

2014 Wolffer Estate Rose

The 2014 Rosé is the winery's dry, entry-level pink, a blend of 56% Merlot, 18% Chardonnay, 16% Cabernet Franc, 5% Pinot Noir, 4% Riesling and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. The first pink here that was bottled with a screwcap, this is classic in its perky demeanor, crisp finish and fine flavor. It should be a great summer refresher, but drink it young to preserve that freshness, however long it theoretically lasts.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors for "best" I had of its type during my survey—Rosé, Chardonnay, Cab Franc, dessert wines, to name a few. The competition in Merlot might be stiffer, but not because this winery doesn't excel there. ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2014 Wolffer Estate Grandioso

The 2014 Grandioso Rosé is a bit pricey for a pink, but it's worth it. A blend of 34% Cabernet Franc, 30% Merlot and 36% Chardonnay, this is essentially the winery's Reserve pink, fermented in 7-year-old (neutral) French oak. It takes the Summer in a Bottle bottling reviewed this issue and ups the ante in depth and intensity. With structure and some power, it also tastes great, dry and balanced. It is a red wine substitute in the heat. It may hold awhile, too, if well stored.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors for "best" I had of its type during my survey—Rosé, Chardonnay, Cab Franc, dessert wines, to name a few. The competition in Merl...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2007 Wolffer Estate Fatalis Fatum

The 2007 Fatalis Fatum is a Bordeaux blend, 57% Merlot (sourced from the winery's 1990 vines), 30% Cabernet Franc and 13% Cabernet Sauvignon. It comes in at 13.2% alcohol. After separate fermentations, it was aged in French oak for 20 months (70% new). From a fine vintage, this not surprisingly shows superbly. Startlingly fresh and young, it is hard to believe it is even this old at first. With aeration, some hints of earth did pop up, but the first impression was a touch of licorice, flavorful fruit and a vibrant, sunny finish. This elegant wine shows beautifully and it should keep aging well. There were 669 cases produced.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, fea...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Wolffer Estate White Mischief

The 2012 White Mischief is a bit different in the winery's Chardonnay lineup: it is wild-yeast fermented, plus only a one-third of the juice was barrel fermented, using only about 25% new French oak (unlike the Perle). Fresh, gorgeously balanced and very elegant, it has a lingering finish. It is the type of wine that will never make you go "wow," but when you look up, the bottle is already empty and you wish you had more. This looks like a nice success. Typically, this winery makes wines to age. Given the structure and overall track record, there is a pretty good chance here for things to go well with extended aging, and likely better than I think. Still, let's be a bit conservative just now. Sourced from 1993 vines, there were 539 cases produced.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2005 Wolffer Estate Christian's Cuvee Merlot

The 2005 Christian's Cuvee Merlot, named after the owner passed away, also has 14.5% Merlot and 2.5% Cabernet Franc. Tight on the finish, this nonetheless has controlled tannins and a certain air of elegance in the mid-palate and overall. Brooding at times, it opens and freshens up with aeration. Still lively, it is a pretty good place now, but will have no problem going another decade or more, at the least. As it unfolds, it shows hints of fine complexity to come. It is a terrific food wine, in particular.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors for "best" I had of its type during my survey—Rosé, Chardonnay, Cab Franc, dessert wines, to name...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2002 Wolffer Estate Premier Cru Merlot

The 2002 Premier Cru Merlot was released with that name to make a point about the quality level. All Merlot from the winery's oldest (1990) vines, it was aged in 100% new oak for 20 months. This is a big bruiser, with a touch of char and maturity around the edges. A bit less elegant than most of the winery's offerings, speaking only relatively, it substitutes power and energy, with some astringency still on the finish. The finish is also nuanced with herbal notes. The wine overall seems complex and distinguished. Bright and young in many respects, this has many miles to go and it is quite superlative. It got better with some aeration. It could likely keep improving for hours. Overall, it delivers most anything you want from an aging Merlot. Note: It is a library wine. Pricing is always susceptible to variation. There were just 1,900 bottl...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2014 Wolffer Estate Summer in a Bottle

The 2014 Summer in a Bottle, a somewhat iconic Rosé, comes in a very pretty bottle you won't miss. The thing is, though, you can actually appreciate this for the wine, too. A blend of 50% Merlot, 19% Chardonnay, 19% Cabernet Franc and 12% Gewurztraminer, this is most notable because it has a distinctive zing on the finish and a gloriously fresh feel. It also seems riper and more concentrated than the winery's basic pink, also reviewed this issue. That gives it extra structure, extra zest and a better mouthfeel. Add fine flavor and bit of spice on the finish and this is quite a tasty treat. After awhile, you may want to buy it just for the wine, not the pretty bottle.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more imp...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Wolffer Estate Merlot Lambardo

