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| | | (Hover for Commentary) | | | | | Drinking | Release | Review |
|---|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
|  | Vintage | Producer | Name | Tasting Notes | Score | Author | Window | Price | Date |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ☆ | 2018 | Abeja | <u>Chardonnay</u> | Musky apricot pit, peach and spicy vanillin oak on the nose. Densely packed but quite suave and fine-grained in spite of its saline thrust. A very sappy, refined midweight with lovely salinity and tactile length. Offers much more than just fruit: sexy oak, minerals, cyanic fruit pit. Fresh stone fruits continue to emerge as the wine opens with air. Finishes with a lovely spine of citrusy acidity and sneaky building length. No shortage of weight or palate presence here but very shapely and refined. This superb Washington Chardonnay held up brilliantly in the recorked bottle and should evolve positively over the next several years. (aged in French oak, 40% new; about 35% of the wine went through malolactic fermentation) | 93 | Stephen Tanzer | 2020 - 2025 | \$45.00 | Dec 2019 |
| | | | | -- Stephen Tanzer | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ☆ | 2017 | Abeja | <u>Merlot</u> | Moderately saturated bright red-ruby. Sexy aromas of dark raspberry, mocha, red licorice, tobacco, minerals and cocoa nibs reminded me of a Right Bank wine. Plush, ripe and serious, with dusty herbs and spices enlivening the raspberry and plum fruit flavors; more red fruits than black here. Finishes with substantial but ripe well-integrated tannins and slowly building persistence. Not a powerhouse but uncommonly complex and refined for Washington Merlot. And more pliant at this stage than the 2016 was. (a blend of eight sites) | 92 | Stephen Tanzer | 2020 - 2027 | \$50.00 | Dec 2019 |
| | | | | -- Stephen Tanzer | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ☆ | 2016 | Abeja | <u>Cabernet Sauvignon</u> | Bright medium ruby. Sexy perfumed lift to the aromas of cassis, black cherry, raspberry, mocha, menthol, licorice and violet. Wonderfully broad and mouthfilling but conveys an impression of weightlessness; all in finesse but there's no shortage of stuffing here. Intense flavors of red and darker fruits, milk chocolate and spices show a clever light hand with the oak (70% new French). Richer and more pliant than the 2015 version, and also better balanced. The very long, slowly mounting finish saturates the palate with a complex perfume of fruits, flowers and spices and noble tannins. Like the Merlot, this is not an obvious powerhouse but a classy, utterly seamless wine with a light touch. | 94 | Stephen Tanzer | 2020 - 2028 | \$60.00 | Dec 2019 |
| | | | | -- Stephen Tanzer | | | | | |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | ☆ | 2016 | Abeja | <u>Cabernet Sauvignon</u> <u>Heather Hill</u> | Bright ruby. At once darker and more subdued on the nose than the 2015 version, which I retasted next to this wine; aromas of cassis, black cherry, blackberry, menthol and crushed-rock are accented by notes of violet and bitter chocolate. Tight-grained and vibrant on the palate; a real high-wire act of pungent dark berries, sweet dusty spices and floral high notes. More vertical and less broad than the 2015 version but wonderfully precise and palate-staining, finishing with serious noble tannins and subtle treble notes. Has the structure for a slow and graceful development in bottle. This may be even more intense than the 2015: I'd love to have the chance to taste these two wines side by side in seven or eight years. If anything, this wine tightened up with air. | 94+ | Stephen Tanzer | 2023 - 2034 | \$68.00 | Dec 2019 |
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| -- Stephen Tanzer | | | | | | | | | | |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | ☆ | 2017 | Abeja | <u>Syrah</u> | Bright red-ruby. Reticent aromas of black raspberry, red cherry and flowers, complicated by hints of licorice and cumin. Moderately dense and juicy, showing lovely spicy definition to its red berry, red cherry and floral flavors. This rather polite, smooth Syrah shows little in the way of meaty wildness but is intense, shapely and moderately sweet. It's also easier to enjoy at this stage than the 2016 was a year ago, but will it reveal the same slow-ripening complexity in the long run? The tannins are firm but fine-grained and nicely buffered by the wine's fruit. A bit sweeter and more open-knit than the '16, finishing with very good subtle length. Like the 2016 Heather Hill Cabernet, this wine was made entirely from estate fruit. | 91 | Stephen Tanzer | 2020 - 2026 | \$48.00 | Dec 2019 |
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| -- Stephen Tanzer | | | | | | | | | | |