



2014 FEBRUARY

South Australia's bold reds are exceptional in 2010 and 2012.

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AUSTRALIA

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF DOWN UNDER

Flash back to 30 years ago and imagine yourself browsing through your local retailers' wine racks. Think there is a section labeled Australia? Probably not.

Just five years later, in about 1989—when I spent some time working in a Manhattan wine shop—Australian wines were muscling their way onto the shelves. Back then, the \$7 Chardonnays and \$9 Shirazes offered terrific value, easily outdistancing California's "fighting varieties."

There wasn't much interest in the wines at higher price points. Penfolds' 1986 Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon was terrific, but few of the store's customers were willing to spend \$25 to try it.

Inevitably, word got out about the great quality of Australia's best wines. More and more of them found their way to America, and by the early 2000s, dropping names like Noon, Glaetzer and Riggs was a sure sign that you were in the know.

Yet a few years later, as quickly as you could say, "Global Financial Crisis," interest in these wines crashed. Many of them disappeared from the American market following 2008. Others lingered on store shelves, over-

priced memories of a passing fling.

Today, American interest in Australia's middle-class and high-end wines is coming back. Even though exchange rate changes mean the wines are no longer the screaming bargains they once were, they can still represent good value. The best combine Australia's beneficent climate, old, ungrafted vines and winemaking skill into modern masterpieces.

This issue's Buying Guide includes a good number of wines that fit that description, as well as a number of Best Buys for \$15 or less. At the macro level, focus on South Australian red wines from the 2010 and 2012 vintages, which look to be the best years for the region in some time.

Although Australia takes center stage this month, we also take a look at other New World regions, including wines from Argentina, California and Oregon. From Europe, we review the latest crop of affordable Bordeaux and Bordeaux Blanc, as well as new releases from Spain, Italy and Germany. And, as always, be sure to check out our online database at buyingguide.winemag.com for thousands more ratings and reviews from around the world. Cheers!

—JOE CZERWINSKI

CHARDONNAY

94 Leeuwin Estate 2010 Art Series Chardonnay (Margaret River). Having earned its reputation as one of Australia's finest Chardonnays, the challenge is then to maintain that level of quality. The 2010 Art Series certainly does that. Enticing aromas of woodsmoke, peach and pink grapefruit give way to intense flavors of citrus and stone fruit on the palate. It's full bodied, yet with great focus and length, ending crisply despite the wine's inherent richness. Drink now–2020, perhaps longer. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$89

91 Petaluma 2010 Chardonnay (Piccadilly Valley). This is a lush, ripe Chardonnay from a cool subregion of the Adelaide Hills. Grilled peaches and toasted coconut elements lend an exotic edge to this full-bodied wine. Drink it over the next few years. Distinguished Vineyards & Wine Partners. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

91 Wolf Blass 2010 White Label Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). When a producer renowned for its red wines can turn out an elegant, understated white of this quality, you know Australian Chardonnay has firmly arrived. Subtle accents of toasted nuts frame citrusy fruit, and while the wine is full-bodied and round in the mouth, it remains focused and long and on the finish. If you're fortunate enough to get some of the 600 bottles imported, drink the wine over the next couple of years. Treasury Wine Estates. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Penfolds 2010 Yattarna Chardonnay (Tasmania). This is an improvement over the 2009, which was overly lean. The 2010 is still tightly focused

and linear—so much so that one wonders whether it will ever truly flesh out—but bright, citrusy fruit comes through on the long finish, offering hope for the future. Treasury Wine Estates. **Cellar Selection.** —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$130

89 Robert Oatley 2010 Chardonnay (Mudgee). Attractive and nicely balanced, featuring hints of toasted marshmallow on the nose but fruit-driven flavors of pineapple and peach on the palate. It's medium-bodied despite its moderate alcohol level, with a lush texture and a juicy, mouthwatering finish. Robert Oatley Vineyards Inc. —J.C.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$20

86 Rosemount 2011 Diamond Label Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). Harkens back to the value days of the Diamond Label—but the style has been updated to reflect more freshness and focus. Pineapple and melon notes display cool, citrusy overtones, picking up just a hint of caramel on the finish. Drink now. Treasury Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

86 Woop Woop 2011 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). This is a plump, medium-bodied Chardonnay ideal for casual sipping. Pear and citrus flavors combine easily, finishing on a soft note of chalk-dust. Epicurean Wines. —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Salena Estate 2011 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). This crisp, citrusy Chardonnay is zesty and refreshing. It avoids any sense of heaviness, finishing on a tart, lemony note. Yancey Marketing Group. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Salena Estate 2011 Legacy Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). Melon and pear notes provide the flesh, while a citrusy element provides the backbone of this medium-bodied Chardonnay. It's round without being flabby, ending on a refreshing, citrusy note. Drink now. Yancey Marketing Group. **Best Buy.** —J.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

84 Lindemans 2011 Bin 65 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). A light, clean, fruit-cocktail style of Chardonnay at a bargain price, the 2011 Bin 65 should be largely superseded on shelves by the 2012. Melon and pineapple fruit finishes reasonably crisp, but drink up. Treasury Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$6

83 Gumdale 2010 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). The darkening color and honeyed, butterscotch-like aromas suggest a wine that is entering decline. There's still enough peach and mango fruit to give it some interest, but drink up. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

SEMILLON

90 Brokenwood 2007 ILR Reserve Semillon (Hunter Valley). The ILR Reserve continues to be one of the top Hunter Semillons available in the U.S. The 2007 remains youthful, showing a pretty array of citrus aromas and flavors, medium body and a crisp texture. In another few years, this medium-bodied

Continued on Page 11

The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by *Wine Enthusiast Magazine's* editors and other qualified tasters. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Tasting Director Lauren Buzzeo, Executive Editor Susan Kostrzewa, Managing Editor Joe Czerwinski, Contributing Editors Michael Schachner and Anna Lee C. Iijima, Contributing Taster Andrew Hoover and Spirits Editor Kara Newman in New York, European Editor Roger Voss in Bordeaux, Italian Editor Kerin O'Keefe in Switzerland, California Editor Steve Heimoff in Oakland, Contributing Editor Virginia Boone in Santa Rosa, Contributing Editor Paul Gregutt in Waitsburg and Contributing Editor Sean Sullivan in Seattle.

If a wine was evaluated by a single reviewer, that taster's initials appear following the note. When no initials appear following a wine review, the wine was evaluated by two or more reviewers and the score and tasting note reflect the input of all tasters. Unless otherwise stated, all Spirits Reviews are by Kara Newman and all beer reviews are by Lauren Buzzeo.

Each review contains a score, the full name of the product, its suggested national retail price, its abv as reported to us by the submitter and a tasting note. If price or alcohol content cannot be confirmed, NA (not available) will be printed. Prices are for 750-ml bottles unless otherwise indicated.

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

All tastings reported in the Buying Guide are performed blind unless otherwise noted. Typically, products are tasted in peer-group flights of from 5–8 samples. Price is not a factor in assigning scores. When possible, products considered flawed or uncustomary are retasted.

ABOUT THE SCORES

Ratings reflect what our editors felt about a particular product. Beyond the rating, we encourage you to read the accompanying tasting note to learn about a product's special characteristics.

Classic 98–100: The pinnacle of quality.

Superb 94–97: A great achievement.

Excellent 90–93: Highly recommended.

Very Good 87–89: Often good value; well recommended.

Good 83–86: Suitable for everyday consumption; often good value.

Acceptable 80–82: Can be employed in casual, less-critical circumstances.

Products deemed Unacceptable (receiving a rating below 80 points) are not reviewed.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Editors' Choice products are those that offer excellent quality at a price above our Best Buy range, or a product at any price with unique qualities that merit special attention.

Cellar Selections are products deemed highly collectible and/or requiring time in a temperature-controlled wine cellar to reach their maximum potential. A Cellar Selection designation does not mean that a product must be stored to be enjoyed, but that cellaring will probably result in a more enjoyable bottle. In general, an optimum time for cellaring will be indicated.

Best Buys are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. There are no specific guidelines or formulae for determining Best Buys, but wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$15 or less.

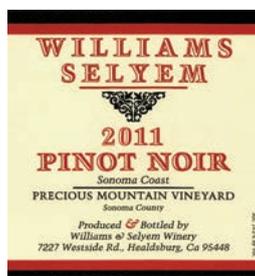
SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online via winemag.com/contactus. Inquiries should be addressed to the Tasting & Review Department at 914.345.9463 or email tastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting products.** We make every effort to taste all products submitted for review, but there is no guarantee that all products submitted will be tasted, or that reviews will appear in the magazine. All samples must be accompanied by the appropriate submission forms, which may be downloaded from our Web site.

LABELS

Labels are paid promotions. Producers and importers are given the opportunity to submit labels, which are reproduced and printed along with tasting notes and scores. For information on label purchases, contact Denise Valenza at 813.571.1122; fax 866.896.8786; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net.

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at buyingguide.winemag.com

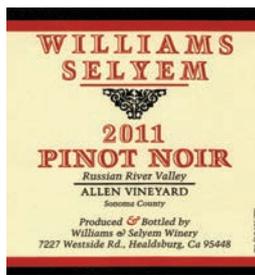


97 Williams Selyem 2011 Precious Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).

Williams Selyem expresses the intricacies of this vineyard with more consistency than any other winery. This remarkably intellectual, ageworthy wine is bone dry, with marked acidity and complexity. The flavors range from wild cherries, cola and balsam to raspberry tart and buttered cinnamon toast. Its complexity is like a mandala, increasing in beauty the longer one examines it. A softly tannic bitterness lingers on the finish; drink 2019–2030. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$95



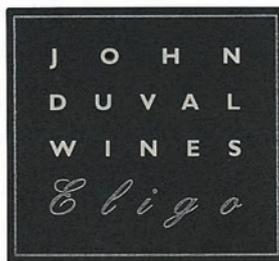
96 Williams Selyem 2011 Allen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

You can taste the California sun in every sip of this gorgeous Pinot Noir. It brims with luscious raspberries and cherries accented by brisk acidity and a hint of sweet, smoky oak. It's terrifically complex, with notes of mushroom, orange zest, cola, rosehip tea and persimmon. Dry and elegant, with a wonderful mouthfeel, it's gorgeous now, but will gain earthy complexity over the next 15 years.

Cellar Selection. —S.H.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$82



95 John Duval Wines 2010 Eligo Shiraz (Barossa).

This is likely the most ageworthy Shiraz winemaker John Duval has crafted since leaving Penfolds. The oak is subtle, the fruit still tight. It's full bodied but bursting with potential, shown in hints of black cherries and plums, mocha and mint. The finish is long, mouthwatering and softly dusty in texture, making it luscious yet firm. Drink 2018–2030. Old Bridge Cellars. **Cellar Selection.** —J.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$100

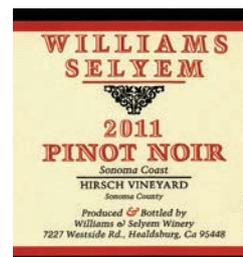


95 Trefethen 2008 HaLo Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll).

Trefethen has been on a roll the last few years, producing some of Napa's most spectacular Cabernets. This bottling, which contains minor quantities of Petit Verdot and Merlot, spent 28 months in new French oak barrels. The fruit is incredibly ripe and intense, with flavors of black currants and chocolate-covered cherries. As hard as the tannins are, they must have been even more aggressive two or three years ago, so kudos to Trefethen for holding the bottle back for five years. This bottle is just now beginning its long journey. Drink now–2020. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$175



95 Williams Selyem 2011 Hirsch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).

One sip is all it takes to be blown away by this Pinot's beauty. It's exquisitely crafted, a testament to both the vineyard and the winery's oenological talent. The palate is bright and tangy with acidity, and incredibly complex flavors of wild berries, mushrooms, balsam, cola and Asian spices. It's dramatic now, but will continue to improve for at least 15 years. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$75



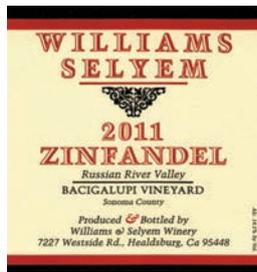
94 Tenuta Castelbuono 2007 Sagrantino di Montefalco.

This stunning offering is aged in large casks that soften the wine but don't add wood tannins to Sagrantino's naturally tannic backbone. It opens with an intensely balsamic fragrance of Mediterranean herbs, mint and berry accompanied by delicious blackberry, white pepper and cinnamon flavors. The wine boasts fantastic depth and will develop even more complexity over time. Drink 2017–2027. Palm Bay International. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$36

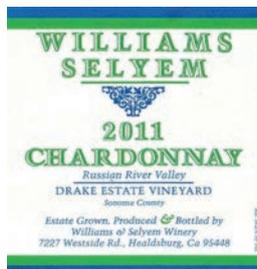




94 Williams Selyem 2011 Bacigalupi Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).

This is a medium-bodied Zinfandel, with elegant weight and mouthfeel. The flavors are classic—wild raspberries and cherries, cola, cocoa and exotic spices. This is surely one of the best Zinfandels of the vintage. —S.H.

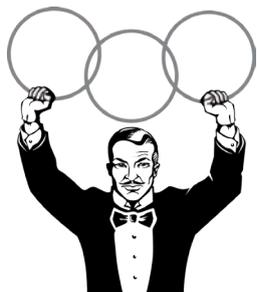
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52



94 Williams Selyem 2011 Drake Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

This small-production Chardonnay (only 272 cases) is exceptionally rich and ripe, as Williams Selyem Chardonnays consistently are. Intense flavors of tropical fruit and pear pie (with a smoky, buttery crust) make for a powerful palate. The acidity is mouthwatering. This is the ideal wine for cracked crab and a sourdough baguette with butter. —S.H.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65



"IT'S MAGIC"

93 3 Rings 2006 Reserve Shiraz (Barossa Valley).

It's not often you find mature, ready-to-drink Shiraz like this newly released in the U.S. From extended time in oak, this has some mossy, vanilla shadings on the nose that ease gently into savory, meaty notes and dried plum flavors. Hints of brown sugar, chocolate and mint linger on the supple finish. Drink now and over the next few years. Quintessential Wines.

Editors' Choice. —J.C.

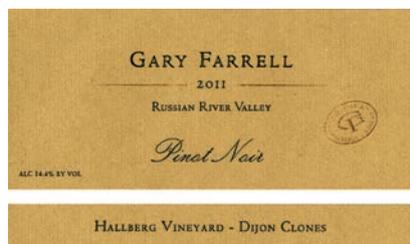
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$42



93 Gary Farrell 2011 Hallberg Vineyard Dijon Clone 777 7% Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

This elaborately named Pinot shows Farrell's 2011 signature of rich, brooding earthiness. Tasted now it's a bit clumsy, with raspberry, cherry, mushroom and oak flavors that are scattered and random. With time, it will collect itself seamlessly. Age it for 6–8 years. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

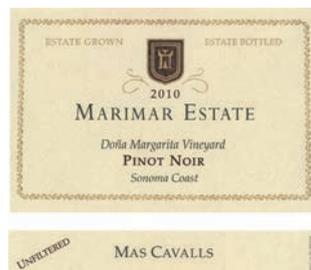
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



93 Gary Farrell 2011 Hallberg Vineyard Dijon Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

Here's a Pinot to enjoy over the years. Right now, it's all about primary fruit—raspberries, cherries and Dr. Pepper cola. But the balance is terrific, and there's a brooding quality that bodes well for the future as it develops more secondary characteristics. Drink from 2015–2019. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

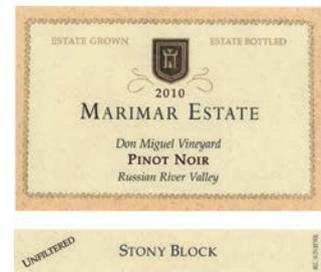
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60



93 Marimar Estate 2010 Mas Cavalls Doña Margarita Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).

This is dry and tart with acidity, yet rich in fruit. It's a deliciously drinkable wine now, but capable of improving with extended cellaring. With cherry, pomegranate, cola and sweet oak flavors, it finishes with superb balance and charm. Drink now–2020. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

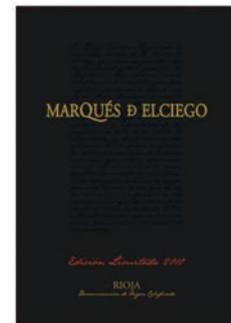
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44



93 Marimar Estate 2010 Stony Block Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

What distinguishes the Stony Block from the winery's other selections is its minerality, but also a fluidity in the wine—as if the rocks were melted into the fruit. The raspberry, pomegranate and cola flavors are classic. This surely is a wine to age. Drink from 2016 and beyond. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

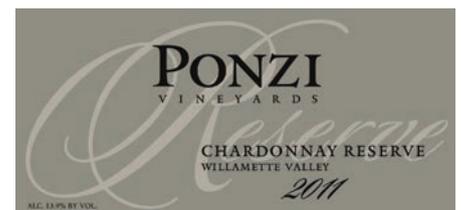
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$47



93 Marqués de Elciego 2010 Edición Limitada (Rioja).

Talk about a ripped, structured wine that could use more rest. This pumps out mineral blackberry and coconut aromas along with raw, inky intensity. The wine's texture is defined by a strong tannic backbone, while flavors of burnt toast, bacon, licorice and black fruits finish with graphite and energy. Drink from 2015–2023. Quintessential Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.

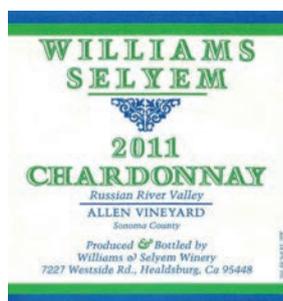
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69



93 Ponzi 2011 Reserve Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).

One of the best values in high-end Oregon Chardonnay, this new release packs a wallop. Although just 15% of the French oak was new, the wine is loaded with toasty, buttery scents and flavors. Let it breathe and the ripe fruit flavors zoom into focus—candied citrus, apricot and a bit of lemon meringue pie. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

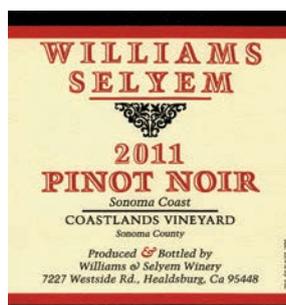
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30



93 Williams Selyem 2011 Allen Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The wine shows the fine acidity of the vintage, but also intense flavors of green apples, Asian pears and oranges. Oak brings luscious, balanced notes of vanilla and toast. A gorgeous, sumptuous wine that should drink well for the next six years. —S.H.

abv: 14.4%

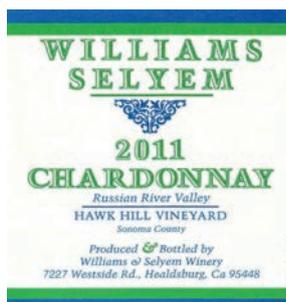
Price: \$50



93 Williams Selyem 2011 Coastlands Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Is this Pinot so delicious now you should drink it right away? Or is it deceptively ageable? Both. It's luscious, with ripe raspberry, cola, spice, mushroom and sandalwood flavors that will be gorgeous with steak. But the tannins and acid are so structured, the wine will gracefully age through the next dozen years, increasing in complexity. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 13.4%

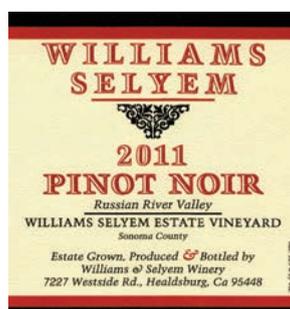
Price: \$75



93 Williams Selyem 2011 Hawk Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This beautiful wine could be from Chablis. It's so dry and flinty, with complex layers of lemons, limes, toast and honey, along with mouthwateringly brisk acidity. As delicious as the wine is now, you might want to cellar it for a few years. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$52



93 Williams Selyem 2011 Williams Selyem Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). While this Pinot isn't in the same league as the winery's 2011 Precious Mountain or Allen vineyard wines, it's a gorgeous wine nonetheless. With moderate alcohol and vibrant acidity, it offers complex layers of cherries, raspberries, cola, sandalwood and exotic spices. You won't be disappointed if you hold it until 2019. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 13.9%

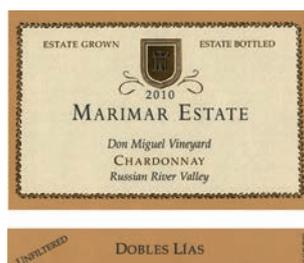
Price: \$100



92 Conn Creek 2009 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). The winery has held this 100% Cabernet back for more than four years to let it mellow, but it's still a burly wine. Hard tannins mark the blackberry, currant and dark chocolate flavors. There's an elegance that persists, however, giving strong indications of ageability. Hold until at least 2016, but it could be still be rocking in 2025. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 14.5%

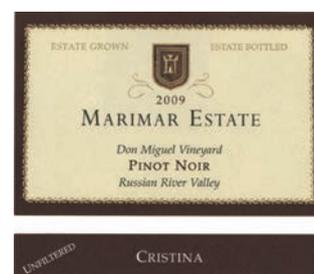
Price: \$65



92 Marimar Estate 2010 Dobles Lías Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The Dobles Lías has more lees contact than Marimar's other Chardonnays, giving it a rich, yeasty creaminess. There's also plenty of new French oak influence. Made from estate-grown fruit, it's rich with papayas, tangerines and guavas. It's delicious now, but has all the structure a Chardonnay needs to negotiate the next eight years. —S.H.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$45



92 Marimar Estate 2009 Cristina Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A blend of the best barrels of wine sourced from the Don Miguel Vineyard, Cristina is named for Marimar Torres's daughter. This exceptionally rich wine will reward at least 6–8 years in the cellar. It's concentrated, with notes of raspberries, cherries, pomegranates and rhubarb, all framed by significant tannins. The overall mouthfeel is elegant and weighty. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$49



92 Marimar Estate 2012 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Grown and Bottled Chardonnay-Albariño (Russian River Valley). There's quite a bit of new French oak used in this blend, adding complexity in the form of buttered toast notes. But the wine is really all about fruit—massive flavors of limes, Meyer lemons, apricots, oranges, pineapples, peaches and honey. While that sounds like a laundry list, if you pay attention you'll find each strand of the tapestry. At the same time, it's bone dry and balanced with acidity. Don't drink it too cold. **Editors' Choice.** —S.H.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$34

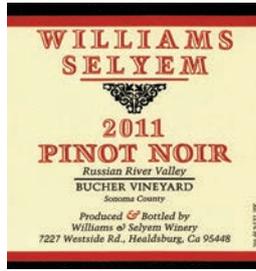


92 Parallel 2010 Fortune Teller Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is so rich and decadent, with milk chocolate, blackberry and new French oak flavors. Made by celebrity winemaker Philippe Melka, it's soft and approachable on the palate and widely appealing. Your best bet is to drink up now. —S.H.

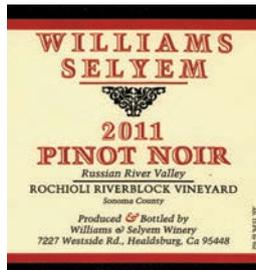
abv: 14.9%

Price: \$125

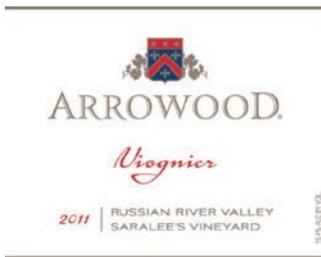




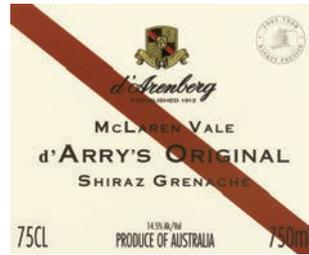
92 Williams Selyem 2011 Bucher Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Raspberries, cherries, cola, exotic spices and sweet cedar mark the flavors of this Pinot Noir. It's elegant in the mouth, with brisk acidity, but also a distinct earthiness. The combination gives the wine a yin-yang of weight and weightlessness. It's too young to properly enjoy now, so drink from 2019 and beyond. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59



92 Williams Selyem 2011 Rochioli Riverblock Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Tart cranberry acidity marks this dry, delicately structured young wine. Dusty with tannins, the mouthfeel is tight and nervous. At the core are complex layers of forest berries, cola, mushrooms, exotic baking spices and sweet cedar. Give the wine at least six years in a cellar to mature—it should be flying high by 2029. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$79



91 Arrowood 2011 Saralee's Vineyard Viognier (Russian River Valley). This bottling from Arrowood is dependably rich, showing Viognier's exotic tropical fruit, peach, apricot, honeysuckle, vanilla cream and cinnamon flavors. The 2011 is dry and balanced, with crisp acidity. Drink it now. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



91 D'Arenberg 2010 d'Arry's Original Shiraz-Grenache (McLaren Vale). A terrific value, this 50-50 blend displays gentle oaking and a hint of warm asphalt, just enough to highlight the wine's plum and black cherry fruit. It's full bodied and features a long finish, outlined by wonderfully fine, dusty tannins. Drink now–2018. Old Bridge Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20



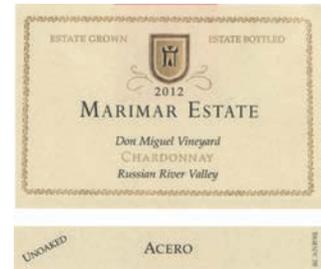
91 Draxton 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). With a wealth of cherry, cassis, mocha and sandalwood flavors, this is one of the best Dry Creek Cabernets in recent memory. The rich flavors are wrapped into firm, dry tannins that give the mouthfeel a fine grippiness. There's no reason to age this beauty, but it will hold for a good six years. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$36



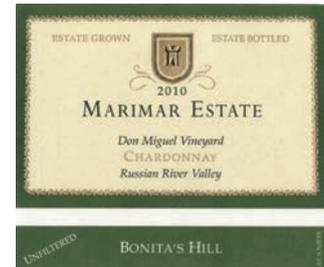
91 El Roy 2012 Nelson Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Run, don't walk, to find this Sauvignon Blanc. It's delicious, and available for such a great price! The palate treads an exciting line between ripe peach, citrus, green apple and honey flavors, and a tangy, flinty minerality. The acidity is mouthwatering. Only 550 cases were produced, but it's worth a search. **Editors' Choice.** —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16



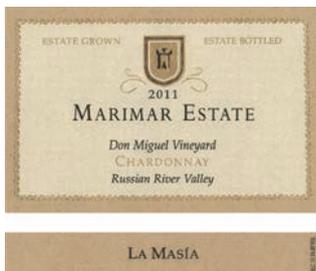
91 Lucienne 2011 Lone Oak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This is a joy to drink. It's dry and silky, with savory raspberry, cherry and cola flavors that are accented by earthy notes of sautéed wild mushrooms, balsamic and soy sauce. It should improve even more with a few years in the bottle. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



91 Marimar Estate 2012 Acero Don Miguel Vineyard Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This is Marimar's unoaked Chardonnay from the estate vineyard. In keeping with past vintages, it's so rich and savory, you won't even notice the absence of barrel influence. The wine is rich and complex in tangerine, apricot, lime, lemon and vanilla flavors, brightened by exquisite acidity. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$29



91 Marimar Estate 2010 Bonita's Hill Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Creamy, yeasty lees, 100% new French oak and intense tropical fruit, apricot and pear flavors combine to make this barrel selection from the estate vineyard dramatic. It's dry, complex and delicious. The 2010 vintage was a successful one for Marimar Chardonnays, and while this is a delicious one to drink now, it will improve with an additional 5–6 years. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39



91 Marimar Estate 2011 La Masía Don Miguel Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This is an estate wine from Marimar's Green Valley vineyard. It's very good, with mouthwatering acidity and rich, complex tropical fruit, green apple and lime flavors. Oak brings rich notes of caramel and honey. The alcohol is nice and low. —S.H.

abv: 13.5%

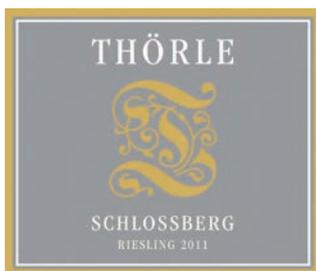
Price: \$35



91 Peter Lehmann 2008 8 Songs Shiraz (Barossa). A mature, mossy (in a good way) Shiraz, this seamlessly blends cedar and vanilla shadings with dark berry notes. It's medium to full in body, with solidly savory and earthy underpinnings that make it especially easy to match with food. Drink now–2018. Hess Family Wine Estates. —J.C.

abv: 14%

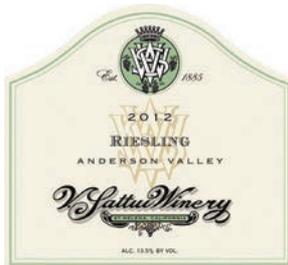
Price: \$38



91 Thörle 2011 Saulheimer Schlossberg Riesling Trocken (Rheinhessen). Ripe, lush and full of juicy peach, apricot and tangerine flavors, this dry Riesling is unusually soft and round, with a full-bodied style that's densely textured on the palate. Delicate acidity lingers on the finish alongside hints of Meyer lemon and pink grapefruit. Drink now through 2016. Ingenium Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

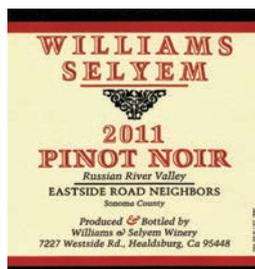
Price: \$46



91 V. Sattui 2012 Riesling (Anderson Valley). This Riesling has just the right amount of minerality balanced against apple and peach flavors, and an underlying core of lime. Fermented in stainless steel, it is bright and joyful to drink, boasting a long finish. Pour alongside all the classic pairings from Asian takeout to a proper curry. —V.B.

abv: 13.5%

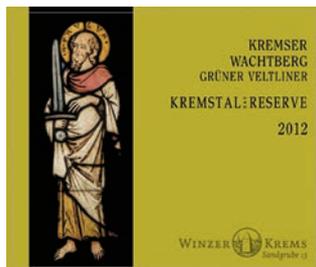
Price: \$25



91 Williams Selyem 2011 Eastside Road Neighbors Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The east side of the Russian River is home to some of the winery's best vineyards, and this wine exhibits the excellent structure, nerve and ripeness of all of their 2011 Pinots. It's forward but nuanced. Drink now–2017. —S.H.

abv: 13.7%

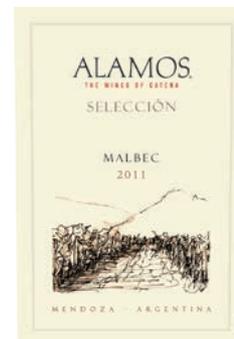
Price: \$52



91 Winzer Krems 2012 Kremser Wachtberg Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This is a ripe, smooth wine that has fine acidity and some intense peppery flavors. From the Wachtberg vineyard, it shows great mineral character as well as a dense texture that brings out rich fruits. Age this for another year. Total Wine & More-Sarant Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

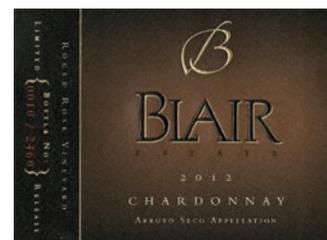
Price: \$23



90 Alamos 2011 Selección Malbec (Mendoza). Selección is proving itself to be a consistent modern Malbec (the last four vintages have rated 89 or 90 points). This rendition shows graphite, inky berry notes and savory spice aromas such as cumin and cardamom. It's rich and full bodied, with tobacco, coconut and baked plum and berry flavors. A smooth finish is neither tannic nor overpowering. E & J Gallo. —M.S.

abv: 13.9%

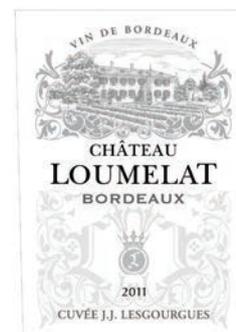
Price: \$20



90 Blair 2012 Roger Rose Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). The Arroyo Seco region of Monterey County takes a big leap forward with this richly textured Chardonnay. Ripe tropical fruit and citrus flavors combine with smoky oak notes and crisp acidity. It's a fine wine that should not be consumed too cold. —S.H.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$28



90 Château Loumelat 2011 Cuvée J-J Lesgourgues (Bordeaux). This is a complex wine that offers firm tannins and rich fruit. It has weight, density and a strong sense of ripeness. With balance and depth, it's a wine with good aging potential. Drink from 2015. Baron Francois Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

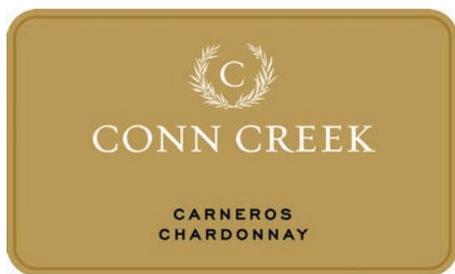
abv: 13%

Price: \$17

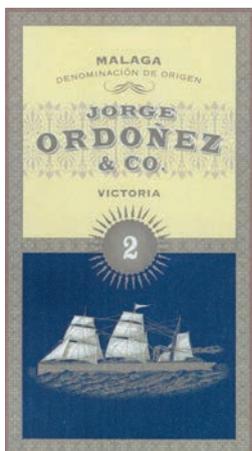




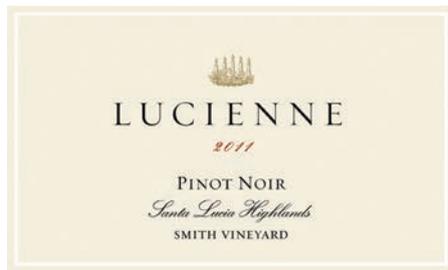
90 **Château Pierrail 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This is a wood-aged wine with spice and vanilla flavors, fine berry fruits and a rich texture. It is firm, while also rich and generous. The weight, the ripeness and the structure all promise aging. Drink from 2015. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22



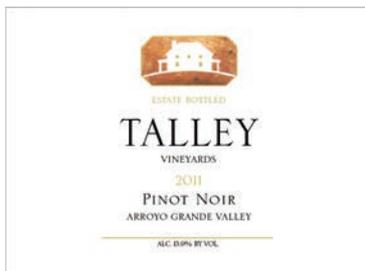
90 **Conn Creek 2012 Chardonnay (Carneros).** As with last vintage, the 2012 Conn Creek Chardonnay is excellent. You'll find plenty of zesty acidity perking up flavors of green apple, tropical fruit, honey, buttered toast and caramel. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



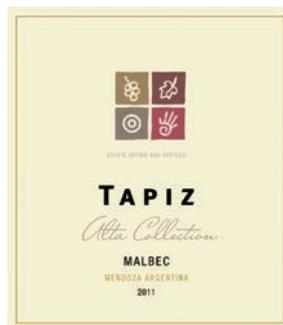
90 **Jorge Ordoñez & Co. 2011 Victoria 2 (Málaga).** With alluring tangerine and lemon-blossom aromas, this rich but racy sweet Moscatel gets off to a fine start. Flavors of dried mango and papaya come with a shot of honeydew melon, while the finish is honeyed and tastes of powdered sugar. The beam of fine acidity keeps everything well balanced throughout. Jorge Ordoñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25/375 ml



90 **Lucienne 2011 Smith Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This is the kind of Pinot Noir that's made the variety so popular. While it's not an ager, it gives you everything that Pinot has to offer—vibrant acidity, a smooth, silky texture and rich flavors of raspberries, cherries and brown sugar, leading to a dry, spicy finish. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



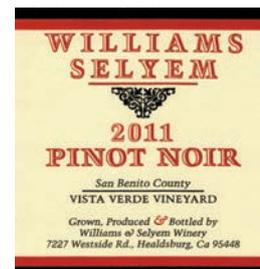
90 **Talley 2011 Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** This is a fine example of the Talley style. It's close in quality to the single-vineyard bottlings, at about half the price. Dry, crisp with acidity and silky, it offers a wealth of cherry, cola, persimmon and rhubarb flavors with a sweet, smoky oak finish. Drink now. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36



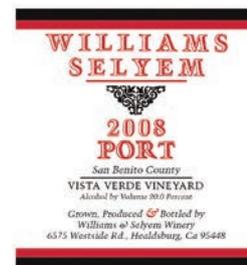
90 **Tapiz 2011 Alta Collection Malbec (Mendoza).** Ripe, chunky aromas of oak, raisin and blackberry present the bullish side of Mendoza Malbec. In the mouth, this is deep and solidly built; flavors of saturated black fruits are bolstered by oak-based vanilla and cream, while the finish brings the three W's: warmth, weight and wood. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19



90 **Valentin Bianchi 2011 Leo Premium Malbec (Mendoza).** Roasted, savory, earthy berry aromas come with a spot of leafy green on this Malbec. The palate is saturated and a touch narrow in feel, while flavors of black cherry, cassis, baked blackberry and cured meat finish with creamy oak notes and a strong hint of bacon. Drink through 2018. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30



90 **Williams Selyem 2011 Vista Verde Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Benito County).** This is not the winery's best bottling, but it is distinctive, coming from a county south of San Francisco on the way to Monterey. It shows the mouthwatering acidity of the vintage, along with cola, red currant and sandalwood flavors wrapped into ageworthy tannins. Give it six years at least. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$58



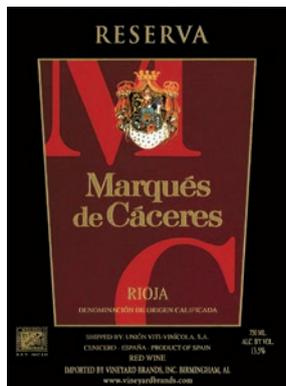
90 **Williams Selyem 2008 Vista Verde Vineyard Port (San Benito County).** This Port-style wine is rich, sweet and frankly a joy to drink. It has chocolate-covered raisin, blackberry and blueberry jam and sweet oak flavors, with refreshing acidity for balance. —S.H.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$40/375 ml



89 Marqués de Cáceres 2009 Crianza (Rioja). Leathery, herbal notes infiltrate what is otherwise a red-fruit nose that emphasizes raspberry. The palate is round, tannic and healthy as an ox, while flavors of baked berry fruits, cassia and chocolaty oak finish long and earthy, with a mild mocha note. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.

abv: 13%

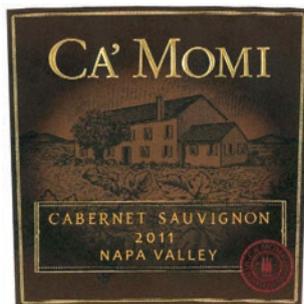
Price: \$15



89 Marqués de Cáceres 2009 Reserva (Rioja). This opens with rich, slightly soupy aromas that announce ripeness. The palate is full yet crimped by firm tannins, while flavors of creamy vanilla, lactic oak, tomato and plum are forward and finish strong. As a young reserva from a warm vintage should, this improves with airing. Drink from 2014–2018. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

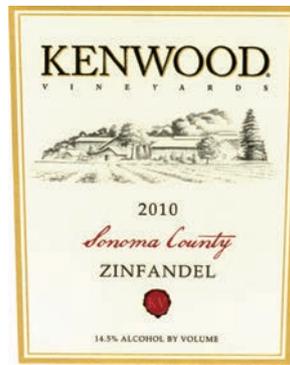
Price: \$20



88 Ca' Momi 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is pretty good Cab at a fair price. It's rich with sun-ripened cherry pie, blueberry jam and mocha flavors, along with firm yet supple tannins. Drink this wine with beef stew. —S.H.

abv: 13.9%

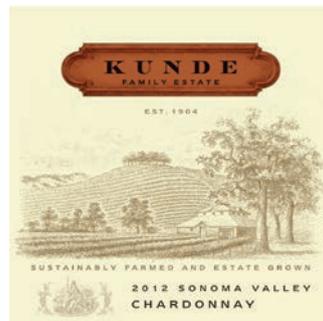
Price: \$25



88 Kenwood 2010 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). If there's one thing Kenwood knows how to do, it's making proper varietal wines at a good price. Here's another in a string of fine Zinfandels. For 14 bucks, you get a lovely wine that's dry and balanced, with briary blackberry, pepper, cola and sandalwood flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.

abv: 14.5%

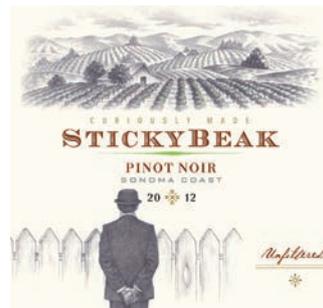
Price: \$14



88 Kunde 2012 Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Buttered toast and vanilla flavors are accompanied by pear, mango and Meyer lemon fruitiness in this Chardonnay. It's crisp with acidity but rich and satisfying. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.

abv: 13.8%

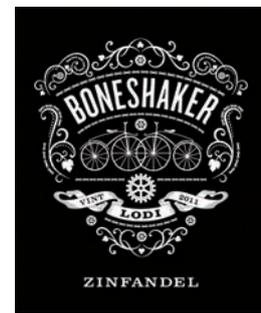
Price: \$18



88 Stickybeak 2012 Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a good price for a coastal Pinot Noir that's so rich and balanced. It's silky in the mouth, with luscious strawberry, cranberry and cola flavors, and deepened with notes of toasty oak. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20



87 Boneshaker 2011 Zinfandel (Lodi). This crowd-pleasing Zin is deeply aromatic, with cedar notes, and boasts a palate that's smooth, leathery and layered with tones of earth and black tea. Fairly priced and with a cleverly designed label, it's a great bottle to take to your next biker party or gathering for the Day of the Dead. —V.B.

abv: 15%

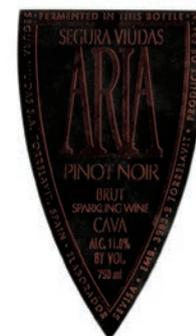
Price: \$25



86 Garbó 2011 Negre (Montsant). Field notes of clover and herbs lend spice and roughness to the bouquet. This is strong on the palate, with herbal-leaning plum and berry flavors. Hard, peppery spice notes ride high on an herbal tasting and juicy feeling finish. Freixenet USA. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19



86 Segura Viudas NV Aria Pinot Noir Brut (Cava). With a rusty salmon color, this Pinot Noir Cava offers citrus and red-fruit aromas along with earthy funk. The palate is generally well balanced, while smoky, earthy flavors of red fruits and citrus finish mild. Freixenet USA. —M.S.

abv: 11%

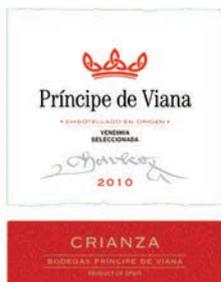
Price: \$14



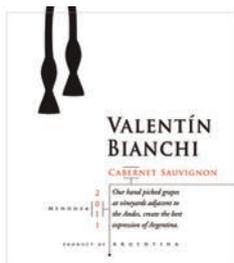
BEST BUYS



90 **Otazu 2010 Premium Cuvée Señorío de Otazu (Navarra).** Boysenberry and a touch of herbal mint are the lead aromas on this blend of Tempranillo, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. There's power and mild heat to the palate, along with warm berry flavors that finish with a lot of intensity and push. This is generous and expressive. Drink through 2016. Grape Expectations (CA). **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12



90 **Príncipe de Viana 2010 Crianza (Navarra).** Bold black-fruit aromas are pure and inviting. Overall, this blend of Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot is flush in feel, balanced and full of wild berry and plum flavors. On the finish, fully present acidity supports oak and chocolaty notes. This an exemplary large-production Spanish red. Classical Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15



90 **Valentin Bianchi 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** This is a superb value Cabernet. Black-fruit aromas come with touches of licorice, herbs and marzipan. The palate has an elegance to it, while flavors of berry fruits, cassis, chocolate and fig finish smooth and long. Bianchi has always made good Cabernet, but this one is better than usual. Quintessential Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

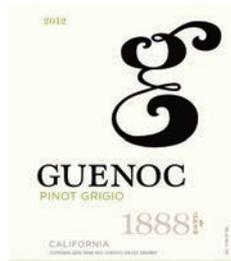
BEST BUYS



88 **Bogle 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This is one of the best value-oriented Sauvignon Blancs in California. It's dry and tart with acidity, along with rewarding flavors of lemons, limes, golden mangoes and gooseberries. **Best Buy.** —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

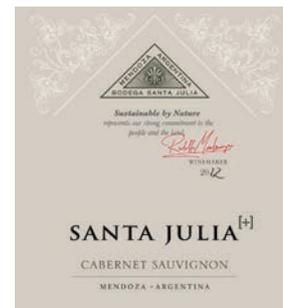


86 **Bogle 2012 Chardonnay (California).** More than most wineries, Bogle knows how to make fairly priced varietal wines that stand up to the competition. The wine has plenty of Chardonnay character, with oak-infused tropical fruit, green apple and pear flavors. With production at 600,000 cases, it's a remarkable achievement. The fruit is from Clarkburg and Monterey County. **Best Buy.** —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

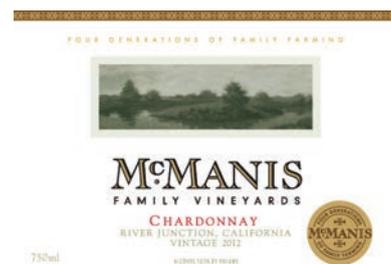


86 **Guenoc 2012 Pinot Grigio (California).** In this price range, this is one of the best Pinot Grigios on the market. It's just slightly off-dry, with excellent acidity providing balance to the citrus, green apple and tropical fruit flavors. **Best Buy.** —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



86 **Santa Julia 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Compact dark-fruit aromas turn more jammy with airing. This is gripping in feel, with firm tannins. Flavors of spice, herbs and black fruits finish with pronounced acidity, leftover tannins and a leathery accent. Winesellers Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10



85 **McManis 2012 Chardonnay (River Junction).** Sweetly aromatic of jasmine, this Chardonnay has a core of honey, apple and caramel, and is pleasantly crisp and balanced. Accessible and well-priced, it's a solid and friendly go-to white for just about any occasion. **Best Buy.** —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

 **CORRECTIONS**

On page 64 of the December 31st issue, the correct name of the Jim Beam Signature Craft Small Batch Bourbon is Jim Beam Signature Craft Bourbon Finished With Rare Spanish Brandy. The actual age of the product is not disclosed, and it is finished with Spanish brandy and aged in Bourbon barrels.

On page 74 of the December 31st issue, a couple of brewery locations were misidentified: Founders Brewing is based in Michigan, while Elysian Brewing is based in Washington.

On page 154 of the December 31st issue, the winemaker of Grieve 2010 Double Eagle from Napa Valley was incorrectly identified. The winemaker was Vance Rose.

wine should start to develop nuances of honey and toast. Best after 2017. Old Bridge Cellars. **Cellar Selection.** —J.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$48

85 Brokenwood 2012 Semillon (Hunter Valley). So green and peppery on the nose it seems jalapeño-like. There is plenty of citrus fruit as well, giving a slightly disjointed impression at this early age. This medium-bodied wine turns lean on the abbreviated finish. Try now with raw oysters or clams, or hold for at least five years. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Brokenwood 2008 Oakey Creek Semillon (Hunter Valley). Tasting young Hunter Semillons is fraught with peril, as often the wines that taste shrillest when young blossom nicely with age. In this case, the wine is five years past the vintage but still seems rather vegetal, showing ample green bell-pepper notes alongside tart citrus flavors. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

RIESLING

92 Pewsey Vale 2007 The Contours Museum Reserve Riesling (Eden Valley). How can one not applaud a winery that holds back some of its top Riesling for a museum release at such a reasonable price? Developed honey and cinnamon notes accent citrus fruit, adding weight and richness to the mid-palate while still finishing crisp and completely dry. It's drinking well now, but should easily hold another 10 years under its screw cap. *Negociants USA, Inc. Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Thorn Clarke 2012 Mount Crawford Single Vineyard Riesling (Eden Valley). A terrific value, the 2012 Mount Crawford offer sup a big hit of lime on the nose, but also intriguing brine and talc notes that add extra dimension and complexity. It's a medium-bodied wine with ample texture and a long, layered finish. It may not age as long as some other Eden Valley Rieslings, but it's delicious now, so why wait? *Kysela Père et Fils. Best Buy.* —J.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Henschke 2012 Julius Riesling (Eden Valley). This is surprisingly plump and accessible, featuring scents of lime rind upfront, then flavors of apple, nectarine and citrus. A medium-bodied wine with a long, mouthwatering finish, it's a tasty near-term drinker but should develop well for up to 10 years. *Negociants USA, Inc.* —J.C.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Penfolds 2012 Bin 51 Riesling (Eden Valley). Evaluating young Eden Valley Rieslings isn't easy, as they often don't show their full potential for several years. The 2012 Bin 51 is tight and linear, crisply focused and a bit one-dimensional at this age. But the lime-driven fruit is potent and the finish beautifully clean and long. It should develop well over the

next 7–8 years or more. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Pewsey Vale 2012 Individual Vineyard Selection Dry Riesling (Eden Valley). A cool, ultraclean expression of Eden Valley Riesling, showing vivacious lime-zest aromas but not a lot of expressive fruit on the palate. This light- to medium-bodied wine is tart and bone dry on the finish—definitely worth cellaring 3–4 years to develop some honeyed notes and midpalate richness. *Negociants USA, Inc. Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Mesh 2012 Riesling (Eden Valley). Mesh is a partnership between famed Clare Valley Riesling producer Jeffrey Grosset and the Hill Smith family of Yalumba. The 2012 is a solid effort, relatively light in weight but concentrated in flavor, featuring potent notes of lemon and lime sherbet. Very tart and dry on the finish, it needs either oysters or plenty of time in the cellar. *Negociants USA, Inc.* —J.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

MARSANNE

87 Tahbilk 2007 Museum Release Marsanne (Nagambie Lakes). A curiosity that's definitely worth trying, as aged Marsanne from anywhere other than Hermitage is a rarity. This features some hints of honey and toast on the nose, followed by notes of citrus and almond. It's round and mouthfilling on the palate, but falls away a bit quickly on the finish. *Epic Wines.* —J.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

SHIRAZ

98 Penfolds 2008 Grange Shiraz (South Australia). This has all the size and weight you've come to expect from Australia's most famous wine. Huge fruit and huge oak combine in a full-bodied, richly textured package that delivers waves of toasted coconut, vanilla and intense dark berries yet remains embryonic more than five years after the harvest. That said, the texture isn't quite as tight or as fine as some other vintages—expect this to be early maturing by Grange standards, and best from 2020–2040. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$850

97 Penfolds 2010 RWT Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This shows the strength of the 2010 vintage in the Barossa Valley, marrying incredibly ripe fruit with seamless structure. Cinnamon and vanilla notes from the French oak blend easily into blueberry fruit, all grounded by hints of dark chocolate and umami. It's full bodied, lushly textured almost to the point of creaminess and long—ridiculously long—on the finish. Drink 2018–2030 and possibly beyond. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

97 Penfolds 2007 Grange Shiraz (South Australia). This is dark and concentrated, as you might expect from Australia's most heralded wine. Oak scents of maple syrup and vanilla frame hints of mint and superintense dark fruit. On the palate, it's a huge, tannic behemoth that needs 10 years of cellaring, but it delivers plenty of pleasure now in its ultraclean flavors of blackberries, baking spices and vanilla. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$600

96 Penfolds 2009 RWT Shiraz (Barossa Valley). RWT (unromantically derived from "Red Wine Trial") is 100% Barossa Valley Shiraz, aged in 100% French oak. In some vintages, like this one, the combination is incredibly sumptuous, offering layers of blueberry and blackberry fruit intermingled elegantly with hints of French vanilla. It's long, subtle and complex on the finish—a stunning effort. It's approachable now, but should age well through 2030 or so. *Treasury Wine Estates.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

96 Torbreck 2007 RunRig Shiraz-Viognier (Barossa Valley). Winemaker Dave Powell is no longer with Torbreck, but the 2007 RunRig is one of his finest efforts. The complexity is almost overwhelming, as the aromas range from peppery spice and roasted meat to blueberry and tapanade. It's mouth filling and expansive, yet retains fine acids and just the right amount of slightly dusty tannins on the long finish. Approachable now, but capable of lasting at least through 2020. *Wine Creek.* —J.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$225

95 John Duval Wines 2010 Eligo Shiraz (Barossa). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

95 Kilikanoon 2009 R Reserve Shiraz (Barossa Valley). The fruit for this offering comes from the Green's and Crowhurst vineyards. This wine brings a sense of cellarworthiness, from the inky color and dense, impenetrable bouquet to the richly tannic palate and long, plushly textured finish. Right now, it delivers hints of toast and mint, blueberry and plum fruit and savory notes of roasted meat and mocha. Drink 2018–2025+. *Old Bridge Cellars. Cellar Selection.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

95 Torbreck 2007 The Factor Shiraz (Barossa Valley). With aromas and flavors that range widely from grilled meat, espresso and black olive to dried herbs, cracked pepper and blueberry, this is an enormously complex wine. It's full bodied but balanced by ample acidity, which imparts terrific length to the finish. Drink now–2017, possibly longer. *Wine Creek.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

94 John Duval Wines 2009 Eligo Shiraz (Barossa). Eligo is winemaker John Duval's luxury Shiraz, drawn from selected Barossa parcels. The 2009 is a dark, tarry Shiraz, heavy on the savory ele-

ments of black olives and dark chocolate and buttressed by ample cassis-tinged fruit. It's full bodied and firm, with a long, finely textured finish. Drink now–2025. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Penfolds 2008 St. Henri Shiraz (South Australia). Like virtually all of Penfolds' top-end reds, this is full bodied and densely concentrated. As it's aged solely in large vats, there's no oak influence and the wine needs a bit of bottle age to come around. For now, it's a bit monolithic, showing hints of mint, black olive and ripe raspberries before ending long and fine. Drink 2017–2030, and perhaps beyond. Treasury Wine Estates. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 3 Rings 2006 Reserve Shiraz (Barossa Valley). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$42

93 Kaesler 2010 Old Bastard Shiraz (Barossa Valley). From vines planted in 1893, this is an inky, concentrated Shiraz. The aromas hint at cracked pepper, vanilla and blueberries, while on the palate, this is superripe and full bodied. Although close to being fat and overdone, yet it's held back from the edge by its long, licorice-and-spice finish. Drink now–2020. Epicurean Wines. —J.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$230

93 Langmeil 2010 Orphan Bank Shiraz (Barossa). These 100-plus-year-old vines were transplanted to another site, but continue to yield outstanding wines. Intriguing aromas of fruit compote and roasted meat lead into a palate of blueberry and spice. It's medium to full in body, with supple tannins that finish on a faintly dusty note. Ready to drink now, but should hold at least through 2020. Negociants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$57

93 Penfolds 2009 St. Henri Shiraz (South Australia). Because St. Henri is aged exclusively in large, mostly neutral oak vessels, it often requires more time to come around than Shiraz aged in barrel. The 2009 is tight and reticent on the nose, while showing hints of boysenberry, black olive and roasted meat on the palate. Full bodied, rich and firm in structure, with a long, amply textured finish, it needs a few years in the cellar, and should last at least through 2030. Treasury Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

