



CASTLE ROCK WINERY

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RECENT REVIEWS AND ACCOLADES

Wine & Spirits (August 2011) nominated Castle Rock 2009 Mendocino Pinot Noir as one of its 12 “Extreme Values”: “Sappy cherry flavors with oaken warmth; for roast beef.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (July 2011) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Syrah a score of 87 points, a puff and a Best Buy nomination: “Leads with a decent dollop of blackberry fruit, a whiff of smoky bacon and light spicy notes and is in all ways consistently varietal.”

Wine Spectator (June 2011) awarded 2008 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon a score of 87 points: “Ripe, but not heavy, with currant and floral flavors and pear skin tannins that frame the finish.”

2011 San Francisco International Wine Competition

- 2009 Monterey County Pinot Noir – Silver Medal
- 2010 Central Coast Chardonnay – Silver Medal
- 2010 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc – Silver Medal
- 2009 Mendocino County Zinfandel – Silver Medal

2011 California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition (June 2011)

- 2009 Central Coast Pinot Noir – Gold Medal (95)
- 2009 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon – Silver Medal (91)
- 2009 Monterey County Pinot Noir – Silver Medal (91)
- 2010 Central Coast Chardonnay - Bronze Medal (87)
- 2009 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc – Bronze Medal (86)

Wine Enthusiast (July 2011) reviewed two wines:

- Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Merlot awarded 86 points and a BEST BUY: “A well-crafted wine that softens the tannins enough to give the shy red fruit a chance to shine.”
- Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Syrah awarded 87 points and a BEST BUY: “The fruit is bright, and there is a sweet core, supple tannins and no bitterness.”

Wine & Spirits (June 2011) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Carneros Pinot Noir a score of 87 points and a BEST BUY: “Smooth black cherry fruit and soft, creamy tannins make this an appealing red wine to serve with sirloin off the grill.”

Wine Enthusiast (June 2011) awarded Castle Rock 2009 Reserve Russian River Valley Pinot Noir a score of 87 points.

Wine & Spirits (June 2011) listed Castle Rock as one of the 55 Top Value Brands in the world (one of the Top 17 Value Brands in the U.S.)

RESTAURANT WINE (Issues 137 & 138, April 201) reviewed 11 Castle Rock wines. “Castle Rock continues to shine with great value, moderately priced varietals from California, Oregon and Washington. Its Pinot Noirs are perhaps the pick of the litter, but its Syrah and Sauvignon Blancs (not to mention Cabernets and Chardonnays) should not be ignored....”

Castle Rock 2009 Mendocino County Pinot Noir *****
“A wonderful Pinot in a full, moderately intense, medium full style.”

Castle Rock 2009 Sonoma County Pinot Noir *****
“Exceptional; complex and full-bodied with fine balance and length.”

Castle Rock 2009 Columbia Valley Pinot Noir ****
“Ripely flavored, full-bodied, long on the palate, softly textured.”

Castle Rock 2009 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir ****
“Distinct in character, fragrant, full-bodied, crisp, lightly tannic on the finish.”

Castle Rock 2009 California Cuvee Pinot Noir ****
“Fleshy, somewhat woody in character, soft and full-bodied, near-jammy flavors

Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon ****+
“Firm in structure, complex in flavor. Fleshy in texture and full-bodied.”

Castle Rock 2009 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon ****
“Supple, fairly rich with full body.”

Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Merlot ****+
“A supple, grapey, full-bodied Merlot. Excellent value.”

Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Syrah ****+
“Great Value! Round, full-bodied, distinctly flavored and lightly oaked.”

Castle Rock 2009 Central Coast Chardonnay ****
“A supple, full-bodied Chardonnay with luscious texture, moderate richness and a medium-long finish.”

Castle Rock 2009 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc ****
“Excellent: very distinct in character, crisp on the finish.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (April 2011) listed 3 Castle Rock Cabernet Sauvignons:

- Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 85 points and a GOOD VALUE: “Clean and well-balanced. Real Cabernet at a price where few go.”
- Castle Rock 2008 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 84 points.

- Castle Rock 2009 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 84 points.

