



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

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

Wine Spectator's July 31 issue features the wines of South Africa, plus a fantastic travel guide to this exciting region. Also, summer entertaining tips with a delightful wine and food matching menu. And the issue's tasting reports cover California Chardonnay and Portugal's table wines.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- 95 BODEGAS EMILIO MORO** Ribera del Duero Malleolus de Valderramiro 2009 • \$120
Plum, cocoa, mineral, sanguine and cola flavors mingle in this rich red. The plush texture conceals a powerful structure, deep and balanced, with a finish that lingers and expands into spice, floral and earth notes. Distinctive and intriguing, this is still reserved and has much more to give. Drink now through 2024. 600 cases made.—*T.M.*
- 94 ELDERTON** Shiraz Barossa Command Single Vineyard 2009 • \$90
Velvety, round and focused, centering on blueberry, with hints of coffee and spice as the finish lingers. Poised and expressive, this comes together harmoniously and has miles and miles to go. Drink now through 2021. 300 cases imported.—*H.S.*
- 93 LOUIS BARTHÉLÉMY** Brut Champagne Saphir 2005 • \$41
Elegant, this boasts a creamy, finely beaded mousse, supporting the subtly meshed flavors of black cherry, fresh ginger and white peach, with a smoky, mineral-tinged base note. Vibrant, with a mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2025. 500 cases imported.—*A.N.*
- 93 BETZ** Clos de Betz Columbia Valley 2010 • \$55
Fresh and vibrant, focusing the juicy currant and plum flavors into a bright beam that propels the lingering finish. Shades of crème fraîche and white pepper add interest. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Best from 2014 through 2020. 800 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 93 HAMILTON RUSSELL** Chardonnay Hemel-en-Aarde Valley 2012 • \$33
Tightly wound, this exhibits a serious core of glazed pear, fig, apple, plantain and brioche notes, lined with mineral and honeysuckle hints and accented by nicely beaded acidity. This should be a beauty when it unwinds fully. Best from 2014 through 2020. 3,200 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 93 LAIRD FAMILY** Chardonnay Napa Valley Red Hen Ranch 2009 • \$30
A rich and graceful style that's at a good drinking place, offering pure, ripe pear, fig, apricot and honeysuckle flavors, with light toasty oak and notes of tangerine and white peach. Tightly focused, with lively acidity keeping the flavors fresh and snappy. Drink now through 2018. 1,075 cases made.—*J.L.*

COLLECTIBLES

- 94 BOLLINGER** Brut Champagne La Grande Année 2004 • \$155
Firm, with well-cut acidity and a fine texture, this is aromatic, delivering a skein of ground spice and graphite notes that mesh seamlessly with the flavors of black currant, black cherry, toasted almond, financier, honey and smoky mineral. Offers a long, mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2024. 2,400 cases imported.—*A.N.*
- 94 SALON** Brut Blanc de Blanc Champagne Le Mesnil 1999 • \$360
There's a sense of finesse to this Champagne, which offers a creamy texture and seamlessly integrated structure, with subtly layered flavors of ripe white peach, black raspberry fruit, lemon meringue pie, pickled ginger and blanched almond. Sleek and elegant. Drink now through 2028. 210 cases imported.—*A.N.*

SMART BUYS

- 92 CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE** Merlot Horse Heaven Hills Canoe Ridge Estate 2010 • \$23
Ripe, bordering on opulent, with expressive cherry, currant, floral and subtle spice flavors that ride easily over refined tannins onto the long, detailed finish. Delivers depth and intensity without bulk. Drink now through 2020. 6,000 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 91 VINCENT GIRARDIN** Moulin-à-Vent Domaine de La Tour du Bief Clos de la Tour 2010 • \$28
Elegant, with a sense of finesse to the layering of refined tannins and acidity, offering appealing black raspberry, violet, tangy plum, chocolate pudding and grilled herb notes. Smoky finish. Drink now through 2020. 3,000 cases imported.—*A.N.*
- 90 ARGYLE** Brut Willamette Valley 2009 • \$27
Bright and complex, with juicy acidity supporting the pear, tobacco and lime flavors, singing together in harmony on the lively finish. Drink now. 10,800 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 90 MARCHESI DE' FRESCOBALDI** Chianti Rufina Nipozzano Riserva 2009 • \$20
Offers mature aromas and flavors of forest floor, dried fruit, sweet spice and leather, all matched to a bright profile. Remains light-footed, lingering on the finish. Drink now through 2018. 31,500 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 90 PRATS & SYMINGTON** Douro Post Scriptum de Chryseia 2010 • \$25
Pure and lush, this is full of rich dark plum, cherry and blackberry flavors flanked by hints of mineral and spice. Notes of underbrush, mocha and cream emerge midpalate. A shiso leaf element shows on the firm finish. Drink now through 2018. 5,000 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 90 TABLAS CREEK** Rosé Patelin de Tablas Paso Robles 2012 • \$20
Zesty yet delicate in style, offering a light peach hue, plus aromas of dried cherry and wild flowers, with crisp flavors of apricot, watermelon and loamy spice. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Cunoise. Drink now. 1,200 cases made.—*T.F.*

BEST VALUES

- 89 19 CRIMES** South Eastern Australia 2012 • \$13
Polished, expressive and distinctive, with a green olive note weaving through the ripe blueberry and spice flavors, lingering easily on the deftly balanced and medium-weight finish. Shiraz, Pinot Noir, Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. 20,000 cases imported.—*H.S.*
- 89 D'ARENBERG** The Stump Jump Red McLaren Vale 2011 • \$13
Fresh and crisp, with a distinct mineral note weaving through the juicy plum and spice flavors, lingering pleasantly on the refined finish. Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvèdre. Drink now. 13,000 cases imported.—*H.S.*
- 88 CASA SANTOS LIMA** Lisboa Lab Red 2011 • \$9
Firmly structured, with a brooding intensity to the mocha, dark cherry and dried blackberry flavors, showing a touch of licorice snap. Spice, dried ginger and chocolate notes mark the finish. Castelão, Tinta Roriz, Syrah and Touriga Nacional. Drink now through 2016. 58,000 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 88 CHARLES & CHARLES** Rosé Columbia Valley 2012 • \$12
Light and spicy, with a clove note weaving through the beguiling raspberry and pear flavors, finishing dry. Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault and Grenache. Drink now. 20,000 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 88 CAVES SÃO JOÃO** Dão Porta dos Cavaleiros Red 2009 • \$11
Juicy and fresh, with currant and raspberry flavors, featuring zesty notes of crushed pepper and basil. Offers a chewy finish of wild plum. Drink now through 2017. 43,500 cases made.—*K.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 Napjus (*A.N.*); Nathan Wesley (*N.W.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*).

BEST VALUES (continued)

88

SNOQUALMIE Riesling Columbia Valley Winemaker's Select 2012 • \$8

Moderately sweet, with apricot and pear flavors that remain ripe as the finish lingers. Drink now through 2016. 42,000 cases made.—*H.S.*

87

AVELEDA Vinho Verde 2011 • \$8

A bright and juicy white, with hints of richness to the white currant, cherry and wild plum flavors. Glazed citrus notes extend through the peppery finish. Drink now. 175,000 cases made.—*K.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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