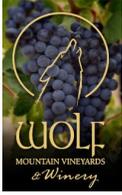
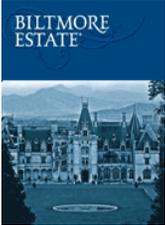
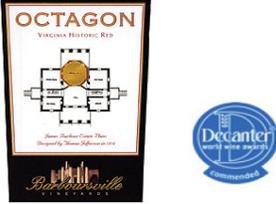




	Wine	Tasting Notes	Comments	Score	
1	Wolf Mountain - Blanc de Blancs 2006 	<p>Golden colour, very light bubbles, leggy in the glass.</p> <p>Slight nose, crisp, fruity, limited "toast" - some tasters found nothing.</p> <p>Limited yeasty toast. Citrus. Short length</p>	<p>For a first vintage, a commendable effort showing real potential. Typical demi-sec fizz – not really brut. Poor length. Fizz dissipated very rapidly. Good with a peach or strawberries. Right for a celebration rather than considered tasting. Longer on the lees may enhance taste</p>	3 / 8	6
2	Veritas Winery & Vineyard Viognier 2007 	<p>Golden colour, viscous.</p> <p>Peach, apricot, ripe apple, banana nose.</p> <p>Floral sharp edge, ripe peaches, honey, fresh orange peel, lychees, then citric lime, good length</p>	<p>Neither distinctively New or Old World style Viognier. Didn't have a lot to say for itself. Very easily drinkable with or without food.</p>	3 / 8	6½
3	Veramar Vineyards - Chardonnay 2007 	<p>Dark golden straw colour, almost yellowish.</p> <p>Slight nose, underdeveloped.</p> <p>Fruit content (pineapple, ripe apple and slight grapefruit), but not a lot of it. Toffee/caramel tones. Some oak. Slightly overmineralised (clay) edge. Harsh back taste.</p>	<p>Clean and straightforward! Chardonnay going down the Big Australian route. Is it really different to the mass producers offerings? Fruit seemed a little over-ripe.</p>	2 / 6	5
4	Lakewood Vineyards - Dry Riesling 2007 	<p>Medium straw colour, darker than classic European riesling, leggy in the glass.</p> <p>Some esters and limited "petrol" in the nose - not enough fruit.</p> <p>Sharp dry edge. Lime and floral (frangipani) notes. Green apple. Pear drops. Some flinty minerality. Medium length finish for a white</p>	<p>Good, but nothing distinctive. German riesling rather than Alsace in style. Volatile and non-volatile esters give a slightly "manufactured" impression.</p>	3 / 8	5½
5	Biltmore Estate - Cabernet Franc (NV) 	<p>Clear meniscus, dark maroon</p> <p>Red berry and some spice on the nose</p> <p>Fruity, blackberry and spice, rather raw (green?) tannins, sharp edge, aftertaste of strawberry, Victoria plum. Tannic finish, but not tooth-mittening.</p>	<p>"Estate" on label and website descriptions try to stress a local terroir - false! Would lead to prosecution under Trades Description Act in UK for origin description. Typically California taste. Drinkable and straightforward - perfectly good gluggable wine. Nothing special - undistinguished - but I wouldn't throw it away!</p>	4 / 7	5½



	Wine	Tasting Notes	Comments	Score
6	White Hall Vineyards - Petit Verdot 2007 	<p>Red velvet/Ruby body, red meniscus. Almost opaque. Persistent "legs" in the glass.</p> <p>"Bordeaux" nose, but slightly vegetal</p> <p>Smoky flavour, ripe red/dark fruit (cherry?), slightly tannic. Overall very smooth and integrated. Medium finish with some oak</p>	<p>A definite keeper - would probably benefit from a couple of years in the bottle (not too many given the integration of the finish) - but drinkable right now.</p> <p>A food wine</p> <p>In spite of the composition, it seems like Bordeaux - definitely French style.</p>	5 / 8 7½
7	Kluge Estate - North American Red 2004 	<p>Dense dark red</p> <p>Vanilla, smoke, red fruit nose</p> <p>Smooth, full-bodied, toasted oak, currant and black cherry. Dark chocolate, earthy. Smoky tannins. Long finish with both fruit and tannin well balanced.</p>	<p>Delicious.</p> <p>Beautifully made and balanced</p> <p>Claims of "similar to Pomerol" are fair. Liked the label - but the almost invisible alcohol declaration would not be legal in Europe.</p> <p>Interesting complexity</p>	6 / 9 8
8	Barboursville Vineyards - Octagon 2005 	<p>Deeply dark maroon/cherry</p> <p>Red berry/currant not overwhelmed by oak.</p> <p>Tobacco, redcurrant, coffee, dark flavours. Liquorice? Menthol?</p> <p>Integrated tannins, but balanced. Long finish with both fruit and tannin. The close integration of the finish now raises questions on how long until this peaks.</p>	<p>Superb wine, superbly vinified and balanced.</p> <p>Complex.</p> <p>Would cellar well</p> <p>A bit closed - intrinsically difficult to get into - needs longer breathing. Maybe even decanting?</p> <p>A food wine - great for a big steak. You can feel the passion in the winemaking.</p>	6 / 10 8½
9	Blackstock - Reserve Merlot 2005 	<p>More translucent than expected for a Merlot</p> <p>Rich fruit nose, some woody oak.</p> <p>Red fruit, spice, maraschino cherry. Well integrated tannins. Balanced and smooth. Notably long finish.</p>	<p>Very smooth and balanced</p> <p>Top quality</p> <p>Would lay down well for three years plus.</p> <p>Adequately complex, notable in a single varietal.</p>	7 / 10 8
10	Three Sisters - Cynthia 2004 	<p>A deep rich colour</p> <p>Fruit on the nose</p> <p>black cherry, cedar and butterscotch</p>	<p>Would not have guessed that it wasn't vinifera on a blind tasting.</p> <p>"It could be French" (echoing Thomas Jefferson's description "the American Claret").</p> <p>No "foxy" flavour like other native American wines members have encountered elsewhere!</p> <p>The dark chocolate experiment not a success - club members preferred the wine without it!</p>	5 / 9 7½

Comments of tasters are combined for tasting notes and comments - no single opinion is "right".

Individual scoring by 30 tasters is on a scale of 1 - 10

At the end of the tasting, scorings are consolidated to establish the highest and lowest individual score for each wine.

The average is calculated to the nearest half point.