

THE RHONE REPORT

Dedicated to the wines and grapes of the Rhone valley

Issue #10 – New Releases from California



EPIPHANY

91 points – 2008 Revelation, Santa Barbara County

“More serious and rich, the 2008 Epiphany Révélation is a blend of 63% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 7% Petite Sirah that was aged for 22 months in a combination of 53% new French barrels and puncheons. Boasting rich, full notes of blackberry and darker styled fruits, toasted spice, chocolate, licorice, and meaty nuances, this fleshes out in the glass with a medium to full-bodied, supple, polished texture, and solid length on the finish. Drink bottles over the coming 5-6 years or so.”

90 points – 2008 Stagecoach Vineyard Syrah, Napa Valley

“Showing class and poise, with ripe raspberry, classy wood, spice, and brambly, slightly bright characteristics, the 2008 Epiphany Syrah Stagecoach Vineyard, aged 22 months in 60% new French oak, is medium to full-bodied on the palate, with good ripeness, vibrant (borderline racy) acidity, and a clean finish. This firms up with ripe tannin on the finish, and has enough structure to allow this to age gracefully for 7-8 years.”

90 points – 2008 Hampton Vineyard Syrah, Santa Barbara County

“Loaded with smoky black fruits, pepper, violets, mint, leafy herbs, and hints of raw meat, the 2008 Epiphany Syrah Hampton Vineyard is vibrant and lifted on the palate, with integrated acidity, a lively texture, and a clean, focused finish. Delicious now, this should easily continue to shine for 4-6 years.”

89 points – 2008 Gypsy, Santa Barbara County

“A southern Rhône like blend of 39% Grenache, 33% Mourvedre, 16% Cunoise, 11% Cinsault, and 1% Syrah that’s aged for 22 month in 27% new French 500 L puncheons, the 2008 Epiphany Gypsy is spicy and perfumed, showing loads of spice-laden red fruits, white pepper, bramble, and licorice qualities on the nose. Medium-bodied and sweetly fruited on the palate, with a supple, lush texture, no hard edges, and juicy acidity that shows on the finish, this delicious, easy going blend should be enjoyed over the coming 3-5 years, if not longer.”

89 points – 2008 Grenache, Santa Barbara County

“A straight up pretty Grenache that delivers the classic kirsch, strawberry, underbrush, and licorice profile, the 2008 Epiphany Grenache, 87% Grenache and 13% Syrah that’s aged for 22 months in older 500L French oak puncheons, is medium-bodied, silky, and downright sexy on the palate. Seamless, supple, and with a clean, easy going feel, this crowd pleaser will continue to deliver the goods for 4-6 years.”

89 points – 2009 Inspiration, Santa Barbara County

“Deeper in color and a blend of 42% Marsanne, 25% Viognier, 25% Roussanne, and 8% Grenache Blanc that’s aged for 10 months in older French oak, the 2009 Epiphany Inspiration has notable purity and class with buttered apples, grilled peach, honey, and marzipan like notes leading to a medium-bodied, rich, yet

supple and fresh palate. Beautifully drinkable and very well put together, with a seamless texture and juicy acidity on the finish, this should have a solid 3-4 years of prime drinking.”

88 points – 2010 Grenache Blanc, Santa Barbara County

“A delicious white that’s meant for midweek quaffing (and I mean that in a good way), the 2009 Epiphany Grenache Blanc Camp 4 Vineyard, 100% Grenache Blanc that was fermented in 80% stainless steel and 20% neutral wood, boasts a beautifully pure, fruit driven profile with sweet peach, citrus, green herbs, and well water like qualities showing on the nose. Very fresh and pure on the palate as well, this has a round, supple feel and a sweetness of fruit that keeps you pouring another glass. Enjoy bottles over the coming 1-2 years.”