



2012 Blankiet Estate Mythicus Paradise Hills Vineyard

A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Napa, California.

Review by Robert Parker

Wine Advocate # 209 (Oct 2013)

Rating: (96-100)

A new offering, the 2012 Mythicus Paradise Hills Vineyard is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and 220 cases were produced. A great effort, it boasts exceptionally pure notes of crème de cassis, graphite and subtle smoke as well as full-bodied, first-growth-like precision, richness and elegance backed up with significant intensity and power. It appears to have enormous potential, but it is much less evolved than the Rive Droite and Proprietary Red. Despite the precociousness and ripe tannins of the 2012 vintage, the Mythicus will require some discipline once it is bottled. The 2012 Prince of Hearts was still being assembled and was not available for tasting. The Blankiet Estate owned by Claude and Katherine Blankiet is beautifully situated on the lower hillsides of the Mayacamas Mountains, just behind the large Napanook estate of Dominus. An enviable group of talented people have provided assistance here, beginning with David Abreu, Helen Turley and John Wetlaufer, followed by Michel Rolland, Martha McClellan, and more recently Denis Malbec. Production remains between 1,800 and 2,500 cases with nearly half of that devoted to their second wine, the Prince of Hearts. The other cuvees include the Proprietary Red (Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated) and the Rive Droite (a Pomerol / St.-Emilion look-a-like wine), and in 2012, they added a tiny, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon cuvee called Mythicus. I could be wrong, but it seems to me these wines, which performed very well, and are among the finest of the so-called “cult” wines of Napa Valley, remain under-the-radar. Perhaps that is due to the small production. The 2009s are all stunning. In the challenging 2011 vintage, the Blankiets along with their winemaker Denis Malbec have fashioned very good examples, although they are much lighter and less concentrated and authoritative than the top vintages. The 2012s are among the finest wines Blankiet has yet made.