

# K VINTNERS & CHARLES SMITH WINES ACCLAIM

**Wine Spectator “Wine of the Week”**, December 5, 2011

**Charles Smith Riesling Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen 2010 90pts**

Vivid, distinctive and immensely appealing for its juicy Winesap apple, apricot and citrus flavors, finishing with zing to balance the sweetness. Drink now. —Harvey Steiman

**International Wine Report Top Ten Wines of 2011**, December 2011

**K Vintners 2009 “The Creator” 95pts**

Our number 6 wine is from K Vintners, located at the base of the Blue Mountains in Walla Walla Washington. Winemaker Charles Smith has risen at light speed to one of the top winemakers in all of the US. The 2009 K Vintners "The Creator" shows beautiful black and blue fruits, hot stone, spice, olive, spice and mineral which carry over to the juicy core. This is full throttled and doesn't miss a beat finishing up with a long mouth-coating finish. Drink this monster now or over the next 10+ years.

**Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide**, December 2011

**Charles Smith 2008 “Royal City” Syrah 98pts**

An Amaro-like mix of bitters and herbs; this is exceptionally dense and dark. The fruit is a grace note; the big flavors come from herb, earth, rock, barrel and more. Licorice, baking spices, smoke, black cherry, Bourbon barrel, and on it goes. Huge and dense and seemingly endless.

**Charles Smith 2008 “King Coal” Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah 96pts, Editor’s Choice**

This is the first time a King Coal has been made, all sourced from the Stoneridge Vineyard. It's a unique and delicious wine, seamless and complex. The flavors are amazingly detailed, with layer upon layer of candied fruit, raisins, Bourbon barrel, Asian spice, ginger, toast and more. The flavors pile on and continue into a seemingly endless finish, resonating into a spicy blend of fruit and Christmas cookies.

**K Vintners 2007 “The Hustler” Syrah 96pts**

Only the second time The Hustler has been made, this spent 38 months in barrel. All the fruit is sourced from the Morrison Lane vineyard. Port-like and amazingly concentrated, it's about as far as a dry wine can go and show fruit that is not buried in new oak. Here the fruit is a dark blend of berries and cassis; there is a dense layer of chocolate and earth underneath, with a finish loaded with baking spices.

**K Vintners 2008 “Ovide” En Cerise Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah 95pts, Cellar Selection**

Sourced from another of the Cayuse vineyards, this is two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and one-third Syrah—a proven blend in Walla Walla. There is a potently aromatic herbal quality to the perfectly ripened fruit that marries black cherry and earthy tannins to the herbs. A big wine, with dried leaf character dominating the tannins. Good length, in an Italian style, with a good decade of life ahead.

**K Vintners 2008 “The Creator” 95pts, Editor’s Choice**

This edition of The Creator is a one-time only mix of 43% Cabernet Sauvignon from Stoneridge, 21% Cabernet from Cailloux, and 36% Syrah from Morrison Lane. It's edgy and tight, with sharply defined corners—herbal, with a leafy/stemmy note, well-integrated into wild, brambly berry fruits. The 50% new oak is virtually invisible at this point; it fills out the mouthfeel but does not show specifically.

**K Vintners 2008 “Roma” En Chamberlin Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah 94pts**

A similar blend to the Ovide; this is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Syrah. The fruit is more forward here, with pretty black-berry and black cherry flavors, and a dark and forceful streak of iron and charcoal and licorice. A light lavender note adds interest.

**K Vintners 2008 “Northridge” Syrah 94pts, Editor’s Choice**

This may be the quintessential site among the extensive Milbrandt vineyards that produce much of the K Vintners Syrah lineup. The Northridge bottling has amazing purity and concentration, with a beguiling mix of deep berry fruits and gravelly minerality. Supple power, muscular and dense.

# **K VINTNERS & CHARLES SMITH WINES ACCLAIM**

## **K Vintners 2008 “Phil Lane” Syrah 94pts, Cellar Selection**

A deep and compact wine with Syrah fruit styled with a Cabernet-like verticality, this layers ripe berry fruit with streaks of graphite, ash and rock. The flavors persist through a lingering, super clean finish with the balance and acidity to age. What are initially tightly wound subtleties of herb and spice may well expand into nuanced complexity over the next decade or more.

## **K Vintners 2008 “Morrison Lane” Syrah 93pts**

With its excellent concentration of pure fruit power, this is like taking your mouth through a 100 yard dash of raspberry, blueberry and black cherry fruit, right down the heart of the throat. Along the way you find a tight wrapping of rock and espresso, but it's the snappy, sappy fruit that really shines here. Great length.

## **K Vintners 2008 “Pheasant Vineyard” Syrah 93pts, Editor’s Choice**

First you smell chocolate, then it quickly shows a piercing minerality, with tart boysenberry and pomegranate fruit. Dense without being heavy, it has compact layering that shows especially in the aromatics. A subtle, refined, elegant wine that does not feel at all like its 15% alcohol.

## **K Vintners 2008 “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard Syrah 93pts, Editor’s Choice**

The Deal is the real deal—Syrah with all the peppery herb and earthy fruit flavor that this grape can provide. A smoked ham/cured meat component emerges as flavors weave into the back of the throat; nicely integrated. Threads of herb and dried leaf continue into the finish, along with a streak of pure cherry.