92 Jacob's Creek 2008 Centenary Hill Shiraz (Barossa Valley). How to virtually guarantee a luxury wine will be undervalued? Put it out under mass-market branding. If a wine this quality were marketed as boutique, it would likely sell for much more, as it's a terrific example of old-vine Barossa Valley Shiraz. It's strongly marked by toasty oak, but the underlying fruit is bold and ripe without being overdone or jammy and the wine is modern without being devoid

of structure or savoriness. Drink now–2025. Pernod Ricard. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Kaesler 2009 Old Vine Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This supple, savory Shiraz is approachable now. Hints of vanilla and black olive accent mixed berry fruit, while the texture is rich and creamy. Meat and mocha take over on the long finish. Drink now–2020. Epicurean Wines. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Kilikanoon 2009 Green's Vineyard Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This wine displays ample concentration in its inky color and potent aromas of dark berry fruit. There's a hint of raisining as well. In the mouth, it's mouthfilling but lacks a bit of texture; the flavors include dark plums, vanilla and hints of dried fruits, like figs and dates. With a finish that calls to mind chocolate fudge (minus the sugar), opt for drinking this wine over the relatively near term, now to 2020. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Kingston Estate 2008 Eminent Selected Harvest Shiraz (South Australia). Blended from Clare Valley, Mount Benson and Adelaide Plains fruit, this is a full-bodied, richly textured Shiraz that's complex and structured. Tar, black olive, dark chocolate and mint notes mark the nose, while the flavors call to mind mint-chocolate graham crackers with plum jelly before turning meaty and savory on the finish. Drink 2016–2025. Fine Wine Agency. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Langmeil 2010 The Freedom 1843 Shiraz (Barossa). If not the oldest, the vineyard is home to some of the oldest Shiraz vines in the world (planted in 1843). Bright raspberry and cherry fruit is underscored by notes of smoke and mocha in this full-bodied Shiraz. The tannins are soft and turn dusty on the finish, making the wine approachable now, but it should still be going strong in 2025, and possibly beyond. Negociants USA, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —J.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$138

92 St. Hallett 2010 Blackwell Shiraz (Barossa). This starts off tarry and tight, but gradually opens up to reveal mint-tinged blueberries. It's medium to full in body and reasonably firm on the palate, but the tannins are silky enough to make it approachable now, imparting a softly dusty touch to the warm, spicy finish. Distinguished Vineyards & Wine Partners. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Turkey Flat 2008 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Turkey Flat's Shiraz is a Barossa classic, and the 2008 shows no ill effects of the heatwave that struck during vintage. It's intensely concentrated and richly textured, with fresh black currant notes accented by hints of mocha and mint. Finishing firm and crisp without being edgy, this has just the right structure to carry it through at least 2025. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Wirra Wirra 2008 RSW Shiraz (McLaren Vale). After spending 20 months in a mix of French and American oak, this full-bodied Shiraz is imbued with seductive notes of vanilla and baking spices. But there are also plenty of plummy fruit and savory undertones of espresso and roasted meat. It's supple enough to drink now, although it should last through at least 2025. Negociants, USA. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Wolf Blass 2010 Gold Label Shiraz (Barossa). A terrific value for the price, this is a full-bodied, richly textured Shiraz that looks capable of aging through at least 2025. Blueberry and baking-spice notes show the way, leading into a long, dusty finish that would go well with steak or roast beef. Treasury Wine Estates. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Yalumba 2010 Paradox Shiraz (Barossa). This is an interesting experiment of sorts from the folks at Yalumba—the finished alcohol level is unusually low at just 12.9%. Tart cherry and raspberry flavors are underscored by dark chocolate shadings. Despite the moderate alcohol level, the wine gives the impression of ample weight and displays fine, elegantly silky tannins. Negociants USA, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$41

91 Earthworks 2010 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). For the price, this offers an exciting array of spice and herb notes layered over blueberry fruit. Cracked pepper and licorice mark the nose, while the midpalate is supple, making it go down deceptively easily. If it falls off a bit on the finish, that's a mere quibble. Drink it over the next several years. Negociants USA, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Groom 2010 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Intriguing thyme florals mark the nose of this full-bodied yet supple Shiraz. Huge dark fruit flavors are balanced by exaggerated, perfumed herb and flower notes, making it flashy and appealing. Tannins are either minimal or masked by the ample fruit, so drink this over the next several years for its youthful exuberance. Groom Wines. —J.C.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

91 Kilikanoon 2010 Kavel's Flock Shiraz (Barossa Valley). A new bottling from Kilikanoon, this may prove hard to find in the U.S. (25 cases imported), but perhaps greater quantities may be forthcoming in the future. It's a full-bodied version of Barossa Shiraz that shows more brawn than plushness, but that's backed by assertive blackberry, roasted meat, espresso and black olive flavors. Drink 2016–2025. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Peter Lehmann 2008 8 Songs Shiraz (Barossa). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

90 Charles Melton 2009 The Kirche Shiraz (South Australia). This wine shows plenty of oak in its smoky, caramel-like bouquet and vanilla and caramel on the palate. Thankfully, there's ample fruit weight to support the wood treatment, although the fruit flavors are largely lost. It's not overpowering, like some Barossa wines, but instead offers an approachable, medium-bodied mouthful. Drink now–2020. Epic Wines. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

90 Earthworks 2008 The Gypsy Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This approachable yet complex wine features scents of menthol, marinated beef, mocha and blackberries. It's medium to full in body and a bit creamy on the palate without being overly soft, while the fruit flavors turn plummy yet retain a savory edge. Gently structured on the finish, it should continue to drink well through 2020. Negotiants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Gotham 2010 Regional Vineyard Series Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Mint notes accent blueberry and plum fruit, while hints of tar and black olive add a savory edge. This medium- to full-bodied Shiraz is creamy on the midpalate, but firms up enough on the finish to pair well with burgers or steaks. Drink now–2020. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Ross Estate 2010 Lights Out Shiraz (Barossa Valley). For a wine this loaded with flavor, this is reasonably elegant, offering gobs of mulberry-tinged fruit set in a balanced frame of oaky spice. It's mouthfilling on the palate, then ends long and supple. Drink now–2020. Southern Starz, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 St. Hallett 2009 Old Block Shiraz (Barossa). Although not nearly as flashy as many of its brethren, this is a well balanced Barossa Shiraz that could cellar well. Hints of mint accent the nose, bolstered by toasty oak, while the flavors feature red currants and raspberries. The acids are reasonably crisp given the context, lingering nicely on the finish. Fine to drink now, but try to save a few bottles until 2020 or so to see how it develops. Distinguished Vineyards & Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —J.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

89 Château Tanunda 2010 Noble Baron Shiraz (Barossa). This is a slightly chunky, fruit-driven Shiraz that's full bodied but not overly textured. Mint and slightly stewed fruit notes dominate the nose, while the finish shows similar characteristics. Drink this over the next several years. Banfi Vintners. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 3 Rings 2009 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Mint, cassis and tobacco notes frame this relatively restrained rendering of Barossa Shiraz. It's medium bodied rather than overly rich or fat, with lingering

notes of oak and tobacco on the finish. Drink it over the next few years. Quintessential Wines. —J.C.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Jacob's Creek 2010 Reserve Shiraz (Barossa). Pretty impressive for the price, offering mint and cedar aromas followed by flavors of black cherry. There's also a sturdy core of savory elements, like roasted meat and coffee. The wine is full bodied and velvety in texture, with a long, mouthwatering finish. Drink now and over the next few years. Pernod Ricard. **Best Buy.** —J.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$13

GRENAICHE

93 Angove 2010 Warboys Vineyard Grenache (McLaren Vale). A venture into the deep end of pricing perhaps, but the proof is in the bottle. From vines planted in 1964, this is a rich, full-bodied and creamy-textured wine, with complex notes of smoke, vanilla, plum and roasted meat. Approachable now because of its lushness, it should drink well for at least the next several years. Trinchero Family Estates. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Chapel Hill 2010 Bush Vine Grenache (McLaren Vale). For an Australian Grenache, this has an invitingly cool, herbal bouquet, hinting at dried flowers and black tea. But it's unapologetically full-bodied and rich on the palate, adding black cherries and dark chocolate to the mix. It's warm, velvety and almost fudge-like on the finish yet not raisiny at all. Drink it over the next few years. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

91 Turkey Flat 2010 Grenache (Barossa Valley). Made in a supple, immediately approachable style, this is a nicely supple, slightly creamy, almost gulpable red. Raspberry and cherry fruit is buttressed by ample spice, then ends on a lingering note of star anise. Drink now–2018. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

90 D'Arenberg 2010 The Beautiful View Grenache (McLaren Vale). At under 14% abv, this Grenache is the antithesis of many of its peers. It's red-fruited and only medium in body, with some dusty tannins evident on the finish. Worth holding for a few years to see if the fruit opens up a bit and better absorbs the presently toasty veneer of oak. Old Bridge Cellars. **Cellar Selection.** —J.C.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$90

89 D'Arenberg 2010 The Blewitt Springs Grenache (McLaren Vale). This medium-bodied wine isn't particularly ripe or fleshy for Grenache, but does show plenty of earthy fruit, hints of tobacco and mocha and some beet-like notes. The silky, slightly dusty tannins on the finish are especially attractive. Drink now–2018. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$90

88 Langmeil 2010 The Fifth Wave Grenache (Barossa). This is a herbal, spicy rendition of Grenache, with strawberry-rhubarb notes providing the foundation. The elevated alcohol shows on the warm and slightly dusty finish, but the body of the wine is deceptively medium weight—an intriguing paradox. Ready to drink now. Negotiants USA, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$35

MOURVÈDRE

89 Hewitson 2010 Baby Bush Mourvèdre (Barossa Valley). Varietal bottlings of Mourvèdre aren't common outside of Bandol, but this one is an attractively supple, medium-bodied wine. It's red fruited and peppery at first, but the flavors turn darker with air, picking up a hint of black licorice on the finish. Drink now–2016. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

RED BLENDS

92 Angove 2010 Warboys Vineyard Shiraz-Grenache (McLaren Vale). A 60-40 blend, this full-bodied, creamy textured, lush wine captures the sun of McLaren Vale without taking it too far. Vanilla, licorice and plum notes mark the nose, while the plummy flavors pick up mocha shadings before turning a bit fudge-like on the long, velvety finish. Drink now–2018. Trinchero Family Estates. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 D'Arenberg 2010 d'Arry's Original Shiraz-Grenache (McLaren Vale). For full review see page 6. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

91 Torbreck 2010 Cuvée Juveniles (Barossa Valley). A terrific value, this blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Mataro and 20% Shiraz features a forward bouquet of slightly jammy mixed berries. The palate showcases vibrant red fruit on a supple bed of tannins, capped off by a savory, tapanade-laden finish that makes it more than a simple fruit bomb. Very silky and drinkable, it's the ultimate wine-bar wine, as the name suggests. Wine Creek. **Editors' Choice.** —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Hewitson 2010 Miss Harry G-S-M (Barossa). This GSM blend includes bits of Carignan and Cinsault. It's a full-bodied, supple wine intended for youthful consumption, with a long, mouthwatering finish. Raspberry and cherry fruit is balanced by savory notes of earth and mocha. Drink now–2016. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

90 Kilikanoon 2010 Killerman's Run Shiraz-Grenache (Australia). This blend is a solid introduction to the Kilikanoon range. Subtle toast and vanilla shadings accent dark chocolate and plum notes, and the wine is full bodied and sturdy without being

tough, finally ending in a soft flurry of dusty tannins. Drink now–2018. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Hewitson 2010 Ned and Henry's Shiraz-Mourvèdre (Barossa Valley). This blend of Shiraz and Mourvèdre displays an enticing mix of berries upfront, then turns earthier and more savory on the palate, developing notes of black olive and mocha. It's medium to full in body, with a softly dusty finish that would be a nice foil to grilled burgers. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

88 Turkey Flat 2010 Butchers Block Shiraz-Grenache-Mourvèdre (Barossa Valley). This blend of 53% Shiraz, 31% Grenache and 16% Mourvèdre nicely captures elements of all three varieties. Shiraz provides the ample weight, Grenache brings bright berry fruit and silky tannins and Mourvèdre contributes a bit of sinew and spine. It's an easy-to-drink wine that would be great with most casual fare. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

ARGENTINA

CHARDONNAY

87 Trivento 2012 Golden Reserve Chardonnay (Uco Valley). This is mellow on the nose, with a mix of minerality and standard apple aromas. The palate feels fresh due to cutting acidity, while apple, peach and melon flavors lead to a mild, healthy finish. Frankly, there's not much difference between this and Trivento's basic 2012 Reserva Chardonnay, which costs \$10 less. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

86 Trivento 2012 Reserve Chardonnay (Mendoza). With aromas of ripe apple and pear along with hints of toast and minerals, this value Chardonnay comes out of the gate well. The palate is fresh, clean and nicely acidic, while flavors of citrus, pineapple and vanilla finish juicy and long, with a touch of sweet vanilla and oak. Excelsior Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

85 Tapiz 2012 Alta Collection Chardonnay (Mendoza). Toasty oak, almond skins and baked apple aromas congregate on what amounts to a slightly chunky bouquet. Tropical fruit flavors dominate the palate, while a melony finish folds in raw oak, toast and vanilla notes. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

85 Zuccardi 2012 Q Chardonnay (Mendoza). A briny, savory set of aromas overrides standard apple and melon scents. This feels plump, oaky and a bit flabby. Flavors of melon and papaya are rather bland, while vanilla and papaya flavors carry a tropical-leaning finish. Winesellers Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

TORRONTÉS

89 Michel Torino 2013 Don David Finca La Primavera #3 Torrontés (Cafayate). This single-vineyard Salta Torrontés is virtually as good as it gets for the variety. Pure lychee, lime and mineral aromas precede a crisp, focused palate. Flavors of steely citrus are chiseled, while the finish is long and juicy. Drink prior to fall 2014. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

88 Finca las Nubes 2012 Torrontés (Salta). With a hint of yellow color, this fuller-bodied Torrontés presents classic aromas of bath oils, white flowers and tropical fruits. The palate is plump and melony, with modest acidity that says "drink me now." Flavors of melon and lychee finish soft and creamy. Vine Connections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Michel Torino 2013 Colección Torrontés (Calchaquí Valley). Tropical fruit, vanilla cookie and lemony citrus aromas set up a fresh, lithe palate with mineral lime and lychee flavors. This is as pure as they come, with a crisp-as-a-whistle finish. Drink prior to fall 2014. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Michel Torino 2013 Cuma Organic Torrontés (Cafayate). For a fresh, pure taste of Salta Torrontés, give this crisp, translucent wine a shot. The nose is powdery and tropical, then it's light on the palate, with lime, lychee and tangerine flavors. Focus is maintained on a juicy, clean finish. Drink prior to summer 2014. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Recuerdo 2012 Torrontés (La Rioja). This is citrusy and also a bit tropical on the bouquet, and together the aromatic mix is appealing. A fresh mouthfeel is a bonus, and standard Torrontés flavors of melon, lychee and banana finish with balance and bright acidity. This hails from La Rioja, and it captures most of what's good about the variety. Blackbird Vineyards. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Alta Vista 2012 Premium Torrontés (Salta). Citrus and tropical fruit aromas blend together in clean, attractive fashion. The palate is crisp and cleansing due to firm acidity, while flavors of lime and pithy orange finish tight. This is a clean, clear presentation of Salta Torrontés. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Domingo Molina 2012 Hermanos Torrontés (Cafayate). Powdery, tropical-fruit aromas are fine but innocuous. This feels clean and good, with ample acidity to keep things afloat. Flavors of tropical fruits come quickly and shutter down just as fast in front of a finish that's slightly oily in feel. Vine Connections. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

87 Kaiken 2012 Terroir Series Torrontés (Salta). With pungent, hard-driving aromas of lychee, tropical fruits and scented baby powder, this is varietally correct on the nose. In the mouth, vital acidity affords cut, while the flavors are of tropical and citrus fruits. In general, Torrontés has its limits, but this example is fresh and well made. TGIC Importers. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Trivento 2012 Amado Sur Torrontés (Mendoza). With 10% each of Viognier and Chardonnay added in, this Torrontés is tropical and citrusy on the nose, then tangy and juicy on the palate. Flavors of orange and other citrus fruits come with plenty of life and acidic kick. As a whole this is fresh and a tad sweet on the finish. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Palo Alto 2012 Coiron Torrontés (Mendoza). A narrow bouquet offers mostly citrus peel. The palate is fairly plump in feel, with pithy, slightly bitter flavors of peach and tropical fruits. Mild bitterness on the finish keeps a lid on overall quality. South Shore Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Xavier Flouret 2012 Flaca Torrontés (Cafayate). Tangerine aromas lose clarity the longer this sits. The palate is full but acidic, which creates tartness on a flavor profile that revolves around pithy citrus, particularly orange. A chalky finish is lively but tastes a bit sour. Cognac One, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

84 Zolo 2013 Sustainably Farmed Estate Grown and Bottled Torrontés (Mendoza). Pulpulent orange aromas could use some freshening up. The mouthfeel is, not surprisingly, plump in feel, and overall this struggles to maintain balance. Flavors of pithy citrus and melon finish bland and slightly bitter. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$11

83 Ascencion 2012 Hand Harvested Torrontés (Salta). Walnut oil and grit on the nose are not exactly welcoming aromas. This feels oily, while the palate delivers little more than a quick hit of tropical fruit flavors followed by a nutty, bitter finish. Lionstone International. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

82 Anko 2013 Torrontés (Salta). Acrid and heavy on the nose, this is not showing any of Torrontés's floral, lighter qualities. Instead, this wine is slightly chemical and rough, with a blocky, citric palate and a mix of bitter citrus and pithy flavors. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

82 Trivento 2012 Reserve Torrontés (Mendoza). While this opens with harmless aromas of lychee and tropical fruits, the palate sizzles with sharp citric acidity. Flavors of pithy grapefruit and tangerine finish grabby, tart and aggressive. This is not nearly as good as the two prior vintages. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

MALBEC

94 O. Fournier 2010 Malbec (Uco Valley). Extreme ripeness is the first thing that strikes on the nose; then there's raisin, spiced fig and mineral richness that's far from everyday. The palate is huge and fills all corners of your mouth, while flavors of raisin, brown sugar, mocha and coffee come to an almost nonending finish that's the definition of dark and brooding. Drink through 2020. O. Fournier Group. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

94 Viña Cobos 2011 Bramare Marchiori Vineyard Malbec (Perdriel). Among Cobos's high-end 2011 Malbecs, this one comes across as the most complete, layered and complex of the group. Aromas of fine oak and pencil lead augment blackberry and baked plum scents. The mouthfeel is smooth, round and rich, while flavors of tea, savory spices and black fruits dance long into the night. A ripe but not too heavy finish is earthy, calm and complete. Drink through 2019. Paul Hobbs Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$95

92 Familia Cassone 2010 Obra Prima Coleccion Gran Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). This reflects the big, modern style of Mendoza Malbec. The bouquet is ripe and hefty, with coconut, mint, blackberry and almond cookie aromas. Expect thick, rugged tannins along with toasty flavors of black coffee, chocolate and mint. A dark, fruity finish is more subtle and harmonious than specific. Drink through 2018. Bedford International. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

92 Finca Sopenia 2011 Synthesis Malbec (Tupungato). Deep, lush aromas of black fruits, graphite and coconut are welcoming and friendly. The mouthfeel is pure and smooth, with elegance and power. Flavors of cassis, blackberry, hard spices and licorice filter into a long, mellow, classy finish. This is a pushy, full-bodied wine that doesn't throw punches; drink through 2020. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Viña Cobos 2011 Marchiori Vineyard Block C2 Malbec (Perdriel). This huge Malbec defines jammy and concentrated. The bouquet is ripe, soft and minty, while the palate echoes the nose with thickness and density. Flavors of prune, raisin, tea and blackberry are borderline syrupy, while the finish is smooth and pure but doesn't offer much spine or foundation. Drink this modern Malbec sooner rather than later. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$215

91 Trapiche 2010 Gran Medalla Malbec (Mendoza). Smoke and char reign supreme on the bouquet, which is a powder keg of sawdust, coconut and blackberry aromas. Saturated on the palate, this is rubbery, toasty, dark and pumping out black-fruit flavors. A firm, rugged, savory tasting finish brings a hint

of salt and cured meat. Drink through 2017. The Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Viña Cobos 2011 Bramare Rebon Vineyard Malbec (La Consulta). Smoky, roasted aromas of black fruits, bacon and herbs are the kickoff. The mouthfeel is plump and full but offers vital acidity at its core. Flavors of black plum, hoisin sauce and savory spices finish smoky and ripe, with a lasting note of bacon. Drink through 2018. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$76

90 Alamos 2011 Selección Malbec (Mendoza). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

90 Pulentia Estate 2010 I Malbec (Mendoza). There's lovely berry fruit on the nose, palate and finish of this nicely made Malbec. In the mouth, pinching tannins bolster red berry and vanilla flavors. The finish tastes much the same; drink this clean, pure red through 2016. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Tapiz 2011 Alta Collection Malbec (Mendoza). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

90 Valentin Bianchi 2011 Leo Premium Malbec (Mendoza). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

88 Belasco de Baquedano 2012 Llama Old Vine Estate Bottled Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Berry and cherry aromas are friendly, clean and offer spice accents. This is full, ripe and tannic, with blackberry, dark spice and chocolaty flavors. Toasty menthol and hard spice notes on the finish confirm intensity and overall quality. Cabernet Corporation. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

88 Benegas 2010 Juan Benegas Malbec (Mendoza). Rubbery, earthy aromas suggest compost, but there's full-force blackberry and cherry lurking in the backdrop. Typical of the Benegas house style, this is a beefy Malbec with loamy flavors of blackberry offset by peppery bitterness. A dense finish with licorice flavors is soft and meaty. Vias Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Finca Sopenia 2012 Altosur Malbec (Tupungato). For \$10 Malbec, this more than gets it done. The nose is heady, with toast, caramel and generous blackberry aromas. The palate blends freshness with depth, and the flavors of berries, cassis and spice come with a hint of ham and smoked meat. A mild finish is round and shows no aggression. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

88 Gauchezco 2010 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Clean, dark-berry aromas are generic as a whole, despite a mild floral note. This feels firm, fresh and well structured. Flavors of berry fruits are text-

book and lightly herbal, while the finish feels loamy and smooth, with a peppery flavor. Mountain West Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Gaucho Club 2011 Oak Cask Malbec (Mendoza). Despite the concept-driven name, this is good Malbec at a good price. Minty black-fruit aromas are welcoming and stand up to scrutiny. The palate has juicy acidity and purity to support plum and cherry flavors that are spicy and dry in nature. For basic Malbec, you won't do much better than this. Marquee Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Zuccardi 2011 Q Malbec (Mendoza). On the nose, this is a ripe, earthy Malbec with coconut, lots of oak, tobacco and loamy berry aromas. The palate is thick, dense and chewy. Jammy flavors of stewed, gritty berry fruits finish with baked notes and a raisiny hint. Winesellers Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

87 Caligore 2011 Reserve Malbec (Mendoza). Berry and plum aromas come with notes of woodsmoke and rubber. A fresh but common mouthfeel is pleasant, while red-berry flavors lead the palate and come with a touch of creamy oak. Hence, vanilla and additional cream flavors are key components of the finish. Marquee Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

87 Finca Decero 2011 Remolinos Vineyard Malbec (Mendoza). This full-bodied Malbec smells roasted, rubbery and leathery, with meaty berry notes popping in and out. The palate is blocky and thick in feel, while flavors trend toward stalky and roasted, with a green note accenting a chocolaty finish. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Jed Wines 2010 Limited Release Malbec (Uco Valley). Full, meaty berry aromas come with a savory character that suggests herbs, tar and rubber. Foxy, funky and herbal on the palate, then minty and slightly green late, this is a ripped, big, gangly wine made by Australians in Argentina. The Australia-New Zealand Wine Connection. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

87 Trapiche 2011 Broquel Malbec (Mendoza). Minty blackberry aromas come with a giant scoop of oak and a touch of graphite. This is lively, ripe and a touch acidic, with dark-fruit flavors and freshness courtesy of ringing acids. The finish shows size and moderate sophistication. The Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Alpamanta 2010 Natal Malbec (Mendoza). After a rubbery, gaseous smelling opening, things settle on standard berry aromas. The palate feels full and fresh, with zesty acidity. Flavors of rubber and generic black fruits finish solid and dark. William Harrison Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Anticura 2011 Malbec (Vista Flores). Hard, dark-fruit aromas come with a note of candy and wet animal fur. This is a rich, jammy specimen with a syrupy mouthfeel and woody, lightly herbal flavors of candied black fruits. Heat and a peppery after-taste work the finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$16

86 Bodega Cuarto Dominio 2012 Tolentino Winemaker's Selection Malbec (Mendoza). Savory, spicy, minty aromas are rustic and rooky. This feels big and broad, with a fair amount of body weight. Flavors of savory berry and leather filter into a creamy, full finish with a residual saline flavor. Terlato Wines International. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Bodega Norton 2012 Colección Varietales Malbec (Mendoza). While this is a generic red wine, it's a good one. Cherry, cassis and plum aromas are simple and friendly. The palate offers snappy acids and enough body to be convincing. Flavors of raspberry, red plum and cocoa finish mellow, with warmth and lasting acidity. TGIC Importers. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Finca Sopenia 2011 Reserve Malbec (Tupungato). Oak is the main characteristic in this Malbec. Spicy aromas of clove and mint steer otherwise generic berry scents toward a thick palate with pointed acidity. This is short on complexity and the fruit is mildly sour, while mint, oak and baked notes define the finish. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Gauchezco 2010 Clasico Malbec (Mendoza). Minerally dark-berry aromas come with a touch of spice. In the mouth, this is lively with a bolt of acidity behind the mouthfeel. Black cherry and berry are the flavors, while a hint of cocoa arises on a short yet fresh finish. Mountain West Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$10

86 Terrazas de Los Andes 2010 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). While this is stout and dark up front, the nose comes with a note of stewed fruit. The thick, tannic palate is grabby and resinous in feel, while flavors of raw oak taste lactic, and the berry fruit component in the wine is loamy and feels big and blocky. Moët Hennessy USA. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

86 Vila 2010 Gran Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Plum and wild berry aromas come with graphite and minty oak scents. This feels big, pushy and juicy, while the flavor profile is oak-dominated, with mint and resin outmuscling raspberry. The finish is barrel-driven via raw, woody flavors and a resinous feel. Puer-to Viejo Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Alberti 154 2011 Malbec (Mendoza). Creamy berry and plum aromas register as generic and inoffensive. This is round and full in terms of

weight and texture, with herbal, jammy flavors of berry fruits and salt. An herbal, oaky, salty tasting finish is solid but fails to elevate things. Southern Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 Belasco de Baquedano 2011 Llama Old Vine Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Dry spice and minty aromas cover up mild berry fruit scents. This is clunky and jammy in feel, with stewed berry and saucy flavors. The finish is herbal in general, with a chunky weight to it. Cabernet Corporation. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 Lagarde 2011 Malbec (Mendoza). Aromas of leather, rubber and plastic get this off to a shaky start. The palate has protruding acids and flavors of raspberry, plum and oak resin. An herbal flavor and freshness drive the finish. Tasted twice with differing notes; this review and rating reflect two tastings. Andes Importers, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18

85 Solsticio 2010 Invierno Malbec (Mendoza). Minty boysenberry aromas show modest minerality. The palate feels acidic and clipped, while angular berry flavors lead the charge. A minty, peppery finish comes with scouring acidity, so this needs food. Solsticio LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$16

85 Sottano 2011 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). High-toned, raw aromas of cherry and currant are backed by toasty oak and mint. Lively and lifted as well as choppy in feel, this tastes mostly of char, plum and peppery spice. Things blacken up on a hot, firm, toasty finish. Dangerous Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$26

85 TintoNegro 2011 Co-Ferment Malbec (Mendoza). Pencil eraser, plastic and vanilla are all reflective of the oak thrown at this blend of Malbec, Cab Franc and Petit Verdot. In the mouth, this is heavy, grabby and hard, while blackened flavors of oak and baked fruits set up a finish with creamy oak, herbal accents and heat. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

85 Villa Atuel 2012 El Tractor Malbec (Mendoza). Leather and earthy notes circle around core berry scents. This is medium bodied, with expansive but nonspecific berry and plum flavors. A wide, chunky finish is good but doesn't go beyond the basics. Mack and Shuhle INC. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

84 Fat Gaucho 2010 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Woody aromas suggest sawdust, and there's some raspberry to boot. The palate feels scratchy and high in acid, while the flavor profile blends herbal notes with modest berry fruit and forced oak. This is dry, peppery and woody tasting on the finish. Fat Gaucho Wines, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Recuerdo 2011 Malbec (Uco Valley). Recuerdo is the house brand from the Vines of Mendoza project, which is relying on young Tupungato vineyards that expand annually. This vintage shows floral berry aromas along with Middle East spice notes of cumin and curry. In the mouth, it's sharp and hollow, like an elevator that skips floors. Clipped flavors of boysenberry are acidic, while the finish lacks substance. Blackbird Vineyards. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$22

83 Palo Alto 2011 Cumbres del Plata Reserva de Familia Oak Malbec (Maipú). Earthy and stinky on the nose, this wine struggles to come up with the goods. It's sappy and citric in feel, with burnt, stinky flavors of herbal raspberry. A tart tasting, oaky finish does little to help this along. Lewis Enterprises. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

83 Pannunzio 2011 Giovanni Vincenzo Malbec (Mendoza). Rubbery red-berry aromas are basic at best. This is choppy and acidic in feel, so no surprise that plum and cherry flavors lean toward sour. This is fruity and driven, but rough and fiery. The House Of Burgundy. —M.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$14

83 Simonassi 2010 1922 Malbec (Mendoza). Candied cherry and raspberry aromas are dilute by Mendoza standards. The palate is regular at best, with juicy generic flavors of plum and raspberry. This finishes raw in feel, with little depth of flavor. Metrowine Distribution. —M.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$16

83 Tierra Brisa 2012 Malbec (Mendoza). Stalky, earthy berry aromas are O.K. but lack freshness. This feels more flabby and heavy than vital, with stalky flavors of turned earth and stewed plum. A muddled finish is pretty much as expected given what's come before. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

82 Miel Piedras 2011 Malbec (Mendoza). At first this smells like plastic and sweet black fruits mixed with chocolate. The palate feels heavy and raw, while flavors of muddled yet tart plum and berry finish big, minty and slightly green. Cannon Wines Limited. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

82 Notro 2011 Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Pointed red-plum aromas are lemony and leathery. The palate is decidedly tomatoey and acidic, with flavors of plum skin, currant and pepper. An herbal, spicy, drying finish feels raw and tastes sour. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

81 Finca Los Maza 2011 Coleccion Malbec (Mendoza). Initially this smells like commercial bath soap; later on, simple strawberry notes pop up. The mouth is rough and tannic, while flavors of herbal

berry finish sour as the feel turns raw and scratchy. Total Wine & More-Sarant Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$12

81 Melipal 2011 Ikella Malbec (Mendoza). Scattered aromas of minerals and jumpy young berry fruits are just not that attractive. This is scouring on the palate due to outsized acidity, while the flavors run raw, herbal and green. Ditto the finish. The Artisan Collection. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$14

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Viña Cobos 2011 Bramare Marchiori Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Perdriel). Chunky black-fruit aromas are ripe but familiar, meaning the nose is pumped full of richness and oak. Racy acidity on the palate gives this modern Cab spine, while in the mouthfeel stays on the fast track due to zesty acidity. Flavors of cassis and blackberry register as fresh and ripe, and the finish is crisp and not the least bit flabby. Drink through 2016. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$76

91 Tapiz 2011 Alta Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is a dark, rich, modern Cabernet. The nose oozes sweet aromas of coconut and vanilla along with creamy oak and blackberry. The palate is full and chunky in feel, with dark-fruit flavors accented by molasses and pepper. A chevy finish shows grip and lasting acidity. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: NA Price: \$19

91 Viña Cobos 2011 Bramare Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). This is one full-bodied, hefty wine. The nose is toasty, minty and a touch herbal. In the mouth, solid tannins support what would otherwise be a syrupy, soft Cabernet. Flavors of baked blackberry and cassis finish with brown-sugar sweetness and length. This is a wine for folks who like their Cabs rich and plush. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$45

90 Valentin Bianchi 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). For full review see page 10.
Best Buy.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$15

89 Alta Vista 2011 Premium Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Berry and cassis aromas are mildly herbal. This is nicely structured, although the acidity is slightly spiked. Flavors of roasted berry, leafy notes and herbal shadings finish with pinched tannins as well as tobacco and fig flavors. Drink through 2016. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 15% Price: \$20

89 Pascual Toso 2011 Reserve Barrancas Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Aromas of red fruits, tomato, herbs, tobacco and cedar are stylish and not overpowering. This feels fresh and a touch earthy, with flavors of tobacco, cinnamon, cassis and baked berries. The finish is medium in length

and intensity, with apparent but not overbearing oak. Drink through 2017. TGIC Importers. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$21

89 Zuccardi 2011 Q Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Loud on the nose, with big berry aromas, this Cabernet is full and lively in the mouth, with brown sugar, chocolate and cassis flavors. On the finish, it's warm and maintains a chocolaty flavor from before. Overall, this is loaded with ripe cherry, plum and berry fruit, and still it's not a complicated wine. Winesellers Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

88 Finca la Celia 2012 Pioneer Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). This opens with a dark color and muscular, jammy aromas of boysenberry and blackberry. In the mouth, lively acidity affords needed cut, while the tannins are big and bulky. Lead flavors of blackberry have a café mocha aftertaste, and the finish is brawny, oaky and baked in character. Buena Cepa Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

88 Finca Sopenia 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato). Baked berry, savory bacon and coconut aromas give this Cab a modern, sweet outlook. In the mouth, it's more raw and abrasive, with firm tannins and lemony acids. Flavors of baked berry fruits and resinous oak finish chewy and tannic, with a touch of heat. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

88 Pulenta Estate 2011 III Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Herbal scents blend with sweeter aromas of red licorice candy and red-berry fruits. This is rich and a touch syrupy in feel, with flavors of green herbs and plum offset by oak and molasses. On the finish, varietal notes of pimiento and bell pepper enter the fray. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

87 Andeluna 2011 1300 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Basic, fresh, honest aromas of red-berry fruits and spice set up a wide, easygoing palate with cassis, blackberry and herbal flavors. Only on the finish does one detect some acidity and rawness. Overall this is a nice Cab for casual drinking. San Francisco Wine Exchange. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

87 Bodega Renacer 2011 Punto Final Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Jammy aromas suggest a mix of sugar beet, reedy red fruits and Graham cracker. The palate on this first-ever Cabernet from Punto Final is big and blocky, with oaky, herbal flavors of spiced berries. A lively, semi-sweet finish has a molasses hint and mild green accents. Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$17

87 Finca Lalonde 2012 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato). Earthy berry and cassis aromas are more generic than particular. The mouthfeel on this Cab is scratchy and heavy, with firm

tannins that grab and bite. Plum and cassis flavors are minty, herbal and spicy, while the finish is even more minty, with scouring, hard tannins. Domaine Bousquet. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

87 Michel Torino 2012 Don David Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Calchaquí Valley). Like many Cafayate Cabs, this shows raw, herbal aromas that add rusticity to red-fruit scents. The palate is tight and juicy for the most part, with a touch of oaky creaminess. Flavors of roasted plum and berry fruits come with vanilla, brown sugar and oak accents, while the finish is a bit grating. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$18

87 Pascual Toso 2011 Alta Las Barrancas Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Immediately you know this is heavily oaked because the nose is charred and minty to the max. Airing pushes things toward tobacco and cedar, but it still tastes woody and resinous. Fruit notes of cassis, plum and cherry are spicy, while overall acidity is drawing. TGIC Importers. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$34

86 Alberti 154 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Leafy, spicy and dry on the nose, this is round on the palate and solid in feel. Flavors of gritty, baked berry fruits come across mildly hot, while the finish sizzles with berry leftovers and a pinch of cocoa flavor. Southern Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

86 Casarena 2012 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The Casarena style is ripe, ripe, ripe. This isn't overripe, but it's definitely on the sweet side. There are also savory, charred, roasted notes to this Cabernet, but the overriding character is one of sweet, slightly sticky berry flavors and a matching texture. Southern Starz, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$17

86 Santa Julia 2012 [+] Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). For full review see page 10.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

86 Schroeder Estate 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Patagonia). Plum and berry aromas hold steady and don't deviate from the norm. This is plump but regular in feel, with modest acidity and mild tannins. Rooty berry flavors don't offer much spice or nuance, while the finish feels loamy and soft. Lionstone International. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

85 Casarena 2012 505 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Sweet berry, wet cement, plastic and creamy oak aromas lead to a palate with plenty of grip. Flavors of oaky, roasted berry and vanilla finish sweet but also peppery and chocolaty, and with some heat. Southern Starz, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$13

85 Tomero 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). From the beginning, this is a rough ride. Raw, almost volatile plum aromas precede a scouring palate. Herbal, leafy plum and cherry flavors finish tannic and rubbery along the cheeks. This is doubly dry Cabernet. Wine Spoken Here. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$17

85 Villa Atuel 2012 El Tractor Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Earthy aromas are a bit muddled and suggest tomato and herbs, but in the mouth, this is fresh and rigid in feel. Flavors of zesty berry come with oaky, savory notes and a touch of woody residue on the finish. Mack and Shuhle INC. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

84 Fabre Montmayou 2011 Phebus Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Candied cherry and red licorice aromas don't amount to more than basic and easy. The wine feels wide on the palate but lacks mid-level stuffing, while leafy flavors are blackened and suggestive of prune and something stewy. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

84 Santa Julia 2012 Organica Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Jumpy berry aromas, animal fur and candied scents are less than refined. This is fresh but not that structured in the mouth, with herbal berry flavors and a lightly green-tasting finish that's scratchy in feel. Wine-sellers Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

83 Finca Flichman 2012 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Wayward, funky aromas of wet dog and candied fruits don't provide much elegance to the bouquet. This also feels somewhat bland and dilute, which is unusual for Argentina. Herbal, minty flavors of cherry and plum finish peppery, green and raw in feel. Evaton, Inc. —M.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$11

82 Ricardo Santos 2011 Una Selección de Ricardo Santos Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Dull aromas of murky leaves and wet cement don't set things up well. This is clunky and scouring in feel, with leafy blackberry flavors that finish bitter. Global Vineyard Importers. —M.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$19

MERLOT

89 Krasia May 2010 Merlot (Mendoza). This small-batch Merlot (57 cases total) is concentrated up front, with aromas of balsam wood, cigar box, asphalt and hard-charging black fruits. The palate is hard as rocks, with intense but narrow dark-berry flavors in front of a pinched finish loaded with blackberry, pepper and chocolate flavors as well as fierce leftover tannins. Drink through 2020. MHW, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

RED BLENDS

93 Carmelo Patti 2004 Gran Assemblage (Mendoza). Rarely does one come across a new-release Argentinean red with this much age (it was bottled in 2008). Aromas of turned earth, sautéed mushroom, tomato and herbs are like a fine spaghetti sauce. In the mouth, this is firm and tannic, with lasting balance. Flavors of coffee, cinnamon, dry raspberry and spiced plum finish with persistence. Drink now through 2019. Southern Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 Viña Cobos 2011 Volturmo Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Perdriel). Minty, ultraripe blackberry aromas are alluring but ultimately familiar if you know the Cobos style. Ditto the palate, which is rich, thick, chewy and full of creamy oak and black-fruit flavors. This blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Malbec finishes smooth and creamy, with good balance for what amounts to a very ripe wine. Drink through 2018. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$230

92 Alta Vista 2010 Alto Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Alto is 75% Malbec and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. The nose is cool and full of cassis, blackberry, cola and cedar aromas. This is ripe as they come without losing freshness; flavors of foamy berry and cassis finish with density along with prune and spicy, peppery flavors. Drink through 2020. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

92 Vistalba 2010 Corte A (Mendoza). This is always one of Mendoza's classiest blends. There's big fruit, dry wood, bacon and balsamic notes on the alluring bouquet. Full, elastic tannins support cassis and berry flavors as well as more than enough oak. This is dry, lightly herbal, powerful and saucy tasting on the finish. 60% Malbec, 30% Bonarda and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Wine Spoken Here. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

91 Finca Sopenia 2010 Synthesis The Blend (Tupungato). Cedar, tobacco, mossy notes, cola and blackberry aromas come with a touch of cheese and leather. This is Malbec, Cab Sauvignon and Merlot, and it's tannic and full of grab and astringent acids. Toast, coconut and fudge notes give character to plum and berry flavors, while the finish is choppy and rugged in feel. Drink through 2017. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Michel Torino 2010 Altimus (Cafayate). Hailing from the northern Salta region, this blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cab Franc and Tannat is a bit murky and herbal smelling, with notes of bacon and hickory. The palate is firmly tannic, with pinched, oaky blackberry and saline flavors. On the finish, the tannins are drying and abrasive. Drink from 2015–2021. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

90 Clos de los Siete 2010 Red (Mendoza). Clos de los Siete is a perennial leader among under-\$20 wines from Argentina. Blueberry and graham cracker aromas are ripe and a touch reduced. The palate is saturated yet juicy, while blackberry, boysenberry, cardamom and nutmeg flavors feed into a dark tasting, compact finish. For a 50,000-case wine, this is a prize to behold. Thiénot USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Palo Alto 2010 Benito A Gran Reserva (Mendoza). Palo Alto's first high-end wine is a success. A blend of Malbec, Cabernet and Merlot, Benito A shows baked, rustic aromas of sweet fruits and savory spices. The palate is full and flush, while flavors of earthy, baked fruits are woody and saucy, with tobacco, cocoa and raw oak flavors carrying onto the finish. Drink through 2018. South Shore Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Zuccardi 2010 Zeta Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). This is a heavy-weight blend of 87% Malbec and 13% Cabernet Sauvignon. The nose is piercing and raw, as fresh-cut cedar and black-fruit aromas drill away. The palate is huge but flabby in the middle, with jammy berry and herbal flavors that reflect Cabernet Sauvignon. Prune and burnt flavors are at the heart of this wine's loud finish. Drink through 2017. Winesellers Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

89 Finca Los Maza 2010 Maza Tonconogy Malbec-Merlot (Mendoza). Graphite and black-fruit aromas control the wine's well-crafted bouquet. This blend of 55% Malbec and 45% Merlot is pure, racy and just deep enough on the palate. Flavors of blackberry and plum are not complex but taste right, while chocolate and overall mellowness steer the finish to a smooth resting place. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

CALIFORNIA

CHARDONNAY

97 Flowers 2011 Moon Select Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Let the conversations about minerality begin. Whatever it is, or wherever it comes from, it's here big time, adding a lick of steel and a metallic mouthfeel to the underlying fruit. And what powerful fruit it is, ranging from orange and guava to honeydew and citron. This bone dry, crisp Chardonnay is a game changer that will make you look at California Chardonnay differently. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$70

94 Flowers 2011 Camp Meeting Ridge Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This wine is bone dry, yet the fruit is so ripe and rewarding. Flavors of tangerines and apricots are accompanied by a tangy minerality and oak notes attributable to aging in 50% new barrels. So clean and vibrant, it makes

for classy drinking now, but it will also be fascinating to watch its evolution over the next 6–8 years. —S.H.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$58

94 Williams Selyem 2011 Drake Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

93 Williams Selyem 2011 Allen Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$50

93 Williams Selyem 2011 Hawk Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.4% Price: \$52

92 Alpha Omega 2012 Unoaked Chardonnay (Napa Valley). As soon as this Chardonnay hits the mouth, it explodes with ripe, heady flavors of pineapples, mangoes and limes. There's a complexity to the palate that makes it hard to believe its unoaked. —S.H.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$42

92 Bernardus 2011 Rosella's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Fermentation and aging in French oak barrels with battonage have given this extraordinarily ripe Chardonnay a creamy, leesy mouthfeel. It's the perfect accompaniment to lush tropical fruit, citrus, apricot and baking spice flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$40

92 Bernardus 2011 Sierra Mar Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). This is a very fine, distinctive Chardonnay that's tight and streamlined. It's tangy with lemony acidity and a brisk minerality, but there's also plenty of tropical fruit, apricot and honey flavors as well. Creamy notes of buttered toast and lees add richness to the palate. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

92 Bernardus 2011 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). This is a fine Chardonnay marked by rich, ripe pear, peach and tropical fruit flavors, but also a bright acidity that highlights all the fruit. Notes of buttered toast add richness. It's delicious on its own, but would also be an ideal accompaniment for tapas. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$40

92 Flowers 2011 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This outstanding Chardonnay shows the brilliant structural purity of both the cold vintage and the terroir of the far Sonoma Coast. While the wine isn't in the same league as Flowers's spectacular Moon Select Chardonnay, it's not as expensive and still deeply satisfying. It's acid-driven with flavors of Meyer lemon, but balanced with notes of tropical fruit, butter and honey. —S.H.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$40

92 Marimar Estate 2010 Dobles Lías Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$45

91 Cambria 2011 Bench Break Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). This Chard competes well with others that are considerably more expensive. The palate exhibits the cool growing conditions of the vintage with tart acidity that brightens flavors of tropical fruit and orange. Notes of oak and lees lend complexity to this delicious wine. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

91 Failla 2012 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Tart with acidity but lush with fruit, this is a lovely Chardonnay to drink with shellfish dishes. Honeyed notes accompany flavors of tropical fruit, Meyer lemon and lime. Oak lends touches of vanilla and a creaminess that finishes clean. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$34

91 Failla 2011 Keefer Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This wine delivers everything you want in a California Chardonnay. While it's dry, it's incredibly rich in tropical fruit, green apple and pear flavors, with loads of honey and buttered toast from oak barrels. The acidity is just fine. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$42

91 Marimar Estate 2012 Acero Don Miguel Vineyard Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$29

91 Marimar Estate 2010 Bonita's Hill Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% Price: \$39

91 Marimar Estate 2011 La Masía Don Miguel Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

91 Martin Ray 2012 Chardonnay (Carneros). An exquisite Chardonnay, among the winery's best since 2007. It offers rich, complex flavors of tart green apples, limes and kiwis, with honeyed oak notes. It's all balanced with crisp acidity and a steely minerality. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

90 Alpha Omega 2011 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This is a rich, oaky Chardonnay, sweet and refined. With ripe orange, tropical fruit, apricot and buttered toast flavors, it rises above mere sweetness with a firm minerality and a fine squirt of lime acidity. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$65

90 Beringer 2012 Luminus Chardonnay (Oak Knoll). Beringer reaches into the cool, southerly Oak Knoll district of Napa Valley for this

Chardonnay, which shows tart flavors of lemons, apples, limes and mangoes. It's an elegant Chard, light but complex, with beautiful acidity and just a touch of oak. Dungeness crab with buttered sourdough bread would be a perfect pairing. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$39

90 Blair 2012 Roger Rose Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$28

90 Conn Creek 2012 Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

90 Failla 2011 Chuy Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Winemaker Ehren Jordan makes this wine with purchased single-vineyard fruit from old vines. The wine is concentrated with flavors of lemons, limes, tropical fruits and apricots, and liberally enhanced with oak. Drink it over the next few years. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$58

88 Alpha Omega 2010 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). New oak takes center stage in this Chardonnay with buttered toast aromas and intense caramel and butterscotch flavors that dominate the underlying orange and mango. It's a soft, creamy wine, that's rich and exotic. Drink now. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$92

88 Carpe Diem 2012 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). An elegant Chardonnay from Anderson Valley's cool vineyards, this is fruity and accessible, but also nuanced with hints of beeswax, vanilla and delicate lemon. Subtly oaked, it finishes with a note of candied fruit. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$25

88 Cinnabar 2012 Chardonnay (Monterey). This wine is sourced from single-vineyard grapes from the Arroyo Seco. It's rich and balanced, with crisp acidity highlighting ripe flavors of oranges, mangoes, apples and toasty oak. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

88 Dunstan 2011 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This Chardonnay shows ripe tropical fruit and green apple flavors enhanced by the buttered toast of oak barrel aging. It's brisk in acidity, which provides welcome balance to the richness. —S.H.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$45

88 Falcone 2012 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Veteran winemaker John Falcone's Chardonnay shows good Santa Maria character, with brisk acidity that frames tropical fruit and citrus flavors. The oak is subtle, providing just a hint of buttered toast and mineral tones add complexity. It's an elegant Chardonnay for drinking with shellfish and pasta dishes. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$30

88 Foley 2011 Courtney's Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This rich, yet balanced Chardonnay exhibits tropical fruit, peach, green apple and apricot flavors, along with notes of vanilla, honey and toast from new French oak. It's creamy and soft on the palate. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

88 Highflyer 2010 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). This Chardonnay is rich and decadent with plenty of ripe fruit and oak. It's a crowd pleaser with flavors of mangoes, pineapples, limes, buttered toast and vanilla, all brightened by acidity. —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$28

88 HKG 2011 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Grassy dill and citrus flavors give this Chardonnay a Sauvignon Blanc-style leanness, but it's balanced with notes of buttered toast and vanilla from new French oak. Brisk with acidity, it's the perfect wine to drink with scallops. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$28

88 Kunde 2012 Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

88 Lava Cap 2011 Battonage Chardonnay (El Dorado). Pretty aromatically, Lava Cap's Battonage has inviting flavors of pear, honey and toasty vanilla. With well-integrated oak, it's a classically robust California Chardonnay, weighty but structured. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$18

88 Occasio 2011 Del Arroyo Vineyard Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This is an intense Chardonnay with penetrating apple flavor, a rich texture and layers of oak and honey. Built to age, this big-shouldered wine has a long, toasty finish and should pair well with rich foods, including strong cheeses. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$28

87 Brutocao 2012 Bliss Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). A Chardonnay highly strung with green apple and lemon flavor, this wine evolves in the glass, deepening with fruit and minerality. The finish suggests vanilla. A good wine for creamy chicken and seafood meals. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Clos du Val 2011 Chardonnay (Carneros). This Chardonnay is marked by tart acidity, lemon and pear flavors and oak. While it's technically dry, it has a honeyed note that suggests Asian fare, or Sunday brunch with a cheese omelet. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Draxton 2012 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This Chard has lots going for it, crisp acidity balanced with intense flavors of tropical fruits, orange, buttercream and baking spices. It's easy to drink now with classic California fare like Dungeness crab and buttered sourdough bread. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Frank Family 2012 Chardonnay (Carneros). This Chardonnay needs a few more months to come around. It's tart with acidity, along with oak and tropical fruit flavors that have plenty of potential, but haven't meshed together yet. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

87 Les Belles Collines 2012 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). There are lots of bells and whistles on this Chard, including partial malolactic fermentation and aging in 25% new French oak barrels. The result is a creamy, rich wine, with honeyed pineapple, tropical fruit, buttered toast and caramel flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

87 Martin Ray 2012 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Lots of buttered toast and butterscotch flavors mark this Chardonnay. It's balanced, however, with crisp acidity and bright flavors of tropical fruit and peach, along with a fragrant honey-suckle note. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

87 Moone-Tsai 2011 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). New French oak dominates this Chard, giving it buttered toast, butterscotch and caramel aromas and flavors. Underneath all that is a sound wine, brisk in acidity, with orange, peach and tropical fruit flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

86 Bogle 2012 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 10. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Bonterra 2012 Chardonnay (Mendocino County). Made from organically grown grapes, this Chardonnay imparts a taste of beeswax and lemon. It's robust in acidity and structured with a sizeable finish. Small percentages of Muscat, Viognier and Riesling are mingled in. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Calera 2012 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Ripe, exotic papaya, mango, apricot and tangerine flavors highlight this wine. There's also plenty of buttered toast notes, but it's balanced with brisk acidity. This is a fine wine for drinking now. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$18

86 Calera 2012 Chardonnay (Mt. Harlan). Caramel, oak and intensely ripe mango and peach flavors mark this Chardonnay. It's simple and straightforward, but pleasant drinking. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$34

86 Lincourt 2011 Courtney's Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). New oak gives this Chardonnay hints of buttered toast, vanilla and caramel. At the core, however, the wine is crisp with flavors of pineapples, green melons and sweet Meyer lemons. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$27

86 Longevity 2012 Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). Floral aromatically, this Chardonnay

was fermented in neutral French oak and is elegant in style. High in acidity and with vibrant lemon flavor, it's a balanced and cohesive wine. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$26

86 Signorello 2011 Hope's Cuvée Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This bottling, from grapes grown in the winery's estate vineyard, has varied over the years. The 2011 vintage is not the finest expression, but it's a soft, easy-drinking Chardonnay with modest peach, pear and mango notes, along with substantial oak influence. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

86 Sonoma-Cutrer 2011 The Cutrer Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This Chardonnay has an elegant structure with brisk acidity that counters flavors of tropical fruits, peaches, pears and sweet oak. The mouthfeel is a bit thin, but it's a pleasant wine. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$37

85 Angeline 2012 Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). This is a nice Chard to drink now. It's creamy and smooth with tangerine, peach, apricot, vanilla and oak flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

85 Arrowood 2011 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This is a good, straightforward Chardonnay with buttercream, vanilla, tropical fruit and citrus flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Dierberg 2011 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). This wine is dominated by oak. It's all about buttered toast, vanilla and butterscotch. Underneath is a ripe Chardonnay with tropical fruit flavors, but brightened by a shower of brisk acidity. —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$32

85 Hoyt Family Vineyards 2011 Chardonnay (California). This is a richly textured but straightforward Chardonnay. It's soft on the palate with buttered toast, cream, pineapple, vanilla and lime flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32

85 Kunde 2012 C.S. Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Ripe tangerine, peach jam, vanilla and oak flavors are penetrating in this soft, creamy Chardonnay. It's a ripe, rich wine that's widely appealing. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$27

85 Kunde 2012 Reserve Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Kunde's Reserve is all about the oak—rich buttered toast, caramel and butterscotch flavors. It overshadows the underlying fruit, but makes for a decadently pleasant sip. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

85 McManis 2012 Chardonnay (River Junction). For full review see page 10. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Pessagno 2012 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). This accessible Chardonnay is honeyed on the palate with apricot, tangerine, peach and oak flavors. It has good coastal acidity for balance. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$24

85 Reata 2012 Reata Chardonnay (Carneros). Oak dominates the palate with buttered toast and butterscotch flavors, as well as a buttered popcorn character, likely attributable to malolactic fermentation. The underlying fruits suggest pineapples and peach jam. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25

84 Buehler 2012 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This Chardonnay has all the bells and whistles from malolactic fermentation and lees aging to oak barrel aging. It's rich and soft with flavors of buttered toast, pineapple and orange jam, along with yeasty notes on the finish. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

84 Educated Guess 2011 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). There's vibrant acidity and underlying flavors of pineapple, white peach and mango in this Chardonnay. The overall palate, however, is overwhelmed by oak. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$17

84 Grayson 2012 Lot 11 Chardonnay (California). This dry, moderate-alcohol Chardonnay is brisk, but the body is a bit thin. The pineapple and mango fruit flavors are watered down. —S.H.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$11

84 Guenoc 2012 Chardonnay (California). With sweet oak, buttered toast, vanilla, pineapple and mango flavors, this is an easy Chardonnay to drink now. The price is good for a Chard this rich and creamy. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

