

## BLUE REVIEWS

# Anthony Dias

## BLUE REVIEWS

In each issue, Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dias Blue selects a wide range of the best wines and spirits from among the more than 500 he samples over the course of a month. The reviews are subjective editorial evaluations, made without regard to advertising, and products are scored on a 100-point scale:

**85-89: VERY GOOD**

**90-94: OUTSTANDING**

**95-100: CLASSIC**

Once products are selected for publication, producers and importers will be offered the option of having their review accompanied by an image (bottle photo or label art) for a nominal fee. There is no obligation to add an image, nor does the decision affect the review or score in any way.

☞ The "twisty" icon indicates wines sealed with a screwcap closure.

For additional Blue Reviews, go to [www.tastingpanelmag.com](http://www.tastingpanelmag.com).

Prices are for 750 ml. bottles unless otherwise noted.

### DOMESTIC



**90** **Four Vines Winery 2012 Maverick Zinfandel, Amador County (\$22)** Silky and juicy with generous red fruit and spice; rich, fresh and lively with bright, fresh tangy flavors; long and balanced.

PURPLE WINE COMPANY

**90** **Clayhouse Wines 2013 Grenache Blanc-Viognier, Red Cedar Vineyard, Paso Robles (\$23)** Juicy and crisp with racy acidity and fresh, tangy fruit; lively, balanced and long. 70% Grenache Blanc, 30% Viognier.

MIDDLETON FAMILY WINES

**90** **Bouchaine Vineyards 2011 Estate Chardonnay, Carneros (\$30)** Smooth and lush with ripe fruit and a core of juicy acidity; tangy, crisp and long with depth and good balance.



**92** **Dolin 2012 Pinot Noir, Rincon Vineyard, Arroyo Grande Valley (\$45)** One of four new Central Coast-sourced Pinots from this Malibu-based winery; juicy and silky with notes of earth, spice and savory style; long, elegant and lovely.



**91** **Spottswoode 2013 Sauvignon Blanc, 28% Napa Valley, 72% Sonoma Mountain (\$36)** Soft and rounded with ripe citrus and depth; juicy, deep and showing minerals and ripe flavors; classic, rich and balanced with great length. 15% Sauvignon Musqué.



**90** **Cambridge Cellars 2012 Meritage, Napa Valley (\$23)** Smooth and ripe with juicy fruit and mellow flavors of plum and berries; lovely balance and lush texture; fresh, bright and nicely structured.

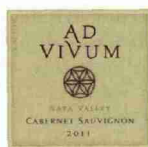
**92** **MacRostie 2012 Chardonnay, Sangiacomo Vineyard, Carneros (\$44)** Bright and juicy with generous flavors of pear and citrus; racy acidity and lovely texture, balanced and long.

**90** **Mike Ditka 2011 The Icon Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$50)** Smooth and juicy with bright acidity and good structure; balanced, spicy and long. (Just wondering ... does Mike stomp the grapes himself?)

TERLATO WINES INTERNATIONAL



**92** **Panther Creek Cellars 2012 Pinot Noir Reserve, Willamette Valley (\$50)** Lots of tangy acidity and bright black cherry and cola flavors; dense and complex with notes of earth, spice and racy style.



**94 Ad Vivum Cellars 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon, Sleeping Lady Vineyard, Yountville-Napa Valley (\$125)**

Dark and deep with rich plum and cassis; lush and dense with ripe flavors and notes of oak and spice; juicy, fresh and concentrated with balance and finesse.

## IMPORTS

**91 Kim Crawford 2014 Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand (\$18)** Tangy spice and mineral nose; racy, crisp and lively with gooseberry and cut grass; racy and long with a bright finish.

CONSTELLATION WINE U.S.



**91 Gradis'ciutta 2013 Friulano, Collio, Italy (\$25)** Lovely mineral and citrus nose; bright and juicy with lovely depth and balance leading to a long, racy finish.

WINE EMPORIUM



**90 Jackson Estate 2013 Stiche Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand (\$22)** Racy and juicy with bright gooseberry and minerals; fresh and balanced on the finish.