Wine Enthusiast (April 2011)

- Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 87 points and a BEST BUY.
- Castle Rock 2009 Columbia Valley Chardonnay awarded 86 points and a BEST BUY.
- Castle Rock 2009 Columbia Valley Pinot Noir awarded 86 points.

Wine Spectator (March 2011) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Syrah a score of 88 points and included it on a list of 10 Great Washington Reds: “Lithe, with a juicy feel to the blackberry and orange peel aromas and flavors, dancing lightly through the finish.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (February 2011) listed 5 Castle Rock Pinot Noirs:

- Castle Rock 2009 Sonoma County Pinot Noir awarded 88 points and a puff: “A lot of Pinot Noir for the money in a likeable, easy style.”
- Castle Rock 2009 Mendocino County Pinot Noir awarded 87 points and a puff: “Keyed on black cherries and showing a good sense of essential extract in both scent and taste.”
- Castle Rock 2009 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir awarded 87 points and a puff: “Nicely ripened, cherry-like fruit is played against a bit of sweet oak spice.”
- Castle Rock 2009 Monterey County Pinot Noir awarded 86 points: “Delightful drinking with milder meat dishes over the next couple of years.”
- Castle Rock 2009 California Cuvee Pinot Noir awarded 85 points: “Clean and weighty red that will drink well with roasts and simple stews.”

Wine & Spirits (February 2011)

- Castle Rock 2007 Mendocino County Zinfandel awarded 87 points and a BEST BUY, one of “The Year’s Best Zinfandels.” – “A simple, gentle red for grilled meats.”
- Castle Rock 2008 Columbia Valley Syrah awarded 87 points and a BEST BUY, one of “The Year’s Best Syrahs.” – Scents of anise and strawberry give a light peppery character to this sweet, chewy Syrah.”

Wine Enthusiast (February 2011):

- Castle Rock 2009 Monterey County Pinot Noir awarded 87 points and EDITOR’S CHOICE: “Elegant and silky. The price makes it a good value.”
- Castle Rock 2009 Sonoma County Pinot Noir awarded 86 points.

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition (January 2011):

- Silver Medal - 2009 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc
- Silver Medal – 2009 Central Coast Chardonnay
- Silver Medal – 2009 California Cuvee Pinot Noir
- Silver Medal – 2008 Carneros Pinot Noir
- Silver Medal – 2008 Columbia Valley Merlot
- Silver Medal – 2008 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
- Silver Medal – 2009 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon
- Bronze Medal – 2009 Sonoma County Pinot Noir

- Bronze Medal - 2008 Columbia Valley Syrah

Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine (December 2010) listed 3 wines:

- Castle Rock 2007 Reserve Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 87 points, a puff, and a GOOD VALUE: "A priceworthy effort."
- Castle Rock 2008 Reserve Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 85 points: "There are not many \$18 Cabs that will fill the bill, and this one does."
- Castle Rock 2009 Russian River Valley Chardonnay awarded 85 points: "Direct, nicely balanced, it tastes of Chardonnay at every point."

Wine Enthusiast (December 2010)

- Castle Rock 2008 Napa Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 87 points: "Nicely dry with soft intricate tannins. Drink now."
- Castle Rock 2008 Carneros Pinot Noir awarded 86 points: "Shows proper cherry, raspberry and cola flavors, with a spicy finish."
- Castle Rock 2007 Reserve Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon awarded 84 points: "Dry and soft. A good cabernet for everyday drinking."
- Castle Rock 2009 Monterey County Riesling awarded 85 points: "A really nice wine. Likeable for its upfront acidity and minerality."
- Castle Rock 2009 Russian River Valley Chardonnay awarded 83 points: "The price is right for an everyday clean Chardonnay. Flavors of pineapple and orange with a hint of butter and cream."

Consumer Reports (December 2010) listed Castle Rock 2009 California Cuvee Pinot Noir as one of 5 Good Values: "Ripe fruit, rich wood flavors. Tasty."

Wine Enthusiast (December 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Carneros Pinot Noir a score of 86 points: "A dry silky Pinot Noir. It shows proper cherry, raspberry and cola flavors with a spicy finish."

Wine & Spirits (December 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2009 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris a score of 90 points and a BEST BUY nomination.

