

1996 John Kaltsis Nemea

Rating: 87
Drink: 1998-2001

Made from the St. George grape, this classy, smoky, kirsch and black cherry-scented wine displays good sweetness and ripeness on the palate, medium body, light tannin, and evidence of spicy oak. It is a well-made, clean, dry red to drink over the next 2-3 years.

Importer: Dan Kravitz, Hand Picked Selections, Warrenton, VA; tel. (540) 347-9400....

- Robert Parker (June, 1998)

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2000 Domaine Gerovassiliou Syrah G

Rating: 88
Drink: 2002-2007

Gerovassiliou's medium to dark ruby-colored 2000 Syrah G has a deep, warm aromatic profile composed of jammy blackberries, raspberries, and spices. It is medium to full-bodied, lush, silky-textured, and candied. Its character reveals excellent depth to its cassia liqueur, chocolate, blackberry, and asphalt-flavored personality. Greek Syrah? Why not? Many believe it was Alexander the Great who brought the varietal to the Mediterranean from his invasions of Persia (modern day Iran, home to the city of Shiraz). Projected maturity: now-2007.

Importer: A Sotiris Bafitis Selection, Vina Mediterranean, Upper Marlboro, MD; Tel. (301) 599-8380...

- Pierre Rovani (April, 2002)

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1996 Ktima Montofoli

Rating: 89
Drink: 2001-2007

Produced from three varietals indigenous to Greece, Assirtiko, Aidani, and Athiri, the 1996 sweet wine from Ktima Montofoli has a golden straw color and reveals appealing aromas of spiced nuts and oranges, somewhat reminiscent of a sherry. On the palate, flavors of creme brulee, dried straw, and jammy white grapes are found in this complex, sweet beauty. It is reminiscent of a hypothetical blend of a sweet sherry and a vin de paille from France. Medium-bodied and velvety-textured, it is concentrated, intensely flavorful, and quite refined. Drink it over the next 5-6 years.

Importer: A Sotiris Bafitis Selection, Vina Mediterranean, Upper Marlboro, MD; Tel. (301) 599-8380....

- Pierre Rovani (April, 2001)

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1983 Argyros Estate Vin Santo

Rating: 92
Drink: 2002-2020

The sweet 1983 Vin Santo is produced from 80 year old Assyrtiko vines. Using the same technique as is employed for Italian Vin Santos (the Greeks say the Italians learned it from them, and I'm sure the Italians say the contrary), the grapes are dried on straw for 14 days before pressing. This complex wine displays a dark amber/mahogany color as well as mocha cream, dried currant, golden raisin, and molasses aromas. This is a lush, supple, medium-bodied, intense, an oily-textured wine with a seemingly unending grip on the taster's palate. Prunes, plums, licorice, molasses, cedar, spices, and jammy raspberries can be discerned in its thick character as well as in its extensive finish. Projected maturity: now-2020+.

Importer: A Sotiris Bafitis Selection, Vina Mediterranean, Upper Marlboro, MD; Tel. (301) 599-8380....

- Pierre Rovani (April, 2002)

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