

The Seattle Times

Wine Adviser

Top Washington wine picks for 2009

Wine adviser Paul Gregutt offers up his Top 100 Wines of Washington state for 2009.

Paul Gregutt

Special to the Seattle Times

MANY "BEST OF" wine lists are published each year, but this annual look at my top 100 Washington wines is focused exclusively on wines from this state. I look through a year's worth of tasting notes and select one wine from each of 100 wineries for inclusion. This ranking is not done strictly by the numbers, though I scored all these wines 90 points or higher on the 100-point scale. But because I firmly believe that both quality and cost are factors in overall excellence, these rankings also took price into account. So with wines that got a 94 score, for instance, I gave a higher ranking on this list to the one that was cheaper.

All have been released within the past year, but some are already sold out. Your wine seller can guide you to what is still available, and in some instances he or she may have a newer vintage in stock. Why just one wine per winery? With more than 650 wineries in the state, it is the best way to feature the breadth and depth of the industry's offerings. My sincere appreciation to the talented growers and winemakers mentioned here, and to all of you who are kind enough to follow this column each week.

1. Charles Smith 2006 Royal City Syrah (\$100)

2. Quilceda Creek 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$125)

3. Betz Family 2006 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon (\$58)

4. Abeja 2005 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$80)

5. Leonetti Cellar 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$85)

6. Fielding Hills 2007 RiverBend Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (\$38)

7. Owen Roe 2007 Lady Rosa Syrah (\$45)

8. Andrew Will 2006 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Red Wine (\$55)

9. K Vintners 2006 Roma En Chamberlin Red (\$60)