

Best Viognier

- 94** | Qupé \$25
2002 Santa Ynez Valley Ibarra-Young Vineyard Viognier It's rare to find a California viognier with the textural depth and stature of a great Condrieu. Yet it's here in this supple, nervous wine, the succulence of the texture extended by the complex fresh peach flavors that burst in the finish. It grows at a relatively cool site, on rootstock planted in 1972 (budded to viognier in '87). The low-yielding vines give a high-toned grape-skin spice, as well as a mineral character that places it with clams, whether a bowl of steamers or a platter of geoduck sashimi. (174 cases) *Qupé Wine Cellars, Santa Maria, CA*