

30 YEARS OF MONDAVI RESERVE CABERNET • THE LONG SHADOWS PROJECT • THE LOIRE VALLEY

# WINEACCESS

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## France, Red

France's viticultural diversity is enormous and fascinating. In the country's ongoing efforts to face more — and fiercer — international competition, there seems to be a desire to simplify French wine by making it more "international." Loads of rubbish! If France is to remain competitive, it must maintain its own identity. When the entire world is trying to understand their terroirs, why would France give up on them? This category is proof that when quality is the main focus, France can very well produce great wines of unique character at very good prices. (Véronique Rivest)

### WINNER

**88** **Château Sainte Eulalie** 2004 La Cantilène Minervois La Livinière, Languedoc AB \$22, QC \$21

The 2003 vintage was best red at the 2006 IWFA, so this is a consistently good value wine. The village of La Livinière is a sub-appellation in the Minervois region, generally producing more elegant and better-extracted wines from a syrah-dominated cocktail, in this case comprised of grenache and carignan. Ripe, rich, round and full-bodied, with gamey earthy notes to balance the abundant fruit. Very good to excellent length and great balance. Best 2008 to 2012. (STW)

### JUDGES CHOICE

**87** **Gerard Bertrand** 2005 Château l'Hospitalet, Coteaux du Languedoc, Languedoc \$19

**87** **Cheval Quancard** 2003 Château de Terrefort, Bordeaux \$16

**86** **Château de Courteillac** 2006, Entre-Deux-Mers, Bordeaux \$11

**86** **J.P. Chenet** 2003 Founder's Reserve Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Languedoc \$13

### EXPLAINING THE RATINGS

WineAccess provides opinion on wine quality with a 100-point scale. Our definition of quality is: pure and generous expression of the grape variety (or varieties) and origin as stated on the label. We are looking for purity (absence of faults), complexity, balance and depth. When these are in place the wine is usually delicious to drink at almost any age, and will mature nicely within the expectation for its style. All wines reviewed have been tasted in the last six months.

**95 to 100** Outstanding qualities and exciting to drink. Defines grape and origin, with exquisite harmony, fascinating complexity and great depth.

**90 to 94** Excellent quality, providing great pleasure to drink. Exemplary expression of grape and origin, and offers very fine balance, complexity and depth.

**85 to 89** Very good quality and enjoyable to drink. Expresses its grape and origin well, and provides good complexity, balance and depth.

**80 to 84** Good quality and drinkable. Recognizable grape and origin, perhaps masked by minor flaws. Balanced and basically correct, but simple.

**Below 80** Has flaws that compromise character.

### TASTING PANEL



ANTHONY GAGNON



DAVID MACISAAC



STEVE MURRAY



ROBERT COLE



STEVEN GAGNON