



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **NOV. 30, 2015** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's Nov. 30 issue focuses on the global fight against counterfeit wines, a fascinating and informative read! Tasting reports include France's Rhône Valley and Languedoc regions and California Merlot. Plus, don't miss our entertaining menus just in time for the holidays.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- 95 MOUNT EDEN** Chardonnay Santa Cruz Mountains 2012 • \$60
Spicy, toasty, aromatic oak offers an enticing start, with a fresh, vibrant core of lemon-lime, lemon curd, white peach and stone fruit that is very tight, dense, focused and persistent. Ends with a juicy Key lime aftertaste. Drink now through 2029. 1,986 cases made.—*J.L.*
- 95 RAM'S GATE** Chardonnay Carneros Hyde Vineyard 2013 • \$68
A rich, dense, layered mix of smoky oak, ripe fig, butterscotch, lemon peel and spice coats the palate, revealing depth and intensity. Ends long, pure and clean, with the fruit rising to the top. The oak provides a pleasant backdrop. Drink now through 2020. 712 cases made.—*J.L.*
- 95 TURLEY** Petite Syrah Howell Mountain Rattlesnake Ridge 2013 • \$44
Bright, vivid and extremely aromatic, with lavender, white pepper and cinnamon notes up front, backed by a core of huckleberry, blackberry and blueberry flavors. The fleshy tannins have a rustic appeal, but never get in the way of the details on the long finish, accented by mineral, toasted herb and black tea elements. Drink now through 2030. 475 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 93 ROBERT FOLEY** Merlot Napa Valley 2012 • \$52
An appealing texture combines with depth and focus, offering aromas of floral black cherry and mocha that lead to rich and layered flavors of red currant, spiced herb and black licorice. The tannins are big but ripe, firming up on the finish. Drink now through 2022. 800 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 93 CHARLES HEIDSIECK** Brut Champagne Réserve NV • \$65
Rich and creamy, this harmonious Champagne is expressive, with brioche, crystallized honey, black currant and toasted marshmallow flavors, accented by hints of verbena, baked peach and chopped nut. Vibrant and focused through to the lasting, saline-tinged finish. Drink now through 2022. 3,000 cases imported.—*A.N.*
- 92 ROBERT BIALE** Petite Sirah Rutherford Royal Punishers 2013 • \$42
Ripe, plush and juicy notes of cherry, wild raspberry and blackberry are impressive for their density and polish, showing aromatic details of violet, sandalwood, orange peel and cobbler, with a long, spicy finish. Drink now through 2030. 1,053 cases made.—*M.W.*

COLLECTIBLES

- 97 KRUG** Brut Champagne 2000 • \$300
Rich and mouthwatering, this powerhouse Champagne is driven by vivacious acidity. The expansive palate features flavors of glazed apricot, toasted brioche, candied kumquat and ginger, espresso crème, fleur de sel and cognac. Offers a long, lingering, well-spiced finish. Disgorged summer 2013. Drink now through 2030.—*A.N.*
- 96 QUILCEDA CREEK** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2012 • \$140
Polished, focused and generous, with red plum and cherry flavors in an elegant package, framed with fine tannins. A savory, meaty note runs through this at a subterranean level. Lingers beautifully. Drink now through 2028. 4,125 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 94 LOUIS ROEDERER** Brut Champagne Cristal 2007 • \$249
Shows lovely texture and harmony, featuring a powerful backbone of acidity married to finely knit flavors of green pear and raspberry fruit, with hints of preserved lemon, biscuit and honey. Light spice and mineral details echo on the creamy finish. Drink now through 2030. 9,450 cases imported.—*A.N.*

