



## The Wine Advocate Rating System

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine quality. *The Wine Advocate* takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

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### 96-100:

An **extraordinary** wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.

### 90 - 95:

An **outstanding** wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.

### 80 - 89:

A **barely above average to very good** wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.

### 70 - 79:

An **average** wine with little distinction except that it is a soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.

### 60 - 69:

A **below average** wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.

### 50 - 59:

A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

Scores in parentheses indicate that the wine was tasted from barrel.

## Tasting Notes & Ratings


When possible all of my tastings are done in peer-group, single-blind conditions, (meaning that the types of wines are tasted against each other and the producers' names are not known). The ratings are an independent, critical look at the wines. Neither price nor the reputation of the producer/grower affect my ratings in any manner. I spend three months of every year tasting in vineyards. During the other nine months, six and sometimes seven-day workweeks are devoted solely to tasting and writing. I do not participate in wine judgments or trade tastings for many reasons, but principal among these are the following: (1) I do not taste from an entire bottle of wine, (2) I find it essential to have properly sized and cleaned professional wine glasses, (3) the temperature of the wine must be correct, and (4) I prefer to determine the time allocated to a number of wines to be critiqued.

The numeral rating given is a guide to what I think of the wine vis-à-vis its peer group. Certainly, wines rated above 85 are very good to excellent, and any wine rated 90 or above will be outstanding for its part. While some have suggested that scoring is not well suited to a beverage that has been romantically marketed for centuries, wine is no different from any consumer product. There are specific standards of quality that wine professionals recognize, and there are benchmark wines against which others can be judged. I know of no one with three or four different glasses of wine in front of him or her, regardless of how good the wines might be, who cannot say, "I prefer this one to that one." Scoring wines is simply taking



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For Wine Advocate reviews, click wine names after   
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<input type="checkbox"/>	2006	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Meriame	89+	Young	65
<input type="checkbox"/>	2005	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Meriame	89	Early	65
<input type="checkbox"/>	2004	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Meriame	92	Early	75
<input type="checkbox"/>	2003	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Meriame	92	Early	62
<input type="checkbox"/>	2000	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Meriame	89	Mature	68
<input type="checkbox"/>	1999	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Meriame	92	Early	62
<input type="checkbox"/>	2007	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	89	Young	60
<input type="checkbox"/>	2006	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	88	Young	45
<input type="checkbox"/>	2005	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	87	Early	45
<input type="checkbox"/>	2004	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	89	Early	50
<input type="checkbox"/>	2003	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	88	Mature	42
<input type="checkbox"/>	2002	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	84	Mature	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2000	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	86	Mature	45
<input type="checkbox"/>	1999	 Paolo Manzone Barolo Serralunga	90	Mature	45

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