## **K Vintners 2008 “El Jefe” En Chamberlin Tempranillo 91pts**

The blend includes 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. The En Chamberlin Vineyard predictably shows a generous dose of the Cayuse funk, along with solid and deep flavors of earth, stem, herb and wild brambly fruits. It all comes together in a tight and spicy wine with more funk than Spanish character. Unique and precise, with lingering flavors.

## **K Vintners 2008 “Milbrandt” Syrah 90pts**

The Milbrandt bottling is all Sundance Vineyard fruit, cropped a little higher, and macerated with fewer stems for a shorter time. It is a fine introduction to the K Vintners style; showing good density in a moderately ripe format. The fruit is brambly and tart, with some earth and stem flavors, good balance, and a hint of the grape's gamy aspect.

## **K Vintners 2008 “The Boy” Grenache 90pts**

From the (Cayuse) Armada Vineyard, the blend includes 8% Syrah. Very floral, with lovely scents of lily and spice. It's all fruit, with no new wood, and some whole cluster flavors of bark and stem. All nicely integrated and subtle, adding texture and detail. There is a streak of balsamic, and tart berry fruit flavors with a powerful, peppery, earthy component from the vineyard.

**Edmonton Journal, True Grape: Rocking it in Washington, Gurvinder Bhatia, November 2011**

## **Charles Smith Wines 2009 “Boom Boom!” Syrah**

Ripe, elusive and lush black cherry and blackberry flavours with a hint of chocolate, soft tannins and a bright, fresh, lifted finish. Very drinkable while still possessing a lovely character. Food pairings: Great match with braised and grilled pork and beef.

**Field & Stream, What'll You Have?, Jonathan Miles, September 2011**

Drink pairing doesn't have to be confusing. Here's how to choose a fine wine, beer or cocktail to complement your hard-earned game.

Venison: Rich and potent, cabernet sauvignon has long been the go-to varietal for big fame. The **2008 Charles Smith Wines Chateau Smith Cabernet** adds subtlety to the mix, with lots of brawny elegance but also tenderloin friendly nuance.

# K VINTNERS & CHARLES SMITH WINES ACCLAIM

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate**, September 2011

"I met up with Charles at his new wine bar in Walla Walla before we drove out to the winery in his 1949 Cadillac, a picture of which is on the web-site (not the deluxe model like my grandfather used to drive). It is always a highlight of my annual trip to Washington because in addition to the tasting, you get a performance but, after all is said and done, when it comes to making wine, Charles Smith is all business. He knows where the vineyards are, he believes in amazingly low yields, and in the winery he is a non-interventionist. All of the following wines were made with native ferments and were bottled without fining or filtration."

## **2008 "Royal City" Syrah 99pts**

The 2008 Royal City Syrah was sourced from the Stoneridge Vineyard. It displays a soaring perfume of sandalwood, garrigue, lavender, smoke, bacon, game, blueberry, and black raspberry. Super-concentrated, it deftly marries power and elegance in a seamless wine that should see its 20th birthday in peak form.

## **2006 K Syrah "Wells" 97pts**

The 2006 Syrah Wells Vineyard comes from a site farmed by Christophe Baron of Cayuse. There are only 35 cases of magnums and Mr. Smith has not decided whether to sell them or drink them himself. The wine was made with 100% stems which no doubt contributes to its kinky, leafy, herbal, exotic aromas. In the glass more spice, notes of camphor, and densely layered fruit lead to a plush, thoroughly pleasure-bent wine that should continue to deliver the goods for another 10-12 years.

## **2008 K "Roma" En Chamberlin 96pts**

The 2008 Roma en Chamberlin, also from a Cayuse vineyard, is composed of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Syrah. Dense, rich, plush, and well-balanced, this already complex wine will also evolve for another 3-4 years and drink well through 2025.

## **2008 K "El Jefe" En Chamberlin 95pts**

Also sourced from Cayuse, the 2008 El Jefe En Chamberlin is made up of 80% Tempranillo and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. Earthy minerals, black cherries, tapenade, truffle, violets, and blackberry set the stage for a loaded, complex, powerful offering that offers a drinking window extending from 2014 to 2020+.

## **2008 K Syrah "Phil Lane" 95pts**

The 2008 Syrah Phil Lane is more structured and has greater aging potential than the preceding wines. It merits 3-4 years of additional cellaring and will drink well through 2023 if not longer.

## **2008 K "Ovide" En Cerise 94pts**

The 2008 Ovide en Cerise was sourced from a Cayuse vineyard. The wine is a co-fermented blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Syrah. Toasty oak, violets, Asian spices, and assorted black and blue fruits lead to a full-flavored, complex, plush wine that will continue to blossom for several more years.

## **2008 K "The Boy" 93pts**

The 2008 The Boy, made with 100% whole clusters, is composed of 92% Grenache and 8% Syrah aged in neutral oak. Ripe cherries and earthy minerals lead to a savory, ripe, southern Rhone-like offering that will provide pleasure for a decade.

## **2008 K "The Creator" 93pts**

The 2008 The Creator, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, and Syrah in which the latter component dominates the nose. Ripe, spicy, and well balanced, this structured wine will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and drink well through 2023.

