

San Francisco Chronicle

TOP 100 WINES 2010

OTHER WHITES & ROSÉ

Where's the momentum in white wine? West Coast clear to see to see not shelf.

Rather tropic fresh belong

It's finally hit the mainstream, but there's also more momentum than ever in white Rhone varieties. The art of blending is finally taking hold with white wines, and new (or newly revived) grapes - Trousseau Gris, Gruner Veltliner, French Colombard - are championed by vintners who simply refuse to believe the world begins with Chardonnay and ends with Pinot Grigio. Their diligence is paying off.

2009 PINE RIDGE CALIFORNIA CHENIN BLANC-VIOGNIER (\$14):

It's a pleasure to find that this established Napa label still puts diligent effort into its unusual white blend sourced from the Sacramento River delta. A softly aromatic take, like wet pine needles after rain, with notes of bright green apple, lean peach and delicate flowers.

