

# The Cork Report

## Wine of the Month

### Norton Privada 2002

Anyone who has doubts about Argentina, listen up.

This wine is dynamite, packed full of TNT. Rich, earthy flavors, full-bodied and a long finish. Excellent. **92**



### Irony Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2005

Nothing ironic about this. You expect quality from Russian River Pinot, and this one delivers beyond expectations. Full of flavor, delicate and a strong finish. **90**



### mia's playground Russian River Pinot Noir 2007

You won't find a lot of this around, so if you do, pick up a bottle or two. Very enjoyable. **90**



### Schramsberg Blanc de Blanc 2005

Lively and full-bodied. Do you expect anything else but quality from Schramsberg? Always dependable and always good. **90**



### Guide to the Cork Report

90-100	<i>Outstanding</i>
80-89	<i>Very Good</i>
70-79	<i>Good</i>
Below 70	<i>Really bad and probably won't even be mentioned</i>

# A Little Something For Everyone

A sampling of some of the best wines from the past month.



**Maximin Grunhauser Abtsberg Spaltlese 2007** - Proof that the most beautiful yet confusing German labels contain some of the best Rieslings made in the world. Looks like liquid gold in a glass and tastes even better. **90**

**Barnett Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** - This wine from the Spring Mountain District is quite impressive. Heavy fuel. Full of fruit, earth and tannins on the finish. Really good. **90**

**Gascon Malbec 2007** - A wonderful new entry from Argentina. Well-balanced with hints of spice and soft tannins. Long finish leaves you wanting more. At about \$10-12, a real value. **89**

**Norton Reserva Syrah 2005** - Earthy with touches of oak that smooth the tannins. Well-developed, well-aged and simply delicious. **89**

**Valckenberg Riesling 2007** - A fresh and lively Riesling. Affordable and easy to open with a twist-off cap. **89**

**Provenance Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** - An enjoyable Napa Cab. Elegant and full-bodied but not overpowering. **89**

**Forest Glen "Forest Fire" White Merlot** - A tasty dry rosé. Perfect for a hot summer's night while sitting outside and enjoying the company of friends. At about \$8, a true value. **88**



**Edna Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** - Rich blackberry flavors. Soft but distinguishable tannins. Very flavorful. **88**

**(Oops) Carménère Merlot 2006** - A Bordeaux-style Chilean red that's like watching a Sharon Stone movie: a little dirty but you really enjoy it. **88**

**A by Acacia Pinot Noir 2006** - Soft and supple. Touch of spice rounds out a wonderful Pinot. **88**

**Irony Cabernet Sauvignon 2004** - A well-aged Cab that isn't overdone. Full-flavored and full-bodied but the tannins are reasonable and not overpowering. **88**

**Edna Valley Pinot Noir 2006** - Soft and fun. Cherry and plum flavors. Nothing pretentious but certainly in a higher class with other California Pinots. **88**

**Omaka Springs Sauvignon Blanc 2007** - One of these years the next big white will be New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. This is very fresh and tasty. Well worth a try. **88**

**Moscato d'Asti Risata** - Very sweet but when chilled properly, this is perfect as an aperitif for a hot, sultry summer's day. Just a fun little sparkling. Could be a good dessert wine, too. **88**

**Hook & Ladder The Tillerman 2005** - Always fresh and slightly grassy. Good acidic balance and a pleasant finish. **87**

**(Oops) Cabernet Franc Carménère 2006** - Medium-bodied with good fruit but enough heft to make for a lasting finish. **87**

**RK Reichsgraf van Kesselstatt Riesling 2007** - A slightly basic German Riesling with distinctive mineral overtones. A fun, quaffable white. **86**