## **2008 K Syrah "Milbrandt" 93pts**

The 2008 Syrah Milbrandt Vineyard was made with 40% whole clusters. Smoked meat, game, lavender, and blueberry aromas titillate the nose leading to an already complex, smooth-textured, succulent wine that will deliver pleasure now through 2018. There are 800 cases of this nicely priced wine.

## **2008 K Syrah "Clifton" 93pts**

The 2008 Syrah Clifton Vineyard serves up an aromatic array of wild berries, smoked meat, game, and a hint of garrigue. In the glass it reveals greater density than the first two offerings as well as rich flavors, a plush palate feel, and a lengthy, pure finish.

# K VINTNERS & CHARLES SMITH WINES ACCLAIM

## **2008 K Syrah “Pheasant Vineyard” 93pts**

The 2008 Syrah Pheasant Vineyard was made with 50% whole clusters. The nose is more brooding and on the palate the wine is more structured. There is plenty of ripe savory fruit and enough fine-grained tannin to support 2-3 years of cellaring. Drink it through 2020.

## **2008 K Syrah “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard 93pts**

The 2008 Syrah the Deal Sundance Vineyard sports a nose of cured meat, wood smoke, exotic spices, lavender, plum, and blueberry. In the glass it is already complex with layered, savory, ripe fruit and a lengthy, pure finish.

## **2008 K Syrah “Morrison Lane” 93pts**

The 2008 Syrah Morrison Lane gives up an enticing bouquet of sandalwood, spice box, garrigue, game, and blueberry. Intense, sweetly-fruited, and impeccably balanced, this lengthy effort will evolve for 2-3 years and drink well through 2020+.

## **2009 CS Viognier Stoneridge Vineyard 93pts**

The 2009 Charles Smith Viognier Stoneridge Vineyard was barrel-fermented in 33% new oak. Light gold in color, it offers up an alluring perfume of banana and other tropical fruits. Creamy-textured, beautifully proportioned, and substantial, Viognier does not get much better than this (and I include Condrieu in that statement).

## **2008 K Syrah “Northridge” 91pts**

The 2008 Syrah Northridge lacks the density and depth of the preceding wines, but is still a first-class effort..

## **2010 K Viognier Columbia Valley 91pts**

The 2010 K Vintners Viognier was barrel-fermented in neutral oak with batonnage. Aromas of peach, apricot, and stony minerals inform the nose of an intense, savory, lengthy wine that will provide enjoyment for several years.

## **Gastrotommy, September 2011**

I am often very skeptical of people, places and things that are really cool. I find I just don't typically find the same things cool that most other people do. So when a manager I worked with told me about wines from a guy in Washington that was a self-taught winemaker who used to manage rock bands in Copenhagen...I cringed. I concocted this wild image of a drug-abusing, chain-smoking burnout that had returned to the states with some stupor-induced notion of becoming a Rockstar winemaker. Not on my watch. Not a chance.

I was ready to shred these wines.

Then, I tasted the wine. My first experience with Charles Smith's wines was the K Vintners, Syrah, Cougar Hills, Walla Walla, 2002. Despite the potential cliched nightmare, the wine was delicious. It was balanced. Big, but balanced. It had a good degree of acidity, tannic structure and simply jammy fruit. I continued to enjoy these wines for a period. Then Charles created a new line from a new company. The Magnificent Wine Company was the creation. His product was House Wine. I loved everything about this...

Next up for the savvy marketing, crazy haired, self taught Rockstar winemaker was Charles Smith Wines. He took the gloves off, had fun at all price points with many varietals. The wines are magically delicious. From Kung Fu Girl Riesling to Boom Boom Syrah to Velvet Devil and so on the wines bring place, pleasure and purpose to every sip.

What I also discovered along the way was that Charles was not simply a guy with crazy hair that likes to get down like he's going to prison tomorrow (really). He is really smart. He has a tremendous amount of respect for the great old world wines from Europe. He understand and executes marketing strategy aswell as anyone in the world. Furthermore, he never compromises his values to gain favor. Ever. I just don't know if he was ever a chain smoker.

So you are looking for something that totally rocks that you can find anywhere? Check out Charles Smith's wines.

## **Food & Wine, August 2011**

### **Where to Go Next, Tasting Rooms for Dudes**

“These Walla Walla, Washington, tasting rooms trade flowers and folksiness for giant TVs and turntables, creating the ultimate wine-guy hangouts.”

**Charles Smith Wines** The motorcycle-riding, rock-and-roll winemaker Charles Smith converted an old garage into his new tasting room. By day visitors sample wines, but at night, the space fills with DJs, burlesque shows and rockabilly concerts.

### **Two Brawny Bottles To Try**

2009 Charles Smith Wines “The Velvet Devil” Merlot Plush and chocolaty, Charles Smith's Merlot is made with a blend of grapes from Wahsington's Yakima Valley and Wahluke Slope areas. Samples of his higher-end K Vintners bottlings are also available in his tasting room.

