

2007 The Lenz Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Old Vines

The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Old Vines is another wonderful and gracefully maturing red from Lenz. Youthful and vibrant, this intense Cabernet is nowhere near ready or at peak. From a fine vintage for it, it projects that tightly wound feel of concentrated but well focused wines. This has many years to go and may need a few more in the cellar to hit peak.

Lenz is one of the stalwarts and big stars on Long Island with winemaker Eric Fry at the helm. Some of the oldies here were some of the highlights of this report. Despite the rather poor glassware on hand, the wines would not be denied. There's a lot of brilliance here at the upper levels.

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

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2001 The Lenz Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Old Vines

The 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon Old Vines is impressive from start to finish. On the cusp of maturity, this shows some tertiary nuances, complexity and an intense finish. The fruit is still fresh and gorgeous. It is also nuanced with a touch of herbs (perhaps from the small amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot blended in). Not particularly fleshy, this has an intellectual aspect to it. It is a wine to contemplate, but the fruit is still lovely. It should also be a terrific food wine. The price point reflects a library wine release—this may in fact be available.

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2010 Lenz Chardonnay Ice Wine

The 2010 Chardonnay Ice Wine shows fine concentration and a fresh feel. Coming in at 70 brix, it was the last batch, said Eric Fry, and he had to add juice to bring it down to 50 brix so it could ferment. Not particularly unctuous, this does feel full in the mouth and well balanced, with surprising restraint. It should age well. As it ages, I expect it to gain weight in the cellar and flesh out. This dessert wine may be another of Fry's one-offs, but it is pretty fine.

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1999 Lenz Gewurztraminer Late Harvest

The 1999 Gewurztraminer Late Harvest is basically an ice wine, one of winemaker Eric Fry's "one-offs" as it is not regularly made. Penetrating and focused, this has a certain, dry feel to it, speaking relatively, of course. There is a touch of bitter herb on the finish as well as dried apricots. That finish lingers and this shows a fair bit of tension, too. Overall, this is aging well and it should continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

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2001 The Lenz Winery Merlot Old Vines

The 2001 Merlot Old Vines is simply a brilliant library wine. Complex and gorgeous, this is a wine to think about, but also a wine to enjoy with your palate. If it seems mature, projecting a medley of complex flavors, it is also a wine with plenty of life left. It is a bit bigger than the 2001 Cabernet reviewed this issue. It usually doesn't work that way in most regions, but this is Long Island. Beautifully textured as well, plus intense and intensely flavorful on the finish, this gorgeous Merlot touches the bases well. There won't be much to complain about here.

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2007 The Lenz Winery Merlot Old Vines

The 2007 Merlot Old Vines is another gracefully maturing oldie from Lenz that is available as a library release. The only problem with this array of oldies was deciding which was better. They were all simply superlative, a tribute to winemaker Eric Fry as well as Long Island. This is more or less ready, but it remains mouthcoating and powerful. With a certain and subtle lushness, it is well structured and gives hints of greatness as it airs out. It might yet develop into the best of the oldie group from Lenz. It might yet be entitled to an uptick.

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