

# K VINTNERS & CHARLES SMITH WINES

## RECENT ACCLAIM

**Wine Spectator Advance “Best Values”,** December 2010

**2009 Charles Smith Riesling Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen Vineyard 89pts**

Light and fragrant, on the dry side, featuring tangy grapefruit and apple flavors that linger gently. Drink now.

**Wine Spectator Insider,** October 2010

**2007 K Syrah “Northridge” 96pts**

So concentrated it feels like the essence of Syrah. A glowing ball of red and black cherry, pomegranate and plum flavors lights up a galaxy of tobacco, allspice, crème brûlée and black pepper grace notes, coming together harmoniously on the very long finish. This has power, but doesn't weigh down the palate. Drink now through 2020.

**2007 K “Ovide” En Cerise 95pts**

Big and generous, but stays light enough on its feet to make the powerful black olive-scented currant, plum and peppery spice flavors sing with refinement. An undercurrent of minerality adds interest and depth, and the finish persists impressively. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2012 through 2020.

**2007 K “Roma” En Chamberlin 95pts**

Explosive, intense flavors of ripe cherry, pomegranate, black olive and tomato leaf ride easily, almost airily, over a refined structure. The tannins are nicely submerged, and the flavors seem to whoosh through the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2017.

**2007 K Syrah “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard 94pts**

Ripe and spicy, this is a big wine that deftly balances its powerful blackberry, plum and fresh currant fruit against cedar, black pepper and bacon flavors, lingering on the tightly packed finish. Best from 2012 through 2020.

**2007 K “The Creator” 94pts**

Rich, ripe and round, brimming with black olive, blackberry, cherry and spice flavors that glide easily and appealingly over a polished frame. The finish doesn't quit, but strikes an elegant balance, with refined power. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2012 through 2019.

**2007 K Syrah “Phil Lane” 93pts**

Ripe fruit, earth and tar notes combine to produce complex and powerful flavors in this big, brawny Syrah. There's black cherry and currant at the core, with dead leaf and soy sauce notes poking in from the side. Massive structure needs time to soften. Best after 2013.

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate,** September 2010

“Over the past two years a cult following has sprung up around the *persona* of Charles Smith, imbuing him with larger than life attributes. By and large, he has acquired this status the old-fashioned way, he has earned it. When I tell enquiring minds that I'll be visiting Charles later in the day, they know exactly where I'm going. Once past the *persona*, however, Charles continues to make some of Washington's finest wines. Native yeast fermentation, footcrushing, spontaneous malolactic fermentations, gentle basket pressing, no fining or filtration are routinely practiced in the cellar. Even more important, Charles knows where to find the great grapes. In a region where blending is still the rule of thumb, he is the ultimate *terrorist*. Almost all of his wines are sourced from single vineyards. There are three groupings, the K Vintners selections, the Cayuse selections and the Charles Smith selections.”

**2007 “Royal City” Syrah 99pts**

“(4 barrels were produced) Made with 100% whole clusters. An inky purple/black in color, it deals out aromas of mineral, truffle, espresso, licorice, lavender, incense, and blueberry. Super complex, suave and debonair on the palate, this is a lengthy, concentrated, impeccably balanced, complete Syrah that will benefit from a decade of cellaring but is almost too addictive to resist now. Those with willpower who are able to delay gratification will be well rewarded for cellaring this beauty for a decade or more.”

**2007 “Old Bones” Syrah 99pts**

“This is composed of 50% Heart and 50% Skull aged in 500 liter new barrels. Savory, rich, layered, and already complex, this exceptionally lengthy mouth-filling, hedonistic Syrah offers just a micrometer of extra flavor interest compared to either Heart or Skull individually. The new oak and a broader palette of flavors to choose among are the most likely contributors.”

### **2007 “Heart” Syrah 98pts**

“Sourced from Stone Ridge Vineyard in the Royal Slope, it was aged entirely in neutral oak. Earth, underbrush, truffle, brier, game, bacon, and blueberry aromas lead to loaded, super-rich, unctuous, full-bodied Syrah. Mouth-filling, already complex, and multi-dimension, it has exceptional length and impeccable balance. Give it 3-4 years to become a bit more civilized and enjoy it from 2014 to 2027.”

