

Tasting Notes Explanation

Given I am a wine professional, I must taste wine quite frequently. Did you like the way I worked in “must taste”? Yeah that was as smooth as a well-aged Cab. So for the wines I rank, I’ve set up a 5-point system. To me, it makes no sense to rank a wine as an 86 or 88. Back when I was in school, both of those scores earned me a B plus. Also, I believe the 100-point system makes less sense for everyday people who drink everyday wines. However, most of the mainstream wine writers/reviewers drink and rate \$100 to the-stratosphere-priced bottles for their various wine publications. After decades of reading these publications, I fail to see the purpose of using a 100-point system when none of the wines ever seem to receive a ranking of less than 75 or greater than 98.

So that said, I score the wines for my tasting notes using a 5-point system. My system begins with 1, the lowest score to 5, the highest. So here’s my scoring breakdown:

- 5 - One of the best wines I’ve tasted. This is some well-made juice.
- 4 - A wine I’d gladly drink regularly and love every sip with my guests before or after dinner.
- 3 - It’s drinkable, like the kind of wine you’d find on a happy hour menu. This is a nice, simple wine I would drink when I’m being social after work with a group of friends. But I’d limit myself to just one glass and then head home for something better from my stash.
- 2 - It’s not a wine I’d drink but there are plenty of people with lower standards than mine and this would suit them just fine. Just kidding. This is my long-winded way of saying, “below average”.
- 1 - This wine is awful. About the only thing this wine is good for is as a rinse for your foul-smelling garbage disposal.
- * - And if I add an “*” then that means this particular wine is an excellent value. I mean really, you expect a \$90 wine to taste awesome but when you find one for a third or half that price, and it’s equally delicious, well that’s something to write about. This special symbol is reserved for the top two ratings only and will appear as 5* and 4*.

The price info I provide is gathered from my local (San Diego) wine shops, drugstores, wine bars, supermarkets, etc. Therefore, the prices in your neck of the woods may be more or less.

Note: To those of you living in states with strict liquor and wine laws, yes, we can buy wine at all of these establishments, including Sundays, holidays, before noon and after midnight.

As always, Happy Sipping!