

### 2008 Willi Haag Riesling A P #3

Also recommended, but no tasting note given.

Marcus Haag felt that in view of the quality of wine he has been bottling as Spatlese in recent vintages, it would be better to conservatively bottle most of his 2008s as Kabinett, and in view of the understated nature of even many of the best of them, this was probably a wise move. Wines at this address have long represented very good value, and keeping them in the lower Pradikat echelons enhances that. Nevertheless, I would first seek out Haag's often outstanding 2007s (which I reported on in issue 185).

Various importers including Winebow Inc., Montvale, NJ; tel. (201) 445-0620

- David Schildknecht (February, 2010)

Drink: 2014-2028

### 2008 Acoustic Auditoron

The 2008 Auditori is 100% Garnacha from 80- to 100-year-old vines aged for 13 months in French oak. Opaque purple-colored, it displays a fragrant bouquet of incense, red licorice, violets, black cherry, and plum. On the palate this buxom wine is loaded with succulent red and black fruit, lots of spice, and incipient complexity. It will benefit from several more years of cellaring and offer prime drinking from 2014 to 2028.

Importer: Steve Miles Selections, Denver, CO; tel. (303) 495-3811

- Jay Miller (April, 2010)

Drink: 2010-2050

### 2000 Haut Brion

Its bigger sister, the 2000 Haut-Brion (a blend of 51% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc) showed incredibly at the tasting, and for me is one of the three or four most prodigious wines of the vintage. A compelling nose of roasted herbs, scorched earth, sweet blueberries, plums, black currants, and a hint of graphite is followed by a deep, layered, sumptuously textured, full-bodied Haut-Brion, but one with extraordinary complexity. This wine seems more evolved and approachable than I had expected it to be at age 10. My window of maturity seven years ago was 2012-2040, but I would change that to 2010-2050.

Haut-Brion can be among the trickiest Bordeaux to taste young, often needing a full decade before the extraordinary complexity that marks this terroir begins to emerge. I was thrilled to see how well both the second wine, Bahans Haut-Brion, and Haut-Brion performed in this tasting, and both scores are slight upgrades.

- Robert Parker (June, 2010)

## 2007 P Antinori Tignanello

Antinori's 2007 Tignanello is wonderfully ripe and seductive in its dark cherries, flowers, spices, tobacco, sage, cedar, mint and minerals. This is as opulent a Tignanello as I have ever tasted but there is just enough acidity and structure from the Sangiovese to keep things from going over the top. The wine's richness and warmth are such that in a blind tasting I mistook the 2007 Tignanello for a wine from Maremma! The dense, muscular fruit follows through to an impeccable finish with no hard edges and impossibly fine, silky tannins. Simply put, the 2007 is a magnificent Tignanello. The 2007 Tignanello is 80% Sangiovese aged in 300-liter French oak barrels (1/3 new), 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc, both aged in 100% new 225-liter French oak barriques. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2027.

I continue to be amazed at the high average quality Antinori achieves across a production that exceeds a whopping 20 million bottles per year. This is a fabulous set of new releases. Long-time Oenologist Renzo Cotarella could certainly have rested on his laurels; after all he is already one of Italy's most celebrated winemakers. Instead, Cotarella continues to improve quality in a meaningful way. The highlights are the 2007s, whic...

- Antonio Galloni (October, 2010)