



Issue #190, August 2010

2009 La Belle Blonde - 93 Points

"The 2009 La Belle Blonde is composed of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon which was barrel-fermented, put through full malolactic, and bottled without fining or filtration. Medium gold-colored, it offers up a splendid perfume of brioche, melon, honeysuckle, mineral, and lemon-lime. Creamy textured, savory, and exceptionally concentrated, it is a wine of finesse with intensity to burn."

2007 Cabernet Franc - 94 Points

"The 2007 Cabernet Franc (100%) was harvested at 2.2 tons and aged in 75% new French oak for 26 months. Purple/black in color, it offers up an exotic array of herbs, olives, licorice, espresso, Asian spices, black currant, and blackberry. Dense, layered, opulent, and super-rich, on the palate, this impeccably balanced wine is complete in every way. All it requires is another 5-7 years of cellaring."

2007 Reserve Cab Sauv. 98 Points

"The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve had 140+ days of hang-time with its canopy with picking extended through November 3. Purple/black, opaque, and brooding, it delivers an other-worldly bouquet of wood smoke, lavender, licorice, espresso, Asian spices, incense, a hint of balsamic, blackberry, and black currant. Dense, rich, loaded, and totally pleasure-bent, this phenomenal effort is remarkably fresh and symmetrical despite its size and power. It will easily see its 30th birthday but that is a conservative estimate."

2007 Mystique - 92 Points

"...a blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Cabernet Franc aged in 25% new French oak for 24 months. Purple/black in color, it delivers a nose of balsam wood, mineral, lavender, spice box, and intense black cherry, and black currant fruit. Medium to full-bodied, ripe, and structured on the palate, it has loads of fruit and spice, outstanding concentration, impeccable balance, and a lengthy, fruit-filled finish. It will evolve for several years and will deliver prime drinking from 2013 to 2022. It is an outstanding value."

2007 L'Orage - 95 Points

"...is made up of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Cabernet Franc aged in 75% new French oak for 28 months before bottling without fining or filtration. Purple/black in color with a superb, brooding nose of herbs, lavender, Asian spices, tobacco, black currant, and blackberry. On the palate it is full-bodied, opulent, dense, rich, and intensely flavored. The oak, tannin, and alcohol are totally harmonious, and all that is missing is another decade of cellaring. It will offer a drinking window extending from 2017 to 2037."

2007 Reserve Syrah- 98 Points

"The 2007 Syrah Reserve was aged in 100% new French oak for 30 months. Purple/black and brooding, it offers up an exotic amalgam of smoked meat, game, bacon, blueberry, and plum. Velvety smooth, layered, and opulent, this chewy, powerful Syrah has remarkable power and length. It is hard to resist now but it should easily evolve for a decade and drink well through its 30th birthday."



Issue #165, October 2009

2008 La Belle Blonde - 90 Points

"The two value-priced wines in the portfolio begin with the 2008 La Belle Blonde, a 100% barrel-fermented Semillon. Light gold-colored; it exhibits a bouquet of candle wax, lanolin, and melon. Round, smooth-textured, and flavorful on the palate, this dry Semillon's oak is well-integrated and its finish is long and pure. It may well evolve for several years but there is no need to wait."

2006 Cabernet Franc - 92 Points

"The 2006 Cabernet Franc was aged for 26 months in 50% new French oak. Produced from yields under 2 tons per acre, it offers up a dramatically spicy perfume of smoke, cinnamon, clove, damp earth, and black currant. This leads to a velvety-textured, unctuous wine with plenty of body, ripe tannin, and considerable complexity. The vibrant acidity and well-integrated oak make for an impeccably balanced wine that should evolve for 4-6 years and drink well through 2026."

2006 Reserve Cabernet Sauv. 95 Points

"There are only 250 cases of the 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve sourced from the tenderloin (Block 1) of the Sheridan Vineyard and aged for 30 months in 100% new French oak. A glass-coating opaque purple color, it exhibits a brooding bouquet of toasty oak, cocoa, cassis, blackberry, and incense. Dense, rich, and super-concentrated on the palate, the wine is mouth-filling, focused, and splendidly balanced. It will reward 6-8 years of cellaring and drink well through 2030."

2006 Mystique - 91 Points

"The 2006 Mystique is a blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Cabernet Franc aged for 26 months in seasoned French oak. Opaque purple/black colored, it offers up a brooding nose of damp earth, spice box, black cherry, and black currant. Layered on the palate, it is already revealing some complexity as well as plenty of depth and concentration. It will benefit from several years of additional cellaring and should provide pleasure through 2021."

2006 L'Orage - 94 Points

The 2006 L'Orage is composed of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Cabernet Franc aged for 26 months in 50% new French oak. Opaque purple/black in color, it has an alluring perfume of pain grille, spice box, creme de cassis, and blackberry. Rich, layered, and opulent on the palate, this weighty effort has fully integrated its oak and the lengthy finish suggests a long life ahead. It will offer a drinking window extending from 2013 to 2026."

2006 Reserve Syrah- 97 Points

"The 2006 Syrah Reserve is a spectacular effort. Yields for the wine were 1 ton per acre with no crop thinning. It was aged for 30 months in 100% new French oak. Fragrant aromas of vanilla, chocolate, and coconut are reminiscent of an Almond Joy candy bar. Add notes of bacon, smoked meat, and blueberry to the mix and it becomes an exotic, kinky elixir."



92

Sheridan Vineyard 2004 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley); \$60.

This is 100% new oak (primarily Taransaud, 32 months), and it's a marvelous example of the grape, the vineyard and the strengths of Washington fruit. The Shafer Hillside Select is the inspiration for the extended barrel aging and the focus on round, sweet tannins. This is a tight wine, with a lovely purity of fruit that captures the cassis, the black cherry, the subtle herbal character of the Cabernet grape. This is from the oldest block on the vineyard—now eight year old vines. —PG

94

Sheridan Vineyard 2005 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley); \$75.

More powerful and potent than the '04, this simply has more juice, more depth, more power and more detail than any previous Sheridan wine. The fruit is exceptional—dense black cherry and cassis, with a sense of compact layering that promises great aging potential. This was 30 months in oak but does not seem oaky in any way. It already has the balance, the polish and the length to justify long-term cellaring. Tannins are ripe and supple, bring the hints of dried herb and black olive. —PG

93

Sheridan Vineyard 2004 Reserve Syrah (Yakima Valley); \$60.

This is just 14.2% alcohol, so despite the richness and ripeness, this is not fat or flabby. The fruit has concentrated black cherry and cassis flavors, and the smoky, *pain grille*' flavors of barrel aging are nicely integrated. Aromatically this wine is just beginning to evolve, with complex plum, prune, cherry liqueur, coffee and smoke. —PG

93

Sheridan Vineyard 2005 Reserve Syrah (Yakima Valley); \$60.

Younger and more raw than the 2004 Reserve, this spent 30 months in barrel. The fruit is similar to the '04, with ripe plum, prune, and cherry liqueur. The edges are not quite as smooth as '04, there is a slight impression of alcohol and a hint of roughness in the tannins. But overall this is a fine companion to the '04, with a finish that brings in earth flavors of soil, compost and forest floor. —PG