

# Wine Spectator

www.winespectator.com

Pull-Out  
Vintage Chart

## James Laube's Recommended Rhône-Style Wines From California



"The 2001 vintage was truly remarkable," says Andrew Murray of Andrew Murray Vineyards in Santa Barbara. "It had many of the qualities of the 1997 vintage in terms of ripeness and flavor development, without the tendency towards high yields that plagued the 1997 vintage for many [wineries]." Murray hit the target with both red and white wines. His 2001 Espérance (90, \$22), a blend of Syrah, Mourvèdre and Grenache, offers wild berry, raspberry and floral aromas, accented by hints of fresh earth, smoke, spice and berry jam. The Enchanté (91, \$22), a blend of Marsanne and Roussanne, displays wonderful balance, highlighted by ripe, complex fruit flavors and a smooth, fleshy texture.

**91 Andrew Murray Enchanté Santa Ynez Valley 2001 \$22** A lovely balancing act, smooth-textured, delicate and complex, with rich peach, fig and nectarine notes and hints of flowers and minerals. Finishes with a lively, vibrant aftertaste. Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now through 2007. 600 cases made.—J.L.

**90 Andrew Murray Espérance Santa Ynez Valley 2001 \$22** Aromas of wild berry and raspberry with floral notes lead to a tight band of flavors, accented by hints of fresh earth, smoke, spice and berry jam. Finishes with a long, complex aftertaste and integrated jammy tannins. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Drink now through 2008. 1,200 cases made.—J.L.

**90 Andrew Murray Syrah Santa Ynez Valley Roasted Slope Vineyard 2001 \$32** A dense, rich and heavyweight style, with earthy blackberry, plum and traces of raisin, tar and smoke, it fairly saturates the palate with concentrated flavors, finishing with earthy tannins and vivid fruit flavors. Drink now through 2010. 900 cases made.—J.L.

**89 Andrew Murray Syrah Central Coast Tous les Jours 2002 \$15** Marked by vivid, well-defined blackberry, wild berry, boysenberry and huckleberry flavors that are bright and lively, accented by vibrant acidity. A terrific value for a distinctive wine. Drink now. 3,500 cases made.—J.L.