

RECENT ACCLAIM

Top 100 Wines of 2009 (#2) —Wine Enthusiast, December 2009

2006 Royal City Syrah 100 pts

“In 2005 Charles Smith introduced three high-end Syrahs, all from the same vineyard, named Heart, Skull and Old Bones. In 2006 Smith has made a wine better than each of these, by combining them into a single wine—Royal City Syrah. Rich scents of purple fruit, smoked meat, cedar, lead pencil, moist earth and so on proclaim a wine with genuine gravitas. There is nothing missing, from the first sniff to the last sip, the wine delivers on all levels. Complex, beautifully balanced, powerful and detailed.”

Robert Parker, *The Wine Advocate*, October 2009

“When it comes to his wines, the otherwise wild and irrepressible Charles Smith is as serious as a heart attack. Native yeast fermentation, foot crushing, spontaneous malolactic fermentations, gentle basket pressing, no fining or filtration are routinely practiced in the cellar. Even more important, Charles Smith knows where to find the great grapes. In a region where blending is still the rule of thumb, he is the ultimate terroirist. His 2006 collection is as good or better than anything he has done to date, although a tasting of 2007 barrel samples indicate that the best is yet to come.”

2006 Charles Smith Wines “Royal City Syrah”

“The 2006 Royal City Syrah was sourced from the Stoneridge Vineyard on the Royal Slope. A glass-coating opaque purple color, it gives off a brooding bouquet of liquid minerals, lavender, incense, game, and bacon. This is followed by an opulent, plush, savory, dense wine with no hard edges. Impeccably balanced, it can be enjoyed now, but additional nuance is sure to emerge with patient cellaring. Wines like this have no track record of longevity, but I’d roll the dice on this one. 98 Points”

2006 K Syrah “Phil Lane”

“The 2006 Syrah Phil Lane is according to Charles Smith, “the most Cote-Rotie-like” of these Syrahs. There were a total of 4 barrels produced (roughly 100 cases) from yields of 1 ton/acre. Smoked meat, bacon, incense, lavender, and blueberry aromas lead to a firm, velvety-textured, impeccably balanced wine with tons of flavor and a finish that will not quit. It can be enjoyed now but will surely last for 20 years (like a Guigal Cote-Rotie). 96 Points”

2006 K “Ovide” En Cerise

“The purple-colored 2006 Ovide En Cerise is a co-fermented blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Syrah. Liquid minerals, smoked meat, bacon, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur explode from the glass. Full-bodied, dense, and super-rich, this impeccably balanced, lengthy blend will benefit from 8-10 years of cellaring and should drink well for who knows how long (these wines have no track record), but I’d like to be there to find out. 95 Points”

2006 K “The Creator”

“The 2006 The Creator is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon from En Cerise and 33% Syrah from Morrison Lane. The nose offers up olives, cloves, meat, game, wild blueberry, and blackberry. This is followed by a powerful yet elegant wine with great density and richness, loads of spice, and a 60-second finish. Give it 2-3 years and drink it from 2011 to 2021. 95 Points”

2006 K “M.C.K.” Syrah

“The 2006 Motor City Kitty Syrah is Charles Smith’s “gift to my loyal customers”. The price to quality ratio of this wine is off the charts. Purple/black in color, it was aged for 26 months before bottling by hand. It delivers a soaring bouquet of Asian spices, smoked meat, roasted herbs, saucisson, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Full-bodied, voluptuous, and succulent, this sexy effort can be enjoyed over the next 8-10 years. 95 Points”

2006 K Syrah “Cougar Hills”

“The 2006 Syrah Cougar Hills was made with 80% whole clusters. It offers up the best aromatics of the first 4 wines with scents of chocolate, mocha, espresso, mineral, blueberry, and black cherry leaping from the glass. On the palate notes of roasted herbs, salt, and iodine emerge for additional complexity. The oak is fully integrated and the tannin well hidden. This rich, pleasure-bent effort can be enjoyed now or cellared for 5-7 years. 95 Points”

