

Stephen Tanzer's
INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

2009 Alta Colina 12 O'Clock High	White Wine	Paso Robles	88
2008 Alta Colina GSM	Red Wine	Paso Robles	90
2008 Alta Colina Old 900	Red Wine	Paso Robles	90
2008 Alta Colina Petite Sirah Ann's Block	Red Wine	Paso Robles	91
2008 Alta Colina Toasted Slope	Red Wine	Paso Robles	90

2009 Alta Colina 12 O'Clock High

(\$28; 69% viognier, 18% roussanne, 7% marsanne, 6% grenache Blanc)

Bright gold. Fragrant nose combines subtle nectarine and citrus aromas with notes of minerals, white pepper and jasmine. Juicy and intense, with noteworthy lift to the citrus, pit fruit and spice flavors. Saturates the palate with dusty, floral-accented flavor and finishes with good mineral grip and a touch of heat.

2008 Alta Colina GSM

(\$40; 34% syrah and 33% each of Grenache and mourvedre)

Deep ruby. Expressive nose offers blackcurrant, blueberry, tobacco, leather and dried flowers, with coffee and smoky nuances emerging with aeration. Seems like there's more syrah in here. Juicy and smooth in texture, with good cut and verve to its sappy dark fruit and spice flavors. A firm spine of acidity and fine-grained tannins give the finish shape, and a smoky note lingers with very good intensity.

2008 Alta Colina Old 900

(\$48; 98% syrah and 2% viognier)

Opaque purple. Deeply scented, powerful bouquet of dark berries, bitter chocolate and black pepper, with a suave floral quality gaining strength with air. Juicy and sweet, with lush blackberry and blueberry flavors and a silky texture. Becomes livelier as it sits in the glass, picking up a brighter red fruit quality and a touch of smokiness that lingers on the finish. This will reward patience.

2008 Alta Colina Petite Sirah Ann's Block

(\$48)

Glass staining purple. High-pitched aromas of black raspberry, cherry and Asian spices, with a smoky nose and a touch of allspice. Fresher than most versions of this variety, offering lively red and dark berry flavors and a seamless, supple texture. Darker fruits appear on a long, sappy, sharply focused finish. No way I'd have guessed this was a petite sirah.

2008 Alta Colina Toasted Slope

(\$40; 92% syrah, 3% each of mourvedre and viognier and 2% Grenache)

Inky ruby. Smoky red and dark berries and olive on the nose, with complicating notes of musky herbs and cracked pepper. Is this syrah or what? Nicely focused dark fruit flavors are given spine by juicy acidity and show a touch of bitter chocolate on the back. Gentle tannins add shape to the spicy dark fruit and olive-accented finish. This is drinking very well now and would be a great ringer in a northern Rhone lineup.