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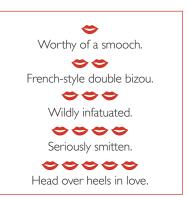
DEFINITION OF CHAIR BAY Kenny Chesney's Blue Chair Bay Is a Guaranteed Hit

Publisher's

In each issue THE TASTING PANEL'S Publisher and Executive Editor, Meridith May, selects her favorite wines and spirits of the month. Check here for the latest arrivals in our offices, the hottest new brands on the market and an occasional revisited classic.



Winerv President Chris Hanna with Meridith May. See the story on page 34.



WINES

Robert Mondavi Winery 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, Napa Vallev (\$135)

From Napa's promised land, a flash of white pepper and graphite stirs the senses; the driest tannins snap and slap. Blueberry and cinnamon wake up a dense core—and dignity ensues. 95

CONSTELLATION WINES U.S.

Patel 2010 Red Wine, Napa Valley (\$60) This is Raj Patel's Right Bank tribute, a blend of 70% Merlot with some Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec, with an inherent ripeness and a whoosh of juiciness. While the cherries and plums put on a lively performance, a dramatic curtain of mocha and

maple sets the stage: there is not a dry tannin in the house! 90

0000 **Carr Vineyards 2010 Pinot**



Noir, Turner Vineyard, Sta. Rita Hills (\$50) From a 21-acre vineyard in the northern end of this highly regarded appellation, this Pinot proves itself quite a tart-cherry tart, that is. Lusciously painted with black pepper and spiced plums, the profile ranges from earth mother to a sensuously voluptuous milk-chocolate smooth operator. 93



Chalk Hill 2009 Estate Red, Chalk Hill (\$70) The nuances from some Syrah and Carmenère, added to this 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Malbec and 17% Merlot blend, help explain its amplified fruit and creamy violets on the mouth. Candied vanilla and a dollop of velvet-fudge fruit are wrapped in chalkiness, soon hijacked by a juicy plum protagonist. 92

FOLEY FAMILY WINES

SPIRITS

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RE:FIND Gin, USA (\$38) Made at Paso Robles's only distillery, this artisan gin plays with seven botanicals but the standouts are lavender and sweet orange rind. A trace of black pepper shimmies on the tongue on the way to a blueberry finish. Distinctive texture and distillation from grapes (!) makes this herb garden



in a bottle amazingly alluring. 94 PASO ROBLES CRAFT DISTILLING



XXX Shine Salted Caramel



Corn Whiskey, USA (\$26) Vanilla and nougat are one of my sinful passions and the nose on this spirit takes the desire further to a burnt caramel edge. The saltiness hits the tongue first, a shotgun of peppered apple turnover, in tandem, 90 PHILADELPHIA DISTILLING