



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **MAY 31, 2015** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's May 31 issue focuses on Oregon Pinot Noir pioneer Ken Wright. Plus, the issue's tasting reports cover Chile, Beaujolais and Campania. And don't miss our spring entertaining feature, with a casual menu for wine lovers.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

97 **BEVAN CELLARS** Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District Wildfoote Vineyard Vixen Block 2012 • \$195
A remarkably seductive effort, delightfully creamy and chocolaty, plush and layered, with a firm, rich, potent core of dense, earth-laced currant and blackberry flavors. Firm cedary oak is evident, gliding along gracefully on the finish. Drink now through 2029. 200 cases made.—*J.L.*

94 **COLENE CLEMENS** Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains Adriane 2012 • \$50
Distinctly spicy and peppery, this is layered, complex and harmonious, with generous cherry and floral flavors on an open-weave frame. The tannins are well-submerged in the mix, and the finish echoes beautifully. Drink now through 2022. 1,096 cases made.—*H.S.*

94 **DE MORGENZON** Chenin Blanc Stellenbosch Reserve 2013 • \$35
This has range, depth and definition, with a racy ginger spine piercing the lovely core of Jonagold apple, jasmine, citrus oil and white peach. The finish is gilded with hints of brioche and green plum. A beauty that should age well. Drink now through 2018. 200 cases imported.—*J.M.*

COLLECTIBLES

98 **G. ROUMIER** Musigny 2012 • \$1,650
A beam of violet, black currant, blackberry, spice and mineral marks this intense yet airy red. Though not heavy, the intensity on the palate is impressive. Fans out on the complex finish like a feather floating on an updraft of air. Lacy, lilted and persistent, offering a minty aftertaste. Best from 2020 through 2040. 20 cases imported.—*B.S.*

96 **JEAN GRIVOT** Richebourg 2012 • \$1,550
Intense, yet with refined aromas of black cherry, black currant, violet and spice. Packed with sweet fruit on a sleek, elegant frame, this exhibits harmony and complexity. Shows terrific length on the fantail finish, picking up a distinctive mineral note and a minty accent. Best from 2019 through 2035. 36 cases imported.—*B.S.*

96 **G. ROUMIER** Bonnes Mares 2012 • \$510
A kaleidoscope of spices greets the senses in this dense, black cherry- and blackberry-flavored red. There's an underlying vegetal component, balanced by licorice-tinged sweet fruit and spice. Shows terrific length, with great energy and focus. Best from 2020 through 2040. 100 cases imported.—*B.S.*

96 **SCHRADER CELLARS** Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard MMXII 2012 • \$400 / 1.5L
Very tight, featuring a beam of spice-laced blackberry, currant, dried herb and jazzy oak. The laser focus is most evident on the finish, which slowly unravels to highlight this wine's density, elegance and grace. The flavors reverberate in the end. Best from 2017 through 2023. 200 cases made.—*J.L.*

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SMART BUYS

- 92 CUNE** Rioja Gran Reserva 2009 • \$33
Tea, underbrush and tobacco notes give this red a traditional, savory character, while fresh cherry and leafy flavors keep this lively. Balanced and graceful, with polished tannins and a floral finish. Drink now through 2022. 600 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 92 KEN WRIGHT** Chardonnay Washington Celilo Vineyard 2011 • \$32
This taut white is brilliantly focused and layered with mineral and spice notes between pineapple and quince flavors. Persists gently on the lively finish. Drink now through 2020. 1,110 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 90 BODEGAS BILBAINAS** Rioja Viña Pomal Reserva 2010 • \$21
Firm and focused, this red offers a core of black cherry, with notes of coffee, licorice, mineral and herb. The tannins are light but supportive, the acidity fresh. Lithe, graceful and lively. Drink now through 2020. 700 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 90 BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS MAUROS** Toro Prima 2012 • \$24
Wild herb and floral aromas lend an exotic note to this lively red. Red fruit and spice notes follow through on the palate, supported by light, firm tannins and fresh acidity. This has a modest structure, but shows good intensity and a distinctive character. Drink now through 2019. 14,000 cases made.—*T.M.*
- 90 VIÑA SANTA CAROLINA** Carmenère Rapel Valley Reserva de Familia 2011 • \$20
This red has a massive structure that imparts a brooding profile. Dense flavors of plum, dried raspberry and dark chocolate help offset the brawny tannins. Mocha accents fill the intense finish. Best from 2017 through 2020. 3,176 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 89 CONCHA Y TORO** Carmenère Peumo Serie Riberas Gran Reserva 2013 • \$17
Red currant and raspberry flavors are well-structured and fresh-tasting in this lithe red, with mint and chocolate notes lingering on the tannic finish. Drink now through 2017. 20,000 cases made.—*K.M.*

BEST VALUES

- 90 BUITENVERWACHTING** Sauvignon Blanc Constantia Bayten 2014 • \$15
A bracing, steely style, with lemon zest, gooseberry and wet straw notes that have a rapier feel through the finish. Pure and chiseled now, but should mellow nicely with brief cellaring for those who want a broader feel. Drink now through 2016. 4,000 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 90 VIÑA MONTES** Pinot Noir Aconcagua Coast Alpha 2013 • \$25
Exuberantly fruity and spicy, with suave flavors of sandalwood, cherry and berry, offering a lush mouthfeel. Tea and cardamom notes show on the lively finish. Drink now through 2018. 8,000 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 90 RODÁNO** Chianti Classico 2010 • \$20
Shows maturity in the form of truffle and sweet decaying cherry fruit aromas and leafy underbrush flavors. A little dry, yet silky in texture and full of sweet fruit. Decant. Drink now through 2018. 10,000 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 89 CHARLES & CHARLES** Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah Columbia Valley Post No. 35 2013 • \$12
Taut, focused and generous, with red berry and plum flavors set on a supple frame of fine tannins, hinting at peach as the finish sails on. Drink now through 2018. 60,000 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 89 COLUMBIA CREST** Gold Grand Estates Limited Release Columbia Valley 2012 • \$12
Ripe and supple, this deftly balanced red offers cherry, red pepper and dark plum flavors that glide smoothly over a nubby texture, finishing gently. Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2020. 7,500 cases made.—*H.S.*

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.*).

BEST VALUES (continued)

89 **LOOSEN BROS.** Riesling QbA Mosel Dr. L 2013 • \$12
Lots of orange blossom notes show in this generous style. Fresh-cut peach and apple cobbler flavors add to the richness. Mineral and cream accents linger on the finish. Drink now through 2018. 100,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

88 **14 HANDS** Hot To Trot Red Columbia Valley 2012 • \$10
Fresh and open-textured, with prominent flavors of juicy plum and red berry, shaded with tea leaf notes as the finish lingers against lightly gritty tannins. Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and others. Drink now through 2017. 524,000 cases made.—*H.S.*

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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