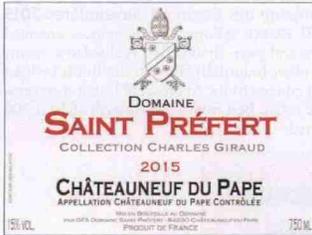


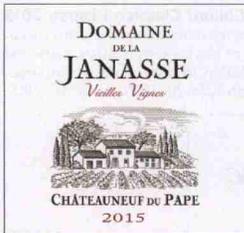
# SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

## Highly Recommended

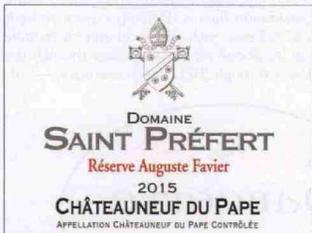
The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.



**99** **Domaine St.-Préfert Châteauneuf-du-Pape Collection Charles Giraud 2015 \$93** FRANCE Gorgeous, starting off with warm ganache and Turkish coffee aromas, followed by dense, fleshy layers of fig cake, steeped plum and warm blackberry confiture. Shows lots of juicy energy through the finish, with anise and singed juniper accents adding range. Cellar first, then enjoy the smoke show. Best from 2020 through 2045. 1,000 cases made.—J.M.



**97** **Domaine de la Janasse Châteauneuf-du-Pape Vieilles Vignes 2015 \$90** FRANCE Ripe and focused, with a delightful mix of cassis, blood orange and cherry coulis flavors streaming through, backed by black tea and apple wood accents. Finely beaded acidity lets the fruit stretch out, while a light mineral edge adds range. Shows an echo of licorice snap at the very end. Dense, but there's remarkable grace here. Best from 2020 through 2040. 392 cases imported.—J.M.



**97** **Domaine St.-Préfert Châteauneuf-du-Pape Auguste Favier Réserve 2015 \$55** FRANCE Vibrant and captivating, with exuberant fruitcake, cinnamon and black tea aromas leading the way for a fleshy core of raspberry pâte de fruit, plum sauce and cassis, all allied to a lovely velvety texture. Maintains intensity through the finish, showing a long echo of pastis. Best from 2020 through 2040. 1,300 cases made.—J.M.



**95** **Yves Cuilleron Condrieu La Petite Côte 2015 \$54** FRANCE Layers of fig, pear, quince, nectarine and yellow apple fruit course through this gorgeous white, gilded with hazelnut oil, orange pith and bitter almond notes. Offers an opulent range, yet remains focused. Shows Viognier's uniqueness. Drink now through 2021. 210 cases imported.—J.M.

## Collectibles

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



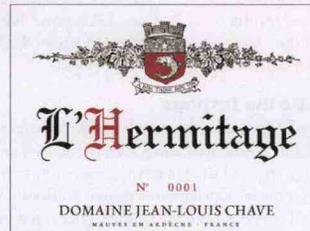
**97** **Falletto di Bruno Giacosa Barolo Falletto Vigna le Rocche Riserva 2011 \$400** ITALY This alluring red starts out with soft rose, cherry, raspberry and menthol flavors, all harmonious, before picking up tar, tobacco and mineral elements, playing out on the long finish. This has mellowed somewhat, but the fruit never gives up, even as mouthcoating tannins emerge. Best from 2023 through 2040. 900 cases made.—B.S.



**97** **Jean Grivot Richebourg 2014 \$1,500** FRANCE A rich and fleshy version, exhibiting black cherry, blackberry, violet, iron and spice flavors. Firmly structured, yet charmingly concentrated and pure, with terrific balance. Extends nicely on the long finish. Best from 2021 through 2040. 95 cases imported.—B.S.



**97** **Louis Latour Romanée St.-Vivant Les Quatre Journaux 2015 \$650** FRANCE Though packed with black currant, blueberry and cherry fruit, this red is wrapped up in a firm structure today, giving an austere feel. All the components are in the right proportion and there's no denying the saturated aftertaste that echoes the core of cherry. Best from 2023 through 2045. 280 cases made.—B.S.