JACKSON FAMILY ESTATES

**90 Lapostolle 2012 Cuvée Alexandre Chardonnay, Atalayas Vineyard, Casablanca Valley, Chile (\$24)** Smooth and ripe with notes of honey and toasty oak with a core of juicy acidity; balanced and complete with a long, rich finish.

TERLATO WINES



**88 Lopez Nocetti 2014 Sauvignon Blanc, Central Coast, Chile (\$10)** Juicy and clean with racy citrus and some herbal notes; lime and spice, long and balanced.

RIONDO USA

**91 Ogier 2012 Oratorio Crozes-Hermitage, France (\$37)** Bright black raspberry and spice; clean, modern and fresh with depth and good balance; long and lush.

VINUM INTERNATIONAL



**90** Azienda Agricola  
Urlari 2011 Merlot  
L'Urlo, Toscana, Italy (\$56)  
Dense and earthy with plum  
and spice; smooth and lush with  
juicy acid structure and good  
length.

URLARI WINES

**93** Vilafonté 2011  
Series C, Paarl,  
South Africa (\$60) Lovely  
blackberry and cassis nose;  
smooth and balanced, elegant

and nicely structured; long and refined,  
precise and long. 51% Cabernet  
Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 14%  
Malbec, 9% Cabernet Franc.

BROADBENT SELECTIONS

**91** Boekenhoutskloof  
2012 Cabernet  
Sauvignon, Franschhoek,  
South Africa (\$70) Smooth,  
bright and juicy with tangy  
plum and racy acidity; fresh and  
lively with pure varietal  
fruit flavors; crisp and  
long.

VINEYARD BRANDS



**92** Maquis 2010 Franco  
Cabernet Franc,  
Colchagua Valley, Chile  
(\$85) Lush and juicy with racy  
acidity and smooth texture; ripe  
plum and cassis; spice and good  
depth with lush style; clean and  
bright, long and balanced.

GLOBAL VINEYARD



**96** Château de  
Beaucastel 2012  
Châteauneuf-du-Pape,  
France (\$120) Another  
stunner from the Perrin family.  
Deep, earthy nose; juicy and  
bright with racy blueberry,  
raspberry and cassis; lush,  
elegant and seamless with  
deep spice, licorice and  
violets; long, tangy and  
seductive; wonderful now,  
even better in ten years.

VINEYARD BRANDS



**88** Three Thieves  
2013 Pinot Grigio,  
California (\$8) Fresh, bright  
and juicy with simple, clean  
flavors and a long finish.

TRINCHERO FAMILY ESTATES

**88** Loca 2013 Verdejo, Viñedos  
de España, Spain (\$12)  
Aromatic, clean and juicy with tangy acidity  
and ripe melon and lime; fresh and  
balanced, long and lively.

AW DIRECT USA

**88** Bonterra Vineyards  
2013 Viognier,  
Mendocino County (\$16)  
Juicy and fresh with bright,  
tangy peach and lively acidity;  
crisp and balanced. Organic.

FETZER VINEYARDS/  
CONCHA Y TORO



**88** Casa Monte 2013 Cabernet  
Sauvignon Reserve Lot 45,  
Central Coast, Chile (\$10) Smooth  
and juicy with soft herbs and spice;  
bright plum fruit and fresh, tangy  
style; clean, balanced and long.

RIONDO USA



**88** Trivento 2013  
Cabernet-Malbec  
Reserve, Mendoza,  
Argentina (\$11) Smooth,  
clean and fresh with ripe  
blackberry and cherry fruit;  
tangy, bright and juicy with a  
long finish.

EXCELSIOR WINES

**89** Warwick Estate 2012  
Old Bush Vines Pinotage,  
Stellenbosch (\$11) Smooth and  
dense with tangy acidity and ripe  
cranberry and spice; lush and juicy,  
bright and long.

BROADBENT SELECTIONS

**89** House Wine 2013  
Mountain Merlot,  
American (\$11) Ripe and  
lush with juicy plum and berries;  
bright and fresh with a long,  
rich style; balanced and tangy.  
93% Merlot, 4% Syrah, 3% Cab  
Franc.