### **2007 “Skull” Syrah 98pts**

“Also from the Stone Ridge Vineyard on the Royal Slope, it was aged in 20% new oak with some stems. It is a more brooding effort with aromas of earth, underbrush, truffle, Asian spices, incense, and blueberry. It is slightly more structured with a bit more density and richness. Give it 6-8 years of additional bottle age and drink 2017 to 2032.”

### **2007 K Syrah “Phil Lane” 96pts**

“Deep purple-colored, it surrenders a captivating nose of *pain grille*, mineral, truffle underbrush, and blueberry. Dense, savory, and mouth-coating on the palate, it is already showing signs of complexity. Give it another 2-3 years of cellaring.”

### **2007 K “The Creator” 95pts**

“Made of 60% Cabernet from the Cayuse Callioux Vineyard and 40% Syrah from Morrison Lane Vineyard. A bit reticent aromatically, it gives up aromas of smoke, Asian spices, incense, mineral, black currant and blueberry. Structured, spicy, and full-flavored on the palate, this length effort will develop for another 4-5 years and provide prime drinking from 2013 to 2027.”

### **2007 K “El Jefe En Chamberlin” 95pts**

“A blend of 75% Tempranillo and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of smoke, espresso, mineral, licorice, and blackberry lead to a dense, concentrated, impeccably balanced wine that should continue evolving for another 4-6 years and offer a drinking window extending from 2014 to 2027.”

### **2007 K “Roma En Chamberlin” 95pts**

“A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Syrah. It exhibits a nose of cedar, spice box, violets, black currant and blueberry. Smooth-textured, layered, and sweetly-fruited, it has outstanding depth and richness with a sense of restraint. Give it 2-3 years and drink it through 2022.”

### **2007 K Syrah “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard 94pts**

“A large step up. It delivers more aromatically and on the palate; bacon, game, lavender, incense, and blueberry scents jump from the glass. Velvety on the palate with notes, and impeccable balance, this pleasure-bent Syrah can be enjoyed now and over the next 8 years.”

### **2007 K “Ovide En Cerise” 93pts**

“A blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Syrah. Meaty, gamey, and kinky on the nose, on the palate it is medium to full-bodied with an easy-going personality. This friendly effort is loaded with fruit, Asian spices, and herbs leading to a lengthy, pure finish. Give it 2-3 years to fill out although it can be enjoyed now.”

### **2007 K “The Boy” 93pts**

“A blend of 90% grenache (from Cayuse) and 10% syrah, co-fermented. It sends up a sexy aromatic array of wild berry aromas, earth notes, herbs, incense, lavender, black cherry, and plum. On the palate it is full-bodied, savory, and layered, with a sense of elegance.”

### **2007 K Syrah “Morrison Lane” 93pts**

“This wine exhibits an alluring perfume of meat, bacon, game, incense, lavender, and blueberry. Easy-going and succulent, it is the most elegant of the Syrah offerings.”

### **2007 K Syrah “Northridge” 93pts**

“This wine sports a brooding bouquet of balsam wood, smoke, Asian spices, lavender, and blueberry; on the palate it is smooth-textured, elegant, ripe, and lengthy....”

### **2007 K Syrah “Pheasant” 91pts**

“Displays an aromatic array of earth notes, smoked meat, leather, and plum. Mouth-filling and chewy on the palate...”

### **2009 K Viognier 91pts**

“It offers up a fragrant perfume of pit fruits, honeysuckle, and mineral. Creamy textured, fresh, concentrated, well-balanced...”

## **Wine & Spirits “Rieslings, Year’s Best”, August 2010**

**90 pts: 2009 Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen Vineyard Riesling (Best Buy)** This riesling’s fruit scents are almost applesauce ripe, with notes of lees and nutmeg providing some complexity. For all that, the texture is firm and mineral, with the freshness to stand up to the warmest August day.

**90pts: 2008 Columbia Valley Kung Fu Girl Evergreen Vineyard Riesling (Best Buy)** This leads with surprisingly complex scents of anise, verbena and parsley. The palate is all about freshness, simple and direct, with a saline spine informing citrusy limeade flavors, marked by lively acidity. A natural for a fiery Phuket curry.