# K VINTNERS & CHARLES SMITH WINES ACCLAIM

## **Wines Northwest, by Chuck Hill, March 2011**

2009 Charles Smith Wines Boom Boom! Syrah, Columbia Valley

I haven't asked winemaker Charles Smith about the naming of this wine, but I choose to infer that the first "Boom" is for powerful, ripe, juicy fruit, and the second "Boom" is for the intense oak character. The Boom-Boom combination is just what many consumers are looking for, and who could find a better price? On the nose: blueberry, dark plum and caramel; on the palate: dark cherry, caramel, toasty vanilla. Boom, Boom! It does a great job of taming the heat of spicy foods, too.

## **Wine Enthusiast Advance Buying Guide, February 2011**

### **2007 Charles Smith Wines Royal City Stoneridge Vineyard Syrah, Columbia Valley 99pts, Cellar Selection**

Depth and texture dominate; it's all whole-cluster fruit, aged in new barriques. This fine follow-up to the 2006 features a little more delicacy, with a lovely floral component and some earth. The depth is astonishing in the weight and texture and the way the wine plays out across the palate. The finish never ends: a glorious mix of black cherry, earth, herb, spice, and rock.

### **2007 Charles Smith Wines Heart Stoneridge Vineyard Syrah, Columbia Valley 98pts, Cellar Selection**

This initially tastes like young fruit, herbal, with a lot of stem and flower flavors, but with some heat at 16% alcohol. Nonetheless it's delicious, compact, enormously fruity, focused and flat out amazing. A perfect mix of flesh, fruit, earth, and typicity from this unique vineyard.

### **2007 Charles Smith Wines Skull Stoneridge Vineyard Syrah, Columbia Valley 97pts, Cellar Selection**

Killer juice. It has it all—focus, depth, detail and power. Spice and herb, punch and power, wrapped into a wine with bright, tight berry fruit and layer upon layer of earth, rock and herb. It surpasses the ability of language to describe it. But it needs time—a lot of time.

### **2007 Charles Smith Wines Old Bones Stoneridge Vineyard Syrah, Columbia Valley 96pts**

This displays extraordinary fruit flavors, along with a dense, deep minerality. The flavors seamlessly blend berry, rock, graphite, fresh herb, and light barrel notes. But the fruit! Ripe and rich and aggressively full bodied. Berries piled upon earth and rock, and the flavors linger forever.

### **2007 K Syrah The Deal Sundance Vineyard, Wahluke Slope 94pts**

Blood red, with a center almost black, and a smell like raw meat. A remarkable wine, cropped at well under 2 tons/acre and vinified with roughly 50% whole clusters. Complex and aromatic, with a fruit jelly character that mixes exotic berries and black currants. This is a wine you can dive into and keep exploring; beyond the luscious fruits are layers of herb and cured meats and a vein of graphite.

### **2007 K Syrah Northridge, Wahluke Slope 94pts**

This would qualify as a fruit bomb except it is so impeccably balanced, with fine-grained tannins and enough acidity to keep the lush berry fruit flavors from becoming jammy. Boysenberry, blackberry, black cherry and cassis hold down a concentrated core; the density of this wine is captivating.

### **2007 K Viognier, Columbia Valley 93pts**

All den Hoed grapes—barrel fermented, neutral oak, no malolactic. Very rich, deep and racy, with glorious fruit. Full-bodied and lush without being heavy; it keeps the freshness and minerality, along with a full range of fruits from citrus to stone fruits to melon. Finishes with a lick of white pepper

### **2007 K Syrah Morrison Lane, Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

This has a strong and pure Walla Walla character; the fruit is splayed out broadly across the palate, a luscious mix of strawberries, blueberries, cherries and cassis. There are other veins of flavor running alongside: chocolate, coffee, black olive, licorice, anise and a hint of 5-spice. Big and full and deeply flavorful, this is perhaps the iconic K Syrah.

### **2007 K Syrah Phil Lane, Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

The Phil Lane, from a small vineyard that adjoins the winery, is refined and elegant in the context of the K Vintners Syrah pantheon. This has a generous amount of herb and organic/umami flavor, and the fruit is a component, but not dominant. A contemporary wine, with a subtle weave of herb, earth and berry. The acids are not yet entirely integrated, but that's a minor caveat

### **2007 K Roma En Chamberlin, Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

This is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Syrah. The Cab shines here, firm and confident, with sharp edges from spicy herbs. The fruit is polished and silky, and the wine seems to have a sheen over it, an almost gauze-like surface that shimmers and shines.

**Wine Enthusiast Advance Buying Guide**, February 2011 *continued*

**2007 K Guido, Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

This is 80% Sangiovese and 20% Syrah; an overlooked treasure from the LeFore vineyard, one of the original plantings in the Rocks. It is now beginning to show more genuine Sangiovese character as it moves into its second decade. Spicy berry with a strong coffee back, and the juicy acidity of the grape providing the structure. It finishes with a bright cinnamon streak. Delicious.

**2007 K Syrah Milbrandt, Wahluke Slope 92pts, Editor's Choice**

Loaded with spice and mint, angular and focused, this extraordinary offering has a core of strikingly deep raspberry fruit. Around that core resonates a shell of minty herb, further defined by sharp tannins with an aromatic sandalwood component. As it breathes in the glass, it opens up further with cured, smoked meat flavors.

