vecina has turned out even better than expected last year. Graphite/lead pencil notes intermixed with hints of burning embers and charcoal, an opaque purple color, and sweet blackberry and roasted espresso notes are all present in this wine, which is masculine, muscular, tannic, but incredibly well-endowed and a potential candidate for 30 years of aging.

This wine needs 4-5 years of cellaring and should last three decades.

Rated 95+ Points Robert Parker

Rated 88 Points Wine Spectator

2005 BOND Cabernet Sauvignon 'St. Eden' Oakville, Napa 475

Captivating, with extraordinary depth and palate presence is the dense ruby/purple-colored, full-bodied 2005 St. Eden. Intense and vibrant, with a tight core of spicy currant, black cherry and wild berry fruit shaded by toasty, creamy oak and ending with a nice focus on the core flavors. It possesses the bluer, blacker fruits that seem to come from this area of Pritchard Hill in addition to extraordinary notes of charcoal, acacia flowers, blueberry and blackberry liqueur. This seamlessly constructed 2005 is a sensational effort that is displaying even greater potential than last year. It will drink beautifully for three decades.

Rated 96 Points Robert Parker

Rated: 92 Wine Spectator

2006 BOND Cabernet Sauvignon 'St. Eden' Oakville, Napa 475

From the valley floor vineyard in Oakville, the 2006 St. Eden has shed some of its tannic clout of last year and taken on a generously endowed style, with stunning black fruits, roasted herbs, sweet cassis, graphite, and new oak. Fleshy and even opulent (an anomaly for a 2006), this is an impressively endowed Cabernet Sauvignon to drink over the next 25 years.

Rated 94 Points Robert Parker

Rated 90 Points Wine Spectator

2006 BOND Proprietary Red Wine 'E Pluribus' Napa Valley 475

The 2006 E Pluribus, like all of these Cabernet Sauvignons, is youthful, with an opaque purple color and a big, sweet nose of blueberry mixed with spring flowers and wet rocks. Full-bodied, powerful, with formidable structure. This wine can be cellared for 4-5 years easily, but will no doubt continue to be very good over the next 25 years.

Rated 94 Points Robert Parker

Rated 90 Points Wine Spectator

2007 BOND Proprietary Red Wine 'E Pluribus' Napa Valley 500

A perfect wine, the 2007 Vecina provides a prodigious display of blackberries, charcoal, black currants, burning embers and a La Mission-Haut-Brion-like hot rock/gravelly character. The most tannic as well as most concentrated and layered of the 2007s, this is a long-term, but utterly brilliant wine. In many ways it reminds me of the Harlan Estate itself given its prodigious build and potential for extended longevity. It merits 4-5 years of bottle age and should drink well for three decades thereafter. Only 365 Cases made.

Rated 100 PERFECT Points Robert Parker

Rated 94 Points Wine Spectator

