

Sunset

HOW TO
BUILD
A HOUSE
FROM A
KIT

LIVING IN THE WEST

Wine in the West

Your questions answered

This month, we're talking about what's on your mind—and in your glass **BY SARA SCHNEIDER**

Geyser Peak We've kept the Sauvignon Blanc from this label in our cellar for a long time, now we've added the Merlot.



I'm looking for a wine I'll always be able to find at the supermarket and trust that it'll taste good. Any suggestions?

A two-case tasting of our old standbys (BV "Coastal Estates" and Beringer "Founders' Estate") let us down: Many of those earlier budget players seem to have lost the quality edge to newer labels. Here are some affordable, large-production names to remember now.

Clos du Bois Okay, it's not exactly new, but if you're fond of generous oak in your Chardonnay, this Sonoma giant turns out a gazillion excellent cases for you.

Columbia Crest "Grand Estates" The Cabernets and Merlots from this Washington label always taste like they should cost more than they do.

Geyser Peak We've kept the Sauvignon Blanc from this label in our cellar for a long time; now we've added the Merlot.

Hess "Appellation" series The value-priced lineup from the Hess Collection, on Napa's Mt. Veeder, gets a quality boost from estate fruit that didn't make it into the label's upper-tier bottles.



JULY 2009

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from Kauai
to Carmel

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Sunset readers

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