**2007 K The Creator, Walla Walla Valley 92pts**

The Creator is a blend of 60% Cailloux Cabernet Sauvignon, and 40% Morrison Lane Syrah. It's a fascinating mix, with powerful fruit from two iconic Walla Walla vineyards. Neither dominates; the Cailloux Cab is somewhat muted by the Morrison Lane Syrah, which in turn is muted by the Cailloux. The result is a blend that expresses rather than shouts the attributes of each, while remaining balanced and complete.

**2007 K The Boy, Walla Walla Valley 92pts**

Armada vineyard (Cayuse) Grenache has got the funk, the terroir of the Rocks, and a spicy/herbal component that shines through. The depth and detail are amazing, and there is plenty of the Cayuse funk—it's a love it or hate it flavor, but it is unique and complex.

**2007 K Syrah Clifton, Wahluke Slope 92pts**

In the aromas are some organic, composty notes, some violets, and plenty of purple fruits. This wine has extra grip in the mouth, drying tannins, quite ripe and polished, and elevated with beautifully ripe fruit. Veins of licorice and black olive run into the finish.

**2007 K El Jefe En Chamberlin, Walla Walla Valley 91pts**

This is 75% Tempranillo and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. It's got an unusual structure, and dramatically displays this biodynamic vineyard's funky, herbal, earthy character, with plenty of acidity from the Tempranillo, and a little bit of the tomato leaf character also. A complex, unique, distinctive wine that does not show fruit so much as earth and terroir. It keeps going, adding weight and depth through the midpalate, with a strong tomato component.

**2007 K Ovide En Cerise, Walla Walla Valley 91pts**

Two-thirds Cabernet and onethird Syrah, this is a creative blend of Cayuse grapes, with the pungent, herbal, earthy character that the En Cerise vineyard delivers in spades. The fruit is a mix that hints at peaches, citrus and more, with an undercurrent of black olive and smoke. But the overriding flavors come from spice, herb, earth and rock.

**2007 K Syrah Motor City Kitty (M.C.K.), Washington State 91pts**

All Talcott vineyard, but not labeled as such. This shows the alcohol a bit more than the others, but it also has the sculpted tannins, the density and structure, and the intensity of berry-fruit flavors that characterize the entire K Syrah lineup. There is an interesting spicy top note that adds a bit of perfume to the flavor also.

**2007 K Syrah Pheasant Vineyard, Wahluke Slope 90pts**

This is also a Milbrandt vineyard, but quite different flavors emerge from the other Milbrandt wines. Plenty of black cherry fruit, with a minerality that suggests iron ore. Penetrating, ripe and potent (15% alcohol), yet well balanced and complex, with wild herbs lurking in the background.

**Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar**, December 2010

**2007 K Vintners Syrah Phil Lane Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

Just five barrels of this juice, from a crop level of just one ton per acre, according to Charles Smith, and fermented with 70% whole clusters. Bright ruby-red. Explosive, nuanced nose combines raspberry, licorice, cola, earth, flowers, roasted nuts and smoked meat, plus a suggestion of white fruits; this one features all the major syrah food groups. Then compellingly sweet and spicy in the mouth, with palate-saturating flavors of raspberry, rose petal and wild mint. Wonderfully energetic and aromatic syrah with terrific sex appeal. Smith told me he chills the syrah grapes to 40 °F at the beginning of the harvest and then carries out a total maceration lasting up to 45 days. This is the most consistent and aromatic set of syrahs I've tasted to date under the K Vintners label, generally displaying more red fruits than black.

**Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar**, December 2010 *continued*

**2007 K Vintners El Jefe En Chamberlin Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

Good medium red. Cherry, dried spices, wild herbs and tea leaf on the fascinating nose, along with a meaty nuance. Then almost surprisingly broad and sweet in the mouth, with enticing floral lift to the cherry and spice flavors. Less saline and fruitier than the foregoing blends; this boasts terrific mid-palate stuffing.

**2007 K Vintners The Creator Walla Walla Valley 92(+?)pts**

Medium red. Very ripe aromas of dark berries, cocoa powder and tea leaf, lifted by a minty nuance. Then sweet and succulent in the mouth, with a blast of raspberry fruit complemented by a strong floral element. Still a bit youthfully aggressive. Finishes with firm tannic spine, a restrained sweetness and a meaty, herbal undertone. A very successful blend, but give it a couple years to harmonize.

**2007 K Vintners Ovide En Cerise Vineyard Walla Walla Valley 92pts**

Good deep red. Nose dominated by dried tobacco leaf and roasted Mediterranean herbs. Then fatter and sweeter than the Roma red but with lovely aromatic lift; shows a stronger red fruit component complicated by almost Bandol-like game and wild herbs. Fat, broad, spicy and savory wine, with a long, nicely sweet finish.

**2007 K Vintners The Boy Walla Walla Valley 91pts**

Bright medium red with a palish rim. Exotic red and dark berries, tea leaf, licorice, eucalyptus and orange peel on the wild, perfumed nose. Then dense and shapely in the mouth, with very good focus to the fruit and licorice flavors. Silky and broad but also weightless and classically dry. Finishes with lovely lingering perfume. From Armada Vineyard.