The 2012 Merlot "Lambardo" is 100% Merlot, sourced from the winery's oldest vines (1990) and also from Leslie Alexander's North Fork vineyard (hence, the appellation Long Island, rather than The Hamptons). The Wölffer Estate fruit was fermented in a 6,000-liter French oak tank, while the North Fork fruit was tank-fermented. Eventually, the juice was transferred to a 50/50 mixture of new and second-use French barriques for 18 months. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol. Young, fresh and fruity, this sometimes seemed on par with the wonderful 2010 Grapes of Roth Merlot also reviewed, but its tight, unevolved nature left some questions. Ultimately, they may wind up in much the same place, with this being just a little less concentrated and voluptuous, relatively speaking. A year or two in the cellar to calm down wouldn't hurt. There were 272 cases ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Wolffer Estate Chardonnay Perle

The 2012 Chardonnay "Perle" is 100% barrel fermented, unlike the White Mischief bottling, also reviewed this issue. Notably (and not surprisingly) oakier than White Mischief, although not overly woody by most standards, this has nice weight, some pop and grip on the finish and fine freshness to balance the oak. It is a lovely Chard that should continue to develop with time. Its graceful demeanor and lifted feel makes it a pleasure at the moment. I do think it was and will be surpassed by its 2013 counterpart, but it's pretty close.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors for "best" I had of its type during my survey—Rosé, Chardonnay, Cab Fran...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Wolffer Estate Cabernet Franc "Caya"

The 2012 Cabernet Franc "Caya" (Caya being a horse from the winery's stables) also has 18% Merlot blended in. It was aged in a mixture of used (60%) and new French oak (40%) for 18 months. The tank-fermented Merlot was blended in separately in October, 2013, roughly a year after harvest. It comes in a 13.5% alcohol. Very different in demeanor than the graceful and more mature 2005, also reviewed this issue, this youthful 2012 is otherwise in a similar style, with impeccable balance, an elegant mid-palate, sensual texture and grip on the finish. It looks like another success in this bottling. There were 268 cases produced.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuri...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Wolffer Estate Christian's Cuvée Merlot

The 2012 Christian's Cuvée Merlot, sourced from the winery's 1990 vines, also has 3% Cabernet Sauvignon and less than 1% Petit Verdot. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol and was aged for 19 months in French oak (60% new). Fresh, young and viscous, but also a creature of its vintage, this doesn't necessarily show impressive depth. However, the intensity of flavor and the beautiful craftsmanship in its structure makes it a winner. The fruit is hammered into the palate by the acidity. The lingering finish is very pleasing, to say the least. This should age beautifully, but be approachable fairly young. It would still be nice if you could give it a few years in the cellar for better results. There were 2,610 bottles produced, but 48 magnums.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (th...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2014 Wolffer Estate Sauvignon Blanc

The 2014 Sauvignon Blanc shows plenty of veggies, but enthusiasts of the grape won't find it too much. Grassy up front and showing some broccoli on palate, it remains both perky and rather nicely concentrated for the style. It comes in at 12.5% alcohol. It is in fine balance and should be a great summer sipper this year, however long it theoretically lasts.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors for "best" I had of its type during my survey—Rosé, Chardonnay, Cab Franc, dessert wines, to name a few. The competition in Merlot might be stiffer, but not because this winery doesn't excel there. It's just that every fine producer on Long Island s...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

1997 Wolffer Estate Chardonnay Estate Selection

The 1997 Chardonnay Estate Selection (a bottling that evolved into the "Perle" in later vintages) is astonishing. It has all the advantages of age, including some complexity, but it is fresh and caressing in mouthfeel. Impeccably balanced, this beautiful Chard does everything well and has plenty of life left. This touches every base there is to touch. Caveat: This was seen only from a magnum and they tend to age much more slowly. Still, did you really think a Long Island Chardonnay would show this well not too far from age 20? Be honest. Being conservative in such things, I'd say let's drink this up and see where we are in a few years, assuming there is any left. Note: The price listed is the release price for a 750ml, published only for relative information.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christia...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2005 Wolffer Estate Cabernet Franc "Caya"

The 2005 Cabernet Franc "Caya" is the 20th Anniversary release from the winery, which happily occurred with the 2005 vintage. (Caya was a Grand Prix winner horse in the winery's stables.) This Cab Franc also has 14% Merlot added in. It comes in at just 13% alcohol. It was certainly one of the most attractive Cab Francs I saw during my Long Island visit. A lovely, maturing Cab Franc with some bite on the end, this shows beautiful fruit, sensual texture, controlled green nuances and a certain vibrancy. Unfined and unfiltered, it should age rather well, which is the winery's modus operandi for most things.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Wolffer Estate Diosa Late Harvest

