



2023 Blankiet Estate Rive Droite Paradise Hills Vineyard 98 points

"Composed almost entirely of Merlot (96.9% plus 3.1% Cabernet Franc), Blankiet's 2023 Rive Droite Paradise Hills Vineyard is a stunning example of this finicky variety. Mixed red and black cherries join with dusty earth on the nose, while the full-bodied palate is round and plush, yet somehow also fresh and structured--the sort of oxymoronic juxtaposition that marks so many of the world's best wines. Long and softly tannic, it finished with great suppleness and elegance".

Tasting at Blankiet with winemaker Graeme MacDonald, who joined the team in 2016, revealed a heart-stopping collection of 2023s. From their small vineyard situated west of (behind) Dominus Estate and up into the lower slopes of the Mayacamas, the team at Blankiet deserves immense credit.

"When you get vintages where the curtain doesn't close on you, you get to implement all your vision and philosophy," said MacDonald. "What '23 brings to the table is exactly what I like to drink --- and to have the owner pushing you to take risks is unique."

Reviewed by: Joe Czerwinski / Robert Parker Wine Advocate / Aug 15, 2025
Drink: 2025 – 2050