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CHEVAL QUANCARD

GRANDS VINS DE BORDEAUX

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

WINEACCESS

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Best Other Red Blends, Traditional Bordeaux and Non-Traditional

This ultra-competitive category seems to offer the best of both worlds — more complexity and balance than some single varietal wines. The blends can be divided into two general groups: cabernet blends à la Bordeaux style, and wines with more indigenous varietal blends. The finalists are dominated by some great values from Argentina, Italy and Southern France. A clear favourite for many in the Bordeaux style was the Jackson-Triggs 2005 Meritage Proprietors Reserve from the Okanagan. This wine offers up major smoky oak, vanilla, chocolate characteristics with some pretty serious tannin structure. In the non-traditional category, the Trivento 2005 Reserve Cabernet-Malbec from Mendoza is a great value. In all, a super-strong category that exhibits continued quality improvements from Canada, Italy and Argentina. (Stuart Tobe)

Cabernet Sauvignon-based Bordeaux Style

WINNER

90 **Jackson-Triggs Okanagan** 2005 Proprietors' Reserve Meritage Red, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada BC $20, ON $21

As it's been for some years, the open JT nose of cloves, black cherry jam and vanilla entice. On the palate, a soft, round entry precedes a rich, smoky, coffee mocha, savoury, black olive flavour. It's a blend that does well most years in the south Okanagan. (AG)

JUDGES CHOICE

89 **Grant Burge** 2005 Barossa Vines Cabernet/Merlot, Barossa Valley, South Australia **$16**

89 **Tenuta Monteti** 2004 Caburnio, Maremma, Tuscany, Italy **$20**

88 **Penmara** 2004 MCP Reserve, Orange, New South Wales **$19**

88 **Trio** 2006 Merlot/Carmenère/Cabernet Sauvignon, Valle del Rapel, Region del

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

87 **Coyote's Run** 2005 Cabernet, Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada **$17**

87 **Cumulus** 2004 Rolling Cabernet Merlot, Orange, New South Wales, Australia **$18**

87 **Henry of Pelham** 2005 Meritage Cabernet-Merlot, Niagara Peninsula, Ontario, Canada **$15**

EXPLAINING THE RATINGS

Wine Access 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

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