**Winemaker of the Year, Seattle Magazine, April 2010**

“A powerhouse in the Washington wine world, Charles Smith, K Vintners’ owner and winemaker has been honored and vilified for his no-nonsense approach to wine—“It’s just booze, drink it!”— and his ability to create a buzz around whatever he touches. His “Modernist Project” is a collection of wines that show “varietal typicity” (i.e., Merlot that tastes like Merlot), as well as being affordable and approachable while young. The names of his wines are irreverent— Old Bones Syrah, Kung Fu Girl Riesling, The Velvet Devil Merlot, Boom Boom Syrah—and the wines themselves are in your face, or rather, in your mouth, with full-flavor fruit and an earthy and oaky intensity that has become synonymous with the dynamic changes constantly in play in Washington wine.”

**Wine Spectator Insider “Hot Wines”, February 10, 2010**

*These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors’ most recent tastings, published exclusively in Wine Spectator Insider. They are high-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.*

**2006 Royal City Syrah, Stoneridge Vineyard 97 pts**

“A majestic wine, smooth, round and profuse with its blueberry, plum and black currant fruit, nicely wrapped in fine tannins and shaded with hints of white pepper and roasted meat. Big and profound, but not extra-weighty. Complex and beautifully balanced. Best from 2011 through 2017. —H.S.”

**Top 100 Wines of 2009 (#2), Wine Enthusiast, December 2009**

**2006 Royal City Syrah 100 pts**

“In 2005 Charles Smith introduced three high-end Syrahs, all from the same vineyard, named Heart, Skull and Old Bones. In 2006 Smith has made a wine better than each of these, by combining them into a single wine—Royal City Syrah. Rich scents of purple fruit, smoked meat, cedar, lead pencil, moist earth and so on proclaim a wine with genuine gravitas. There is nothing missing, from the first sniff to the last sip, the wine delivers on all levels. Complex, beautifully balanced, powerful and detailed.”

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, October 2009**

“When it comes to his wines, the otherwise wild and irrepressible Charles Smith is as serious as a heart attack. Native yeast fermentation, foot crushing, spontaneous malolactic fermentations, gentle basket pressing, no fining or filtration are routinely practiced in the cellar. Even more important, Charles Smith knows where to find the great grapes. In a region where blending is still the rule of thumb, he is the ultimate terroirist. His 2006 collection is as good or better than anything he has done to date, although a tasting of 2007 barrel samples indicates that the best is yet to come.”

**2006 Charles Smith Wines “Royal City Syrah”**

“The 2006 Royal City Syrah was sourced from the Stoneridge Vineyard on the Royal Slope. A glass-coating opaque purple color, it gives off a brooding bouquet of liquid minerals, lavender, incense, game, and bacon. This is followed by an opulent, plush, savory, dense wine with no hard edges. Impeccably balanced, it can be enjoyed now, but additional nuance is sure to emerge with patient cellaring. Wines like this have no track record of longevity, but I’d roll the dice on this one. 98 Points”

**2006 K Syrah “Phil Lane”**

“The 2006 Syrah Phil Lane is according to Charles Smith, “the most Cote-Rotie-like” of these Syrahs. There were a total of 4 barrels produced (roughly 100 cases) from yields of 1 ton/acre. Smoked meat, bacon, incense, lavender, and blueberry aromas lead to a firm, velvety-textured, impeccably balanced wine with tons of flavor and a finish that will not quit. It can be enjoyed now but will surely last for 20 years (like a Guigal Cote-Rotie). 96 Points”

**2006 K “Ovide” En Cerise**

“The purple-colored 2006 Ovide En Cerise is a co-fermented blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Syrah. Liquid minerals, smoked meat, bacon, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur explode from the glass. Full-bodied, dense, and super-rich, this impeccably balanced, lengthy blend will benefit from 8-10 years of cellaring and should drink well for who knows how long (these wines have no track record), but I’d like to be there to find out. 95 Points”

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, October 2009 (continued)**

**2006 K "The Creator"**

"The 2006 The Creator is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon from En Cerise and 33% Syrah from Morrison Lane. The nose offers up olives, cloves, meat, game, wild blueberry, and blackberry. This is followed by a powerful yet elegant wine with great density and richness, loads of spice, and a 60-second finish. Give it 2-3 years and drink it from 2011 to 2021. 95 Points"

