



Robert Parker's

Wine Advocate

The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine

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GIACONDA

Giaconda

Giaconda Aeolia Roussanne 2006 <i>"ripe, intense and mouth-coating"</i>	91 pts
Giaconda Warner Shiraz 2005 <i>"enticing perfume...good flavors...long, pure finish."</i>	91 pts
Giaconda Estate Chardonnay 2005 <i>"intense flavors...superb depth"</i>	95 pts
Giaconda Nantua Chardonnay 2006 <i>"...gobs of flavor, excellent balance, and a lengthy finish."</i>	94 pts

Giaconda, founded by Rick Kinzbrunner, released its first wines in 1987. The winery and vineyards are located in Beechworth in northeastern Victoria.

The 2006 Chardonnay "Nantua" contains 7% Roussanne. It was fermented in barrel with native yeasts using French oak, 25% new where it remained for 10 months before being bottled unfiltered. Light gold-colored, it offers an alluring bouquet of toast, butter, floral notes, baked apple and tropical fruits. This is followed by a round, viscous, layered wine with gobs of flavour, excellent balance, and a lengthy finish. It has several years of aging potential and can be enjoyed through 2017.

The 2005 Chardonnay Estate is even better. It was barrel fermented with native yeasts in French oak, 50% new, where it remained for 18 months. The wine was bottled unfiltered. Medium gold-colored, it delivers aromas of mineral, spice box, baked apple, poached pear, and tropical notes. Medium to full-bodied, it is layered and rich with intense flavors, superb depth and a very long finish. It will evolve for several years and drink well for a decade.

The 2006 Roussanne "Aeolia" was also barrel fermented with native yeasts. It was aged on its lees in French oak for 10 months before being bottled unfiltered. Medium gold-colored, it exhibits a nose of honey, candle wax, floral notes, and tropical fruits. Ripe, intense, and mouth-coating, it will blossom with another 1-2 years of bottle age and provide pleasure through 2013.

The 2005 Shiraz "Warner Vineyard" spent 22 months in French oak, 60% new. Opaque purple-colored, it reveals and enticing perfume of pain grille, pepper, Asian spices, smoked meat, bacon, and blueberry. On the palate it is firm and slightly lean with good flavors and a long, pure finish. Drink it over the next 8-10 years.

