

**The Chronicle's Wine Selections:
Mendocino/Lake County Sauvignon Blanc**

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Here are the panel picks from the 29 Mendocino and Lake county Sauvignon Blancs from 2002 and 2003 tasted for today..

2003 Brassfield Estate Vineyard Clear Lake Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-Medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Aromas of citrus and melon; slight sweetness on entry; very citrus-y with vibrant lemon rind, grapefruit, lime, peach, melon and mineral; good length and balance.

2003 Briceland Vnyds Vina Las Lomas Lake County Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-Medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Lemon blossom, pineapple, kiwi and passion fruit nose with some pungency; tart pineapple, lemon-lime pith flavors; zippy acidity with a slightly sweet finish. Low production/winery only.

2003 Ceago Vinegarden Kathleen's Vnyd Mendocino Sauv Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry

Comments: Very good and a panel favorite. Nose of lime peel, tropical fruit, herb/thyme and matchstick notes; fennel, lime, kiwi fruit, melon flavors; bright, snappy acidity; integrated.

2002 Dynamite Vineyards Lake County Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry

Comments: Understated aromas of tropical fruit and citrus with slight grassy notes; mouthwatering lemon, lime and grapefruit flavors; crisp acidity.

2003 Everett Ridge Powerhouse Vnyd Mendocino Sauv Blanc

Body: Light

Dryness: Dry

Comments: Candied melon, herb and mineral nose; clean, simple flavors of lime, citrus, grapefruit and apricot with a touch of spice. Low production.

2002 Greenwood Ridge Vineyards Anderson Valley Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Medium

Dryness: Dry

Comments: Pungent nose of spicy citrus, peach and mineral with nuances of grass and "cat pee;" similar flavors plus ripe apple; long, clean finish.

2002 Handley Ferrington Vnyd Anderson Valley Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Sweet-tart candied nose; pear, apple, lemon custard, stewed rhubarb aromas and flavors with a hint of toast; clean, refreshing and vibrant. Low production.

2003 Hess Small Block Series Lake County Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Nose of citrus, melon, fig and grass with light herbal notes; juicy lime, melon, peach, apple and pear flavors; rather tropical with lively acidity and length. Low production/winery only.

2002 Jepson Mendocino Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Subtle sweet lemon blossom, grapefruit and pear aromas; flavors of green apple, lemon and pineapple; slight grassiness; moderate acidity and length.

2003 McNab Ridge Mendocino Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Subtle floral, melon and fig aromas; ripe apple, pear and gooseberry flavors with some lemon rind; good acidity and balance; higher alcohol at 14.6 percent. Low production.

2003 Parducci Vintner Select Lake County Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Grapefruit, melon, peach, herb and grass aromas; sweet fruit, honeydew melon, mandarin orange, caramel and some gooseberry flavors; grassy finish.

2003 Patianna Organic Vineyards Mendocino Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Medium

Dryness: Dry-semidry

Comments: Very good and a panel favorite. Rich, ripe style. Apple, pear, melon, citrus, grapefruit rind and hay aromas and flavors; beautiful acidity and balance; finishes with hint of clove.

2002 Wattle Creek Mendocino County Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry

Comments: Unusual dry, meaty nose with pear and a hint of char; soft pear and apple flavors with grapefruit/melon tones; hint of lemon-lime on the finish.

2003 Wildhurst Vineyards Reserve Lake County Sauvignon Blanc

Body: Light-medium

Dryness: Dry

Comments: Very good and a panel favorite. Pungent, herbal New Zealand style with kiwi fruit, guava and grass; zesty gooseberry, grapefruit and lemon flavors; balanced and refreshing..

Panelists: Mulan Chan, wine director, Bambuddah Lounge, San Francisco; Denise Johnson, general manager, Napa Valley Winery Exchange, San Francisco; Ken McDonald, owner-wine buyer, Friendly Spirits, San Francisco; Linda Murphy, wine editor, The Chronicle. Wines listed are generally available but may not be in all stores. Start with local wine merchants, but also try larger stores and wineries.