**2007 K Vintners Syrah Pheasant Vineyard Wahluke Slope 91pts**

Good bright, deep red. Red cherry, plum and cocoa powder aromas are lifted by a lavender topnote. Sweet, floral, palate-saturating wine with impressive density. Begins a bit simple but shows enticing hints of crushed stone and purple fruits as it opens in the glass. Finishes with broad, serious tannins. This syrah really stimulates the salivary glands but there's nothing hard about it.

**2007 K Vintners Syrah Northridge Wahluke Slope 91pts**

Good medium-deep red. Very ripe red fruits and tea leaf on the nose, plus an exotic suggestion of white fruits. Then tactile, suave and juicy, with firm structure framing and supporting the red fruit, spice and floral flavors. The 50% whole clusters give lift to this wine, and the very old soils give it density with a light touch, notes Charles Smith. The wine's 30% new oak component contributes to its tannic spine. This is the first vintage made by K Vintners from this 2000 planting.

**2007 K Vintners Syrah Morrison Lane Walla Walla Valley 90(+?)pts**

Dark red. Deeply pitched aromas of potpourri spices, meat, cocoa powder, mocha and sweet earth, with a hint of flowers. Supple, dusty and classically dry, with very dark flavors of licorice, baker's chocolate, spices and minerals. Finishes with dusty, firm tannins. Not a fruity style but this needs time to express itself.

**2007 K Vintners Syrah Milbrandt Wahluke Slope 90pts**

Deep red. Red fruits, flowers and a whiff of exotic orange peel on the nose. Juicy, bright and floral, with lovely lift but also some complementary meaty low tones. Nicely sweet syrah with a light touch and fine-grained tannins. From sandy soil, picked in late October, and vinified with 30% whole clusters.

**2007 K Vintners Syrah The Deal Sundance Vineyard Wahluke Slope 90pts**

Good deep red-ruby. Cherry syrup and loganberry fruit aromas complicated by cola, mocha and cocoa powder and lifted by a minty nuance. Sweeter and richer than the Milbrandt, in a weightier, more powerful style. Not yet complex but there's lovely sweetness here. From a crop level of under two tons per acre, according to Charles Smith, and fermented with wild yeasts and 40% whole clusters. Just 15% new oak used here.

**2007 K Vintners Roma Red Wine En Chamberlin Walla Walla Valley 90pts**

Good full red. Complex smoky aromas of cherry, red currant and flowers. Ripe and silky but dry, with strong smoke and loamy earth tones dominating the middle palate. Not a fruit-driven style but nicely integrated acidity keeps it fresh.

**2009 K Vintners Viognier Columbia Valley 90pts**

Bright, pale yellow-straw. Lively aromas of peach, orange zest, acacia flower and spices. Quite dry and juicy, with very good energy to the flavors of soft citrus fruits and spices. The lingering finish displays real cut. This vibrant viognier, done in neutral French oak and not put through malo, should reward a year in the bottle.

**Wine Spectator Advance “Best Values”,** December 2010

**2009 Charles Smith Riesling Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen Vineyard 89pts**

Light and fragrant, on the dry side, featuring tangy grapefruit and apple flavors that linger gently. Drink now.

**Wine Spectator Insider,** October 2010

**2007 K Syrah “Northridge” 96pts**

So concentrated it feels like the essence of Syrah. A glowing ball of red and black cherry, pomegranate and plum flavors lights up a galaxy of tobacco, allspice, crème brûlée and black pepper grace notes, coming together harmoniously on the very long finish. This has power, but doesn't weigh down the palate. Drink now through 2020.

**2007 K “Ovide” En Cerise 95pts**

Big and generous, but stays light enough on its feet to make the powerful black olive-scented currant, plum and peppery spice flavors sing with refinement. An undercurrent of minerality adds interest and depth, and the finish persists impressively. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2012 through 2020.

**2007 K “Roma” En Chamberlin 95pts**

Explosive, intense flavors of ripe cherry, pomegranate, black olive and tomato leaf ride easily, almost airily, over a refined structure. The tannins are nicely submerged, and the flavors seem to whoosh through the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2017.

**2007 K Syrah “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard 94pts**

Ripe and spicy, this is a big wine that deftly balances its powerful blackberry, plum and fresh currant fruit against cedar, black pepper and bacon flavors, lingering on the tightly packed finish. Best from 2012 through 2020.

**2007 K “The Creator” 94pts**

Rich, ripe and round, brimming with black olive, blackberry, cherry and spice flavors that glide easily and appealingly over a polished frame. The finish doesn't quit, but strikes an elegant balance, with refined power. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2012 through 2019.

**2007 K Syrah “Phil Lane” 93pts**

Ripe fruit, earth and tar notes combine to produce complex and powerful flavors in this big, brawny Syrah. There's black cherry and currant at the core, with dead leaf and soy sauce notes poking in from the side. Massive structure needs time to soften. Best after 2013.

