



WINE SPECTATOR's Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE OCT. 31, 2013 ISSUE, FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's Oct. 31 issue looks at the "Contemporary Cellar," including design trends and the wines collectors are focusing on today. Plus, our tasting reports on Tuscany and southern Italy include more than 1,500 wines, with lots of great bottlings and solid values. And don't miss New York City's best new restaurants for wine lovers.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

94

FONTODI Colli della Toscana Centrale Flaccianello 2010 • \$110

Aromatic, fresh and silky, this red offers violet, black currant, cherry, spice and mineral flavors. Vibrant, balanced and expressive, this just needs time to harmonize all the components. Shows terrific length and energy. Best from 2016 through 2030. 5,000 cases made.—B.S.

93

BETZ Syrah Yakima Valley La Serenne Boushey Vineyard 2010 • \$55

Vibrant, expressive and deftly balanced, this plays the juicy currant, plum and lavender flavors against refined tannins and lively acidity, firming up smoothly on the long finish. Drink now through 2018. 535 cases made.—H.S.

93

CARLISLE Zinfandel Sonoma Valley Monte Rosso Vineyard 2011 • \$45

A complete package, with deep and distinctive fruit and a focused core of balanced acidity and tannins. Aromas of dark cherry, spice cake and clay lead to layered plum, cinnamon and fennel flavors. Drink now through 2022. 248 cases made.—T.F.

93

GORMAN The Devil You Don't Know Columbia Valley 2011 • \$28

A supple, expressive wine, featuring ripe fruit aromatics that veer toward savory, smoky flavors, touching on grilled vegetable notes before returning to the dark berry and spice at the core. Focused finish. Syrah, Mourvèdre and Petite Sirah. Drink now through 2020. 525 cases made.—H.S.

93

LE MACCHIOLE Bolgheri 2011 • \$30

A pretty red, boasting black cherry, black currant, violet and mineral aromas and flavors. Supple and silky, with hints of herbs and spices. Though dense, the tannins are well-covered by sweet fruit and flesh, but provide ample support. Excellent length. Best from 2015 through 2025. 7,900 cases made.—B.S.

COLLECTIBLES

99

E. GUIGAL Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2009 • \$570

Delivers a stunningly ripe, pure, polished bolt of plum confiture, along with notes of anise, mocha, blueberry coulis, Black Forest cake and espresso. The finish sports admirable grip for this ripe-styled vintage, with a grounding rod of iron buried deeply. There's fruit and muscle now, with minerality to burn while this is cellared. Best from 2015 through 2040. 1,000 cases made.—J.M.

98

E. GUIGAL Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2009 • \$560

Dense and grippy now, with roasted alder, bittersweet ganache and freshly roasted espresso notes leading the way, though there's a very dense core of crushed plum, black currant and blackberry fruit in reserve. A gorgeous charcoal stitching takes over on the finish. Offers loads of muscle, but also terrific cut and drive through the finish. Best from 2015 through 2040. 416 cases made.—J.M.

98

E. GUIGAL Côte-Rôtie La Turque 2009 • \$570

A pure, unadulterated raspberry confiture aroma and flavor is the dominant note today in this deep and expressive red, with extra singed anise, alder, juniper and black currant notes filling in the background, followed by a very dense yet supremely polished finish. Features the weight and density of this fleshy vintage, but the fruit is so inviting this is almost approachable now. Better to wait though. Best from 2015 through 2035. 400 cases made.—J.M.

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COLLECTIBLES (continued)

97

DOMAINE DU PÉGAÜ Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Réservée 2010 • \$120

Intense, with the tarry, bittersweet cocoa-fueled grip of the vintage running through a well-endowed core of crushed plum, blackberry paste and braised fig. The muscular finish picks up notes of brick dust, pepper, warm chestnut leaf and smoldering charcoal. A throwback profile, with a hyperripe core of fruit—and it works. Best from 2015 through 2035. 6,580 cases made.—J.M.

96

CHÂTEAU DE BEAUCASTEL Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2010 • \$120

Dark, dense and very closed now, this has a tremendous core of crushed plum, linzer torte and blackberry confiture waiting in reserve. Ample singed cedar and mesquite, warm paving stone and black tea notes lurk in the background and glide through the finish. Features serious grip, but wonderful integration. Should cruise in the cellar. Best from 2016 through 2035. 7,500 cases made.—J.M.

96

HARLAN ESTATE Napa Valley 2010 • \$800

A serious wine that commands attention, from its initial rustic earth, crushed rock and dense berry flavors to its push of concentrated dark berry, dried herb, dried licorice, road tar and dried flowers. Never loses purpose or direction. Patience required. Best from 2015 through 2030. 1,550 cases made.—J.L.

