87 Álvaro Castro Dão 2004 $17 Lush, with loads of plum and berry flavors and delicious sweet cherry notes. Well-structured, with a finish of dark chocolate and orange peel. Drink now through 2008. 600 cases imported.—K.M.

87 União das Adegas Cooperativas do Dão Dão Adro da Sé Reserva 2000 $12 Mature aromas and flavors, yet still lively, with dried cherry, roasted meat and smoke flavors. Notes of sandalwood and Asian spice on the finish. Drink now. 5,560 cases made.—K.M.

87 Quinta da Veglia Dão Reserva 2003 $30 Very fresh and lively, with an array of red plum, cherry, currant and spice flavors that make this a good quaff for the barbecue. Crisp finish. Drink now through 2009. 350 cases made.—K.M.

86 Paço de Santar Dão 2003 $16 Filled to the brim with raspberry and cherry flavors, with luscious cardamom and cinnamon notes. Soft finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases made.—K.M.

82 Casa de Santar Dão Castas 2003 $8

—K.M.

SLOVENIA

92 Simcic Goriska Brda Leonardo 2002
$54/375ml Amazing nose of milk chocolate and caramel. Full-bodied, very sweet and delicious. Thick and powerful. Extraordinary white dessert blend. Drink now. 120 cases made.—J.S.

91 Vinakoper Koper Plemeno Belo 2000
$20 Exotic aromas of lime and passion fruit. Lots of peach and lemon, with dried apricot. Full-bodied, with a long finish. Very fruity and exotic. Drink now. 10 cases imported.—J.S.

90 Movia Brda Vellko Belo 2001 $30 Lots of apple, pear, pineapple and lemon aromas, with hints of vanilla. Full-bodied, with freshness and a long finish. Drink now. 1,100 cases made.—J.S.

90 Simcic Goriska Brda Teodor Réserve 2002
$24 A complex wine, with apple, cream, vanilla and pineapple and aromas and flavors. Medium- to full-bodied. Oily and rich. Ribolla, Tocai Friulano and Pinot Grigio. Drink now. 560 cases made.—J.S.

89 Batlic Vipavska Dolina Pinela 2003 $20 Pineapple, caramel and apple aromas and flavors. Medium- to full-bodied, with good acidity and a medium finish. Drink now.—J.S.

88 Simcic Chardonnay Goriska Brda Réserve 2002 $33 Full-bodied and rich, with lemon curd, apple and pear character. Thick and oily, with a long finish. Drink now. 440 cases made.—J.S.


87 Simcic Tocai Friulano Goriska Brda 2004
$13 Aromas of apple, peach and honey. Medium-bodied, with good fruit, medium acidity and a fresh finish. Drink now. 640 cases made.—J.S.

87 Vinakoper Malvazija Koper Capris 2004
$17 Aromas of peach pie and cream follow through to a medium-bodied palate, with fresh acidity and a fruity finish. Solid. Drink now. 30 cases imported.—J.S.

85 Simcic Pinot Grigio Goriska Brda 2004
$13 Aromas of apple pie and cream follow through to a medium-bodied palate, with bright acidity, a clean finish and a white pepper aftertaste. Drink now. 1,500 cases made.—J.S.

84 Simcic Chardonnay Goriska Brda 2004
$13 —J.S.

83 Kogl Pgo Magna Domincia Albus 2003
$17 —J.S.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Cabernets & Blends

92 Pahlmeyer Napa Valley 2003 $110
Plump and generous, with fleshy currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit that's supple and focused. Ripe without going overboard. Finishes with a burst of sweet ripe currant and blackberry fruit and ripe tannins. Best from 2007 through 2012. 4,739 cases made.—J.L.

92 Spottswoode Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena Family Estate Grow 2003 $110 Subtle aromas of red currant, black cherry and plum carry over to the palate in an elegant, supple manner. Excellent balance, depth, complexity and length. The finish is long and persistent, keeping the emphasis on the fruit. Drink now through 2012. 3,699 cases made.—J.L.

91 Bond St. Eden Napa Valley 2003 $230
See Collectibles, page 123.

91 Colgin Caraid Napa Valley 2003 $225
See Collectibles, page 123.

91 Turnbull Oakville 2003 $85
Intense, with a tight beam of black cherry, plum and currant fruit that's well-defined, vibrant and enlivened by crisp acidity and firm tannins. Hints of nutmeg, cedar, anise and sage fold in, adding a dimension of flavor complexity. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot and Syrah. Best from 2007 through 2012. 518 cases made.—J.L.

90 Darioush Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Signature 2003 $68
An exciting 2003. Ripe, rich and vibrant, with juicy plum, currant and blackberry flavors that are supple and harmonious, revealing layers of fruit complexity and finishing with a long, lingering aftertaste. Drink now through 2012. 4,795 cases made.—J.L.

90 Joseph Phelps Insignia / $150
Supple, polished and harmonious in the class of the 2002. Nonetheless range of rich currant, berry and plum, hints of anise and spice, and a finish. Mildly tannic. Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Merlot. Drink now. 12,000 cases made.—J.L.

90 Realm Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Dense, rich and concentrated, with a mouthful of currant, blackberry and cherries, well-balanced, finishing with tannins. Very impressive for the vintage through 2011. 295 cases made.—J.L.

90 Switchback Ridge Cabe Napa Valley Peterson Family V A highly successful 2003 that combines depth, density and concentration, with tannic structure of the vintage and texture of red currant, black cherry and a hint of spice. Finishes nicely on the palate. Drink now. 550 cases made.—J.L.

90 Deflectus Cabernet Sauvignon Sacrasse Vineyard 2002 $101
and concentrated. A mouthful of currant, herb, sage, cedar and oak fold together nicely. The tannins are midpalate. Complex aftertaste through 2012. 200 cases made.—J.L.

90 Frank Family Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford Reserve 2002 $70
Rich and luscious, with firm tannins, and cedar, oak and tannins that are ripe and complex. From 2008 through 2012. 1,600 cases made.—J.L.

90 Gemstone Yountville 2001
Complex, with a mix of dark chocolate, blackberry and spice that's intense and some heat, which makes the tannin finish. Decant. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot and Syrah. Drink 2011. Tasted twice, with consistent notes.—J.L.

90 Hartwell Cabernet Sauvignon District 2003 $115
Notably tannic, yet elegant and stylish. Den oak flavors of currant, blackberry and toasty notes. Best from 1,369 cases made.—J.L.

90 Pine Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon Mountain 2003 $80
Ripe, with anise, sage and cedar, oak and firm tannins, give this wine a