2006 K Syrah “Pheasant”

“The 2006 Syrah Pheasant Vineyard (located 3 miles from Sundance Vineyard) reveals a bit more of a cool climate character. Liquid minerality, sausage, hung game, pomegranate, and wild blueberry scents are followed by a full-bodied, rich, dense wine reminiscent of blueberry pie in a glass. It, too, can be enjoyed now but it will provide pleasure for another decade. 94 Points”

2006 K Syrah “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard

“The 2006 Syrah The Deal Sundance Vineyard (I’m guessing that “The Deal” refers to the price) delivers aromas of mineral, smoked meat, game, and black olives that leap from the glass. Loads of succulent blue and black fruit are supported by refined tannins and well integrated oak. This lengthy, mouth-filling effort can be enjoyed now although it will continue giving over the next 8-10 years. 94 Points”

2006 K “The Boy”

“The 2006 The Boy is 94% Grenache and 6% Syrah from the Armada Vineyard. It displays a lovely bouquet of garrigue, black cherry, game, and brown sugar. Medium to full-bodied, it has a silky texture and an elegant personality but also lots of guts. This lengthy effort can be drunk now and over the next 8-10 years. 94 Points”

2006 K “El Jefe” En Chamberlin

“The deep crimson-colored 2006 El Jefe En Chamberlin is a blend of 75% Tempranillo and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon aged for 18 months in 40% new barriques. The soaring aromatics belie the wine’s barrel aging regimen. The most prominent features are tons of spice, mineral, incense, lavender, black cherry, and blackberry. Medium to full-bodied, it exemplifies the image of iron fist in a velvet glove. Built for cellaring, this structured yet beautifully balanced effort will benefit from 8-10 years of patience by purchaser. 94 Points”

2006 K Syrah “Morrison Lane”

“The purple/black 2006 Syrah Morrison Lane was aged in 50% new oak. Aromas of tar, mineral, licorice, blueberry and blackberry liqueur lead to a burly, masculine Syrah exhibiting darker flavors and considerably more structure than its two predecessors. It will benefit from a minimum of 4-6 years of cellaring and will drink well through 2021 if not longer. 93 Points”

2006 K “Roma” En Chamberlin

“The 2006 Roma En Chamberlin is also a co-fermented blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Syrah aged in 40% new barriques. A saturated purple color, it emits a powerful perfume of cigar box, raw meat, game, underbrush, licorice, and assorted black and blue fruits. On the palate roasted herbs and dried fruit flavors emerge for additional complexity. Although the wine is rich and satisfying, compared to its siblings it is slightly compact. 93 Points”

—Jay Miller, Robert Parker, *The Wine Advocate*, October 2009

Food & Wine’s “2009 Winemaker of the Year”

F&W honors Charles Smith, a former rocker making excellent wines in Washington State.

“Nine years ago, this California native was managing a rock band in Copenhagen when he made an unusual career shift: “I left my life in Denmark and moved to Walla Walla, Washington, where I knew exactly one person.” That was Cayuse Vineyards’ Christophe Baron, who had rhapsodized to Smith about the potential of Washington Syrah. Smith taught himself how to make wine by creating minuscule lots of

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—Richard Nalley, Food & Wine Magazine, September 2009

"Two new vintages from winemaker Charles Smith have just arrived. The 2008 K Vintners Viognier has a marvelous citrus blossom and satsuma orange bouquet. There is good acidity to this wine, giving it a marvelous finish. The 2007 K Syrah 'Pheasant Vineyard' has a huge color, lots of very spicy Syrah character and a ton of black raspberry fruit. While young, it already has enough balance to be enjoyed with prime rib."

—McCarthy & Shiering December 2009

"They had a sampling of six wines they were pouring...The two wines that showed best of the group, in my opinion, were the 2007 The Velvet Devil: balanced, deep, rich, flavorful and a long, smooth finish. Lots of red fruit with a cocoa finish...."

—The Cork Guy, The Edmond Sun (Oklahoma City), December 2009, writing about an event with Gary Vaynerchuck

"Great white Rieslings take Washington...The result is wonderful, affordable wines. Try Kung Fu Girl Riesling from Walla Walla. Our kitchen staff did and loved it, praising its food-friendly qualities. With hints of Asian pear and a playful label, it's an ideal picnic companion."