84 Jekel 2012 Gravelstone Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Rich flavors of buttered toast and popcorn, pineapple and orange jam mark this Chardonnay. It has bright acidity, but can turn a bit cloying after the first sip. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$18

84 Skinnygirl 2012 Chardonnay (California). This shows plenty of Chardonnay character with citrus and tropical fruit, cream, vanilla and buttered toast flavors. The wine is dry with crisp acidity, but a bit watery in mouthfeel. —S.H.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$12

84 Spellbound 2012 Chardonnay (California). While oaky and smoky, this Chardonnay is packed with fleshy tropical fruit. A slightly bracing feel on the finish gives it some texture. It should pair well with weekday meals or as a pass-around wine at parties. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

84 un4seen 2011 Chardonnay (Lodi). A strong pineapple and mango imprint persists throughout this Chardonnay, along with bright acidity and a floral finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$10

83 The Archivist 2012 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Delicately structured, this Chardonnay has simple citrus peach flavors, with an undertow of green herbs. It's dry and tart with acidity. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

82 Magnolia Court 2012 Chardonnay (Central Coast). This Chardonnay tastes like a supermarket fruit punch of apricots, peaches, mangoes and oranges, along with the stimulating heat of alcohol. It's ripe and oaky. —S.H.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$13

82 Paripaso 2012 Chardonnay (California). Soft and easy with vague flavors of apricots and butterscotch. —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

81 The Loyal Companion 2012 Chardonnay (California). This is a straightforward, slightly tart Chardonnay that's shy with fruit. Sourced from Lodi and Napa. —V.B.
abv: 13.57% **Price:** \$14

VIIGNIER

91 Arrowood 2011 Saralee's Vineyard Viognier (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Alta Colina 2011 12 O'Clock High Estate Viognier (Paso Robles). The chilly 2011 vintage was kind to this wine, giving it fine acidity yet still ripe fruit. It showcases Viognier's flamboyant, exotic flavors like tropical fruit, citrus, peach and honeysuckle, along with the buttered toast of new French oak. It's an elegant wine to drink now with rich foods. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Judd's Hill 2012 Viognier (Napa Valley). This is the first Viognier produced by the winery. The wine was aged in neutral oak, but nonetheless there's a solid hit of vanilla cream and butterscotch on the palate. The underlying flavors are solidly Viognier, suggesting tropical fruits, peaches and pears. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$34

87 Workman Ayer 2010 Ipso Facto Viognier (Central Coast). There's a green mint and gooseberry edge to this 100% Viognier. While it lacks the variety's characteristic opulence, it's elegantly dry and crisp with ripe peach and tropical fruit flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

86 Calera 2012 Viognier (Central Coast). This easy-drinking wine shows the rich, exotic

flavors of Viognier, with fresh peaches, tangerines, papayas, honey, vanilla and oak. A brisk edge of acidity keeps the richness under control. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Calera 2012 Viognier (Mt. Harlan). As luscious as this Viognier is with tropical fruit, green apple, apricot and honey flavors, it's so ripe and rich that repeated sips become cloying. Brisk acidity helps to balance things out. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

86 Martin Ray 2012 Viognier (Dry Creek Valley). This wine shows the rich, exotic flavors of tropical fruits, peaches, green apples and honeysuckle characteristic of Viognier. The finish is dry and crisp, ending with a hint of spice. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$20

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 El Roy 2012 Nelson Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

88 Bogle 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (California). For full review see page 10. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Kunde 2012 Vineyard Block 4SB20 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). This is a low-production wine sourced from a single block in the winery's estate vineyard. It has a modest oak influence and brisk acidity. The wine is easy to like with tart papaya, lime, peach and vanilla flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22

87 Bernardus 2012 Griva Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). This single-vineyard wine always has a touch of gooseberry, thanks to its origin in a cool pocket of Monterey County. In warmer vintages, that note is controlled. In cooler ones, it's quite noticeable. This year, the wine's tropical fruit and buttery cashew notes have a strong hit of chlorophyll and green grass. —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

87 Galante 2012 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Carmel Valley). The best thing about this wine is the acidity. It's so bright and mouthwatering, it provides a perfect balance to jammy citrus, tropical fruit and peach flavors. Honeyed on the palate, it's a good partner for Cantonese and Vietnamese fare. —S.H.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Bernardus 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey County). This widely appealing wine has bright acidity and ripe tropical fruit and citrus flavors. It's a bit sweet in fruity essence, suggesting pairing with southeast Asian fare, arroz con pollo, or even scrambled eggs and bacon. —S.H.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$18

86 Clos du Val 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Superripe orange, lime, green apple and mango flavors mark this unoaked 100% Sauvignon Blanc. The acidity is bright and clean. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

85 Picket Fence 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Alexander Valley). This is an easygoing but tasty Sauvignon Blanc. It has ripe, forward flavors of orange, mango, vanilla, honey and buttered toast, along with just enough acidity for balance. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

83 Asuncion Ridge 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (San Luis Obispo County). There's a hit of green gooseberry flavor in this dry, tart Sauvignon Blanc. It has enough citrus and tropical fruit ripeness to make it tasty, but it's still a bit green and unripe on the palate. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$25

83 Guenoc 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Luscious peach and mango flavors with a hint of fresh green peas mark this wine. It has enough acidity to balance the ripeness. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

82 Magnolia Court 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast). Ripe and fruity with citrus, apricot, tropical fruit and peach flavors, this wine is brightened by a shower of acidity that keeps it from tasting cloying. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

82 Seven Daughters NV Sauvignon Blanc (California). This is a straightforward but simple wine. It's dry and crisp but a bit watery with lemon, lime and vanilla flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

82 Stickybeak 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). There's a sugary edge to the lime and tropical fruit flavors in this wine, along with a strong note of gooseberry. The combination is edgy. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

80 Star Lane Vineyard 2012 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). There's no oak in this Sauvignon Blanc. It's bone dry and shows crisp acidity. The citrus and gooseberry flavors are green with whiffs of ammonia. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

PINOT GRIS/GRIGIO

90 Inman Family 2012 Pinot Gris (Russian River Valley). This is quite a distinguished Pinot Gris. It has no oak, but you won't miss it because of the richness of lees aging. The result is crisp, dry and immaculate, with luscious grapefruit and tropical fruit flavors touched by a hint of sourdough yeast. The finish is long and impressive. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Manzoni 2012 North Highlands Cuvée Pinot Gris (Santa Lucia Highlands). This is one of the richer examples of Pinot Gris out there. It's a flamboyant wine that's creamy, smoky and ripe, with an array of tropical fruit, citrus, peach, green apple and white flower flavors, as well as a fine, stony minerality. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$26

88 McFadden Vineyard 2012 Pinot Gris (Potter Valley). Softly aromatic of lemon and vanilla, this is a mid-weight Pinot Gris with a whisper of oak and ripe pear. On the finish it gets slightly richer, along with an herbal undertone that begs for fresh goat cheese or oysters on the half shell with a citrus vinaigrette. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 HKG 2012 Pinot Grigio (Russian River Valley). This estate-grown Pinot Grigio takes the variety's basic citrus, straw, green apple and tropical fruit flavors and lifts them with partial barrel fermentation. It's a rich, but balanced, wine for drinking with almost anything. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25

87 Horse & Plow 2012 McFadden Farm Pinot Gris (Mendocino). Subtle and steely, this Pinot Gris is crisp and lemony. It has plenty of citrus amidst a core of herbs and flowers. The grapes are sourced from the organic vineyards of Guinness McFadden in the Potter Valley area of Mendocino County. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 Brassfield 2012 High Serenity Ranch Pinot Gris (High Valley). Crisp, steely and linear with grapefruit and pineapple flavors, this is a refreshing Pinot Gris from one of Lake County's newer sub-appellations. It's an interesting contrast to the winery's upfront and fruity Pinot Grigio. On the finish there's a hint of tree nuts. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22

86 Guenoc 2012 Pinot Grigio (California). For full review see page 10. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Hoyt Family Vineyards 2011 Pinot Grigio (California). There doesn't seem to be any oak on this wine, leaving the fruit to take center stage. It's vibrant with limes, oranges, apricots and green apples, along with crisp acidity and a clean finish. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

86 Les Belles Collines 2012 Pinot Gris (California). This Pinot Gris is quite ripe and soft with flavors of tangerines, limes and papayas, along with a hint of toast and vanilla. It's just a tad off-dry and very easy to drink. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

83 The Loyal Companion 2012 Pinot Grigio (Napa Valley). Good for simple everyday

drinking, this wine is slightly sweet but crisp with delicate citrus, peach, vanilla and honey flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$14

82 Seven Daughters NV Pinot Grigio (California). Everything about this wine is admirable except for the concentration. It's dry and crisp with acidity, but only delicately flavored with citrus, pears, honey and vanilla bean. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

RIESLING

91 V. Sattui 2012 Riesling (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Jana 2012 Riesling (Mendocino County). Austere in style, this crisp, taut Riesling is bright with lemon and lime acidity. Very dry, it is layered on the palate with stonefruit and minerals throughout a long finish. Made by winemaker Scott Harvey, it is blended with a small percentage of Napa Valley Pinot Gris. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Bonterra 2011 Riesling (Lake County-Mendocino County). Bonterra's Riesling is off dry in style with a bright palate full of sweet apple-sauce and floral notes. It's light and crisp with lemony layers that finish long. This is a well-priced Riesling for a range of palates, and made from organically-grown grapes. Pair with something super spicy. —V.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$14

87 Fenestra 2012 Riesling (Arroyo Seco). Imparting a hint of petrol and wax on the nose, this Riesling is thickly textured with flavors of ripe apple, peach and pear. With nice acidity, it finishes dry. —V.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$17

87 McFadden Vineyard 2012 Riesling (Potter Valley). Steely and crisp with lemon and lime, this Riesling would be ideal to sip while making a meal or at a picnic with friends. It's long on the finish with a texture that's weighty enough to go mano-a-mano with spicy sausage or seafood. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

85 Madroña 2011 Dry Riesling (El Dorado). Aromatic with a waft of wax, this dry Riesling is bright with lemon and lime acidity. There's just a suggestion of petrol on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

85 Prager 2012 Sweet Claire Late Harvest Riesling (California). You'll find plenty of honey and brown sugar sweetness in this wine, along with orange, tangerine and vanilla flavors. It's super-sweet, but doesn't have enough acidity for balance. —S.H.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$28/375 ml

83 **Jekel 2012 Riesling (Monterey).** This sweet, simple wine shows ripe flavors of apricots, lemons, limes and honeysuckle. It's soft and sugary. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 **Truchard 2012 Roussanne (Carneros).** Truchard has produced a Roussanne for many years, but the quality seems to vary according to vintage. The 2012 is a very good wine. It's dry, yet honeyed, with orange, peach and white-flower flavors. The texture is creamy, but highlighted with brisk acidity. It would be a great accompaniment to rich, complex dishes, but a simple roasted chicken would be wonderful as well. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

90 **Bailiwick 2012 Vermentino (California).** What a great price for a white wine this crisp and likeable. It's dry, yet rich, with orange, tropical fruit, honeysuckle, vanilla and white-pepper flavors, along with excellent acidity. The grapes come from Paso Robles and Lake County. *Best Buy.* —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Alta Colina 2011 Claudia Cuvée Estate Marsanne (Paso Robles).** The wine was blended with a little Roussanne. It's full-bodied, oaky and rather warm, with orange, papaya, peach, vanilla custard and butterscotch flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$32

88 **LaZarre 2012 Albariño (Edna Valley).** There's a little oak on this wine, just enough to give it a soft, smoky edge. Otherwise, the star is the Albariño grape, tart with acidity and juicy with citrus, green apple, peach and white-flower flavors. Try it as an interesting alternative to Pinot Gris. —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

87 **Calera 2012 Aligoté (Mt. Harlan).** Brisk acidity and dry, somewhat astringent flavors of peach skin, Meyer lemons and honey characterize this wine, made from one of Burgundy's minor grape varieties. It's vaguely Chardonnay-like, yet leaner and subtly oaked, making it versatile with a wide range of foods. —S.H.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$21

87 **Edmond August 2011 Inference Roussanne (Paso Robles).** A drop of Viognier brings a floral, citrusy flair to this wine's rich orange, apricot and oak flavors. It's rich on the palate with a sweet vanillin character. —S.H.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$28

84 **Casa de Arcilla 2012 Garnacha Blanca (Paso Robles).** This is an everyday wine with flavors of sweet-and-sour lemon and orange candy. It will go well with everything chicken—fried, roasted, in tacos or pot pie. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$15

WHITE BLENDS

92 **Marimar Estate 2012 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Grown and Bottled Chardonnay-Albariño (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

88 **Lone Madrone 2012 La Mezcla (Paso Robles).** There's so much complexity on the palate, it's hard to believe there's no oak used in this blend of Grenache Blanc and Albariño. It's a dry wine with flavors of tart citrus and tropical fruit, along with a honeyed finish. Delicious for drinking now. —S.H.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$23

88 **Lone Madrone 2011 Points West White (Paso Robles).** Try this as an interesting alternative to Chardonnay to pair with grilled salmon or chicken. It's rich and creamy, with ripe orange, apricot, mango and honey flavors, but balanced with crisp acidity. The blend consists of Roussanne, Viognier, Picpoul Blanc and Marsanne. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

87 **Clayhouse 2012 Red Cedar Vineyard (Paso Robles).** A blend of Grenache Blanc and Viognier, this single-vineyard wine is soft and irresistible in style. It has the ripe, voluptuous fruit you expect from Paso Robles, flooding the mouth with flavors of peaches, guavas, oranges, vanilla, honey, cream and buttered toast. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$23

86 **Signorello 2012 Seta Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This blend of 64% Semillon and 36% Sauvignon Blanc is direct in style, but it's tasty with flavors of oranges, tropical fruits, apricots and oak. It's prime for drinking now. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

84 **Seven Daughters NV Winemaker's Blend White (California).** Almost every major white-grape variety grown in California is included in this blend. It's a fine effort, dry and brisk with acidity, along with flavors of orange, honeysuckle, apricot and peach. The criticism is a watery thinness on the palate. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

84 **Smashberry 2012 White (Central Coast).** As soon as you pop the cork on this white blend, aromas of limes, oranges, apricots and pears erupt from the bottle. The flavors are quite similar in profile, off dry and boosted with crisp acidity, but finishing a tad watery. —S.H.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$12

SPARKLING WINES

87 **J Vineyards & Winery NV Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley).** A pretty copper-salmon color, this wine is dry and tart with acidity, but rich in feel. It's complex on the palate with flavors of citrus,

peach, orange zest, vanilla and yeast. A minor detractor is the texture, which is a bit aggressive. Drink now. —S.H.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$38

87 **J Vineyards & Winery NV Cuvée 20 (Sonoma County).** Crisp with acidity and yeasty on the palate with a sourdough tartness, this is a polished bubbly with interesting flavors of limes and strawberries. The mousse is a bit rough. Drink now. —S.H.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

84 **Moreno BHLV NV Brut (California).** If you can figure out how to open the difficult closure on this bottle, you'll find a sweet, rather raw bubbly with peach, lime, vanilla and leesy flavors. It's pretty good for the price. —S.H.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

84 **Moreno BHLV NV Rosé (California).** Dark pink with a hint of orange color, this sparkling is heavy and sweet on the palate. It has apricot, orange and yeast flavors, and bubbles that are a tad scoury. —S.H.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉ

86 **Archium 2012 Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley).** This 100% Grenache was aged in neutral French oak. It's dry in style, but rich, with flavors of raspberries, strawberries, cherries and toast. An edge of acidity adds verve. —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$18

PINOT NOIR

97 **Williams Selyem 2011 Precious Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$95

96 **Williams Selyem 2011 Allen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$82

95 **Flowers 2011 Moon Select Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This wine blends multiple clones of Pinot Noir from two of the winery's vineyards, Camp Meeting Ridge and Sea View Ridge. Both sites are high elevation, located only a few miles from the Pacific Ocean and extremely low in yields. Flowers negotiated a difficult vintage deftly with this low-alcohol wine of unusual delicacy and charm. It's complex and layered with cherry, raspberry, cola, wild thyme, balsam and sandalwood flavors. It's texture is like pure silk in the mouth. Drink now–2017. —S.H.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$80

95 **Flowers 2011 Sea View Ridge Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** The most notable thing about this Pinot is its intensity of flavor. A blend of both new Dijon clones and older California selections of Pinot Noir, it is stunning with flavors of raspberries, cher-

ries and Dr. Pepper. It's a balanced, elegant wine with vibrant texture, but needs time to truly shine. Hold till at least 2017. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$65

95 Williams Selyem 2011 Hirsch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 3. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Flowers 2011 Camp Meeting Ridge Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Here's one for the cellar. The deliciousness factor is high, but right now, it's all about intense, primary flavors of red plums, raspberries and mulberries framed within bold oak and tannins (in part due to partial whole-cluster fermentation). Still quite immature, it needs at least six more years to meld, but eventually, it's sure to be fantastic. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$70

94 Flowers 2011 Camp Meeting Ridge Block 16 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). If you can only cellar one Sonoma Pinot Noir from the 2011 vintage, make it this one. It's a big, tight wine with strong tannins, but somehow never loses sight of Pinot's essential delicacy. Despite the dryness, the wine has a luscious core of raspberries, red currants, cola and rhubarbs, along with subtle oak influences. Do not touch this wine before 2017, although it should still be going strong 15 years from now. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Bernardus 2011 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Bright acidity brings a mouthwatering tanginess to flavors of ripe raspberry, cherry, cranberry and mushroom in this dry, low-production wine. It's so easy to drink now, you might not notice the complexities, but they're there. This is a wine to age. Give it 5–7 years at least, although it's likely to be sailing along beautifully in 2021. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Failla 2011 Hirsch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). As good as this wine is tasting now, it will be better still with some time. It's bone dry and silky in the mouth with tart streaks of acidity. The palate is complex with flavors of wild red cherry, cola, raspberry, cranberry, balsam, spice and cedar that evolve with every sip as the wine warms in the glass. Give it 5–6 years to meld. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$70

93 Gary Farrell 2011 Hallberg Vineyard Dijon Clone 777 7% Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Gary Farrell 2011 Hallberg Vineyard Dijon Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

93 Marimar Estate 2010 Mas Cavalls Doña Margarita Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

93 Marimar Estate 2010 Stony Block Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$47

93 Talley 2011 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). This bottling is often Talley's best Pinot each vintage, and so it is in 2011. It's full bodied in style with a dark color hinting at the superripe cherries, raspberries and cola flavors. Yet it never loses Pinot's essential silkiness. Structured and nuanced, it's a natural cellar candidate to drink from 2017–2021. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Williams Selyem 2011 Coastlands Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 5. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$75

93 Williams Selyem 2011 Williams Selyem Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$100

92 Bernardus 2011 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This is a really good Pinot Noir that will gain traction in the cellar. The cool vintage conditions show in the acidity and lean framework, but the California sun triumphs with flavors of ripe sour cherries with suggestions of mushrooms and minerals. Dry and complex, it should be better after 2016. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

92 Cambria 2011 Bench Break Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This is another fine Pinot from Cambria, showing the winery's great price-quality ratio. Words like opulent and elegant come to mind to describe intense flavors of black cherries, licorice, cola, herb tea and Indian spices. It's bone dry, and also quite tannic, but you can enjoy it now with big, rich lamb and beef dishes, or a wild mushroom risotto. Otherwise, it will continue to improve for at least eight years. **Editors' Choice.** —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Dutton Estate 2011 Karmen Isabella Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a standout wine for the vintage, but it's too immature to fully appreciate now. The palate is ripe and rich with cherry and raspberry flavors touched with a briary, sappy aroma. Mushroom and cola notes are dark and brooding, giving the wine the backbone to negotiate the next 7–8 years in the cellar. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

92 Flowers 2011 Camp Meeting Ridge Block 11 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a fine, ageable Pinot Noir that's dry and crisp with acidity. It exhibits a mushroomy earthiness that frames strawberry, cranberry and cola flavors. The window of drinkability begins in 2015. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75

92 Marimar Estate 2009 Cristina Don Miguel Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

92 Siduri 2012 Keefer Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Winemakers fight to get fruit from this coveted vineyard, which famously produces ageworthy Pinots. Siduri's 2012 vintage is surprisingly versatile with lovely raspberry, cherry and cocoa flavors, accented with sweet oak. The balance is impeccable, with fine acidity and soft, refined tannins. You can certainly enjoy it now, but it should also develop well through 2018. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$52

92 Talley 2011 Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). While delicious now with flavors of raspberries, cherries, cola and oak, all showered with tart, citrusy acidity, this wine also has a great future. Give it 6–8 years to evolve in the bottle for further complexity. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Williams Selyem 2011 Bucher Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

92 Williams Selyem 2011 Rochioli Riverblock Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$79

91 Bailiwick 2011 Michaud Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). This wine is a poster child for all those who complain that California Pinot Noir is too alcoholic, rich and oaky. This bottling is quite balanced, with a light, silky texture and complex waves of raspberries, red currants, red licorice and sandalwood. The fruit is a bit fresh and tart, so give it 5–6 years in a cellar to evolve. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38

91 Bailiwick 2011 Silver Pines Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). Lush with fruit and bright with acidity, this tasty Pinot Noir features upfront flavors of raspberries, cola, red currants accented with cedar and exotic spices. It's dry and mouth-filling, and should gradually shed fruit for earthiness as it matures over the next six years. —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38

91 Bernardus 2011 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Brisk acidity, like a squeeze of lime juice, highlights the intense cherry, cola and spicy oak notes in this single-vine-

yard Pinot Noir. Widely likeable yet complex, it's a beautiful steak wine now, and should evolve positively for at least six years. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

91 **Failla 2011 Occidental Ridge Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** You want to give this wine 5–6 years in the cellar, at the very least, to let its components come together. At the moment, it's quite dry, acidic and oaky. Primary fruit flavors of raspberries and cherries should begin to develop bottle complexity by 2017. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

91 **HKG 2011 Twin Corners Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** The old Hop Kiln estate vineyard is located in the heart of the Russian River Valley's Middle Reach. This promising Pinot exhibits the depth and complexity of its terroir with raspberry, rhubarb and pomegranate fruit flavors that have a brooding quality. Give it 5–6 years in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$42

91 **Inman Family 2010 OGV Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** The Olivet Grange vineyard is in the foggy southern part of the valley, where Pinot Noir is seldom opulent in youth. With this cool 2010 vintage, the wine is tightly wound with acidity and tannins masking inherent cherry, cranberry, rhubarb and pomegranate flavors. The official alcohol is a remarkably low 12.5% abv. It's a very fine wine, but you want to give it 5–6 years to come around *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$68

91 **Lucienne 2011 Lone Oak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

91 **Williams Selyem 2011 Eastside Road Neighbors Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$52

90 **Asuncion Ridge 2010 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** This 75-case production of Pinot Noir explodes with flavors of cherries, cola, pomegranates, persimmons, exotic spices and toasty oak. Fine acidity reins all the flavor in, leading to a dry, refined finish. The wine is sourced from grapes in the southern Santa Lucia Mountains. Drink now–2028. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$58

90 **Failla 2011 Peay Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** There's a toughness to this Pinot that suggests time in the cellar. It's tannic and dry, but exhibits concentrated raspberry, cherry and pomegranate flavors, accented with sweet oak. The acidity is strong. Give it at least 5–6 years to come around. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$52

90 **Lucienne 2011 Smith Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 **Santa Barbara Winery 2012 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** This polished Pinot is brimming with acidity. It's bone dry and has a satiny, silky texture that frames delicate flavors of raspberries, cola and spices. A hint of mushrooms suggests pairing with a filet topped with sautéed portobellos. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$18

90 **Talley 2011 Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$36

90 **Williams Selyem 2011 Vista Verde Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Benito County).** For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.7% Price: \$58

89 **Bernardus 2011 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This coastal Pinot exhibits ripeness, but also hints of green bitterness. It's dry and crisp with acidity, and boasts flavors of sour cherry candy, cranberry, baking spice and sweet oak. It's not likely to be a longterm ager so give it 1–2 years and enjoy. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

89 **Failla 2012 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This is a fine Pinot for drinking now. It's dry and brisk with coastal acidity, firm tannins and elaborate raspberry, cherry and persimmon flavors, touched by sweet, smoky oak. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$34

89 **Inman Family 2011 Thorn Ridge Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This vineyard is in the Sebastopol Hills, one of the cooler parts of the valley. With a cool vintage, the wine feels a bit tough with prominent tannins and acidity. It's a balanced, elegant wine, however, with flavors of rhubarb, raspberry and heirloom tomato. Drink now–2016. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$68

89 **Marimar Estate 2010 La Masía Don Miguel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This wine is sourced from grapes grown in an organic estate vineyard in the heart of the Green Valley. Flavors of raspberries and pomegranates are delicious, and new French oak marries seamlessly with the fruit. Vibrant coastal acidity makes everything sing. If there's an off note, it's a mushroom and veggie note, courtesy of the cold vintage. The wine is already softening in tannins so drink now. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$44

89 **Siduri 2012 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Give this soft, polished Pinot an hour or two in a decanter before drinking and let the air work its magic. While it's not an ager, it's fairly tannic, with

rich raspberry, cherry, pomegranate and cola flavors. Makes for elegant, sophisticated drinking now. —S.H.
abv: NA Price: \$32

88 **Bailiwick 2011 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Cola, raspberry jam and red currant flavors meld with sweet, toasty new French oak on this elegant wine. Dry in style, the tannins and acids are a bit tough, but it should drink well now–2016. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$28

88 **Clos du Val 2011 Lone Cypress Ranch Buhman Creek Block Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Dry and silky in the mouth with rich raspberry, cherry, pomegranate and oak flavors, this wine is drinking quite well now. Cabernet specialist Clos du Val continues to make progress in interpreting Pinot Noir's difficult nature. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

88 **Portalupi 2012 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This wine was sourced from the Petaluma Gap region of the Russian River Valley. It's a cool area, exposed to fog and chills, and this wine shows plenty of characteristic acidity. It's somewhat lean in fruit, with crisp cranberry, rhubarb and tomato flavors, but dry and elegant. Pair with a grilled tuna steak or tartare. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$30

88 **Siduri 2012 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Pure, sweet raspberry and cherry flavors mark this polished Pinot. It has fine coastal acidity and the finish is dry despite brown sugar notes. Drink now. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

88 **Signorello 2011 Las Amigas Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros).** With rich raspberry, cherry and cola flavors enhanced by sweet, toasty new oak, this is a delicious Pinot Noir to drink now. It's softly tannic and balanced in acidity. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$64

88 **Stickybeak 2012 Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 **Talisman 2010 Huckleberry's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** It's easy to drink this Pinot now for its light, silky texture and lush flavors of raspberries and cola. There's a pretty touch of sweet, buttery oak, and the acidity is just about perfect. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

88 **Tolosa 2011 1772 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** With bright acidity and balanced structure, this brisk Pinot Noir is ready to drink now. It has a silky texture along with fine flavors of raspberries, rhubarbs and sandalwood. —S.H.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$60

88 **Tolosa 2011 Marley Anne Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** This dry Pinot Noir is mouth-

watering with tart acidity. Fortunately, the cherry and raspberry fruitiness softens and balances the tartness. This is not a Pinot Noir to age, but to decant and drink now with grilled steak. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

88 Williams Selyem 2011 Calegari Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). It takes a lot for winemaker Bob Cabral to allow a vineyard into the Williams Selyem pantheon, but Calegari now joins the thoroughbred stable. The wine shows the exceptional richness and ripeness you expect from a Cabral wine, with ripe raspberry and cherry pie flavors, as well as a strong showing of sweet, smoky oak. —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

87 Asuncion Ridge 2010 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Raspberry, cherry and cola flavors are touched with oak and highlighted by zesty acidity in this lovely Pinot Noir. It doesn't have the stuffing for aging, but drinks well now with a variety of fare. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

87 Bernardus 2011 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This silky Pinot Noir bursts with raspberry, cherry, cola and oak flavors. It's not an ager, but it's soft and silky, and provides immediate Pinot gratification. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

87 Cutruzzola 2010 Gloria Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). With vibrant acidity and a silky mouthfeel, this is a good example of a coastal California Pinot Noir. The cherry flavors have an edge of tobacco, herbs and sweet oak. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

87 Dierberg 2010 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). You might want to give this 2–3 years in the cellar to meld. Currently, the palate is thick and heavy with jammy raspberries and cherries, with quite a lot of new French oak. —S.H.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

87 Evening Land 2011 Occidental Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). The alcohol is refreshingly moderate in this dry, silky Pinot. The flavors are quite complex, suggesting wild cherries and raspberries, mushrooms, cola and sandalwood, with hints of balsam and herbs. The wine should age well, but the acidic sharpness on the finish will always be prominent. —S.H.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$120

87 Frei Brothers 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a highly drinkable Pinot that's vibrant with acidity. The palate is sunshiney and ripe with raspberry, cherry, persimmon and Dr. Pepper flavors enhanced by smoky oak. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

87 HKG 2011 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a pleasant Pinot for drinking now. It's light and silky in the mouth, with raspberry, cherry and oak flavors. Doesn't seem to have the stuffing for

aging, but it will be fine with steak, mushroom risotto, or even a great beef taco. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

87 Lafond 2011 SRH Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Richness and ripeness are immediate draws to this Pinot. It's lusciously ripe with raspberries and cherries, but perky with acidity and a jacket of smooth tannins. It's quite nice to drink now, with everything from pork or steak to pizza. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$27

87 Star Angel by Montes 2011 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A pronounced bite of acidity lends sharpness to this wine. It's dry and complex with flavors of cherries, raspberries, licorice and sweet oak. Finishes on a long, spicy note. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Talley 2011 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). So delicious with fruit and vibrant with acidity, this is a great coastal Pinot to drink now. The raspberry and cherry flavors have a rich edge of sweet, toasty oak. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

87 Talley 2011 Stone Corral Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). The cool vintage took its toll on this Pinot. While its dry, crisp and attractive in raspberries, cherries and oak, it lacks the substance for aging. Still, it shows the fancy elegance of Talley. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

87 The Archivist 2012 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). It's difficult to find a good California Pinot for under \$20, but this bottling pulls it off. The wine is silky, crisp and clean, with delicious raspberry, cherry, oak and spice flavors. It's an affordable wine to introduce a new generation to the joys of Pinot Noir. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 Tolosa 2011 Estate Tolosa Vineyards Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). With tough, dry tannins and lots of fresh raspberry, cherry and cola flavors, this is a nice Pinot Noir to drink now. It's silky in the mouth and has refreshing acidity. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

87 Tolosa 2011 Lily Gil Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). There's a tough grittiness to this Pinot due to tart acidity and green tannins. Yet it has ripe raspberry, cherry and oak flavors that are complex and flatter the palate. It's an elegantly constructed wine for drinking now. —S.H.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

87 Williams Selyem 2011 Peay Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Previous bottlings from this vineyard have been much better. This vintage is intensely ripe, almost Port-like, with cherry pie, cola and red currant flavors, and a hit of sweet oak. The acidity is just fine, but the wine lacks subtlety. —S.H.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$59

86 Galante 2012 Almond Flat Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley). This wine is one of Galante's better efforts over the years, with fine acidity and a silky texture providing a framework for raspberry and cherry flavors. It's a straightforward, simple wine for drinking right away. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

86 Lincourt 2011 Lindsay's Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This oaky Pinot isn't as generous as you'd like a Santa Rita Hills wine to be. It's tightly wound and acidic, with raspberry, cranberry, cocoa and sandalwood flavors. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

86 Talisman 2010 Red Dog Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). This wine shows the Talisman style of ripe, immediate drinkability. It's soft and rich with raspberry, cherry, brown sugar, cinnamon, roasted almond and vanilla flavors, along with some alcoholic heat on the finish. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

85 Pinot d'Oro 2012 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Here's one of the fruitier Pinots you'll ever encounter. It's like diving into a pool of raspberry and cherry jam. There's excellent acidity to balance all that richness, and while it's not a subtle wine, the texture is nice and silky. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$26

84 Cupcake 2011 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). This is representative of the Cupcake style—a Pinot that lush with raspberry and rhubarb flavors, but also decent acidity. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

84 Five Rivers 2012 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). This is a pretty basic Pinot, but for the price, it gets the idea across. The wine is dry with silky tannins and decent cherry, cola and oak flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

84 Grayson 2012 Pinot Noir (California). This isn't the most complicated Pinot Noir, but it is a clean, easy-drinking wine. With raspberry and cherry flavors wrapped into a silky texture, it will be fine to drink with burgers. —S.H.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$12

84 Picket Fence 2012 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This value Pinot Noir is perfectly fine for everyday drinking, with a light, silky texture framing raspberry and oak flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

84 Seven Daughters NV Pinot Noir (California). This is your basic Pinot Noir. It shows the variety's silkiness and crisp acidity, with cranberry and cherry flavors subtly tinged with oak. Good job for the price. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

84 Vinemark 2011 Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). This is a candied Pinot with flavors of pink bub-

blegum, raspberries and strawberries. Give it some time in the glass and drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

83 Chime 2012 Pinot Noir (Carneros). This simple Pinot has decent cranberry, cola and sour cherry flavors, but the texture feels raw and harsh, partly due to acidity and green tannins. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$20

83 Red Rock 2012 Reserve Pinot Noir (California). This is for people who want the basic Pinot experience at an everyday price. It's silky in texture but brightened with tart acidity and jammy raspberry, cola and sandalwood flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

82 Magnolia Court 2012 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). While this Pinot is silky in texture, with pleasant cherry cola and oak flavors, it's a tough wine with a somewhat harsh mouthfeel. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

82 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2012 Pinot Noir (California). Somewhat watery and simple, this Pinot has pleasant cherry, cola and oak flavors. The mouthfeel is raw. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

SYRAH

93 Brander 2011 Colson Canyon Vineyard Clone 7 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This is an amazing Syrah. Few in the history of California have been this dramatically rich and ripe with flavors of blueberries, blackberries, chocolate, currants, cedar and baking spices. Yet the wine is thoroughly dry, and the alcohol feels balanced with a warm, soft mouthfeel. Delicious now and for the next 4–5 years. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

92 Alta Colina 2010 Old 900 Estate Syrah (Paso Robles). This impressive Syrah dazzles with richness. The alcohol is high, but that's the price you pay for fruit this ripe. The heat is balanced by the wine's overall acid-tannin balance and remarkable flavors of chocolate, summer berries, mooshu plum sauce and new oak. Drink soon for its exuberant fruitiness. —S.H.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Alta Colina 2010 Toasted Slope Estate Syrah (Paso Robles). This is the winery's least expensive Syrah, but it's also just about their best. Despite high alcohol, it doesn't feel hot, offering a warm, glycerine richness to complex layers of blackberries, blueberries, mocha, grilled meat, black pepper and new oak. It's hard to see it aging well, but it's a delicious, dramatic Syrah to drink now. —S.H.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Delectus 2008 Mt. George Vineyard Syrah (Napa Valley). This Syrah brings to mind that Sade song, Smooth Operator. It's all velvet in the mouth, with soft, caressing flavors of chocolate,

blackberries and toast. As the wine airs in the glass, the complexities pile up, making it ever more interesting. It's so easy to drink now, there's no reason to age it further. —S.H.
abv: 16.8% **Price:** \$42

91 Four Cairn 2011 Syrah (St. Helena). Smoky, charred meat notes add complexity to flavors of blackberries, cocoa, cedar and spice in this St. Helena Syrah. Its tannic complexity lifts the palate to nobility. Dramatically dark in color and rich in profile, it's the winery's best bottling since 2008. It needs a few years to meld, so drink from 2015–2017. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$38

90 Brander 2011 Clover Creek Vineyard Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Sweet, caramel and oak tones and lush, ripe cherry and blackberry flavors gives this wine a chocolatey deliciousness. It's as rich as any Syrah out there, with complex notes of meat, pepper and mushrooms. Strongly recommended with savory stews. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Brander 2011 Colson Canyon Vineyard Clone 877 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). The 2011 vintage was difficult for lots of producers, but Brander's Syrahs are some of their finest ever. This clone-specific bottling is opulent with flavors of blackberries, cherries, mocha and sandalwood, and accented with a peppery finish. If it was from Napa Valley, it would cost a lot more. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

90 Brander 2011 Sawyer Lindquist Vineyard Syrah (Edna Valley). So rich with cherries, red currants, bacon and pepper, this is a terrific wine to drink now. There's an edge of sweet, smoky oak that makes it particularly enticing, while that Edna Valley acidity is as brisk as can be. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Failla 2011 Estate Vineyard Syrah (Fort Ross-Seaview). Failla's 2011 Syrah is strikingly brisk with acidity, but has a tannic smoothness that makes it velvety in the mouth. Complex flavors of blackberry, blueberry, roasted meat, mushroom, black pepper, balsam and cedar are layered and bright. It's harder and leaner in style than Failla's best vintages, but nonetheless elegant. Drink now–2014. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$62

89 Rockroom Winemaking Cooperative 2009 White Hawk Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). The years have been kind to this single-vineyard Syrah, softening it and lending subtle complexity. It's still rich with blackberries, blueberries and mocha, but the flavors are developing earthy mushroom notes. The wine is at a delicate crossroads and should be opened soon. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

88 Archium 2011 Faction Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). This is 100% Syrah, grown in the highly regarded Stolpman Vineyard. The wine itself is lush

with complex raspberry, cherry, mocha and sweet oak flavors. The acidity is strikingly brisk. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$28

88 Falcone 2011 Syrah (Paso Robles). Here's a fine, complex Syrah for drinking now. It's dry and tannic, with soft heat framing ripe blackberries, cherries and chocolate. The complexity shows as the wine evolves in the glass. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Alta Colina 2010 Block 2 Bio Estate Syrah (Paso Robles). This concentrated wine floods the mouth with flavors of cherries, blackberry jam, milk chocolate, vanilla and toast. The tannins are remarkably pure, and the finish is dry. The one issue is high alcohol, which gives the wine a chili pepper heat. —S.H.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$55

86 Dilecta 2011 Unorthodox Caliza Vineyards / Alta Colina Vineyards Syrah (Paso Robles). This 100% varietal wine shows its warm-climate origins in the exceptionally ripe cherry, blackberry and dark chocolate flavors. It's also quite high in alcohol, which gives it some prickly heat as well as a rainy, Port-like aftertaste. —S.H.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$52

PETITE SIRAH

91 Ballentine 2010 Fig Tree Vineyard Petite Sirah (St. Helena). This is quintessential Napa Petite Sirah. It's the color of a moonless midnight, showing only some purple at the glass's rim. The tannins are huge and mouth-numbing, while the flavors are extravagantly rich with black cherries and dark chocolate. This is a wine you surely want to cellar. Drink from 2016 and beyond. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Delectus 2009 Petite Sirah (Spring Mountain). One of the few Petite Sirahs bearing this prestigious mountain appellation, this wine has benefited from being held back four years before release. It's achieved a softness that makes it drinkable now despite bold tannins. The chocolate, black cherry jam and teriyaki beef flavors are just delicious. —S.H.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$58

90 Proulx 2011 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Credit the complex flavors of this wine to the blend, which consists of Zinfandel, Grenache and Syrah. One-third new oak lends a buttered toast note to flavors of raspberries and mocha. High alcohol brings a pleasant buzz of heat. Delicious for drinking now. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$46

90 Ridge 2011 Lytton Estate Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). Here's a polished Petite Sirah that's soft and richly tannic. It's forward with classic blackberry, currant, grilled meat, black pepper and cedar flavors. Nice to drink now with rich stews, game and hard cheeses, and it will age well for at least eight years. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Galante 2010 Olive Hill Estate Bottled Petite Sirah (Carmel Valley). This bottling wrestles Petite Sirah's brawny, rustic personality into submission. The variety's big tannins remain intact, yet the fruit is incredibly ripe with flavors of red cherries and blueberries. Drink it now and for the next six years. —S.H.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$40

89 Retro 2009 Old Vine Petite Sirah (Howell Mountain). This intensely concentrated wine lifts Petite Sirah above its generally rustic nature. The flavors are impressive, displaying blackberries, dark chocolate, mushrooms and cedar. Tannins are still quite hard, so allow it 5–6 more years in the cellar. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$42

88 Alta Colina 2010 Ann's Block Estate Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). This 100% Petite Sirah showcases the variety's tannins, full body and fruit concentration, with waves of blackberry and blueberry jam, cherry pie, chocolate and new oak flavors. It's too soft to develop in the bottle, but will be lovely over the next year with rich stews and roasts. —S.H.

abv: 15.4%

Price: \$48

88 Clayhouse 2011 Show Pony Red Cedar Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Tasted in October 2013, this 100% varietal wine was jammy with flavors of raspberries, cherries and mocha, with a slightly grapey note like a Beaujolais fresh from the tank. Lay it down until 2017 or so to let it develop. **Cellar Selection.** —S.H.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$40

86 Vinemark 2011 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). This is a soft, fairly simple Petite Sirah, but it's very tasty with flavors of raspberries, cherries and sandalwood, along with a peppery, smoky meatiness. With rich tannins, it will be a nice accompaniment to short ribs or beef stew. —S.H.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$29

83 Guenoc 2012 Petite Sirah (California). The quality is fair for the price on this soft, one-dimensional wine. It has straightforward flavors of sour cherry candy and cranberry sauce. —S.H.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$11

83 Nine North Wine Company 2012 Seven Sinners The Ransom Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). This is a pretty simple Petite Sirah, with rich, soft flavors of raspberry and cherry sour candy. But it has lovely tannins. Cook up a great cheeseburger and enjoy. —S.H.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$16

ZINFANDEL

94 Williams Selyem 2011 Bacigalupi Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$52

92 Seghesio 2011 Home Ranch Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Seghesio's Home Ranch Zin is dependably ripe and blended with a little Petite Sirah for structure. The palate is soft and rather sweet with flavors of black cherry and raspberry, along with hints of mocha, bacon and toasty oak. It should hold for many years but is unlikely to gain complexity so drink now–2014. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$58

91 McCay Cellars 2010 Equity Zinfandel (Lodi). An Eastside Lodi Zin classic with its retention of high acidity and tight tannins, this is a complex wine with spicy leather, black tea and bright raspberry flavors. Elegant, soft and extremely drinkable, it has a smooth mid-palate that lingers to the finish—a parting gift of cherry and vanilla that'll keep you coming back for more. —V.B.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$28

90 McCay Cellars 2010 Trulux Zinfandel (Lodi). McCay's Westside Zin, Trulux, opens with a strong bouquet of red and black fruit along with a suggestion of anise. Inviting, it's structured and smooth in tannins, with a bite of oak on the finish. Earthy and with great acidity throughout, it makes for a great food wine. —V.B.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$32

90 Portalupi 2011 Dolinsek Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Sourced from vines over 103-years old, this wine has unusual concentration of flavor, in the form of black and red raspberries and Dr. Pepper. The wine showcases Zin's briary, brambly spiciness, as well as firm but drinkable tannins. Drink now–2016. —S.H.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$46

90 Proulx 2011 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). The aromatics on this Zin are amazing, ranging from mocha, fresh blackberries and cinnamon, to sweet bacon and Dr. Pepper. The palate is similar in profile, with small quantities of Mourvèdre, Petite Sirah and Syrah added for complexity. While the wine is dry, it has some glycerine viscosity and heat from high alcohol. Drink this Zin with roasted and grilled meats. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$42

90 Renwood 2010 Merida Zinfandel (Amador County). Brick red in color, this wine is pungent with scents of blackberry, blueberry and leather. The palate is thick and concentrated with a Port-like finish. Layers of acidity streak through the midpalate, adding balance and making the wine quite enjoyable with food. —V.B.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$40

90 Seghesio 2011 Cortina Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Sourced from two low-yielding vineyards in Dry Creek Valley, this Zin is heady and delicious with flavors of wild cherry, red currant, cola, thyme, white pepper and sandalwood. There's a glycerine feel from high alcohol, but the palate is balanced with acidity and a dry finish. This just might be the best barbecue wine of the vintage. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$38

90 Turley 2011 Judge Bell Zinfandel (Amador County). This soft, stewy Zin tastes as if it were steeped in black tea and leather, giving it depth and concentration. As it opens, layers of black pepper pierce through, exploding on the finish amidst earthy cedar and sandalwood. It's a fine food wine that'll impress and improve as the meal goes on. —V.B.

abv: 15.4%

Price: \$32

89 Fiddletown Cellars 2011 Jack Rabbit Flat Zinfandel (Amador County). A medley of black fruit and black tea dominate here, with dusty tannins and smooth, concentrated red currants playing second bench. This 100% Zin is marked by its high acidity and a purity of fruit from stainless steel fermentation. Enjoy it on pizza or pasta night. —V.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$32

89 Fiddletown Cellars 2011 Old Vine Zinfandel (Amador County). Chewy on the palate with red and black fruit, this Zin has an earthiness reminiscent of tobacco pipes. Oaky on the finish, it's self-contained and smooth with its peppery spirit riding shotgun. Impressive and readily drinkable. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

89 McCay Cellars 2010 Jupiter Zinfandel (Lodi). Mike McCay is one of the more exciting Zinfandel producers in Lodi right now. The wine is smoky with dark, roasted notes and joyful raspberry and blackberry flavors. There's a light, subtle elegance to its cola and tobacco backbone. —V.B.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$28

89 Renwood 2011 Zinfandel (Fiddletown). Rich, peppery and smooth, this is a nicely developed, elegant Zin. It's leathery on the palate with a finish of rose petals and bittersweet chocolate. —V.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$25

89 Ridge 2011 Ponzo Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This is a good price for a Zin this complex and balanced. Blended with a touch of Petite Sirah, it's dry and tannic, with deep flavors of blackberry jam, currants, teriyaki beef and oak. It's delicious now, but will continue to evolve well over the next five years. —S.H.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$30

88 Courtney Benham 2012 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). It's easy to like this Zin for its rich fruit and smooth texture. The palate erupts with flavors of cherry pie, plum preserves, exotic baking spices and sweet, smoky oak, before leading to a long, satisfying finish. Great with a variety of foods from roasted or grilled meats to beef teriyaki and curry chicken. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$18

88 Kenwood 2010 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). For full review see page 9. **Editors' Choice.**

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$14

88 Lamborn Family Vineyards 2011 The Pupil Zinfandel (Howell Mountain). Lamborn has a knack for Zinfandel grown on Howell Mountain.

The 2011 is dry, tannic and high in alcohol, but also concentrated with flavors of currants, blackstrap molasses, licorice and cedar. It could benefit from some time in the bottle so hold until 2016. —S.H.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$45

88 Renwood 2010 Musician's Zinfandel (Amador County). While thick and viscous with ripe blackberry and blueberry fruit, Musician's Zin is smooth in tannins and texture. Fruit dominates to the finish with a hit of characteristic pepper on the finish. —V.B.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$40

88 Terra d'Oro 2011 Deaver Vineyard Zinfandel (Amador County). This powerful wine is sourced from 100-year-old vines in the famous Deaver vineyard. There's a touch of pepper behind the thick tannins and oak. It's a long lasting wine with leathery blackberry fruit that should come to the fore over time. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

87 Ballentine 2011 Pocaí Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Exceptionally high alcohol gives this Zin a Port-like heat. Yet it shows classic varietal flavors of wild cherries and blackberries, cola and spice. With firm tannins and a dry finish, it would pair well with barbecue. —S.H.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$25

87 Boneshaker 2011 Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 9.

abv: 15%

Price: \$25

87 Fenestra 2010 Zinfandel (Livermore Valley). Spicy with cola and black tea, this Livermore Zin has an earthy touch amid its ripe raspberry and oak. It would pair well with the usual suspects of barbecue and other grilled meats. —V.B.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$26

87 Renwood 2010 Flutist Zinfandel (Amador County). Layered with oak, leather and cigar box, this is a smooth, structured Zin. The palate retains some perfume of red raspberry and dark cherry, but it's quite masculine in its approach and taste. —V.B.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$40

87 Renwood 2010 Grand Wren Zinfandel (Amador County). Encapsulated in a big, beautifully etched bottle with black wax closure, Grand Wren is a grand statement—an explosion of smoke, leather and ripe fruit. It's smooth in texture, but with streaks of bright acidity throughout. The finish is big and bold with a Port-like intensity. —V.B.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$100

87 Ridge 2011 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Soft, sweet and high in alcohol, this Zin-based blend contains proportions of Alicante Bouschet, Petite Sirah and Mataro. The flavors are complex with berries, cherries, mocha and cola, along with some raisiny notes. Drink up. —S.H.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$35

86 Borjón 2010 Reposado Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley (CA)). This Zin is rich with flavors of liqueur and spice with a suggestion of Dr. Pepper. Let this Zin open a bit in the glass. It's softly textured on the finish with a taste of raspberry and vanilla. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

86 Mellowood 2009 Zinfandel (Fair Play). Spicy with leather undertones, this softly textured wine is dusty on the palate and laced with red fruit. —V.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$26

86 The Mission 2012 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This is a good Zinfandel with robust flavors of wild raspberry, pomegranate and persimmon, along with a hint of oak. The tannins are smooth and fine. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$22

86 Wilson 2011 Molly's Reserve Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). The flavors on this big Zin go beyond ripe blackberries and cherries to include currants, prunes and raisins. High alcohol gives it a glycerine sweetness throughout and a Port-like heat. Enjoy it with barbecue. —S.H.

abv: 15.9%

Price: \$50

85 Cycles Gladiator 2011 Zinfandel (Lodi). Perfumed with rose petal and leather notes, this is a classic Zin—smooth, rich with red fruit and cocoa, and with a smoky, oak finish. Fairly priced and ready to drink now. *Best Buy.* —V.B.

abv: 15%

Price: \$12

85 Frank Family 2011 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). This is a good Zin, with raspberry, red currant and licorice flavors. Minty green notes alongside bright fruit lend a slightly unripe or uneven feel. Drink up. —S.H.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$37

85 Grayson 2012 Lot 12 Zinfandel (California). There's lots to like in this affordable Zin. It's robust and juicy with ripe blackberry, cherry, cocoa, black pepper and sandalwood flavors that finish slightly sweet. Nice with pizza, burgers or beef tacos. —S.H.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$11

85 Seghesio 2012 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). A soft, melted mouthfeel and sweet flavors of raspberries and brown sugar mark this Zin. High alcohol gives it some heat, as well as a glycerine feel. The finish is dry. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$24

85 Seghesio 2011 Old Vine Zinfandel (Sonoma County). A simple hamburger or pasta dish is your best bet to pair with this good, straightforward Zin. It's dry, acidic and rather thin with wild berry, raisin, cola and oak flavors. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$38

84 Wilson 2011 Ellie's New Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Glycerine sweetness and

heat are the first things you may notice in this Zinfandel. The alcohol level is an awesome 16.2% abv. It tastes almost like a Port, with blackberry jam, black currant and dark chocolate flavors. —S.H.

abv: 16.2%

Price: \$38

83 Claudia Springs NV Blend 5 Zinfandel (Redwood Valley). There's a streak of rose petal amidst soft red and blue fruit in this Zinfandel. The tannins are soft, and there's not much to offer in terms of spice or concentrated flavors. —V.B.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$20

83 Vinemark 2009 Primitivo (Paso Robles). This wine is medium bodied with spicy, brambly wild berry and tobacco flavors, as well as heady alcohol. It shows some unbalanced green notes. Drink now. —S.H.

abv: 15.7%

Price: \$32

83 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2012 Zinfandel (California). At this price, and with a case production of 110,000, lots of Americans will consider themselves lucky to have a solid red wine like this. It's not terribly complicated, but offers easy flavors of cherries and oak. —S.H.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$8

82 Lone Madrone 2010 Bailey Ranch Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Overripe grapes show in the form of raisin and prune flavors with a slightly bitter tinge. High alcohol lends unbalanced heat to this Zinfandel. —S.H.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$35

81 Beltane Ranch 2012 Estate Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). This Zin is actually a field blend including Petite Sirah, Alicante and Carignane. It's sweet with raspberry jam notes, but also a bit vegetal with flavors of asparagus. —S.H.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$44

MERLOT

90 Ballentine 2010 Pocaí Vineyard Merlot (Napa Valley). This red wine might just make you purr with satisfaction. It delivers everything you want in a Merlot. It's dry, but soft, with plush tannins and rich flavors ranging from red cherries and currants to cocoa, violets and cedar. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$25

90 Keenan 2010 Mailbox Vineyard Reserve Merlot (Spring Mountain). Expensive, yes, but impressive for its deep, long flavors of cherries, blackberries and oak. It's coarsely tannic and bold in profile, but give it an hour or two in the decanter and enjoy with steak. —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$64

90 Trinchero 2010 Chicken Ranch Vineyard Merlot (Rutherford). Exceptionally rich and sensual, this single-vineyard beauty has finely ground, dusty tannins. The fruit veers toward sour cherry can-

dy, with a jacket of sweet, toasty oak. Drink now–2016. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

88 Clos du Val 2010 Merlot (Napa Valley). This Merlot is not a flamboyant fruit monster, but quietly controlled with firm tannins and a hint of mushrooms accenting cherries and cola. Drink it now and through 2017. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Keenan 2010 Merlot (Napa Valley). Keenan has a good track record with Merlot, and here's a lovely one. It's softly approachable despite firm tannins, with flavors of cherries, blackberries and cola, and an earthy note that suggests mushroom risotto. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

87 Frog's Leap 2010 Merlot (Rutherford). You can always count on Frog's Leap to produce a dependable Merlot. This 2010 isn't their best, but it is a great wine for drinking now. The palate is complex with flavors of black cherry, cola, herb tea and oak all wrapped up with strong tannins. It's not an ager, so drink up. —S.H.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$38

87 LaZarre 2010 Merlot (Paso Robles). This wine shows the Paso signature of softness and rich, juicy fruit. The palate bursts with flavors of chocolate, cherry pie filling and spice. It's dry and easy to drink, although it does turn a bit hot on the finish from high alcohol. —S.H.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

87 Matanzas Creek 2010 Merlot (Sonoma County). This Merlot, blended with a little Cabernet Sauvignon, is oaky and fairly hot with high alcohol. But it's delicious with flavors of blackberry and cherry jam, milk chocolate and anise. A fine grilled steak will do it justice. —S.H.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

85 Oberon 2011 Merlot (Napa Valley). For the price, this is a pretty good Merlot for drinking now. It's soft and approachable with cherry, blueberry, red currant and oak flavors, along with a slightly sweet finish. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

84 Magnolia Court 2012 Merlot (Paso Robles). This soft, ripe Merlot is straightforward with cherry, currant and herb flavors, and subtly tinged with oak. It's smooth in the mouth, making it fine to drink now. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

82 Grayson 2012 Lot 6 Merlot (California). This Merlot is heavy, soft and ripe with candied cherry and chocolate flavors sprinkled with cinnamon and nutmeg. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$11

82 Pietra Santa 2009 Merlot (Cienega Valley). So soft and ripe, this wine is dominated

by flavors of mocha, black cherry jam and oak, with a slightly vegetal undertow. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

82 Red Rock 2011 Reserve Merlot (California). Dry, soft and dull, this Merlot has simple flavors of mushrooms and cherries. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

