



The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

SIGNORELLO	2007	PADRONE PROPRIETARY RED	NAPA	RED	94
SIGNORELLO	2006	PADRONE PROPRIETARY RED	NAPA	RED	92
SIGNORELLO	2007	CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE	NAPA	RED	91
SIGNORELLO	2006	CABERNET SAUVIGNON ESTATE	NAPA	RED	89
SIGNORELLO	2007	CHARDONNAY HOPE'S CUVEE	NAPA	WHITE	90+
SIGNORELLO	2007	CHARDONNAY VIEILLES VIGNES ESTATE	NAPA	WHITE	90
SIGNORELLO	2007	SYRAH ESTATE	NAPA	RED	89

This is one of the strongest line-ups I have tasted from Ray Signorello's winery off the Silverado Trail in southern Napa Valley. The **2007 Chardonnay Vieilles Vignes**, which comes from a vineyard planted in 1980, reveals a greenish hue to its light color in addition to a big, sweet kiss of spices, poached pears, baked apples, and tropical fruits. Burgundian-like in texture, with zesty acidity, a medium to full body, and a touch of minerality, this serious Chardonnay should drink well for 3-4 years. The **2007 Chardonnay Hope's Cuvee** is a tiny selection of the finest barrels that represents an homage to Ray Signorello's mother. Although tightly knit, it reveals plenty of orange and lemon blossom notes intermixed with hints of crushed rock and tropical fruit characteristics, abundant concentration, very good acidity, and a subtle touch of hazelnuts. More of a long-distance runner than the Vieilles Vignes, it should last 5-8 years.

The dense black/ruby/purple-tinged **2007 Syrah Estate** (which includes a small amount of Viognier) offers a big, sweet nose of lavender, black currants, and background oak. Richly fruity, ripe, and medium to full-bodied with an endearing texture, some tannin in the finish suggests this cuvee may broaden out and even improve over the next few years. I would suggest consuming it over the next 7-8 years. The **2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate** (75% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot and Cabernet Franc) exhibits abundant chocolate cassis notes intertwined with cocoa, espresso roast, and subtle oak. Fleshy and medium to full-bodied with good substance, length, and moderately high, but well-integrated tannins, give this impressive 2006 2-3 years of cellaring, and enjoy

it over the following 15 years. A blockbuster, the **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate** may be the finest Cabernet I have yet tasted from this estate. Sweet blackberry and black currant fruit intermingled with notions of cherries, earth, licorice, and chocolate aromas jump from the glass of this dense purple-colored wine. Full-bodied, opulent, and fleshy with impressive purity, texture, and length, it can be drunk now or cellared for 15+ years.

The two flagship offerings are both brilliant examples of their respective vintages. The **2006 Padrone** is composed of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Franc. Chocolate truffle, black currant, espresso roast, tobacco leaf, and subtle oak aromas soar from the glass of this deep, saturated purple-colored 2006. The wine possesses terrific fruit purity and intensity as well as a full bodied mouthfeel, and a dense, muscular, impressively endowed wine that should age effortlessly for 25 years or more. Even better is the **2007 Padrone**. A blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc, it is even richer than the 2006, with softer tannins and an overall impression of opulence and concentration. An inky/purple color is followed by a big, sweet nose of white chocolate intermixed with high class cigar tobacco, blackberries, blueberries, and a hint of forest floor. Long, rich, and full-bodied with sweet tannin, and a finish that lasts nearly 45 seconds, this beauty can be approached now, but it will not hit its peak for another 5-6 years. It will evolve for more than two decades.

Tel. (707) 255-5990; Fax (707) 255-5999