**2006 K "M.C.K." Syrah**

"The 2006 Motor City Kitty Syrah is Charles Smith's "gift to my loyal customers". The price to quality ratio of this wine is off the charts. Purple/black in color, it was aged for 26 months before bottling by hand. It delivers a soaring bouquet of Asian spices, smoked meat, roasted herbs, saucisson, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur. Full-bodied, voluptuous, and succulent, this sexy effort can be enjoyed over the next 8-10 years. 95 Points"

**2006 K Syrah "Cougar Hills"**

"The 2006 Syrah Cougar Hills was made with 80% whole clusters. It offers up the best aromatics of the first 4 wines with scents of chocolate, mocha, espresso, mineral, blueberry, and black cherry leaping from the glass. On the palate notes of roasted herbs, salt, and iodine emerge for additional complexity. The oak is fully integrated and the tannin well hidden. This rich, pleasure-bent effort can be enjoyed now or cellared for 5-7 years. 95 Points"

**2006 K Syrah "Pheasant"**

"The 2006 Syrah Pheasant Vineyard (located 3 miles from Sundance Vineyard) reveals a bit more of a cool climate character. Liquid minerality, sausage, hung game, pomegranate, and wild blueberry scents are followed by a full-bodied, rich, dense wine reminiscent of blueberry pie in a glass. It, too, can be enjoyed now but it will provide pleasure for another decade. 94 Points"

**2006 K Syrah "The Deal" Sundance Vineyard**

"The 2006 Syrah The Deal Sundance Vineyard (I'm guessing that "The Deal" refers to the price) delivers aromas of mineral, smoked meat, game, and black olives that leap from the glass. Loads of succulent blue and black fruit are supported by refined tannins and well integrated oak. This lengthy, mouth-filling effort can be enjoyed now although it will continue giving over the next 8-10 years. 94 Points"

**2006 K "The Boy"**

"The 2006 The Boy is 94% Grenache and 6% Syrah from the Armada Vineyard. It displays a lovely bouquet of garrigue, black cherry, game, and brown sugar. Medium to full-bodied, it has a silky texture and an elegant personality but also lots of guts. This lengthy effort can be drunk now and over the next 8-10 years. 94 Points"

**2006 K "El Jefe" En Chamberlin**

"The deep crimson-colored 2006 El Jefe En Chamberlin is a blend of 75% Tempranillo and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon aged for 18 months in 40% new barriques. The soaring aromatics belie the wine's barrel aging regimen. The most prominent features are tons of spice, mineral, incense, lavender, black cherry, and blackberry. Medium to full-bodied, it exemplifies the image of iron fist in a velvet glove. Built for cellaring, this structured yet beautifully balanced effort will benefit from 8-10 years of patience by purchaser. 94 Points"

**2006 K Syrah "Morrison Lane"**

"The purple/black 2006 Syrah Morrison Lane was aged in 50% new oak. Aromas of tar, mineral, licorice, blueberry and blackberry liqueur lead to a burly, masculine Syrah exhibiting darker flavors and considerably more structure than its two predecessors. It will benefit from a minimum of 4-6 years of cellaring and will drink well through 2021 if not longer. 93 Points"

**2006 K "Ovide" En Cerise**

"The purple-colored 2006 Ovide En Cerise is a co-fermented blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Syrah. Liquid minerals, smoked meat, bacon, blueberry, and blackberry liqueur explode from the glass. Full-bodied, dense, and super-rich, this impeccably balanced, lengthy blend will benefit from 8-10 years of cellaring and should drink well for who knows how long (these wines have no track record), but I'd like to be there to find out. 95 Points"

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, October 2009**

**2006 K “Roma” En Chamberlin**

“The 2006 Roma En Chamberlin is also a co-fermented blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Syrah aged in 40% new barriques. A saturated purple color, it emits a powerful perfume of cigar box, raw meat, game, underbrush, licorice, and assorted black and blue fruits. On the palate roasted herbs and dried fruit flavors emerge for additional complexity. Although the wine is rich and satisfying, compared to its siblings it is slightly compact. 93 Points”

—Jay Miller, Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate, October 2009

**Top 100 “Best Buys” of 2009 —Wine Enthusiast, November 2009**

**89 points Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Columbia Valley**

This 2008 is the third vintage for this extraordinarily popular Riesling, again showing bright, vivid, punchy citrus fruit and juicy acids. Residual sugar is about 1.5% and once again it is sourced from the Evergreen vineyard. With production climbing to 20,000 cases, this should be easy to find at least until fall.

