

The world's best wine magazine

Decanter



California 2011

Mapping the changing landscape and emerging styles of the US' premier wine state

Ten of Lodi's finest

Uvaggio, Vermentino 2009

★★★★ 16.5pts/20

N/A UK www.uvaggio.com

This white is light, zesty and racy with notes of lemongrass and green olive.

The thinking person's Pinot Grigio.

Drink: 2011. **Alcohol:** 11%



Jesse's Grove, Carignane

2006 ★★★★★ 18.5

N/A UK www.jessiesgrovewinery.com

Old-vine Carignan, perfumed, brambly and sweetly oaked, with Asian spices and polished tannins on the palate. Concentrated without being overripe.

Drink: 2011-2016. **Alc:** 15.2%

Macchia, Serious Old Vine Zinfandel

2009 ★★★★★ 18.5

N/A UK www.macchiawines.com

An ambitious wine, with pepper spice, lifted fruit and impressive palate

length. **Drink:** 2013-2021. **Alc:** 15.5%

Phoenix Ranch, Bechthold Vineyard

Cinsault 2009 ★★★★★ 18.5

N/A UK www.phoenixranchwines.com

This organic red is deceptively pale, with soft berry fruit and a refreshing

finish. **Drink:** 2014-2022. **Alc:** 14.7%

Bokisch Vineyards, Graciano 2008

★★★★ 17

N/A UK www.bokishvineyards.com

Softer and more fruit forward than a lot of Spanish Gracianos, with deftly handled French oak and ripe, red fruits.

Drink: 2011-2014. **Alc:** 14%

Brazin, Old Vine Zinfandel 2008

★★★★ 17

£12.99 **Waitrose**

This is a serious Zin at the price, with lots of black fruits, tobacco spice, wood smoke and firmish tannins. Leave for a year or two. **Drink:** 2013-2018. **Alc:** 15%

LangeTwins, Merlot Reserve 2008

★★★★ 17

N/A UK www.langetwins.com

Coffee-bean scented, sweetly oaked, with flavours of green pepper and chocolate. **Drink:** 2013-2018. **Alc:** 14%

Michael-David, Inkblot Tannat 2008

★★★★ 17

N/A UK www.michaeldavidwinery.com

Serious tannins, good acidity and plum and blackcurrant fruit. Huge potential.

Drink: 2011-2016. **Alc:** 14.5%

Black Saint Peter, Old Vine Zinfandel

2009 ★★★★★ 16.5

£8.99 **Laithwaites**

This youthful, medium-coloured red is spicy, soft and lower in alcohol than many, with easy-drinking bramble and strawberry fruit, and refreshing acidity. Good value. **Drink:** 2011-2014. **Alc:** 13.5%

Ravenswood, Old Vine Lodi Zinfandel

2008 ★★★★★ 16.5

£8.95-£9.49 **Majestic, Sainsbury's, The**

Wine Society

Peppery and broad, with fresh acidity, well-integrated oak and medium tannins. **Drink:** 2011-2014. **Alc:** 13.5%

For full details of UK stockists, see p86 of the main issue