



Diamond in the rough: Red Sox center fielder Coco Crisp lays down a rap track.

Coco Crisp Can Hit. Can He Rap?

We ask music geniuses to rate a collection of...baseball singers

Sure they can throw a ball around. Some of them can even hit. But the thing we've always wanted to know about our favorite big leaguers—and some we've never even heard of—is whether they can sing. Thankfully, the Hawaiian record label Good Sports shares our curiosity; they've released *Oh Say Can You Sing?*—an eleven-track compilation featuring the vocal stylings of ten current pros and one Hall of Famer, Ozzie Smith, whose cover of Sam Cooke's "Cupid" is surprisingly silky smooth. We asked industry insiders to critique selected songs.—HOWIE KAHN

1. **Jeff Conine Orioles**
Singing "Plush" by Stone Temple Pilots

"Conine karaoke. One of baseball's most underrated all-around players underachieves all around here."
—Brad Oldham, director of marketing, RCA Records

"This man should never be allowed near a microphone."
—Sarah Weiss, concert promoter, Webster Hall, New York City

2. **Jimmy Rollins Phillies**
Performing his original rap "Wish List"

"As good as anything P. Diddy has put out in the last six years, and let's see Puffy swing from both sides of the plate. This kid is going places, and it ain't the minor leagues."
—Brad Oldham

"He should test it out in the locker room before he takes it outside. But he has some potential and also the smarts to stick to what he knows lyrically... baseball."
—Buttaman, director of music and talent, MTV

3. **Omar Vizquel Giants**
Vocals and drums on the Goo Goo Dolls' "Broadway"

"Singing with a cute Venezuelan accent, he tends to lunge into the tom-tom fills, but when he lays back into an infectious alt-pop groove, he hits the occasional homer."
—Jon Langford, lead singer, the Mekons

"He sings like Cheech Marin."
—Sarah Weiss

4. **Aubrey Huff Devil Rays**
Singing John Michael Montgomery's "Letters from Home"

"Aubrey's good enough to sing some song demos in Nashville and could, under the right circumstances, get a chance to go further."
—Scott Siman, Tim McGraw's manager and son of a former St. Louis Cardinals batboy

"Actually a great song. Deserves some radio play."
—Sarah Weiss

5. **Coco Crisp Red Sox**
Performing his original rap "We Got That Thing"

"Let's just say he's no Jimmy Rollins. The problem with Coco Crisp is that he doesn't have an easy-to-remember, catchy name."
—Brad Oldham

"As long as it's for charity, it's great."
—Buttaman

A Bottle of Red, 'Grand Theft Auto,' and You

Introducing the first "Xbox Wine Guide"

→ Admit it: Tonight you're not going to don cuff links and sup on cold foie gras with a glass of botrytized Chenin Blanc. No, as usual, you're going to sit on the floor and get sucked into a four-hour Xbox K-hole. At least you can do it with a decent glass of wine.—BEN PHELAN

Halo 2



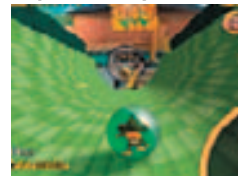
Goes well with: Lambert Bridge Viognier
When playing Halo 2 and other first-person shooters, I opt for a Viognier. The low acidity should keep you calm while, say, grenade-jumping Spartan-117 over the scarab while dual-wielding two needlers (;-P).
Alternately: A traditional, non-micro-oxygenated Bordeaux. *Non-micro-oxygenated, people!*

Tony Hawk's American Wasteland



Goes well with: Domaine Farjon's St-Joseph THAW is one of those rare, wonderful games you can excel at with blurred vision. Apropos, I recommend a relatively high-alcohol wine, like Farjon's rich, silky Syrah.
Alternately: Sudafed + Robitussin DM

Super Monkey Ball Deluxe



Goes well with: Domaine Roulot Aligoté
If you're playing SMBD, you are probably (a) with your child, (b) too young to drink, or even (c) both. Howbeit, try this Aligoté by Guy Roulot. The low alcohol level won't make you a better parent, but neither will it get you too buzzed.
Alternately: Milk, a Five Alive

The Warriors



Goes well with: A to Z Pinot Noir
When playing The Warriors, you're going to want a brainy wine like a Pinot that will engage your mind, because this game is boring.
Alternately: Claude Maréchal's Auxey-Duresses: rustic yet urban-blighty