Wine & Spirits (November 2010) listed Castle Rock 2008 Sonoma County Pinot Noir in a list of Amazing Value Wines: "Castle Rock makes remarkably good Pinot Noirs for very little money."

San Francisco International Wine Competition (October 2010)

- Silver Medal – 2009 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris
- Bronze Medal – 2008 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon
- Bronze Medal – 2009 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir
- Bronze Medal – 2008 Carneros Pinot Noir
- Bronze Medal - 2007 Mendocino County Merlot
- Bronze Medal – 2009 Central Coast Chardonnay

Wine Spectator (October 31 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2009 Columbia Valley Chardonnay a score of 88 points: "Bright and lively, with a sense of refinement embracing the pear, citrus and spice flavors, striking a deft balance."

Wine Spectator (October 15, 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Monterey County Riesling a score of 85 points: “Crisp citrus flavors – lemon, lime and grapefruit – are refreshing and ripe, with a good kick of acidity and herbal and floral details.”

Wine & Spirits (October 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Reserve Russian River Valley Pinot Noir a score of 86 points and a BEST BUY nomination: “A musky Pinot Noir with a savory, bitter edge to match with grilled lamb.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (September 2010) listed 2 wines:

- Castle Rock 2008 Carneros Pinot Noir was awarded 86 points and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “This wine comes with a medium-full body, an invitingly supple quality as it enters and a firmer feeling at the finish. Entirely priceworthy.”
- Castle Rock 2009 Central Coast Chardonnay was awarded 85 points and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “Keyed on bright, slightly citrusy fruit and shows a little more richness and depth than its modest price tag predicts. It is clean, firmly balanced and always true to the grape, and it rates as a bonafide Best Buy.”
- Castle Rock 2009 Columbia Valley Chardonnay was awarded 85 points and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “A second fine value from Castle Rock, this fresh and faintly floral effort runs to green apples and pears without any evident oak. It is juicy and rounded and wholly gulpable now.”
- Castle Rock 2007 Mendocino County Zinfandel: “A bonafide bargain in balanced, well-defined, ready-to-drink-right-now Zin.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (September 2010) listed 2 wines:

- Castle Rock 2008 Monterey County Riesling was awarded a score of 85 points: “Clean, moderately fruity.”
- Castle Rock 2007 Mendocino County Zinfandel was awarded a score of 85 points and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “Lithe and balanced on the palate. A great choice for the here and now.”

Mendocino County Fair (August 2010)

- Silver Medal – Castle Rock 2007 Mendocino County Zinfandel
- Silver Medal – Castle Rock 2008 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc
- Silver Medal – Castle Rock 2009 Mendocino County Pinot Noir

San Francisco Chronicle (August 1, 2010) reviewed Castle Rock 2009 Willamette Valley Pinot Gris: “Fresh and clean with sweet fruit and floral hints to accompany the light, lively palate. Well balanced with a long finish.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (August 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2009 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc a score of 85 points and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “It is medium-bodied, rounded in feel and just firm enough at the finish, and it affords a good sense of varietal character for the money.”

Wine Spectator (August 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Columbia Valley Merlot a score of 87 points: “Polished in texture, with a strong floral note reminiscent of iris coursing through the sleek blackberry and currant fruit, all of it lingering easily. Drink now.”

Wine Spectator (July, 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Columbia Valley Syrah a score of 88 points and a Best Value nomination: “Bright and jammy, with juicy raspberry and cherry flavors on a racy frame, finishing with a zing of acidity and fine burr of tannin.”

2010 San Francisco International Wine Competition (June 2010):

- Silver Medal - 2009 Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley
- Bronze Medal - 2009 Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley
- Bronze Medal - 2008 Pinot Noir, Carneros
- Bronze Medal - 2009 Chardonnay, Barrel Fermented, Central Coast
- Bronze Medal - 2007 Merlot, Mendocino County
- Bronze Medal - 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles

2010 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition (June 2010):

- Pinot Noir, Monterey County, 2008 – Best of Class, Gold Medal Winner
- Zinfandel, Mendocino County, 2007 – Silver Medal
- Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2007 – Silver Medal
- Pinot Noir, Sonoma County, 2008 – Silver Medal
- Pinot Noir, Central Coast, 2008 – Silver Medal
- Chardonnay, Reserve, Russian River Valley, 2008 – Bronze Medal
- Sauvignon Blanc, Mendocino County, 2008 – Bronze Medal
- Pinot Noir, Carneros, 2008 – Bronze Medal