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate,** September 2010

“Over the past two years a cult following has sprung up around the *persona* of Charles Smith, imbuing him with larger than life attributes. By and large, he has acquired this status the old-fashioned way, he has earned it. When I tell enquiring minds that I'll be visiting Charles later in the day, they know exactly where I'm going. Once past the *persona*, however, Charles continues to make some of Washington's finest wines. Native yeast fermentation, footcrushing, spontaneous malolactic fermentations, gentle basket pressing, no fining or filtration are routinely practiced in the cellar. Even more important, Charles knows where to find the great grapes. In a region where blending is still the rule of thumb, he is the ultimate *terrorist*. Almost all of his wines are sourced from single vineyards. There are three groupings, the K Vintners selections, the Cayuse selections and the Charles Smith selections.”

**2007 “Royal City” Syrah 99pts**

“(4 barrels were produced) Made with 100% whole clusters. An inky purple/black in color, it deals out aromas of mineral, truffle, espresso, licorice, lavender, incense, and blueberry. Super complex, suave and debonair on the palate, this is a lengthy, concentrated, impeccably balanced, complete Syrah that will benefit from a decade of cellaring but is almost too addictive to resist now. Those with willpower who are able to delay gratification will be well rewarded for cellaring this beauty for a decade or more.”

**2007 “Old Bones” Syrah 99pts**

“This is composed of 50% Heart and 50% Skull aged in 500 liter new barrels. Savory, rich, layered, and already complex, this exceptionally lengthy mouth-filling, hedonistic Syrah offers just a micrometer of extra flavor interest compared to either Heart or Skull individually. The new oak and a broader palette of flavors to choose among are the most likely contributors.”

**2007 K Syrah “Phil Lane” 96pts**

“Deep purple-colored, it surrenders a captivating nose of *pain grille*, mineral, truffle underbrush, and blueberry. Dense, savory, and mouth-coating on the palate, it is already showing signs of complexity. Give it another 2-3 years of cellaring.”

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate,** September 2010 *continued*

**2007 K “The Creator” 95pts**

“Made of 60% Cabernet from the Cayuse Callioux Vineyard and 40% Syrah from Morrison Lane Vineyard. A bit reticent aromatically, it gives up aromas of smoke, Asian spices, incense, mineral, black currant and blueberry. Structured, spicy, and full-flavored on the palate, this length effort will develop for another 4-5 years and provide prime drinking from 2013 to 2027.”

**2007 K “El Jefe En Chamberlin” 95pts**

“A blend of 75% Tempranillo and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of smoke, espresso, mineral, licorice, and blackberry lead to a dense, concentrated, impeccably balanced wine that should continue evolving for another 4-6 years and offer a drinking window extending from 2014 to 2027.”

**2007 K “Roma En Chamberlin” 95pts**

“A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Syrah. It exhibits a nose of cedar, spice box, violets, black currant and blueberry. Smooth-textured, layered, and sweetly-fruited, it has outstanding depth and richness with a sense of restraint. Give it 2-3 years and drink it through 2022.”

**2007 K Syrah “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard 94pts**

“A large step up. It delivers more aromatically and on the palate; bacon, game, lavender, incense, and blueberry scents jump from the glass. Velvety on the palate with notes, and impeccable balance, this pleasure-bent Syrah can be enjoyed now and over the next 8 years.”

**2007 K “Ovide En Cerise” 93pts**

“A blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Syrah. Meaty, gamey, and kinky on the nose, on the palate it is medium to full-bodied with an easy-going personality. This friendly effort is loaded with fruit, Asian spices, and herbs leading to a lengthy, pure finish. Give it 2-3 years to fill out although it can be enjoyed now.”

**2007 K “The Boy” 93pts**

“A blend of 90% grenache (from Cayuse) and 10% syrah, co-fermented. It sends up a sexy aromatic array of wild berry aromas, earth notes, herbs, incense, lavender, black cherry, and plum. On the palate it is full-bodied, savory, and layered, with a sense of elegance.”

**2007 K Syrah “Morrison Lane” 93pts**

“This wine exhibits an alluring perfume of meat, bacon, game, incense, lavender, and blueberry. Easy-going and succulent, it is the most elegant of the Syrah offerings.”

**2007 K Syrah “Northridge” 93pts**

“This wine sports a brooding bouquet of balsam wood, smoke, Asian spices, lavender, and blueberry; on the palate it is smooth-textured, elegant, ripe, and lengthy....”

**2007 K Syrah “Pheasant” 91pts**

“Displays an aromatic array of earth notes, smoked meat, leather, and plum. Mouth-filling and chewy on the palate...”

**2009 K Viognier 91pts**

“It offers up a fragrant perfume of pit fruits, honeysuckle, and mineral. Creamy textured, fresh, concentrated, well-balanced...”

**Wine & Spirits “Rieslings, Year’s Best”, August 2010**

**90 pts: 2009 Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen Vineyard Riesling (Best Buy)** This riesling’s fruit scents are almost applesauce ripe, with notes of lees and nutmeg providing some complexity. For all that, the texture is firm and mineral, with the freshness to stand up to the warmest August day.

**90pts: 2008 Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen Vineyard Riesling (Best Buy)** This leads with surprisingly complex scents of anise, verbena and parsley. The palate is all about freshness, simple and direct, with a saline spine informing citrusy limeade flavors, marked by lively acidity. A natural for a fiery Phuket curry.

