The Wine Advocate Tasting Notes



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Kapcsandy's 2009s have developed beautifully over the last year. As great as those wines are, the 2010s are even better. The cold, late-ripening harvest produced stunning wines endowed with tons of energy and sheer power. The estate's 2011s are equally impressive. I first tasted the 2011s this past spring when the component wines were still separate. I had an opportunity to sample multiple lots across various parcels and aged in barrels from different coopers. It was the kind of technical tasting I wish every Wine Advocate reader could experience at least once, because it is in these types of settings where the passion and attention to detail of an estate truly comes through loud and clear. There are also a few changes to the Kapcsandy lineup. Starting with 2011, the Estate Cuvee is no longer 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Lots that don't make it into the Estate Cuvee are considered for Endre. With the 2010 vintage, Kapcsandy is introducing a new Proprietary Blend. In all of my travels throughout the world I have met few producers who can match Lou Kapcsandy's passion and total dedication to excellence. Along with his son Louis and consulting winemaker Denis Malbec, Lou Kapcsandy continues to craft exceptional wines loaded with class and pedigree. Every wine in this lineup, from the newly expanded selection of roses, to the flagship reds and the fortified wine is well worth your time.

2009 Kapcsandy Cabernet Sauvignon - Grand Vin – 98 points

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Vin opens with the most beguiling bouquet imaginable. Freshly cut flowers, mint, cinnamon and licorice all make an appearance as this vivid, beautifully delineated wine opens up in the glass. A model of total finesse and elegance, the 2009 wraps around the palate with what feels like endless layers of aromas and flavors. This totally seamless, polished Cabernet Sauvignon is virtually impossible to resist today, but it will be even better in another few years. The 2009 is 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc.

2010 Kapcsandy Cabernet Sauvignon - Grand Vin – 98+ points

The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Vin is rich, deep and explosive, yet also incredibly sensual. The aromas and flavors are a little more delineated than in the 2009, very much in keeping with the style of the year. Violets, tar, asphalt and plums are layered into the tense, vibrant finish. Today, the 2010 is massively tannic and unapproachable. It should start drinking well around age ten, but is definitely a wine built for the cellar. The 2010 is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot.

2011 Kapcsandy Cabernet Sauvignon - Grand Vin – (92-95) points

Another impressive 2011 full of potential, the Cabernet Sauvignon Grand Vin is impeccable in its balance and overall sense of harmony. Violets, dark berries and chocolate wrap around the layered, sensual finish. This is far from an easygoing 2011. It will be interesting to see if the 2011 softens and/or fleshes out over time. The 2011 is 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc.

2009 Kapcsandy Endre – 92 points

The 2009 Endre offers up hints of sage, rosemary, wild cherries and tobacco, all supported by vibrant yet-well-integrated tannins. Deceptively medium in body, the 2009 boasts considerable structure and intensity to match its highly appealing mid-weight personality. Like many 2009s, today the Endre is a bit tight and in need of another year or so of bottle age. The blend is 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petite Verdot.

2010 Kapcsandy Endre – 92+ points

The 2010 Endre explodes from the glass with juicy dark cherries, plums, cloves, orange rind and new leather. There is an exotic, extroverted quality to the 2010 that is highly appealing. Ripe, silky tannins add to an impression of total precision and finesse. Although the 2010 is an infant, its sense of harmony is so compelling the wine drinks beautifully right now. The 2010 is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc.

2011 Kapcsandy Endre – (90-92) points

An initial burst of fruit greets the palate in the 2011 Endre. Round, succulent and beautifully balanced, the 2011 impresses for its harmony and finesse. There are no round edges in this fine, promising red. The 2011 Endre is a bit of a departure from recent years as the Merlot is up and the Cabernet Sauvignon is down, probably a wise choice for an entry-level offering. In 2011 the blend is 53% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc.

2009 Kapcsandy Estate Cuvee - Cabernet Sauvignon – 95 points

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Cuvee is pure, seamless and totally beautiful. Hints of chocolate, cloves and gingerbread appear on the nose, followed by rich, deep layers of fruit. There is a baritone-like expression in the 2009 that is striking. Sweet floral notes appear later, adding lift, vibrancy and freshness. In other words, all the elements are perfectly in balance. This is a gorgeous 2009.

2010 Kapcsandy Estate Cuvee - Cabernet Sauvignon – 98 points

The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate Cuvee covers every inch of the palate with layers of dark, mineral-infused fruit, crushed rocks, violets and tar. The 2010 doesn't have any of the early accessibility or pure sensuality of the 2009, instead it is a big, structured wine that calls for cellaring. I don't see the 2010 giving much pleasure before age ten. Readers who can wait will be rewarded with a spectacular Cabernet Sauvignon.

