



2000 Blankiet Estate, Cabernet Sauvignon, Paradise Hills Vineyard

Review by Robert Parker
Wine Advocate # 142 (Aug. 2002)
Rating: (91- 93) points

The 2000 Proprietary Red, from a challenging vintage, is one of the year's most striking efforts. Notes of creosote, blueberries, blackberries, cassis and a touch of licorice dominates this dense purple-colored 2000's aromatics. The tannin is higher and more intrusive than in the 1999 or the seamless 2001, but there is tremendous depth and richness as well as a full-bodied, concentrated mid-palate and finish. Moreover, the texture is impressive, particularly for this vintage, but patience is required given the tannin level.

I am including this review because the barrel sample of Blankiet's 2000 was one of the single greatest young wines I have ever put in my mouth. There will be about 250 cases. This vineyard is owned by a French couple, Claude and Katherine Blankiet, who have a 15-acre hillside vineyard overlooking Dominus. Their debut release will be 100 cases of 1999, but they hope production will eventually attain 2,500-3,000 cases. This vineyard was developed by David Abreu, and the wine is made by Helen Turley. When the vineyard is in full production, this wine may include as much as 50% Cabernet Franc in the final blend. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2020.