The 2012 Diosa Late Harvest is a blend of 70% Chardonnay, 12% Vignoles, 13% Gewurztraminer and 5% Trebbiano. Tank-fermented, it comes in at 9.9% alcohol with 225 grams per liter of residual sugar. Just super, this accomplishes the feat you most want to see—a beautiful mingling of acidity and all that sugar. Fresh, aromatic and lively, it is a perfect warm-weather finisher that should leave you both refreshed and drooling over its delicious finish. It will age a long time, but of course its character may change. As wines like this oxidize in the cellar, they give up some freshness, but often flesh out and become more distinctive. There were 528 cases of 375ml bottles produced (on which size this review is based).

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2012 Wolffer Estate Fatalis Fatum

The 2012 Fatalis Fatum is a Bordeaux blend, 57% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Opening with smoky nuances, which I took to be somewhat reductive, perhaps combining with some youthful exuberance in herbaceousness, this was rather tight and tannic on the edge, with an angular feel. I retasted this with more time to play with it and it was far more impressive, a very good sign. Showing exceptional concentration for this vintage, this is beautifully balanced, a little tight on the finish and surprisingly lush at times. This is approachable, in a sense, but it is nowhere near peak and it is a bit tight. If you can, give it another year or three in the cellar.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that ...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

**2011 Wolffer Estate Noblesse Oblige Rosé
Extra Brut**

The 2011 Noblesse Oblige Rosé Extra Brut is a blend of 63% Pinot Noit and 37% Chardonnay from the winery's 1990 block. Vintage 2011 was one of the weaker ones in recent years, but for a sparkler and the grapes involved, the winery says the cooler growing season made it "perfect for sparkling wine." Given how this shows, they might be right. This was bottled in May, 2014, disgorged with a dosage of 6.0 grams per liter of residual sugar after 29 months of aging. About 9% of the juice saw new French oak. Bright, with a fine mouthfeel, this is dry, fresh and lingering with a very tasty finish. It is a very fine effort that has a bit more to it than you might at first think, thanks to the acidity which drives home the flavor. It should hold just fine, but there is no reason to wait. Winemaker Roman Roth indicated that the first vintage of this...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

**2012 Wolffer Estate Descencia Botrytis
Chardonnay**

The 2012 Descencia Botrytis Chardonnay is a 25th Anniversary wine, sourced from fruit on the North Fork. It was aged in new French oak for four months after final blending and after separate fermentation of different lots. It comes in at 174 grams per liter of residual sugar. Adding more weight to the Diosa, also reviewed this issue, it is a big mouthful that coats the palate. If it is not quite as luscious as the Diosa, it is far more concentrated, ending with an irresistible and mouthwatering finish. This was reviewed from a 375ml bottle. There were 1,800 375ml bottles produced.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors for "best" I had of it...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

2013 Wolffer Estate Chardonnay Perle

The 2013 Chardonnay Perle was aged in 30% new French oak for about seven months and sourced from 1993 vines (Dijon clone). It is a bit closed just now, but it is a fine competitor to the 2012 reviewed this issue, and probably better. It comes in at 13.3% alcohol. Beautifully balanced, this oak-fermented Chard handles its oak well even in its youth and finishes with bright intensity. This should have the opportunity to improve a bit more in the cellar if you have some patience. It should also age very well, but let's take that in stages and see where we are when we get there.

Wölffer is one of the region's flagships, founded in 1988 by German Christian Wölffer in the Hamptons (the South Fork). It is fair to say that this was one of the more impressive tastings I had on Long Island, featuring many competitors for "best" I had of its type...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission

**1998 Wolffer Estate Brut "Christian Wolffer
Cuvee"**

The 1998 Brut "Christian Wölffer Cuvée" is mostly Chardonnay, with 16% Pinot Noir blended in. Bottled in February, 1999, this was disgorged in 2002 with a dosage of 8.5 grams per liter of residual sugar after 3.5 years. Showing piercing acidity and quite a bit of oxidation on opening, the oxidized nose marred this initially, despite its otherwise vibrant structure. Surprisingly, this revived itself, seemingly turning the clock back as it aired, becoming younger and fresher. I suspect it will still need drinking and appeal more to the type of drinker who enjoys mature sparklers, but this penetrating Brut demonstrated to me that it has plenty of life left. Still, let's be conservative and take that in stages. There were 314 cases produced. Note: The price stated was the original release price. As always, library wines have variable availab...

- Mark Squires (June, 2015)

Copyright 2015, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission