

## James Laube's Recommended California Chardonnays

For complete reviews, see the Buying Guide of this or previous issues or [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com).  
An alphabetical listing of all wines tasted for this report is available at [www.winespectator.com/073109](http://www.winespectator.com/073109).

### TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>SHIBUMI KNOLL</b> Chardonnay Russian River Valley Buena Tierra Vineyard 2005 Pure and delicious, this rich, elegant, layered expression of Chardonnay is focused and smooth, offering a wealth of flavor built around green apple, fig, melon and spice.	97	\$45
<b>MARCASSIN</b> Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Zio Tony Ranch 2004 Springs to life on the palate, with ultrarich layers of fig, nectarine, smoke and mineral. Full-bodied, elegant and focused, ending with apple, lime and subtle butterscotch.	96	\$75
<b>KAZMER &amp; BLAISE</b> Chardonnay Carneros Boonfly's Hill 2006 Deliciously complex, rich and layered, showing a mix of fig, apricot, spice and smoky, toasty oak, with a wonderful finish.	95	\$50
<b>KISTLER</b> Chardonnay Sonoma Mountain McCrea Vineyard 2006 Fresh, rich and vibrant, deep and concentrated, with spicy green apple and pear flavors and a lemon-citrus shading.	95	\$75
<b>LEWIS</b> Chardonnay Russian River Valley 2007 This opulent, full-bodied version has amazing richness, focus, complexity and range of flavor, with pear, fig and citrus.	95	\$48
<b>LONDER</b> Chardonnay Anderson Valley Corby Vineyards 2007 Offers wonderful intensity and purity of fruit, with ripe, zesty green apple, tangerine, nectarine and subtle mineral notes.	95	\$30
<b>PETER MICHAEL</b> Chardonnay Sonoma County Ma Belle-Fille 2007 Deliciously complex, with a rich, elegant, layered presentation of citrus-infused green apple, spice and toasty oak.	95	\$85
<b>RAMEY</b> Chardonnay Russian River Valley Ritchie Vineyard 2006 Shows citrus and tropical fruit, with hints of anise and buttery oak, yet the acidity keeps the flavors tangy and vibrant.	95	\$70
<b>THREE STICKS</b> Chardonnay Sonoma Valley Durell Vineyard 2006 Rich and creamy, with ripe fig, apricot, melon and smoky hazelnut flavors that are pure, complex, deep and persistent.	95	\$45
<b>TOR</b> Chardonnay Sonoma Valley Durell Vineyard Wente Clone 2007 Opulent yet elegant, offering tiers of fig, honeydew melon and spicy, toasty oak, with hints of hazelnut.	95	\$60

### TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>AU BON CLIMAT</b> Chardonnay Santa Barbara County 2007 Crisp and tightly wound, with sleek pineapple, melon and green apple notes that are firm, focused and full-bodied.	91	\$20
<b>MOUNT EDEN</b> Chardonnay Edna Valley Wolff Vineyard 2007 Ripe and floral, with fleshy peach, nectarine, melon and spice. Full-bodied, focused and elegant.	91	\$20

### TOP VALUES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>BEAULIEU VINEYARD</b> Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros 2007 Shows ripe, complex and well-defined nectarine, tangerine and spicy pear flavors. Gains depth and richness on the finish.	90	\$17
<b>BUEHLER</b> Chardonnay Russian River Valley 2007 Fresh, lively and medium-bodied, with alluring floral, peach and honeysuckle fruit that's smooth and creamy.	90	\$16
<b>SOUVERAIN</b> Chardonnay Alexander Valley 2007 Complex aromas of citrus, pear, apple and honeysuckle, with touches of toasty oak. Full-bodied, rich and elegant.	90	\$17
<b>ANGELINE</b> Chardonnay Sonoma County 2007 Pure, clean and delicate, with a beam of spicy pear, floral and honeysuckle flavors that are long and lingering.	88	\$15
<b>CUPCAKE</b> Chardonnay Central Coast 2007 Offers citrus blossom and grapefruit pith, with fresh, snappy acidity, tangerine-laced flavors and a clean finish.	88	\$13
<b>HEALDSBURG RANCHES</b> Chardonnay Sonoma County Unoaked 2007 Intense, with green pineapple, green apple and tropical fruit.	88	\$14
<b>SEBASTIANI</b> Chardonnay Sonoma County 2007 Fresh floral, honeysuckle and honeydew melon aromas fold over to the palate, where they're focused and full-bodied.	88	\$13
<b>STERLING</b> Chardonnay Central Coast Vintner's Collection 2007 Honeysuckle, citrus and Key lime aromas are fresh and lively, with an array of ripe fruit flavors.	88	\$10
<b>WINE CUBE</b> Chardonnay California 2007 This complex, floral version is intense yet supple and fleshy.	88	\$17 3L
<b>BOGLE</b> Chardonnay California 2007 Intense and vibrant, with pear, citrus, green apple and melon.	87	\$10
<b>DYNAMITE</b> Chardonnay North Coast 2007 Pithy citrus and apple skin flavors are sleek and focused.	87	\$11
<b>EDNA VALLEY</b> Chardonnay San Luis Obispo County Paragon 2007 Ripe, clean, floral and spicy, with green apple and citrus.	87	\$12
<b>FETZER</b> Chardonnay California Valley Oaks 2008 Floral and fleshy, with a citrus edge to the green apple flavors.	87	\$9
<b>SNAP DRAGON</b> Chardonnay California 2007 Elegant, with spicy tangerine, nectarine, pear and honeydew melon fruit that's pure and refreshing.	87	\$8
<b>STERLING</b> Chardonnay Mendocino 2007 Flinty, with tart sour lemon, citrus and green racy fruit flavors.	87	\$13
<b>WHITE TRUCK</b> Chardonnay Santa Barbara County Unoaked 2007 Shows fragrant floral notes, with pear, spice and honeysuckle.	87	\$12
<b>SMOKING LOON</b> Chardonnay California 2006 Balanced, with smoky cedar, pear and green apple flavors.	86	\$9
<b>ROUND HILL</b> Chardonnay California 2007 Creamy peach, apricot and honeydew melon flavors are supple and cleansing.	85	\$8