

Stephen Tanzer's
INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

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2007 Cadence Winery Bel Canto Cara Mia Vineyard Red Wine Red Mountain 94 pts

(\$55; 62% cabernet franc, 31% merlot and 7% petit verdot) Good full red with ruby highlights. Knockout nose combines sappy black cherry, redcurrant, black tea, mocha and rose petal. Wonderfully intense but light on its feet, with enticing floral lift and outstanding verve to the red berry and brown spice flavors. Quite horizontal on the back but without any impression of weight. Finishes with very refined tannins and lovely lavender lift and persistence. A great showing-and all the more remarkable considering that Ben Smith and Gaye McNutt's vineyard on Red Mountain was only planted in 2004. There are any number of powerhouse Bordeaux blends being made in Washington today, but very few wines with this degree of class.

2007 Cadence Winery Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Red Wine Red Mountain 93(+?) pts

(\$45; 39% cabernet sauvignon, 35% cabernet franc and 13% each merlot and petit verdot) Good dark red. Red fruits, licorice and rose petal on the reticent nose. Sweet, complex and suave, with captivating floral lift to the sappy red fruit and mineral flavors. A sexy and refined wine, delivering excellent density of material without any sense of weight. The pure, primary finish is classically broad and dry, featuring fine-grained tannins and harmonious acids that leave the taste buds vibrating.

2007 Cadence Winery Tapteil Vineyard Red Wine Red Mountain 93 pts

(\$45; 56% cabernet sauvignon, 33% cabernet franc and 11% merlot) Good deep red. Enticing aromas of currant, blackberry, black cherry, cured tobacco, fresh herbs, minerals and chocolate, lifted by menthol and fresh rose elements. Suave, layered and sweet, with a silky, seamless texture and an intriguing saline quality. This really spreads out to coat the palate with red fruit, graphite and mineral flavors. The Cadence wines have gained in richness and fullness in the past few vintages without any loss of balance or freshness. Finishes pliant, broad and long, with very suave but serious tannins and impressive energy.

2007 Cadence Winery Camerata Cara Mia Vineyard Red Wine Red Mountain 92(+?) pts

(\$55; 85% cabernet sauvignon with 5% each cab franc, merlot and petit verdot; aged in 50% new barriques, mostly Taransaud) Good deep red-ruby color. Cassis, black cherry, licorice and mint on the nose, with a lavender topnote. Plush, layered and sweet, with dense but vibrant flavors of brambly berries and graphite and attractive floral lift. Very cabernet, and in need of at least a couple of years to absorb its slightly dusty, serious tannins. The crop level here was below 2.2 tons per acre, according to winemaker/co-owner Ben Smith.

2007 Cadence Winery Coda Red Wine Columbia Valley 89 pts

(\$25; a Bordeaux blend based on 57% merlot, mostly from Tapteil) Good dark red. Aromatic nose combines red and blue fruits, licorice, herbs and mint. Then surprisingly sweet and suave in the mouth, with a sappy quality to the generous berry and mint flavors. This may be merlot-dominated, but it's ripe merlot. The tannins reach the sides of the mouth.