82 Trinchero 2010 Vista Montrose Vineyard Daybreak Block Merlot (Napa Valley). The vineyard is in a cooler area of Napa, and the wine seems to have been the victim of the chilly vintage. Flavors of blackberries have vegetal hints that are distracting. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

81 Cupcake 2011 Merlot (Central Coast). This is a simple, straightforward wine with flavors of cherry juice tinged with vegetal notes and a sugary finish. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

81 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2012 Merlot (California). This Merlot seems designed for folks who like their red wines with residual sugar. It's soft and sugary, with raspberry jam and oak flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$8

80 Seven Daughters NV Merlot (California). This is a simple wine with flavors of red currants tinged with asparagus, white sugar and oak. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Trefethen 2008 HaLo Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$175

94 Yates Family Vineyard 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). The color of this 100% Cabernet is as black as a moonless midnight sky. It's saturated with power and explodes on the palate with rich blackberries and chocolate. Those famous Mount Veeder tannins are tight and astringent, but the fruit is so intense, it busts right through them. This is a seriously ageable wine. Give it at least six years, depending on your taste for older Cabs. It should be going strong through 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Conn Creek 2009 Crowley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain). This 100% Cabernet is so ripe with blackberries, cherries and new French oak, it's delicious to drink now. The tannins are strong, however, leading to a hard finish. Give it eight years to soften and smooth out. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Conn Creek 2009 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Dyer 2009 Dyer Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain). Just about every Dyer Cabernet requires aging. The 2009 bottling is tough with tannins, despite intense blackberry, cherry and oak flavors. The winemaker held it back from release even longer than the 2010, but it's still juvenile, with unintegrated oak, fruit and mineral notes. The window of drinkability is 2015–2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

92 Guarachi Family 2010 Heritage Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is quite opulent, and brimming with flavors of new oak, black currants, blueberries and dark chocolate. While the tannins are thick, they're soft enough to drink now. —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$250

92 Parallel 2010 Fortune Teller Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

91 Aiken 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This ambitious Cabernet keeps up with the best of the 2010 vintage. Made by Beaulieu's longtime chief winemaker, it's ripe and pure with mocha, blackberry jam and sweet oak flavors. Give it 5–6 years to integrate. —S.H.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$135

91 Amici 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This classic Napa Cabernet (with a splash of Petit Verdot) is elegant, streamlined and absolutely lovely to drink now. It's dry and balanced in acidity and tannins, and has rich layers of cassis, mocha, plums and toast. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Benziger 2010 Signaterra Sunny Slope Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Few Cabs in the world are this ripe and balanced. It floods the mouth with flavors of cherries, red plums, licorice and mocha, along with sumptuous oak notes. It's delicious enough to drink now, but the firm tannins suggest 6–8 years of aging. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

91 Draxton 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$36

91 Trinchero 2010 Meritage (Napa Valley). The Cabernet grapes, which account for 80% of the blend, bring intense, nervy black currant flavors, but Petit Verdot also expresses itself in the form of violets. New oak dominates everything, with layers of toast and caramel notes. Give the wine 6–8 years in the cellar to come together. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

90 Benziger 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This is the first, and least expensive, of the winery's 2010 Cabs. For \$20, you get a dry, smooth, opulent wine, filled with classic black currant, tea and oak flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Conn Creek 2009 Saffron Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). This 100% Cabernet is firm in tannins and concentrated with fruit. Flavors of blackberries and black currants have a mineral edge, while new French oak brings sweet, toasty caramel notes. As luscious as it is now, you might want to give it six years of additional age. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 District 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). This classic Cabernet is dry and full bodied with blackberry jam, cassis, dark chocolate and oak flavors. The tannins are quite powerful still so hold till 2019. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Falcone 2010 Mia's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Akin to a reserve, this barrel selection of the best wines of the vintage is pretty close in quality to Falcone's regular 2010 Cab, although a shade richer. Drink soon with char-broiled steak. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

90 Judd's Hill 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This 2010 Cab is smooth and velvety with lush, complex flavors of blackberries, chocolate, cassis and cedar. Your best bet is to drink it now with spicy beef dishes. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Moone-Tsai 2010 Cor Leonis Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This powerful Cabernet is bold in alcohol and ultra-ripe with fruit. The Port-like heat is balanced by luxurious cherry and black currant flavors, and lush new French oak that imparts a soft toastiness. It's hard to see the wine aging beyond 6–7 years, so decant it and enjoy soon. —S.H.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$185

90 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2010 Fay Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This 100% Cabernet is the winery's best amongst their new releases. It's rich and ripe with blackberries and cherries, along with lots of new French oak. It's also very tannic, but the wine isn't likely to improve in the long haul, so enjoy it now and over the next few years. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

90 Trinchero 2010 Haystack Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). Here's a rich, tannic Cabernet that's a good example of a Napa Valley mountain wine. The palate is intense with black currant flavor and relatively high alcohol, giving it body and glycerine sweetness. Enjoy now–2015. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

90 Trinchero 2010 Mario's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This Cab is so dramatically rich with fruit and oak it fills the mouth with waves of blackberry jam, blueberry muffins, chocolate and butterscotch. It's also quite high in alcohol. Your best bet is to give it 3–4 years in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$70

90 Truchard 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Carneros). Far from a fruit bomb, this is an elegant Cabernet with modest but complex currant, black cherry, cola and herb flavors. The tannins are considerable, and so is the acidity. Drink now after decanting for several hours, or allow it to develop over the next eight years. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

89 Galante 2009 Red Rose Hill Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley). There's lots of vitality to this Cab, which was blended with Petite Sirah, Merlot and Malbec. It's complex on the palate with a spectrum of flavors ranging from blackberries and cherries to herbs and mushrooms. It's silky in texture and thoroughly dry in style. Drink now–2015. —S.H.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$35

89 Hilary Goldschmidt 2010 Charming Creek Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This is one of the more affordable Cabernets from Oakville, an appellation not known for value. While it lacks the substance and complexity of more expensive examples, it's still a fine wine, dry and tannic, with black currant and violet flavors. Drink it now. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Kunde 2010 Drummond Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Kunde makes Cabs to drink young for their sheer deliciousness, and this is a fine example of the house style. The wine is dry, softly tannic and balanced, with rich black cherry, currant, cola and spice flavors. A great steak wine. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

89 Trinchero 2010 Central Park West Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This is a good Cabernet, dry and tannic, with classic black currant and tea flavors. Enjoy now with a good decant. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

88 Arrowood 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). With more than four years of bottle age, this Cabernet is soft, elegant and lovely to drink now. It has subtle but complex black currant, mocha and cedar flavors, along with rich tannins that will pair well with steak. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Ca' Momi 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

88 Cass 2010 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This densely concen-

trated wine is intense with blackberry and black currant flavors. The tannins are strong but very finely textured, giving the wine a velvety mouthfeel. It finishes with sweet oak notes and a warmth from alcohol that barbecue will easily handle. —S.H.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

88 Conn Creek 2009 Hozhoni Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Made from 100% Cabernet, and aged in 50% new French oak, this is lush and soft with flavors of ripe blackberries, currants, blueberries and cedar, all wrapped with thick, easy tannins. It should hold fine for the next five years, but is unlikely to gain complexity. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Educated Guess 2011 Hypothesis Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich, sweet fruit takes center stage in this Cab. It's upfront with milk chocolate, blueberry and cassis flavors, and smooth, refined tannins. Drink it now and over the next year or two. —S.H.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 Galante 2010 Rancho Galante Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley). This 100% Cabernet is a charming wine. It's dry and balanced in tannins and acidity, with tasty cherry jam, red currant, rosehip tea and cedar flavors that are drinking well now. —S.H.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$25

88 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2010 Cask 23 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This 100% Cabernet is a blend of the winery's S.L.V. and Fay vineyards, and one of the most famous bottlings in Napa Valley. But the 2010 simply is not in the same league of past bottlings. It's pleasant with rich blackberry, cherry, cocoa and new oak flavors, all wrapped up with fine tannins. But it doesn't deliver that "wow!" factor, especially at this price, and it doesn't seem particularly ageworthy. Blame it on the erratic vintage. Drink now–2015. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$225

87 Clayhouse 2011 Red Cedar Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blended with Petit Verdot, this is a fragrant, opulent wine that's softly tannic and easy to drink. It has deep flavors of ripe blackberries, mocha, violets and smoky cedar. Drink now. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Clos du Val 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The winery's basic Cabernet is ripe with cherries and blackberries, with a veneer of oak and an edge of tangy acidity. It's not an ager, but it's a polished wine, similar to the 2009. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

87 Cynthus 2006 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The 2006 vintage is not a typo—this 100% Cabernet really is more than seven years old. The wine is soft in tannins and oaky with blackberry and cherry fruit that's just be-

gining to dry out. It's an alluring wine to enjoy now. —S.H.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$45

87 Darms Lane 2010 Bon Passe Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). While this is a good, sound Cabernet, it is not the winery's finest effort. Dry in style with black currant flavors that are austere, the wine is more notable for its tannins and acidity. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

87 Falcone 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a dry, crisp Cabernet with blackberry, currant, mocha and oak flavors. There's some real complexity here, but it's not an ager. It's soft in body and evolves pleasantly as it breathes in the glass. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

87 Smith & Hook 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). This is a ripe, enjoyable wine with bright flavors of blackberries and currants. Brisk acidity and thick tannins make this a great pairing with a marbled steak. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

87 St. Supéry 2010 Dollarhide Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With ripe blackberry, blueberry, cherry, cocoa and oak flavors, and smooth tannins, this is a delightful wine to drink now. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

87 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2010 S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is chock full of freshly crushed black pepper and blackberry jam flavor. It's big in tannins, but large proportions of aging in new French oak gives it hints of toast and a caramelized touch. The wine is disappointing given the bottling's history, but it's likely the chilly vintage that undermined it. —S.H.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

87 Trinchero 2010 Cloud's Nest Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). This wine shows the chilly vintage in its linear, focused palate. It has black cherry flavors, infused with notes of mushrooms and tannic green tea. The structure is elegant, but the wine is likely not ageable. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

86 Homage 2009 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). This is a good, if somewhat soft and simple wine, with blackberry, cola and oak flavors. Structurally lean, the palate longs for something to grip onto and doesn't find it. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

86 Moone-Tsai 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The 2010 vintage was not the winery's best. The cool weather challenged the vines, resulting in wines leaner than in 2008 and 2009. While it has some good black cherry and red currant fruit, and lots of sweet oak, this Cab lacks a certain substance and

depth. There's considerable heat from high alcohol. Drink soon. —S.H.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$85

86 Ugly Duckling 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is quite an impressive Cab for the price. It's a little rough in texture with edgy tannins, but the blackberry, tobacco and oak flavors are fine. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Yardstick 2010 Ruth's Reach Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Made by the veteran winemaker Nick Goldschmidt, this is a good Cabernet showing characteristic Napa qualities. It's dry and smooth in tannins, with cassis, blackberry and oak flavors. Overripe in style, it has a slightly raisined feel. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$25

85 Clayhouse 2012 Red Cedar Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a straightforward Cabernet that's dry, tannic and soft in acidity, making it fine to drink now. It has easy flavors of blackberries, black currants and cola. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Courtney Benham 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This is a little aggressive in texture, with simple, sweet flavors of blackberry and cherry jam touched with oak. It doesn't show much Stags Leap character, but it is a tasty Cab for drinking now. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

85 Educated Guess 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Drink this soft, simple Cabernet now with everyday beef dishes. It's a little watery, but dry and clean, with modest blackberry and cherry flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Frei Brothers 2011 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). With production of more than 51,000 cases, this Cabernet will wash down lots of steaks and burgers. It's softly tannic in the mouth, with easy flavors of blackberry tea and oak. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$23

85 Fuse 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Fuse's Cabernet has been better in the past, when the vintages were warmer. This '11, from the coldest vintage in years, is a hard wine to embrace. It's very dry and somewhat sharp, with bell pepper-infused blackberry and olive flavors. Drink now. —S.H.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

85 Galante 2007 Blackjack Pasture Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley). You'll find plenty of blackberry, cherry, currant and oak flavors in this 100% Cabernet. Aging in 100% new French oak gives it that fancy veneer of sweet toast. At six-years old, the wine has green, almost vegetal

notes that seem unlikely to resolve with further bottle age. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

85 Martin Ray 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Decant this wine for a few hours before drinking to allow it to mellow. Straight from the bottle, it's rather harsh in tannins. The fruit is sharp and ripe like cherry-menthol candy. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

85 Rockroom Winemaking Cooperative 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). While this Cab is dry and well-structured, there's something weedy and green about it. It has flavors of dill, mint and cherries, with a sweet oakiness. Drink it now, after giving it some time in a decanter or in the glass. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$48

84 Angeline 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a basic California Cabernet. It's dry and tannic with earthy flavors of blackberries, cherries, sage and toasted oak. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

84 Grayson 2012 Lot 10 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Harsh in mouthfeel, this Cab has cherry, black currant and wintergreen mint flavors, wrapped into firm but fine tannins. For the price, it's not bad for everyday fare. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$11

84 Heibel Ranch 2010 GBH Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The cherry, red currant, cola and oak flavors are delicious on this bone-dry Cab. Structurally, however, the wine is so soft that the palate searches in vain for firmness and grip to complete the flavor experience. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

84 Magnolia Court 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). This rustic Cabernet has pretty good varietal flavors of blackberries and dried currants, enhanced with an oaky sweetness. It's full bodied and tannic, and fine for drinking now. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Pietra Santa 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Cienega Valley). There's something pinched about this wine, due partly to acidity, also a bitterness on the palate. Blueberry and dark chocolate flavors are pleasant, but the mouthfeel is harsh. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

84 Vinemark 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is pretty pricy for a soft, simple Cabernet, but you will find some nice blackberry and oak flavors, wrapped into firm tannins. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

83 Courtney Benham 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With sweet-and-sour cherry and blackberry flavors, this Cabernet tastes a bit

like menthol cherry candy. It's a straightforward wine, but good for burgers and everyday fare. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

83 Kenwood 2009 Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Acidity and bitterness mark blackberry and raisin flavors in this wine, along with a hit of oak and tannins. It's already throwing some sediment and isn't likely to be an ager. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

82 Crush Farm 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a party wine. It's dry, straightforward and rustic, with good enough Cabernet character to pair well with beef. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22

82 Skinnygirl 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a soft and simple party wine with jammy blackberry, cherry and oak flavors. —S.H.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$14

82 The Archivist 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Cherry and mint flavors are pleasant in this Cab, but green tannins give the palate a harsh feel. —S.H.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

82 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Watery blackberry, mint and oak flavors mark this simple wine. It's soft and ripe on the finish. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

RED BLENDS

92 Proulx 2011 Jack Barrett (Paso Robles). Two characteristics make this wine outstanding. One is the sheer richness of flavor—waves of raspberries, cherries, chocolate, bacon and sandalwood that flood the palate. The other factor is the texture, which is soft and velvety. It's an accomplished blend of Petite Sirah, Grenache, Syrah and Zinfandel from Paso Robles. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$58

92 Shafer 2010 Relentless (Napa Valley). It's not just the succulent blueberry, black cherry, mocha, currant, bacon and new oak flavors that make this wine so impressive—it's the structure. The tannins are as gorgeous as Napa is capable of producing, while the acidity is delicate and finessed. The blend is 96% Syrah and 4% Petite Sirah. Drink now after decanting or through 2016. —S.H.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$72

91 Benziger 2010 Signaterra Three Blocks (Sonoma Valley). Ripe with cherries, mocha, currants and oak, you'll be tempted to drink this now. Don't. While it's not a long-term ager, it will benefit from 4–5 years in a good cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Benziger 2010 Tribute (Sonoma Valley). This wine, made from biodynamically-grown grapes, as good as any Sonoma Valley Bordeaux blend has ever been. It's exceptionally ripe and pure with blackberries, cherries, currants and mocha, while oak brings rich notes of toast. It's quite tannic now, so you'll want to cellar it for 5–6 years. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

90 Moone-Tsai 2010 Hillside Blend (Howell Mountain). There's no denying the deliciousness of this Bordeaux blend made from equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It oozes decadent flavors of black currant, cocoa, toasty oak and sweet baking spice. Tannins add astringency, while relatively high alcohol gives the wine a Port-like note. Drink now–2017. —S.H.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$90

90 Proulx 2011 Dimples (Paso Robles). This blend of Syrah, Zinfandel and other varieties shows the lush ripeness and softness of Paso Robles. Raspberries, cherries, pomegranates, red plums, mocha and sweet oak provide plenty of yummy flavor. It's a little hot with alcohol, but immediately gratifying. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$62

89 Asuncion Ridge 2010 Nefarious (Paso Robles). With flavors of black pepper, sweet charred meat, blackberry jam and toasty oak, this is a seriously good wine, reminiscent of the Northern Rhône. There's a streak of tart red cherries and cola that make this luscious wine enjoyable now. —S.H.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$36

89 Clayhouse 2011 Red Cedar Vineyard (Paso Robles). Give this blend extra points for its joyful mouthfeel. It's as soft as silk with flavors of ripe raspberry, cherry pie, cola, grilled bacon, cocoa, baking spice and sandalwood. It's a blend of grape varieties unusual to California like Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Tannat. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$35

89 The Farm Winery 2010 Touchy-Feely (Paso Robles). After three years in the bottle, this Grenache-Syrah blend still needs time to integrate. The core is full of red cherry flavor, but accented with notes of Canadian bacon, cola, black pepper and sandalwood. Give it 2–4 years to let all the parts converge. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Archium 2011 Dissident (Santa Ynez Valley). This is a well-made blend of Syrah and Grenache. On the palate, rich cherry flavor is accented with hints of mocha, prosciutto and rose petal. It finishes dry despite the ripe fruitiness with a streak of tart acidity. —S.H.
abv: NA **Price:** \$32

88 Benziger 2010 Oonapais (Sonoma Valley). Softly tannic, this Bordeaux blend features layers of mocha, blackberries, prunes and sweet oak. It's

a rich wine to drink now. Try with a beef stew accented with fruit. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 Bonny Doon 2012 A Proper Claret (California). This Cab is blended with Petit Verdot, Tannat, Syrah and Petite Sirah to produce a dry, interesting wine. It's silky in texture with flavors of cola, sour cherry candy, prune, pomegranate and raspberry. Refreshingly moderate in alcohol, it has remarkable delicacy. —S.H.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$16

88 Edmond August 2011 Anthology (Paso Robles). The attack on this wine is soft and ripe, but it finishes quite dry. A blend of Grenache, Syrah, Tannat and Cinsault, it's rich and softly tannic, suggesting pairings with beef or game. —S.H.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$45

88 Kunde 2010 202 Meritage (Sonoma Valley). Kunde's house style is exemplified by this dry, complex Bordeaux blend. It's rich and ripe with cherries, black raspberries, cola and sweet oak. Perfect for drinking now with Cabernet-friendly fare. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Ridge 2011 Lytton Springs (Dry Creek Valley). A blend of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Carignane, this wine is dry and rigid in tannins. It's briary and brambly with berry flavors accented with tobacco, currant and spice. There's a raw power to this wine that would suit barbecue or a hearty beef stew. —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$38

88 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2009 Terzetto (Napa Valley). This blend is comprised of equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot sourced from the warm Chiles Valley in Napa. It's a bit hot and prickly with alcohol, but the blackberry jam, black pepper and cedar flavors are delicious. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

87 Alta Colina 2010 GSM Estate (Paso Robles). This Rhône-style blend will uplift an ordinary cheeseburger, but has the complex power to match a big beef stew or game dish. Dry in style but big in alcohol, it's smooth and rich with luxurious blackberry, cherry, currant, mocha, black pepper and oak flavors. —S.H.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$38

87 St. Supéry 2010 Elu (Napa Valley). This is the winery's Cabernet Sauvignon-based Bordeaux blend, containing all five of the major Bordeaux grape varieties. Superripe and high in alcohol, it lacks subtle complexity or ageworthiness. Forward jam, chocolate and oak flavors are undeniably delicious though. —S.H.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

86 Ancient Peaks 2011 Renegade Margarita Vineyard (Paso Robles). You'll find a silky elegance in this robust blend of Syrah, Petit Verdot and Malbec. The palate is robust with flavors of raspber-

ry, cola, persimmon and baking spice, along with big, brawny tannins. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$23

86 Edmond August 2010 Indelible (Paso Robles). High alcohol lends an uncomfortable heat to this blend of Syrah, Grenache and Viognier. Raspberry and cherry flavors are brightened by citrusy acidity. It's ready to drink now. —S.H.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$50

86 Hahn 2011 Winery Exclusive (Santa Lucia Highlands). Massively rich with flavors of raspberry and cherry jam, chocolate, anise and oak, this soft, easy blend is mostly Grenache and Syrah. It's a bit soft in style, but the tannins are fine. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

85 Baux Wine NV Russian River Red (Russian River Valley). Fans of fruit-forward wines will love the masses of raspberries, cherries, blackberries and cocoa in this blend Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Syrah. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35/3 L

85 Claudia Springs 2010 Vittorio's Secret Red Wine (Redwood Valley). This field blend of Zinfandel, Carignane and Primitivo hails from an old vineyard site. Oaky and tannic in a rustic kind of way, it's more savory than fruity, more leather than lace. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$30

85 Hoyt Family Vineyards NV Dylema (California). This is a richly textured, balanced wine that's medium bodied and fruity in style. It's crisp and silky with cherry, licorice, cola and oak flavors. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

85 Smashberry 2012 Red (Central Coast). Smashberry is the perfect name for this wine. Made from an unstated blend of grape varieties, it tastes like mashed, ripe blackberries, blueberries and cherries. The alcohol level is moderate, but gives the wine a pleasant warmth. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12

84 Clayhouse 2011 Red Cedar Vineyard Estate Syrah-Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Sweet oak and rich cherry jam combine to make this blend distinctly candied in nature. It's a straightforward, simple with smooth tannins. —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

84 Dilecta 2011 The Tiller Caliza Vineyard Russell Family Vineyards Grenache-Syrah (Paso Robles). This wine is mostly Grenache, with about one-third Syrah blended in. There are pleasant cherry and blackberry flavors on the palate, but also a mushroomy streak that distracts. It's not likely to improve with age so drink up. —S.H.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$52

84 Edmond August 2010 Soft Letters (Paso Robles). Some overripe raisin and prune flavors mark this high-alcohol blend of Grenache and

Mourvèdre. It's Port-like in its heat and glycerine sweetness, but soft tannins make it drinkable now. —S.H.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$45

84 Red Rock 2011 Winemaker's Blend (California). A blend of Petite Sirah, Syrah, Zinfandel and Merlot, this is a full-bodied red wine that's dry and softly tannic. It's somewhat simple in flavor with blackberry, cherry, raisin, prune and oak notes. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

83 Hahn 2012 Nicky Hahn (Central Coast). Soft and rich, this Rhône-style blend is candied in nature with sugary raspberry, blackberry and currant flavors. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

83 Heibel Ranch 2010 Lappa's (Napa Valley). This basic, oaky red wine tastes overripe and rained with notes of bitterness. —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

82 Seven Daughters NV Rich Red Winemaker's Blend (California). There are seven grape varieties in this blend, including Syrah and Merlot. It's pretty rustic with tart cranberry, mulberry and spice flavors. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

81 Insatiable NV Red (California). This unidentified blend is simple and ripe with flavors of cola and cherry candy. —S.H.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$13

OTHER RED WINES

89 St. Supéry 2010 Dollarhide Malbec (Napa Valley). Despite its strong tannins, this is a wine to drink now—that's Malbec for you, dry, dark and astringent. However, the wine is front loaded with ripe, rich blackberries, blueberries and currants, making it perfect with a great steak. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

88 Flowers 2011 Sea View Ridge Block 19 Pinot Meunier (Sonoma Coast). This medium-bodied wine is silky with rich cherry pie, root beer and sandalwood flavors that finish with a touch of rusticity. —S.H.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$75

88 Trinchero 2010 Central Park West Vineyard Petit Verdot (St. Helena). This varietal Petit Verdot is dry, tannic and oaky, with a linear profile, suggesting violets and cassia. It's elegant and complex, but lacks generosity. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

86 St. Supéry 2010 Dollarhide Petit Verdot (Napa Valley). At 15% abv, this wine tastes frankly prickly and hot. It has luscious flavors of blackberries, red currants, mocha and oak, but that heat detracts from the enjoyment. Drink up. —S.H.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

85 Trinchero 2010 Central Park West Vineyard Cabernet Franc (St. Helena). With cherry, green herb and mint flavors, this Cab Franc is elegantly structured, but lacks the richness you want in a California Bordeaux-style wine. —S.H.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

84 Clayhouse 2011 Malbec (Paso Robles). This dark-colored wine shows Malbec's rustic side, with scratchy tannins and tons of blackberry flavor. It's one-dimensional, but perfect to enjoy with a barbecued steak. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

83 Casa de Arcilla 2010 Tempranillo (Paso Robles). While this Tempranillo is straightforward in style, it does have some good cherry, herb tea and cola flavors. It's rich and soft, but has a pleasant burst of acidity. —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

82 Vinemark 2010 Cabernet Franc (Monterey County). You'll find crisp Monterey acidity on this wine, but otherwise, it's candied in style with flavors of raspberries and cola, along with raisins turning up in the finish. —S.H.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$29

FORTIFIED WINES

90 Williams Selyem 2008 Vista Verde Vineyard Port (San Benito County). For full review see page 8.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$40/375 ml

86 Prager NV Noble Companion 10 Year Old Tawny Port (Napa Valley). Everything about this dessert wine is fine, except for the absence of concentration, which gives it a watery finish. It's sweet, but not too sweet, with a brown sugar edge to the chocolate, cola, cherry and raisin flavors. There's plenty of acidity for balance, and the alcohol is high. If the fruity concentration were more intense, the score would soar. —S.H.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$75

84 Vinemark 2010 Touriga Nacional (Paso Robles). Made from one of Port's best grapes, this wine is sweet and simple. It has sugary raspberry and vanilla flavors, with a sting of heat from high alcohol. —S.H.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$28/375 ml

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

93 Evening Land 2011 Seven Springs Vineyard La Source Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Much like its companion Chardonnay from the same vineyard, this offers tart yellow fruits, a splash of lime and a lick of toasted coconut. What separates the two is this wine's distinctive minerality underpinning

the mouthfeel. The wine spent 11 months in 25% new oak. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Ponzi 2011 Reserve Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 4. **Editors' Choice.**

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

93 Winderlea 2011 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Good fruit sources—Carabella, Hyland and Thistle—along with the craftsmanship of winemaker Robert Brittan, yield a lovely wine with mouth-tickling flavors of sweet-tart Meyer lemon, ripe orange, and candied pineapple. Lively acidity buoys the finish along with flavorful hints of caramel and cotton candy. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$38

92 Evening Land 2011 Seven Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).

Good, crisp flavors of melon and pineapple are the focus here. The acidity keeps the wine fresh and lively, and a light touch of caramel runs through the palate pleasing finish. —P.G.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

92 Shea 2010 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Dry farmed, Dijon clone Chardonnay shines at this estate. It's stylish, sharp, concentrated and deep, matching tart tree-fruit flavors to a broad streak of buttery oak. It's tightly focused and holds through a long finish. This could certainly be cellared for at least a half decade. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Ponzi 2011 Aurora Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The 2011 Aurora Vineyard Chardonnay comes across as super rich, without being superripe—a neat trick. It's lush and toasty from the moment the cork is pulled, showing mixed tropical-fruit flavors buoyed with moderate acidity. The perfumed nose carries through in the mouth, almost like a Gewürztraminer. —P.G.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

91 Roco 2012 Rose Rock West Vineyards Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Still young and tight, this terroir-driven Chardonnay needs further cellaring to show its best. Woody scents top off crisp, persistent tree fruits, with lemony acids propping up flavors. It's dense, compact and unyielding, but clearly the raw materials for ageworthiness are there. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 J. Christopher 2012 Cuvée Lunatique Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). "No oak/No malo" the label proclaims, as if to challenge you to like it anyway. What's not to like? Fresh, leesy notes cleanse the palate, and set up the palate for the mix of melon, blood orange and pineapple that defines the flavors. Without any oak or buttery malo, what persists is the vivid, supple acidity. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Lemelson 2011 Reserve Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A subtle, herbal wine,

this offers cool vintage flavors of cucumber, jicama and green apples. Complex notes of almond, mineral and fresh herbs extend the palate impression. Baking spices and a streak of caramel roll on through the finish. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Longplay 2011 Lia's Vineyard Jory Slope Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).

There's plenty of tart acidity built into this wine, which was fermented in neutral oak. Fruit flavors of apple, pear and pineapple are on display, and the exceptionally low yielding vines (barely one ton per acre) result in a wine with excellent concentration for a cool, light vintage. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

PINOT BLANC

92 WillaKenzie Estate 2012 Estate Grown Pinot Blanc (Yamhill-Carlton District).

Rich and floral, this top-notch Pinot Blanc hits the palate with verve and ripe, complex fruit flavors. There's a streak of delicious vanilla under the honeydew and Meyer lemon richness, and the length and power are especially impressive for a Pinot Blanc. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$21

90 Erath 2012 Pinot Blanc (Oregon). Erath quite possibly makes more Pinot Blanc than anyone in Oregon, if not the entire country. Detailed, fruit-driven and complex, this is loaded with apple, pear and peach flavor, buoyed by firm acidity and finished with a hint of almonds. **Best Buy.** —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Erath 2012 Quail Run Pinot Blanc (Southern Oregon). 100% barrel fermented and aged sur lie with 40% new French oak, this single-vineyard wine is fruit filled with notes of tart pineapple, kiwi and toasty spices. It's medium bodied and creamy in feel with abundant vanilla-oak flavors. —S.S.

abv: NA **Price:** \$22

84 Wetzel Estate 2011 Estate Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). A scent of fusel oil mixes

into this lightly fruity wine, along with citrus rind and hints of almond. —P.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

PINOT GRIS

92 Lemelson 2012 Chestnut Hill Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Chestnut Hill is the winery's highest-elevation vineyard, and in a fine vintage such as this, it merits reserve-level treatment. It would be wonderful if more Oregon wineries made Pinot Gris of this caliber, and could sell it at an approachable price, but it's a tough category. Latch onto this rich and concentrated gem if you can; it's a gorgeous mix of

apple, pear, chalk and lightly toasted almonds. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 King Estate 2012 Signature Collection Pinot Gris (Oregon). This is a classic vintage for Oregon Pinot Gris, and King Estate sets the benchmark. Lovely texture, structure and minerality are on display, along with rich pear and apple flavors sculpted by balancing acidity. The well-defined finish continues smoothly with a streak of fresh lime. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 WillaKenzie Estate 2012 Estate Grown Pinot Gris (Yamhill-Carlton District). Lime and pink grapefruit flavors are etched with refreshing minerality, and the leesy, textural mouthfeel keeps this wine feeling light, despite alcohol over 14%. Drink now and over the next five years. —P.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$21

89 Lemelson 2012 Tikka's Run Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Low-yielding vines

cropped down to 1.5 tons/acre contribute to the length and power of this tart, lip-smacking Pinot Gris. There's a delicious mineral underpinning to the subtle flavor mix of Asian pear, apple and lemon. A nice hint of tarragon also comes into focus. —P.G.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 Acrobat 2012 Pinot Gris (Oregon). Ripe fruit takes center stage in this tasty Pinot Gris loaded with fresh apple, pear and peach flavor. It's full bodied, round in the mouth, ready to drink and flavorful through the mouthfilling finish. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Arbor Brook 2012 Croft Vineyard Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Tart and puckery, this is for acid-lovers. The aromas carry accents of pine needles, while the fruit is headlined with grapefruit and tangy citrus. Very refreshing. —P.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$19

88 Erath 2012 Pinot Gris (Oregon). Bright, polished and fleshy pear flavors hold center court here, supported with a light sprinkling of peppery herb. Proportionate acids keep the wine crisp and clean through the finish. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2012 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is a rock solid Pinot Gris, chunky and fleshy and loaded with ripe fruit flavors. Melon and pear provide the guts, with a lighter streak of jicama and a clean, green finish. There's good concentration in this ready-to-go, all-purpose white for winter. —P.G.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

86 Château Bianca 2012 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The unusual aromas of this wine are a confounding mix of fusel oil and grass, much like a Sauvignon Blanc. The wine has noticeable residual sugar as well. This seems way out of any varietal norm

for Oregon Pinot Gris, but other than that, it's perfectly quaffable. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

84 Del Rio Vineyards 2012 Pinot Gris (Rogue Valley). This is a moderately aromatic wine with notes of pear, flowers and applesauce. It drinks a hair off dry (4 g/L residual sugar), finishing on a bitter note. —S.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

84 Portlandia 2012 Pinot Gris (Oregon). There is a bitter, metallic flavor that sticks in the mouth here, long after the fresh green-apple flavor has faded. This is sealed with a screwcap, so there is no suspect cork. Basically, it's a simple, generic white wine. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

RIESLING

90 Lemelson 2012 Dry Riesling (Willamette Valley). This wine has just enough residual sugar to take it to the upper threshold of dry. It's quite full flavored with a thirst quenching mix of citrus, apple and pineapple. Crisp acidity enhances the freshness and contributes a tangy, lemony kick to the finish. —P.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

89 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2012 Riesling (Willamette Valley). This shows Spatlese-level sweetness (46 g/L) and alcohol (8.7%). It's poised with moderate acidity and a soft, elegant entry. Flavors of oranges and peaches are underscored with light minerality. A fine, yet straightforward sipper, it persists generously on the palate. **Best Buy.** —P.G.

abv: 8.7% **Price:** \$14

88 Gresser Vineyard 2012 Recumbent Riesling (Chehalem Mountains). A deep straw color, this ready-to-drink Riesling is scented with wet rock, bee pollen, and ripe, yellow apples. Flavors are tart despite the 10 g/L residual sugar. It's fruity, flavorful and quite ready to drink up. —P.G.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$18

86 Château Bianca 2012 Riesling (Willamette Valley). Sugary and thin, this has a light mix of citrus flavors—lemon and lime—and a hint of pineapple. It's a pleasant wine, but not up to previous efforts from Chateau Bianca. —P.G.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 J. Christopher 2012 Croft Vineyard Über-Sauvignon Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). This particular cuvée is fermented in a large acacia barrel which helps to round out the fruity flavors without sacrificing focus or precision. It's pleasantly grassy, with a strong pineapple flavor at the core. With excellent length, structure and mouthfeel,

this wine could be cellared for another five or six years.

Editors' Choice. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 J. Christopher 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). If aiming for a Loire-style Sauv Blanc, this wine hits it right on target. Saline, crisp and steely, it's got great concentration, length and purity. Sappy citrus, orange peel and grapefruit combine in a bracing, thoroughly delicious and refreshing wine. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 J. Christopher 2012 Croft Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). One of three Sauvignon Blancs from J. Christopher, this limited-quantity, single-vineyard bottling mixes pretty citrus fruit with lightly grassy, herbaceous elements. Nothing is overblown, and everything combines into a seamless, fresh, delicious wine with oyster-shell minerality. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

GEWURZTRAMINER

86 Château Bianca 2012 Gewurztraminer (Willamette Valley). The lightly floral, soapy aroma of this wine shows some varietal character. The palate is buttressed with flavors of talc and a wash of rose water. The complexity stops there, and this seems to be a wine that should be consumed within the first year or two. **Best Buy.** —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

84 Wetzel Estate 2010 Estate Gewurztraminer (Willamette Valley). This is a somewhat bitter and thin wine on entry. Lemon flavors are closer to skin and pith than ripe flesh, and there is little to suggest varietal specificity here. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉ

87 Acrobat 2012 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Oregon). This wine bursts with the scents and flavors of fresh strawberries. It's soft and fruity but finishes dry, with flavors gently turning from berry to cherry candy. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

PINOT NOIR

94 Shea 2010 Block 33 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Here's a rich, full-bodied wine that rolls from the first floral sniff into a wellspring of deep, briary, berry-cherry fruit. Peppery spices and dried Mediterranean herbs meld on an endlessly fascinating finish that promises decades of development ahead. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

94 Sineann 2012 Yates Conwill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton District). Yates Conwill is next to the Resonance vineyard, which was

just sold to Burgundy's Louis Jadot. This vineyard is really reaching its prime, showing lovely ripe flavors of raspberry, red plum and sweet cherry. Generous acidity keeps the wine in proportion and leads through a generous midpalate with highlights of black tea and dried herb. Drink now and over the next 10 years. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Sineann 2012 Resonance Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton District). This vintage will be the last Resonance bottling under the Sineann label, as the vineyard has been sold to Burgundy's Louis Jadot. This delicious, ripe, detailed wine bursts with mixed red fruits. It's a lovely way to say goodbye, good luck and bon chance with the new owners. The perfectly ripened fruit is accented with toast, sandalwood and mocha as it heads into a deep, concentrated and lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

92 J. Christopher 2011 Bella Vida Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Bella Vida replaces the Abbey Ridge bottling and does so with pizzazz. The best of the 2011 releases, this is a beautiful expression of grapes grown on red clay soils, with refined, deeply penetrating flavors of ripe raspberries. Smooth, supple and long, with uncommon purity, it finishes with a kiss of chocolate from 18 months in one-quarter new oak barrels. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

92 Lemelson 2011 Stermer Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The organically-farmed Stermer vineyard really shines in this wine from a difficult vintage. Savory notes surround pretty cherry flavors, creating an elegant, complex and refined Pinot with additional highlights of licorice and black tea. A pat of butter resonates through the lingering finish. This could prove wonderfully ageworthy given its balance, depth and structure. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Ponzi 2011 Abetina 2 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The most floral of Ponzi's single-vineyard Pinots, this is a delicate and yet powerful wine, scented with lavender and roses, and displaying bright, clean raspberry fruit. Stiff acids and grippy tannins support a wine that is locked down tightly and needs decanting and/or aerating to open up. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

92 Shea 2011 Block 23 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Block 23 vineyard consists of Pommard-clone Pinot Noir. The resultant wine keeps a tight focus on lovely raspberry and cherry flavors. Ample acidity supports the fruit, giving it a crisp, clean and fresh mouthfeel. It's racy, lightly spicy, and beautifully balanced. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$60

92 Shea 2011 Homer Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Homer is the estate reserve, and it's a complete, elegant and stylish wine, that is still in its infancy. Pretty baking spices wrap around tart cherry

flavors. There's superb balance among components of fruit, herb, acid and tannin, and it's got excellent length, proportion and detail. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$86

92 Winderlea 2011 Winderlea Legacy Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The Legacy bottling is sourced from 20-year old vines from the estate vineyard. Elegant and tart, this complex wine brings bright flavors of raspberry into focus with hints of biscuit, vanilla and milk chocolate. After being open a full 24 hours, it gained further complexity and fleshed out nicely. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75

91 Evening Land 2011 Seven Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This is a medium-bodied wine, showing tangy flavors of rhubarb and red berries. There's a strong herbal streak, reminiscent of pine needles and lemon oil. But the balance and length are just right, and the wine is complex and interesting. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Lemelson 2011 Jerome Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). As with all of Lemelson's 2011 Pinots, this Jerome Reserve shows the strengths, rather than the limitations, of the cool vintage. It's light in color and mouthfeel, but not lacking in detail or length. Citrus and cherry, Asian spices and light herbs are all in play, with a delicacy not always found in Oregon wines. Give it a good decanting. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Lemelson 2011 Meyer Vineyard Powell Hill Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A specific block called Powell Hill is the source for this limited-availability bottling with textured, nuanced flavors that validate the selection. For lovers of subtle, cool-vintage Oregon Pinot, this is near perfect, showing flavors of tart pomegranate, clean earth, sandalwood and citrus. The tannins need a bit of softening up at this point, but this should easily age for a decade or longer. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

91 Ponzi 2011 Vigneto Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Sourced entirely from the Alloro vineyard, this bottling offers complex and detailed scents of cinnamon and cedar along with plummy fruit. It's tart and spicy with light touches of black tea, tobacco, clean earth and espresso. Drink now and over the next five or six years. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$75

91 Roco 2011 Private Stash #9 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton District). Burgundian in every way, this deceptively light (in color, alcohol and impact) wine rewards your attention with its finesse and complexity. Rhubarb, pomegranate, peppermint, earth and savory herbs are all highlights, and the length is equally impressive. It's low in alcohol, but high in aging potential. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Shea 2011 West Hill Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Sourced from a delineated section of this sloped, expansive vineyard, this Pinot has a fair amount of peppery herb, along with brambly berry flavor. It's tart, spicy and sharp, but beautifully balanced. Still quite young and tight, this one needs plenty of breathing time, or cellar it for a few more years. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 Winderlea 2011 Winderlea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Tart berry flavors, tangy acids, and subtle barrel flavors of caramel and clove bring complexity and detail to this well-balanced, ageworthy wine. —P.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$54

90 Arbor Brook 2011 Vintner's Select Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The Vintner's Select is the winery's reserve-level Pinot Noir, and shows the most complexity. An aromatic mix of tea and dried roses leads into detailed flavors of tobacco, saffras, cola and clean earth. The fruit is a tart blend of rhubarb and raspberry, and the balance is right on. This should drink well over the next 5–7 years. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

90 Evening Land 2011 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Spicy and peppery from the start, this cool vintage Pinot is decidedly herbal with a pine needle sharpness. The tart, brambly red fruit flavors show medium concentration and fine balance overall. —P.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Evening Land 2011 Seven Springs Vineyard La Source Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Estate-grown and farmed organically and biodynamically, this wine spent 16 months in 30% new French oak barrels. Tart cranberry and raspberry flavors lead into bold tannins, with finishing with notes of earth and green tea. —P.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$70

90 J. Christopher 2011 Lia's Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). At first this wine seems rather light, with pretty flavors of bramble and wild strawberries. A light dusting of baking spices ensues, and slowly (over many hours) more details come into focus—fresh herbs, chocolate and cherries. There is more here than meets the eye, for those willing to give it some extra time. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

90 J. Christopher 2011 Olenik Vineyard Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This single vineyard selection opens with tightly-focused raspberry- and cherry-candy flavors, wreathed in dried herbs, notably rosemary and thyme. Pepper and cinnamon spices appear as the wine opens, along with tasty highlights of nougat and chocolate. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

90 Lemelson 2011 Thea's Selection Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Lemelson's other Pinots are single-vineyard selections—Thea's is the master blend. Still tightly wound, it offers scents of caraway, coffee and brown spices, along with tart cranberry.

It's nicely crafted, taking full advantage of the delicacy of the 2011 vintage. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Longplay 2011 Lia's Vineyard Jory Bench Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is a well crafted, aromatic reserve, crafted in a pretty style that brings scents and flavors of fresh raspberries and candied cherries to the fore. Streaks of cola and clean earth add some depth to the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

90 Shea 2011 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a multiple-clone bottling, drawn from numerous blocks of the 200-acre Shea vineyard. It opens with lush aromatics, then flavors of rhubarb, berry, citrus, pine needle and a sprinkling of dried Italian herbs that combine gracefully and carry through a long finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Sineann 2012 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Peter Rosback's Oregon bottling combines fruit from numerous sites, and stands in perfect contrast to his numerous single vineyard Pinots. Fruit forward and showing lovely grace notes of leaf and herb, this is drinking beautifully already. Although it needs no further aging, it will certainly keep nicely over the next five years. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2011 Elton Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). All of the single-vineyard Pinots from WVV are low in alcohol in 2011, and in some instances, it works in their favor. This Elton bottling is focused and moderately tannic. That tannic grip underscores cherry flavors and holds your attention. A hint of pine needle slips in, adding complexity. This could be cellared another five or six years. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Winderlea 2011 Dundee Hills Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Classic, elegant Pinot Noir aromas introduce this delightful wine. Whiffs of flowers, citrus and fresh herbs accompany a tart, pretty palate with nuanced rhubarb, cranberry and raspberry flavors. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

90 Winderlea 2011 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton District). Scented with herbs, pine needles and a hint of pepper, this has a solid core of tart, wild-cherry fruit. The tannins are drying and show some stem flavors, but as the wine breathes it smoothes out and softens up. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$48

89 Del Rio 2010 Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). This impressive wine is proof of what the Rogue Valley can produce. With abundant notes of sarsaparilla, cherry, and mint, it's elegant in style with rustic tannins that need some time to fully resolve. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

89 Erath 2011 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Production is up for this young Oregon Pinot Noir. It clearly captures the Oregon style with flavors of bright berry and ample Italian herbs. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

89 Erath 2011 Estate Selection Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The 2011 Estate Selection brings flavors of rhubarb, citrus and tart raspberry, along with suggestions of pine needles and chocolate. It's well structured and proportionate—a good reflection of the vintage and Willamette Valley-style Pinot Noir. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

89 J. Christopher 2011 Lumière Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This Pinot Noir offers zippy acidity and floral hints of roses and violets. The bright raspberry flavors are set in a delicate frame of one-quarter new French oak. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Lemelson 2011 Meyer Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Lush aromatics veer into the realm of the exotic with notes of Asian spices, incense and sassafras, elevating this textural wine with a spot-on acid-tannin balance. Cranberry and black cherry flavors are set against baking spices, with a dusting of cinnamon. Drink it soon while it's in the freshness of youth. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Longplay 2011 Lia's Vineyard Hi-Tone Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This cuvée features grapes from some of the vineyard's oldest vines. It's a light, elegant mix of pomegranate and cherry pie flavors with plenty of natural acidity behind it. Cola and dried herb highlights add complexity, and a persistent minerality buoys the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Ponzi 2011 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This bottling occupies the middle step between Ponzi's Tavola and reserve-level Pinots. A complex bouquet brings nutmeg, sandalwood, cola and cacao to the forefront, with a mélange of fruits following. More than a dozen vineyards contribute grapes to this blend. It's skillfully assembled and seamless, with moderate alcohol. Drink now and over the next 3–5 years. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

89 Ponzi 2011 Aurora Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). While lean and a little thin at first, the Aurora offers cranberry and raspberry flavors with warming accents of baking spices. It's well balanced and has some interesting herbal nuances along with persistent tannins. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

89 Raptor Ridge 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Though labeled a reserve, this is quite light and low in alcohol, much like the estate bottling. Tart acidity, tannins and brambly berry

notes highlight this young, elegant wine. Drink over the next five or six years. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Roco 2011 Clawson Creek Vineyards Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton District). Cola, earth, iron and spice flavors rise prominently on this Pinot Noir. The fruit remains secondary, but it's a detailed, tasty effort with appealing minerality. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Siduri 2012 Shaw Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Loganberry and black plum flavors are spicy and mouthfilling in this Pinot Noir, and accented with some woody, earthy tannins. Herbal highlights come up in the finish. Overall this is a well-crafted, detailed, and balanced wine, fine for drinking over the next five years. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$39

89 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2011 Hannah Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Hannah is a particular block from the winery's Tualatin Estate, and shows cool-climate fruit flavors of rhubarb and pomegranate. A light dusting of brown spices and toasted walnuts add complexity. Overall, it's a fine effort in a difficult year. —P.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$48

88 Arbor Brook 2011 Estate 777 Block Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Sourced from a 2001 planting of Dijon clone 777 vines, this is a dry, slightly leathery wine with tight flavors of dried figs dusted with cocoa and coffee grounds. It shows moderate depth and length, and seems ready for near-term drinking. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

88 J. Christopher 2011 Nuages Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The name comes from a Django tune, and also means "clouds" in French. Nothing cloudy here though—it's a pretty, lively, fruit-driven blend with cherry candy flavors. Crisp and fresh, a streak of cola runs comet-like through the tail, along with a hint of mint. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 J. Christopher 2011 Sandra Adele Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This cuvée is not as ripe as it was in the 2010 vintage. It has a pleasant tomato-soup character—a mix of ripe tomato and light, fresh flavors of basil and cilantro. It also has plenty of tart cherry flavors filling in the midpalate, and is well proportioned for drinking over the next few years. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

88 J. Christopher 2011 Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This blends together grapes from several vineyard sites in three AVAs. It opens with a bouquet of milk chocolate and mocha, leading to a tart cranberry flavor. There's are hints of herb and bark in the finish. This is designed (successfully) as a fruit-driven, drink-now style of Oregon Pinot. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Patton Valley 2011 10 Acre Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Planted in 1997, this is the winery's oldest estate vineyard. Opening flavors suggest cola and halvah (a sesame-based candy). Wild berry flavors are light and yet persistent with bright acidity. —P.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$50

88 Patton Valley 2011 The Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This pleasing blend of Pinot Noir from estate-grown fruit is light and undeniably pretty. Rhubarb and raspberry flavors are backed with vivid acids. It's a wine from a challenging vintage, and the native yeast ferment seems to have contributed to its length and detail. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

88 Raptor Ridge 2011 Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This young, tightly-wound Pinot has juicy cranberry and raspberry flavors, plenty of acidity, and some toasty highlights. It's certainly on the light, elegant side, owing to the cool vintage. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Roco 2011 Marsh Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton District). Ripe and fruity from first sniff through the last swallow, this front-loaded effort seems to thin out fairly quickly, leaving a trail of brown spices and earthy tannins. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Siduri 2012 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This entry-level Oregon Pinot from Siduri captures the generous fruit of the 2012 vintage with a mix of berries, cherries and red plum, balanced with juicy, citrusy acids. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

88 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2011 Signature Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The winery identifies this as their reserve-level wine, giving it 14 months in 50% new French oak barrels. Raspberry and cherry flavors are prominent, along with scents and flavors of cookie dough. The wine has moderate depth and length, although the tannins turn a little bitter. Some additional bottle age should help smooth it out. —P.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$60

87 Arbor Brook 2011 Origin 1866 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Soft scents of lavender introduce this pale rose-colored Pinot Noir. It's a light, elegant wine with clean, tart flavors of rhubarb and sour cherry that don't reflect the stated alcohol of 13.9% abv. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

87 J. Christopher 2011 Dundee Hills Cuvée Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Bracingly tart, almost to the verge of tasting sour, this blend of grapes from several Dundee Hills vineyards has cool vintage flavors of spiced apple and rhubarb. The acids rule, suggesting that it be paired with fatty fish like salmon. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

87 Longplay 2011 Lia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Winemaker Jay Somers has done a nice job with this fruit, crafting a light, but elegant wine with a mix of cherry, cola, spice and milk chocolate flavors. The grapes come from recently-planted vines in the estate vineyard. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

87 Patton Valley 2011 Lorna Marie Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Lorna Marie is the winery's reserve-level bottling, and gets the most new oak, about 60%. In this vintage, the fruit seems a bit thin, almost watery, although with some hours of breathing it gains some palate traction. It's well made, but don't look for reserve-level heft. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

87 Patton Valley 2011 West Block Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A gentle undertone of clay soils permeates this delicate effort. Raspberry and rhubarb flavors are light and slightly peppery, and the low alcohol keeps everything in proportion. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

87 Portlandia 2011 Pinot Noir (Oregon). This new entry into the value-wine sweepstakes is a pretty rose color, offering clean, light scents of wild berry and milk chocolate. Flavors are gently spicy with a malty finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

87 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2011 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Pulled together with fruit from a mix of estate vineyards, this wine boasts delicate flavors of raspberry and pomegranate with light accents of barrel toast, along with substantial acidity. It's tart, clean and simple. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2011 Tualatin Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Scents of roses and cherries fill the nose, followed by raspberries and light milk chocolate in the mouth. There's a suggestion of wet stone also. The balance is good, although the wine skirts the edge of being a bit too thin on the finish. —P.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$48

86 Acrobat 2012 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Deep in color and lushly scented, this wine speaks of moist earth, dark chocolate and black cherry. While the start is promising, the palate falters a bit as the wine thins out and quickly loses its fruit. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

86 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2012 Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Carbonic maceration is the fermentation technique employed in this wine. It brings out vibrant Bing-cherry flavors and with a hint of bread dough. There are interesting highlights of cured meats also. This is a good choice for drinking with roasted birds. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

84 Wetzel Estate 2010 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The fruit fla-

vors never get past light, tart cranberry in this wine, and there is an earthy tinge that runs through the palate and into the finish. It's thin and tannic in style. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

83 Château Bianca 2012 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The quality at this winery seems to have slipped down a few gears in 2012. This earthy, funky effort has a whiff of the barnyard about it, and a touch of volatility also. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

SYRAH

96 K Vintners 2009 The Hustler Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). As with previous vintages, this rare wine spent 38 months in barrel. Smooth and supple, it's a lush expression of purple and black fruits, generously endowed with darker flavors of smoke, tar, soy and licorice. There is a compelling, yet subtle, umami character overriding all else. It's drinking quite beautifully now, but could age considerably longer. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

94 K Vintners 2010 The Beautiful Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Co-fermented with 3% Viognier, this Tablas clone Syrah offers red and purple berry flavors that are deep and pure. Snappy and focused, it's layered with notes of smoke, dust, citrus, blood orange, baking spices and mineral. Beautiful indeed. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 K Vintners 2010 Old Stones Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Sourced from a young vineyard in the region known as the Rocks, this has a distinct umami character along with brambly berry flavors and a dash of pepper. Give it time to breathe and it gains flesh and depth. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

RED BLENDS

96 K Vintners 2010 The Creator Old Stones Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This delicious blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Syrah, sourced from the Old Stones vineyard. Young, tight and peppery, it gains briary boysenberry flavors as it opens up, along with hints of soy and umami. A streak of maple syrup richness fills out the finish. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Tamarack Cellars 2009 Seven Hills Vineyard Reserve Red (Walla Walla Valley). This is principally Cabernet, with just small amounts of Merlot and Petit Verdot in the blend. Still remarkably young and tightly-wound, it's showing tart cherries, violets and blueberries, along with bracing acidity and minerality. The finish is both elegant and intense, lingering long after the last sip. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

87 Jaxon 2011 Tradición (Rogue Valley). Made from equal proportions of Tempranillo and Garnacha from the winery's estate vineyard, this young wine is barrel forward with notes of char, toast and mocha. The fruit flavors are light and juicy with cranberry and barrel spices extending through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$32

86 Gresser Vineyard NV Recumbent (Oregon). Pinot Noir is not often blended (Champagne being the clear exception), but here it is partnered with 23% Syrah from Southern Oregon. The results are mixed, with neither grape showing much varietal character. A lightly fruity, cherry-flavored red, it finishes with some stiff tannins. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

84 Del Rio 2010 Claret (Rogue Valley). Coming from the cool 2010 vintage, this blend of half Merlot along with four other Bordeaux grape varieties brings notes of toast, bittersweet chocolate, citrus and cranberry. It's tart and puckering with tightly wound tannins that need time to resolve. —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$35

OTHER RED WINES

92 Sineann 2012 Old Vine Zinfandel (Columbia Valley). Sourced from The Pines vineyard on the Oregon side of the Columbia Valley, this is a wonderful anomaly for Zin lovers. Loaded with ripe, sweet fruits and accented with a wash of bourbon barrel, this is a riot of blackberry, boysenberry, black cherry and cassis flavors. Just a dash of milk chocolate seeps into the finish. It's too yummy not to drink this up while it's in the first flush of youth. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$39

91 K Vintners 2010 Guido Sangiovese (Walla Walla Valley). From Jack's Vineyard (formerly Lefore), this was planted in 1997, with cuttings from Leonetti. It has some of the leafy, crunchy character of Brunello, along with high acidity and a pretty mix of strawberry and red plum flavors. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Jaxon 2011 Grenache (Rogue Valley). Light in color, this is a revelation for this young growing region. The wine has complex notes of peppery spice, citrus and raspberries. It's light and delicate in style with tart cranberry flavors and fine grained tannins that still need some time to fully flesh out. An impressive effort, especially considering the challenges of the vintage. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

