

2007 Bonny Doon Vineyards Vin Gris de Cigare California

(\$15; 47% grenache, 27% cinsaut, 14% syrah, 7% grenache blanc and 5% roussanne) Vivid pink. Wild strawberry and raspberry on the nose, with subtle white flower and cracked pepper notes adding vivacity. Light in body but packs good flavor punch, offering deep red berry and cherry flavors along with anise and a late jolt of orange. Finishes clean and brisk, with good lift and persistence.

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2006 Bonny Doon Vineyards Le Cigare Blanc California

(\$22; 75% grenache blanc and 24% roussanne) Light yellow. A complex bouquet displays nectarine, dried pear and yellow plum scents, along with subtle anise and floral qualities. Dried fruit flavors are firm by dusty minerals, picking up a hint of warmth on the back end. A snap of tangy minerality keeps things in check and helps to carry the finish. This will be great with lighter meat or fish dishes, and I'd drink it on the young side.

2005 Bonny Doon Vineyards Syrah Bien Nacido Vineyard Santa Maria Valley

(\$40) Deep ruby. Powerful dark berry and cherry aromas are complemented by smoked meat and dark chocolate. Surprisingly brighter on the palate, which offers sweet black raspberry and cherry preserve flavors, a dusty framework of tannins, and good back-end energy. Darker fruits define the finish, which is impressively broad and persistent. Packs a lot of flavor impact for a California syrah that carries only 13.6% alcohol.

2004 Bonny Doon Vineyards Syrah Le Pousseur Central Coast

(\$18) Deep ruby color. Black raspberry, cherry and Indian spices on the nose, with a varietally accurate cracked pepper note adding energy. Light in body, with mineral-accented dark berry flavors complemented by palate-numbing black pepper and licorice elements. I find no tannins here. Silky, fresh and intriguingly complex, finishing with gentle sweetness and very good length. This could pass for a lighter northern Rhone syrah.

2004 Bonny Doon Vineyards Le Cigare Volant California

(\$30; 38% grenache, 35% syrah, 12% mourvedre, 8% carignane and 7% cinsaut) Deep red. Smoky aromas of raspberry, cherry, herbs and flowers are complemented by minerality. Midweight red berry and sweet cherry flavors are given spine by gentle acidity and silky tannins. The red fruit takes a darker turn on the finish, which leaves black raspberry and succulent herbs behind. Reminds me of an easygoing Gigondas; this is ready to drink.