

WASHINGTON

97 Charles Smith Syrah Columbia Valley Royal City Stoneridge Vineyard 2009 \$140 Supple, rich and complex, this is a towering, majestic wine layered with floral, mineral and exotic spice character around a core of meaty black cherry, licorice and maple flavors. It all comes together seamlessly on the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2020. 400 cases made.—H.S.

94 K Syrah Wahluke Slope The Hidden Northridge Vineyard 2009 \$70 Offers freshness, purity and depth in a sleek package, with rose petal accents to the ripe blackberry, dark plum and brioche aromas and flavors. Lingers with deftness on the finish. Drink now through 2020. 370 cases made.—H.S.

94 K Syrah Walla Walla Valley The Beautiful 2009 \$60 Supple, plush and generous with its rose petal-accented blueberry and plum flavors, finishing with seamless integration of tannins. A big wine with a gentle mien. Drink now through 2020. 290 cases made.—H.S.

94 Charles Smith King Coal Stoneridge Vineyard Columbia Valley 2009 \$100 Big, broad and decidedly savory, with a strong meaty, earthy component to the dark berry and herb flavors. Highly polished, this has focus and depth to burn. Not for all tastes, but distinctive and impressive. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2020. 385 cases made.—H.S.

93 K Ovide En Cerise Walla Walla Valley 2009 \$65 Supple, expansive and distinctive for the black olive, barbecue smoke and licorice overtones that weave through the dark, ripe blueberry and blackberry flavors. Finishes with hints of basalt and dark spices. Nicely put together, with a harmonious finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2019. 205 cases made.—H.S.

93 K Roma En Chamberlin Walla Walla Valley 2009 \$65 Prominent earthy and gamy notes add depth and complexity to the rich vein of blackberry, dried blueberry and seared steak flavors that glide easily over polished tannins into the long, vivid finish. Offers great presence and distinctive flavors. Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Drink now through 2018. 185 cases made.—H.S.

93 K Syrah Walla Walla Valley Morrison Lane 2009 \$45 Ripe, polished and generous with its black cherry, wet slate, tobacco and roasted meat flavors, each one coming in and out of focus as the finish lingers against refined tannins. Drink now through 2019. 300 cases made.—H.S.

93 K Syrah Wahluke Slope The Deal Sundance Vineyard 2009 \$35 Focused, generous and complex, offering a chewy mouthful of cherry, tobacco, black olive and wet rock flavors that don't quit on the finish. Balanced against lively acidity, the flavors just take off. Best from 2013 through 2019. 360 cases made.—H.S.

92 K Syrah Walla Walla Valley Cougar Hills 2009 \$45 Rich, complex, powerful and compelling, densely packed with ripe blackberry, black cherry, licorice and tar flavors that keep pumping through the rock-solid finish. Best from 2014 through 2020. 300 cases made.—H.S.

92 K Merlot Washington Stoneridge Vineyard 2009 \$45 Ripe, generous, transparent and distinctive, balancing its rich cherry, orange peel, tea and saffras flavors against refined tannins and an open texture, completing the circle with elegance. Drink now through 2017. 200 cases made.—H.S.

91 K Syrah Wahluke Slope Pheasant Vineyard 2009 \$35 A round and generous red, with the flavors leaning toward the dark side, but the structure is crisp and expressive, offering blackberry, tar and black pepper in the profile. Drink now through 2017. 375 cases made.—H.S.

91 K Cabernet Sauvignon Washington Stoneridge Vineyard 2009 \$45 Fresh and supple, offering juicy black cherry and tobacco in the flavor profile, with a hint of grapefruit. The medium-weight finish is framed with fine tannins. Drink now through 2018. 500 cases made.—H.S.

91 K El Jefe En Chamberlin Walla Walla Valley 2009 \$65 Generous, round and focused, with blackberry and black olive flavors pushing through a veil of mildly gritty tannins. This has a deft balance that lets the flavors emerge smoothly. Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2016. 135 cases made.—H.S.

90 K Syrah Wahluke Slope Milbrandt 2009 \$30 Smooth and inviting, with a meaty animal note adding a spark of interest to the ripe, walnut-accented black cherry flavors. The finish tastes a bit cooked, but this is distinctive and welcoming. Drink now through 2017. 750 cases made.—H.S.