88 RoxyAnn 2011 Merlot (Rogue Valley). Blended with 16% Cabernet Sauvignon and aged in a mixture of French and American oak (50% new), this wine highlights notes of raspberries and cream speckled with oak spices and an herbal edge. The palate is light and elegant in style while still retaining a sense of depth, plushness and balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25

85 Jaxon 2011 Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). Though aged in just 20% new French oak, the wood seems to take over much of the show in this young wine. Notes of char, caramel, and sawdust accompany tobacco and dark berry aromas and flavors. The fruit flavors are light and citrusy with a spice filled finish and a gritty feel to the tannins. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

84 Del Rio 2011 Del Rio Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Rogue Valley). 100% varietal, this wine brings notes of freshly mortared herbs, jalapeño, black olive and wet stone. It's light, tart and fresh with a chalky feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$28

83 Del Rio 2011 Estate Grown Merlot (Rogue Valley). Coming from the cool 2011 vintage, this 100% varietal wine doesn't seem entirely ripe with notes of green herbs, poblano and red fruit. It's tart and plump in feel with chalky tannins. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

SPANISH WHITE WINES

RÍAS BAIXAS

90 Nora 2012 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This is a faultless Albariño that checks out up front, on the palate and late in the game. Tropical aromas are melony, fresh and mineral. The mouth is peachy and smooth in texture, with kicking acidity. Pithy citrus and nectarine flavors are textbook, and the citrusy finish is long and true. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

89 Nora 2012 Peitán Albariño (Rías Baixas). Clean, approachable apple aromas are fresh and basic. This is just round enough in the mouth, with popping acidity and kick. Flavors of green apple, nectarine and citrus fruits are harmonious, while the finish is clean and mild. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Kentia 2012 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This is a fairly neutral yet clean Albariño. The nose offers mild peach and citrus aromas, while the palate is very citrusy, but not overbearing. Flavors of orange and nectarine finish zesty, with a hint of minerality. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

88 Lusco 2012 Zios Albariño (Rías Baixas). Mellow aromas of lees and white flowers shade simple citrus and melon scents. This is juicy and fresh in the mouth, with citrusy acids pushing tangerine and white grapefruit flavors. A citric finish is fresh but basic. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Marqués de Cáceres 2012 Deusa Nai Albariño (Rías Baixas). Dusty, lemony aromas settle on citrus peel. This is citrusy on the tongue, with pithy flavors of white grapefruit and tangerine. A tangy,

racy, citric finish is consistent with what came before it. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

TXAKOLI

88 Txomin Etzaniz 2012 Getaria (Getariako Txakolina). Dusty, dry aromas of apple and sea mist are appealing. This has a spritzy, soda-like feel and ripe flavors of papaya, lime and apple. There's a bit of sulfuric gaseousness to the finish, but the feel is fresh and tangy, and overall this is a nice Txakoli if you're into the style. Jorge Ordoñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

87 Gorka Izagirre 2012 Bizkaiko Txakolina. Almond skins, apple essence and minerality drive the nose on this white from the Basque country. A zesty, slightly spritzy palate deals nectarine, apricot and green-apple flavors. The finish is clear and mineral, with crisp acidity. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Zudugarai 2012 Getariako Txakolina. This feels lifted and spritzy, with friendly, soft apple aromas and flavors of lime, apple and pineapple that are almost juice-like. The finish mirrors the palate, tasting ripe yet feeling zesty, with faint hints of chalky mineral. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$26

84 Gorka Izagirre 2011 Bizkaiko Txakolina. Txakoli is a fragile wine, and this 2011 is already past its prime, as evidenced by a gold color and soft body. In between, there are modest apple and peach aromas along with a spiced-cider flavor. This remains long on the finish but is losing steam in terms of color, freshness and flavors. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

84 Ulacia 2012 Getariako Txakolina. The first thing on the nose that registers is a vegetal quality, particularly asparagus and bean aromas. The palate is well cut and crisp in feel, while green notes drive the flavor profile. Europvin. —M.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

RIOJA

86 Fernández Gómez 2012 Selección Familiar (Rioja). Apple and mineral aromas are fresh yet simple in nature. This offers good body weight and healthy minerality. Flavors of almond skins, melon, papaya and citrus finish dry. Overall, this blend of Viura, Malvasia and Garnacha Blancav is a solid white to drink as soon as possible. Southern Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

84 Marqués de Cáceres 2012 Antea Viura (Rioja). Despite its fermentation in oak, this isn't an oaky white wine. Aromas of peach pit and apple are largely neutral. The palate feels tangy and citric, while the flavors lean toward lemon. On the finish, an

almond-skin element rises up amid a mix of creaminess and acidity. Vineyard Brands. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

83 Bodegas Tobia 2012 Viña Tobia (Rioja). Peach and apple aromas are modest. The palate is juicy and citric in feel, while flavors of melon, apple and nectarine finish tangy, with a citrusy taste. Patagonia Wine & Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

82 Bodegas Franco-Españolas 2012 Royal Viura (Rioja). This basic Viura smells of apple juice. The palate feels thin and citric, with flavors of lemon peel and fresh-cut green apple that end quickly. Vision Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

80 Bodegas del Mundo 2012 Valdemoreada Blanco (Rioja). This is dark in color, with apple cider aromas. The flavors are bland and nutty more than fruity, and the finish is the same. CIV/USA. —M.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$8

MÁLAGA

90 Jorge Ordoñez & Co. 2011 Victoria 2 (Málaga). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25/375 ml

89 Jorge Ordoñez & Co. 2008 Old Vines 3 (Málaga). This sticky Moscatel smells like apricot syrup, quince and peach nectar. The mouthfeel is thick, but vital acidity keeps it upright. Flavors of peach syrup, dried apricot and kumquat finish full but juicy thanks to ample acidity. Jorge Ordoñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

87 Jorge Ordoñez & Co. 2011 Botani Moscatel Seco (Málaga). With aromas of honey, papaya and white flowers, this dry Moscatel from Málaga announces its ripe character. In the mouth, this is weighty and creamy more than racy and direct. Flavors of sweet melon and bitter peach pit come with anise and nutmeg, while the finish is long and offers a candied orange flavor. Jorge Ordoñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

85 Telmo Rodríguez 2009 MR Mountain Wine Moscatel (Málaga). On first take, this is oily and smells of bitter almond and walnut. The mouthfeel is clunky and heavy, with low acidity. Bitterness is the lead flavor, and then honey and brown sugar enter the picture. On the finish it struggles to drive through the tape. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

CAVA

89 Codorníu 2010 Gran Codorniu Pinot Noir (Cava). Light, clean, peachy aromas provide for a nice opening. The palate on this Pinot Noir Cava is crisp, linear and citric, while flavors of tangerine, cherry

pie and plum finish tight, citrusy and long. If you want zero funk and no faults in your bubbly, try this. Avenit Brands, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

88 Freixenet NV Elyssia Pinot Noir Brut (Cava). Tight, compact aromas of citrus, leather and smoke set up an approachable palate, with burnt orange and peach flavors. On the finish, this shows toasty richness along with modest complexity. This isn't otherworldly but it's a step up in class from everyday Cava. Freixenet USA. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

86 Segura Viudas NV Aria Pinot Noir Brut (Cava). For full review see page 9.
abv: 11% Price: \$14

84 Poema NV Brut Rosé (Cava). Gritty, smoky aromas are slightly oxidized. This is foamy on the tongue, with flavors of mushroom, herbs and burnt berry fruits. The finish tastes herbal and rooty. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$13

82 Mont Marçal 2010 Trepas Rosado Brut (Cava). Rusty orange in color, aromas of grass and tomato suggest underripe fruit, while the mouthfeel is foamy and the flavors of fruit and mushroom are muted. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

ROSÉS

83 Cruz de Piedra 2012 Garnacha Rosado (Calatayud). Candied, flat aromas of cherry and red licorice announce a chunky palate, with sweet plum, raspberry and brown sugar flavors. Drink now. Evaki Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

83 Peñascal 2012 Tempranillo Rosé (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Modest cherry and plum aromas are weighty. This is holding onto its freshness, with flavors of citrus pulp and peel. Drink up now. Habarcelo North America. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

82 Dominio Dostares 2012 Tombú Prieto Picudo Rosé (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). In the mouth, this feels chunky, with sugary red-berry flavors coming in front of a sticky finish. The grape variety is the obscure Prieto Picudo. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

82 Storks' Tower 2012 Tempranillo-Shiraz Rosé (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This salmon-colored wine is powdery on the nose, with aromatic hints of apple skins and raspberry. The palate feels lean, pinched and rubbery, while flavors of pithy citrus fruits finish chalky, with some tang. Habarcelo North America. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

81 Tres Ojos 2012 Rosado (Calatayud). This opens with stinky and rubbery aromas. It's weighty for a rosé, with sweet flavors of red fruits that finish bitter and heavy. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$9

SPANISH RED WINES

RIBERA DEL DUERO

90 Emilio Moro 2009 Ribera del Duero. Due to 2009 being a warm vintage, this is earthy, ripe and bold, with creamy berry and chocolate aromas. The palate is more crisp and bumpy, with acidity offering teeth and bite. Flavors of raspberry, cassis and cocoa are authentic for Ribera del Duero but a little rough and scratchy. Drink through 2018. Michael Skurnik Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

89 Prado Rey 2009 Single Vineyard Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Earthy, meaty and mulchy is how to describe the bouquet on this ripe, sun-baked Ribera. In the mouth, it is brightened by zesty acidity and choppy tannins. Flavors of ripe berry fruits come with savory notes of smoked meat and tobacco, while the finish is juicy but straightforward. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$29

89 Recorba 2009 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Creamy berry, dust and loamy aromas form a chunky but steady nose. This is plush, deep and jammy in feel, with blackberry and herbal flavors running smoothly on a thick palate. On the finish, this is peppery in taste, with a light herbal undercurrent. Drink through 2016. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

87 de Restia 2009 Crianza Selected Harvest (Ribera del Duero). At first blush, this comes across scratchy and raw on the nose. In the mouth, it's more jammy than lively, with saturated, reduced flavors of blueberry and prune. On the finish, this feels big for its bitches and tastes mildly bitter. Biagio Cru & Estate Wines, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

87 Terraesteban 2009 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Savory aromas of spiced meat and bacon grease come with familiar roasted berry scents. The palate is linear in feel, while flavors of generic berry and oak are a touch raspy. On the finish this is juicy, fruity and fresh in style. Piespa. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

RIOJA

93 Marqués de Elciego 2010 Edición Limitada (Rioja). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% Price: \$69

91 Dinastía Vivanco 2010 Colección Vivanco 4 Varietales Tempranillo-Graciano-Garnacha-Mazuelo (Rioja). Talk about a consistent wine. The past four vintages of 4 Varietales have all scored 91 points. This version opens with dense, jammy blackberry and raspberry aromas. The mouthfeel is healthy and full of tannic grip, while flavors of blackberry, prune, mocha and tobacco set up a chewy finish with rubbery tannins and length. Drink through 2023. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

91 Dinastía Vivanco 2010 Colección Vivanco Parcelas de Mazuelo (Rioja). This Mazuelo (Carignan) is strongly perfumed, with whiffs of juniper, funk and blueberry along the way. A full, lively, deep palate is home to black-fruit, chocolate and vanilla flavors, while the finish surfs on the edge of syrupy and fully ripe, ultimately falling on the right side of the fence. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$105

90 Bodegas Palacio 2009 Glorioso Crianza (Rioja). Dry earth, baked berry, tobacco and vanilla aromas are harmonious and true to Rioja. A forceful palate with rubbery tannins features savory oak, raspberry and plum flavors, while the finish tastes saucy and shows intensity. HAB North America. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

90 Dinastía Vivanco 2010 Colección Vivanco Parcelas Garnacha (Rioja). Like most high-end varietal Garnachas, this hits with big but straightforward berry aromas and not a lot of complexity. A jagged palate shows powerful tannins and baked, jammy flavors of blackberry. This is grabby and slightly astringent on the finish, but in general it's tasty and well made. Drink through 2016. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 15% Price: \$105

89 Loriñon 2009 Reserva (Rioja). Earthy cherry aromas are smooth. This feels full and lively on the palate, with rubbery tannins and savory, layered flavors of roasted berries and spice. A toasty, savory tasting finish is long, sturdy and slightly baked in character. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$21

89 Marqués de Cáceres 2009 Crianza (Rioja). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

89 Marqués de Cáceres 2009 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 Casa Primicia 2008 Gr Graciano (Rioja). Vanilla, pencil eraser and red-berry aromas set up a fresh, juicy, healthy feeling palate. Flavors of oak, vanilla, berry fruits and plum finish with additional vanilla flavors and woodspice. As a whole, this is bright, zesty and oaky, even for a wine that's more than five years old. Vin Divino. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$21

88 Launa 2009 Selección Familiar Crianza (Rioja). This opens with oaky aromas that suggest plastic and milk chocolate, but with airing, shift to berry fruits and mint. The palate is hard and tannic, while savory berry, BBQ'd notes and meaty berry fruit flavors finish with resinous oak and pinched tannins. This wide load is tannic and oaky; give it until late 2014 before revisiting. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Marqués de la Concordia 2011 Tempranillo (Rioja). Fresh berry aromas are clean and lead into a pointed, zesty palate with standard but friendly berry and cherry flavors. There's plenty of bracing acidity to this Rioja and just enough body to make it a complete, well-made wine. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

88 Paco Garcia 2011 Seis (Rioja). Fruity is the best way to describe this young wine that shows touches of weight and darkness but mostly simple, fresh, lightly candied berry aromas and flavors. There's crispness and intensity to the palate, while the finish is clean. Palmateer Consulting LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Casa Primicia 2008 Mazuelo (Rioja). Wiry plum and oaky aromas are powerful. This is fresh, racy and medium-bodied, with dry spice, vanilla, plum and cherry flavors. Peppery spice notes, dry oak and red-fruit ending flavors make for a straight-ahead, modest finish. Vin Divino. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

87 Dinastía Vivanco 2010 Colección Vivanco Parcelas Maturana (Rioja). On first sniff you may want to head for the hills; Maturana is a funky smelling grape with strong herbaceous notes. And while that character never subsides, this smells better with time. Flavors of mint, bell pepper and herbal berry fruits finish round, long and saucy. Only 160 cases of this unusual wine were made. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$105

87 Paco Garcia 2011 Junior (Rioja). Juicy, juvenile aromas of plum and berry lead to a palate that's bouncy in feel. Jammy blackberry and plum define the flavor profile, while the finish is honest, lively and fresh. Junior is the perfect name for this fruit-forward, young Rioja. Palmateer Consulting LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Dinastía Vivanco 2008 Colección Vivanco Parcelas de Graciano (Rioja). Balsamic aromas are matched by high-toned blueberry and cherry scents as well as vanilla and brandy. This feels wiry and bouncy, which is normal for acid-driven Graciano. Flavors of oak, toast and wild berry are so juicy and acidic that the finish is tangy. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

85 Berberana 2011 Viña Alarde Tempranillo (Rioja). This a touch rusty in color for such a youngster. Wiry aromas come with a note of red licorice candy, while the palate is snappy and on the acidic side.

Raspberry is the lead flavor, while the finish is fresh and juicy. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Castillo Labastida 2011 Madurado (Rioja). Jumpy, tutti-frutti aromas are young and spunky in nature. This is a fresh, lively, basic Tempranillo with candied red-berry and boysenberry flavors. A mild, basic finish confirms its standard but overall good quality. Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

85 Dinastía Vivanco 2008 Colección Vivanco Parcelas de Garnacha (Rioja). Raisin, licorice and coconut aromas produce a ripe bouquet. This is raw and screechy in the mouth, with little in the way of a midpalate. Flavors of heavy red-berry fruits have a green leaning, while the finish is raw in feel and reedy in flavor. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$90

85 Lealtanza 2009 Crianza (Rioja). Leathery aromas come with notes of tobacco, vanilla and raw red fruits. This feels hard and clumpy, while flavors of stinky, herbal, roasted berry fruits finish briny and tough in feel. The Artisan Collection. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

82 Casa Primicia 2008 Gn Garnacha (Rioja). A rusty color is a give-away that this Garnacha isn't in the best shape. The nose smells of cotton candy and Kool-Aid. The feel is flat, grabby and tannic, while the flavors are scattershot, with brown sugar notes and dry leafiness on the finish. Vin Divino. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

NAVARRA

90 Otazu 2010 Premium Cuvée Señorío de Otazu (Navarra). For full review see page 10. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

90 Príncipe de Viana 2010 Crianza (Navarra). For full review see page 10. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Inurrieta 2010 Cuatrocientos Crianza (Navarra). Initially this blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon smells dense and mineral, but with airing it turns more jammy and fruity. A direct palate shows good structure, while flavors of blackberry, plum and licorice finish in harmony, with length and juiciness. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Finca Albret 2010 Juan de Albret Crianza (Navarra). Black-cherry aromas come across as being tight and austere. In the mouth, this blend of Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot is narrow and pinched. Flavors of plum and currant lose steam on the finish as acidity and tannic grip take over. Oak Barrel Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Inurrieta 2010 Norte Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra). Ripe plum and berry aromas are straightforward but welcoming. This is a tight, wiry blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon that's narrow in feel but full of flavor, particularly plum, blackberry, chocolate and spice. A peppery finish shows juicy acidity and warmth. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Castillo de Monjardin 2011 Old Vines Garnacha (Navarra). Peppery plum and raspberry aromas lead to a crisp, snappy, juicy palate with apple skin and raspberry flavors enhanced by a splash of minty oak. With modest length and power through to the finish, this is a good and approachable everyday wine. Winebow. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

85 Viña Zorzal 2011 Viña Zorzal Graciano (Navarra). Clove and licorice gum drop aromas are oaky and forced. This Graciano, typical for the grape type, is crisp, raw and snappy in feel. Flavors of woody red plum and raspberry finish resinous, salty and minty. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

83 Príncipe de Viana 2011 Roble Garnacha (Navarra). Jumpy aromas suggest wet animal fur. In the mouth, there's not a lot of structure or body; flavors of buttery oak and candied berry lack continuity. Sybarite Global LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$7

83 Viña Zorzal 2011 Viñas Viejas Garnacha (Navarra). Stalky aromas of compost-laden berry fruits lack clarity and freshness. This feels chunky on the palate, with herbal, salty flavors of earthy berry fruits. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

COSTERS DEL SEGRE

88 Castell del Remei 2005 1780 (Costers del Segre). This is a very ripe, almost over the top Cabernet-based blend, with tobacco, raisin, fig and stewy berry aromas. The palate feels huge, mature and tannic, while flavors of cedar, licorice, baked berry and cassis finish rich, stewy and roasted, with hard tannins. Drink now, preferably with meat. ENYE Distribution Group, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$57

88 Mas Blanch I Jové 2009 Saó Abrivat (Costers del Segre). Roasted, leathery, earthy aromas of berry fruits precede a smooth, round palate with roasted, dry, peppery flavors of wild berry and raspberry. There's tannic grab to the finish along with reedy, peppery flavors. This shows Old World character and flavors. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Mas Blanch I Jové 2007 Saó Expressiu (Costers del Segre). This Catalan red is dense and ripe, with aromatic notes of beef broth and raisiny fruits. The mouthfeel is jammy and chunky,

while flavors of raisin, prune and stewed berries come across loamy and soft. On the finish, this offers herbal flavors and lasting thickness. Aviva Vino. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

81 Raimat 2009 Castell de Raimat Cabernet Sauvignon (Costers del Segre). Green, grassy aromas lead the bouquet, which then turns charred and oaky. In the mouth, clove and heavy oak notes are dominant, while the feel is rubbery and rough. This is rugged and oaky. Aveniù Brands, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

PENEDÈS

87 Juvé y Camps 2007 Casa Vella d'Espiells Cabernet Sauvignon (Penedès). This Catalanian Cabernet is roasted and woody on the nose despite being more than seven years old. In the mouth, it has thinned out, leaving more acidity than weight and body. Flavors of oaky red plum and cherry finish lean, long and with noticeable flavors of vanilla and butter. Drink now. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Torres 2009 Gran Coronas Cabernet Sauvignon (Penedès). Smoke and leather aromas come with earthy, leafy berry and floral scents. This is crisp and acidic in feel, while flavors of peppery red fruits are spicy and drawing. Raw tannins and red-fruit flavors carry the finish. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

85 Huguet de Can Feixes 2007 Negre Tradició (Penedès). Leafy aromas of compost go head to head with hard, black-fruit scents. This feels tight, nervy and smacks hard with acidity, while flavors of leafy, burnt berry and plum finish tight and tannic. Classical Wines. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Parés Baltà 2009 Mas Petit Organic Farming Garnatxa-Cabernet (Penedès). Plastic, strawberry and rubber aromas lead to a raw, juicy, light-bodied palate, with dilute flavors of cherry and plum skins. A fresh, dry finish features drawing tannins. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

MONTSANT

92 Acústic 2010 Braó Vinyes Velles Carignan-Grenache (Montsant). This is the stud in the Acústic stable. A blend of 70% Carignan and 30% Garnacha, Braó is lively and bright on the nose, with ripe blackberry and cassis aromas. The palate is concentrated and juicy, with fine balance and bold flavors of blueberry, blackberry and coffee. A toasty, dark finish features chocolate, toast and minerality. Drink through 2019. Steve Miles Selections. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Can Blau 2010 Mas de Can Blau (Montsant). Oaky, inky, modern and full of

power, this Montsant blend of Carignan, Syrah and Garnacha is toasty and dark as night on the bouquet. The palate feels ripe and intense, with creamy oak and controlled tannins. Flavors of baked black fruits, cocoa and vanilla finish soft and supple, with just enough tannic grip and acidity to maintain focus. Drink from 2014–2020. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

90 Tossals 2006 Montsant. This mature Montsant smells like a classic aged Spanish wine: there's a mix of vanilla, earth and raisin. In the mouth, it's a bit tired and stewy but not overly so. Flavors of baked berry, prune, tobacco and spice are warm and earthy, while the finish is rich and soft. Drink immediately. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Can Blau 2011 Montsant. Crisp, gritty aromas of bacon and shoe polish frame dark-fruit aromas. This offers push, body and choppy tannins in front of a concentrated palate with spicy black plum and herbal flavors. It may not be as good as previous vintage releases, but it's very nice for under \$20. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Bula 2011 Montsant. Initially this smells herbaceous and scratchy, with green leanings. The palate is hard-driving and edgy, with a powerful package of savory berry flavors and rubbery tannins. A strong, lusty finish seems right for a rugged wine like this. Aviva Vino. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Garbó 2011 Negre (Montsant). For full review see page 9.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

84 Cellers Baronia del Montsant 2011 Flor d'Englora Roure (Montsant). Hard, mineral, medicinal aromas trumpet in a juice-like palate with black-fruit and prune flavors. An herbal, edgy finish is rubbery and feels stretched by sharp acids and banging tannins. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

81 Espectacle 2010 René Isabelle Christopher Charlotte Fernando Marta (Montsant). Aromas of blueberry and soupy fruits lack definition and come across like Kool-Aid. This is flat and stewy in feel, with heavy flavors of raisin and Graham crackers followed by a short finish. Europvin. —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$130

80 Can Blau 2011 Blau (Montsant). Raisin aromas are overriding on the nose, with similarly heavy, baked flavors on the flat palate. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

PRIORAT

90 Capafons-Ossó 2007 Sirsell (Priorat). Crisp, focused aromas of minerals and red fruits

are correct for Priorat. This Garnacha-led blend is firm, tannic and drawing in the mouth, but not raw. Flavors of ripe, gritty, roasted berry fruits finish minerally, with a note of licorice. Drink this standard but delicious wine now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Scala Dei 2007 Cartoixa (Priorat). Schisty minerality infiltrates blackberry, cassis and raisin aromas. In the mouth, this is fully saturated and jammy. Flavors of blueberry and raisin suggest borderline overripeness, while the finish is jammy and pinched. Aveniù Brands, Inc. —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$52

85 Capafons-Ossó 2005 Masos d'en Curbells (Priorat). Narrow, pointed aromas of licorice and snappy, herbal fruits filter into a hard, tannic palate. Flavors of red berries and currants are pushed by blazing acidity, while the finish is firm as rocks and tastes a bit green and minty. For a 2005, this is showing its cards; drink now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

85 Genium Celler 2007 Priorat. Gritty, stalky aromas override the wine's plum and berry scents. This feels acidic and rough, with abrasive tannins. Thus the flavors are tight, juicy and narrow, with an emphasis on red fruits. Minerality and acidity drive the finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$42

ALMANSA

87 Atalaya 2011 La Atalaya (Almansa). Roasted aromas of berry and hickory come with tons of char and BBQ notes. This is thick, almost to the point of being syrupy, while flavors of herbs, blackberry, creamy oak and mint are more savory than bright. If this were any more rich and oaky, it might be considered too fat and heavy. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$16

86 Niel Santofimia 2011 Almansa. This is a dense, complete wine with good Garnacha character and generous berry, spice, char and minty aromas and flavors. Rubberly tannins are fair and just, while flavors of grilled meat and baked plum finish oaky, with a slightly raw feel. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Atalaya 2011 Alaya Garnacha (Almansa). Opaque black to the eye, this is a massive, high-alcohol, syrupy Garnacha that is more like Port than dry wine. Aromas of prune and raisin dominate, while the palate is thick as molasses, with gummy, raisiny flavors that finish with heady notes of coffee and chocolate syrup. At 16% ABV, and with outlandish weight and stickiness, this isn't what you'd call a food-friendly table wine. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$35

82 Bodegas Tintoralba 2011 Tintorera Higuera Garnacha (Almansa). Minty, candied, wet-dog aromas announce that this is a young,

basic wine. The mouthfeel is fresh and acidic, while the flavors of candied berry fruits come across dilute and with little depth. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

JUMILLA

91 Bodegas Carchelo 2011 Carchelo (Jumilla). Immediately this presents itself in a positive light. The color is bright and lucid, the nose is solid and smells clean and lush, and the body is full, stout and smacks firmly with proper tannin-acid balance. Flavors of peppery, chocolaty black fruits finish toasty, peppery and thorough. Classical Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

91 Monterebo 2011 Selección Syrah (Jumilla). Blackberry, cassis and dusty aromas get this full-bodied Syrah-Monastrell off to a great start. This is staunch and well built, with firm tannins and dark, masculine flavors of blackberry, black currant, pepper and a hint of salt. A gutsy finish is powerful but balanced. This is impressive for the price. Pacific Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Monterebo 2011 Barrica Monastrell-Syrah (Jumilla). This is a superb value. The nose on this Syrah-Monastrell blend revolves around dusty berry and plum, while the palate is juicy, ripe, smooth and shows herb, spice and pulsing blackberry flavors. Doses of mint and hard spices carry a long finish to a warm resting point. Pacific Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

88 Juan Gil 2011 Monastrell (Jumilla). Clove, mint, raw oak and black-fruit aromas are forward and scratchy. In the mouth, this is on the syrupy, rich side, while the flavor profile runs sweet, with hints of savory BBQ sauce and resin. A candied tasting finish is short and chunky in feel. Gil Family Estates. —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$16

86 Bodegas Luzón 2011 Luzon (Jumilla). Although the nose and palate are mildly briny and green, there's enough cherry and berry fruit to keep this good-value red's head above water. A slightly grating mouthfeel isn't too punishing, while a long, aggressive finish comes with spice, mint, pepper and a final note of brine and green. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

TIERRA DE CASTILLA

87 Moralia 2010 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Jammy berry aromas are earthy but a little flat. In the mouth, this is plump, jammy and doesn't have a lot of spine. Flavors of baked black fruits and toast finish mellow, earthy and soft. Drink this ripe, warm-climate wine now. Spain Wine Collection. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Tudejem 2010 Red (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Soft berry aromas are suggestive of blueberry jam. This is both jammy and tannic in feel, with a syrupy flavor of baked blackberry. On the finish, molasses, fig and chocolate flavors take over. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$10

83 Ribota 2010 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Earthy compost aromas come with a whiff of coffee grinds. In the mouth, this is on the heavy side, while gritty flavors of roasted, stinky berry fruits and pepper finish juicy, with a syrupy feel. Aviva Vino. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER RED WINES

88 Medulas 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon-Tempranillo (Valencia). Berry aromas and a hint of warmth are the greeting on this blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Tempranillo. The mouthfeel is full, while the body is chunky, with adequate structure. Flavors of black fruits come with a touch of toast, and the finish is round in feel and friendly in flavor. The Artisan Collection. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Bodegas Rafael Cambra 2010 El Bon Hombre (Valencia). This 50-50 blend of Monastrell and Cabernet Sauvignon is jammy and modest on the bouquet. In the mouth, it's plump but a bit wishy-washy, with generic dark-berry flavors. While it's easygoing on the finish, it falls off a bit and doesn't show much kick. Drink now. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

86 Bodegas La Purísima 2011 Old Hands Made With Organically Grown Grapes Monastrell (Yecla). Roasted, leathery aromas are reedy and minty but not too heavy or over the top. This feels straightforward, while crusty blackberry flavors come with doses of mint and herbs, ending with a lightly oaked finish. Marquee Selections. —M.S.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

BORDEAUX

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

92 Château Lafon Rochet 2011 Saint-Estèphe. This is a wine that has great potential—you can tell from the firm tannins, tight acidity and closed texture. Initially, black currant flavors are touched with dark, dusty notes, but they finish with more juicy character on the aftertaste. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château de Pez 2011 Saint-Estèphe. This is a serious wine structured with firm tannins. The texture is solid and somewhat austere, but very concentrated. Associated with Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Pauillac, de Pez is now show-

ing the solid and long-aging character of Saint-Estèphe. Drink from 2018. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Phélan-Ségur 2011 Saint-Estèphe. Darkly hued with considerable wood flavor, this wine puts toast before fruit. The wine certainly needs time to soften and reveal its fruit profile. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

PAUILLAC

95 Château Pichon Longueville 2011 Pauillac. This is a solid, concentrated wine from a reliable chateau. It has weight and power, with rich black fruits balanced with fresh acidity. Touches of bitter extraction and wood aging are likely to integrate as the wine ages. It should develop into an impressive and powerful wine. Drink from 2018. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Batailley 2011 Pauillac. This estate continues to rise in quality, and this bottling is a serious and dense wine. It has obvious flavors of wood aging, but balanced with rich blackberry fruitiness. The texture is dark and concentrated. Drink from 2017. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Lynch-Bages 2011 Pauillac. This is a luxurious wine that's opulently rich. Ripe black fruits dominate, lending fullness to the firm structure in the backdrop. It's a wine with great potential, density and weight. Touches of chocolate and licorice combine with flavors of dark plum, toast and spice. Drink from 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2011 Pauillac. Don't be fooled by the easy fruitiness of this delicious wine, because underneath the blackberry flavors is a powerfully tannic structure. Opulent and dense, it promises considerable aging. Drink this complex wine from 2018. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2011 Pauillac. Reflecting the fruity, forward style of the vintage, this wine is packed with ripe black currants. There is a strong Cabernet character—it's dry initially, then followed by juiciness. It's a concentrated wine, although not for long-term aging. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Grand-Puy-Ducasse 2011 Pauillac. This is a lively, juicy wine. It shows the fruitiness of the vintage balanced with a sense of structure. There is a freshness to this wine that gives it great

lift and makes it likely to be drinkable soon. Drink from 2016. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Lynch-Moussas 2011 Pauillac. Soft and fruity, this is a wine that already shows attractive, ripe fruitiness. Black currants and a mineral texture add bite, allowing the tannins to fill out the core. This is a wine for medium-term aging. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Haut Bages Libéral 2011 Pauillac. This wine has structure, juicy acidity and lean fruit. It remains a tough wine in its youth, but the structure should soften as it ages. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

SAINT-JULIEN

95 Château Léoville-Barton 2011 Saint-Julien. Great swathes of fruit cross the tannic core in this impressive wine. Hints of wood aging peek out from beneath the sumptuous richness and spice. It is ripe, dense and obviously set for long aging. Drink from 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Branaire-Ducru 2011 Saint-Julien. With dense fruit and a powerful, complex structure, this is one of the best wines from this chateau. Blackberries, black plums and a rich, generous character are all here, along with fine tannins. Drink this great success from 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Léoville-Poyferré 2011 Saint-Julien. This is a really fruity wine that's opulent and gorgeously rich. There is a pepper edge, touches of new wood and a firm, dark core. Acidity and concentration are already integrated. Drink from 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

93 Château Lagrange 2011 Saint-Julien. Full in the mouth, this is a soft and juicy wine at the outset. There is a cushioned, plump feel to the wine, with tannins that are firm, but rounded in nature. The wine seems ready to drink, but with its tannic structure, it will also age well. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

93 Château Langoa-Barton 2011 Saint-Julien. This is a delightful wine with an attractive character that belies that firm structure behind it. It has weight and concentration and firm tannins, while showing the fruity side of the vintage. A wine for pleasure as it ages. Drink from 2016. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Beychevelle 2011 Saint-Julien. This impressive wine follows a straight line of structure, acidity, firm tannins and dark black fruits. The combination is a wine with depth, ripeness and an

edge of austerity that demands aging. Drink from 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Gruaud-Larose 2011 Saint-Julien. This is a powerfully woody wine that shows more wood than fruit at this stage. Structured, austere and powerful, it needs time to flesh out. Drink from 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Talbot 2011 Saint-Julien. With attractive, juicy fruit, this wine has as much freshness as it does structure. The palate is warm and open with blackberry fruits that are rounded and soft. Spice and some tannins show through on the finish. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Gloria 2011 Saint-Julien. This is an open, juicy wine with attractive fruit framed by firm but tamed tannins. The wine has a feeling of lightness, with black currant flavors that are lifted and fresh. This is a wine for medium-term aging. Drink from 2015. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Saint-Pierre 2011 Saint-Julien. There is probably too much wood here, both on the smell and the palate. It gives the wine weight, but takes away the fruit. Powerful and dense, it needs a long aging. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

MARGAUX

94 Château Cantenac-Brown 2011 Margaux. Cantenac Brown is on a roll now, and even in lesser vintages. This is a full, ripe wine packed with black currant flavor, but also structured with solid tannins. With a juicy acidity on the finish, and boosted by its dry core, it's certain to age well. Drink from 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Giscours 2011 Margaux. Power and ripeness walk hand-in-hand with this major player. The wine is opulent and extracted with flavors of rich blackberry fruits, but shows a firmness in tannins and dense texture. Drink from 2018 and it's sure to be a great success. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Rauzan-Ségla 2011 Margaux. This is typical of the ripe and opulent style of this property with superripe black currant fruit. It's concentrated in flavor, but also structured with smooth tannins. It's a wine both for short-term fruitiness and long-term power and density. Drink from 2017. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

93 Château Brane-Cantenac 2011 Margaux. This serious estate has made a fine 2011 wine. While deep and ripe with blackberry flavor and acidi-

ty, it also has dense structure. It shows both power and style, with notes of wood aging likely to fade. Drink this fine wine from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

93 Château Durfort-Vivens 2011 Margaux. This is an immediately attractive wine that's fruity and fresh with acidity. It hasn't lost the firm character or structure of this chateau, but boasts fruitiness and a ripe feel. Drink from 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Château du Tertre 2011 Margaux. Smooth and supple, this wine is full of ripe, generous fruit and acidity. It's framed with firm tannins, however, that lend structure to a palate that has weight and a luscious feel. Drink from 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Kirwan 2011 Margaux. This is a wine that is already delicious, with juicy black currant flavors and open acidity. There is structure and aging potential as well, however, giving this wine the best of both worlds. It finishes with a fine, fresh feel and a dry edge. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Prieuré-Lichine 2011 Margaux. This wine is concentrated ripe, full fruits, as well as intense acidity. It shows a forward style but doesn't lose sight of its tight, dark structure. Drink this balanced wine from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Dauzac 2011 Margaux. There is an austere, serious edge to this wine, with its dark tannins and fine black-currant acidity. It is very structured and likely to age well. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Labégorce Margaux 2011 Margaux. Rich and smooth, this is a concentrated wine that has attractive fruitiness as well as firm tannins. The fruitiness is contagious and already enjoyable, surrounding the dense, dry core. It should age well over the medium term, so drink from 2016. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Lascombes 2011 Margaux. At this stage, the wine is showing way too much wood aging. It is toasty and spicy with the fruit obscured beneath. It should integrate in a few years, although the wood is always likely to be prominent. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Rauzan-Gassies 2011 Margaux. With fine acidity and firm tannins, this is a solidly structured, rich and ripe wine. It is full, fruity and has a smooth texture that already offers pleasure. On the finish there is delicious juicy fruit. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Croizet-Bages 2011 Margaux. Still showing too much wood, this is a wine that

needs a lot of time to outgrow its austerity. It's all structure at the moment, with black currant fruit obscured in the background. There is a mineral edge that promises to soften in a few years as well. Drink this wine from 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

90 **Chateau Desmirail 2011 Margaux.** This is a wine with solid structure and a tight, mineral-tinged acidity. It's age worthy with a pleasant black-currant fruitiness, but currently it feels quite lean. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

89 **Château d'Angludet 2011 Margaux.** This wine is firm in tannins and rather austere in style. There's an attractive black-currant flavor, but structure dominates the fruit. It is meant for medium-term aging. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

89 **Château Marquis de Terme 2011 Margaux.** Showing richness as well as structure, this is a delicious wine already. It's fruity and dense with black currant flavor, but has attendant acidity. There is a leaner edge on the finish that promises well for aging. Drink from 2016. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

89 **Château Siran 2011 Margaux.** Ripe and soft, this is already a drinkable wine. There is an attractive, juicy character from blackberry fruit and warm tannins. This is a wine for the medium term, so drink from 2016. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

88 **Château Ferrière 2011 Margaux.** This wine shows considerable signs of its wood aging. It is dark and rather heavy in character, and austere on the finish. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

88 **Château Bellevue 2011 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** There is rich, warm fruitiness here from ripe blackberries and plums. The wine has weight and concentration, but is framed with dry tannins. The wine should develop well, so drink from 2015. Tru Wines LLC. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$20

88 **Château Crusquet Sabourin 2011 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** This ripe, fruity, juicy wine shows both the richness as well as the freshness of the vintage. Forward and fruity with black currants and red berries, it's already a delicious wine with dry tannins lending some structure. Drink now. Tru Wines LLC. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$20

86 **Château Cantinot 2011 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux.** Big, fruity and juicy, this is a wine for drinking soon. It has lively acidity, a strong black-currant

fruit character and light tannins. Already well integrated, it's a wine that accentuates freshness. Bourgeois Family Selections. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$30

85 **Chateau Frédignac 2011 Cuvée Prestige (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Light, fruity and fragrant, this is an attractive, crisp wine that highlights red-berry fruits and soft acidity. It's a wine to drink now. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$25

CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

90 **Château Brethous 2011 Cuvée Prestige (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Ripe and juicy, this is a full-bodied wine that's rich with black currant and black plum flavors as well as a firmer tannic structure. Acidity, tannins and wood aging all promise a good future. Drink from 2016. Bad Boy. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$25

89 **Château Brethous 2011 The Classic (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Solidly tannic, this is a firm wine with juicy fruit that adds balance to the structure. It has a refreshing quality with black currant flavors that are full and dense in the mouth. Give this fine wine time. Drink after 2016. Bad Boy. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$20

89 **Château du Cros 2011 Clos Bourbon (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a solid, chunky wine, rich in dark blackberry and red plum flavors. Maybe the tannins are too hard at this stage, but its weight and rich fruit suggest aging potential. Drink from 2016. Berkeley Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$25

87 **Château de Ricaud 2011 Grand Vin (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Solid and dry, this is a tightly structured wine. Layered acidity and berry fruits lend a powerful, concentrated feel. It does need time to bring out its inherent fruitiness. Drink from 2015. Thiénot USA. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$37

85 **Château de Ricaud 2011 Réserve des Côteaux (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Obviously wood aged, this wine's dryness comes from the attenuating character of the barrels. That leaves little room for lean fruit flavors. Maybe it will soften, but the wood is always going to be dominant. Thiénot USA. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$25

84 **Château La Rame 2011 Charmille (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a herbal wine with fruit that is firm and austere. It has spice, a touch of wood, berry fruits and dry tannins. It seems on the lean side. Rosenthal Wine Merchants. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$21

CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 **Château Ampélia 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** Rich yet finely balanced, this wine has both ripe blackberry flavor as well as freshness. With such good structure and solid concentration, there is obviously ageing potential in this impressive wine. Drink from 2016. Spec's. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$20

91 **Château de Belcier 2011 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** Rich and structured, yet full and concentrated, this wine has both dark tannins and ripe plum and berry fruits. The acidity streaks through the wine, lending freshness and good aging potential. Drink from 2017. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$37

91 **Château Goubau 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** There is a strong showing of wood in this wine. Along with the ripe berry fruits and acidity, it shows good aging potential. Drink from 2016. Select Beverage Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$23

91 **Château Terre de Belvès 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** A structured wine, rich in both tannins and fruit, this wine gives a solid performance. Its black and red berry fruits are already balanced with the tannins, while the acidity lends a delicious lift. Delicious now, but best to wait until 2015. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$20

90 **Château d'Aiguilhe 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** Lean and austere, this is a firm, medicinal and herbal wine that's still very young. Red berry fruits, along with drying tannins and spice from wood aging hint at its aging potential. It's best to wait until 2016. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

90 **Château des Demoiselles 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** Dry, firm and tannic, this is a wine with great potential. It has weight, ripe berry fruits and a solid character. Wood aging shows lightly, allowing the ripeness of the fruit to dominate. Drink from 2016. Laville Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$20

90 **Château La Clarière Laithwaite 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** While structured and firm, this is a ripe and juicy wine. Its texture has some minerality, lending an edge to intensely youthful acidity. As the wine ages, all these elements will integrate well, so drink from 2016. Lionstone International. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$22

90 **Château La Croix Lartigue 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** With a medicinal hint, this is a wine that is all potential. At the moment, it is firm, dry and darkly tannic. The weight gives the promise, offering rich fruitiness in the future. Drink this

impressive, concentrated wine from 2016. Christopher Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$22

90 **Domaine de l'A 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** Dry, with dusty tannins and ripe fruit, this is a wine with considerable potential. The berry fruits have a balanced, juicy element, fine acidity and a strong texture. The wine is rich and full, while remaining fresh. Drink from 2015. Zachy's. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$36

89 **Château Cap de Faugères 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** This is a jammy, ripe wine that smells of the south of France. That gives warmth, richness and a full-bodied character. Black plums, luscious berries and light tannins all make for a wine that can be drunk now. Masciarelli Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$27

88 **Château Côte Montpezat 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** This is a lively, refreshing wine with weighty fruit, ripe tannins and a strong black-currant character. With bright acidity to give the palate that extra lift, it's a wine to drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

88 **Château La Rose Poncet 2011 Mon Ange Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** While big, ripe and jammy, this wine has firm tannins and a dense texture. There is concentration, but the freshness is missing. Hudson Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

88 **Château Le Pin de Belcier 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** This perfumed wine has remarkable density from fruit, a full-bodied feeling and a dry edge of extraction that all point to its aging potential. Drink from 2016. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$91

87 **Château de Monrecueil 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** Spiced with cinnamon, this is an exotic wine. The fruit takes second place to the structure, toastiness and weight of this wine. It could age well, but will always be an unusual wine, with its own, unique attractiveness. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

87 **Château Mangot 2011 La Brande (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a balanced wine that is quite ready to drink now. It has black fruits, soft tannins and a deliciously juicy character. It's full bodied, but has a lively, fresh acidity on the finish. Vinum Wine Importing and Distributing LLC. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$23

86 **Clos Puy Arnaud 2011 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux.** This gentle, fruity wine is softly textured and already drinkable. Ripe berry fruits show well, with a juicy acidity that adds to the richness of this open, friendly wine. BNP Distributing. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

85 **Château Hyot 2011 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** This fresh and juicy wine is marked by berry fruits and acidity. It's bright and crisp in character, while also having weight and richness. With its soft tannins, it is ready to drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$25

CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château le Doyenne 2011 Côtes de Bordeaux.** This rounded, full wine is densely packed with fruit, but also tannins that add balance. Blackberry flavors come through the dry structure to give both richness and freshness. The aftertaste is ripe, juicy and delicious. Drink now, but best from 2015. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$20

90 **Château Lamothe de Haux 2011 Côtes de Bordeaux.** This perfumed wine shows a floral character. Berry fruits add juiciness, complexity and structure. Density on the finish adds interest. Bayfield Importing Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$26

89 **Château Pilet 2011 Côtes de Bordeaux.** This big, ripe wine is smoothly textured with soft tannins in the backdrop for structure. It has spice, judicious wood aging and a firm texture. The wine has weight, ripe black fruits and a good future. Drink from 2016. Malbec & Malbec Cellars. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$70

86 **Château Réaut 2011 Côtes de Bordeaux.** This wine is very juicy with fruit, but also exhibits a strong mineral element that adds texture and tightness. With acidity prominent, it seems to be a wine that will always be taut and firm. Exclusive Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$30

86 **Château Valentin 2011 Côtes de Bordeaux.** This wine is firm, solid and strongly tannic in nature. Juiciness is there, along with wood aging, spice and some concentration. The acidity is very present and needs to soften over the next year. Drink from 2015. Bayfield Importing Ltd. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$26

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

91 **Château Couronneau 2011 Cuvée Pierre de Cartier (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Generous and opulent, this is a wood-aged wine in which the fruit plays a delicious part. Blackberry juice and acidity play counterpoint to toasty wood flavors and dark tannins. There is a fine, toasty aftertaste that promises good aging. Drink from 2015. Domaines et Saveurs. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$20

90 **Château de Lavagnac 2011 La Grande Dame du Château de Lavagnac (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This is an attractive, aromatic wine, full of fruitiness and soft tannins. There is a strongly juicy element with black currant fruits adding freshness. There is a touch of spice from wood aging. Drink this enjoyable wine now. William Harrison Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$20

90 **Château de Macard 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Smooth wood and spice flavors give this wine immediate attractiveness. It has weight and richness, ripe fruit flavors and a spacious feel to the texture. With its complex structure, it's a wine for aging, so drink after 2016. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$25

90 **Château Feret Lambert 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Solid and dense, this is a concentrated wine. It has black plum flavors and a feeling of ripeness and ease. Sweet acidity shows strongly on the finish. Drink from 2015. Grantham Distributing. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$25

90 **Château Pierrail 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** For full review see page 8.
abv: NA Price: \$22

90 **Château Queyssard 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This is a dense and rich wine full of black plum fruits, rich tannins and a dark structure. It has great potential. Drink from 2016. Atlanta Improvement Co. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$17

90 **Château Sainte Marie 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Ripe and toasty, this is a rich, full-bodied and juicy wine. It has ripe berry fruits, touches of black currant and balancing acidity. Wood aging supports the palate and adds considerable potential. Drink this fine wine from 2016. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$15

90 **Château Turcaud 2011 Cuvée Majeure (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Big and bold, this is a structured wine. Although it does have some bitter extraction at this stage, this should pass as the ripe plum and berry flavors assert themselves. The wine is complex, rich and firmly structured to the end. Drink from 2016. Sussex Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

89 **Caves de Rauzan 2011 Château Villotte (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This wine has good spiciness, ripe fruits and firm tannins. There is a good balance between acidity from red berry fruits and a dense, tannic character. It is solid and concentrated, and needing to age longer. Drink from 2015. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$10

89 **Château Haut-Mongeat 2011 Cuvée Isabelle (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Dark and

dense, here is a wine that shows just as much hard-edged dryness as it does juicy red fruits. Once the components come together, the wine will be concentrated and powerful. This wine has lots of potential. Drink from 2016. Bad Boy. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$25

89 Château Landereau 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This is aromatic and fruity with ripe red-berry flavors and spiciness from wood aging. Mint and soft tannins show well, making the palate rich as well as gently structured. Drink from 2015. Père Jacques Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$20

89 Chateau le Grand Verdu 2011 Grande Réserve (Bordeaux Supérieur). While this wine has firm structure, it also has enough fruit weight to balance. On the palate, blackberry juiciness emerges from dark tannins, along with a touch of smokiness and fine acidity on the finish. Drink from 2015. Wines LLC. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$30

89 Maison Bouey 2011 Château Belrose (Bordeaux Supérieur). Solid and textured, this is a firm wine with a bright future. It has weight from its tannins as well as ripe berry fruits that shine through. Delicate acidity lightens the load. It does need to age, so drink from 2016. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$15

88 Chateau Auguste 2011 Limited Edition (Bordeaux Supérieur). This is an aromatic wine with mint and eucalyptus aromas that linger on the palate. It's firm, strongly wood aged, and has striking acidity. It needs time to integrate and age, so drink from 2016. Constantine Wines. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château de la Vieille Tour 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This is a wine that is ripe, fully formed and with great fruitiness. It has some soft tannic structure, along with blackberry juice flavors and a strong dose of acidity. It should soften and come together after a year, so drink from 2015. Wine Traditions. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$15

88 Château de Lavagnac 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. Blackberry flavors dominate this wine, but there's also good acidity, fragrant spice, and just a hint of wood. The wine, with its finely honed texture has a good future, so drink after 2015. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$16

88 Château Lauduc 2011 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur). This is a very juicy wine, packed with berry fruits and soft tannins. There is a core of dryness that gives structure, surrounded by the fresh acidity of the vintage and a lively, bright aftertaste. Drink from 2014. Bacchus Imports, Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Montlau 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This is a firm wine, although with enough fruit to balance the tannins, add weight and structure. Blackberry and plum flavors will develop over the next three years. Drink from 2016. Wine Warehouse Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Saincrit 2011 Vieilles Vignes Réserve (Bordeaux Supérieur). This rich, dense and complex wine has good structure, dark tannins and bright black-currant fruitiness. It's a wine with a good future, and aging will allow the tannins to soften and add further lift to the fruit. Drink from 2016. Roadhouse Wine Merchants. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$28

87 Château de Goëlane 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This is a firm wine that will take time to show its best. When it does, it should reveal a solid texture, juicy fruitiness and attractive acidity. Wait until 2015. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$16

87 Château de Lisennes 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. Mint aromas dominate notes of new wood aging on this wine. Toast notes are there, but blend harmoniously with berry flavors and acidity. Taken as a whole, this wine has weight and potential. Drink from 2015. Grape News Importing. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château du Bois Chantant 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. There is some extraction here, giving a dry character to this wine, but it also has enough berry flavor to act as a balance. This wine has a promising future but demands a few years to age. Drink from 2015. Advantage International. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$15

87 Château Gromel Bel Air 2011 Cuvée Eva (Bordeaux Supérieur). With its fresh black-currant fruits and ever-present acidity, this is a wine that sums up the vintage. The tannins are there, giving a sense of dryness to this fragrant wine. On the finish, there is also an attractive juiciness. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$10

87 Château Trocard Monrepos 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. Firm, but balanced, this is a wine with many of the virtues of the vintage. It has weight and richness, but also fresh, juicy, fruity acidity all packaged nicely in tannins. Drink this wine from 2015. Spec's. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$15

87 Domaine de Courteillac 2011 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Bordeaux Supérieur). This intensely juicy, fruity wine is high in acidity. It's dominated by fresh black currants as well as spice from wood aging. It has fruit concentration, but needs time to round out and soften. Drink from 2015. The Country Vintner-Craft and Estate. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$19

86 Château Bois de Favereau 2011 Cuvée Jean-Jules (Bordeaux Supérieur). Ripe and fruity, this is an attractive wine. It has a rich, spicy character from wood aging. It has a friendly, open character, making it ready to drink now. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$13

86 Chateau Couronneau 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. Rich and fruity, this wine has a warm feel to it. With ripe blackberries and a dense texture, it is full bodied, but with a firm tannic edge. The freshness of the year comes through with the acidity on the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$15

86 Château Croix Mouton 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This wine is concentrated and shows hints of bitter extraction as well as ripe fruit. There is a tough dryness that will soften given time, yielding a palate that's rich and fulfilling. Wait until 2016. Spec's. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$25

86 Château l'Escart 2011 Cuvée Eden (Bordeaux Supérieur). Ripe and full in the mouth, this is a forward, fruity wine. It has fragrant tobacco and spice notes followed by flavors of luscious blackberries. Softly tannic in structure, it will age, so drink now and until 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$15

86 Château la Tourbeille 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This wine is quite closed at this stage with dark tannins and a firm texture. The dry edge obscures attractive fruitiness, finishing with acidity and freshness. Brescome Barton. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$13

86 Chateau le Grand Verdu 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This is an attractively fruity wine that has just the right tannic structure, solid berry fruits and good acidity. It's a wine that is developing well and is ready to drink now. Wines LLC. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$14

86 Château Mirefleurs 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. This wine is breadly and yeasty with notes of vanilla and spice from wood. Big and bold on the palate, it could intensify in fruitiness in the future. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$16

85 Château Bois Redon 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. Strong mint aromas hint to the wood aging in this wine. Currently, they tend to dominate, accompanied by bitter wood notes and dark-edged tannins. The wine is firm and needs time express its fruit. Total Wine & More-Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$10

85 Château de Riberon 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur. Very dense and extracted, this wine has bitter chocolate as well as dark plum-skin flavors. It is hard-edged, demanding time to escape the dominat-

ing clutches of toasty wood. The firmness continues to the finish. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$25

85 **Château Haut Bessac 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This is a hard edged wine, solid and firm, with dry tannins and only a hint of fruity acidity. It does have weight, so it could soften with age. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$15

85 **Château la France 2011 Cuvée Gallus (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This is a lively, fruity wine that is ready to drink now. It has juicy fruitiness from black currant and strawberry notes, along with soft tannins. Northside Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$10

85 **Château Recogne 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This is an austere wine that's tough on the palate and with high acidity. The black currant fruitiness is still developing, so the wine shouldn't be drunk before 2016. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$17

84 **Château de Monrecueil 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This wine feels hard with bitter extraction that detracts from its fruitiness. There is a very dense texture that could soften over time, although bitterness could remain a problem. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$7

84 **Château Haut Nadeau 2011 Réserve du Propriétaire (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This wine has a lean side that takes away from the bright acidity and fruitiness. With its berry fruit flavors, it should be rich, but lacks a middle. Vineyard Research. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$13

84 **Château Lamothe-Vincent 2011 Le Grand Rossignol du Château Lamothe Vincent (Bordeaux Supérieur).** With light toast aromas, this is a wine that shows vanilla from wood aging more than its fruitiness. There is a barnyard edge to it that brings out rusticity. On the finish, acidity does bring some freshness. Laville Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$25

84 **Château Latour-Laguens 2011 Cadette de Latour-Laguens (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Dry and heavily extracted, this wine has fruitiness that is fleeting. It's a tough wine, but there is just a touch of juiciness on the finish. OSWinestrade. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$20

83 **Château Argadens 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This is a concentrated, extracted wine that's firm and hard-edged. It has some bitterness while the fruit is missing. Constantine Wines. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

