



Wine Spectator

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Under the Radar

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40 producers pursuing value in emerging regions

Today's wine world offers an incredible array of options. Yet wine drinkers searching for something new often find barriers to entry in their way. Hard-to-pronounce grape names, unfamiliar appellations, small productions—who hasn't encountered these obstacles when exploring the wines of an up-and-coming region? One clear path to discovery is to focus on producers, as we've done for this values roundup. Each of the 40 wineries here, encompassing 111 wines in total, makes multiple bottlings that fit the bill for value, all of them rating 85 points or higher on the Wine Spectator 100-point scale and costing \$20 or less.

By featuring producers from emerging regions—instead of the more commonly available value brands, which often come from large producers in huge appellations—this selection steers you to distinctive wines with focused flavors, many from unique terroirs or indigenous grapes. The use of local varieties and increasingly modern winemaking techniques in regions such as Sicily and Greece is yielding rapidly improving quality without sacrificing traditional character, while an emphasis on cool-climate sites in regions from Northern California to Chile to Australia is expanding the range of styles in the New World. Think of each of these 40 producers as a gateway to an exciting region where great wines—and great bargains—abound.

AUSTRALIA

The range of wines being made in Australia continues to expand as winemakers focus more on cooler-climate regions. Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale, in South Australia; Margaret River, in Western Australia; and Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula and Pyrenees, in Victoria—some of these areas are more familiar to U.S. wine drinkers than others, yet all are bringing increased diversity and value to the Australian wine scene. Many of the current developments in the country's winemaking as a whole apply equally to the best value wines. Deft winemaking combined with lower alcohol levels and less reliance on oak is creating lively wines of purity and elegance, showing expressive flavors without heaviness and offering a greater sense of place. Though many of these trends are particularly well-suited to white wines—from Chardonnay to Sauvignon Blanc to Viognier to Riesling—the country's signature reds are benefiting as well, with rich, focused Shirazes and Cabernets showing appealing flavors at wallet-friendly prices.



89 | \$17 | D'ARENBERG | Viognier-Marsanne McLaren Vale The Hermit Crab 2012 | White

Tight, spicy and appealing, with pear and lychee flavors, well-modulated to fly smoothly on the medium-weight frame. Shows impressive persistence on the finish.

88 | \$17 | D'ARENBERG | Sauvignon Blanc Adelaide Hills The Broken Fishplate 2013 | White

Fresh and vibrant, this white is light-footed, with pear, fresh thyme and aniseed notes weaving together on the lively, refreshing finish.

88 | \$20 | D'ARENBERG | Shiraz McLaren Vale The Footbolt 2011 | Red

Dark and spicy, showing blackberry notes at the core, with savory spice and meat accents. Drink now through 2017.

