



STEVE HEIMOFF – Blog

(California Editor, *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*)

Posted December 29, 2008

TOP TEN BEST BUYS OF 2008

At *Wine Enthusiast* we have a specific bottle price/rating formula for the special designation of Best Buy. This is always an important category, but especially in these hard times.

1. Honker Blanc 2007 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley); \$12 (From Tuda)
2. Vina Robles 2007 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles); \$14
3. Chelsea Godschmidt 2006 Merlot (Dry Creek Valley); \$14
4. Hayman & Hill 2005 Reserve Selection Merlot (Napa Valley); \$15
5. Mandolin 2005 Syrah (Central Coast); \$10
6. Lee Family Farm 2007 Silvaspoons Vineyard Verdelho (Alta Mesa/Lodi); \$15
7. TAZ 2007 Pinot Gris (Santa Barbara County); \$15
- 8. Fortress 2007 Sauvignon Blanc (Red Hills Lake County); \$15**
9. Mirassou 2007 Pinot Grigio (California); \$12
10. Lake Sonoma 2007 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley); \$15

An interesting list, dominated by white wines. Hmm. Not sure what to make of that. Maybe it's easier to make a good, inexpensive white wine than an equivalent red wine. Or maybe I just found these crisp, (mainly) unoaked white wines a refreshment after so many clumsily oaked ones.

Anyhow, here's wishing you and yours a happy, healthy 2009, and may your year be filled with peace, prosperity – and fine wine!

(Learn more about Fortress Vineyards wines at: www.fortressvineyards.com)