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The Independent Consumer's Bimonthly Guide to Fine Wine RATING SYSTEM

Robert Parker's rating system employs a 50-100 point quality scale. It is my belief that the various twenty (20) point rating systems do not provide enough flexibility and often result in compressed and inflated wine ratings. THE WINE ADVOCATE takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since I would prefer to underestimate the wine's quality than to overestimate it. The numerical ratings are utilized only to enhance and complement the thorough tasting notes, which are my primary means of communicating my judgments to you.

96-100	An extraordinary wine of profound and complex character displaying all the attributes expected of a classic wine of its variety. Wines of this caliber are worth a special effort to find, purchase, and consume.
90-95	An outstanding wine of exceptional complexity and character. In short, these are terrific wines.
80-89	A barely above average to very good wine displaying various degrees of finesse and flavor as well as character with no noticeable flaws.
70-79	An average wine with little distinction except that it is soundly made. In essence, a straightforward, innocuous wine.
60-69	A below average wine containing noticeable deficiencies, such as excessive acidity and/or tannin, an absence of flavor, or possibly dirty aromas or flavors.
50-59	A wine deemed to be unacceptable.

DEUTZ	NV	BRUT CLASSIC	AY	(\$41.00)	SPARKLING WHITE	90
DEUTZ	2004	BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS	AVIZE/MESNIL	(\$82.00)	SPARKLING WHITE	92
DEUTZ	2000	BRUT MILLESIME AMOUR DE DEUTZ	AVIZE/MESNIL	(not available)	SPARKLING WHITE	94
DEUTZ	NV	BRUT ROSE	AY	(\$62.00)	SPARKLING ROSE	90
DEUTZ	2006	BRUT ROSE	AY	(\$73.00)	SPARKLING ROSE	92+
DEUTZ	2000	BRUT ROSE CUVÉE WILLIAM DEUTZ	AY	(\$167.00)	SPARKLING ROSE	95

I was blown away with the wines I tasted from Deutz this year. The **NV Brut Classic** is a pretty, entry-level wine. Warm, generous fruit comes together beautifully in this rich, expansive, mid-weight Champagne. The bouquet, texture and purity of the finish are all first-rate. The Brut Classic is equal parts Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay. Like all Deutz Champagnes, it undergoes full malolactic fermentation. This is Lot LB1100D0169, disgorged January, 2009. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2014. The **2004 Brut Blanc de Blancs** emerges from the glass with exotic beauty in its fruit. This rich, multi-faceted Champagne possesses dazzling complexity, with endless layers of fruit and a beautifully chiseled finish. This, too, is a fabulous effort from Deutz. The estate's Blanc de Blancs is made principally from vineyards in Avize and Mesnil, with 20% coming from vineyards in Villers Marmery, Oger, Cramant and Oger. This is Lot: LA108D1998, disgorged July, 2008. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2024. The **2000 Brut Millésime Amour de Deutz** is a rare Blanc de Blancs made from vineyards in Mesnil (60%), Avize (35%) and Villers Marmery (5%) that the estate uses exclusively for charity events and/or gifts, which is a shame since that means only a few people will ever have an opportunity to taste it. The Amour de Deutz bursts from the glass with endless layers of mineral-infused fruit, showing marvelous intensity and richness. Pears, apples and flowers linger on the finish. Disgorged 12/10/2009. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2022. The **NV Brut Rosé** showcases the classic Deutz style in a soft, approachable fruit. Mint, flowers and crushed berries are

some of the nuances that flow from this delicate, mineral-laced rosé. It's hard not to fall for this delicious wine. The NV Brut Rosé is 100% Pinot Noir, of which 8% is still Pinot. This is Lot: LA111D14010, disgorged May, 2010, Anticipated maturity: 2010-2015. The **2006 Brut Rosé** is a gorgeous wine endowed with an expressive bouquet suggestive of roses, spices, minerals and crushed berries. It possesses wonderful richness, depth and clarity in a cool, beguiling style. The Brut Rosé can be enjoyed today, although I am curious to see how it develops in the coming years. It is a huge over-achiever in its price range. The 2006 Brut Rosé is mostly Pinot Noir, of which 8% is still wine, plus a dash of Chardonnay, from the villages of Ay, Mareuil-sur-Ay, Bouzy, Verzenay and Ambonnay. It is a serious rosé from Deutz. This is Lot: LR110D08810, disgorged March 29, 2010. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2026. The **2000 Brut Rosé Cuvée William Deutz** emerges from the glass with a big, masculine expression of fruit. Darker, baritone notes develop in the glass, adding weight and richness. A broad-shouldered, expansive wine, the Rosé Cuvée William Deutz is beginning to show early signs of tertiary development, although it has the stuffing to age well for a number of years. The wine finishes with gorgeous inner perfume, which only adds to the impression of phenomenal balance. The Rosé Cuvée William Deutz is 75% Pinot Noir and 25% Chardonnay, all from Grand Cru villages. This is Lot: LA106D07710, disgorged 03/18/2010. Importer: Maisons Marques & Domaines USA, Inc., Oakland, CA; tel. (510) 587-2000