2010 Orange County Fair/ Orange County Wine Society (June 2010)

- 2007 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon – Gold Medal
- 2008 Russian River Valley Reserve Chardonnay – Silver Medal
- 2008 Monterey County Pinot Noir – Bronze

2010 California State Fair Commercial Wine Competition (June 2010)

- 2007 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon – Silver Medal (Score: 88)
- 2008 Russian River Valley Reserve Chardonnay – Silver Medal (88)
- 2009 Central Coast Chardonnay – Silver Medal (91)
- 2009 Mendocino County Pinot Noir – Silver Medal (88)
- 2008 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon – Bronze Medal (86)

Wine Spectator (June 7, 2010) In an on-line article featuring “11 California Values for Summer/New reviews of a delicious mixed selection of prime summertime wines”, Two Castle Rock Pinot Noirs were featured:

CASTLE ROCK Pinot Noir Central Coast 2008 Score: 87 | \$13

“Plump and generous, with ripe plum, black cherry and blueberry fruit that's smooth, fleshy and full-bodied, ending with good depth and persistence.”

CASTLE ROCK Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Reserve 2008 Score: 86 | \$18

“Full-bodied, with a complex mix of savory herb, dried berry, black cherry, plum and spice, picking up a black licorice edge “

Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine (June 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Reserve Russian River Valley Pinot Noir a score of 89 points, One Puff☼, and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “Full and fleshy and properly supple in feel, it is a deep and serious look at the grape and overachieves at the price.”

RESTAURANT WINE (Issues 133 & 134, June 2010) reviewed five Castle Rock wines:

Castle Rock 2008 Reserve Russian River Valley Chardonnay *****

“A full bodied, softly textured Chardonnay, with moderate complexity, light fruit character, and a medium-long finish. Great value.”

Castle Rock 2007 Monterey County Petite Verdot *****+

“A full-bodied, intensely flavored and slightly woody wine, with a powerful, long finish. It tastes of oak, cedar, cranberry and cassis.”

Castle Rock 2007 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon *****

“Full bodied and moderately oaky, this is a soft, fleshy Cabernet, with ripe fruit and oak character, and a medium-long finish.”

Castle Rock 2007 Napa Valley Merlot *****

“Fleshy and full-bodied with ripe fruit character (cassis, berry and jam) and toasty, woody overtones. Long finish. Fine value.”

Castle Rock 2008 Sonoma County Pinot Noir *****

“Excellent Pinot Noir: full-bodied, moderately rich, well-balanced, and distinct in character (black cherry, plum with floral overtones), with modest oak. Fine value.”

Wine & Spirits (June 2010) nominated Castle Rock as one of its 17 top American Value brands and reviewed two wines:

- Castle Rock 2007 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded a score of a score of 86 points: "Surprisingly well concentrated for the price, this cabernet offers big, juicy flavors of blackberry jam and fresh ground coffee. There's also a note of eucalyptus."
- Castle Rock 2007 Russian River Valley Syrah was awarded a score of 86 points: “A simple sweet syrah with a gamey edge. This is balanced, with a bacon fat richness that will match roast chicken.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (April 2010) listed 2 wines:

- Castle Rock 2007 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded a score of 84 points: “Castle Rock has claimed its place at the top of the low cost providers.”
- Castle Rock 2007 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded a score of 84 points.

Wine Enthusiast (April, 2010):

- Castle Rock 2007 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded a score of 87: “A polished, smooth Cab for drinking now. It's soft and delicious, with herb-infused cherry, currant and cola flavors. Shows real fanciness in the tannin structure.” and
- Awarded Castle Rock 2007 Napa Valley Merlot a score of 85.

Wine & Spirits (April 2010)

- 21st annual Restaurant Poll - ranked Castle Rock Pinot Noir as the 12th most popular restaurant wine served by the glass and the 9th most popular Pinot Noir in its nationwide survey of America's favorite restaurants.
- Awarded Castle Rock 2008 Russian River Valley Reserve Chardonnay a score of 87 /Best Buy: "The golden color and honeyed butterscotch scents show off this wine's oak treatment, while the fruit shines through with scents of pineapple and crenshaw melon."

