



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **SEPT. 30, 2017** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's Sept. 30 issue is an Insider's Guide to Napa Valley, with expert advice and recommendations on resorts, restaurants and wineries. Plus, the top wines from this popular region are featured. The issue's tasting reports cover California Pinot Noir and white Burgundy. And don't miss our interview with movie star and vintner Drew Barrymore.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- 95** **LE CASALTE** Vino Nobile di Montepulciano Quercetonda 2012 • \$50
Packed with sweet, ripe black cherry, blackberry, leather, spice and iron aromas and flavors, this is powerful, polished and intense. Tar and mineral elements become more pronounced on the finish, which is bound by the dense tannins. Shows terrific length. Drink now through 2030. 580 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 95** **LOUIS CHÈZE** Condrieu Brèze 2015 • \$50
Gorgeous in every way, with a creamy, seductive mouthfeel, enticing notes of creamed pear, apple and melon, flashes of anise and mineral for energy, and a long, beguiling finish that lets the fruit linger beautifully. Drink now through 2022. 700 cases made.—*J.M.*
- 95** **MAZZEI** Chianti Classico Castello Fonterutoli Gran Selezione 2013 • \$70
An essence of sweet cherry grounds the surrounding flavors of leather, iron, spice and tobacco in this firm red, which remains vibrant and refined. Bracing acidity and dense, muscular tannins play out on the long finish. Drink now through 2028. 5,000 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 94** **CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO** Brunello di Montalcino 2012 • \$43
A bright, cherry-laced red, accented by iron, earth, tar and tobacco notes. Though lean and tight on the finish, this is lively, with a lingering aftertaste of cherry, tobacco and mineral. Best from 2019 through 2032. 4,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 94** **J.-A. FERRET** Pouilly-Fuissé Les Perrières Tête de Cru 2015 • \$48
Toast and pastry aromas and flavors highlight this concentrated, peachy white. Bracing acidity and a mineral streak lurk in the background, while the finish pulls everything together. Should be terrific in a year or two. Best from 2018 through 2026. 525 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 93** **SHAFER** Chardonnay Napa Valley Carneros Red Shoulder Ranch 2015 • \$52
Rich and spicy, featuring an elegant mix of baked apple, honeydew melon, pear and light mineral notes. Ends full and persistent, with a long, layered aftertaste. Drink now through 2021. 6,700 cases made.—*J.L.*

COLLECTIBLES

- 98** **E. GUIGAL** Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2013 • \$525
A thunderhead of dark ganache and espresso notes slowly rolls through, while fig paste, melted licorice, warm plum and blackberry compote flavors follow. A massive beam of graphite drives the finish to a crescendo, with the fruit echoing. Best from 2022 through 2050. 63 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 98** **E. GUIGAL** Côte-Rôtie La Turque 2013 • \$525
A stunning, modern-styled version, with scintillating raspberry purée, plum confiture and blackberry reduction flavors gliding over velvety but copious tannins. Alluring warm ganache and fruitcake accents gild the finish, which sails on and on. Best from 2020 through 2045. 67 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 97** **DOMAINE HUËT** Vouvray Moelleux Clos du Bourg 2016 • \$50
A stunner, with beautiful pear, green fig, yellow apple and quince notes that are creamy and sweet, yet seamless and refined in feel. The extremely long finish lets honeysuckle and verbena notes dance throughout, with a light echo of white ginger at the very end. Best from 2020 through 2040. 1,000 cases made.—*J.M.*

COLLECTIBLES (continued)

96 E. GUIGAL Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2013 • \$525
 Very ripe, with layers of fig, boysenberry and plum compote forming the core, inlaid liberally with licorice snap, roasted apple wood and Turkish coffee notes. Shows lots of heft, but everything pulls together on the finish, exhibiting drive and definition. Best from 2020 through 2040. 65 cases imported.—*J.M.*

SMART BUYS

92 CAPEZZANA Carmignano Villa di Capezzana 2013 • \$27
 Ripe cherry and black currant aromas and flavors are clear and fresh, shaded by tobacco, leather, earth and iron notes. Intense and firm, with a mineral- and tobacco-steeped aftertaste. Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2025. 8,750 cases made.—*B.S.*

92 MATANZAS CREEK Chardonnay Sonoma County 2015 • \$26
 Creamy vanilla and smoky oak flavors shade the mix of pear, fig, apricot and melon notes in this white, making for a complex, layered effort that's deep and persistent. Drink now through 2022. 8,987 cases made.—*J.L.*

