

# WILFRED'S WINE GUIDE

## 90-POINT REDS



### December 2009 Selections:

- Rombauer Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley '05 (United States)
- Chalone Vyd Pinot Noir, Monterey '07 (United States)

Dear Wine Lover,

Two masters of the midway have come together to form a pair of top performers for this year's holiday season. While both wines had been already highly acclaimed and in great demand in the marketplace, neither winery has rested on its early glories. [Rombauer](#) continues to refine their [Cabernet](#) and has improved an already elegant effort. [Chalone Vineyard](#), with this recent addition to their line, has pushed the "[Monterey](#)" to another level. Both wines show the purities of their varietals as well as to their vineyard locations.

As followers of ultra premium wines, you may have noticed that, wine are showing more elegance than as recent as a decade ago. After four decades of showing off its muscle, California has begun to reel in the power and produce wines that are keenly representative of their varietal and respective areas. Credit can be given to the foodies and millennials, for their presence is certainly being felt.

With this pair of treasures, it may be time to go for the maximum and pair the ['07 Chalone Monterey Pinot Noir](#) with roast turkey; the match will be superb. For beef lovers, the ['05 Rombauer Cabernet](#) is primed and ready to sit at the table. This is a good time to enjoy the California bounty, a lot of it is around and it is all good.

Cheers!

Wilfred Wong  
Cellarmaster

## WINERY NOTES

### Rombauer Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley '05

Rombauer Vineyards' 2005 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is a rich, luscious wine with complex fruit. Hints of mint, eucalyptus, and cedar are present in the nose while moderate tannins balance layers of dark berries and black cherries on the palate. This is a fruit driven Cabernet Sauvignon that has the tannin structure to last many years, but drinks well now. We have moved from buying Cabernet to owning or managing all of our vineyards to insure the optimum quality and fruit expression. The vineyards, which are located near Calistoga, Atlas Peak, Diamond Mountain, and Oak Knoll, each have their own unique flavor and structure. Each lot is kept separate and specific oak barrels are selected and matched with each vineyard to further add to the complexity and enjoyment



### Chalone Vineyard Pinot Noir, Monterey County '07

Our 2007 Pinot Noir entices the palette with silky layers of dark cherry and raspberry woven with nuances of floral and spice. These bright, expressive aromas and flavors come from grapes grown in Monterey County in California's Central Coast American Viticultural Area (AVA). Here, cool winds slow ripening and provide the grapes with long hangtime, resulting in ripe flavors and supple tannins. Pinot Noir is considered the most versatile red wine because it matches with meat, poultry (great with turkey!), grilled veggies and even some seafood, such as salmon, ahi tuna and shellfish-laden cioppino.

