



Sunset Western Wine Awards 2008

Best bottles to buy, hottest wine bar, tasting rooms not to miss, winemakers to watch—we sipped until we found them all

by Sara Schneider

And the winners are ...

Judging by the banter among the teams at our awards tasting this year, Chardonnay is finally pulling back a little on oak, and Zinfandel on alcohol. The West is producing more and more amazing whites that aren't Chardonnay. And Syrah is in better shape than ever.



Photo by Emily Nathan

David Ramey, wine consulting wizard and *Sunset's* 2008 Winemaker of the Year

Winemaker of the Year DAVID RAMEY

He's worked at Chateau Pétrus (the world's most expensive Bordeaux), Dominus, and Rudd. Now, in Healdsburg, Ramey's making his own Chardonnays and Cabernets every bit their equal. And through his consulting, he's improving hundreds of thousands of cases of West Coast wine. rameywine.com