



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

JUNE 2008

92 Buty Columbia Rediviva Horse Heaven Hills 2005 (\$50) Most of the fruit sourced from the Champoux Vineyard. Saturated purple in color, it has an alluring perfume of *pain grillé*, scorched earth, mineral, black currant and blueberry. Layered, concentrated, and elegant, this smooth-textured wine offers a persistent finish and several years of aging potential. It will provide peak drinking from 2011 to 2020.

91 Buty Conner Lee Vineyard Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2006 (\$35) Sourced from one of Washington's finest sites for Chardonnay. The wine was barrel-fermented with native yeasts and aged in 25% new French oak. Light to medium-gold, it offers up smoky/toasty notes along with pear, pineapple, and mango aromas and flavors. The wine is beautifully focused and delineated, has exceptional balance, and a lengthy, fruit-filled finish. It should evolve for 2-3 years but can be enjoyed now through 2011.

90 Buty Sémillon & Sauvignon Blanc Columbia Valley 2006 (\$25) Light gold-colored with a fragrant bouquet of citrus, candle wax, and melon. It has a creamy texture, excellent persistence, and vibrant acidity for balance. It shouts out for Maryland Rockfish or Chilean Sea Bass. This is a wine that is likely to evolve for several years. Buty showed me the 2003 Sémillon-Sauvignon Blanc and it is in mint condition.

90 Buty Merlot & Cabernet Franc Columbia Valley 2006 (\$35) Sourced from Champoux and Conner Lee Vineyards. Opaque purple-colored, it delivers a fragrant bouquet of violets, spice box, fresh herbs, earth, and red currants. It has a smooth entry onto the palate showing plenty of ripe fruit, precision flavors, and an elegant personality. It will evolve for several years and be at its best from 2011 to 2021. Its long finish is reminiscent of a Saint-Emilion Grand Cru.

AUGUST 2007

91 Buty Rediviva of the Stones Walla Walla Valley 2004 (\$45) This 72% Syrah and 28% Cabernet Sauvignon is purple-colored, it emits a complex array of floral, blueberry, earth, leather, and other kinky, wild fruit aromas with hints of smoked meat in the background. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, layered, ripe, and packed with spicy, meaty flavors leading to a lengthy, 45+ second finish. Give this hedonistic effort 2-4 years of bottle age and drink it through 2025.



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AUGUST 2007

90 Buty Conner Lee Vineyard Chardonnay Columbia Valley 2005 (\$30) The barrel-fermented Chardonnay delivers pear and apple aromas and flavors in its medium-bodied personality. This smoothly-textured wine offers ripe fruit, excellent concentration, and excellent length. Drink it over the next 2-3 years.

90 Buty Columbia Rediviva Columbia Valley 2004 (\$45) 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Syrah. Dark ruby-colored, it offers hints of *pain grillé*, smoke, black currants and blueberry. This is followed by a medium-bodied wine with a firm structure, lively acidity, and plenty of ripe, layered fruit. It will benefit from several years of bottle age and drink well through 2022.

90 BEAST Cabernet Sauvignon Horse Heaven Hills 2004 (\$30) 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dark ruby-colored, it reveals oak spice, cassis, and black cherry aromatics. Belying its name, the wine is made in a racy, elegant style with good concentration and moderate length. Drink this tasty Cabernet through 2020.

89 Buty Sémillon & Sauvignon Blanc 2005 (\$25) A 75%-25% blend offering an attractive nose of fresh herbs, floral notes, melon, and a hint of lemon-lime. This is followed by a vibrant wine with plenty of ripe fruit, balancing acidity, and solid length. I also tasted the 2002 version of this wine which has evolved nicely so it appears that the 2005 may have several years of aging potential.