92 SELVAPIANA Chianti Rufina Vigneto Bucerchiale Riserva 2013 • \$28
 Sweet wood smoke, plum and cherry flavors pervade this dense red, which mellows with air, finding a nice harmony and lingering on the aftertaste. Drink now through 2026. 4,500 cases made.—*B.S.*

92 BODEGAS VIVANCO Rioja Reserva 2011 • \$25
 This red shows density and balance, with plum, currant, espresso and loamy earth flavors that are reserved but remain harmonious through the spicy, floral finish. Drink now through 2025. 15,000 cases made.—*T.M.*

91 CHAMPALOU Vouvray 2015 • \$20
 Sleek pear, green apple and green plum notes race through this enticing white, backed by a flash of quince on the finish, with a bright verbena edge. Drink now through 2024. 2,855 cases imported.—*J.M.*

91 IL MOLINO DI GRACE Toscana Il Volano 2013 • \$17
 This is refined, with flavors of pure cherry, raspberry, mineral and tobacco. Firm and succulent, with a long, fruit- and spice-tinged aftertaste. Sangiovese and Merlot. Drink now through 2023. 5,000 cases made.—*B.S.*

91 PAZO DE SEÑORANS Albariño Rias Baixas 2016 • \$21
 This big white is round and polished, with good weight and solid acidity behind the pear, blanched almond and white tea flavors. Ginger and briny notes give this a savory character. A muscular style. Drink now through 2022. 3,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*

91 THREE DEGREES Pinot Noir McMinnville 2015 • \$20
 Lithe and vibrant, with expressive rose petal and black cherry aromas and spirited red plum and orange tea flavors. Drink now. 3,000 cases made.—*T.F.*

90 CLOS DE LOS SIETE Uco Valley 2013 • \$20
 Dark plum, cherry and blackberry flavors show lots of plush minty notes in this red, lathered with rich, spicy accents. Dark chocolate details emerge on the finish. Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2021. 65,000 cases made.—*K.M.*

90 JOSEPH DROUHIN St.-Véran 2015 • \$21
 A lush yet succulent style, this displays floral, apple, white peach and subtle honey flavors. Balanced, leaving a fresh, cleansing impression on the finish. Drink now through 2021. 8,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

90 TENUTE DI EMÉRA Primitivo di Manduria Antica Masseria del Sigillo 2015 • \$17
 Mouthwatering acidity enlivens the creamy mix of baked raspberry and cherry fruit, mandarin orange peel and mocha flavors in this harmonious, medium- to full-bodied red, while supple tannins and a hint of spicy mineral show on the clean-cut, lingering finish. Drink now through 2022. 7,500 cases made.—*A.N.*

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

89 **VIÑEDOS ERRÁZURIZ OVALLE** Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley Viñedos Marchigüe

Santa Marta Vineyard Reserva 2014 • \$11

This polished red has fine-grained tannins and firm acidity supporting the red fruit flavors. Lengthens out nicely midpalate, showing minty and citrusy hints. The finish lingers with flint and white pepper overtones. Drink now through 2020. 3,940 cases made.—*K.M.*

88

CASAS DEL BOSQUE Sauvignon Blanc Casablanca Valley Reserva 2016 • \$13

Well-balanced, with fresh, juicy green apple and ripe citrus flavors that are accented by dried savory herb and pepper notes. Minerally finish. Drink now. 15,000 cases made.—*K.M.*

88

M. CHAPOUTIER Pays d'Oc Marius White 2014 • \$12

This open-knit white offers layered flavors of glazed peach, saline and lemon peel, bound together by firm acidity. Dried herb and smoke aromas detail the finish. Vermentino and Terret. Drink now. 22,000 cases made.—*G.S.*

88

VIÑEDOS EMILIANA Chardonnay Bío Bío Valley Natura Un-Oaked 2016 • \$11

Honeysuckle and snap pea notes enliven the apple, ripe citrus and gooseberry flavors in this white, with creamy details on the crisp and succulent finish. Drink now. 14,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

87

VILLA POZZI Nero d'Avola Sicilia 2016 • \$10

A beam of ripe and juicy wild strawberry flavors leads the way in this medium-bodied red, framed by light, creamy tannins and hints of spice box, mocha and smoke. Easy-drinking and fresh. Drink now through 2019. 27,816 cases imported.—*A.N.*

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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