

JAMESSUCKLING.COM 7

Regarding the 2016 Napa Valley vintage, Suckling writes: "After tasting more than 1,000 wines from 2016 last year with my son Jack and senior editor Nick Stock ... I am now convinced: the 2016 vintage in Napa and Sonoma Valley is exceptional." Read the Report.

We are often asked about the point system. Here is the scale, according to the critic: "A wine that I rate 90 points or more is outstanding (A). It's a wine I want to drink a glass of and is an outstanding purchase. If I rate a wine 95 points or more (A+), it is a must buy and a bottle that I want to drink in its entirety!"

2016 murasaki: 96 points. "Gorgeous aromas of crushed raspberries and blueberries with lavender and other flowers. Medium to full body. Ultra-fine tannins. A long and linear finish. Shows focus and balance."

2016 asuka: 95 points. "This wine has a nice core of flavors, such as cherries and spices with herbaceous undertones. It has a round texture and soft tannins. Full-bodied and well shaped. Exciting red."

2016 rindo: 91 points. "Aromas of ripe berries, barley and cedar. A full and rich red with lots of dried fruit, such as figs and prunes. Big and ripe style."

2018 asatsuyu: 93 points. "A very serious white with licorice, lime and fennel character and hints of aniseed. Medium-to full-bodied, dense and layered with a linear and energetic finish. Beautiful."