



Stephen Tanzer's
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Tor Kenward Family Wines. 2006 Tor Chardonnay Durell Vineyard Wente Clone Sonoma Valley (\$53): Bright, pale yellow. Stone fruits, musky lees, cinnamon and minerals on the nose, all lifted by a note of menthol. Lush and strong in extract but with a light touch, offering fresh, rather cool flavors of lemon and stone. At once dense and lively. Finishes dry in a positive way, with sneaky length. 92. 2006 Tor Chardonnay Hudson Vineyard Cuvée Molly Napa Valley (\$60): Bright, pale yellow. Stone fruits, clove, cinnamon and crushed rocks on the subtly complex nose. Pure and fruit-driven on the palate, with a captivating sweetness to the flavors of peach, pear and spices. Finishes dry, minerally and impressively long. 93. 2005 Tor Chardonnay Cuvée Torchiana Wente Clone Sonoma County (\$60; Tor Kenward describes this as "a one-shot wine, from two cool-climate sources"; aged 24 months in barrel): Medium yellow. Perfumed nose combines *mirabelle*, flowers and liquid stone, complicated by sexy oak spices. Big, sappy, dense and broad, with strong, expressive yellow fruit flavors and compelling sweetness and concentration. Finishes with palate-staining persistence. 94. 2006 Rock Syrah Hommage Allan Judge Vineyard Bennett Valley (\$53; includes a healthy dollop of grenache and a bit of viognier): Ruby-red. Blackberry, violet, licorice and stone on the nose. Densely packed but quite tight and firm-edged, with spice and medicinal flavors dominating today. Finishes with building tannins. 90. 2006 Rock Grenache Cuvée Cooper Judge Vineyard Bennett Valley (\$60): Good deep ruby-red. Serious, brisk aromas of cherry liqueur and wild herbs. Then lush, fat and sweet, with rich raspberry fruit lifted by distinctly Châteauneuf-like dried herbs. Finishes with big, broad, dusty tannins and lingering black raspberry and black cherry flavors. 92. 2006 Rock Syrah Judge Vineyard Bennett Valley (\$53): Bright ruby. Musky aromas of raspberry, mocha, bacon fat and game. Less complex in the mouth than the nose suggests but quite youthful and primary today, with black raspberry fruit complicated by a saline nuance and lifted by violet. Suave in texture, finishing with a fine dusting of tannins. 92(+?). 2006 Rock Syrah Hudson Vineyard Napa Valley (\$60): Full medium ruby. Incredible nose melds black raspberry, leather, game and brown spices, plus a suggestion of apricot. Wonderfully lush, silky and sweet, with superb density and depth to the flavors of raspberry, leather and brown spices. This lightly saline syrah saturates the entire palate. Finishes dry and extremely long, with chewy flavors of rocks, minerals and violet. Vinified with 90% whole clusters. A great California syrah. 95. 2005 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Mast-Cimarossa Napa Valley (\$75): Good deep red. High-toned aromas of cherry liqueur, licorice and herbs, lifted by a piquant note of orange peel. Supple but juicy, with an herbal pungency and bright acids giving the middle palate excellent definition and verve. Finishes firmly tannic and persistent, with flavors of spicy red berries, graphite and minerals. 91. 2005 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa Vineyard Howell Mountain (\$75): Good medium ruby. Subdued but pure aromas of black fruits, graphite, minerals, licorice and spices. Dense, sweet and youthfully medicinal, with considerable fat to the black fruit and medicinal flavors. Very long and sweetly tannic on the finish, which communicates a medicinal reserve that suggests this will repay several years of cellaring. 92(+?). 2005 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Clone 6 Oakville (\$125): Good deep ruby-red. Superripe, sweet aromas of currant, graphite and mocha. Big, rich, plush and full, combining superb depth of fruit and terrific energy. Finishes with broad, suave tannins and outstanding aromatic persistence and sweetness. From a very low-yielding clone, notes Kenward. 94. 2006 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Mast Yountville: Saturated ruby. Youthfully medicinal aromas of cassis, licorice and graphite. Superconcentrated, fruit-driven flavors of black raspberry, cassis and menthol. A big, powerfully structured wine with sound acidity and a saline nuance. Finishes with strong tannins and a medicinal reserve. From a vineyard to the south of Dominus. 90-93. 2006 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa Howell Mountain: Good saturated ruby. Pure, soil-driven aromas and flavors of cassis, bitter chocolate, graphite and crushed rock. Large-scaled, broad and sweet; fleshier than the Mast example. As supple as this is, there's also a very firm acid spine. The superb, vibrating finish features huge but ripe tannins and outstanding breadth. 91-94. 2006 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Clone 6 Oakville: Good full ruby-red. Superb, very dark aromas of cassis, blackberry, violet and menthol. Thick, supple and sweet, offering outstanding intensity and texture. Wonderfully fleshy, classy cabernet with a mounting finish in which the ripe tannins are buried under a wave of dark fruit flavors. Will this top the '05? 92-95.