

Accolades

WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Maple Lane

92 Points "Impressive by any standard, this Cab is doubly so for having such great balance from a hot-hot vintage. The acids and tannins are firm, but best of all are the flavors, rich in ripe blackberry, cassis, spicy plum pudding and sweet new oak. Just a beautiful wine right now, and should evolve interestingly for 10 years" *August 2007*

2006 Chenin Blanc

91 Points "Ballentine's Chenins nearly always impress, and this is one of their best. Bone dry and very crisp, almost tart, in acids, the wine shows intriguing lime, wildflower and sweet pepper flavors." *August 2007*

The Wine Report, Sept/Oct 2007

89 Points - 2005 Petite Sirah, Fig Tree Vineyards



Wine Recommendation

Ballentine Vineyards 2002 Zinfandel Block 9 Reserve, Pocai Vineyard (Napa Valley)

Reviewed March 21, 2007 by Alan Goldfarb.

It's a good thing Van Ballentine married Betty Pocai. Otherwise, they might not have made such a wonderful Zinfandel from the nearly 100-year-old Calistoga vineyard that Betty's granddad, Libero Pocai, bought in 1905. It's also a good thing that Bruce Devlin was promoted to winemaker in 2002, otherwise, one of his first wines for Ballentine might not have turned out the way it did.

What we have here is a wine with lots o' menthol aromas, which mostly dissipate, only to reveal a wine with perfect pitch, in spite of the listed high alcohol percentage of 14.9. I suggest holding onto it for a couple of years to allow it to settle down, and then drink it over the ensuing 15 years.

The Pocai Vineyard is located on the valley floor, between Maple Lane and the Silverado Trail near Calistoga, just west of Dutch Henry Winery. The soil is called "Bg," for Bale gravelly loam. Yields are small, about three tons per acre. Only 700 cases were produced. The wine was aged for 17 months in 35 percent new American and 10 percent new French oak.

Accolades

JustWinePoints.com

94 points - 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon Maple Lane

March 13, 2007

Wine & Spirits

92 Points, one of "The Year's Best Merlot" - 2002 Merlot, Pocaí Vineyard

"Over the past year, Wine & Spirits tasted 269 Merlots and Ballentine's 2002 Merlot was in the top 12! Delicate strawberry flavors last through this wine. It's clean and firmly built, emphasizing freshness, lightness and a sweet savory balance. Impressively fruit driven, this is a refined Merlot for grilled pork tenderloin with a dry spice rub."

Wine Enthusiast Magazine

91 points - 2002 Zinfandel Block 9

92 Points & Best Buy - 2005 Chenin Blanc

89 points - 2002 Zinfandel Old vines

Wine Enthusiast Magazine - Top 100 Best Buys of 2006

92 Points - 2005 Chenin Blanc, Old Vines Pocaí Vineyard

"The vines date to the early 1970s, and the vineyard is on the valley floor near Calistoga. Winemaker Bruce Devlin worked at Boschendal, South Africa's first winery to barrel ferment Chenin Blanc. Dry and crisp, this wine shows wildflower and citrus flavors, and a sweet, green-pea note with an edge of toasted wood. Not only is this an elegant table white, it should evolve over the next five to seven years. "

Less than 1% of all wines tasted over the course of the year make it onto the Wine Enthusiast Magazine's Best Buy list. Wines designated as the Top 100 Best Buys of 2006 have wine-rating scores of 85 points or higher of the 100-point scale and generally have a suggested retail price of \$15 or below.

Wine Enthusiast Magazine

91 Points - 2002 Zinfandel Reserve, Block 9

"Shows the classic structure and balance of top notch Napa Zin. From a vineyard near Calistoga, the wine is mouth-filling big with black cherry, leather. Spicy plum and coffee flavors wrapped in significant tannins. Best to decant before serving." *December 1, 2006*

Wine Enthusiast Magazine Buying Guide

92 Points & Best Buy - 2005 Chenin Blanc Old Vines, Pocaí Vineyard

"The vines date to the early 1970s, and perhaps that accounts for the complexity of this variety, which is usually simple in California. Dry and crisp, it's nuanced with wildflower and citrus flavors, and a sweet, green-pea note. Not only is this a good table white, it will probably evolve over the near term." *July 2006*

BALLENTINE

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Wine Enthusiast Magazine Buying Guide

90 Points - 2004 Zinfandel Block 11, Pocal Vineyards, Old Vines

"Luscious, smooth, complex, complete, round, voluptuous, the adjectives go on and on with this incredibly ripe Zin. It's fully dry, with amazing blackberry tea, cherry pie, mocha, root beer and spice flavors, but be forewarned: the alcohol is a whopping 16.7%" *July 2006*