83 **Château Beaulieu Comtes de Tastes 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Very toasty aromas materialize into a wine that has way too much wood

aging. There is no sign of fruit here, only wood plank flavors. Wine Warehouse Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

83 **Château de Camarsac 2011 Prince Noir (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This wine is too toasty for its own good. It has dark tannins, high spice and bitter toastiness. There is a soapy aftertaste that only just hints at fruit. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$14

83 **Château de Seguin 2011 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Bitter extraction hinders this wine. It does have some attractive fruitiness in the background, but it's lost amidst all the toughness. The rigid edge will soften, although the wine's fruitiness may well never materialize. Plume Ridge Negotiants. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$10

83 **Château du Lort 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Juicy and fruity, this wine has strong layers of acidity and extracted tannins. It has a hard, austere character that doesn't promise for the future. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$16

83 **Château Gréteau Médeville 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This wine seems thin and rather tight. It has as much acidity as it does fruit, and a dry tannic structure. Not a wine for aging. Zachy's. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

82 **Château de Ricaud 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** Hard and extracted, this is a tough number. The fruit seems lean and the bitter chocolate flavor is not promising much. It may work with food. Thiénot USA. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$19

82 **Château Les Gravières de la Brandille 2011 Bordeaux Supérieur.** The unfocused wine tastes soapy, with bitterness and little fruit. Not a wine to enjoy now or in the future. David Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$18

BORDEAUX

91 **Château Cagnas 2011 Bordeaux.** This wine is closed at this stage, offering just hints to its potential. At the core, there are ripe stone fruits, dark plums as well as blackberries. Fine and stylish tannins add balance. This is a fine wine with a future. Drink from 2016. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$12

90 **Château Camelot la Chapelle 2011 Bordeaux.** This is a wine with potential. It has weight and ripe berry fruits balanced with solid tannins and a dense texture. Behind the structure, the fruit and

acidity promise good things. Drink from 2016. Noble Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$10

90 **Château Lamothe-Vincent 2011 Intense (Bordeaux).** While the wood aging is prominent, it doesn't take away from the complex, ripe fruits and acidity. In a word, this is balanced. It has good potential, as the toasty wood integrates over the next two years. Drink from 2015. Screwcap. Laville Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$12

90 **Château Loumelat 2011 Cuvée J-J Lesgourgues (Bordeaux).** For full review see page 7. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13% Price: \$17

90 **Château Roquefort 2011 Bordeaux.** Smooth and spicy, this is an attractive, rounded and ripe wine. It has weight and richness from wood and black plum and currant fruits. The acidity is a fine counterpoint. Drink from 2016. McM Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$18

89 **Château de Costis 2011 Bordeaux.** This is a full-bodied, structured wine full of ripe berry fruits, delicate acidity and soft tannins. There is a juicy element that offers freshness to balance the firm texture. Wait a year to drink this wine. Laville Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$12

89 **Château Montet 2011 Bordeaux.** This is a ripe, fruity wine that's full bodied but elegant. Soft tannins and balanced red-berry fruits are attractive. This delicious wine will be ready to drink in a year. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

89 **Château Pavil de Luze 2011 Petit Pavil (Bordeaux).** There is a good balance here between spicy wood and sweet berry fruit. The result is an attractive wine that's ripe and fruity with blackberry flavors and fine tannins. Drink from 2016. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$15

88 **Château du Pin 2011 Bordeaux.** With dark tannins, this is a structured and solid wine. It has weight as well as fresh flavors of black currants. The fruitiness is underpinned by firm tannins that come from wood aging as well as fruit. Drink from 2015. Sherry-Lehmann. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$11

88 **Château La Rame 2011 Bordeaux.** Richly textured and spicy, this is a finely integrated wine. It has ripe berry flavors and a palate that's textured with tannins from fruit as well as wood. The structure, held within a lacework of acidity, reflects the wine's potential. Drink from 2016. Rosenthal Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$16

88 Château Thieuley 2011 Bordeaux. A touch of mint aroma suggests a wine with wood aging. The wood influence is well balanced with crisp black currant flavors. It's a wine that could age, so drink from 2015. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

88 Domaine Virginie Thunevin 2011 Bordeaux. Tannins and acidity hint to fine aging potential for this well-made, balanced wine. Acidity and freshness are dominant. Give this wine till 2016 to develop. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Maison Malet Roquefort 2011 Léo de la Gaffelière (Bordeaux). Attractive and fruity, this wine is full of fresh red fruits as well as balanced wood flavors. The tannins are soft, already integrated, and have a warm feel to them. The wine will age, intensifying in fruitiness over the next two years. Luneau USA Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

88 Pezat 2011 Bordeaux. Ripe and generous with sweet berry flavors, but still very young, this wine has dark tannins and a dry core. Drink next year to enjoy its warm, full-bodied character. World's End LLC. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

87 Caves de Rauzan 2011 Château Charon (Bordeaux). This is a structured wine that shows both solid tannins and juicy red-fruit acidity. It's a rich but balanced wine with a ripe aftertaste. Drink from 2015. Jandell Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$10

87 Château Rivensan 2011 Bordeaux. This is a dense wine that has plenty of fresh fruit to support its weight. It's quite tannic though, so enjoy with food. It could also do with time, so wait two years. Vinum Wine Importing and Distributing LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$11

87 Château Saint-Germain 2011 Bordeaux. This is a wine that is fully ripe, perhaps too ripe. Rich with strawberry flavor, it shows more fruitiness than structure. It's quite juicy in style, and could show some balance in a year. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

87 Château Saintongey 2011 Les Hauts de Palette Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux). This is a perfumed wine with eucalyptus aromas and new wood flavors. The wood element is held in balance by flavors of ripe berry fruits and delicate acidity. Keep this wine until 2015. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

86 Château Bois Pertuis 2011 Bordeaux. Firm and solid, this wine is more tannin than fruit at this stage. It does have some weight and acidity to it, showing potential for blackberry fruitiness with age. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

86 Château Saint-Sulpice 2011 Bordeaux. Very fruity and fragrant, this is an attractive wine that shows potential. It has good acidity, firm tannins and fresh black-currant flavor. Drink this wine after two more years. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

86 Jean-Michel Cazes 2011 Michel Lynch (Bordeaux). This is a ripe, fruity wine with rich strawberry flavor. Light tannins and just the right amount of acidity make it fresh, juicy and already attractive. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

85 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2011 Mouton Cadet (Bordeaux). Here is a concentrated wine that has dense tannins and acidity. Black currant freshness offers lively pleasure already, but should intensify in fruitiness in two years. Constellation Brands, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$10

85 Barton & Guestier 2011 Thomas Barton Reserve (Bordeaux). Very spicy from wood aging, this is a toasty, solid, dark hued wine. It has a dense, dry texture, that doesn't allow much space for the fruit. It's always likely to be austere. Barton & Guestier USA. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

85 Château Grand Jean 2011 Bordeaux. This wine shows ripe fruit, sweet tannins and soft acidity. Strawberries are prominent along with a bright, fruity feel. The wine doesn't seem likely to age and will be enjoyable in a year. BNP Distributing. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

85 Château Joinin 2011 Bordeaux. Crisp acidity dominates this black-currant flavored wine. It's all about fresh fruit, soft tannins and benevolent acidity. It's peppered with hints of licorice and spice. Likely to be drinkable in the next year. Masciarelli Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

85 Château Pilet 2011 Bordeaux. With good tannins and acidity, this wine has potential for improvement. Sulphur notes still show prominently at present, giving the palate a bitter character. Once it blows off with age, however, this will be an attractive wine. Give it two years. Integrity Wines LLC. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

85 Donjon de Bruignac 2011 Bordeaux. With considerable acidity, this wine shows as much black currant fruitiness as it does structure. Fruit on the palate is accented with just a touch of toast and light tannins. This is an attractive wine for early drinking. IPO Wines. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$16

85 Maison Sichel 2011 Les Hauts de Bel-Air (Bordeaux). With bright fruitiness, this is an attractive black-currant flavored wine. It has fine acidity that cuts through the wine's gentle, tannic character and

leaves a lively, fresh aftertaste. Heidelberg Distribution. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$10

84 Chateau Auguste 2011 Bordeaux. An attractively fruity wine, this is very fresh and full of bright raspberry flavors, fresh acidity and light tannins. It's a breezy wine, all ready to drink. Constantine Wines. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Château Lauduc 2011 Château Lauduc Classic (Bordeaux). This wine is very fresh and forward with its acidity and green bell-pepper flavors. The black currant flavors show some potential, but this is not a wine for aging. Bacchus Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Château Malbec 2011 Bordeaux. Burnt toast aromas don't exactly make this wine attractive. The palate is better because it has fruit weight, but notes of heavily toasted wood and dry tannins dominate for now. It should improve with age, but will always have this element of hardness. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$16

84 Château Pey la Tour 2011 Bordeaux. Structure keeps this firm, dry wine solidly closed. It is tightly wound at this stage, only hinting at a brighter, fruity future. Drink after 2015. Thiénot USA. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

84 Château Vieil Orme 2011 Bordeaux. Ripe and fruity, this is a simple, easy wine with red berry fruits and soft tannins. It has lively fruitiness that is enjoyable now. Laville Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

84 Etablissements Thunevin 2011 Bad Boy (Bordeaux). Meaty aromas are followed by a bacon flavor on the palate. The wine is closed and firmly tannic, suggesting only a hint of fruitiness. It has an austere side that is not likely to fade. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Maison Sichel 2011 Sirius (Bordeaux). This wine is acidic beyond its other elements. It has a green, herbal character that suggests unripe fruit. It will soften with age, but will always be overtly brisk in nature. J & J Importers. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

83 Château Ballan-Larquette 2011 Bordeaux. There is way too much acidity here, and it's exaggerated by the wine's soft, unfocused texture. Notes of bitter toast and dark tannins are rather unbalanced. Exclusive Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

83 Château Bernés 2011 Bordeaux. This wine seems rather unfocused with indistinct tannins and fruit. There is a soapy texture, and the red

berry fruits seem awash with acidity. Atlanta Improvement Co. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

83 Château du Cros 2011 Bordeaux. Dry, firmly structured and tough, this is an austere wine that doesn't hold out much hope for improvement. Drink it soon with rich food to balance out its dense tannins and wood flavors. Robert Houde Wines. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

83 Clos des Moiselles 2011 Le Bord'eaux du Clos des Moiselles (Bordeaux). This wine is too jammy for its own good with a texture that's soft and squishy. Notes of overripe strawberries are dominant, redeemed slightly by red-currant acidity. This wine is not for aging. OSWinestrade. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

82 Maison Bouey 2011 Cuvée (Bordeaux). This is a wine that is totally dominated by wood. So much so that there is little sign of fruit. Maybe it will integrate, but there is a question mark. Paustis Wines. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

81 Château de Lavagnac 2011 Bordeaux. This is an unfocused wine that has jammy fruit and soft tannins. It tastes overripe. Not for aging. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

OTHER RED WINES

89 Château Godard Bellevue 2011 Francs Côtes de Bordeaux. This is a full and ripe wine showing fine concentration, rich and jammy fruits, and some firmer, well-integrated tannins. There is a hint of juiciness as well, leading to a wine that is generous and with some good aging. Drink from 2015. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château du Seuil 2011 Graves. Cigar box and spice aromas lead to a wine with solid young tannins balancing black currant and berry fruits. This classic style of wine is still very structured and firm, although in four years, the ripe fruit will come through strongly. Drink from 2016. APS Wine & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

BORDEAUX BLANC

92 Château Lamothe-Vincent 2012 Intense (Bordeaux Blanc). Big, ripe and fruity, this is a concentrated, juicy wine. It highlights richness, intense green plum and tangy orange flavors, as well as a feeling of opulence. Concentrated and dense in texture, it needs a year to age. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Penin 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Smooth and rounded, this is a fine wood-aged

wine. It has weight, layers of ripe green and white fruits, and an opulent texture. Spice shows strongly along with the fruit to yield a concentrated and dense wine. Drink from 2015. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Maison Sichel 2012 Sirius (Bordeaux Blanc). This is a serious wine showing textured fruit and vanilla flavors. There's concentration and richness, but it also retains freshness. There is a strong mineral edge to this full-bodied, dense wine. Drink from 2016. Heidelberg Distribution. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Argadens 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Fresh lemon and gooseberry flavors lend an herbaceous edge to this fruity but tightly textured wine. It has richness and density, but it's a wine that is both refreshing and serious. Keep for a year before drinking. J & J Importers. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Chateau Haut Rian 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Complex and rich, this is an impressive, concentrated wine. It has great acidity that balances flavors of ripe white fruits and apple skins, and lends a tight, taut texture. The wine should be aged for at least six months before drinking. VOS Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

91 Château Maison Noble 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Citrus and herb characteristics show strongly in this full-bodied wine. They are enhanced by light wood flavors that smooth out the acidity. The result is a full, rich wine that could age. Drink from 2015. Jassal Liquor Distributors. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Tour de Mirambeau 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. More toasty than fruity at this stage, this is a finely made wine with vanilla flavors that dominate the ripe tropical fruits underneath. Give it a year and the wine will balance out richly and smoothly. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Château du Seuil 2012 Graves. There is a strongly herbaceous, almost cat-like character in this wine that hints at New Zealand. At the same time, the weight and structure is all Bordeaux. It's a wine from a good white-wine vintage showing touches of wood as well as intense fruitiness. Drink from 2015. APS Wine & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

90 Château la Croix de Roche 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a perfumed wine with soft acidity and flavors of ripe apricot, nutmeg and spiced apple. It's full of character and the aftertaste retains the freshness of the vintage. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Turcaud 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Smooth and creamy, this wine wears its wood aging easily. The toast is present, ready to complement flavors of ripe apricot and creamed pear. There's an at-

tractive tang of bitter orange on the finish that adds both weight and aging potential. Drink from 2015. Sussex Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Valandraud 2012 Virginie de Valandraud (Bordeaux Blanc). Crisp at the start, this is a wine that's full of potential. Its acidity and light toast come together to promise richness that's always balanced by a brighter character. Age for a year before drinking. PBG. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Vignobles Dubergé 2012 Esprit de Saint Sulpice (Bordeaux Blanc). Rounded and rich, this is already a delicious wine. It has great fruitiness combined with a fine, tight texture. There is a crisp edge that contrasts with the depth of flavor and warm, ripe feel. Drink now, or, better yet, keep for a year. Seewcap. Lumeau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Faugères 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a balanced, ripe wine full of apple and orange fruit, and with a fine, textured character. It has weight and caramel richness, and just a hint of wood. It should be aged before drinking, so wait until 2016. Angel's Share Wine Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Fonréaud 2012 Le Cygne de Fonreaud (Bordeaux Blanc). There is fine acidity here as well as the extra richness from wood aging. The wine has weight, spice and fresh apricot and quince flavors. It is a wine for aging for a couple of years, so drink from 2015. LVDH USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Haut Maginet 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. A textured wine, this is mineral and chalky in character with intense gooseberry and lime flavors. It feels tight, so it might need food to bring out its best. Ready to drink, but it's worth aging for six months. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Loiseau 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. While this is a creamy wine, the palate has soft acidity as well. Apples, ripe pears and just a squeeze of lemon juice are all attractively combined to give a warm, and rich wine. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Queyssard 2012 Cuvée Dorianne (Bordeaux Blanc). This is a wine with ripe fruit that tastes rich and generous. Pear and apricot flavors are full in the mouth and warm. Age this attractive wine for a year. Atlanta Improvement Co. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Rauzan Despagne 2012 Grand Vin (Bordeaux Blanc). With spice, a touch of toast and ripe fruits, this is an attractive, tangy wine. It has apricot and peach flavors as well as a full, rich tex-

ture. The wine should age a year before drinking. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Suau 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a rounded and creamy wine that's deliciously full bodied and ripe. It has apricot, white peach and spice flavors that add complexity. Acidity gives a bright lift on the finish. Screwcap. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Thieuley 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Soft and smooth, this is a wine that is still developing its full potential. The fruit is subdued but should burst into richness in the next six months with apricot and spice flavors that show strongly. Laville Imports.

Best Buy. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$12

88 Château de Parenchère 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Herbaceous, fruity and full bodied, this is a ripe grapefruit- and citrus-dominated wine. Rich and full bodied, it has a generous, forward style. Stacole Fine Wines. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château du Cros 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Herbaceous yet full and ripe, this wine is concentrated in both texture and fruitiness. It's rich with white currant and citrus flavors, but a brisk, grassy feel as well. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Ducla 2012 Experience (Bordeaux Blanc). Tangy and fruity, this is a lively, bright wine that has added weight from light wood aging. Citrus and apple flavors show strong and bright to give a crisp, textured aftertaste. Victoire Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Haut Mondain 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Fruity and perfumed, this is an attractive, fresh wine. It has crisp acidity, along with an herbaceous touch accenting apple and lime-juice flavors. There is a textured, tangy aftertaste that adds bite to the finish. Wine Traditions. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Hoste-Blanc 2012 Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Blanc). There is a perfumed, spicy quality to this wine, with hints of nutmeg and allspice. The wine is rich and full in the mouth, but with a great streak of contrasting acidity. It really needs to be aged for a year to bring out all its qualities. Zachy's. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château la France 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a fruity wine that combines a smooth initial texture with more intense herbaceousness on the finish. The creamy mouthfeel is contrasted with a textured character that lends good intensity. Drink in a year. Zachy's. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Latour-Laguens 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Ripe in style, this is a full-bodied, creamy wine. It has fine acidity despite its rich texture and generous, warm feel. On the finish, the wine remains full and open in character. OSWinestrade. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) 2012 Réserve Spéciale (Bordeaux Blanc). This is a fruity, juicy wine that shows great tropical and citrus fruits. It is rich, but balanced with herbaceousness and fine, fresh acidity. It has a tangy texture that gives a good bite to the finish. Pasternak Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Maison Malet Roquefort 2012 Léo de la Gaffelière (Bordeaux Blanc). Very herbaceous in character, this is a wine that has richness, intensity and the balance of a mineral texture and tight acidity. It's a wine that needs food with its structure and tangy aftertaste. Northside Wine & Spirits. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Bonnet 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. A mineral, textured wine, this is full of grassy gooseberry and grapefruit flavors. Fruit on the palate is accented with a chalky character and strong, very present acidity. Drink in six months. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château de Bellevue 2012 Sauvignon Gris (Bordeaux Blanc). This is a lime- and lemon- flavored wine that is fruity and refreshing. It is delicate, bright and light, and attractive to drink now as an apéritif. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château de la Vieille Tour 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Initially tight in texture, this is a mineral wine that opens to reveal flavors of fruity, ripe peaches and orange zest. On the finish, the taut character returns to give a crisp, textured aftertaste. Screwcap. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$13

87 Château La Rame 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Freshness dominates this bright, fruity wine. There are apple, pear and apricot flavors with just the lightest touch of vanilla. At the end, the wine shows a great tangy character, full of lemon and grapefruit zest. Rosenthal Wine Merchants. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château le Grand Verdus 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a smooth and soft wine that shows its attractive fruitiness slowly. As it opens, apple, pear and lime flavors become prominent, yielding a wine that is rounded, fruity and fresh. Bayfield Importing Ltd. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Les Combes 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is an intense wine that is full of fresh fruits, rich green plum and apricot flavors, as well

as a creamed apple character. It is weighty and generous, while at the end, the wine offers a more tangy, tight aftertaste. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Talbot 2012 Caillou Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). Herbaceous in character, this is a tight and tangy wine with crisp, grassy fruitiness. It has a rich palate, but maintains a tight and nervy feel to it. Best kept for a year before drinking. J & J Importers. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Tour d'Auron 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a ripe wine with tropical fruit flavors that are cut with fine green acidity. There is a good texture with some nerviness as well as lively acidity on the finish. It's a style of wine that needs food. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2012 Mouton Cadet (Bordeaux Blanc). Full in the mouth, this is a ripe, currant- and gooseberry-flavored wine. It has a bright, forward, fruity feel that makes it delicious to drink. Very refreshing in character. Screwcap. Constellation Brands, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$10

86 Château Ballan-Larquette 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This wine is crisp with acidity but rounded on the palate with concentrated pink-grapefruit flavors. It has a rich, fruity, juicy aftertaste. Exclusive Imports. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Château Fonfroide 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Very Sauvignon in style with marked acidity and a grassy character, this wine has flavors of pure green and crisp white fruits. Apples and quince are balanced by the light texture and fine acidity. Advantage International. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Château Gréteau Médeville 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Tight and herbaceous, this is a very Sauvignon-oriented wine. It has the classic, intensely grassy feel, a tangy lemon texture and green acidity. It is very intense and concentrated. Dubos Frères. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Château Lauduc 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Crisp and fruity, this is a wine that hides nothing. It is all upfront, fresh fruit backed with lively acidity. It's a wine that sings brightly and effortlessly. Bacchus Imports, Inc. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Les Parcelles de Stéphane Derenoncourt 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This fruity, herbaceous wine is a classic Sauvignon Blanc. The texture is light and mineral and the palate boasts flavors of white fruit skins and lemon zest. Acidity on the finish

keeps the freshness going long. Grapevine Distributors. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Les Portes de Bordeaux 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This ripe wine is full of rich, fruity apricot and apple flavor. It is warm and generous, although its streak of acidity lends freshness on the finish. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Maison Sichel 2012 Les Hauts de Bel-Air (Bordeaux Blanc). With great green plum, gooseberry and pink grapefruit flavors, this is a delicious fruit salad of a wine. It has lively acidity, a bright texture and an attractive tangy feel. It's ready for drinking now. Langdon Shiverick. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

86 Pezat 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). This is an attractive, fruity wine that is full of tropical fruits and herbs. Apricots mingle with citrus, pink grapefruit and a tangy, zesty texture, making this a bright, light wine that's ready to drink now. World's End LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Château Bel Air Perponcher 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. There is a light toast aroma to this ripe, fruity wine, but the juicy feel is underlined by wood aging. Ripe, with a touch of sweetness at the end, it is ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

85 Château Grand Jean 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a spicy wine that shows rich fruit along with nutmeg and cinnamon flavors. Baked apple and ripe pear underly the spice, while acidity on the finish accentuates a fresh aftertaste. DBA Prestige Wines. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

85 Château la Freynelle 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Very nutty aromas introduce this smooth and creamy wine. It has a rich feel that's fruity and ripe with flavors of spice, vanilla and caramel, as well as red apple. Ready to drink now. Screwcap. BNP Distributing. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

85 Château Loumelat 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Juicy and fruity, this is a wine with fine acidity, crisp green fruits and a tight texture. Easy to drink already, it has a tangy character that gives the wine an extra bite at the end. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

85 Château Pierrail 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Grassy and herbal, this wine is crisp, tight and mineral. It's delicate and bright in character, and ready for drinking now. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

85 Château Roquefort 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. On the herbaceous side, this is a full bodied but grassy wine with hints of green undergrowth

and a cat-like character. It has a modern, forward fruitiness that's very new world in style. Drink now. McM Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

85 Château Seguin 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). This lively, fruity wine is simple in character but full of grapefruit and lemon crispness. It is softly textured, but has a final bite of lemon zest and tight acidity. Plume Ridge Negociants. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Caves de Rauzan 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Bright and breezy, this is a simple, fruity wine with just a touch of sweetness. It has a crisp, lively feel to it but is open and forward. The aftertaste is light and fresh. The House Of Burgundy. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Château Mémoires 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). Soft and rounded, this is a wine that shows its ripe fruits upfront. It has a lightly textured character along with some spice for added interest. The aftertaste is fresh and crisp. Vineyard Research. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Château Recogne 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Full, rounded, attractively fruity, this wine is light in texture. It is juicy and without great complexity, but with a generous, ripe feel. Screwcap. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Château Trocard 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a classic Sauvignon with just an extra amount of creamy texture. The wine is light, fruity and fragrant, and finishes with an easy-drinking acidity. For drinking immediately. Frank-Lin International. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

84 Les Vignerons d'Alliance Bourg 2012 Prince de Tabourg (Bordeaux Blanc). This creamy wine is very soft, smooth and light in feel. Acidity is well integrated into the ripe apricot and peach flavors, with just a touch of white currants and spice on the finish. Eagle Eye Brands. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

84 Michel Lynch 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a wine with simple fruit-juice flavors. It's ripe, but has attractive acidity. Overall, it's very fruity and ready to drink. David Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

83 Jean Médeville et Fils 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. A fruity, open wine, this has bright acidity, crisp green fruits, a touch of lemon and a light texture. Ready to drink. Dubos Frères. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

83 Univitis 2012 Grand Théâtre (Bordeaux Blanc). Light, bright and fruity, this wine is full of citrus acidity and a ripe, herbaceous character. Lively

and fresh, it is a Sauvignon-dominated wine. Cotes de Longue Selections Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

82 Château des Gravières 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. This is a very feline wine with tight citrus and gooseberry fruits that are almost too intense for its own good. Elixirs du Monde. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

82 Château le Noble 2012 Bordeaux Blanc. Thin in character, this is a pleasant wine without much style. Light and ready to be drunk immediately. Elixirs du Monde. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

BARSAC

95 Château Climens 2010 Barsac. Full and very rich, this is an opulent style of wine. It has a ripe, tropical fruit feel to it, offering power as well as fresh acidity. Pineapples and lychees give fruitiness, perfume and spice. The aftertaste, with its liquorous character, is gloriously warm and concentrated. Drink from 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Coutet 2010 Barsac. This is a very spicy wine with weight, great depth of flavor and concentration. Fine acidity cuts through the core, balancing sweetness and adding freshness to flavors of wild thyme-honey and orange marmalade. Drink the wine from 2017. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$80

93 Château Nairac 2010 Barsac. A fine balance between sweetness, acidity and astringency drives this wine forward. Acidity lifts the palate and adds freshness, and botrytis adds a drying astringency. Pineapples, prunes and apricots all add their fruity notes to this rich wine. Drink from 2018. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château de Myrat 2010 Barsac. Dense and textured, this is a powerful, complex wine. It's layered with honey and botrytis, and a concentrated fruitiness with flavors of apricots and creamed pears. There is a great sense of freshness on the finish. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Doisy-Daëne 2010 Barsac. This is a light, fresh and spicy wine that offers both a fine texture and a sense of freshness. Fragrant and fruity, the palate boasts pear flavors spiced with ginger. There is a fine touch of acidity and orange zest that gives the wine further complexity. Drink from 2016. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

SAUTERNES

95 Château Suduiraut 2010 Sauternes. This is a gorgeously ripe, opulent wine that shows a rich fruit-salad ripeness, as well as darker notes of botrytis. The wine is full and very ripe with flavors of

honey, fennel and lemon, with sweetness balanced by acidity. This is a wine that could be drunk soon but will age magnificently. Drink from 2016. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Clos Haut Peyraguey 2010 Sauternes. This wine is firm and powerful while also showing sweetness. It's textured and structured, with a zesty, tangy character that also brings out minerality. The palate is ripe with flavors of honey and lemon zest. The wine does need aging. Drink from 2018. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Doisy Védrières 2010 Sauternes. Very textured, this is a complex wine. There is a strong sense of minerality here, along with flavors of ripe apricots, peaches and grapes. The texture is zesty and tangy, showing some taut, nervy acidity. This is a wine for serious aging so don't drink before 2017. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Lafaurie Peyraguey 2010 Sauternes. Dense and opulent, this is a fine, ripe wine. There is great weight here, along with flavors of nutmeg and white peach. Acidity and a firm, youthful texture all promise aging. Drink this wine from 2017. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

93 Château Guiraud 2010 Sauternes. There is a wonderful balance to this wine. It has ripe tropical fruit flavors that are spiced with ginger and lemon zest. At the same time, there is a fine structure with a botrytis core and freshness from pineapple acidity. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

93 Château la Tour Blanche 2010 Sauternes. This wine is still very closed, and not yet showing its rich potential. That doesn't detract from its fine, botrytis texture, core of acidity and dried apricot flavors. It's a wine that needs to come out of its shell, so don't drink before 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Filhot 2010 Sauternes. Apricots and smooth honey come through strongly in this beautiful wine. It has a rich, mellifluous texture, and accents of sweet spice are lifted by a shot of lemon zest. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Château de Malle 2010 Sauternes. While it is certainly rich, this wine has a drying core of botrytis that dominates at the moment. There's remarkable weight and concentration on the palate, but brisk lemon flavors add vibrancy and cut. It is obviously a wine to age, so don't drink before 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Sigalas Rabaud 2010 Sauternes. There is an earthy, animal element to this wine that adds complexity to ripe fruit flavors. Cur-

rently, it's a wine that is all potential, sweet and dense with a finish of intense acidity. Drink from 2017. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Château de Rayne Vigneau 2010 Sauternes. The wine feels light and fresh in character with acidity, lemon and a gentle, sweet texture. It's attractive with a good bite of zest that adds structure and balance. A fresh aftertaste gives an extra lift. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$59

88 Château Broustet 2010 Sauternes. This is a wine with a strong botrytis element that adds dryness to honey flavors. Intense acidity cuts through the ripe fruit flavors. It still needs to integrate, so don't drink before 2018. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

CÉRONS

90 Château du Seuil 2012 Cérons. Swathes of botrytis reveal themselves seductively on this sweet wine. It is rich in flavors, but still vibrant with acidity. Fine balance and intense flavors of apricots, honey and spice give it potential to age well. Drink from 2015. APS Wine & Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$28/500 ml

JURA

ARBOIS WHITES

92 Domaine Daniel Dugois 2006 Vin Jaune Savagnin (Arbois). Rich almonds, ripe peaches and a smoky, oxidized character all come together in this ripe, complex, fascinating wine. There is a great tang of apple acidity on the finish. Drink now. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Domaine Daniel Dugois 2012 Chardonnay (Arbois). This is a beautiful, ripe wine, flavored with quince, pear and apricots. It is above all the zesty texture that gives this wine its character and attraction. Fruity, structured and likely to age well, the wine should be drunk from 2015. Esprit du Vin. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

91 Domaine Daniel Dugois 2009 Savagnin (Arbois). Now mature, this is a deliberately oxidized wine that's very ripe with strong notes of almond and yeast. It may require an acquired taste, but it has a great character of richness and complex texture. Drink now. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Domaine Daniel Dugois 2011 Auréoline Savagnin (Arbois). Rich, fruity and very ripe, this is a wine with toast, spice and luscious apricot and green plum flavors. Still young, it has intense potential to yield a full-bodied, intense wine with great acidity as well as fruitiness. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

84 Domaine Daniel Dugois 2010 Mouchets Chardonnay (Arbois). This is a tight wine that has as much texture as fruit. It yields a wine that has some bitterness and a hard, zesty finish. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

OTHER WHITE WINES

88 Domaine Buronfosse 2010 L'Hôpital Savagnin (Côtes du Jura). Ripe fruit and acidity coexist in this wine. Flavors of luscious peaches are accompanied by smoke, almonds and tight acidity. It's definitely a wine with character, but offers further aging potential. Drink until 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Domaine Buronfosse 2010 Varron Chardonnay (Côtes du Jura). Seemingly one-dimensional, this wine is tight and packed with acidity. It has a fine texture marked with lemon-and-lime zestiness, but misses the mark in terms of depth and complexity. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

SPARKLING WINE

82 Domaine Buronfosse 2011 Sparkling Blend (Crémant de Jura). This is a wine that has a curious metallic character. It masks the fruit and gives it a hard edge. It's fresh, but not immediately attractive. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

RED WINE

89 Domaine Daniel Dugois 2010 La Grevillière Trousseau (Arbois). Despite its characteristic light color, this is a wine with richness and some firm tannins. It's a wine with structure, concentration, and a firm red-plum skin and raspberry jelly character. Drink now. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

TUSCANY

WHITE WINES

90 I Giusti e Zanza 2012 Nemorino Bianco (Toscana). Made from equal parts Trebbiano and Semillon and aged in oak, this is a gorgeous white wine, with a heady fragrance of yellow flowers, cut grass and honey. The palate offers layers of creamy lemon pastry, apple, banana and a hint of spice. The well-integrated oak gives complexity while the crisp finish makes it so drinkable. Superior Wines LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Fattoria Le Pupille 2012 Poggio Argentario (Toscana). Made from a blend of Traminer

and Sauvignon Blanc, this lovely wine offers aromas of stone fruit, melon and a whiff of tomato vine. The elegant, linear palate delivers flavors of ripe peach, tangerine, lemon and a hint of lime. Winebow. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Le Palaie 2012 Viognier de Le Palaie (Toscana). This opens with a floral fragrance of honeysuckle and lavender, with hints of stone fruit and smoke. The palate offers flavors of white peach, citrus and dried apricot, with touches of butterscotch and oak on the close. Joshua Tree Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

87 Livernano 2012 L'anima (Toscana). Here's a blend of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Gewürztraminer from Tuscany that has a pretty fragrance of white and yellow flowers. The palate offers apple, tropical fruit and pear notes, along with a soft texture and fresh acidity. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Olivi 2012 Coreno (Toscana). Coreno is a blend of Trebbiano and Malvasia grapes that hail from over fifty-year-old vines. It has aromas of stone fruit and pear, while the palate boasts flavors of peach, lemon cream, vanilla and well-integrated oak. Supreme Wines & Spirits. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 Poggio al Tesoro 2012 Solosole Vermentino (Toscana). Solosole is a lovely Vermentino with floral and stone fruit aromas accented by Mediterranean herbs. The palate delivers ripe peach and citrus flavors that are balanced by crisp acidity. Pair this with grilled chicken. Winebow. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Terre di Talamo 2012 Vento Teso Viognier (Toscana). Made from Viognier, this wine has apricot and spice aromas. The palate delivers yellow peach, citrus and honey notes and has a dry, nutty finish. Pair this with lobster and mildly seasoned fish dishes. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Diadema 2012 D'Amare (Toscana). Made from Chardonnay and Viognier, this wine opens with peach and apricot aromas that carry over to the palate alongside notes of lemon peel and honey. While it opens strong, it finishes abruptly. Superior Wines LLC. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

86 Olivi 2012 Orhora (Toscana). A blend of 80% Verdicchio, Viognier and Sauvignon Blanc, this has a delicate floral fragrance of white flowers and beeswax. The palate offers lemon-lime, pear and citrus flavors, along with sharp acidity. Supreme Wines & Spirits. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

86 Terre di Talamo 2012 Vento Vermentino (Toscana). Made with the Vermentino grape, Vento is a bit inexpressive but eventually reveals subdued floral and exotic fruit aromas. The palate offers

banana, pineapple and peach flavors accompanied by bright acidity. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Massi di Mandorlaia 2012 Vermentino (Maremma Toscana). This simple but well-made Vermentino has a pretty floral fragrance that recalls white spring flowers. The palate offers white peach and citrus notes that finish on a crisp, dry note. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

84 Terre di Talamo 2011 Vento Forte Vermentino (Toscana). This barrique-aged, late harvest Vermentino is dominated by new oak and lacks the fruit richness to support the evident wood sensations. It offers oak, butterscotch, vanilla and coffee bean notes that carry through to the palate alongside forward honey flavors. You'll also easily detect the 15% alcohol on this. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

84 Tommasi 2012 Poggio al Tufo Vermentino (Toscana). This Vermentino opens with restrained aromas of stone fruit and acacia flower. The palate seems tired, but offers up dried apricot, lemon zest, yellow peach and bitter almond-skin notes. Vintus LLC. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉS

88 I Giusti e Zanza 2012 Nemorino Rosato (Toscana). This deeply colored Tuscan rosato, made entirely from Syrah, opens with a lovely fragrance of blue flower, red berry and spice. The vibrant palate delivers crisp acidity and flavors of raspberry, blueberry and white pepper. Superior Wines LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

85 Gualdo del Re 2012 Shiny Aleatico (Costa Toscana). Made from the Aleatico grape, this opens with intense floral aromas reminiscent of air freshener. The palate offers strawberry, berry and grapefruit flavors that finish slightly off-dry. It's one dimensional, but would make a fun apéritif. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

RED WINES

92 I Giusti e Zanza 2009 Dulcamara (Toscana). This delicious blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot opens with an intense, brooding fragrance of dark fruit, spice and leather. The palate delivers a concentrated black-cherry flavor that's framed by big, chewy tannins and punctuated by spicy accents of white and black pepper, licorice and pipe. Drink 2015–2024. Superior Wines LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$41

91 Il Borro 2010 Polissena Sangiovese (Toscana). Made exclusively from Sangiovese, this

bold wine opens with intense aromas of underbrush, blue flower, oak and leather. The palate offers black cherry, vanilla, espresso and black pepper notes. Soft and ready to drink, with round tannins, it ends on a licorice note. USA Wine West. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Poggio al Tesoro 2010 Dedicato a Walter (Toscana). Here's a bold expression of Cabernet Franc that leads with intense aromas of blackberry, tobacco and balsamic herbs. The richly textured palate delivers a tight core of black cherry, spice and graphite, with bracing but ripe tannins that need a few more years to tame. Winebow. —K.O.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

90 Fattoria La Torre 2010 Esse (Toscana). This 100% Syrah offers aromas of black pepper, blackberry, underbrush and oak. The palate delivers flavors of dark cherry, blackberry and spice, with a hint of mocha. It has just enough fresh acidity and firm but fine tannins. While delicious now, this will age and develop well; drink now through 2020. Superior Wines LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

90 Russo 2010 Sasso Bucato (Toscana). This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot offers aromas of bell pepper, cedar wood and red currant. The palate delivers layers of delicious black and red fruit punctuated by hints of white pepper, espresso and dark chocolate. It's well balanced, with ample freshness and a silky texture. Superior Wines LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Fattoria La Torre 2009 Stringaio (Toscana). This blend of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon is loaded with intense underbrush aromas of mushroom, forest floor, black fruit and earth. The palate delivers notes of blackberry, black pepper and a hint of espresso. This is already drinking well so enjoy now. Superior Wines LLC. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 I Giusti e Zanza 2011 Belcore (Toscana). With aromas of violet, tilled soil and red berries, this blend of Sangiovese and Merlot recalls sunny Tuscany. It's loaded with wild cherry flavors accented by white pepper, cinnamon and vanilla. The palate is uplifted by vibrant acidity and fine tannins. Superior Wines LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Argiano 2010 Suolo (Toscana). This expression of Sangiovese is dominated by wood-driven sensations. It opens with aromas of toasted oak, espresso and underbrush that carry through to the palate alongside a dense black-fruit flavor that stays just behind the oak. It finishes on an astringent, tannic note. Vias Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$164

88 Livernano 2010 Purosangue (Toscana). Puro Sangue is made entirely from Sangiovese and shows violet, underbrush and black fruit aromas. The palate delivers black cherry and licorice notes, with

hints of chocolate and spice as well as a soft, round texture. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Salcheto 2012 Obvious (Rosso di Montepulciano). This opens with earthy underbrush, violet and red berry aromas. The palate is bright, with tart red cherry and ripe raspberry accented by notes of pepper and baking spice. It's vibrant and calls out for hearty pastas or pecorino cheese. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Argiano 2010 Solengo (Toscana). This oak-dominated wine recalls the ubiquitous wood-driven Tuscan offerings from the late 1990s and early 2000s. A blend of Cabernet, Petit Verdot, Merlot and Syrah, it delivers hardcore oak, wood chips, vanilla, chocolate and espresso sensations, with black currant and blackberry lying low in the foreground. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

87 Castello di Poppiano 2011 Syrah (Toscana). This easy-drinking wine opens with aromas of ripe blackberry, blueberry and cooking spices. The palate offers one-dimensional but delicious flavors of blackberry, black cherry and black pepper. It's soft, round and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Fossacolle 2011 Rosso di Montalcino. Made from Sangiovese, this savory wine opens with earthy underbrush and berry aromas, accented by a whiff of spice. The palate offers a bright cherry flavor, layered with notes of licorice and espresso. Pair this with pasta with meat sauces. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Marchesi Torrigiani 2010 Torre di Ciardo (Toscana). This blend of Sangiovese, Canaiolo, Colorino and Merlot opens with subdued but fruity aromas of red and black berries. The palate offers wild cherry, blackberry, vanilla and white pepper. Its soft, uncomplicated structure and supple tannins allows for easy drinking. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

87 Olivi 2010 Pugnitello (Toscana). Made from the rare Pugnitello grape, this wine opens with aromas of black fruit and espresso. The palate is one dimensional but offers a dense blackberry flavor, with hints of spice and licorice alongside polished tannins. Supreme Wines & Spirits. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

87 Renieri 2010 Regina di Renieri Syrah (Toscana). This Syrah opens with aromas of black fruit, earth, coffee bean and oak. The palate shows lots of oak, along with blackberry, black pepper, espresso and vanilla that are restrained by astringent wood tannins. While the tannins need years to come around, the fruit is already drying up. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Renieri 2008 Grigo Merlot (Toscana). Made from Merlot and aged in barriques, this wine offers aromas of currants, bell pepper and plum. The palate presents ripe black cherry, black currant and chocolate layered with spice, oak and vanilla sensations. It's still aggressively tannic. Drink 2016 to 2023. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Castello di Poppiano 2010 Tricornio (Toscana). This blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet and Merlot opens with subdued aromas of blackberry, cedar and spice. The palate offers cherry, plum and cinnamon notes, but it is also flat and lacks nerve. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Il Borro 2011 Pian di Nova (Toscana). This brooding blend of Syrah and Sangiovese has aromas of black berries and spice, while the dense palate offers prune, black pepper, oak and chocolate flavors. The bracing tannins need time to tame, while a lack of freshness leaves this flat. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

86 Olivi 2009 I Puri Merlot (Toscana). This 100% of Merlot from Tuscany opens with aromas of prune and raisin that recall dried grapes. The palate offers concentrated fig, raisin and mocha flavors, with the slight warmth of evident alcohol. The overall lack of freshness makes this appear clunky and evolved. Supreme Wines & Spirits. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$120

86 Renieri 2011 Rosso di Montalcino. Here's a wine with aromas of blue flower, ripe berry and balsamic herbs. The palate offers bright but rich cherry-raspberry flavors, with hints of spice and licorice. Pair this with hearty pastas and Tuscan soups. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Vignemastre 2010 Dardo (Toscana). This blend of Sangiovese and Merlot is a bit closed, but it reveals subtle underbrush and violet aromas followed by raspberry and black cherry flavors. Pair this with pasta topped with meat sauces. Palateur Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Gualdo del Re 2008 l'Rennero (Val di Cornia Suvereto). This Tuscan Merlot opens with dominant aromas of raw wood and wood chips, with hints of black fruit muffled beneath the surface. Oak is also at the forefront of the palate, followed by notes of toast, espresso and vanilla. There's not enough fruity richness to carry the oak, and it finishes on a bitter note of astringent wood tannins. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

85 Le Palaie 2009 Bulizio (Toscana). This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot opens with a rustic, animal sensations, followed by notes of prune and white pepper. The palate shows

overripe black cherry, bell pepper and vanilla flavors, as well as massive, astringent tannins and low freshness. Joshua Tree Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

85 Renieri 2011 Invetro (Toscana). This blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet and other varieties opens with rustic aromas that recall earth, farmyard and overripe plums. The palate is a bit better, with mature black-fruit flavors accompanied by spice, although it finishes on a bitter note. Michelangelo Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 Russo 2009 La Mandria del Pari (Val di Cornia Suvereto). Made entirely from Cabernet Sauvignon, this has aromas of grilled bell pepper and cedar wood. Oak dominates the palate, which also shows red currants, chocolate and espresso. The tannins are aggressive and astringent. Superior Wines LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

VIN SANTO

90 Il Borro 2008 Occhio di Pernice (Vin Santo del Chianti). This velvety Vin Santo opens with intense maple syrup aromas that carry through to the palate along with apricot, orange peel, honey and spice. The dense, smooth texture is uplifted by fresh acidity that prevents it from being cloying. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

ORVIETO CLASSICO

88 Decugnano dei Barbi 2012 Villa Barbi Bianco (Orvieto Classico). Here's a stunning expression of Umbria's storied white wine. It opens with aromas of melon, cantaloupe, and ripe peach that carry over to the palate, along with notes of citrus and tropical fruit. It has nice length and a clean, refreshing finish. Epic Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 La Carraia 2012 Orvieto Classico. This charming, easy-drinking blend of Grechetto, Procanico, Malvasia and Verdello opens with a fragrance of yellow flower and spice. The palate offers flavors of tropical fruit, apple and lemon-lime, with a clean, refreshing finish. Winebow. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Bigi 2012 Amabile (Orvieto Classico). Made from the same blend as the dry Orvieto, in this version fermentation is stopped before all the sugars are converted to alcohol. A moderately sweet wine, it boasts apricot, honey and almond notes, with just enough acidity to avoid a cloying finish. Pair it with cream cheeses or almond cookies. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

86 **Salviano 2012 Salviano (Orvieto Classico).** Here's a delightful and straightforward wine that opens with a delicate fragrance of white spring flowers. The palate offers notes of tropical fruit, lemon zest and a hint of clove. It has a clean, quenching finish. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

85 **Bigi 2012 Secco (Orvieto Classico).** Here's a simple but well-made and enjoyable expression of Umbria's classic white wine. Made from a blend of Procanico, Grechetto, Verdello, Malvasia and Drupeggio, this has a pretty floral bouquet that recalls white flowers. The palate delivers white peach and pear flavors, and finishes crisp. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

83 **Barberani 2012 VINOSO Vini NO SOLFITI (Orvieto Classico).** This wine opens with tertiary aromas of damp earth and mineral, along with notes of brown-banana peel and beeswax. The palate shows a loss of fruit richness and oxidation. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

ORVIETO CLASSICO SUPERIORE

89 **Palazzone 2012 Terre Vineate (Orvieto Classico Superiore).** This beautiful expression offers intense aromas of stone fruit, hazelnut and exotic fruit. It boasts ripe white peach, pear and cantaloupe flavors, accented by herbs and minerals. The creamy texture is energized by crisp acidity. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Barberani 2010 Luigi e Giovanni (Orvieto Classico Superiore).** This opens with aromas of yellow flowers, tropical fruits and just a whiff of vanilla. The palate is round and juicy, with Golden Delicious apple and tropical fruit flavors. It has nice depth and length. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

88 **Decugnano dei Barbi 2011 Decugnano Bianco (Orvieto Classico Superiore).** Here's an updated expression of Umbria's most famous white that adds 40% Vermentino to 50% Grechetto and 10% Trebbiano. It delivers an enticing fragrance of pineapple and stone fruit that carries through to the palate, along with apple and citrus flavors. It has a rich texture and crisp finish. Epic Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 **Palazzone 2011 Campo del Guardiano (Orvieto Classico Superiore).** Here's an Orvieto with a distinct personality. It opens with enticing aromas of acacia flower and honey accompanied by rich flavors of yellow peach, tropical fruit, apricot, pear and herbs. It also has nice depth and just a hint of complexity. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

87 **Barberani 2012 Castagnolo (Orvieto Classico Superiore).** Made from a blend of Grechetto, Procanico and other varieties, this charming wine from central Italy opens with aromas of tropical fruit, ripe yellow peach and a whiff of smoke. The palate offers flavors of pineapple, golden apple, and citrus, with a bitter almond note that unfolds on the finish. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Tenuta Le Vette 2012 Lunato (Orvieto Classico Superiore).** This Grechetto-based wine opens with a pretty floral fragrance that recalls yellow- and white-spring flowers. The palate offers juicy peach, tropical fruit and citrus flavors, with a hint of thyme. Thanks to crisp acidity, it has a clean, refreshing finish. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

ORVIETO

87 **Argillae 2012 Orvieto.** This opens with a pretty bouquet of yellow spring flowers and tropical fruit. The palate offers lingering pineapple, lemon zest and pear flavors that finish clean and refreshing. Pair this with light pastas or lightly seasoned seafood dishes. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Sergio Mottura 2012 Tragugnano (Orvieto).** Made from a blend of organically farmed Grechetto, Procanico and Sauvignon blanc, this charming single-vineyard selection offers up a floral fragrance of acacia flower accented aromatic herbs. The palate delivers ripe pear, mint and thyme flavors, with crisp acidity. Chambers & Chambers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

86 **Ruffino 2012 Orvieto.** This opens with pretty aromas of wild white flowers and pear. The palate is light and fresh, with a core of yellow apple, Williams pear and tropical fruit, with a crisp, quenching finish. Pair it with mild seafood dishes or light pastas. Constellation Brands, Inc. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

86 **Sergio Mottura 2012 Orvieto.** Made from organically cultivated fruit, this delightful blend of Grechetto and Procanico opens with a white flower aroma. The linear palate delivers pear and apple flavors, with a crisp, clean and refreshing finish. Pair this with buffalo mozzarella or hors d'oeuvres. Chambers & Chambers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

UMBRIA

90 **Marchesi Antinori 2011 Cervaro della Sala (Umbria).** Made primarily from Chardonnay, with 10% Grechetto, Antinori's flagship white opens with aromas of oak, toast and vanilla. The palate offers apple, tropical fruit and citrus flavors, with hints of oak and bitter almond. This also shows cellaring po-

tential, and will develop complexity with more bottle age. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 **Antonelli 2012 Trebbiano Spoletino (Umbria).** This beautiful white is fermented and aged in large casks that add complexity but not wood sensations. It opens with a floral fragrance of white spring flowers, with whiffs of tropical fruit and flint. The palate delivers pineapple, banana, melon and spice flavors that close on an almond note. Bright acidity gives this a dry, refreshing finish. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$22

88 **Argillae 2012 Grechetto (Umbria).** Made from Grechetto, a grape widely planted in parts of Umbria, this opens with aromas of apricot, tropical fruit and citrus. The delicious palate offers crisp acidity and flavors of ripe peach, cantaloupe, lemon zest, almond and thyme. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Di Filippo 2012 Farandola Trebbiano Spoletino (Umbria).** Here's a delicious expression that's made from organically farmed fruit. It opens with aromas of acacia flower, honey and exotic fruit. The palate offers rich pineapple and creamy almond pastry flavors that are brightened by refreshing acidity. Acid Inc Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Goretti 2012 Trebbiano-Grechetto (Umbria).** Here's a charming blend that has lovely fragrances of jasmine and lily of the valley, with a hint of stone fruit. The delicious palate offers creamy white peach, pear and tropical fruit flavors that are energized by a vein of crisp acidity. Santini Wines. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

88 **Marchesi Antinori 2012 Bramito del Cervaro Chardonnay (Umbria).** This 100% Chardonnay, from Antinori's Castello della Sala estate, opens with aromas of Golden Delicious apples, vanilla and a whiff of oak. The palate delivers creamy apple and juicy lemon flavors, with notes of well-integrated oak. Despite the richness, it's also elegant and fresh. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Palazzone 2012 Grek Grechetto (Umbria).** Made entirely with Grechetto from one of the denomination's leading estates, this lovely wine opens with an intensely floral fragrance of white spring flowers and acacia. The palate delivers rich peach, pineapple, citrus, mint and thyme flavors, followed by a bitter almond note on the finish. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Perticaia 2012 Trebbiano Spoletino (Umbria).** This expression of Trebbiano Spoletino from Umbria's Sagrantino hills opens with a bouquet of lemon blossom, green melon and citrus, accented by mineral notes. The palate delivers layers of lemon

cream, orange peel and almond, accompanied by a vein of fresh acidity. BelVino LLC. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Cantina Novelli 2012 Trebbiano Spoletino (Umbria). This offering opens with aromas of melon and tomato vine. The palate delivers creamy white peach, cantaloupe and lemon drop flavors, brightened by a crisp, acidic streak. Bacchanal Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Marchesi Antinori 2012 San Giovanni della Sala (Umbria). Made from Grechetto, Procanico, Pinot Bianco and Voigner, this opens with an alluring fragrance of lemon zest, golden apple, tropical fruit and spice. The palate offers pineapple, creamy ripe peach and pear flavors that are energized by mineral notes. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Palazzone 2012 TIXE Pinot Grigio (Umbria). For fans of Pinot Grigio, this copper-hued wine—the natural color yielded by Pinot Grigio grapes—is a must try. It delivers juicy pear and apple flavors, along with spice and mineral notes and crisp, quenching acidity. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Perticaia 2012 White (Umbria). This blend of Grechetto and Trebbiano Spoletino opens with a fragrance of tropical fruit and cantaloupe. The fresh but creamy palate offers rich flavors of green melon, pineapple and green apple, brightened by citrus notes and refreshing acidity. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Tabarrini 2011 Adarmando (Umbria). Here's a pretty white from the hills of Montefalco made with the Trebbiano Spoletino grape. It's loaded with citrus and peach sensations that are made more interesting by marked mineral notes of flint alongside racy acidity. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Cantina Novelli 2012 Pecorino (Umbria). Made from the native Pecorino grape that is being revived in central Italy, this wine offers aromas of white and yellow flowers accompanied by citrus notes. The palate delivers flavors of pineapple, tangerine peel, lemon zest and a hint of butterscotch. Bacchanal Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Cirulli 2011 Hedone Bianco (Umbria). This blend of Incrocio Manzoni, Trebbiano, Malvasia and Grechetto opens with tutti frutti aromas of ripe banana, pineapple and pear that carry over to the palate, along with mango. The savory palate also has a certain salinity that restrains the exuberant fruit. Ribevi Wine Int. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Lungarotti 2012 Pinot Grigio (Umbria). Here's a pretty Pinot Grigio that offers a heady fragrance of white flowers and Granny Smith apple. On

the palate, this offers creamy green apple and pear flavors, uplifted by fresh acidity. Vin Divino. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Lungarotti 2012 Torre di Giano (Umbria). This charming blend of Vermentino, Trebbiano and Grechetto opens with pretty aromas of white spring flowers, tropical fruit and peach. The palate offers apricot, pear and citrus flavors, ending with a refreshing finish. Vin Divino. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

86 Salviano 2011 Salvino di Salviano (Umbria). A blend of equal parts Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, this opens with interesting aromas of tropical fruit, cinnamon and liqueur. The palate offers nearly overripe apple, citrus and pineapple, along with hints of baking spices. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Scacciadiavoli 2012 Grechetto (Umbria). This opens with aromas of tropical fruit and acacia flower. The palate delivers flavors of pear, peach and pineapple, with hints of mineral and finesse. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Goretti 2012 Grechetto (Colli Perugini). Here's a beautiful white that opens with an enticing floral fragrance of acacia flower and Spanish Broom, accented by a whiff of beeswax. The palate delivers ripe pear, peach, pineapple and banana flavors alongside quenching, crisp acidity. It has a dry, nutty finish. Santini Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Cantina Tollo 2012 Colle Secco Pecorino (Terre di Chieti). Here's a delicious white wine from central Italy made with the native Pecorino grape that opens with aromas of yellow flowers and tropical fruit. It has a creamy mouthfeel, with crisp acidity and juicy flavors of white peach, pineapple and citrus. Vintage Epicure. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Di Filippo 2011 Sassi d'arenaria Grechetto (Colli Martani). This savory offering from Umbria, made with organically farmed Grechetto grapes, has a pretty floral fragrance accented by aromas of stone fruit. The palate offers pear, white peach and citrus notes, with hints of tangerine zest and spice. Acid Inc Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Illuminati Dino 2012 Costalupo (Con-troguerra). Costalupo is a fun blend of Trebbiano, Passerina and Chardonnay that offers fresh aromas of lemon zest, spice, ripe apple and pear flavors. It has a creamy texture and crisp acidity that would make a nice match for rich seafood dishes. Montcalm Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Cantina Fratelli Pardi 2012 Colle di Giove (Montefalco). This simple offering opens with aromas of stone fruit and toasted almond. The palate offers yellow peach, apricot and citrus, with a hint of flint on the close. de Grazia Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

