

## Corliss Estates

Stephen Tanzer

**2005 Syrah Columbia Valley** (\$55; includes bits of grenache and viognier) Good medium red. Complex nose melds plum, dried flowers and cinnamon, with nuances of smoked meat, gunflint, wild herbs and pepper adding to its appeal. Warm, rich and plummy in the mouth but at the same time suave, vibrant and sharply delineated, with sneaky inner-mouth perfume that may come from the rocky soil (90% of the wine is from the steep, basalt-rich Stillwater Creek vineyard). A flavor of boysenberry lingers on the finish, which features plenty of dusty tannins and excellent persistence. **93**

**2006 Syrah Columbia Valley** (\$55; includes 17% grenache, 4% viognier and 2% barbera "for acidification") Good full red. Plum, smoke and brown spices on the nose. Silkier on entry than the 2005, then more vibrant and high-pitched in the middle palate, with a red raspberry flavor complemented by subtle minerality. This offers lovely sweetness in the mouth, but finishes classically dry and broad, with a serious tannic spine for aging. **92+**

**2005 Red Wine Columbia Valley** (\$65) Good medium red. Captivating, perfumed aromas of raspberry, plum, redcurrant, cocoa powder, mocha and nutty oak. Then vibrant and tight in the mouth, with a lovely subtle sweetness but also firm underlying spine to its deep currant and cedar flavors. Very cabernet sauvignon in its finesse and structure. Finishes with tongue-dusting tannins and lingering sweetness. (A second bottle of equal quality was more smooth and lush, but grew fresher and firmer in the glass as its minerality emerged.) **93**

**2006 Red Wine Columbia Valley** (\$65; a five-variety Bordeaux blend, aged in 73% new oak) Good full, deep red. Aromas of plum, redcurrant and licorice complemented by sexy spices. Tight and minerally, with a deep core of spice. This really spreads out to coat the palate without leaving any impression of weight. Quite claret-like in its minerality and suavely tannic finish. **92-94**

**2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley** (\$75; 75% cabernet sauvignon, 13% merlot, 6% cabernet franc, 4% malbec and 2% petit verdot) Good medium-deep red. Plum, flowers and nutty oak on the nose, plus a suggestion of celery seed. Dry and sharply delineated, conveying a glycerol texture without any thickness or heaviness. This boasts a firmer spine than the red blend as well as lovely clarity of flavor for the vintage. Most impressive today on the very long, slowly mounting finish. Corliss's best lots of cabernet sauvignon, mostly from Dionysos Vineyard, go into this bottling. **94**

**2006 Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley** (\$75; 85% cabernet sauvignon) Good deep, bright red. Complex aromas of plum, mocha, minerals and menthol. Densely packed and tactile, with penetrating acidity and minerality giving this a powerful spine. Finishes very long, with a minty lift. This baby holds out great potential, but, like a topnotch claret, will require years to display its inherent complexity. **93-95**

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