**Food & Wine’s “2009 Winemaker of the Year”**

F&W honors Charles Smith, a former rocker making excellent wines in Washington State.

“Nine years ago, this California native was managing a rock band in Copenhagen when he made an unusual career shift: “I left my life in Denmark and moved to Walla Walla, Washington, where I knew exactly one person.” That was Cayuse Vineyards’ Christophe Baron, who had rhapsodized to Smith about the potential of Washington Syrah. Smith taught himself how to make wine by creating minuscule lots of Syrah for his own K brand. Now his wines are some of Washington’s most sought-after. And Smith’s The Magnificent Wine Company wines (House Wine Red and White) and “modernist” Charles Smith Wines (The Velvet Devil Merlot, Kung Fu Girl Riesling and more) are among the best values anywhere. Despite his success, Smith remains a rocker at heart, with the 80-mph motorcycle habit to prove it.”

—Richard Nalley, Food & Wine Magazine, September 2009

“Two new vintages from winemaker Charles Smith have just arrived. The 2008 K Vintners Viognier has a marvelous citrus blossom and satsuma orange bouquet. There is good acidity to this wine, giving it a marvelous finish. The 2007 K Syrah ‘Pheasant Vineyard’ has a huge color, lots of very spicy Syrah character and a ton of black raspberry fruit. While young, it already has enough balance to be enjoyed with prime rib.”

—McCarthy & Shiering December 2009

“They had a sampling of six wines they were pouring...The two wines that showed best of the group, in my opinion, were the 2007 The Velvet Devil: balanced, deep, rich, flavorful and a long, smooth finish. Lots of red fruit with a cocoa finish....”

—The Cork Guy, The Edmond Sun (Oklahoma City), December 2009, writing about an event with Gary Vaynerchuck

“Great white Rieslings take Washington...The result is wonderful, affordable wines. Try Kung Fu Girl Riesling from Walla Walla. Our kitchen staff did and loved it, praising its food-friendly qualities. With hints of Asian pear and a playful label, it’s an ideal picnic companion.”

—Martha Stewart Living, August 2009

**“HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, K Syrah Cougar Hills, 95pts”**

**“TOP WINES, K Syrah Morrison Lane, 94pts; K Syrah Phil Lane, 94pts; K Syrah “The Deal” Sundance Vineyard, 94pts; K Ovide En Cerise, 92pts; K “The Creator” 91pts; K Syrah Milbrandt 90pts”**

**“TOP VALUE, Charles Smith Wines Kung Fu Girl Riesling, 89pts: Charles Smith Wines “Eve” Chardonnay, 88pts”**

—Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator, July 31, 2009

## **Summer's Best Wines**

**"As tastes shift toward lighter, less alcoholic whites, especially for summertime, refreshing wines...are turning up on more shelves. Here, 10 of the best...10 Crisp, Light Whites: 2008 Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Washington-state winemaker Charles Smith earned his reputation with some formidable (and fairly expensive) Syrahs, but lately, he's been focusing on a line of quirky named, inexpensive wines. This floral, slightly off-dry Riesling is one of the best."**

**—Ray Isle, Food & Wine (online), July 21, 2009**

**"Wine of the Week: Charles Smith Wines Kung Fu Girl Riesling"**

**—Scott Cherry, Tulsa World Scene, July 20, 2009**

**"...the season's best in white and pink...Two American whites are a good way to begin, both from Charles Smith in Washington State. The 2008 "Kung Fu Girl" is notable beyond the name and is a repeat favorite...It's lovely and light...the K Vintners viognier is zesty and complex...a great match for grilled chicken and pork."**

**—Edward Deitch, TODAY msnbc.com, July 15, 2009**

**"2008 Kung Fu Girl Riesling ~ Washington state winemaker Charles Smith earned is reputation with some formidable (and fairly expensive) Syrahs, but lately he's been focusing on a line of quirkily named, inexpensive wines. This floral, slightly off-dry Riesling is one of the best."**

