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92 pts

**Avennia 2012 Gravura Red Wine
Columbia Valley**

Columbia Valley, Washington

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

(48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc): Saturated red-ruby. Fresh aromas of black raspberry and cocoa powder are complemented by sexy earth tones. Sweet, broad and fine-grained, showing lovely energy and lift to its flavors of dark berries and dark chocolate. Really spreads out to dust the palate with fruit. Finishes classy and very long, with well-integrated ripe tannins. This was bottled a month before I tasted it but showed no sign of shock or fatigue. A steal for the price.

Stephen Tanzer, December 2014

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**Avennia 2012 Sestina Red Wine
Columbia Valley**

Columbia Valley, Washington

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

(72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc): Healthy dark red. Deep aromas of black raspberry, mocha and licorice. Juicy, very intense and youthfully tight, offering a subtle sweetness to the complex flavors of raspberry, mocha and dark chocolate. Boasts terrific grip, but the tannins are noble and even and the finish is sweeter than that of the 2011. Leaves a captivating violet perfume behind. This should age splendidly.

Stephen Tanzer, December 2014

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**Avennia 2012 Valery Red Wine
Columbia Valley**

Columbia Valley, Washington

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

(14.6% alcohol; 80% Merlot from Boushey and 20% Cabernet Franc from Champoux): Good medium red. Complex, expressive aromas of redcurrant, pomegranate, licorice, coffee bean and mocha. Tight-grained and seamless on the palate, with lovely floral perfume energizing the currant and bitter chocolate flavors. Finishes with outstanding finesse of tannins. Chris Peterson's new Saint-Emilion blend is a beauty.

Stephen Tanzer, December 2014

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**Avennia 2012 Justine Red Wine
Columbia Valley**

Columbia Valley, Washington

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

(a southern Rhone blend of 49% Mourvedre, 28% Grenache and 23% Syrah; vinified with 15% whole clusters; no new oak): Saturated, bright ruby-red. Aromas of blackberry, violet, licorice and minerals, plus a hint of Brazil nut. Sweet on entry, then sappy and primary in the middle, with black fruit flavors along with pronounced stony minerality. The long finish features penetrating tannins. Densely packed but this will need time to show more complexity. This distinctly brooding blend left behind an aroma of tea leaf in the empty glass.

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**Avennia 2012 Syrah Arnaut Boushey
Vineyard Yakima Valley**

Yakima Valley, Washington

Red wine from United States

Drinking window:

(100% Boushey Syrah from blocks planted in 1996 and 1990): Saturated ruby. Knockout nose combines cassis, blackberry, licorice and espresso complemented by sexy oak tones. Creamy and concentrated, offering a restrained sweetness and outstanding lift to its juicy blackberry and espresso flavors. Most impressive today on the very long finish, which features extremely fine-grained tannins and terrific verve. I'd love to revisit this wine in seven or eight years. The yields were down 40% from normal in 2012—to just 2 to 2.2 tons per acre—owing to a rainy flowering here, noted Chris Peterson.

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**Avennia 2013 Sauvignon Blanc
Oliane Yakima Valley**

Yakima Valley, Washington

White wine from United States

Drinking window:

(50% malolactic fermentation; 12% new oak): Pale yellow. Complex aromas of grapefruit pith, pear drop and spices lifted by a minty topnote. Rich, round and full without coming across as heavy, with a flavor of passion fruit leavened by medicinal herbs. Finishes dense, smooth, dry and long, with a lingering note of passion fruit. Ultimately a smoother style than the 2012 but this very youthful sauvignon is showing less personality in the early going.

Stephen Tanzer, December 2014

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