

the drunken cyclist



I have three passions: wine, cycling, travel, family, and math.



My Top Ten Red Wines of the Year—2021

Posted on December 30, 2021

Following my list the other day of my Top White Wines, here are the top red wines that I tasted this year. In order to be considered, the wine had to be received as a sample, rated well into the “Outstanding” category, and earned a “Whoa” (or at least came really close). No attention was paid to price, region, or whether it had a ridiculously heavy bottle (although those B.A.B. might be excluded in the future).

Once again, I tasted well over a thousand wines this year, and here are the top ten reds, at least according to me.



DOMAINE CARNEROS.
By
TAITTINGER

2019 Domaine Carneros Pinot Noir Estate Clonal Series – Dijon 777, Carneros, CA:

Retail \$60. I was on a Zoom call with Remi Cohen (CEO) and TJ Evans (winemaker) of Domaine Carneros, tasting through six of the still Pinots produced by the house and when we got to this Dijon 777, TJ intimated that he really does not like the clone. So I did not have high hopes. Holy crap. Pardon my German (I speak French, so I have a hard time insulting the language). A bit dark in the glass and the nose is both dark (in a brooding kind of way) and lively (in a bright cherry kind of way) creating a tension that every Pinotophile seeks and craves. The palate represents, perhaps, the singular best Pinot I have tried this year (and gives my boy James MacPhail a run for his money). Rich but balanced. Fruity but nuanced. Since I have started writing about wine “seriously” I can count on one hand the number of Pinots that have given me goosebumps. Add one to the list. Holy crap TJ (pardon my German again), what happens with clones you like? Whoa.

OUTSTANDING PLUS. 97 POINTS.



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