94

TENUTA SAN GUIDO Bolgheri-Sassicaia 2010 • \$226

Cedar, sandalwood and spice notes lead off, with cherry, currant and rhubarb flavors underneath. Linear in profile, with a firm base of tight-grained tannins, this lingers beautifully on the finish. Persistent from beginning to end, this just needs time to expand. Best from 2016 through 2027. 36,600 cases made.—B.S.

SMART BUYS

93

POGGERINO Chianti Classico 2010 • \$25

Bright and well-endowed with pure cherry, raspberry and black currant fruit that's shaded by tobacco, licorice and mineral flavors. Elegant, intense and persistent, with a long aftertaste of fruit and mineral. This should age well, but a trade-off to lose that beautiful fruit now. Best from 2015 through 2028. 3,500 cases made.—B.S.

92

CHÂTEAU HAUTE-SERRE Malbec Cahors White Label 2010 • \$24

Alluring, offering rich, meaty accents and medium-grained tannins. Ripe, with minty notes to the dried red fruit and crushed plum flavors. Cocoa powder and mocha hints fill the powerful finish. Drink now through 2018. 8,000 cases made.—K.M.

91

AVIGNONESI Vino Nobile di Montepulciano 2010 • \$29

This round version is laced with black cherry and raspberry fruit, showing hints of cocoa and spice. Firm tannins lend support, making this well-balanced overall, with a lingering finish of warm chocolate cake. Drink now through 2022. 4,000 cases imported.—B.S.

91

CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO Rosso di Montalcino 2011 • \$24

A mouthful of juicy raspberry, this red also evokes spice and mineral flavors. Harmonious and ready to enjoy, with fine length and hints of licorice and tobacco on the finish. Drink now through 2018. 2,000 cases imported.—B.S.

91

LE CORTI Chianti Classico 2009 • \$22

A balanced combination of fleshy texture and dusty tannins, setting the stage for macerated black cherry and blackberry flavors. Vibrant and long, with a mouthwatering conclusion. Drink now through 2020. 16,600 cases made.—B.S.

91

BODEGAS HIDALGO GITANA Manzanilla Jerez La Gitana NV • \$19 / 500ml

Bright, with saline, sunchoke and blanched almond notes backed by a piercing, chalk-framed finish. This is all precision and cut. Drink now. 66,666 cases made.—J.M.

Initials at the end of each tasting note indicate the *Wine Spectator* editor who blind-tasted and scored the wine and wrote the review. The tasters are as follows: James Laube (J.L.); Kim Marcus (K.M.); Thomas Matthews (T.M.); James Molesworth (J.M.); Bruce Sanderson (B.S.); Harvey Steiman (H.S.); Tim Fish (T.F.); Alison Naprus (A.N.); Nathan Wesley (N.W.); MaryAnn Worobiec (M.W.).

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SMART BUYS (continued)

91

BODEGAS RESALTE DE PEÑAFIEL Ribera del Duero de Restia Crianza

Selected Harvest 2009 • \$23

Alluring berry, cherry and floral notes give this wine a delicate character, while bright acidity and light, firm tannins impart freshness and liveliness. Harmonious, with enough structure to age. Drink now through 2019. 8,500 cases made.—T.M.

89

E. GUIGAL Côtes du Rhône 2010 • \$17

Offers a roasted feel, with dark bramble, plum and tobacco notes accented by hints of pastis and apple wood, leading to a ganache- and charcoal-infused finish. Distinctive in feel, revealing a prominent yet integrated woodsy element. Drink now through 2014. 56,000 cases imported.—J.M.

BEST VALUES

89

COLUMBIA CREST Chardonnay Columbia Valley Grand Estates 2011 • \$12

Polished, spicy and expressive, offering spicy, toasty overtones that push against the lemon curd and apple flavors, lingering enticingly, with a hint of smoke. Drink now through 2016. 160,000 cases made.—H.S.

89

MILBRANDT Chardonnay Columbia Valley Traditions 2012 • \$13

Sleek and distinctive, with tangerine-accented pear and tea leaf flavors. Comes together smoothly on the lively finish, revealing a salted caramel note. Drink now through 2016. 5,000 cases made.—H.S.

88

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE Riesling Columbia Valley 2012 • \$10

Silky, with a crisp balance to the lemon meringue and lavender flavors, echoing appealingly on the finish. Drink now through 2015. 898,000 cases made.—H.S.

88

VILLA PILLO Toscana Borgoforte 2011 • \$12

Rose and cherry flavors mingle in this dense red. The tannins take over the finish, showing balance and a lingering finish of fruit and spice. Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Merlot. Best from 2015 through 2023. 12,500 cases made.—B.S.

86

DOMAINE DE COURON Côtes du Rhône 2011 • \$10

Light, with sandalwood and tea notes framing the lightly mulled black cherry and red currant fruit core. Singed sandalwood details echo on the finish. Drink now. 8,600 cases made.—J.M.

ABOUT THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Highly Recommended: The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.

Collectibles: Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.

Smart Buys: Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

Best Values: Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

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