84 Orion Wines 2012 Pehhcora Pecorino (Terre di Chieti). This wine opens with aromas of white flowers and exotic fruit. The palate offers pear, apple and pineapple flavors, but you'll also notice a slight medicinal note on the end. Traditional Wine Innovations LLC. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

SPARKLING WINE

84 Sartarelli 2012 Brut (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi). This simple sparker from central Italy's Marche region offers ripe pear and lemon peel sensations accompanied by large, persistent bubbles. It ends on a bitter almond note. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

SAGRANTINO DI MONTEFALCO

95 Milziade Antano 2009 Colleallodole (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This bold, beautiful wine opens with earthy aromas of freshly tilled soil, violets, truffle and leather. The delicious palate offers succulent blackberry, woodland berry and cinnamon-spice accompanied by big, brooding tannins. It's already stunning, but give this terroir-driven wine time to develop even more complexity. Drink 2015–2024. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Arnaldo Caprai 2008 25 Anni (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This wine deserves its lofty reputation as one of Italy's premier bottlings. It opens with a gorgeous fragrance of berry, leather, truffle and spice. The palate delivers ripe and delicious black cherry, black berry, white pepper and chocolate notes accompanied by firm but refined tannins. This will age beautifully and develop complexity for decades. Drink 2016–2028. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

94 Milziade Antano 2009 Sagrantino di Montefalco. From one of the longest established producers in Montefalco, this gorgeous wine shows the real potential of Sagrantino. It has an alluring fragrance of rose, violet, berry, spice and leather while the palate delivers lush black cherry, blackberry, licorice and white pepper. It has powerful but ripe tannins alongside vi-

brant acidity, and will develop beautifully. Drink 2015–2029. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Tenuta Castelbuono 2007 Sagrantino di Montefalco. For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Dionigi 2006 Sagrantino di Montefalco. This powerful Sagrantino opens with aromas of meat juice, truffle and black fruit. The palate offers blackberry, black cherry, cinnamon and black pepper, along with tobacco notes. It also has Sagrantino's trademark tannic backbone, but the tannins are ripe and are balanced by bright acidity. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Goretti 2007 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Here's a stunning expression that opens with earthy aromas of blue flower, underbrush and leather, as well as black fruit and spice. The palate offers creamy cherry, black berry, white pepper and tobacco, with a hint of clove. The fresh acidity—surprising for the hot vintage—balances out the firm but ripe tannins. Best 2017–2027. Santini Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Tenuta Bellafonte 2009 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Fermented with only wild yeasts and aged in large Slavonian casks, this is a bold and delicious wine, delivering earthy aromas of tilled soil, spice and berry. The palate delivers layers of blackberry, dark cherry, cinnamon, white pepper and licorice alongside bracing but ripe tannins. This will age well and develop complexity. Drink 2019–2029. Empson (USA) Ltd. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$55

91 Arnaldo Caprai 2008 Collepiano (Sagrantino di Montefalco). From the pioneering family that started the Sagrantino revival, this opens with earthy aromas of blue flower, leather and spice, along with whiffs of oak. The palate delivers succulent blackberry, coffee bean, chocolate and black pepper flavors alongside tightly knit, bracing tannins. Drink after 2016. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Antonelli 2006 Chiusa di Pannone (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This structured Sagrantino is loaded with blackberry, spice, leather and balsamic herb sensations. It also demonstrates the grape's massive tannins that will give this wine many more years of staying power. Drink 2016–2026. Omnivines Distribution. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Bocale 2009 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Here's a bold, ripe offering that delivers savory blackberry and black cherry flavors, with layers of white and black pepper. The brawny, tightly-knit tannins are balanced by vibrant acidity, giving this an ageworthy structure. Drink 2019–2029. Golden State Wine. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$39

90 Di Filippo 2009 Etnico (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This high octane offering opens with aromas of mature black fruit, spice and orange peel. The palate expresses lush black cherry, blackberry and clove uplifted by a note of thyme alongside a seriously tannic backbone. It's shy on fresh acidity and you can definitely detect the alcohol, but it's still delicious. Acid Inc Selections. —K.O.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Rocca di Fabbri 2008 Sagrantino di Montefalco. This opens with aromas of oak and espresso. The palate is more interesting, with ripe blackberry and spice in the forefront followed by a warm palate accented with menthol and white pepper notes. It's powerfully structured with noticeable warmth. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tabarrini 2009 Colle Grimaldesco (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This opens with a bouquet recalling blue flowers, berries and white pepper. The palate delivers concentrated dark cherry and blackberry fruits as well as accents of espresso and orange peel. The aggressive tannins, typical of the grape, are balanced by a vein of fresh acidity. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

90 Tabarrini 2008 Colle alle Macchie (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This opens with aromas of prune, fig, raisin and espresso. The palate offers ripe blackberry, cherry, and black pepper layered with intense mint, thyme and licorice sensations. It's young but well balanced, with just enough freshness to support the bracing tannins. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$77

89 Antonelli 2008 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Fragrances of black fruit and spice lead the nose of this wine, while the palate delivers notes of ripe blackberry, white pepper, and licorice, all accompanied by youthful, aggressive tannins. Omnivines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Di Filippo 2008 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Made from organically farmed grapes, this opens with an unusual fragrance of medicinal herbs and ripe black fruit. The palate offers flavors of dense blackberry, raspberry, vanilla and espresso, along with prune and raisin notes. Acid Inc Selections. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Lungarotti 2008 Sagrantino di Montefalco. This shows the aggressively tannic structure that makes the Sagrantino grape such a challenge for winemakers. It opens with aromas of black fruit, underbrush and toasted oak. The palate delivers flavors of blackberry, espresso, oak and tobacco leaf alongside brash tannins that will need years to tame. Vin Divino. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$60

89 Perticaia 2009 Sagrantino di Montefalco. This expression delivers blackberry, black cherry, oak and black pepper notes, along with espresso and mocha accents. It's still tight and aggressively tannic, and will need several years to unwind. Drink 2019–2029. BelVino LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Scacciadiavoli 2006 Sagrantino di Montefalco. This brawny Umbrian wine opens with aromas of black fruit, coffee bean, espresso and black pepper that carry over to the palate. It's powerfully built with massive yet ripe tannins that still need time to tame. Drink 2016–2026. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

89 Tabarrini 2009 Colle alle Macchie (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This brooding wine opens with balsamic aromas of eucalyptus and leather, along with whiffs of freshly turned soil and plum. The palate offers up ripe black cherry, white pepper and the warmth of evident alcohol. It also has massive, astringent tannins. Drink after 2019. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$77

88 Cantina Novelli 2007 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Here's a Sagrantino offering intense balsamic fragrances of menthol and mint that recall Clark's teaberry gum. The palate delivers ripe blackberry, white pepper and cinnamon, along with oak and espresso notes. Bacchanal Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Moretti Omero 2009 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Made from organically farmed grapes, this opens with aromas of oak, toast and vanilla. The palate is better, delivering succulent blackberry, licorice, fennel and oak alongside teeth-coating tannins. Multiple U.S. Importers. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

88 Romanelli 2009 Sagrantino di Montefalco. Here's a brooding, earthy wine that opens with scents of blue flower, leather, berry and spice. The warm, tight palate delivers ripe black cherry and blackberry flavors accented by licorice, mint and black pepper notes. Golden Horseshoe Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

88 Tabarrini 2009 Campo alla Cerqua (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This opens with earthy aromas of wet soil, black fruit and cinnamon-spice. The palate delivers thick blackberry, blueberry and licorice flavors, with accents of black pepper alongside Sagrantino's calling card of iron-clad tannins. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$68

87 Adanti 2006 Sagrantino di Montefalco. This opens with very earthy, almost rustic but not unpleasant aromas of animal, tilled soil, wet wool and leather. The palate delivers ripe—nearly overripe—plum and blackberry flavors accented by sage. The tan-

nins still need time to tame so drink after 2016. David Vincent Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

87 Cantina Fratelli Pardi 2009 Sagrantino di Montefalco. This is rather closed but eventually reveals aromas of oak, coffee bean and espresso. The palate delivers ripe blackberry, licorice and baking spices alongside astringent tannins. It's also a bit shy on fresh acidity. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

MONTEFALCO ROSSO

90 Antonelli 2007 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Made from Sangiovese, Sagrantino and Merlot, this structured wine delivers notes of black cherry, raspberry, black pepper and spice, along with a licorice accent. It has bracing but ripe tannins that need a few more years to unwind. Drink 2015–2022. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Arnaldo Caprai 2011 Montefalco Rosso. This blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Sagrantino opens with a floral and fruit fragrance of violet, dark berries and spice, with a hint of pressed powder. The palate offers a bright, cherry Jolly Rancher flavor, accented by notes of spice and orange peel. Very elegant and ready to drink now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

90 Arnaldo Caprai 2008 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Here's a delicious blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Sagrantino. It delivers high-tone aromas of pressed violets, red berry and spice. The palate offers succulent black cherry and creamy raspberry flavors that are brightened by white pepper and cinnamon accents. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Di Filippo 2011 Montefalco Rosso. Made from organically farmed Sangiovese, Barbera and Sagrantino, this bold blend opens with notes of tilled soil, violet, rose and spice. The palate delivers lush blackberry and red cherry accented by cinnamon and clove. Delicious now, but will continue to develop; drink 2015–2021. Acid Inc Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

90 Milziade Antano 2010 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Here's a hearty blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino and Merlot that opens with earthy aromas of tilled soil, truffle, tobacco and meat juice. The lush palate delivers juicy black cherry, blackberry, spearmint and thyme alongside rippling but refined tannins. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Antonelli 2010 Montefalco Rosso. This blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino and Merlot offers lovely aromas of violets, earth, berry and spice. The palate delivers a lush wild cherry flavor, layered with ac-

cents of clove and white pepper, balanced by freshness and supple tannins. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Goretti 2011 Montefalco Rosso. Here's a savory blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Sagrantino that opens with spiced berry aromas. The palate delivers ripe black cherry, red currant and black pepper flavors, with a hint of mocha. It's a nice blend of structure and immediate drinkability. Santini Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Scacciadiavoli 2010 Montefalco Rosso. This blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Sagrantino is redolent with aromas of ripe black fruit and blue flower, with a whiff of leather. The palate delivers a savory wild cherry flavor, punctuated with white pepper, cinnamon and clove spice. Bracing yet fine tannins are balanced by fresh acidity. Drink 2015–2020. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Tabarrini 2010 Montefalco Rosso. This delicious blend of Sangiovese, Barbera and Sagrantino opens with expressive floral scents of rose and violet alongside notes of berry and orange peel. The palate offers dense black cherry, white pepper and licorice notes balanced by big but polished tannins. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Tenuta Castelbuono 2009 Montefalco Rosso. Here's a blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino, Merlot and Cabernet that offers delicious ripe blackberry, wild cherry and white pepper sensations. It's ripe, round and smooth, with polished tannins. Enjoy soon with mildly seasoned cheeses or hearty pasta dishes. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Cantina Fratelli Pardi 2010 Montefalco Rosso. Here's a savory blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino, Cabernet and Merlot that delivers ripe red cherry, white and black pepper, with a hint of orange peel. It's still very tannic, and finishes and on a note of espresso. Drink 2015–2020. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Milziade Antano 2011 Montefalco Rosso. A blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino and Merlot, this offers up aromas of plum, prune and raisin. The palate delivers dense and savory blackberry flavor, with fig, black pepper and mineral notes. Open this at least an hour ahead of time to let it breathe. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Dionigi 2010 Montefalco Rosso. This blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Sagrantino offers rustic, almost funky but not unpleasant aromas of tilled soil, toast, meat juice and truffle. The palate opens with delicious black cherry, raspberry and clove flavors, along with notes of well-integrated oak and evident alcohol. Metropolis Wine Merchants, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

87 Inalto 2011 Montefalco Rosso. This blend of Sangiovese and Sagrantino is aged in tonneau and offers aromas of black berry, cherry and oak. The palate has a vibrant black-cherry core accented by pepper, cinnamon and espresso notes, as well as bracing yet ripe tannins. MHW, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 Moretti Omero 2011 Montefalco Rosso. Made from organically farmed grapes, this brooding blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Sagrantino opens with earthy aromas of underbrush, truffle and leather. The palate offers dense wild cherry, raspberry, cinnamon and white pepper notes, with bracing tannins. Reflecting the hot vintage, it's a bit forward. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Romanelli 2009 Montefalco Rosso. Here's a delightful Montefalco Rosso that's made in an easy-drinking style. It offers upfront raspberry and cherry flavors, with hints of orange peel and black licorice. Golden Horseshoe Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Bocale 2010 Montefalco Rosso. This blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino, Merlot and Colorino opens with aromas of violet, red and black fruit, and cinnamon-spice. The palate offers ripe but one dimensional blackberry, vanilla and chocolate flavors. Golden State Wine. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

86 Cantina Novelli 2009 Montefalco Rosso. A blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino, Merlot and Cabernet, this offers aromas of cherry-berry and dessert spices that carry over to the palate, along with a licorice note. It's ripe and round but also a bit tired, with a drying, tannic finish. Vinvino Wine. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Perticaia 2010 Montefalco Rosso. Made from a blend of Sangiovese, Sagrantino and Colorino, this wine opens with aromas of forest floor, oak and toast. The palate is a bit flat and not very long, but offers notes of blackberry, red cherry, espresso and oak. BelVino LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Rocca di Fabri 2010 Montefalco Rosso. A blend of Sangiovese, Montepulciano and Sagrantino, this boasts ripe raspberry, cherry and coffee bean sensations, lifted up by notes of white pepper, mint and sage. You'll also detect a green, astringent woody accent on the close. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

84 Adanti 2009 Montefalco Rosso. Made with Sangiovese, Sagrantino, Barbera, Merlot and Cabernet, this wine opens with dominant oak aromas that carry through to the palate alongside subdued notes of prune and fig. It lacks fruit richness and freshness to support the oak. David Vincent Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

ORVIETO REDS

88 Tenuta Le Velette 2011 Rosso di Spicca (Orvieto). This savory blend of Sangiovese and Canaiolo has an enticing and vibrant fragrance of red berry, orange peel and violet. The bright palate boasts red cherry, raspberry mint and thyme flavors, resulting in sheer drinking enjoyment. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

86 Castello di Montegiove 2009 Mi.Mo.So. (Orvieto). This easy-drinking blend of Montepulciano, Merlot and Sangiovese opens with aromas of scorched earth and prune that carry over to the palate alongside flavors of raspberry and licorice. It's already reached its ideal drinking window, so enjoy soon. Leojami Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

UMBRIA

90 Falesco 2010 Marciliano (Umbria). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc opens with aromas of oak, earth and ripe black fruit. The palate offers flavors of succulent black currant, plum, black cherry, espresso and roasted herbs, all layered with chocolate and vanilla. It boasts velvety tannins and a smooth texture. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

89 Cirulli 2010 Ginepreta (Umbria). Here's a blend of 85% Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon that offers succulent plum, black currant and prune flavors layered with notes of oak, spice and cocoa. While rich fruit and smooth tannins make this appealing now, fresh acidity gives this some staying power. Drink through 2020. Ribevi Wine Int. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

89 Falesco 2011 Trentanni (Umbria). This blend of Merlot and Sangiovese was first produced in 2009 to celebrate the firm's 30th anniversary. It opens with ripe black fruit, spice and toasted aromas. The soft palate delivers juicy and delicious black cherry and plum flavors, layered with chocolate, espresso and black pepper notes. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 Antonelli 2009 Contrario (Umbria). Made from 100% Sagrantino, vinified and aged in steel and concrete tanks, this surprisingly easy-drinking selection offers aromas of black cherry, vanilla, toast, anisette and fennel. The palate delivers flavors of black cherry, blue berry and mineral, with polished tannins and bright acidity. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Barberani 2011 Polago (Umbria). Here's a savory blend of Sangiovese and Montepulciano that opens with aromas of meat juice, soil, prune and plum. The palate offers juicy black cherry, raspberry,

mint and tobacco, with hints of truffle and underbrush in a ripe, ready-to-enjoy style. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Castello di Montegiove 2009 Elicius (Umbria). This appealing blend of 70% Montepulciano and 30% Sagrantino offers up aromas of bright fruits and meat juices. The savory palate delivers flavors of juicy plum, raspberry and licorice. It's round and ready, with polished tannins, so enjoy soon. Leojami Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Falesco 2012 Merlot (Umbria). This soft, round wine opens with aromas of oak, vanilla and black fruit. It has big, ripe flavors of blackberry, plum, espresso and chocolate alongside smooth tannins. While it's not complex, it's delicious and ready to enjoy now. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 La Carraia 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Umbria). This Cabernet Sauvignon opens with aromas of ripe black fruit, cedar and toast. The palate delivers notes of ripe plum, black currant and spice, with smooth tannins that make this very enjoyable to drink young. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 La Carraia 2010 Tizzonero (Umbria). A delicious blend of Montepulciano and Sangiovese, this opens with earthy aromas of freshly turned soil, black fruit and underbrush. The palate delivers flavors of juicy plum and black cherry, all laced with tobacco, clove and nutmeg and presented in a brooding but read-to-enjoy style. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

88 La Carraia 2009 Fobiano (Umbria). Made with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with aromas of ripe black fruit, oak and toast. The palate delivers flavors of ripe plum, blackberry and fig, all accented by notes of white pepper, espresso and chocolate. It finishes on a slightly astringent note. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Adanti 2007 Arquata (Umbria). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Barbera opens with aromas of bell pepper, black currant and cedar. Plum, blackberry and cherry flavors carry the palate in a soft and ready-to-drink style, accented by a hint of black pepper. David Vincent Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Argillae 2012 Sinuoso (Umbria). A blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with aromas of ripe red berries and toasted oak. The palate offers notes of black cherry, espresso and cocoa, alongside smooth tannins. It's soft and made to be enjoyed young. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Barberani 2010 Foresco (Umbria). This blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon opens with aromas of evident oak, saw dust and

blackberry. The palate delivers ripe black cherry, black currant and raisin flavors, with accents of white pepper and clove. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Bigi 2012 Vipra Rossa (Umbria). This blend of Merlot and Sangiovese offers a bright aroma of red berry with hints of orange peel and violet. The palate delivers juicy black cherry, raspberry and black pepper flavors in a straightforward and easy-drinking style. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Decugnano dei Barbi 2011 Villa Barbi Rosso (Umbria). Here's a blend of Merlot, Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon that offers aromas of ripe black fruit alongside toasted sensations of espresso and oak. This easy-drinking, enjoyable style delivers juicy plum, blackberry and spice flavors alongside velvety tannins. Epic Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Decugnano dei Barbi 2009 Decugnano Rosso (Umbria). This blend of Montepulciano, Syrah and Sangiovese offers aromas of wet earth, black fruit and oak. The palate is a bit closed but reveals blackberry and cherry flavors, with a hint of licorice. This already drinking well so enjoy soon. Epic Wines. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$28

87 Falesco 2012 Vitiano (Umbria). This blend of equal parts Merlot, Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon opens with a black fruit aroma and a whiff of toasted oak. The palate delivers ripe plum and black cherry flavors, with a coffee bean accent, presented in a forward and ready-to-drink style. Winebow. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Perticaia 2012 Red (Umbria). Here's a simple but well-made and enjoyable offering made from a blend of Sangiovese, Colorino and Merlot. The linear palate offers up bright cherry-berry, licorice and mint, along with firm tannins and fresh acidity. BelVino LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Tenuta Vitalonga 2011 Elcione (Umbria). This easy-drinking blend of Cabernet and Merlot opens with aromas of bell pepper, cedar, black currant and a whiff of orange peel. The palate delivers ripe plum, blackberry and clove in an unfettered style accompanied by smooth texture. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Tenuta Vitalonga 2011 Terra di Confine (Umbria). This blend of 80% Montepulciano and 20% Merlot opens with aromas of berry, mocha and toasted coffee bean. The palate is friendly and forward, with plum and blackberry accompanied by a hint of chocolate. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Terre de Trinci 2011 Cajo (Umbria). A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangrantino, this offering from Umbria opens with an unusual fragrance of meat juice, olive, berry and spice. A round and ready-to-drink wine, the palate delivers blackberry and licorice flavors alongside accents of sage and thyme. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Cirulli 2011 Hedone Rosso (Umbria). This blend of equal parts Sangiovese, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc opens with aromas of ripe black fruit, vanilla and chocolate. The palate offers sweet plum, black cherry, bell pepper and mint in a one dimensional, friendly style. Ribevi Wine Int. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Tenuta Le Velette 2009 Calanco (Umbria). A blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet, this offers aromas of red berry and cedar. The palate delivers plum, blackberry and vanilla layered with chocolate. It's one dimensional but very enjoyable and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

86 Tenuta Le Velette 2009 Gaudio Merlot (Umbria). This ready-to-drink wine opens with berry and plum aromas layered with subtle oak. The palate is smooth and round, with blackberry, mocha, white pepper and mint flavors alongside polished tannins. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

86 Tenuta Vitalonga 2011 Phiculle (Umbria). This blend of Cabernet Franc and Montepulciano opens with earthy aromas of tilled soil, blackberry and evident oak. The palate offers up plum, red berry and roasted coffee-bean flavors. It's soft and ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

85 Cantina dei Colli Amerini 2010 Olmeto Merlot (Umbria). This wine offers aromas of ripe plum, raisin and mocha, with hints of toasted oak. The palate opens with ripe blackberry and plum notes, but finishes abruptly, closing on an astringent note. WS Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

89 Cantina Tollo 2009 Riserva Aldiano (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). This rich offering from central Italy opens with a pretty floral fragrance of iris and lilac, along with notes of espresso and toast. The palate is soft and round, with ripe plum, blackberry, coffee, vanilla and a dusting of cocoa. Vintage Epicure. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 Tritano 2010 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo. Here's an easy drinking wine that opens with aromas of tilled soil and ripe, dark fruit. The palate of-

fers blackberry and plum flavors, with a hint of spice and round, soft tannins. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

85 Illuminati Dino 2008 Riserva Pieluni (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Colline Teramane). This is still closed but reveals restrained dark fruit and cocoa aromas. The palate is also closed down, showing only hints of blackberry and espresso, with massive tannins and evident alcohol. It lacks freshness and seems tired, although it could be in a mute phase. Hold and try after 2016. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$52

84 Cantina Tollo 2009 Riserva Cagiolo (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). This wine opens with aromas of overripe black fruit, coffee, oak and hints of balsamic herbs. The palate, however, is rather tired; most of the fruit has dried up, leaving oak, espresso and alcohol sensations that finish abruptly. Vintage Epicure. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

SWEET WINES

92 Barberani 2007 Aleatico (Umbria). Here's an exciting dessert wine that opens with an intense fragrance of mint, thyme and berry. The concentrated palate offers ripe cherry, berry, mint and thyme flavors, with a hint of tangerine peel. The rich flavors are brightened by fresh acidity that leaves a clean rather than cloying finish. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50/500 ml

90 Antonelli 2007 Passito (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This opulent dessert wine has an alluring fragrance of plum, fig, carob and chocolate. The palate delivers ripe black cherry, prune, raisin and glazed sugar alongside velvety smooth tannins. Perfect to finish the meal with or to sip by the fire. Omnivines Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45/375 ml

90 Barberani 2010 Calcaia Noble Rot (Orvieto Classico Superiore). Here's a dessert nectar from central Italy made from botrytized grapes. It offers notes of dried apricot, honey, saffron, sage and a hint of maple syrup. Pair this with sharp, seasoned cheeses. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$40/500 ml

90 Còlpetrone 2008 Passito (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This dense dessert wine opens with subtle aromas of black fruit, prune, leather and spice. The palate delivers concentrated notes of blackberry, dried cherry, cinnamon and chocolate alongside firm, drying tannins that need a few more years to soften. Sip it on its own as a mediation wine or pair with tarts made with dried fruit. Drink 2016–2028. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33/375 ml

90 Marchesi Antinori 2008 Muffato della Sala (Umbria). Made from grapes that have

been exposed to moffa nobile or botrytis, this lovely dessert wine boasts sensations of candied fruit, dried apricot, almond and ripe yellow peach. The rich flavors are balanced with freshness, making it an ideal meditation wine to sip after dinner or pair it with seasoned cheeses. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Scacciadiavoli 2006 Passito (Sagrantino di Montefalco). This dessert wine opens with earthy aromas of underbrush and tobacco, with whiffs of chocolate and oak. The palate offers up dense black cherry, blueberry and licorice, along with smooth tannins. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

AUSTRIA WHITE WINES

GRÜNER VELTLINER

95 F X Pichler 2012 Loibner Steinertal Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). This is a beautifully structured wine that has ripe apple flavor, as well as delicate acidity and minerality. There is a sprinkle of pepper, crisp citrus and a spicy aftertaste. This is a fine wine with taut texture that promises a good future. Drink from 2015. Screwcap. Weygandt-Metzler. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Bründlmayer 2012 Käferberg Erste Lage Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). There is a peppery character to this fabulous wine, both from its aroma and its flavor. That gives both richness and adds to the dense, complex texture. The wine, with its finely textured acidity, needs age over several years. Drink from 2016. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Bründlmayer 2012 Lamm Erste Lage Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is a powerful wine that's very richly textured and with a structure that promises aging. It has weight and sup-er-ripe peach and apricot flavors. There is a fine cut of acidity to give both freshness and aging potential. Drink from 2016. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 F X Pichler 2012 Dürnsteiner Liebenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). This wine has a full-bodied character that is very ripe. Pepper dominates the flavors, showing off the quince and pear fruits. There is perhaps too much sulfur at this touch, so let it blow off when opening and before drinking. This wine has huge potential to age, so don't drink before 2015. Weygandt-Metzler. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 F X Pichler 2012 Loibner Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). This is a super-ripe, rich wine that's very full in the mouth. It has an opulent feel to it, while also retaining acidity and crisp lemon and apple flavors. The aftertaste brings out

pepper as well as a more mineral character. Drink from 2014. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Forstreiter 2011 Tabor Reserve Die Rärätat Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). From one of the oldest vineyards in Austria, this is a hugely ripe and intense wine. It has obvious power and concentration balanced with flavorful acidity and creamy pear. Rich, full bodied and dense, it is still young and should not be drunk before 2015. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Gritsch Mauritiushof 2012 Singerriedel Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). The Singerriedel, one of Wachau's most famous vineyards, is a steep terraced hill above Spitz. With its great exposure, it is able to produce ripe, very rich wines like this. To contrast, there is a tight, steely texture with intense acidity that promises aging. Drink from 2016. Winemonger. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

93 Bründlmayer 2012 Alte Reben Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is as serious as Grüner gets. It's a very rich wine, fully structured, packed with ripe apricot flavors with a touch of lime. The texture is dense, mineral still very young. With concentration and young acidity, it needs to age. Drink from 2017. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 Ebner-Ebenauer 2010 Black Edition Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Wood aging brings out a totally different side of Grüner. It adds tropical fruit flavors, a richer texture and a fuller, more Burgundian character. This is an exceptional wine that could well age. Drink now and until 2019. Wine Monger. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 F X Pichler 2012 Dürnsteiner Kellerberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). This is a fruity wine that attractively layers apples, pears and quince. There is just a touch of pepper to give interest to this full-bodied and ripe wine. Acidity shows at the end to bring a crisp, tight aftertaste. Drink from 2015. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Forstreiter 2011 Grande Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is a full, aromatic and rich wine that is packed with ripe tropical and white fruits. It has crispness as well, giving a more mineral and zesty texture. There's a characteristic touch of pepper along with a dry aftertaste that offers a strong contrast. This is a fine wine, full of character and ready to drink now. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

93 Tegernseerhof 2011 Bergdistel Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). Very mineral in character, this wine is named after a former priest of Dürnstein who renovated the village church. It is cer-

tainly ripe, while very textured and chalky in character, with its acidity whirling around the glass. There's great concentration as well, beautifully smoothed out by the spice and crisp apple balance. Screwcap. Artisanal Cellars, Select Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Tegernseerhof 2011 Höhereck Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). This is a big, spicy wine that has exotic flavors of mangoes and kumquats, as well as a firm texture. It's a serious, concentrated wine with its natural exuberance tamed by a tight texture and the promise of acidity. Don't drink yet, wait until 2015. Screwcap. Artisanal Cellars, Select Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

92 Bründlmayer 2012 Loiser Berg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). The wine has a warm, rich feel to it while remaining fresh. It has a sense of gravitas with concentrated pear and peach fruit flavors over a mineral texture. The wine is still young, showing too much exuberant acidity. Drink from 2015. Screwcap. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Forstreiter 2012 Schiefer Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). A strongly spicy, rich wine, this has great concentration and an intense, dense texture. There is weight with plenty of ripe tropical fruits to contrast pronounced black pepper and bitter almond character. It's still young, so don't drink before 2015. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

92 Gritsch Mauritiushof 2012 Obere Steilterrassen Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). A single-vineyard wine from Spitz in the Wachau, this is both crisp and roundly rich. Its weight comes from the superripe fruits that are underpinned by strong pepper and peach flavors. There is a mineral edge to keep everything in order. Drink from 2015. Winemonger. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Gritsch Mauritiushof 2012 Steinportz Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). This is an intensely mineral wine that's wonderfully crisp as well as rich. It is strongly textured and tight with acidity, structure, along with powerful pepper and ripe pear flavors. This is a wine for aging, don't drink before 2016. Screwcap. Winemonger. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Josef Schmid 2011 Kremser Gebling Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). While it feels rich and round, this is also a wine with a crisp side to it. Acidity cuts through ripe pear, apricot and lychee flavors, giving a decidedly crisp balance. It's a wine that is already ready to drink. Screwcap. Tastings Import Company. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Loimer 2012 Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is a full, opulent wine that is delicious with acidity and spice. Fragrant grapefruit and citrus notes

complement rich apple flavors on the palate. The wine has many years to age and achieve balance between its structure and fruitiness. Drink from 2015. Winebow. —R.V.

abv: NA **Price:** \$22

92 Tegernseerhof 2011 Weissenkirchner Steinriegel Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). There is such pure fruit in this crisp, clean wine. Apples and green plums lend a sharp line of freshness and acidity. At the finish, the wine is richer with hints of peppery spice. Screwcap. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Weszeli 2011 Purus Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is a really rich wine that has great concentration and richness. It reflects the natural pepper and spice character of Grüner along with tight minerality, a firm texture and considerable aging potential. Drink from 2016. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Dürnberg 2012 Rabenstein Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Mineral in character, this is a ripe wine with tight texture as well as a touch of oak aging. It's dense, spicy and full bodied but with bright acidity behind the rich fruit and toast, keeping the wine in balance. Keep this ageworthy wine and drink from 2016. Private Reserve. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Ebner-Ebenauer 2012 Bürsting Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This wine is still young with a sharp edge that needs to soften out. An apple- and quince-flavored wine, it has fine potential for aging, to round out the corners and intensify in fruitiness. Drink from 2015. Screwcap. Wine Monger. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Forstreiter 2012 Kremser Kogl Bergwein Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Fragrant and delicately fruity, this is a lively, bright wine. It shows elegance, apple acidity and a stylish structure of zesty lemon and orange. It's delicious to drink now, but also keep a few bottles until 2019. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

91 Salomon-Undhof 2012 Wachtberg Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). A juicy, fruity wine, this also has a rich, textured structure that promises aging. Peach and pear flavors are nicely combined with chalky notes, integrated acidity and a zesty, crisp aftertaste. Drink now, but better to wait until 2015. Glass stopper. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Salomon-Undhof 2011 Lindberg Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This big, powerful wine is full of rich white and citrus fruits that are laced with spice and pepper. The wine is full bodied and intensely ripe, with the roundness contrasting

with a tangy, mineral edge. Drink from 2015. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Tegerseerhof 2011 Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). This is a rich, smoothly textured wine that has great fruitiness, as well as a fine amount of spice and acidity. The combination makes for a well-balanced wine that's fresh while ripe and concentrated. Drink from 2014. Screwcap. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Winzer Krems 2012 Kremser Wachtberg Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Ebner-Ebenauer 2012 Alte Reben Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). From 50-year old vines, this wine shows good concentration and a pepper character that shoots through the acidity and apple fruitiness. It's a complex wine with a dry edge, that should be served with food rather than as an apéritif. Screwcap. Wine Monger. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Forstreiter 2012 Alte Reben Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Deliciously fresh and fruity, this is a wine full of ripe apples and crisp pears. It's full bodied, but bright with intense acidity. The characteristic pepper touch of Grüner shows at the end of this full and concentrated wine. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Josef Schmid 2011 Alte Reben Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). A ripe and richly fruity wine that has a soft heart, this has generous pear flavor along with a good dollop of spice. The balance comes from the apple acidity and tight texture. It is ready to drink now and until 2020. Screwcap. Tastings Import Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Salomon-Undhof 2011 Berglagen Vom Stein Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Rounded and rich, with a pepper and spiced apple character, this is a warm, full-bodied wine. It has a fine texture, but dense structure. From vines just above the castle in Stein, it is still a young wine, so don't drink before 2015. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Weszeli 2012 Langenlois Steinhaus Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is a serious, pepper, spice and apple-flavored wine. It has a strong sense of minerality that gives bold structure. By contrast, there is a freshness to the wine that will make it very drinkable in a few months. Glass stopper. Savio Soares Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Bründlmayer 2012 Berg Vogelsang Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). From the Vogelsang, or "bird song" vineyard, this wine sings melo-

diously. It has bright green and citrus fruits, lively acidity and a crisp, dancing feel. There is a youthful feel to the acidity that demands a year in bottle. Screwcap. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Bründlmayer 2012 Vincents Spiegel Erste Lage Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Fragrant and perfumed, this wine has both nutmeg and ginger flavors, as well as tight citrus acidity. It's a wine that is so refreshing, drinkable and bright with acidity, but remarkably fruity in aftertaste. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$74

89 Dürnberg 2012 Alte Reben Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Rich and rounded, this is a full, generous wine. It has ripe pear, orange zest and baked apple flavors with a fine, tangy texture that brings out the fruit and concentration. While ready to drink now, it will be better in a year. Screwcap. Private Reserve. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Ebner-Ebenauer 2012 Hermanschachern Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Smooth and creamy, this is a rounded wine that's soft in texture. A good bite of lemon juice acidity adds balance and attractive fruitiness. Finishes very clean and fragrant. Screwcap. Wine Monger. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

89 Fritsch 2010 Schlossberg Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Wagram-Donauland). This astonishingly fruity wine is ripe with tropical flavors and a rich, juicy character. The wine is full bodied showing apricot fruits along with a textured character. The wine could age, so drink from 2015. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Laurenz V. 2012 Silver Bullet Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This mineral textured wine has tight acidity as well as crisp fruit. It's taut, but with a rich background of quince and grapefruit. This fine wine needs to age at least a year to fully shine. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA/500 ml

88 Bründlmayer 2012 Kamptaler Terrassen Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Terrassen means a blend of wine from different vineyards. This crisp example is lively with acidity and green fruit flavors. It is very pure, bright and ready to drink. Screwcap. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Dürnberg 2012 Tradition Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Full bodied with a creamy texture, this is a ripe, pear-flavored wine. It has weight, richness and warmth that contrasts a crisp edge of citrus acidity. With just a touch of spice, it's made to be enjoyed with Asian food. Screwcap. Private Reserve. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Ebner-Ebenauer 2012 Birthal Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Full in the mouth, this is a ripe, rich wine. It has both delicious acidity and a smooth, creamy texture that suggests generosity. The acidity at the end gives great crispness, citrus flavors and a fine bite. Screwcap. Wine Monger. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Esterházy 2011 Estoras Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This fresh and fruity wine from Esterházy estates in northern Austria gives a strongly zesty, textured character. It is crisp, green and packed with lemon-citrus flavors. Drink now. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Laurenz V. 2012 Charming Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Smooth and ripe, this is a warm Grüner. It has white fruits, a delicious creamy texture, and a citrus finish. The wine is ready to drink, but could improve after a year. Screwcap. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Laurenz V. 2012 Forbidden Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). There is really nothing forbidden about this wine. It's just off-dry and particularly gentle on the palate. The wine is light and fresh with pepper and tropical fruit fragrance. It's very ready to drink. Screwcap. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

88 Laurenz V. 2012 Friendly Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Laurenz Moser V makes deliciously fruity Grüner, allowing the ripe character of the grape to dominate. This wine, bright with apple and citrus flavors, is light, breezy and ready to drink. Screwcap. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Salomon-Undhof 2012 Wieden & Berg Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). While fresh and fruity, this wine also has some good concentration and richness. It shows crisp acidity as well as a mineral edge, tangy zest notes and an apple-skin texture. The mouthfeel is bright and edgy still, so it will need a year to fully settle in. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Weszeli 2012 Langenlois Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Deliciously fruity, with its apple and fresh grapefruit, this is a forward, ripe wine. It has a crisp layer of tight acidity that highlights the immediate attractiveness of the wine. Glass stopper. Savio Soares Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Dürnberg 2012 L & T Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). L & T, meaning "light and dry" in German, is pure, peppery, fruity Grüner. It has some creamy richness along with apple and grapefruit flavors, all bundled into a fresh, crisp package that

is very ready to drink now. Screwcap. Private Reserve. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Gritsch Mauritiushof 2012 Kalmuck Grüner Veltliner Federspiel (Wachau). From the far western vineyards of the Wachau, this crisp, light and fruity wine is a delicious expression of Grüner's pepper and apple notes. With great freshness under the spice, it has refreshing crispness. Drink from 2014. Screwcap. Winemonger. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Laurenz V. 2012 Laurenz und Sophie Singing Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Yes, the wine does sing. It has a delicious, direct and fruity character that is ripe while remaining fresh with crisp apples and lime juice flavors. The wine is refreshing and ready to drink. Screwcap. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Loimer 2012 Lois Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This wine is very fruity, fresh and crisp while also showing texture and tight apple-skin flavors. Refreshing acidity brings out the fragrant, fresh aftertaste. Winebow. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Tegernseerhof 2012 T26 Grüner Veltliner Federspiel (Wachau). This creamed-apple flavored wine is soft, smooth and ripe. It has a dense texture, concentrated structure and rounded corners attractively touched by acidity. The aftertaste is crisp with a fresh, clean finish. Screwcap. Artisanal Cellars, Select Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Dürnberg 2012 Falko Cool Climate Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Fresh and crisp, this is a blend of perfumed Musketeller, herbaceous Sauvignon Blanc and spicy Welschriesling. It is light, very fruity and has an attractive lemon-zest character. Screwcap. Private Reserve. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Fritsch 2012 Steinberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram-Donauland). This is a tight, mineral wine that is very crisp in character. It has green apple, lime and grapefruit flavors that are pure and brightened with acidity. Drink this delicious wine now. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Josef Schmid 2012 Satzen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). As bright as a button, this is a crisp, apple-fresh wine with a light texture. A touch of pepper is easily dominated by the fresh fruitiness of this wine and its soft, creamy aftertaste. Screwcap. Tastings Import Company. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Winzer Krems 2012 Chremisa Sandgrube 13 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is a fresh and fruity wine, flavored with creamed apple and pears. There is the merest hint of

pepper here to give spice and to bring out the bright acidity at the end. The wine could hold a year, but is ready to drink now. Total Wine & More-Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

85 Ebner-Ebenauer 2012 Sauberg Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is a deliciously fruity, fragrant wine. It has a fine balance between its fresh acidity and ripe apple and pear fruitiness. It's a wine to be drunk young to enjoy its forward, bright character. Screwcap. Wine Monger. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 Forstreiter 2012 Grooner Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Young and fruity and with a light prickle on the tongue, this is an immediately drinkable wine. Freshly sliced apple and lemon aromas open to a crisp texture and a dry, bright aftertaste. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

85 Fritsch 2012 Fritsch & Friends Windspiel Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Bright, crisply fruity and with delicious acidity, this is a wine to drink now. It has a lively apple and grapefruit flavor that's all freshness and fruitiness. This is a wine to drink now. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

85 Pleil 2012 Classic Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Full in the mouth, the wine has ripe pear and lime flavors. It has a funky edge to it as well, with more rustic flavors. Give the wine six months to come together. Screwcap. Rad Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Salomon-Undhof 2012 Hochterrassen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). In the modern tradition of fruity, accessible Grüners, this is light and crisp, and packed with apple and citrus flavors. It has lively acidity, is fresh in character, and totally ready to drink now. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

84 Pleil 2012 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is a soft, fruity wine that has quince and pear flavors along with an earthy, barnyard character. Screwcap. Rad Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

82 Kracher 2011 Sohm & Kracher Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is a wood-aged wine that suggests the argument that Grüner and wood do not always go together. The wine tastes oxidized, lacks fruit, and is weirdly off key. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

RIESLING

96 Bründlmayer 2012 Riesling (Kamptal). Old vines on the Heiligenstein hill offer a richly textured, impressive wine. There is terrific concen-

tration allied to fragrant acidity, hints of white flowers and apricot fruit flavors. The future for this powerfully dense wine is considerable, so don't drink before 2018. Michael Skurnik Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

96 F X Pichler 2012 Dürnsteiner Kellerberg Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). This is always a major wine, and this vintage is no exception. It is spectacularly ripe, spicy, concentrated and fruity. The yellow fruits, tangy citrus and mineral structure all contribute to an intense complexity. Age this wine for many years and don't drink before 2017. Weygandt-Metzler. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Bründlmayer 2012 Zöbinger Heiligenstein Erste Lage Lyra Reserve Riesling (Kamptal). Called Lyra because of the lyre-shaped vine training, this is a classic wine. Still very closed, it is currently all potential. The acidity, the tight and taut texture, and the hidden richness all point to a wine with a great future. Drink from 2017. Michael Skurnik Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$71

95 F X Pichler 2012 Loibner Steinertal Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). This is a rich and complex wine that shows spiced pear and a tense structure. It is very aromatic and fresh while also rich and concentrated. A powerful statement of the fruit and minerality of the Wachau and definitely for long-term aging. Don't drink before 2016. Weygandt-Metzler. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Bründlmayer 2012 Heiligenstein Erste Lage Riesling (Kamptal). This is a pure, aesthetic wine, delicately outlined and shaped. With its citrus flavors, crisp lines and tight, taut acidity, it shows both great minerality and a sharp final focus on fruit and structure. Age this wine, and don't drink before 2017. Michael Skurnik Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

94 Bründlmayer 2012 Steinmassel Erste Lage Reserve Riesling (Kamptal). Powerful and supremely rich, this is concentrated Riesling. It combines a strong mineral texture with brighter acidity and complex citrus fruits. It's a wine with a great future, both steely and structured. Don't drink before 2017. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 F X Pichler 2012 Loibner Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). This is a wine that is so young. It is aromatic, fruity and still settling together in its potential concentration and structure. Look forward to a wine that has pear fruits, a tight, mineral character, and structure. Look forward to an impressive and serious future. Drink from 2016. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

94 Gritsch Mauritiushof 2012 1000-Eimerberg Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). The

Burg mountain above Spitz is the site of the steep and stony 1000-Eimerberg vineyard. This rich wine contrasts ripe stone fruits with a tight acidity and crisp freshness. It gives a wonderful tension that will be resolved with aging. Drink from 2017. Winemonger. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Josef Schmid 2005 Sunogeln Priorisa Reserve Riesling (Kremstal). This is a beautiful older Riesling that continues to have aging potential. It's rich, full of white currant, walnut, exotic spice and perfume. It still has the intense acidity of the Sunogeln vineyard that gives structure to the wine. It's ready to drink, but put a bottle away until 2018. Tastings Import Company. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Metternich-Salomon 2011 Pfaffenberg Erste Lage Riesling (Kremstal). A partnership between the Metternich and Salomon families has produced this rich, elegant wine. It has such an aromatic, perfumed character and is so ripe and full. At the same time, it has a tight mineral edge, a fine streak of acidity and immense aging potential. Drink from 2016. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Josef Schmid 2010 Sunogeln Reserve Riesling (Kremstal). Just hinting at more mature flavors, this is an intense wine, its acidity almost overwhelming. Red currant, spice and concentrated juiciness are all elements in this dense wine. The acidity does suggest longer aging, so drink now and until 2022. Screwcap. Tastings Import Company. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Josef Schmid 2007 Sunogeln Reserve Riesling (Kremstal). This is a bone dry, while rich wine that is now mature. It has weight, secondary almond and spice flavors, as well as tight acidity and a very mineral character. It has crispness rather than freshness, bringing a taut structure into play along with the concentration. Drink now. Tastings Import Company. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Loimer 2011 Terrassen Reserve Riesling (Kamptal). A gorgeous wine that has ripe, full perfume and wonderful fruitiness. White currants are touched with spice, intense acidity, and a bright, crisp aftertaste. This is a wine for long-term aging, drink from 2017. Winebow. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Salomon-Undhof 2012 Pfaffenberg Erste Lage Riesling (Kremstal). This very fragrant wine has ripe quince and pear flavors, as well as a great mineral texture. Fresh and finely balanced, and with tight acidity, it's a wine for long-term aging. Drink from 2016. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Tegernseerhof 2011 Steinertal Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). A beautifully aromatic wine, this has both great fruitiness and a tight, ageworthy structure. It's rich and full bodied with quince, pear and currant flavors. There is a mineral, chalky texture that is still young and nervy. Age this impressive wine, and don't drink before 2015. Screwcap. Artisanal Cellars, Select Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

92 Forstreiter 2012 Schiefer Reserve Riesling (Kremstal). This perfumed reserve wine has considerable concentration, richness and a full, flowery character. Acidity cuts through the ripe fruit and brings out the spice in the texture. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Gritsch Mauritiushof 2012 Vision Wachau Reserve Riesling (Wachau). A selection of fruit from different vineyards allows Franz-Josef Gritsch an overview of the Spitz style. It's rich and intense, but also deliciously fresh and fragrant. There is a strong mineral content as well. Very crisp on the finish and still young. Drink from 2016. Winemonger. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Salomon-Undhof 2011 Steiner Kögl Erste Lage Riesling (Kremstal). This is a very aromatic wine that's rich, spicy and with just a touch of ripeness. It has spiced pear, lychee and honey notes all balanced by a wonderful fresh acidity. Drink now and until 2020. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Bründlmayer 2012 Steinmassel Riesling (Kamptal). This is a wine with density and concentration, cut through with steely acidity. Grapefruit and citrus flavors lead to a ripe apricot character. Age this wine and don't drink before 2016. Screwcap. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

91 Salomon-Undhof 2012 Undhof Kögl Erste Lage Riesling (Kremstal). A pure, rich and fragrant wine, this is delicate in style yet full bodied in texture. Flavors of blossom, apples and currants are fresh and fruity, but deliciously integrated into the structure. A wine for aging over many years, it is best drunk after 2014. Glass stopper. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Weszeli 2012 Loiserberg Riesling (Kamptal). So refreshing and fruity, this is so drinkable now. It's bright with crisp white fruits, floral perfume and lively acidity. There is also a more serious, structured side which suggests it could age so drink a few now, but save a few bottles to enjoy through 2019. Glass stopper Savio Soares Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Tegernseerhof 2011 Kellerberg Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). Light, fruity and fresh, this Riesling dances deliciously on the palate. Aromatic white flowers, crisp apples and currants blend into a

mineral texture with a direct, tight line of acidity. Fresh and bright, it is worth holding until 2015. Screwcap. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Wohlmut 2012 Edelschuh Riesling (Südsteiermark). This is a single-vineyard Riesling that is both perfumed and rich. It has a ripe feel, but also fine layers of acidity, fruity currant notes, and a strongly textured, mineral character. This is a wine with a good future, so drink from 2016. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Tegernseerhof 2011 Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). Pure in its fruitiness, this wine has a crisp character and light texture, making it very accessible now. Quince, grapefruit and blood orange flavors combine seamlessly, accumulating in weight on the palate. Drink now. Screwcap. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Winzer Krets 2012 Kellermeister Privat Kremser Kretsleiten Riesling (Kremstal). A ripe, rich and fruity wine, this also has a sense of depth and structure. The palate boasts flavors of apricots, citrus and crisp apples. It's delicious now, but could also improve further after five years. Screwcap. Total Wine & More-Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Forstreiter 2012 Donau Riesling Riesling (Niederösterreich). This fruity, perfumed wine is layered with crisp acidity, white fruits and a light, herbal character. It's forward, textured and has just a touch of steeliness. Great acidity gives a bright, crisp aftertaste. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Fritsch 2011 Riesling (Wagram-Donauland). This is a delicately perfumed wine, balanced between minerality and fruitiness. It has a great, tight texture as well as green fruit flavors, along with a touch of honey and spice. It is ready to drink. Screwcap. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Gritsch Mauritiushof 2012 1000-Eimerberg Riesling Federspiel (Wachau). A light and dancing wine, this is very fresh and fruity on the surface. Underneath there is more structure, a tight and nervy acidity, and flavors of crisp apple skins. It's a wine to admire for its texture and brightness, but also one to age for a few years. Screwcap. Winemonger. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Loimer 2012 Riesling (Kamptal). This very fragrant, perfumed wine shows white fruits with lovely summer-hedgerow aromas. It has fresh acidity as well, but does need some time in the bottle. Drink from 2016. Winebow. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Josef Schmid 2012 Urgestein Bergterrasen Riesling (Kremstal). Delicate and fresh, this tastes like a pure-blooded Riesling. It has lively acidity, crisp apple flavor, a light perfume, and a refreshing character. Drink now. Screwcap. Tastings Import Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Pleil 2012 Riesling (Niederösterreich). This is an attractively perfumed wine that's refreshing with lemon and apricot flavors. It has a zesty character with the crisp texture of apple skins. It's ready to drink now, but could also improve with age for three years. Screwcap. Rad Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

86 Tegernseerhof 2012 Terrassen Riesling Federspiel (Wachau). This is a fragrant, softly aromatic wine that has ripe fruit, spicy texture and gentle acidity. It's a wine for drinking now to enjoy its juicy white fruits, almonds and chalky final texture. Screwcap. Artisanal Cellars, Select Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

86 Wohlmut 2012 Sausal Riesling (Südsteiermark). This is a fragrant, perfumed wine that's full and ripe in feel. The structure is soft and gentle without any bite. It's a fruity wine for drinking young. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Wohlmut 2012 Hochsteinriegl Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). The Wohlmut family has owned this vineyard since 1803, producing wines with impressive continuity. The Sauvignon Blanc is rich, and almost tropical, but without being heavy. Apples, pears and apricots combine beautifully. It could age for a year or two, but is thoroughly drinkable now. Wein-Bauer Distributing. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Wohlmut 2012 Steinriegl Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). This wine is rich and full in the mouth with a fine combination of citrus acidity and yellow peach flavors. The texture is smooth at first, but then shows a more mineral and zesty character. It's promising to age, but is also quite drinkable now. Drink until 2019. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Wohlmut 2012 Klassik Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). Deliciously refreshing and herbaceous, this wine is also quite fruity with flavors of apples and citrus. Lively acidity and a fine tang of lemon zest makes it crisp and ready to drink. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Forstreiter 2012 Sauvignon Blanc (Niederösterreich). This is a crisp, herbaceous and classic Sauvignon Blanc. It has a light character with

fresh citrus and grapefruit flavors. Drink now. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

WHITE BLENDS

94 Tegernseerhof 2011 Weissenkirchner Zwerithaler Smaragd (Wachau). This wine is sourced from a field blend of old vines grown on steep slopes behind Weissenkirchen. It has a very crisp character that's tight and mineral in style. Aromatic, spicy, herbal and perfumed, it needs time to open up and is still very young. Drink from 2016. Screwcap. Artisanal Cellars, Select Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

93 Dürnberg 2012 Ortolan Cuvée Prestige (Niederösterreich). There is just a touch of wood in this rich and concentrated wine. It brings out the smoothness of the Chardonnay in the blend and adds notes of spice. It's a full, ripe that's still elegant and fresh from crisp acidity on the finish. Age this wine, and drink after 2015. Screwcap. Private Reserve. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Esterházy 2011 Cuvée Blanc (Leithaberg). This blend of Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay and Grüner Veltliner is full bodied and rich. It has a creamy character that shows peach flavors. It could age another year. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 Tinhof 2012 Tinhof Blanc (Burgenland). This fragrant and fruity wine is crisp and fresh. It has a perfumed character, soft apple acidity and a crisp texture. It's a wine for apéritifs that's light and ready to drink now. Screwcap. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Dürnberg 2012 Burg Falkenstein Weissburgunder (Niederösterreich). This is a blend of Weissburgunder and Pinot Blanc that is aged in large barrels on the lees. It has a rich, creamy character with a delicate texture and generous acidity. The palate is apricot flavored but lightly peppery. Full in the mouth, it is ready to drink, but will improve over the next two years. Private Reserve. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Tinhof 2012 Neuburger (Burgenland). A rare grape found in the vineyards of eastern Austria, Neuburger produces a full-bodied wine that's rich while still fruity. It has a perfumed character as well as fresh, crisp apple and lemon acidity. With another year, this will develop more complexity. Screwcap. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Dürnberg 2012 Altes Kreuz Traminer (Niederösterreich). This is a spicy, perfumed wine that has a rich feel to it. Tropical fruits are bal-

anced by a crisp texture and a fresh, green-apple acidity. It's a wine for drinking now and very approachable. Private Reserve. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Kracher 2012 Pinot Gris (Burgenland). This is a softly perfumed wine that has spice as well as ripe apple and pear flavors. Gently textured, it hints at tropical fruits balanced out with fine acidity. This is an attractive wine for drinking now. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Tinhof 2011 Weissburgunder (Burgenland). Pinot Blanc gives this wine a classic, yet soft and creamy character. There is just a touch of smokiness adding interest to the ripe red-apple flavors. It's a luscious wine that's ready to drink now. Screwcap. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Wohlmut 2012 Gola Pinot Gris (Südsteiermark). A perfumed wine with crisp, tight acidity, this is vibrant with light pear flavor and a delicious, refreshing aftertaste. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Wohlmut 2012 Steinriegl Gelber Muskateller (Südsteiermark). This is a fragrant, brightly perfumed wine that has a wonderfully crisp fruitiness. It is just crying out to be enjoyed as a fresh, lively apéritif with its tangy texture and pleasantly acidic finish. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Tinhof 2012 Muskat (Burgenland). This is a perfumed wine that is crisp as well as light in texture. Lightly sweet, it has attractive orange zest, honey and citrus flavors that are balanced with poised acidity at the end. It's a lively wine that will make a good apéritif. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

SPARKLING WINE

85 Dürnberg NV Blanc de Blancs (Austria). This light, crisp sparkling wine is just off dry in style. It is perfumed and softly textured with a fresh mousse that offers attractive creaminess. Private Reserve. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

86 Weszeli 2012 Rosé (Niederösterreich). This is a really fruity, fresh strawberry-flavored wine. Remarkably pale in color, it expertly balances a dry profile with brisk natural acidity and bright, fresh fruitiness. It's ready to drink now. Screwcap. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