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SMART BUYS

- 93 MARCO & VITTORIO ADRIANO** Barbaresco Basarin 2011 • \$25
Rich, fruity and solidly built, this red shows cherry, strawberry, leather, underbrush and tar flavors. Harmonious, offering a glimpse of where this will be in a few years. Best from 2018 through 2030. 2,000 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 92 TENSHEN** White Santa Barbara County 2014 • \$20
Lush and powerful, offering fleshy peach and apricot flavors at the core, with plenty of aromatic highlights, including orange blossom and honeysuckle. The texture is appealingly smooth and mouthwatering, with the complex details gaining momentum on the finish, where this reveals hints of dried spice and matcha green tea. Viognier, Roussanne, Grenache Blanc and Chardonnay. Drink now through 2020. 3,500 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 91 MARKHAM** Merlot Napa Valley 2013 • \$25
Supple and lively, yet with appealing structure, showing notes of red raspberry, toasted spice and subtle herb. This is what Merlot is all about in California. Drink now through 2021. 65,000 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 90 ERNESTO CATENA** Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Tahunan 2010 • \$16
A sinewy style, with notes of graphite and slate to the refined red plum, dried raspberry and boysenberry flavors. Black olive and dark chocolate fill the taut, balanced finish, with meaty details. Drink now through 2018. 1,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*
- 90 EBERLE** Viognier Paso Robles Mill Road Vineyard 2013 • \$23
Finds a good balance between lush, ripe peach and apricot flavors and appealing acidity, with floral, spice and roasted nut highlights. The long finish shows a lingering sense of ripeness and refreshment. Drink now. 1,445 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 90 HAMMEKEN CELLARS** Priorat Tosalet Vinyes Velles 2013 • \$23
This supple red offers cassis, black raspberry and dark chocolate flavors, with mountain herb and smoke notes. Racy acidity and light, firm tannins impart structure. Drink now through 2023. 6,700 cases made.—*T.M.*
- 90 ROBERT MONDAVI** Fumé Blanc Napa Valley Dry 2013 • \$20
Impressively concentrated and complex, with orange blossom, melon, nectarine and pear flavors, highlighted by juicy acidity and pops of grapefruit zest. Sleek and refreshing, with a zingy, nuanced finish. Drink now. 44,587 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 90 TERRA D'ORO** Chenin Blanc-Viognier Clarksburg 2014 • \$16
A bold, refreshing mix of ripe, mouthwatering peach and lemon flavors, showing plenty of ginger, dried floral and matcha green tea accents. Plush and refreshing, with a lingering, spicy finish. Drink now. 10,000 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 89 HONIG** Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2014 • \$17
An appealing touch of coconut water adds some richness to the peach, melon and citrus flavors, with accents of floral, citrus zest and mango. Drink now. 44,200 cases made.—*M.W.*

BEST VALUES

- 90 BUITENVERWACHTING** Sauvignon Blanc Constantia Bayten 2015 • \$15
Pure and chiseled, with a long lemon pulp note stretching out, while the honeysuckle, wet straw and kiwifruit flavors race along the edges. Exhibits a lingering fleur de sel edge. Drink now. 5,000 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 90 POMELO** Sauvignon Blanc California 2014 • \$12
Graceful, offering fragrant orange blossom, ruby grapefruit and white peach flavors that are fresh and lively, set on a light, lithe body. Appealing pops of lime zest and passion fruit show on the long finish. Drink now. 38,000 cases made.—*M.W.*

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 Napjus (*A.N.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*); Gillian Sciaretta (*G.S.*).

BEST VALUES (continued)

89

HIJOS DE ALBERTO GUTIÉRREZ Verdejo Rueda Monasterio de Palazuelos 2013 • \$10

This firm white offers discreet but focused flavors of green apple, blanched almond, fresh herb and mineral, backed by crisp acidity and a touch of tannins. Not showy, but has energy. Drink now through 2018. 100,000 cases made.—*T.M.*

89

FRANÇOIS MONTAND Brut Blanc de Blancs Vin Mousseux NV • \$14

Lovely pear, quince and ginger flavors cruise along, with a racy-edged mousse. A lingering hint of walnut adds range and contrast on the finish. Drink now. 150,000 cases made.—*J.M.*

88

TILIA Chardonnay Mendoza 2014 • \$12

A fruity white, with plenty of buttery notes to the ripe apple and baked pear flavors. Spice and cream accents make for a luscious finish. Drink now. 12,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

87

INDABA Chenin Blanc Western Cape 2015 • \$12

Lively yellow apple and white ginger notes stream along, carried by a hint of green almond through the bright finish. Drink now. 9,756 cases imported.—*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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