

*Stephen Tanzer's*  
INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR

**2007 Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Helms Vineyard Rutherford**

(\$275) Bright ruby-red. Vibrant, sexy aromas and flavors of cassis, black raspberry, minerals, licorice and spicecake; almost liqueur-like but with terrific minty lift. The sweetest of these 2007s in the mouth, but balanced by penetrating fruity/peppery acidity. Finishes extremely long, with perfectly managed, harmonious tannins. This brilliantly delineated wine can almost be enjoyed now thanks to its exhilarating balance of sweetness and acidity but should age for 15 to 20 years with ease.

**95**

**2007 Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Hershey Vineyard Howell Mountain Napa Valley**

(\$275) Full ruby-red. Plum, graphite, hot rocks and minerals on the nose. Juicy and tightly wound, with powerful flavors of black fruits, graphite, dark chocolate, violet and earth. Very intensely flavored, long wine with terrific inner-palate energy. And not at all overly sweet. (I was not able to taste the Hershey Vineyard '08 wine, as this Howell Mountain site was hit hard by frost; the crop level was quite low in 2006 as well.)

**94**

**2007 Dana Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard St. Helena**

(\$275) Bright ruby-red. Crushed blueberry, licorice and graphite on the reticent nose. Extremely primary and deep, with a medicinal cast to the powerful but very backward flavors of crushed black fruits and minerals. There's little in the way of easy sweetness here, and the seriously tannic finish is tough going today. But this hugely rich if youthfully imploded wine gained dramatically in texture and fruit over the 48 hours I followed it and should evolve spectacularly in the cellar.

**94+**