PRECEPT WINE



**90** Waterbrook Winery  
2012 Merlot, Walla  
Walla, Columbia Valley  
(\$14) Juicy and bright with  
tangy plum and berry fruit;  
fresh and clean, racy and lifted  
with long, lively flavors.

PRECEPT WINE

## SPIRITS

**92** 50 Bleu Ultra  
Premium Vodka,  
Poland (\$30) Smooth and  
earthy nose; silky and earthy  
flavors with notes of vanilla and  
rye; spicy, dry and mellow with  
lush style; rich and long, creamy  
and deep.

BLACKHEATH BEVERAGE GROUP



**92** Barr Hill Vodka,  
USA (\$37/350ml,  
\$59-\$62/750ml) Distilled  
from raw honey. Smooth  
honey nose; dry, creamy  
and lush with smooth notes  
of vanilla and light spice;  
floral, mellow and  
long with lovely  
honey notes; quite  
unique.

CALEDONIA SPIRITS



**92** Square One  
Bergamot Organic  
Vodka, USA (\$35) Bright  
orange peel nose; orange and  
herbs with notes of ginger and  
coriander; spicy, dry and flavorful  
with clean, complex flavors—  
almost gin-like; long and aromatic.

SQUARE ONE VODKA



**92** Don Felix Añejo  
Tequila Edición  
Limitada, Mexico  
(\$55) Smoky agave  
nose; smooth and rich  
with smoke and good  
intensity with notes  
of caramel and spice;  
long and deep; elegant.

MARSALLE COMPANY





**91 James Oliver Rye Whiskey, USA (\$30)** Medium amber color; smooth and toasty with dried fruits and malted rye; lush and mellow with sweet floral notes; long, rich and balanced.

INDIO SPIRITS



**92 Bully Boy Distillers Hub Punch, USA (\$29)** A rum infused with orange, fruits and botanicals, based on an 1879 New York hotel recipe and intended to be diluted with ginger ale and soda. Intense and bursting with cherry, orange, plum and multiple botanicals; delightfully refreshing and potentially habit-forming; destined to be the focus of many a party.

BULLY BOY DISTILLERS

**92 Michter's Limited Release Bourbon Whiskey Toasted Barrel Finish, USA (\$45)** Amber color; toasted, sweet oak, spicy and dense with rich, intense, lush and hot style; concentrated barrel flavors and a long, flavorful finish.

CHATHAM IMPORTS



**92 Château du Tariquet XO Armagnac, France (\$60)** Medium amber color; soft, toasted vanilla nose; silky texture and bright toasted flavors with elegant, smooth aromatic notes; toasty, dry and refined; long and balanced.

ROBERT KACHER SELECTIONS



**91 HM The King Blended Scotch Whisky, Scotland (\$25)** Amber color; soft and mellow with sweet notes; lightly toasty with dried fruit and floral notes; spiced and balanced,

long and likable.

BRANDED SPIRITS USA LTD.



**91 Bossard VSOP Rare Reserve Cognac, France (\$50)** Deep amber color; soft, toasty, earthy nose; silky, light texture with lovely soft flavors; bright and elegant, long and balanced.

TRIPLE CROWN IMPORT CO.

**92 West Cork Single Malt Irish Whiskey, Ireland (\$40)** Medium amber color; dry toasty flavors of oak and soft spice; grassy, smooth and smoky with aromatic, balanced flavors; long and generous.

M.S. WALKER INC.



**92 Bigallet China-China Amer Liqueur, France (\$40)** Deep mahogany color; sweet and aromatic with notes of bitter orange peels, herbs and spice; creamy, thick and dense; rich and long.

BACK BAR PROJECT



**90 Gran Gala Orange Liqueur, Italy (\$22)** Creamy texture with generous orange peel and spice tone; sweet and hot, yet nicely balanced; long and rich on the finish. ■■

GEMINI SPIRITS & WINE