Wine Spectator (February 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Reserve Lake County Petite Sirah a score of 88 points and a "Top Value" nomination: A rustic and thickly tannic wine with good intensity to the roasted, chicory-infused huckleberry and blackberry notes."

Wine Enthusiast (February 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Monterey County Riesling a score of 88 points and a BEST BUY nomination: "A lovely California Riesling at a great price."

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition (January 2010):

- Double Gold Medal & Judges' Choice – 2008 Central Coast Pinot Noir
- Gold Medal – 2007 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
- Gold Medal – 2007 Reserve Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
- Silver Medal - 2008 Reserve Russian River Valley Chardonnay
- Silver Medal – 2008 California Cuvee Pinot Noir
- Bronze Medal – 2008 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc
- Bronze Medal - 2008 Monterey County Riesling
- Bronze Medal - 2006 Napa County Merlot
- Bronze Medal – 2007 Mendocino County Zinfandel
- Bronze Medal – 2008 Central Coast Chardonnay

Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine (January 2010) awarded Castle Rock 2008 Reserve Russian River Valley Chardonnay a score of 88 points, a star, and a GOOD VALUE nomination: "Blessed with plenty of zesty young fruit, this wine is bright and balanced."

Wine & Spirits (December 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Russian River Valley Syrah a score of 86 points and a BEST BUY nomination: "A simple, sweet syrah with a gamey edge, this is balanced, with a bacon fat richness, that will match roast chicken."

Wine Enthusiast (December, 2009):

- 2007 Lake County Reserve Petite Sirah was awarded a score of 87 points: "A good rustic wine with barbecue and rich, oily Italian food."
- 2008 Mendocino County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 84 points: "Offers a nice silky texture and some ripe flavors of cherries, cola and spices."
- 2008 Napa County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 84 points: "Simple and forward but good in varietal character, with the flavors of black cherry jelly, mint and cola."

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (November 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Russian River Valley Syrah a score of 86 points and nominated it as a "GOOD VALUE:

“Its nose is dense and extracted, comes with hints of a gamy note and leads to a weighty, fleshy wine on the palate.”

RESTAURANT WINE (Issues 131 & 132, September 2009) survey shows that Castle Rock is now ranked 40th in the listing of the top 100 wine brands on-premise in US restaurants. This position represents a rise from 43rd position 12 months ago. In addition, this edition of RESTAURANT WINE also reviewed two Castle Rock wines:

Castle Rock 2008 Mendocino County Pinot Noir *****

“Full bodied, softly textured, and quite grapey in flavor, with hints of oak, smoke, and raspberry. Exceptional value.”

Castle Rock 2007 Reserve Lake County Petite Sirah ****+

“Great value! Full bodied, intensely flavored, lightly oaky, and long on the finish. Moderately tannic.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (October 2009) listed 5 wines:

- Castle Rock 2008 Mendocino County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 87 points, a “puff, and nominated as a “Good Value”: “No-one else delivers the same rewards for the money as this outfit. Among the new releases, this one is our favorite.”
- Castle Rock 2008 Napa County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 86 points: “Boysenberry and cranberry aromas. It has the stuff to stand up to grilled meats.”
- Castle Rock 2008 California Cuvee Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 85 points: “Tasty in an up-front way and comes with enough cherry character to suggest its varietal heritage.”
- Castle Rock 2008 Sonoma County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 85 points: “Likeable as an easy red for simple grilled meats, it works at the price.”

Beverage Dynamics (September/October 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2008 California Cuvee Pinot Noir a score of 90 points and 4 stars: “Nice core of ripe red fruit and medium (almost full) body; engaging spicy notes echo on the smooth and velvety finish.”

Connoisseurs’ Guide to California Wine (August 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2006 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon a score of 85 points and nominated it as a “GOOD VALUE: “Castle Rock has an enviable track record of winners delivered at unbelievable prices. This is a decently fruited Napa Valley Cab, and at the price asked here is a pretty rare bird.”