**96** **Jean-Louis Chave Hermitage 2014 \$325** FRANCE This starts strong, with warm ganache, steeped fig and crushed blackberry flavors, then gains steam, picking up smoldering charcoal, bay leaf and juniper accents as the wine drives and expands through the finish. Offers a long echo of graphite, with the fruit keeping pace. Very impressive for the vintage. Best from 2020 through 2040. 2,500 cases made.—J.M.

## Smart Buys

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

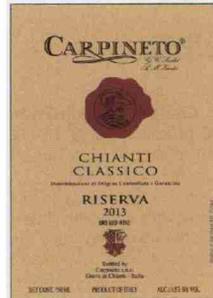


**94** **Marco & Vittorio Adriano Barbaresco Basarin 2014 \$25** ITALY Elegant, leading off with perfumed aromas of rose, cherry, strawberry and white pepper. The profile is sleek, with a solid base of acidity and tannins. Shows terrific length, evoking fruit and mineral on the aftertaste. Best from 2019 through 2033. 2,500 cases made.—B.S.

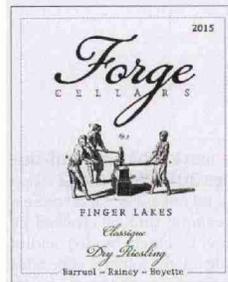
Buying Guide cover photograph by Ellie Patterson.



**94** **Domaine des Baumard Savennières 2015**  
**\$30** FRANCE Alluring, with quince, creamed pear, verbena and green almond flavors allied to a creamy texture, all offset beautifully through the finish by light quinine and mineral hints. Approachable, but this seems built for the cellar. Best from 2018 through 2030. 1,500 cases imported.—J.M.



**92** **Carpineto Chianti Classico Riserva 2013**  
**\$26** ITALY Smoky aromas introduce this succulent red, with flavors of black cherry, leather, earth and tar that show concentration and play off the vibrant structure. Drink now through 2028. 200,000 cases made.—B.S.

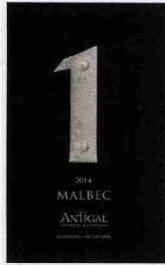


**92** **Forge Riesling Finger Lakes Classique 2015**  
**\$19** NEW YORK Weighty for a Riesling, with a rounded feel and layers of creamed yellow apple, white peach and persimmon flavors. Delivers energy and cut throughout, with lemon pith, citrus oil and chamomile accents filling in. Shows length and range through the finish. Drink now through 2021. 1,800 cases made.—J.M.



**91** **Karine Lauerjat Sancerre 2016** **\$23** FRANCE  
 Crunchy, with lots of gooseberry and thyme notes bouncing around, while flint and fleur de sel accents drive the mouthwatering finish. Drink now through 2020. 3,000 cases made.—J.M.

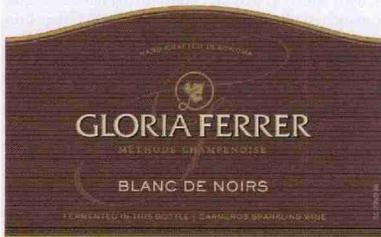
SPECTATOR SELECTIONS: Smart Buys / Best Values



**90 Antigal Winery & Estates Malbec Mendoza Uno 2014 \$18 ARGENTINA** This well-structured red offers rich flavors of dried raspberry and cherry tart accented by beefy notes. The minerally finish is refined and well-spiced. Drink now through 2020. 70,000 cases made.—K.M.



**90 Avignonesi Rosso di Montepulciano 2015 \$17 ITALY** An elegant red, balancing cherry, leather, tobacco and earth notes with a vibrant structure. Still firm, playing out with mineral and tobacco accents on the finish. Drink now through 2020. 7,900 cases made.—B.S.



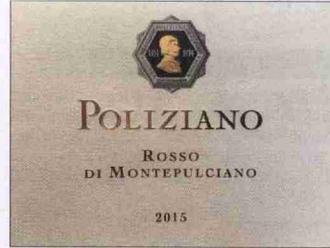
**90 Gloria Ferrer Blanc de Noirs Carneros NV \$22 CALIFORNIA** Vibrantly floral strawberry and gingerbread aromas pair with crisp red apple and spice flavors that bounce along the finish. Drink now. 22,000 cases made.—T.F.