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

90 points - 2004 Zinfandel Block 11, Pocal Vineyards, Old Vines

"The outstanding 2004 Zinfandel Block 11 Pocal Vineyard reveals strawberry, cherry, plum and blueberry fruit characteristics interwoven with a notion of spice box. Medium-bodied, intense, complex, savory, elegant and impeccably well balanced. It should provide abundant pleasure over the next 3-4 years." *Issue 165 6/30/06*

Four Silver Medals for Ballentine Vineyards

Pacific Rim International Wine Competition

2003 Cabernet Franc

2005 Chenin Blanc Old Vines

2004 Zinfandel, Block 11

2002 Zinfandel, Old Vines

The Press Democrat Wine of the Week:

Ballentine Vineyards 2004 Old Vines Block 11 Zinfandel

February 15, 2006

★★★★ Rich, ripe and showy. Great structure, with firm tannins. Full-bodied. Aromas and flavors of raspberry and vanilla. Good mouth-feel.

Accolades

Ballentine Vineyards Wins Four Gold Medals at the 2006 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition

January 18, 2006



55 professional wine judges have completed their tasting of 3,318 wines and have awarded Ballentine Vineyards:

Double Gold Medal Best of Class

Ballentine Vineyards 2005 Chenin Blanc Old Vines

Gold Medal

Ballentine Vineyards 2001 Integrity Bordeaux Reserve Estate

Ballentine Vineyards 2003 Cabernet Franc, Pocaí Vineyards

Ballentine Vineyards 2002 Merlot, Pocaí Vineyard, Estate

Silver Medal

Ballentine Vineyards 2002 Zinfandel Old Vines, Estate

Ballentine Vineyards 2003 Syrah, Betty's Vineyards

Bronze Medal

Ballentine Vineyards 2004 Zinfandel Block 11 Old Vines

The San Francisco Wine Competition includes wines from throughout the United States and has become the **world's largest** competition of American wines and the public tasting is one of the premier consumer wine and food tastings.

Accolades

ZAP attracts thousands; Ballentine leads the charge

excerpted from Napa News.com, Thursday, February 3, 2005

By L. PIERCE CARSON

..."If every winemaker had the resources Bruce Devlin has at present, what with some incredible fruit grown by Van and Betty Ballentine, owners of Ballentine Vineyard -- well, he or she would be sitting pretty.

Within a couple of months, Devlin will be releasing a zinfandel from Block 11 of the Poca Vineyard, located south of Calistoga between Highway 29 and the Silverado Trail. This is a special release of a single vineyard zin that's full of black fruit that, for the vintage, is not overly ripe. It's a sensational wine, a mouth full of blackberries and black cherries, and, although it doesn't taste hot, the alcohol is approaching 17 percent. It's a blockbuster and -- here's the nice part -- it'll retail for only \$25 at the winery.

And while you're at Ballentine Vineyards tasting room -- located north of St. Helena across from St. Clement -- pick up the current release, the 2001 Napa Valley zinfandel. Another blockbuster, this one's packed with blackberries and plums, and exudes all that fruit and more in the nose. It's a real bargain at \$18.

If you like that one, you love the 2001 Block 9 Napa Valley zin -- a more intense rendition of the general NV release. This one's \$27 a bottle. If you can wait a couple of months for another Ballentine treat, wait till you taste the satiny smooth blueberry-infused 100 percent zinfandel port Devlin and the Ballentines will release this spring. At \$40, this one will be a special treat for wrapping up a meal with your best friends.

Frankly, I think I'm going to make a special trip myself up to Ballentine to pick up a mixed case of these goodies - or as much as Van and Betty will let me have."

BALLENTINE

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Ballentine Vineyards 2002 Syrah, Betty's Vineyard

Smoky, ripe red and black currants are found in the elegant, dark ruby-colored 2002 Syrah, Betty's Vineyard. Enjoy it now and over the next several years.

— *Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, September, 2004*

Ballentine Vineyards 2001 Reserve Zinfandel, Block 9

Smooth and pretty, with coffee, cola, dark plum, toast, smoke and spice flavors that leave a bright, fresh finish on the palate. Lively throughout the long finish. **88**

Points

— *Wine Enthusiast, November, 2003*

Ballentine Vineyards 2001 Old Vines Zinfandel

Fairly elegant, with pretty toast, plum, blackberry, spice, vanilla and licorice flavors. The tannins are ripe, firm and focused, with hints of smoke and more toast on the finish. **88 Points**

— *Wine Enthusiast, November, 2003*