

Review Overview

Babcock Syrah

2001 Vintage (Santa Barbara County)

Wine & Spirits Magazine 8/03

SCORE: 93

This deep, lasting wine shows just what to grow in Santa Barbara. The vineyard sources read like a Who's Who of Syrah: Thompson, Babcock, Alisos and Beckmen, all in sandy loam or rocky loam, all low vigor. The wine is toned and clean-living, even as its flavors are dramatic, with a full-on power of spice and soil. Lifted dark raspberry fruit evolves toward black cherry and blueberry tones as the wine takes on the air. A warm spice builds as well, green as rosemary, fragrant as rose. Decant a bottle for a rosemary-roasted lamb, or cellar to see what will comw with age. (2186 cases)

Wine Spectator 7/31/03

SCORE: 88

Taut, with dense, beefy, leathery wild berry, pencil lead and exotic spice flavors, picking up traces of blueberry and anise on a firm, tannic finish. Best from 2004 through 2010. 2,186 cases made. — JL

Robert M. Parker's The Wine Advocate 8/23/03

SCORE: 87 - VERY GOOD

Babcock's 2001 Syrah exhibits a deep ruby color in addition to a nose of black berries, cherries, smoke, earth and vanilla, a creamy texture, and a medium-bodied finish. Drink ir over the next 4-5 years.

2000 Vintage (Santa Barbara County)

Wine Spectator 12/31/01

SCORE: 87

Ripe with game, beef, spicy blackberry and toasty oak flavors highlighted by round tannins. Drink now through 2004.

California Grapevine Oct-Nov. 2001

SCORE: 87 HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Medium-dark purplish ruby; tight, earthy, peppery, grapey, ripe berry fruit aroma that showed a slight hint of adhesive tape; full body; forward, high-extract, peppery, toasty, ripe blackberry and boysenberry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; harsh, peppery finish; lingering aftertaste. Needs some bottle aging. Highly recommended. (Group score: 15.7/20 My score: 16.5/20)