85 Tinhof 2012 Rosé (Burgenland). This Blaufränkisch rosé is light, fruity and just off

dry. It has attractive red-berry acidity and a very fresh character. Ready to drink now. Screwcap. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

AUSTRIA RED WINES

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

91 Esterházy 2010 Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg). The new Leithaberg appellation on the west bank of the Neusiedlersee produces complex and firmly tannic reds. This is a fine example that's very spicy, juicy with blackberry, and shows some wood aging. The wine needs time, so drink from 2016. Wein-Bauer Distributing. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

91 Johann Heinrich 2011 Goldberg Reserve Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). There is a strong initial wood flavor in this structured wine. Solid and dense in character, it needs time to soften its toastiness and reveal its ripe blackberry fruitiness. Give this wine several years, and drink from 2016. Blue Danube Wine Co. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$36

90 Johann Heinrich 2011 Goldberg Blaufränkisch (Mittelburgenland). From what is sometimes described as Blaufränkisch-land, this is a classic Mittelburgenland wine. It has weight, richness and an exotic edge of paprika and pepper. There is a fine juicy aftertaste. Screwcap. Blue Danube Wine Co. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

90 Tinhof 2009 Classic Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This is a spicy, exotic wine with flavors of rich berry fruits and a warm, perfumed structure. There are dense tannins supporting the ripe fruitiness and dark, brooding edge of this still-young wine. It can be drunk now for its fruit, but will also age remarkably well. Drink until 2019. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

90 Weninger 2011 Hochhäcker Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This is serious, structured Blaufränkisch. It has ripe berry fruits, a solid structure and bright, juicy acidity that give the wine potential to age well. Cellaring should bring out the bloom of rich cherries and ripeness, so drink from 2016. Circo Vino. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

89 Wachter Wiesler 2010 Pfarrweingarten Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg). From the south of Burgenland, this is a big, fruity wine. Wood aging shows in its toastiness, but there are prominent red fruits, a dry edge of tannins, and some good acidity as well. The structure is firm and solid with good depth and dense texture. Drink this wine from 2014. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$33

89 Wachter Wiesler 2010 Steinweg Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg). This has an austere, mineral feel that exacerbates its rigid structure. Firm, drying tannins dominate the palate. Ripe black fruits at the core of the wine will need time to come through, so don't drink before 2015. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$66

89 Wohlmuth 2009 Rabenkropf Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This is a spicy wine that is full of tart, juicy red-cherry fruits. It has a firm structure that comes from both wood and the fruit tannins. The mineral texture and dark hues promise good aging potential so drink from 2016. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

87 Esterházy 2011 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). A densely structured, very mineral-textured wine, this has spice and acidity as well as dark tannins. Black currants lend a juicy acidity that cuts right through the finish. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

87 Weninger 2012 Horitschoner Blaufränkisch (Mittelburgenland). The wine has weight, rich tannins and touches of spice. Acidity from the black currants and red berries shows through strongly, lending a juicy character to the aftertaste. This is not a wine for long-term aging, so drink from 2015. Circo Vino. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

86 Wachter Wiesler 2011 Béla-Jóska Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg). Full of red fruits, this solid and chunky, but juicy wine is ready to drink. It has a lightly tannic structure with notes of black-currant skin that brings shape to all of its forward fruitiness. Screwcap. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

PINOT NOIR

87 Fritsch 2007 "P" Pinot Noir (Wagram-Donauland). This is a rich wine that has some bitter extract as well as flavors of chocolate and red berry fruits. The toasty wood is very evident and considering its age, this is unlikely to go away. Drink now. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

87 Loimer 2011 Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich). This perfumed wine has delicious, refreshing red-berry flavor, as well as acidity and touches of vanilla. It is fresh and fruity, but also has soft tannins that add enough structure to age well. Drink from 2015. Glass stopper. Winebow. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

84 Esterházy 2012 Pinot Noir (Burgenland). Berry fruits are placed against a lean texture that shows tense acidity as well as a herbal edge. The wine is still young and will age but it seems green and not quite ripe. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

ST. LAURENT

90 Tinhof 2010 Classic St. Laurent (Burgenland). This is a delicious and juicy, yet structured wine. It has black plum and berry flavors that are fully ripe and burst from the glass. A firm texture, solid tannins and acidity balance out the fruit and extend the wine's ability to age. Drink from 2015. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

88 Forstreiter 2009 Reserve St. Laurent (Niederösterreich). This is a dense and rounded wine that has St. Laurent's characteristically juicy profile. It also has ripe tannins and a herbal character that brings out spice and acidity. This structured wine could age well for another four years. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$23

88 Höppler 2011 Erwein St. Laurent (Burgenland). This is a fresh wine that is full of bright cherry flavors and crisp acidity. The midpalate builds in weight, ripe tannins and a fragrant, smoky aftertaste. Drink now. Screwcap. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$24

88 Sattler 2011 Reserve St. Laurent (Burgenland). The fresh juiciness of St. Laurent is very apparent in this ripe, full-bodied wine. There is an attractive touch of spice that lifts the black fruit flavors. The tannins are soft and the acidity adds texture. Drink now. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

ZWEIGELT

90 Winzer Krems 2009 Kellermeister Reserve Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). This wine is still firm, with dark fruit flavors layered in tannins. It is complex, with a dry core accented with spice, berry fruits and a rich texture. Acidity holds the wine together and promises aging for at least three more years. Total Wine & More-Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

89 Kracher 2010 Zweigelt (Burgenland). Kracher, famous for its sweet wines, is new to reds. This is a solid effort—spicy and full of red fruits and soft berry flavors. The structure is firm, and the dry core surrounded by sour-cherry acidity. Drink now. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

89 Pöckl 2011 Mönchhof Zweigelt (Burgenland). This is a warm but structured wine that is full of ripe fruits as well as some solid, well-integrated tannins. Juicy black-currant acidity and spice give the fruit an earthy edge. The wine should age, so drink from 2015. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

89 Winzer Krems 2010 Chremisa Sandgrube 13 Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). Bold and fruity, this wine has a rich texture that hints at wood

aging. With its black plum and berry flavors, it leaves a generous, juicy aftertaste. Total Wine & More-Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24

87 Höppler 2012 Zweigelt (Burgenland). This is an attractive, ripe red-fruited wine that is showing its best already. Soft tannins, juicy red berries and a light shot of acidity all come together easily and freshly. Drink now. Screwcap. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

86 Pleil 2012 Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). Bright, fragrant, youthful and fruity, this is an attractive wine. Almost purple in color, it has soft tannins that add just a light touch of texture. Enjoy this wine now. Screwcap. Rad Grapes. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

86 Winzer Krems 2012 Kellermeister Privat Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). Soft and open, this is a fresh, fruity wine with a warm feel to it. Gentle tannins, red plum fruits and a good streak of acidity cuts through the texture. Drink now. Screwcap. Total Wine & More-Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

85 Dürnberg 2012 Bodenschatz Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). Fruity black currant aromas leap out of the glass in this wine, offering flavors that are fresh, young and fruity. It has soft tannins, cherry fruit and lively acidity. Not made for aging so drink now. Screwcap. Private Reserve. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

85 Erich Scheiblhofer 2012 Andau Zweigelt (Burgenland). With red fruit aromas and soft tannins, this is a fresh and juicy wine. There is a touch of spice and smoke from wood aging, as well as a brisk black-currant acidity. The wine is completely ready to drink now. Screwcap. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

85 Fritsch 2010 Red Soil Zweigelt (Wagram-Donauland). This is a light and fruity wine that has an attractive smoky aroma and black currant acidity. The result is a fresh, juicy wine with a crisp texture and a perfumed aftertaste. Drink now. Screwcap. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

84 Forstreiter 2011 Exklusiv Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). Rich, full bodied and fruity, this is a ready-to-drink wine. It is spicy, full of ripe black-berry juice and soft tannins. It's a delicious, juicy, forward and friendly wine. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

84 Weninger 2012 Horitschoner Zweigelt (Burgenland). With attractive, bright cherry fruits, this wine is finely layered with acidity and freshness. There's a bit of a barnyard edge that lingers throughout. The palate shows lightness along with a black-currant acidity on the finish. Circo Vino. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

RED BLENDS

91 Höppler 2011 Cuvée K7 (Burgenland).

This blend of Blaufränkisch, Syrah and Merlot is Höppler's signature wine. It makes for a fascinating combination of ripe black-plum flavors highlighted by juicy acidity and wood notes. The wine will age well, so drink from 2015. Screwcap. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$27

89 Weninger 2011 Franz Cuvée (Burgenland).

Ripe, dusty fruits dominate this structured wine. It has concentration and dark tannins that come from the wood aging. Flavors of black plum skins, blackberries and juicy acidity all show strongly. For aging, drink from 2016. Circo Vino. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

88 Johann Heinrich 2011 Siglos (Burgenland).

With a bright cherry color and juicy flavors, this is a well-integrated blend of Zweigelt and Blaufränkisch. The wood aging is obvious but not dominant, and adds pleasant spice to the fruit. A firm structure promises aging, so drink from 2015. Screwcap. Blue Danube Wine Co. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

88 Johann Heinrich 2011 Terra O. (Burgenland).

This wine shows strong extraction with hints of bitter chocolate as well as licorice flavors. The fruit is still compressed at this stage, with acidity showing through most prominently. The wine is solid, though, and could yield some more fruity pleasure in the future. Blue Danube Wine Co. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$46

88 Tinhof 2010 Blau & Red (Burgenland).

This is a firmly structured blend of Zweigelt and Blaufränkisch that frames a core of attractive ripe fruits and red berry flavors. There is a fine smoky element here making this a wine that can be enjoyed now, but also age well. Drink until 2019. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

86 Tinhof 2011 Tinhof Noir (Burgenland).

There is more fruit than structure in this wine, giving the palate a bright, red-berried character and soft tannins. It's juicy, but there's also some smokiness. A blend of Zweigelt, Blaufränkisch and St Laurent, it is ready to drink now. Screwcap. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

83 Tinhof 2010 Zwei (Burgenland).

Despite its name, Zwei also has Blaufränkisch in its blend. It's lean, rather austere and structured with a hard edge. There is black currant acidity, toasty wood and a green finish. Not for aging. Screwcap. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

OTHER RED WINES

90 Esterházy 2009 Haydn Merlot (Burgenland).

Composer Joseph Haydn was the court composer for the Esterházy family which still owns this winery. This strongly wood-aged wine has its own elegance and style with fruit coming through strongly from under the darker exterior. Give this finely structured wine time and drink from 2017. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

AUSTRIA SWEET WINES

TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE

97 Kracher 2010 Nouvelle Vague Nummer 9 Chardonnay Trockenbeerenauslese (Burgenland).

This is a wine with such a wonderful balance of fresh, lemon acidity and sweetness. Its honeyed texture is cut with a mineral bite that gives opulence and structure at the same time. The wine needs long aging so drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$105/375 ml

97 Kracher 2010 Zwischen den Seen Nummer 10 Scheurebe Trockenbeerenauslese (Burgenland).

Kracher's sweet Scheurebe is consistently a remarkable wine. It's gorgeously opulent and tightly textured at the same time. Spice, sweetness and acidity combine harmoniously and seamlessly. Age this great wine and don't drink before 2017. Terlato Wines International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 6.5%

Price: \$105/375 ml

96 Kracher 2010 Nouvelle Vague Nummer 8 Traminer Trockenbeerenauslese (Burgenland).

Opulent, yes, but also deliciously perfumed, this is a full, rich and very sweet wine. Traminer lends its spice to the wine although the dominant characteristics are opulent botrytis and a liquorous texture. Age this gorgeous wine and drink from 2016. Terlato Wines International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 9%

Price: \$100/375 ml

96 Kracher 2010 Nummer 11 Welschriesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Burgenland).

This opulent wine glides on the palate with richness combined with wonderful acidity. It is the intense freshness and sweetness that shows most strongly along with the super-rich, full texture. This is a superb wine for long aging, drink from 2018. Terlato Wines International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 6%

Price: \$105/375 ml

95 Kracher 2010 Nouvelle Vague Nummer 6 Grande Cuvée Trockenbeerenauslese (Burgenland).

Kracher always produces a blend in his range of TBAs. This is a hugely rich wine that's densely textured and with opulent fruit. Flavors of sweet oranges, honey and lemon juice makes up this impressively

appealing wine. It does need to age, though, so drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$92/375 ml

94 Kracher 2010 Nummer 7 Welschriesling Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). This is a beautiful wine with lemon and bitter-honey notes that exhibits both balanced acidity and richness. Botrytis at the core shows amazing intensity with a palate that's concentrated and full. Citrus freshness dominates the long, lingering aftertaste. The wine should age well so drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$100/375 ml

93 Kracher 2010 Nouvelle Vague Nummer 4 Chardonnay Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). This is a wine that has wonderful spice and richness against a dry background. Flavors of honey and noble rot fill the mouth with a swathe of richness and opulence. The wine is still young and needs to age, so drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$80/375 ml

92 Kracher 2010 Zwischen den Seen Nummer 3 Scheurebe Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). There is a great balance between sweetness and acidity in this fine wine. Lemon, lime zest and a twist of orange give an intense freshness, while the honey and marmalade add richness and sweetness. It's a great wine for aging. Drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$80/375 ml

91 Kracher 2010 Nouvelle Vague Nummer 1 Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). Rose gold in color, this is the first in the series of 12 TBAs from Kracher. It is light and fresh, and spicy as well as sweet. There is a perfumed character along with a touch of tannin framing the rich, honeyed texture. It needs some aging—although not much—so drink from 2015. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$90/375 ml

91 Kracher NV Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). This small bottle, enough for two glasses, reveals another great wine from Kracher. It is both super-rich and beautifully balanced. The wine has opulent apricot, orange marmalade and honey flavors already finely integrated. Drink now. Screwcap. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Kracher 2010 Nouvelle Vague Nummer 5 Zweigelt Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). Red dessert wines are always a curiosity but Kracher seems to pull it off with this opulent, gold-colored wine. It has a wonderfully fresh acidity that accentuates ripe, honeyed fruits. It's a wine to age so drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$90/375 ml

90 Kracher 2010 Zwischen den Seen Nummer 2 Muskat Ottonel Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). There is as much perfume

as sweetness in this rich, opulent wine. It has an oriental-spice character along with rosewater and honey notes. The wine needs to be aged so drink from 2016. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$80/375 ml

88 Rosenhof 2010 Chardonnay Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). Streaked with acidity as well as rich, sweet fruits, this is a full and rounded, yet balanced wine with fresh flavors of honey and apricot. This wine could age, so drink now and until 2019. Blue Danube Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29/375 ml

87 Rosenhof 2010 Welschriesling Trockenbeereauslese (Burgenland). This is a honey-eyed wine, full of tropical fruits. It is rich, somewhat heavy and clumsy, but acidity surfaces through the mid-palate. It's a wine that can be aged, although ready to drink now. Blue Danube Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29/375 ml

AUSLESE

89 Bründlmayer 2012 Gelber Muskateller Auslese (Austria). Strongly perfumed and packed with both acidity and sweetness, this is a memorably refreshing and delicious wine. With its honey, lemon zest and apple flavors, it is bright, light and ready to drink. Screwcap. —R.V.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

88 Kracher 2011 Auslese Cuvée (Burgenland). This is an auslese with a fine line between dryness from botrytis and fresh fruitiness. It has a bitter marmalade character along with intense acidity, both of which suggest it will age. Drink from 2016. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23/375 ml

88 Kracher 2010 Muskat Ottonel Auslese (Burgenland). This is a vividly perfumed wine that is very exotic in character. It combines a fine sense of structure and acidity with sweetly perfumed rosewater flavors. It is ready to drink. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27/375 ml

OTHER SWEET WINES

93 Kracher 2010 Beereauslese Cuvée (Burgenland). There is as much intense acidity in this wine as sweetness. Opulent yet fresh in character, the wine is developing into a full-bodied wine with powerful richness and promises long-term aging. Drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35/375 ml

93 Kracher 2011 Eiswein Cuvée (Burgenland). This is a classic Eiswein that is so finely poised between intense sweetness and an ethereal lemon freshness. The palate is a delicate fairy's dance of

honey, orange zest and acidity. Age this wine and drink from 2017. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

88 Tinhof NV Aperitiv (Burgenland). Sherry-like in style with nutty aromas and flavors, this is a curious but delicious wine. It's a white-wine blend with a touch of brandy flavor. As its name suggests, this is a fine apéritif. Carlo Huber Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$41

85 Rosenhof 2010 Orion Grüner Veltliner Eiswein (Burgenland). This is a wine that feels heavy, with rich apricot flavors that lack freshness and balance. It's not a wine for aging, but will go well with cakes or pastries. Blue Danube Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$29/375 ml

GERMANY

RIESLING TROCKEN-BEERenauslese

95 Prinz zu Salm-Dalberg'Sches Weingut Im Schloss Wallhausen 2011 Berg Roxheim Erste Lage Riesling Trockenbeereauslese (Nahe). Scents of sweet spice and orange marmalade waft exuberantly from this honey-kissed TBA. Lusciously sweet, the palate undulates with waves of mango, melon and pineapple flavor, accented with notes of potpourri and saffron. Lingers long with a shower of delicate acidity. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$237/375 ml

94 Dr. Nögler 2011 Rüdeshheimer Berg Schlossberg Riesling Trockenbeereauslese (Rheingau). Billowing with scents of marmalade, wildflower honey and raspberry preserves, this is an intoxicatingly perfumed TBA, but the palate doesn't disappoint either. Rich and creamy with undulating streaks of peach preserve and tangerine, it lingers on and on, with its tea and honey-kissed finish. Winesellers Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$99

94 Prinz zu Salm-Dalberg'Sches Weingut Im Schloss Wallhausen 2011 Johannisberg Wallhausen Erste Lage Riesling Trockenbeereauslese (Nahe). Aromas of mango and candied-orange rind lend a heady tropical feel to this concentrated TBA full of peach and marmalade flavors. Unctuous with sweet nectar, yet exquisitely dainty on the palate, it quivers with tangerine acidity and a finish that's laced with saffron and honey. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$237

94 Rheingraf 2010 Scharlachberg Bingen Riesling Trockenbeereauslese GG (Rheinhessen). Zesty orange and honey notes are touched with saffron on this unctuous, exotically spiced TBA. Caramel and preserved-peach flavors give the palate a silky richness, but it's remarkably complex as well,

with a dusty minerality and tones of tea and spice that reverberate on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 10% Price: \$66/375 ml

93 Schloss Reinhartshausen 2009 Erbacher Marcobrunn Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Rheingau). Enticing scents of grapefruit zest and bees wax are fitting openers to this creamy, rich TBA full of luscious orange-marmalade flavor. Bright, brisk tangerine acidity adds freshness and levity to the palate, leading to a long, honeyed finish. Palm Bay International. —A.I.
abv: 8% Price: \$500

92 Robert Weil 2011 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Rheingau). Sweet and savory interplay through this exotic TBA, balancing waves of candied orange rind and caramelized sugar with umami-rich notes of sea breeze and dried herb. It's delicate on the palate, but lingers long with bright tangerine acidity. Delicious now, but would be fascinating to try in 10 years. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 6% Price: \$670

RIESLING BEERENAUSELE

95 C.H. Berres 2011 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Beerenauslese (Mosel). Scents of honey and marmalade are accented with lemongrass and ginger on this exquisitely composed beerenauslese. It's lusciously rich, with flavors of peach preserves and mango, but accented with hints of warm, exotic spice and a streak of lemony acidity that reverberates on the finish. Classical Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 7% Price: \$120

94 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2010 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Beerenauslese (Mosel). Waxy honeycomb and honeysuckle aromas are laced with earth and spice on this beautifully complex beerenauslese. It's intensely sweet, with notes of caramel and peach preserves, along with savory layers of smoke and saffron. So exquisitely delicate in profile, yet effortlessly languid on the finish. Miller Squared Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 7% Price: \$50/375 ml

94 Dr. Nägler 2011 Rudesheimer Berg Rose-neck Riesling Beerenauslese (Rheingau). What a bargain for such a lavishly composed beerenauslese. Aromas of honey, spice and potpourri meld seamlessly on the palate, with flavors of caramel and peach preserves. It's luxuriously rich and creamy, but brightened by streaks of lemony acidity and a tea-leaf astringency that lingers long on the finish. Winesellers Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$44/375 ml

91 Robert Weil 2011 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Beerenauslese (Rheingau). Fragrant, with notes of orange blossom, honey and wax, this delicate beerenauslese balances intensely sweet flavors of marmalade and peach nectar with savory tones

of herb and earth. It's sprightly and bright on the palate, with a long honey-kissed finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$318

90 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Hattenheimer Wisselbrunnen Riesling Beerenauslese Gold Cap (Rheingau). Zesty on the nose, with whiffs of orange rind, lemon and pineapple, this bright, zippy beerenauslese counters laser-focused acidity with creamy honey and marmalade flavors. Pleasantly astringent, it finishes on a bracing pink-grapefruit note. It's delicious now, but its honeyed citrus palate should gain complexity and dimension over the next 5–10 years. Valckenberg International, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: NA Price: \$510/375 ml

86 Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2011 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Beerenauslese (Mosel). Intense smoke and crushed-stone notes linger from start to finish on this distinctly mineral beerenauslese, adding a savory tone to luscious honey and lemon flavors. Zesty lime and lemon notes offset sweetness on the palate, finishing with a touch of puckering astringency. Winesellers Ltd. —A.I.
abv: NA Price: \$46/375 ml

RIESLING AUSLESE

95 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2011 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese GoldKap (Mosel). So lusciously ripe, with notes of mango and guava, this is an explosion of sweet fruit, honey and flowers. Searing citrus acidity cuts through the palate, highlighting layers of crushed stone and tea leaf that add complexity. It's so exquisitely delicate, but lingers endlessly on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$107/375 ml

93 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Erbacher Michelmark Riesling Auslese (Rheingau). While intensely mineral from the nose to the palate, this excellent auslese is also deeply concentrated, with ripe white grapefruit, peach and yellow cherry notes. It's ripe and juicy, yet honed with a steely lemon-lime acidity and a lingering lime-zest finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$NA

93 Schloss Vollrads 2011 Riesling Auslese (Rheingau). This is a veritable bargain for the incredible quality it delivers. It's lavishly composed, with a flurry of floral, fruity attributes—cherry blossoms, sweet peaches, and yellow plums—all kissed with honey, and a shower of lemon-lime acidity. Enjoy now for its youthful exuberance, but put a few away to see its honeyed tones darken and mature over the next decade. Schmitt-Sohne Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$45/375 ml

92 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2011 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Crushed stone and smoke mingle with luscious stonefruit and crisp, green herb on this multifaceted auslese. Each sip

reveals a different dimension of fruit, earth or flora, all against a backdrop of honey and acid. A lovely wine to sip and contemplate through a long, meandering finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$51

92 Maximin Grünhäuser 2011 Abtstberg Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Stony, earthy aromas lend a mineral tone to lavish rose and yellow-cherry notes on this concentrated, yet delicately structured, Riesling. It's intensely sweet and honeyed, with luscious, tropical fruit flavors, yet brisk on the palate, with a streak of citrus acidity. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 7% Price: \$70

92 Maximin Grünhäuser 2011 Herrenberg Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Savory aromas of lemon and crushed mineral transition into gorgeously floral, fruity flavors that dominate the palate of this intensely concentrated auslese. Citrusy acidity cuts through layers of sweet yellow cherry and quince paste, accenting a soft, floral finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 8% Price: \$62

92 Wittmann 2011 Westhofen Morstein Riesling Auslese (Rheinhessen). Fresh and ripe on the nose and palate, with apple and yellow-peach notes, this is rich, almost tropical, in sweetness, but delightfully delicate, with soft tangerine acidity. A streak of minerality cuts through fruit to reveal a long, focused finish. Enjoy its bright, fruity essence now through 2018. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$90

91 Johannishof 2011 Rudesheimer Berg Rottland Riesling Auslese (Rheingau). Dried orange peel and pollen notes add spice to peach preserves and marmalade on this rich, honeyed auslese. Creamy and sweet on the palate, it's brightened by soft tangerine acidity and a hint of savory green herb on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$59/375 ml

91 Maximin Grünhäuser 2011 Abtstberg Riesling Auslese Nr. 84 (Mosel). There's a hint of fresh ramp that adds a curious dimension of umami to this otherwise bright, floral auslese. The palate is sweet and juicy, with flavors of apricot and peach and a striking tangerine acidity that penetrates through the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$54/375 ml

89 Robert Weil 2011 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Auslese (Rheingau). Honey and lemon notes are bright against a backdrop of dusty crushed stone and spicy saffron on this delicately structured auslese. It's ripe and sweet, with concentrated nectarine and Meyer lemon flavors, but maintains a distinctly savory and earthy dimension throughout. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$82/375 ml

89 Robert Weil 2011 Kiedrich Turmberg Riesling Auslese (Rheingau). Fragrant aromas of tropical fruit and ripe yellow peach are offset

by earthy, slightly dusty notes of crushed minerals and dried herbs on this curious auslese. Delicately structured, it's sweet and juicy on the palate, with a bitter lime-zest finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$82/375 ml

88 Schloss Saarstein 2011 Serrig Schloss Saarsteiner Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Earthy, herbal notes on the nose and palate lend an elegant, savory tone to the sweet peach and apricot flavors. It's brisk and bright with acidity, with a delicate, almost fragile mouthfeel. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$68

RIESLING SPÄTLESE

93 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2011 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). Ripe and rich, this irresistibly fruity spätlese is concentrated with peach marmalade, guava and grapefruit flavors, but braced by a streak of lemon-lime acidity and a delicate spritz that tickles the palate. Satisfying and juicy, it finishes long with a hint of grapefruit-pith astringency. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Schloss Johannisberger 2011 Grünlack Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Aromas of sugar cookie and apple preserves entice on this ripe, rich spätlese. It's ethereally light on the palate, but deeply concentrated, with honey and peach flavors braced by soft pink-grapefruit acidity. It finishes elegantly, with a slick of honeycomb and lavender perfume. Drink now for its floral, fruity decadence. Mionetto USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Hattenheimer Wisselbrunnen Riesling Spätlese Gold Cap (Rheingau). This Riesling is exotic, with whiffs of rose petal and evergreen against a backdrop of white peach and yellow-cherry flavors. It's delicately structured, with soft, pink-grapefruit acidity that draws out honey and tea notes on the finish. It's gorgeous now, but should gain earthy complexity as it ages over the next 10 years. Valckenberg International, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$79

92 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2011 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). This aromatic Riesling is gorgeously floral, but not cloying or perfumy, with enticing hints of honey and candle wax. It's lush and ripe on the palate, with concentrated flavors of tangerine and yellow cherry, along with a streak of lemony acidity that extends the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Kiedricher Sandrug Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). A delicate floral perfume mingles with apple and lemon aromas that carry through to the palate. Lusciously ripe, with flavors of white peach and yellow cherry, it's bright-

ened by soft pink-grapefruit acidity. Drink now. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$39

91 Dr. Loosen 2011 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). A hint of lemon balm lends a fresh, herbaceous character to concentrated pineapple, honey and preserved peach flavors. It's sweet with fruit, but balanced with bright citrus acidity and a sprightly mouthfeel. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Erbacher Steirmorgen Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Savory apple and lemon scents open this delicately composed, but intensely minerally spätlese. The palate is ripe, with juicy yellow peach and orange flavors, anchored by earthy tones of crushed rock and slate that linger on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$76

90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2011 Dom Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). Whiffs of spice and orange blossom lend an exotic air to this intensely concentrated Riesling that's full of sweet yellow cherry and berry flavors. It dances briskly on the palate, but finishes long and steely, with a lingering minerality. Schmitt-Sohne Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$23

90 Robert Weil 2011 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Fresh apple and lemon aromas brighten flavors of sweet, juicy tangerine and quince preserve on this dainty spätlese. Shades of earth and green herbs add layers of complexity on the midpalate, extending into a finish that's intense with orange-toned acidity. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$80

90 Robert Weil 2011 Kiedrich Turmberg Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Green, herbaceous notes add dimension to flavors of sweet pineapple and peach preserves in this refreshing, brisk spätlese. Intensely nervy with stark, lemon-lime acidity, it would pair exceptionally well with creamy, soft cheeses. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) 2011 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). While the nose is subtle, with faint whiffs of apricot and wet stone, this spätlese is juicy on the palate, with loads of sweet tangerine and nectarine flavors. Steely, elegant and focused with acidity, it finishes quite dry, making it especially food friendly. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$39

RIESLING KABINETT

92 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Hattenheim Ortslage Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). Fresh herbs and florals brighten the nose of this exceptionally balanced Riesling. It's dry in style, yet intensely fruity,

with bursts of pink grapefruit and guava that extend through a lush, creamy palate. Drink now through 2014 for its bright, floral exuberance. Valckenberg International, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$32

92 Robert Weil 2011 Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). Deeply mineral from nose to finish, this off-dry kabinett balances lush peach, apricot and grapefruit flavors with striking earth tones of wet slate and granite. It's textured on the palate with a long, lingering tangerine-flavored finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$35

91 Markus Molitor 2011 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). White floral and yellow peach aromas waft delicately from this delicate off-dry kabinett. It's lusciously fruity on the palate, with ultraripe melon and peach flavors, but kept in check by bright lemony acidity and a swathe of fresh green herbs that linger on the finish. A great value for a remarkably well-made wine. Schmitt-Sohne Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Schmitges 2011 Riesling Kabinett from Red Slate (Mosel). Exotic spice notes and zesty tangerine aromas are curious on this penetrating Riesling. It's sweet, with juicy peach and yellow-cherry flavors, but reverberates on the palate, with citrusy acidity and a hint of ginger on the finish. Magellan Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$19

90 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Baron K Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). While herbaceous and green on the nose, this almost-dry kabinett is luscious and fruity on the palate, with bursts of white grapefruit and tangerine. It's bold and expansive in mouthfeel, with a brace of citrus pith on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Baron Knyphausen 2011 Charta Riesling Kabinett (Rheinhessen). Whiffs of honeycomb lend a minerally touch to ripe papaya and mango notes on this off-dry, yet intensely tropical Riesling. Soft grapefruit acidity brightens a palate that's moderately full, laced with honey and a delicate bristle of lemon pith. Drink now through 2016. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) 2011 Berncasteler Doctor Riesling Kabinett Gold Cap (Mosel). Brimming with aromas of nectarine and wildflower honey, this penetrates the palate with luscious orchard fruit. Citrusy acidity makes it sprightly and brisk on the palate, finishing long on a bittersweet orange-pith note. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$47

90 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) 2011 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Mineral tones reverberate through this delicate, light-footed kabinett. It's sweet, with sun-ripened

peach and apricot flavors, but ever-so-dainty on the palate, with refreshingly tart tangerine acidity. Drink now for its fresh, revitalizing feel with spicy Thai or Vietnamese fare. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 8.5% Price: \$40

90 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2011 Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Spring blossoms and lemon zest lend a fresh exuberance to this effortlessly elegant kabinett. Just a shade off dry, it's juicy with tangerine, honeydew and yellow peach flavors, but vibrant, with bright streaks of Meyer-lemon acidity. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 10% Price: \$24

90 Schloss Saarstein 2011 Saarstein Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Whiffs of white pepper and smoke add shades of spice and earth to this delicate off-dry Riesling. Tangy lime acidity brightens fresh peach and melon flavors that linger on the finish alongside a puckering touch of lemon pith. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 9.5% Price: \$NA

89 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) 2011 Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Fragrant, zippy lemons and limes add reverberating freshness to this delicately sweet, but effortlessly elegant kabinett. The palate is tart, but concentrated, with ripe gooseberry and tangerine flavors. It's medium-bodied, with just a hint of wet-stone minerality. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$31

88 Dr. Loosen 2011 Blue Slate Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Hints of spice and a spritz of effervescence lend vibrance to this brisk, tangerine-scented Riesling. It's just a shade off dry, with striking lemon-lime acidity that highlights delicate flavors of peach and apricot. Effortlessly quaffable. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 8% Price: \$22

88 Schloss Koblenz 2011 Trittenheimer Altärchen Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Whiffs of smoke and spice add complexity to this remarkably inexpensive, tasty Riesling. Off dry in style, with delicate white peach and apricot flavors, it's brightened by lime acidity and hints of savory herbs. Drink now. Wein-Bauer Distributing. *Best Buy.* —A.I.

abv: 9% Price: \$11

86 Karl Josef 2011 Piesporter Michelsberg Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Delicate floral and honeydew aromas entice on this easy-drinking, everyday kabinett. Sweet, with stonefruit flavor and a bright, lemony acidity, it's straightforward, with just a hint of dusty mineral character. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.I.

abv: 8.5% Price: \$11

RIESLING TROCKEN

91 Thörle 2011 Saulheimer Probstey Riesling Trocken (Rheinhessen). Intense min-

erality penetrates through the nose and palate of this dry, remarkably bold Riesling, highlighting notes of fresh pineapple and white grapefruit. The mouthfeel is creamy and viscous, but bitter lemon pith and herb notes lend balance and complexity. Drink now through 2016. Ingenium Wines. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$46

91 Thörle 2011 Saulheimer Schlossberg Riesling Trocken (Rheinhessen). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$46

90 Thörle 2011 Saulheimer Hölle Riesling Trocken (Rheinhessen). While intensely ripe on the nose, with scents of white peach, tangerine and quince, this is a dry, remarkably savory wine. It's dense and bold in body, but brightened by fresh herbal tones and a zesty lemon-pith finish. Ingenium Wines. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

90 Weingut Liebfrauenstift 2011 Wormser Liebfrauenstift-Kirchenstück Riesling Trocken (Rheinhessen). Foresty whiffs of pine needles meld with ripe yellow peach and cherry notes on the nose of this powerful, dry Riesling. It's full-bodied in style, with a rich, textured creaminess that's honed by a steely minerality that shines on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$34

89 Maximin Grünhäuser 2011 Riesling Trocken (Mosel). Whiffs of crushed stones and smoke lend a mineral tone to this dry, full-bodied Riesling. Lemony fresh, with brisk, penetrating acidity, it finishes on a delicately herbaceous note. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

88 Dr. Loosen 2011 Red Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel). Luscious peach and honeysuckle aromas are redolent on this dry, but somewhat perfumy Riesling. Broad and full on the palate, it's lushly textured, but with a bright streak of acidity that tightens the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

88 Fitz-Ritter 2012 Dürkheimer Dry-Style Riesling (Pfalz). Faint whiffs of apple and fresh herb open this elegant and somewhat subdued Riesling. Dry and moderately full in body, the palate is delicate, with flavors of nectarine, white grapefruit and lemon, along with a hint of honeycomb for added complexity. Winesellers Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 11% Price: \$19

88 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2011 Riesling Trocken (Pfalz). Zesty and brisk, with notes of white grapefruit and fresh herbs, this dry, full-bodied Riesling is almost bracingly tart, with flavors of lime and lime-skin. A vibrant pairing with soft, creamy cheese or fatty pork dishes. Magellan Wine Imports. —A.I.

abv: 12% Price: \$18

87 Fitz-Ritter 2012 Dürkheimer Abtsfronhof Riesling Trocken (Pfalz). While ripe and fruity on the nose, with notes of red berries and tropical fruit, this full-bodied Riesling is quite dry on the palate. It's a bit cloying in its fruity, floral perfume, but refreshing nonetheless, with a bright grapefruit finish. Winesellers Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

87 Schmitges 2011 Grey Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel). A hint of honeysuckle perfume lends flair to this dry, easy-quaffing Riesling. It's fairly straightforward on the palate, with fresh apple and lemon flavors, but brisk and bright, with pineapple acidity and a swathe of fresh herbs on the finish. Magellan Wine Imports. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

86 Villa Wolf 2011 Dry Riesling (Pfalz). Whiffs of smoke and crushed stone lend a mineral edge to this dry, full-bodied Riesling. The palate is fairly straightforward, but crisp and bright, with grapefruit acidity and a swathe of savory herbs that would match well with herb-accented Thai and Vietnamese cuisine. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

86 Villa Wolf 2011 Wachenheimer Belz Dry Riesling (Pfalz). Hints of smoke and savory, dried herbs add an earthy shadow to this dry, full-bodied Riesling. It's refreshing and easy drinking, with abundant lemon and lime flavors. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

OTHER RIESLINGS

92 Markus Molitor 2011 Haus Klosterberg Riesling (Mosel). Whiffs of saffron and honey lend a sweet, spicy tone to this off-dry Riesling. It's lusciously ripe on the palate, with juicy white peach and honeydew flavors accented by layers of candle wax and crushed slate. Brisk and bright with acidity, it's effortlessly quaffable, but with refinement and depth. Schmitt-Sohne Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 9.5% Price: \$18

91 Egon Müller 2011 Scharzhof Riesling (Mosel). Redolent with sweet peach and nectarine, this penetrating off-dry Riesling is chock full of juicy, fruity nectar, but honed by a streak of acidity that keeps the palate bright and fresh. Finishes long, with a murmur of orange-pith astringency. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$30

90 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Thanisch) 2011 Riesling (Mosel). Herbaceous, lemony tones reverberate from start to finish on this elegant off-dry Riesling, accenting sweet, juicy peach and tangerine flavors. Hints of smoke and tea leaf add some complexity, along with a lime-pith astringency on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 10% Price: \$25

90 Georg Breuer 2011 Terra Montosa Riesling (Rheingau). Earthy tones of mineral oil and smoke mingle with pretty white floral and fruit aromas on this expressive, full-bodied Riesling. The palate is dry in style, but bold and penetrating, with flavors of yellow plum and quince jam, along with a textured, mineral finish. Classical Wines. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$46

90 Schmitges 2011 Riesling (Mosel). Whiffs of smoke dissipate with aeration on this delicately off-dry Riesling, revealing a lush wine, with yellow peach and nectarine flavors. Roundness on the mid-palate is tightened by a shock of citrusy acidity that lingers long on the finish. Magellan Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium 2011 Schiefer Off-Dry Riesling (Mosel). Delicate smoke and spice notes permeate this off-dry Riesling, accenting ripe, juicy flavors of grapefruit and peach. Tart, tangerine acidity stretches the palate, adding zip to a delicately honeyed finish. Schmitt-Sohne Inc. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Franzen 2011 Calmont Riesling (Mosel). Brisk and clean on the palate, this dry, easy-drinking Riesling is chock full of freshly squeezed grapefruit and lemon flavors. Delicate minerality adds depth to the palate, extending a pleasantly bitter lemon-pith finish. Magellan Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Franzen 2011 Von Quarzit-Schiefer Riesling (Mosel). Ripe, juicy peach and pink grapefruit flavors are accented with subtle mineral tones on this easy drinking, yet noteworthy Riesling. Dry and full bodied in style, it's lushly textured, with a bristle of lemon-pith astringency on the finish. Magellan Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

86 Heinrich Vollmer 2012 Medium Dry Riesling (Pfalz). While the nose seems a bit savory, with muted apple and honeycomb notes, this dry, full-bodied Riesling is quite fruity on the palate, with pleasant peach and nectarine flavors. It's brisk, with lemon-lime acidity and just a hint of astringency on the finish. Mack and Shuhle INC. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

SPARKLING WINES

91 Hansen-Lauer 2009 Riesling Brut Sekt (Mosel). Exuberantly floral, with notes of honeysuckle and orange blossom, yet not at all cloying or perfumy, this sparkler showcases all the delicacy and verve you expect from a Mosel Riesling. Softly effervescent, it's dry and spry on the palate, with an exceptionally long, peach-tinged finish. Kysela Père et Fils. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Peter Lauer NV Riesling Brut (Mosel). Notes of honeycomb and sugar cookie add a caramelized warmth to ripe tangerine and peach aromas on this aromatic Riesling sparkler. It's intensely floral and fruity on the palate, but with hints of maturity and a laser-sharp acidity that cuts through rich, foamy mousse. USA Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2009 Scharzhofberger Brut Riesling (Mosel). Hints of pine needle and sage lend a refreshingly herbaceous note to this crisp, dry Riesling. The mousse is delicately structured, with a creamy mouthfeel cut by a strike of lemon acidity. Schmitt-Sohne Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

90 Dr. Nögler NV Riesling Sekt Extra Trocken (Rheingau). Soft effervescence and quivering hints of stonefruit and quince lend a dainty briskness to this sparkling Riesling. It's dry, with striking lemon-lime acidity and elegant floral notes, finishing softly on a gentle sugar-cookie flavor. Winesellers Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Theo Minges 2008 Riesling Brut (Pfalz). Waxy honeycomb and yeast notes lend a savory goodness to intense peach and tangerine on this deeply fruity, floral sparkling wine. It's full in the mouth, with a rich, creamy foam, but braced by a zesty lemon acidity that stretches out the finish. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

89 Raumland 2008 Cuvée Katharina Brut (Germany). Extended lees ageing lends rich brioche and caramel notes to this delicately floral sparkling wine. On the palate, tangerine pith and fresh apple meld in a soft, creamy foam, finishing long, with a lingering yeastiness and sharp line of lemon-lime acidity. Cellars International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

89 Von Buhl 2011 Riesling Brut (Pfalz). Hints of honeycomb and lavender florals permeate this aromatic sparkling Riesling from start to finish. Softly foamy and delicately effervescent, the palate is brightened by tart white grapefruit and yuzu flavors. Dry and focused in style, it finishes quite long. Cellars International, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Fürst von Metternich NV Trocken Rosé (Germany). Perhaps exacerbated by the small format 187 ml bottle sampled for tasting, this NV sparkling rosé exhibits notable maturation. It's slightly oxidative on the nose, with hints of honey and candied plums that mingle with yeasty brioche and mushroom notes on the palate. Delicate in mousse, it's an unusual, yet enjoyable example of German sparkling wine. Cannon Wines Limited. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9/187 ml

87 Schloss Koblenz NV Weisslack Trocken Sekt (Germany). Ripe apricot and honeyed biscuit notes lend a sunny warmth to this ripe, yet refreshingly brisk sparkling wine. It's labeled dry, but is so

concentrated with fruit, it feels off-dry on the palate. It finishes clean, with a streak of high acidity. Wein-Bauer Distributing. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

SPIRITS

FLAVOR OF THE MONTH: FLAVORED WHISKEYS

Think back just a couple of years: flavored whiskies weren't much of a category.

But look at the shelves today. Inspired by the strong success of flavored vodkas, the flavored whiskey category has roared to life. For this month's tastings, flavors ranged from fruity to vanilla- and cinnamon-spiced; maple to salted caramel. (No cupcake-flavored whiskies yet—whew!) The unspoken rule seems to be this: find a flavor that exists in the natural spectrum of whiskey, and amp it up.

In general, the bases of these products are younger spirits, and they're intended for cocktails (cola or ginger ale seem to be the go-to mixers here). Canadian whiskey used to be the primary foundation for flavored products, but that's no longer the case, as bases now range from Irish whiskey to rye to unaged American moonshine.

It would be a challenge to compare these young whiskies side by side with their fine, long-aged counterparts. In many ways, it's comparable to the intersection between aged rums and

spiced rums: "fine" versus "fun."

Of course, there are exceptions to every rule. California wine-and-spirits maker, Charbay, bucks the young-whiskey trend by distilling beer and aging it for extended periods to create intriguing "hop-flavored" whiskies. Two are included here, although some might argue they belong in a different category from whiskies with flavoring added after distillation.

These flavored whiskies are drawing in tipplers who are new to whiskey altogether. Some experts refer to them as "starter whiskies"—if you try and enjoy maple-flavored Bourbon, distillers reason, perhaps you'll be more likely to try unflavored Bourbon down the road.

We're all for that kind of experimentation at *Wine Enthusiast*, so if you find a flavored whiskey here you like, consider heading over to our online Buying Guide at buyingguide.winemag.com to locate an unflavored whiskey you might enjoy too.

Cheers!

—KARA NEWMAN

95 Charbay Hop Flavored Whiskey—Release III 1999 (USA; Charbay Distillers, Ukiah, CA). Double-distilled from Pilsner beer, flavored with hops and aged for 14 years (six years in oak, eight years out of oak), this limited-edition whiskey isn't for everyone. It's powerful, big and oaky on the palate, with lots of tannins rounding out into vanilla, honey and sweet-yet-bitter orange peel. Bottled at an over-the-top 132 proof, it needs a lot of dilution, but once the alcohol is tamed, an enticing velvetiness emerges. This whiskey is different, interesting and oddly haunting. It would make a wild Manhattan.
abv: 66.2% **Price:** \$400

93 Jim Beam Maple (USA; James B. Beam Distilling Company, Frankfort, KY). This maple-flavored Bourbon features rich and sweet maple and vanilla aromas and flavors, plus a lingering butterscotch note. A flicker of heat on the finish reminds one there's actually whiskey in there, and serves to balance out the sweetness with cinnamon and ginger sparks. Surprisingly addictive, this is one of the few flavored whiskies that works equally well mixed or sipped straight up. **Best Buy.**
abv: 35% **Price:** \$16

92 Knob Creek Smoked Maple (USA; Knob Creek Distillery, Clermont, KY). Whiskey first, flavoring second in this bottle. The alcohol presence comes through early on the nose and palate (it's 90 proof, after all), followed by undercurrents of maple and vanilla. It finishes with flourishes of spice and heat, with a welcome orange-peel note. If you're seek-

ing a quality flavored Bourbon that will stand up to mixing, here it is.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$31

92 Jack Daniel's Winter Jack Tennessee Cider (USA; Jack Daniel's Distillery, Lynchburg, TN). A lighter style of whiskey, this blend of apple cider liqueur and Tennessee whiskey smells fresh and inviting, hinting at apples, pears and baking spices. Sweet and tart on the tongue—resembling a light version of ice wine—this easy-drinking seasonal offering works well either warm or chilled. **Best Buy.**
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

91 Charbay S Hop Flavored Whiskey (USA; Charbay Distillers, Ukiah, CA). Distilled from beer and aged in French oak, this is a sophisticated flavored whiskey. The aromas are honeyed and sweet, with touches of beer and a faint floral note. On the palate, it shows oak, a bitter hoppiness and a wash of honey. It tastes hot, so have some branch water at the ready.
abv: 49.5% **Price:** \$140

90 Vanilla Mist (Canada; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). A mix of vanilla liqueur and blended Canadian whiskey, this bottle has a rich vanilla aroma and flavor, with touches of maple and brown sugar. Though it's easy-sipping, balanced

alcohol keeps the sweetness in check. **Best Buy.**
abv: 35% **Price:** \$10

90 Paddy Bee Sting (Ireland; Pernod Ricard, New York, NY). This mix of Irish whiskey, liqueur, honey and flavorings offers a honey aroma with a strong waxy note. On the palate it's viscous, almost creamy, with bold apple and honey flavors accented by spice and floral notes on the finish. It's appealing to sip or mix.
abv: 35% **Price:** \$33

89 Pow-Wow Botanical Rye (USA; Georgetown Trading Co., Washington, DC). The unusual herbal notes in this rye whiskey-based product yield an almost amaro-like aroma. Flavors run to vanilla and sarsaparilla, which yield to assertive bitter elements that resemble dried citrus peel or hops, and finish with a bright citrusy note.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$40

89 Maple Mist (Canada; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). A blend of maple liqueur and Canadian whiskey, this offering's rich, creamy maple and caramel notes are a treat. It's viscous and sweet, but not overwhelming, and finishes with subtle ginger and cinnamon spices.
abv: 35% **Price:** \$10

89 Early Times Fire Eater Hot Cinnamon (USA; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). Don't let the name scare you: even spice wimps should be able to handle this one, especially when mixed. This blend of cinnamon liqueur and Early Times Whiskey yields a honey color, with zesty aromas and flavors resembling cinnamon red-hot candies. Despite some cinnamon and cassia heat at the back of the tongue, the spice doesn't completely overwhelm, and serves to balance out the otherwise sweet viscosity.
abv: 33% **Price:** \$13

89 Early Times Blind Archer Spiced Apple (USA; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). Made with spiced apple liqueur blended with Early Times whisky, anticipate a fresh apple scent and sweet, rounded apple and vanilla flavors. There's also a mouthwatering quality, with a fleeting saline note. Light and recommended for mixing.
abv: 33% **Price:** \$13

89 Wild Turkey Spiced (USA; Campari America, San Francisco, CA). The Bourbon base of this product punches through on first sip, showing oak upfront on the palate, followed by vanilla and gentle spice. The spice builds with repeated sips, as does the alcohol heat, though it retains a soft feel. Enjoy on the rocks or mixed.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$23

88 XXX Shine Salted Caramel Corn Whiskey (USA; Philadelphia Distilling, Philadelphia, PA). Presented in a moonshiner's glass jug, this amber corn whiskey has deep maple syrup and caramel scents. The flavor tastes oaky rather than caramel-like, while a mouthwatering saline touch around the edges adds interest. The producer recommends

 **BUYINGGUIDE**

mixing the whiskey into coffee or into a stout float, with ice cream and stout beer. It can stand up to strong flavors in creative cocktails.

abv: 40%

Price: \$25

88 Paddy Devil's Apple (Ireland; Pernod Ricard, New York, NY). This flavored Irish whiskey offers a bold green-apple scent brushed with vanilla. On the tongue, look for sweet, slightly ersatz but pleasing green-apple flavors and a cinnamon flourish on the finish. Though it's slightly too sweet to sip straight up, this is a fun addition to cocktails.

abv: 35%

Price: \$22

88 J.P. Wiser's No. 5 Spiced Whisky Vanilla (Canada; Pernod Ricard, New York, NY).

Tawny-colored, this flavored Canadian whisky starts with a bold, candy-like vanilla scent, which deepens to butterscotch on the palate. Assertive alcohol cuts through the sweetness. Recommended served tall, with ginger ale and ice.

abv: 43%

Price: \$23

87 Cinnamon Mist (Canada; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). Amber-gold, sweet and candy-like, this flavored Canadian whisky resembles red-hot cinnamon and fireball candies more than natural cinnamon spice. Viscous, and intended for mixing.

abv: 35%

Price: \$10

87 Henebery (USA; Henebery Spirits, La Jolla, CA). What a roller-coaster! This spice-infused, young high-rye whiskey seems to evolve with every second it's in the glass. The complex fragrance is cinnamon-spice, herbal and fruity, all at once. On the tongue, it tastes herbal, even slightly bitter. It shifts from bitter orange to citrusy, to sarsaparilla and cinnamon, and back to bitter again. Medium to light weight, it also has a modest alcohol bite. Straight up, it's not unlike taking a slug from a bottle of bitters, but this intriguing little wonder has interesting implications for mixed drinks.

abv: 45%

Price: \$40

86 Peach Mist (Canada; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). The bold peach-nectar aroma separates this flavored Canadian whisky from the pack. On the palate, flavors blend peach and vanilla, with a slightly bitter edge. Mix with iced tea for a Southern-style sipper.

abv: 35%

Price: \$10

BEER

DARK AND ROASTY

With winter in full swing, we typically turn to robust beverage selections that help keep us cozy and warm throughout the chilly nights. We look for bolder flavors, stronger profiles, and maybe even higher alcohol levels to provide that wonderful warming sensation as we enjoy our favorite cold one. One of the best beer styles that grants all of these characteristics is American porters.

Originally perceived as lighter stouts (just as a stout was perceived to be a stronger version of a porter), porters can vary widely, from bitter, roasty beers to sweeter, chocolaty versions and everything in between. Interpretation and personalization is key.

There are more traditional offerings, like

English or Baltic porters, and then there are American craft versions, which often use additional ingredients (like coffee or smoked malts) or techniques (like oak ageing).

These American examples are the focus of our tastings this month. The style lines are blurred, as innovative brewers think outside the box and experiment with different recipes and methods. Some American brewers have even taken to producing imperial porters, offering more intensity, concentration, bitterness and, of course, alcohol.

Perfect for those cold winter nights, here are some great brews to start off your porter journey.

Prost!

—LAUREN BUZZEO

96 Alaskan Brewing Co. 2013 Smoked Porter (American Porter; Alaskan Brewing Co., AK). A perennial classic, Alaskan Brewing's vintage-dated Smoked Porter continues to impress. The 2013 bottling seems to have even more depth and power than usual, with intense aromas of char and campfire upfront, supported by notes of chocolate, cigar box, roasted malt and a hint of dark fruit. It's a deep, dark brown color—almost black—with a fluffy tan head that lingers. The palate is smooth, full and creamy, with lush flavors that mimic the bouquet alongside accents of hickory-cured bacon, roasted coffee and s'mores. A sweet-smoke sensation lingers on the long finish; with this concentration, power and balance, this is a selection that's sure to evolve and age well for years to come. **Cellar Selection.**

abv: 6.5%

Price: \$9/22 oz

92 Hangar 24 Barrel Roll No. 01 2013 Immelmann (American Imperial Porter; Hangar 24 Craft Brewery, CA). This Bourbon-barrel-aged imperial porter is brewed with lots of malts, including chocolate and dark chocolate malts, as well as oats, cocoa nibs and whole vanilla beans. It's aged in Bourbon barrels for six months, then blended with 20% fresh porter to retain some of the initial beer's characteristics and prevent the wood from overpowering the profile. The result is an intense but well balanced selection, brimming with powerful aromas and flavors of vanilla, roasted coffee, sweet wood, baking spice, cocoa, molasses and dried dark plums and berries. This beer is medium bodied, with low carbonation and a spicy warmth on the finish. Only 2520 bottles were produced. Although it's enjoyable now, the intensity should mellow and flavors will evolve with some cellaring time. **Cellar Selection.**

abv: 11.4%

Price: \$20/750 ml

90 Stone Smoked Porter with Vanilla Bean (American Porter; Stone Brewing Co.,

CA). This porter pours a dark brown color, with faint hints of walnut-mahogany when held up to the light. Initial aromas are as expected—roasted malt, vanilla, charred oak and faint sweet smoke. The palate is smooth and savory, with forward flavors of vanilla bean, coffee, roasted walnut shells and chocolate malted-milk balls. A touch of bitterness and a subtle, welcome warmth on the finish make it an ideal selection for chilly winter nights.

abv: 5.9%

Price: \$8/22 oz

88 Stone 2013 Collaboration Stone-10 Barrel-Bluejacket Suede Imperial Porter (American Imperial Porter; Stone Brewing Co., CA). This ale, brewed with calendula flowers, jasmine and avocado honey, pours a deep brown color with a serious head that lingers. Initial aromas of mocha waft from the glass, while dried floral and whole hop flower accents unfold and hold their own. The palate is smooth and rich, with a silky, suede-like texture (hence the name?) that's complemented by soft warmth and ample bitterness on the finish. The palate is full of traditional porter flavors—roasted malt, bitter chocolate and coffee—but interestingly accented by notes of honey, caramel and fragrant white flowers. Flavors of dried red fruits and cocoa powder linger on the close, along with a soft, resinous slick.

abv: 9.6%

Price: \$8/22 oz

87 DuClaw Sweet Baby Jesus Chocolate Peanut Butter Porter (American Porter; DuClaw Brewing Co., MD). If you like peanut butter—and I mean really like peanut butter—then this beer might be for you. The aromas and flavors are so pungent and intense that chocolaty peanut butter is pretty much all you get. Despite the rich flavor, it's fairly bright on the palate, with medium carbonation and a mocha-flavored finish that could be compared to a Manhattan Special soda.

abv: 6.5%

Price: \$10/12 oz 6 pack



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