**Winemaker of the Year, Seattle Magazine, April 2010**

“A powerhouse in the Washington wine world, Charles Smith, K Vintners’ owner and winemaker has been honored and vilified for his no-nonsense approach to wine—“It’s just booze, drink it!”— and his ability to create a buzz around whatever he touches. His “Modernist Project” is a collection of wines that show “varietal typicity” (i.e., Merlot that tastes like Merlot), as well as being affordable and approachable while young. The names of his wines are irreverent— Old Bones Syrah, Kung Fu Girl Riesling, The Velvet Devil Merlot, Boom Boom Syrah—and the wines themselves are in your face, or rather, in your mouth, with full-flavor fruit and an earthy and oaky intensity that has become synonymous with the dynamic changes constantly in play in Washington wine.”

**Wine Spectator Insider “Hot Wines”, February 10, 2010**

*These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors’ most recent tastings, published exclusively in Wine Spectator Insider. They are high-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.*

**2006 Royal City Syrah, Stoneridge Vineyard 97 pts**

“A majestic wine, smooth, round and profuse with its blueberry, plum and black currant fruit, nicely wrapped in fine tannins and shaded with hints of white pepper and roasted meat. Big and profound, but not extra-weighty. Complex and beautifully balanced. Best from 2011 through 2017.”

**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 indicates that the best is yet to come.”*

**2006 Charles Smith Wines “Royal City Syrah” 98pts**

“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.”

**2006 K Syrah “Phil Lane” Walla Walla Valley 96pts**

“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).”

**2006 K “Ovide” En Cerise, Walla Walla Valley 95pts**

“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.”

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, October 2009 (continued)**

**2006 K "The Creator" Walla Walla Valley 95pts**

"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 from 2011 to 2021."

**2006 K "M.C.K." Syrah, Washington State 95pts**

"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."

**2006 K Syrah "Cougar Hills" Walla Walla Valley 95pts**

"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."

**2006 K "Ovide" En Cerise, Walla Walla Valley 95pts**

"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."

**2006 K Syrah "Pheasant Vineyard" Wahluke Slope 94pts**

"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."

**2006 K Syrah "The Deal" Sundance Vineyard, Wahluke Slope 94pts**

"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."

**2006 K "The Boy" Walla Walla Valley 94pts**

"The 2006 The Boy is 94% Grenache and 6% Syrah from the Armada Vineyard (Cayuse). It displays 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."

**2006 K "El Jefe" En Chamberlin, Walla Walla Valley 94pts**

"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."

**2006 K Syrah "Morrison Lane" Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

"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."

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, October 2009 *continued***

**2006 K "Roma" En Chamberlin, Walla Walla Valley 93pts**

"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."

**Top 100 "Best Buys" of 2009 —Wine Enthusiast, November 2009**

**89 points Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Columbia Valley**

This 2008 is the third vintage for this extraordinarily popular Riesling, again showing bright, vivid, punchy citrus fruit and juicy acids. Residual sugar is about 1.5% and once again it is sourced from the Evergreen vineyard. With production climbing to 20,000 cases, this should be easy to find at least until fall.

**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 Syrah for his own K brand. Now his wines are some of Washington's most sought-after. And Smith's The Magnificent Wine Company wines (House Wine Red and White) and "modernist" Charles Smith Wines (The Velvet Devil Merlot, Kung Fu Girl Riesling and more) are among the best values anywhere. Despite his success, Smith remains a rocker at heart, with the 80-mph motorcycle habit to prove it."

—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 is 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

## **Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines —Wine Spectator Insider, May 2009**

### **2006 K Syrah "Cougar Hills"**

**Big, dense and complex, this hits hard, then backs off, leaving a trail of plum, blackberry, black olive, smoke and mineral flavors that linger forever. Tannins are present and crisp, but don't get in the way. 95 points**

### **2006 K Syrah "Morrison Lane"**

**Big, brawny and generous, delivering a huge mouthful of tar- and black olive-accented plum and currant flavors, coalescing into a rich, complex finish. A sizable wine with poise. 94 points**

### **2006 K Syrah "Phil Lane"**

**Rich, ripe and generous with its spicy green and black olive flavors, which weave through plum, blackberry and wet stone character that remains powerful through the deftly balanced finish. 94 points**

**Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines** —Wine Spectator Insider, *continued*

**2006 K “Ovide” En Cerise**

Dense, ripe and chewy, this is packed with black cherry, black plum and licorice flavors, hinting at savory herbs and charred meat as the finish rolls on. Complex and well-structured.... 92 points

**2006 K “The Creator”**

Dark and chewy, this is dense with blackberry, currant and tar flavors, glowing and pulsing against a layer of smoky tannins. Shows a lot of life. 91 points

**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

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate**

“K Vintners (Charles Smith Wines) is where the larger-than-life Charles Smith presides. He is an innovator, marketing genius, outspoken, you name it – but above all the man is a brilliant winemaker who knows where all the great fruit is hidden. In a region where blending is the rule of thumb, he is the ultimate terroirist. Each wine reflects the vineyard from which it was produced but there is also a house style which lets you know immediately who made the wine. While it’s way too soon to put K Vintners on the same level as a Domaine Leroy or Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, the experience you get tasting in the cellar is much the same as in those legendary wineries, brilliantly made wines reflecting the terroir but also a winemaking signature that makes it totally clear which winery made the wine.”