

## **THE WINE GUY: The gift of wine can spark delight**

[By Rich Mauro](#)

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Serious wine drinkers really appreciate it if someone cares enough to give the best. Here is a shopping list of the best California wines I have tasted this year but not yet reviewed.

### **Cabernet Sauvignon**

2006 Chappellet Signature (\$42)  
2006 Ehlers Estate 1886 (\$95)  
2005 Hidden Ridge 55 percent Slope (\$75)  
2004 Mayacamas (\$65)  
1996 Mayacamas Library (\$150)  
2006 Joseph Phelps Napa (\$54)  
2006 Rocca Family Estate (\$75)  
2006 Sbragia Monte Rosso (\$50)  
2006 Sbragia Rancho Del Oso (\$75)  
2006 Sbragia Cimarossa (\$75)

### **Bordeaux Blends**

2006 Bennett Lane Maximus (\$35)  
2005 Chateau St. Jean Cinq Cepages (\$90)  
2006 Joseph Phelps Insignia (\$200)

### **Merlot**

2006 Chappellet (\$30)  
2006 Duckhorn Napa (\$52)  
2006 Ehlers Estate (\$45)

### **Pinot Noir**

2007 J Vineyards Nicole's (\$60)  
2007 Sea Smoke Southing (\$50)  
2007 Sea Smoke Ten (\$80)

### **Syrah**

2005 Fess Parker Big Easy (\$45)  
2005 Fess Parker Rodney's (\$45)

### **Chardonnay**

2006 Chateau St. Jean Reserve (\$45)  
2007 Grgich Hills Estate (\$42)  
2006 Mayacamas (\$35)  
2005 Mayacamas Library (\$45)  
2007 Patz & Hall Hudson (\$55)  
2007 Patz & Hall Dutton Ranch (\$39)  
2007 Sbragia Gamble Ranch (\$40)  
2005 Talbott Diamond T (\$52)  
2005 Talbott Cuvee Carlotta (\$63)

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