Wine & Spirits (October 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Lake County Petite Sirah a score of 90 points and a Best Buy nomination: “A supple, velvety textured red, this glows with dark cherry flavors over rich, black soil tannins. It’s sweet and potent, a finely made petite.”

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (July 2009) listed 2 wines:

- Castle Rock 2006 Columbia Valley Syrah was awarded a score of 88, a “star” and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “The folks at Castle Rock have done it again in providing a deep and impressively filled wine at an altogether extraordinary price.”
- Castle Rock 2007 Reserve Lake County Petite Sirah was awarded a score of 88, a “star” and a GOOD VALUE nomination: “This new Petite Sirah wins an

enthusiastic vote of thumbs up for both its deep and outgoing fruit and for its modest price. It is weighty yet polished and not at all tough.”

2009 California State Fair Wine Competition (June 2009):

- Gold Medal, Best of Class – 2007 California Cuvee Pinot Noir
- Silver Medal – 2006 Mendocino County Zinfandel
- Silver Medal – 2007 Reserve Russian River Valley Sauvignon Blanc
- Bronze Medal – 2006 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon
- Bronze Medal – 2006 Mendocino County Merlot
- Bronze Medal – 2007 Mendocino County Pinot Noir

2009 San Francisco International Wine Competition (June 2009):

- Gold Medal – 2008 California Cuvee Pinot Noir
- Gold Medal – 2007 Reserve Lake County Petite Sirah
- Silver Medal – 2007 Russian River Valley Syrah
- Silver Medal – 2006 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

2009 Orange County Wine Society Wine Competition (June 2009):

- Gold Medal – 2007 Monterey County Pinot Noir
- Silver Medal – 2007 Reserve Lake County Petite Sirah
- Silver Medal – 2007 Mendocino County Pinot Noir
- Silver Medal – 2008 Sonoma County Pinot Noir
- Silver Medal – 2008 Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc

2009 Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition (June 2009):

- Gold Medal, Best of Class – 2007 Monterey County Pinot Noir
- Silver Medal – 2006 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
- Silver Medal – 2006 Mendocino County Merlot
- Bronze Medal – 2007 Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel
- Bronze Medal – 2005 Russian River Valley Petite Sirah

Wine Enthusiast (June 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2006 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon a score of 85 points: “Very rich and ripe, with jammy blackberries, cherries, cola, vanilla and cedar. Smooth and generous. Drink now.”

Wine Spectator (June 2009):

- Castle Rock 2007 Columbia Valley Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 88 points: “Light and fragrant, delivering a ripe core of blueberry flavor, with pleasant hints of spice and chalk around the edges. Remains delicate on the finish.”
- Castle Rock 2006 Columbia Valley Merlot was awarded a score of 87 points: “Smooth and round, with dark cherry and currant fruit on the medium-weight frame, finishing with polish.”
- Castle Rock 2006 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded a score of 87 points: “This is a bit bracing, but also focused on ripe cherry and tar flavors, hinting at smoked meat as the finish lingers.”

Connoisseurs’ Guide to California Wine (May 2009) reiterated its previous comments: “We are well into our tastings of new Pinots slated for review in June, but the juicy, cherry-like CASTLE ROCK Sonoma County 2007 (\$12.00) and its tasty partner, the rounded, faintly floral and solidly fruity CASTLE ROCK Mendocino County 2007

(\$12.00) continue to win enthusiastic “Best Buy” endorsement and are as good as Pinot Noir gets at anything approaching the price.”

Impact Magazine (April 2009) nominated Castle Rock as one of its 2008 “Hot Brands”. This is the fourth year in a row that Castle Rock has received this award.

Wine Spectator (May 2009):

- Castle Rock 2007 Monterey County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 87 points: “Firm, ripe plum and blackberry fruit is intense, full-bodied, concentrated and structured.”
- Castle Rock 2007 Mendocino County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 85 points: “Easy-drinking plum and black cherry fruit make this full-bodied wine very enjoyable, with a touch of beefy earthiness on the finish.”

Restaurant Wine (Issue 129, March 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Dry Creek Zinfandel ****: “Ripely flavored (berries, berry jam), full bodied, lightly woody, and long on the palate. An impressive wine at the price.”