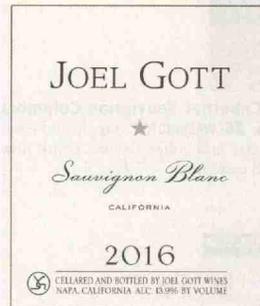
**90 Mason Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley Yount Mill Vineyard 2016 \$19 CALIFORNIA** Clean, smooth and crisp, offering a lip-smacking mix of pear, melon and Key lime flavors, with plenty of intensity on the finish. Drink now. 4,900 cases made.—M.W.

Best Values

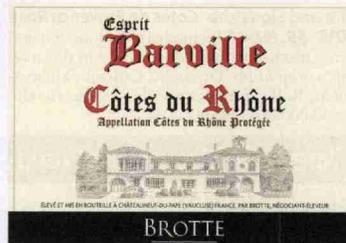
Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.



**90 Poliziano Rosso di Montepulciano 2015 \$15 ITALY** This red opens with ripe plum and cherry fruit, yet it also has a brooding side. Firm tannins provide support, while earth and iron elements add depth. Best from 2018 through 2023. 17,000 cases made.—B.S.



**89 Joel Gott Sauvignon Blanc California 2016 \$14 CALIFORNIA** Silky and elegant, with crisp Key lime, Meyer lemon and fresh herbal shadings on a light, refreshing body. Shows plenty of persistence on the finish. Drink now. 74,000 cases made.—M.W.

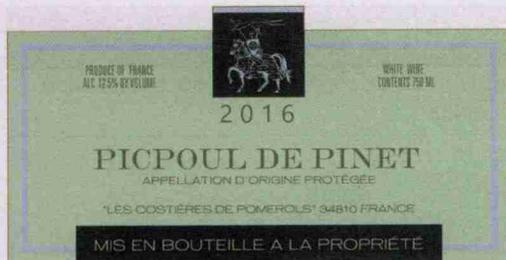


**88 Brotte Côtes du Rhône Esprit Barville 2015 \$13 FRANCE** Juicy raspberry and blackberry fruit sits atop bramble and anise notes. Open-knit, but with good energy. Drink now. 12,500 cases made.—J.M.

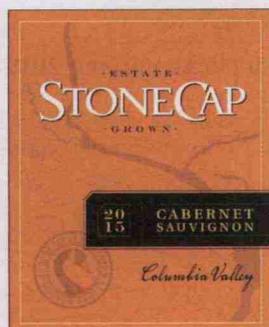
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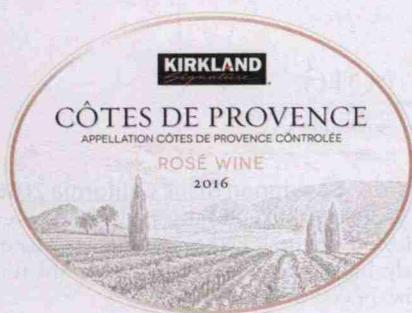
**SPECTATOR SELECTIONS: Best Value**



**87 Les Costières de Pomerols Picpoul de Pinet 2016 \$10 FRANCE** Salty and mouthwatering, this creamy white encases pureed peach, almond and yellow apple notes that are fresh and well-meshed. Hints of crunchy herb grace the crisp finish. Drink now. 65,000 cases made.—G.S.



**87 Stonecap Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2015 \$8 WASHINGTON** Supple and easy-going, with zesty cherry and coffee flavors. Drink now through 2022. 13,428 cases made.—T.F.



**86 Kirkland Signature Côtes de Provence Rosé 2016 \$9 FRANCE** Light cherry and watermelon rind notes are stitched with a savory thread in this rosé, ending with a crisp finish. Grenache, Cinsault, Mourvèdre, Tibouren, Rolle, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now. 30,000 cases made.—J.M.