

VINOGRAPHY: a wine blog

Wine and food adventures in San Francisco and around the world

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What's Your Best Wine? Tasting the Wine & Spirits Top 100

The difference between a good public wine tasting and a bad one can be quite dramatic. The bad ones are in crappy locations, are poorly organized, offer no food, and only mediocre wines. The good ones are, well, just the opposite -- nicely organized, well catered, and offer great wines. And the best ones? Well, they throw in a jazz quartet, and all you can eat oyster bar, a dessert bar, and wines that sometimes retail for hundreds of dollars, if you can find them at all.

This year's Wine & Spirits Top 100 Tasting threw in all that, and a stellar night view of the Museum of Modern art and downtown San Francisco.

Like many of their peers in the magazine world, *Wine & Spirits* publishes an annual award issue, in which they celebrate what they think are the Top 100 wineries around the world, based on the quality of their wines. Regular readers know that I'm no fan of such lists, which I generally find to be meaningless. Thankfully the Wine & Spirits list doesn't actually rank these wineries from 1 to 100. They just publish an issue with profiles of each and list their high scoring wines (which presumably got them on the list to begin with).

But more to the point, the magazine also puts on an event every year where all 100 of these wineries are invited to pour the wines that were rated highly by the magazine, and it ends up being one hell of a tasting. This year was no different.

In any case, on to the wines. Most wineries brought only 2 wines apiece, usually their two top scoring wines of the year. I've divided my tasting notes into sparkling, white, and red, and grouped them by score, as usual.

Enjoy.

Red

RED WINES WITH A SCORE AROUND 9.5

2005 Elvio Cogno Bricco Pernice, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy

Light to medium garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of dried berries and dried flower petals. In the mouth bright, juicy flavors of mulberries and cherry swirl amidst the grabbing fists of aggressive tannins which will no doubt mellow with time. Wonderful acidity carries the wine through a fantastically long finish. Regal and poised. Gorgeous. \$80

RED WINES WITH A SCORE AROUND 9

2007 Elvio Cogno Ravera, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy

Light to medium garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of bright flower petals and juicy berries. In the mouth bright berry flavors mix with leather and fine grained tannins and fantastic acidity. Flavors of clove and orange peel linger through the finish. Delicate. \$65