
The Top New World Chardonnays



2007 Freeman Ryo-fu Russian River Valley Chardonnay

Rating: **93** | **\$40**

Smells like a bouquet of dried flowers. There's also a distinct vein of toasty oak here, but the floral quality is distinct, adding nice detail to the rather restrained fruit. This is rich and soft on entry but with plenty of supporting acid. It has a very plush feel and fills the mouth, but without much weight. In the mouth the wood also plays a fairly noticeable role, but this is quite well-balanced with a core of fruit that slowly unfolds, revealing sweet notes of apple, pineapple, lime, and a distinct walnutty background note.

Top 12 wines great for Thanksgiving



2007 Freeman Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir Akiko's Cuvée

Rating: **93**

Seared cherry fruit, beetroot, parsnip and lightly toasted wood greets the nose, to be joined by a touch of persimmon and some dried floral tones. This is smooth as silk and elegant on entry, though by no means meek. It delivers vivid, bright, expressive flavors of wild cherry framed with soft, well-judged notes of spice, herbs, and a gentle mineral backdrop. The balance is excellent: supple yet with a firm spine that offers nice cut on the backend and onto the long, succulently fruity finish. With time the mid-palate gains a nice aromatic quality, adding a touch of violet pastille to the array of floral notes, and the flavors gain the quality of sweet fruit without an impression of sweetness. There's a touch of oak that emerges on the finish but it only adds to the complexity. This is singing today.