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- 94** **La Fenêtre 2006 Santa Barbara Highlands South Mesa Élevage Réserve Syrah (Santa Barbara County)**  
Appeals now for extraordinarily rich, soft flavors of caramelized vanilla cream infused with blackberry essence, cassis and pepper, with exotic notes of butterscotch, candied violets and Maraschino cherry glaze. One hundred percent new French oak is not too much for this elaborate, hedonistically rich Syrah. Best opened soon. - **S.H.** (7/31/2009) - 94
- 94** **La Fenêtre 2007 Le Bon Climat Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley)**  
Extraordinarily rich and complicated, a dry, full-bodied Pinot Noir offering waves of ripe flavor, housed in a silky structure. Impresses for the power of cherries, black raspberries, currants, tangerine zest, cola and sandalwood, yet feels elegant and delicate in the mouth. Wonderful now, and should age well through 2013. - **S.H.** (12/30/2009) - 94
- 93** **La Fenêtre 2007 Calmant Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills)**  
Feels a bit thick and heavy now, with jammy raspberry, cherry, mocha and sandalwood flavors, but so good, so pure that a few years in the cellar have to benefit. A splendid acid-tannin balance provides the framework for aging. Better after 2011. - **S.H.** (12/30/2009) - 93
- 92** **La Fenêtre 2007 À Côté Santa Barbara Highlands Vineyard South Mesa Syrah (Santa Barbara County)**  
Voluptuous, with decadently rich flavors of cassis, blackberry pie filling, red licorice, milk chocolate, black pepper and cedar flavors. Shows enough acidity and tannin structure for balance. Drink now. - **S.H.** (7/31/2009) - 92
- 92** **La Fenêtre 2007 À Côté Los Alamos Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County)**  
Rich and oaky, with lavish flavors of vanilla custard, smoky meringue and crème brûlée. The fruit consists of ripe pineapples and Meyer lemons. - **S.H.** (7/31/2009) - 92
- 92** **La Fenêtre 2007 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley)**  
This is a tremendous, powerful Chardonnay that swamps the mouth with ripe fruit and oak. It detonates with pineapple crème brûlée, peach tart, buttered toast and vanilla flavors, and while it's dry, it has a honey-sweet finish and a crisp, citrus acid tartness. Drink now. - **S.H.** (12/30/2009) - 92
- 92** **La Fenêtre 2006 Calmant Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills)**  
Shows the richness and fullness of body that this cool region of Santa Barbara is known for in Pinot Noir. The wine exhibits the twin elements of complexity and ageability. Somewhat tannic now, it's flamboyantly flavored, with a mélange of cherries, black raspberries, red currants, cola, licorice, Asian spices and smoky oak, and is very dry. Best now and through 2012. - **S.H.** (11/30/2008) - 92
- 90** **La Fenêtre 2007 À Côté Bordeaux Blend (Santa Barbara County)**  
Very rich and full-bodied, very voluptuous, this soft wine shows massive tiers of well-ripened black currant, plum sauce, mocha and cedar flavors. Appealing now for the opulence, but it's a little primary, and should develop bottle character after winter, 2009. - **S.H.** (7/31/2009) - 90



- 90** **La Fenêtre 2006 Bien Nacido Vineyard Block Eleven Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley)**  
Very rich, very flamboyant, a Chardonnay that rocks your palate with flavor, yet has the acidic structure and dryness to keep it from going over the top. Pure Bien Nacido in the wealth of tropical fruit and spice flavors, so nicely balanced with a deft touch of oak. It represents a step above the '05 and is a wine to watch. - S.H. (11/30/2008) - 90
- 90** **La Fenêtre 2005 Reserve Santa Barbara Highlands Vineyard South Mesa Syrah (Santa Barbara County)**  
Lots of words in the title of this Syrah, from a newly established negociant. The wine is dry and tannic, but it's very rich and ripe in blackberry and cherry flavors that have a jam-like quality, and finish with the tastes of black pepper and anisette liqueur. Has just enough complexity to serve with fine foods. - S.H. (7/31/2008) - 90
- 89** **La Fenêtre 2007 Alisos Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County)**  
There's a wildness to this wine, with spicy, Provençal herbs and briary tannins that frame the blackberry, currant, licorice, balsam and cedar flavors. It's tightly wound and dense now, not showing much elegance. But it's interesting and different and could well be an ager. Try after 2011. - S.H. (12/30/2009) - 89
- 89** **La Fenêtre 2005 Le Bon Climat Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley)**  
A nice Pinot, showing real complexity. Dry and medium-bodied, the wine's acidity is brisk, and highlights flavors of cherries, red currants, pomegranates, cola, Chinese five-spice and Provençal herbs. Might develop for a few years, although it's hard to predict, since it's a new brand. - S.H. (7/31/2008) - 89
- 89** **La Fenêtre 2006 Le Bon Climat Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley)**  
Tastes young, jammy and oaky, with vanilla and smoky fruit flavors of cherries, raspberries, red licorice, orange zest and cinnamon spice. Pretty and polished, it's a good wine to have tonight. - S.H. (11/30/2008) - 89
- 88** **La Fenêtre 2005 Bien Nacido Vineyard Block Eleven Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley)**  
Showing lemon zest and yellow apricot flavors, this bone-dry Chard has serious underpinnings of minerals. It's reminiscent of a good French Chablis, and may require time in the cellar. - S.H. (7/31/2008) - 88
- 88** **La Fenêtre 2006 Cargasacchi Jalama Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills)**  
Considering how pale this Pinot pours, it's surprising how rich it tastes. Wrapped into the delicate, silky texture are peppery, spicy flavors of cherry and raspberry toffee, root beer, mocha and caramelized brown sugar flavors. Exotic now, it's probably at its best early on. - S.H. (11/30/2008) - 88