

THE RHONE REPORT

Dedicated to the wines and grapes of the Rhone valley

Issue #6 – California in the Spotlight!



93 points – 2007 Santa Barbara County, Rodney’s Vineyard Syrah

“Deep and dense, the 2007 Fess Parker Syrah Rodney’s Vineyard has awesome aromatics of cassis and blackberries that are supported by bacon fat, lavender, smoked earth, and pepper notes. Graphite, tobacco, and spice notes develop more with air, and while the aroma profile is definitely old world, the fruit is all California. Full bodied on the palate with gorgeously ripe fruit, a hedonistic, powerful texture, good acidity, and a long, ever so slightly sweet, finish. Beautiful fruit and solid aromatics, I would drink bottles over the next 5 to 8 years.”

92 points – 2007 Santa Barbara County, The Big Easy

“More fruit driven and clean on the nose, the 2007 Fess Parker The Big Easy sports decadent aromas of red and black berry fruits, toast, licorice, smoked earth and asphalt on the nose. Full bodied and decadent, with loads of texture and ripe fruit, this stays beautifully balanced with good acidity, and a focused, clean finish. This puppy has loads of fat and charm, and should drink well over the next 5 to 8 years.”

90 points – 2008 Santa Barbara County, Syrah

“A beautifully polished, fruit driven wine, the 2008 Fess Parker Syrah exhibits deep, almost decadent blackberry fruit that’s intermixed with smoked meats, licorice, and touches of oak and vanilla. Medium to full bodied with a lush, round texture, solid balance, and clean, long finish, this solid value should dish out loads of pleasure over the next 4 to 6 years.”

88 points – 2009 Santa Barbara County, Viognier

“Ripe and a touch off dry, the 2009 Fess Parker Viognier delivers loads of sweet peach and citrus fruits that are livened up nicely by juicy acidity, a smooth, seamless texture, and a focused finish. Straight up delicious and very easy drinking, I recommend drinking these in their vibrant, fresh youth.”