—Martha Stewart Living, August 2009

"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, K Syrah Cougar Hills, 95pts"

"TOP WINES, K Syrah Morrison Lane, 94pts; K Syrah Phil Lane, 94pts; K Syrah "The Deal" Sundance Vineyard, 94pts; K Ovide En Cerise, 92pts; K "The Creator" 91pts; K Syrah Milbrandt 90pts"

"TOP VALUE, Charles Smith Wines Kung Fu Girl Riesling, 89pts: Charles Smith Wines "Eve" Chardonnay, 88pts"

—Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator, July 31, 2009

Summer's Best Wines

"As tastes shift toward lighter, less alcoholic whites, especially for summertime, refreshing wines...are turning up on more shelves. Here, 10 of the best...10 Crisp, Light Whites: 2008 Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Washington-state winemaker Charles Smith earned his reputation with some formidable (and fairly expensive) Syrahs, but lately, he's been focusing on a line of quirky named, inexpensive wines. This floral, slightly off-dry Riesling is one of the best."

—Ray Isle, Food & Wine (online), July 21, 2009

"Wine of the Week: Charles Smith Wines Kung Fu Girl Riesling"

—Scott Cherry, Tulsa World Scene, July 20, 2009

“...the season’s best in white and pink...Two American whites are a good way to begin, both from Charles Smith in Washington State. The 2008 “Kung Fu Girl” is notable beyond the name and is a repeat favorite...It’s lovely and light...the K Vintners viognier is zesty and complex...a great match for grilled chicken and pork.”

—Edward Deitch, TODAY msnbc.com, July 15, 2009

“2008 Kung Fu Girl Riesling ~ Washington state winemaker Charles Smith earned his reputation with some formidable (and fairly expensive) Syrahs, but lately he’s been focusing on a line of quirkily named, inexpensive wines. This floral, slightly off-dry Riesling is one of the best.”

—Ray Isle, Food & Wine Magazine, June 2009

“Which wine for a 4th of July BBQ? The number one thing is that it’s fun and affordable. Two of my favorites are sauvignon blanc and riesling....As winemaker Charles Smith says, “This girl kicks ...!” And he’s right. This sassy, fruity white with just a kiss (or kick) of sweetness, will make you want to join the riesling fan club.”

—Leslie Sbrocco on the Today Show, June 25, 2009

“The perfect wine for the 4th of July: Boom Boom! Syrah.”

—examiner.com Seattle, June 2009

“100 point wine. I have reviewed and scored thousands of wines, but have never found one that I felt deserved the perfect score – until now. The Royal...is the finest syrah I have ever tasted from Washington state, and in fact as good as any young syrah I have ever tasted from anywhere. It sets an extremely high standard and masterfully displays the complexity, power and pure pleasure which Washington wines are capable of delivering.”

—Paul Gregutt, writer and critic for Wine Enthusiast Magazine and Seattle Times, PG Blog, May 2009

“Think what you like about the “Kill Bill”-style imagery on this latest from Charles Smith, the frizzy-maned rock star of Washington wine. Inside is serious stuff...Smith’s wines are meant to make an impact – down to the stark monochromatic design – and this one fairly screams “summer!”

—Jon Bonné, Wine Editor, San Francisco Chronicle, June 4, 2009

Great Wines for \$15 and Under

“In Washington the word is Riesling, and you can find juicy, well-balanced, food friendly Rieslings...kick yourself in the pants with “Kung Fu Girl” which winemaker Charles Smith tailors for Asian dishes.”

—Patrick Comiskey, LA Times, April 2009

“The Boom Boom! Syrah from Charles Smith Wines...is one I could drink every day without getting bored...it’s an all-around winner.”

—Dave McIntyre, The Washington Post, March 2009

“A funky label and yummy wine from the slightly off-beat and “far out” producer Charles Smith... Less a karate chop than a soft pat-on-the-back of a wine....a great Riesling hit (if you forgive the pun).”

—Harpers (UK), January 2009

One of the “Best New Wineries of the Last 10 Years” —Wine & Spirits Magazine, September 2008

“Winery of the Year” —2008 Annual Buying Guide, Wine & Spirits Magazine, October 2008

“Top 100 Wineries of the Year” —Wine & Spirits Magazine, November 2008

