

# The Cork Report

## Wine of the Month

### Ponzi Pinot Gris 2007

An exceptionally well-made wine. Full-bodied and packed with rich grapefruit flavors. Tasty with a long finish. Strong enough to hold up with food, especially Brie and crackers. **90**



### De Loach Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2005

Mmmmm. Very enjoyable. Black cherry flavors, a hint of spice and smooth tannins from sip to finish. **89**



### tuttobene Rosso 2006

Slightly earthy, intense and flavorful. A great wine to complement something off the grill or red sauce pasta. **88**

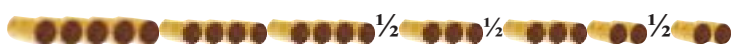


### Guide to the Cork Report

90-100	<i>Outstanding</i>
80-89	<i>Very Good</i>
70-79	<i>Good</i>
Below 70	<i>Really bad and probably won't even be mentioned</i>

### Le Grand Noir Viognier 2006

A new introduction from a dependable label. Light- to medium-bodied with distinct flavors. Not heavy or complex. An easy summer sipper. **87**



# OTHER WINNERS



**Schramsberg Brut Rosé 2005** - Always one of our favorite California sparkling wine. For something different, try it with Tiramisu that doesn't have too much rum. Whole Foods sells some excellent Tiramisu. **89**

**L de Lyeth Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** - Here's a Sonoma label that doesn't seem to get the attention it deserves. All varietals are good. This Cab is well-balanced, and well-rounded. Full of ripe strawberry flavors and a lasting finish. **88**

**Barossa Valley Estate E Minor Shiraz 2005** - A friendly reminder that Australia produces great and affordable Shiraz. Not your stereotypical fruit bomb, this wine offers hints of pepper and blackberries. Really good. **88**

**Gionelli Merlot 2006** - An old name that's taken on a new look targeting a younger wine drinker, though people over 30 can probably enjoy this, too. Pretty light and simple, this Italian wine seems to taste even better after sitting for awhile. A very good everyday value wine. **86**

**Makulu Iswithi Pinotage** - From South Africa, this is a good example of classic Pinotage, an acquired taste, but you can't develop a taste for it without trying it. Makulu offers the perfect option for someone looking for something different, namely South African Pinotage. **86**



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Three Generations  
Behind the Wines.  
Four Decades  
in the Vineyards & Cellar.



Hook & Ladder is the winery through which the De Loach family expresses their dedication to the idea that one must stay close to the vines and close to the winemaking to create superb wines. Based on only the best grapes from the family's 400 acres of vineyards, Hook & Ladder wines showcase the quality and character of a region that only four decades of experience and a family's commitment can deliver.



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