

Wine Talk by Robert Whitley



Wednesday, July 23, 2008

TASTING NOTES

Wines are rated on a 100-point scale. Wines are chosen for review because they represent outstanding quality or value.

Far Niente 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

The '05 Far Niente is a dramatic wine from an extremely good vintage. If I could compare it to a first-growth Bordeaux it would be Lafite Rothschild, a wine of consummate refinement and elegance. This Far Niente is comfortable in that league, from the first whiff of cedar pencil and cassis to the exquisite layers of red-fruited complexity. What is utterly remarkable is the delicacy and refinement given the depth of the wine, a feat suggesting perfect ripeness and an eye toward freshness. This is clearly one of the most well-balanced, high-end Napa Valley cabs I've tasted this year. **Rating: 96.**