2011 Kapcsandy Estate Cuvee – (92-94) points

As mentioned above, Kapcsandy has taken the Estate Cuvee from a pure Cabernet Sauvignon to a Merlot-based Bordeaux blend. The 2011 is beautifully knit from start to finish. Expressive dark red berries, freshly cut flowers and cinnamon all flow through to the inviting, perfumed finish. This is another 2011 that surprises for its round, harmonious personality and balance. The level of finesse and precision here is simply stunning, especially within the context of the year. Now that the Estate Cuvee is predominantly Merlot, the wine appears to be a bit more approachable young than in the past. The 2011 is 56% Merlot, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc.

2009 Kapcsandy Roberta's Reserve – 97 points

Kapcsandy's 2009 Roberta's Reserve is one of the most polished and refined wines of the vintage by a mile. A core of insistent minerality layered with sweet floral notes form the backbone as this delineated, vibrant wine continues to open up beautifully in the glass. The 2009 Roberta's is all about finesse. The overall sensation is one of total seamlessness and silkiness. At the same time, there is more than enough tension and sheer power for the 2009 to drink beautifully for years. The 2009 Roberta's is 96% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc.

2010 Kapcsandy Roberta's Reserve – 98+ points

Whereas the 2009 is round and seamless the 2010 Roberta's Reserve is a huge, vertical wine endowed with stunning depth and richness. Violets, tar, graphite and sweet spices jump from the glass in this powerful, structured wine. Brisk saline notes give the finish its sense of energy and tension. This is a dazzling effort. The 2010 is 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc.

2011 Kapcsandy Roberta's Reserve – (92-94) points

All of the elements of this site and wine come through in the 2011 Roberta's Reserve. To be sure, the 2011 is smaller-scaled than either the 2009 and 2010, but all the signatures are there. It will be interesting to see how the 2011 ages, but today my impression is that it will drink well better earlier than either then 2009 or 2010. A soft, floral-filled finish rounds things out nicely. The 2011 is 96% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc.

2010 Kapcsandy Proprietary Blend [Rapszodia] – 96+ points

The 2010 Proprietary Blend is a new wine composed of equal parts Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Like many proprietors, Lou Kapcsandy is increasingly convinced of the potential of Cabernet Franc. Sumptuous, elegant and beautifully proportioned, the 2010 caresses the palate from start to finish. Mocha, chocolate, cloves and new leather are all woven together in a seamless fabric of remarkable elegance. Obviously still a baby, the 2010 will require patience, but it is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine. This is a superb first effort.

2011 Kapcsandy Proprietary Blend [Rapszodia] – (92-94) points

The 2011 Proprietary Blend presents a more floral, delicate spectrum of aromas and flavors than the 2010. Sweet red berries, freshly cut flowers, cinnamon and sweet tobacco are all layered into the vibrant, polished finish. Though medium in body, the 2011 has the acidity and structure to make me think it will develop beautifully for years. The 2011 is all about polish. In 2011 the blend is 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot.

2010 Kapcsandy Roberta's Rose – 91 points

The 2010 Roberta's Rose is a serious wine bursting with flavor intensity. Dark red berries, tobacco, flowers and mint explode from the glass in this racy, intense Rose. Although delicious today, my impression is that the 2010 will be stunning for many years. Readers who like more tertiary complexity will want to age this for another few years. The 2010 is 100% Merlot that spent 18 months in neutral French oak.

2011 Kapcsandy Roberta's Rose – (89-91) points

The 2011 Roberta's Rose is a bit more feminine and ethereal than the 2010. Dried flowers, sweet herbs and crushed raspberries waft from the glass as the wine opens up over time. Today, the wine's structure dominates over the fruit. It will be interesting to see where this goes over the coming years.

2010 Kapcsandy Grand Vin Rose – 92 points

The Cabernet Sauvignon-based 2010 Grand Vin Rose is naturally a more structured, powerful wine than the Roberta's. Far from an easygoing Rose, the 2010 is going to need at least another 6-12 months in bottle. It is a powerful, imposing wine that will pair beautifully with a wide range of foods. Crushed flowers, mint and anise are all layered into the precise, striking finish. The 2010 is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot that spent 18 months in neutral French oak.

2011 Kapcsandy Grand Vin Rose – (90-92) points

Sweet tobacco, sage, underbrush and dried cherries all come to life as the 2011 Grand Vin Rose wraps around the palate. There is lovely depth and precision to this vivid, striking Rose. The 2011 is at once taut yet also quite generous texturally, especially within the context of the year. In this vintage the Grand Vin Rose is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon.

2011 Kapcsandy Rose – 88 points

The entry-level 2011 Rose is pure silk and finesse. Sweet, refined and totally gorgeous, the 2011 impresses for its overall sense of harmony. Freshly cut flowers and red berries linger on the finish. Aging in steel keeps the flavors bright and focused.

2009 Kapcsandy Vino del Sol – 95 points

The 2009 Vino del Sol is fresher and more vibrant than the 2008. It possesses striking aromatics and fabulous overall balance. A burst of dark red berries informs the finish. This is a totally refined sweet Kapcsandy wine. The 2009 is 96% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petit Verdot, a combination that works beautifully here.