

You will be seeing an article penned by yours truly on a regular basis, as often as weekly. Look on this site each Monday night to see if there is a new entry. During the 1990s, I wrote a monthly column answering questions on small business legal matters. It was in the West U, River Oaks, and Tanglewood magazines. Trying to write every week – which I know I cannot do because of things as simple as vacation and as complex as a trial or closing on sale of a business – will be difficult. Mostly I am self-taught as a wino, but I have read a great deal as part of that self-teaching, including the nearly weekly columns of Bear Dalton in the emailed Spec's newsletter. I recommend that you go and [subscribe](#); it is free.

White wines receive less consideration in most drinker's hearts and minds, as they do in the popular press. Among fine wine aficionados, whites get nearly equal the attention that reds receive. **The Chardonnay grape** grows easily, and well, in most of the world that can grow wine grapes at all. Unquestionably, the greatest white wines of the world are those produced with 100% Chardonnay grapes in the less than 25 mile stretch starting just north of Beaune and running south, in the (Cote de Beaune) Burgundy region of France. But truly great Chardonnay is also made in Northeastern Italy, in Australia and in Northern California.

If your main experience is with California Chardonnay, particularly if it is with bottles costing less than \$60, and before the last five years, your experience is with a particular style of Chardonnay that puts off many persons. Try these non-oaky, minerally Chardonnay wines, with (S) and (H) indicating availability at Spec's on Smith and Houston Wine Merchant: 2003, 2004 **Leeuwin** Art Series \$70 Australia(S); 2007 **Chehalem** Inox \$18 Oregon(S); 2007 Silver **Mer Soleil** \$30,38 California(S,H); 2006 **Ojai** Solomon Hills \$38 California(H); 2007 **Brewer-Clifton** Santa Rita Hills \$45 California(H); 2005 **Hartford Court** Four Hearts Vineyard \$38 California(H); 2006 **Ramey** Hyde Vineyard \$60,68 California(S,H); 2006 **Bastianich** Vespa Bianco \$46 Friuli Italy(H); 2005 **Jermann** Vintage Tunina \$65 Friuli Italy(S); 2003 **Verget** Saint Veran Caniculus \$21 Burgundy(S); 2004 and 2005 **Guffens-Heynen** Pierredos Tri le Chavigne \$45 Burgundy(S); 2007 **Wm Fevre** (any Grand Cru) \$120-135 Chablis France(H).

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