**—Ray Isle, Food & Wine Magazine, June 2009**

**"Which wine for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ? The number one thing is that it's fun and affordable. Two of my favorites are sauvignon blanc and riesling....As winemaker Charles Smith says, "This girl kicks ...!" And he's right. This sassy, fruity white with just a kiss (or kick) of sweetness, will make you want to join the riesling fan club."**

**—Leslie Sbrocco on the Today Show, June 25, 2009**

**"The perfect wine for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July: Boom Boom! Syrah."**

**—examiner.com Seattle, June 2009**

**"100 point wine. I have reviewed and scored thousands of wines, but have never found one that I felt deserved the perfect score – until now. The Royal...is the finest syrah I have ever tasted from Washington state, and in fact as good as any young syrah I have ever tasted from anywhere. It sets an extremely high standard and masterfully displays the complexity, power and pure pleasure which Washington wines are capable of delivering."**

**—Paul Gregutt, writer and critic for Wine Enthusiast Magazine and Seattle Times, PG Blog, May 2009**

**"Think what you like about the "Kill Bill"-style imagery on this latest from Charles Smith, the frizzy-maned rock star of Washington wine. Inside is serious stuff...Smith's wines are meant to make an impact – down to the stark monochromatic design – and this one fairly screams "summer!"**

**—Jon Bonné, Wine Editor, San Francisco Chronicle, June 4, 2009**

## **Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines —Wine Spectator Insider, May 2009**

### **2006 K Syrah "Cougar Hills"**

**Big, dense and complex, this hits hard, then backs off, leaving a trail of plum, blackberry, black olive, smoke and mineral flavors that linger forever. Tannins are present and crisp, but don't get in the way. 95 points**

### **2006 K Syrah "Morrison Lane"**

**Big, brawny and generous, delivering a huge mouthful of tar- and black olive-accented plum and currant flavors, coalescing into a rich, complex finish. A sizable wine with poise. 94 points**

### **2006 K Syrah "Phil Lane"**

**Rich, ripe and generous with its spicy green and black olive flavors, which weave through plum, blackberry and wet stone character that remains powerful through the deftly balanced finish. 94 points**

**Our Editors' Most Exciting New Wines** —Wine Spectator Insider, *continued*

**2006 K “Ovide” En Cerise**

Dense, ripe and chewy, this is packed with black cherry, black plum and licorice flavors, hinting at savory herbs and charred meat as the finish rolls on. Complex and well-structured.... 92 points

**2006 K “The Creator”**

Dark and chewy, this is dense with blackberry, currant and tar flavors, glowing and pulsing against a layer of smoky tannins. Shows a lot of life. 91 points

**Great Wines for \$15 and Under**

“In Washington the word is Riesling, and you can find juicy, well-balanced, food friendly Rieslings...kick yourself in the pants with “Kung Fu Girl” which winemaker Charles Smith tailors for Asian dishes.”

—Patrick Comiskey, LA Times, April 2009

“The Boom Boom! Syrah from Charles Smith Wines...is one I could drink every day without getting bored...it’s an all-around winner.”

—Dave McIntyre, The Washington Post, March 2009

“A funky label and yummy wine from the slightly off-beat and “far out” producer Charles Smith... Less a karate chop than a soft pat-on-the-back of a wine....a great Riesling hit (if you forgive the pun).”

—Harpers (UK), January 2009

One of the “Best New Wineries of the Last 10 Years” —Wine & Spirits Magazine, September 2008

“Winery of the Year” —2008 Annual Buying Guide, Wine & Spirits Magazine, October 2008

“Top 100 Wineries of the Year” —Wine & Spirits Magazine, November 2008

**Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate**

“K Vintners (Charles Smith Wines) is where the larger-than-life Charles Smith presides. He is an innovator, marketing genius, outspoken, you name it – but above all the man is a brilliant winemaker who knows where all the great fruit is hidden. In a region where blending is the rule of thumb, he is the ultimate terroirist. Each wine reflects the vineyard from which it was produced but there is also a house style which lets you know immediately who made the wine. While it’s way too soon to put K Vintners on the same level as a Domaine Leroy or Domaine Zind-Humbrecht, the experience you get tasting in the cellar is much the same as in those legendary wineries, brilliantly made wines reflecting the terroir but also a winemaking signature that makes it totally clear which winery made the wine.”