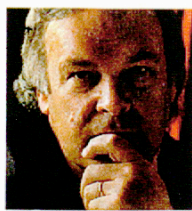


# BusinessWeek

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## Parker on Wine



BY ROBERT PARKER

## A Taste of California's Future

**MANY OF THE VINEYARDS** and wineries of California's Central Coast are still young, but their potential to produce great pinot noir, chardonnay, and syrah is enormous. In a decade, the top viticultural areas of Santa Barbara, the Santa Rita Hills, and the limestone hillsides west of Paso Robles will be as well known as the Napa and Sonoma Valleys. Following are some of the region's noteworthy current syrah releases.

### Fess Parker Winery 2002 Syrah The Big Easy

93 points. This dense, purple-tinged, explosive effort exhibits huge notes of creosote-infused chocolate, blackberries, cherries, and licorice. Full-bodied, with marvelous fruit, a seamless texture, and a long finish. You can enjoy this wine over 10 to 12-plus years. \$36

### Fess Parker Winery 2002 Syrah Rodney's Vineyard

92 points. A sweet perfume of Valrhona chocolate mixed with espresso, blackberries, cassis, camphor, and flowers. The aromatic display is followed by a wine of enormous density, richness, and balance, with good acidity as well as sweet but noticeable tannin. This wine will age beautifully for 10 to 12 years. \$35