Wine Spectator (February 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Sonoma County Pinot Noir a score of 86 points: “Medium-bodied, with delicate plum and black cherry fruit shaded by touches of mint and herb.”

Wine Business Monthly (February 2009) placed Castle Rock Winery 26th in its listing of the top U.S. Wineries (ranked by case sales) out of a total field of 6,000.

Connoisseur’s Guide to California Wine (February 2009) listed 2 wines:

- Castle Rock 2007 Mendocino County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 86 points and nominated as a “Good Value”: “Another well-made Pinot Noir from Castle Rock, this time with cherry and dried flower notes joined by quiet notes of brush vanilla and sweet cider.”
- Castle Rock 2007 Sonoma County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 86 points and nominated as a “Good Value”: “Castle Rock specializes in surprising the world by making lots of price-worthy Pinot Noir even though common knowledge insists that no such result is possible with this persnickety variety”

Restaurant Wine (Issue 128, January 2009) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Central Coast Pinot Noir *****: “Full bodied and very fruity in style, with light tannin. It is very distinct in character and long on the finish.”

San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition (January 2009):

- Double Gold Medal – 2007 Reserve Russian River Valley Sauvignon Blanc
- Gold Medal – 2007 Mendocino County Pinot Noir
- Gold Medal - 2007 California Cuvee Pinot Noir
- Bronze Medal - 2007 Reserve Russian River Valley Chardonnay
- Bronze Medal - 2006 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon

Wine Enthusiast (December, 2008):

- 2006 Columbia Valley Syrah was awarded a score of 88 and nominated as one of the **100 Best Buys of 2008**: “The best budget Syrah in all of Washington State.

Pure varietal, this excellent bottle brings clean berry fruit, natural acids and moderate tannins.”

- 2006 Columbia Valley Merlot was awarded a score of 88 and nominated as a **Best Buy**: “Another winner from Castle Rock, this is a lovely Merlot, pure and true. A luscious core of soft, sweet cherry candy fruit.”
- 2006 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded a score of 87 and a **Best Buy**. “Offering light plum and tart berry and firm acids. Cabernet at this price is generally thin, green and weedy; this one isn’t!”
- 2007 Sonoma County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 85: “Pleasures for its savory flavors of cherries and oak. A Pinot experience for folks who don’t want to pay a Pinot price.”
- 2007 Mendocino County Pinot Noir was awarded a score of 84: “A pretty Pinot showing the variety’s silky textures and cherry flavors.”

Wine Spectator (December 2008) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir a score of 87 points: “Soft and open-textured, with vivid red plum and berry flavors on a polished frame, lingering nicely.”

Restaurant Wine (Issue 127, November 2008) awarded Castle Rock 2007 Mendocino County Pinot Noir ****+ : “A softly textured, full bodied wine, with good flavor and balance, with medium length. It tastes of clove, plum, and modest oakiness.”

Food & Wine Magazine (October 2008) nominated Castle Rock 2006 Napa Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon as one of its top 50+ wines for \$15 and under: “Warm, black fruit and lots of it is a good way to describe this user-friendly, juicy Cabernet.”

RESTAURANT WINE (Issues 125 & 126, September 2008) survey shows that Castle Rock is now ranked 43rd in the listing of the top 100 wine brands on-premise in US restaurants. This position represents a rise from 46th position 12 months ago. In addition, this edition of RESTAURANT WINE also reviewed two Castle Rock wines:

Castle Rock 2006 Columbia Valley Syrah *****

“Fleshy and fairly powerful in style, this is a soft rich wine with dark berry, spice, and wood aromas/flavors. Great value.”

Castle Rock 2006 Mendocino County Zinfandel ****

“Fleshy and ripe, this is a moderately intense Zin, with blueberry and wood aromas/flavors, and medium length.”

Wine Spectator (July 2008) awarded Castle Rock 2006 Columbia Valley Pinot Noir a score of 86 points: “Light and supple, with pretty plum and dried blueberry flavors that ride gently over a velvety frame.”

2008 San Francisco International Wine Competition (June 2008):

- Gold Medal – 2007 Columbia Valley Pinot Noir
- Gold Medal – 2006 Columbia Valley Syrah
- Bronze Medal – 2006 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon