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## 11 Stunning California Sauvignon Blancs

New reviews of juicy, aromatic and refreshing whites for summer

MaryAnn Worobiec

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**Tasting Highlights bring the best wines from our editors' most recent tastings to WineSpectator.com members.**

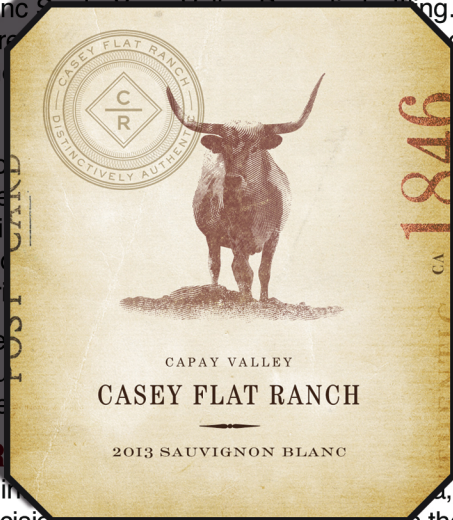
A string of outstanding Sauvignon Blancs has recently come through blind tastings in our Napa office—a good indication of the strength of the 2012 and 2013 vintages, as well as the surge in quality affecting the category in general. Besides the core of refreshing acidity that most Sauvignon Blancs share, there are a lot of distinctive styles, flavors and aromas to enjoy in this selection.

One of the most distinctive versions here is the Desparada Sauvignon Blanc. Its mouthwatering acidity is paired with a creamy body, a result of the grape's natural phosphorae. There wasn't much of



Courtesy of Eric Kent

*From Eric Kent comes an impressive, intense and fragrant Sauvignon Blanc with a very long finish.*



### 90 CASEY FLAT RANCH Sauvignon Blanc Capay Valley 2013

Distinctive, offering a terrific, bright mix of guava and passion fruit flavors, mingling with citrus, melon and apple notes. A fresh herbal accent complements the fruit-forwardness, balanced by vivid, refreshing acidity. Drink now. 691 cases made. —M.W. **\$18**

**ER** **Thomas County Cuvée Renee 2013** Score: 91 | \$26  
An impressive wine with lime zest, melon, peach and pear flavors on a smooth, medium body. The precision and focus are admirable, as is the follow-through on the long finish. Drink now. 449 cases made. —M.W.

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### CHALK HILL Sauvignon Blanc Chalk Hill 2012 Score: 90 | \$33

Fragrant lemon thyme notes open into juicy lemon, lime and grapefruit flavors. This is intense and vibrant, with a light, smooth and refreshing body. Drink now. 7,896 cases made. —M.W.