100 Quinta do Noval 2011 Nacional Vintage Port. A powerful and ripe wine, strongly influenced by its tannins, super ripe black fruit and great structure. It has all the hallmarks of a long-lived vintage Port—very rich, while densely textured and firm. This is an amazing, impressive, concentrated wine, with huge potential. From a parcel of ungrafted vines at Noval. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20%  
**Price:** $650

99 Williams Selyem 2010 Hirsch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This expresses the greatness of its vintage and vineyard, offering wave after wave of raspberry and cherry pie flavors, plus notes of red currant, sweet licorice, spicy Dr. Pepper and smoky sandalwood. There’s also something exotically briary and wild that intrigues. Even more remarkable is the texture, an amalgam of acids and tannins that rivals any Pinot Noir ever produced in California. It should age for up to 20 years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.3%  
**Price:** $75

100 Giovanni Chiappini 2009 Guado de’ Gemoli (Bolgheri Superiore). This small, family-run estate in the heart of Bolgheri has delivered a wine so beautiful and elegant, it is catapulted to the level of landmark vintages of its celebrated neighbors, Sassicaia and Ornellaia. Inky concentration sets the stage for generous, but perfectly integrated, aromas of spice, chocolate and dark fruit. There’s firm roundness in the mouth, followed by unforgettable persistence. Hold this wine 15 years or more. The Shepherd Company. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15%  
**Price:** $65

98 Charles Smith 2009 Royal City Syrah (Washington). This beautifully reflects the vintage as well as the place. There is astonishing density, length and detail—as much as any Syrah in the country. The deep, compact and impossibly complex flavors mix notes of black fruit, cassis, licorice, coffee, baking spice, smoke and Bourbon barrel. —P.G.  
**abv:** 15%  
**Price:** $140

97 Cayuse 2009 The Widowmaker Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Using grapes sourced entirely from the En Chamberlin Vineyard, this pure Cabernet is deep, dark, focused and tight, with firm but velvety tannins and a perfect mix of cassis, coffee and earth. Even more than previous years, this vintage displays astonishing depth and power. Flavors of Serrano ham and other cured meats, plus a delicate saltiness and minerality keep the flavors developing onto the long, fascinating finish. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.6%  
**Price:** $80

100 Château Léoville-Barton 2010 Saint-Julien. This is a magnificently solid wine, initially even a bit severe. At this young stage, the tannins dominate, but it’s also full of black fruit notes. Very dense and concentrated, this is a wine that’s even better than the legendary 2005. The structure tells of its extraordinary aging potential: don’t even attempt to drink this for 10 years. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5%  
**Price:** $150

97 Donkey & Goat 2010 Fenaughty Vineyard Syrah (El Dorado). A seriously top of the heap California Syrah. This complex, interesting wine sings of black pepper and garrigue, fleshy in just-ripe cherry, leather and dark plum. From the mountainous Fenaughty Vineyard, always a good source, it finishes long and will age gorgeously if you can possibly wait to drink it; that pepper will mellow in interesting ways. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1%  
**Price:** $35

96 Louis Roederer 2007 Vintage Brut (Champagne). While 2007 was not the greatest vintage, Roederer managed to produce one of the best wines of the year. It is a great blend of mature yellow fruits, a pure line of tangy orange zest and the tightest texture and acidity. It is the texture, steely and mineral, that promises the long aging of this exceptional wine. Drink until 2025, and possibly longer. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12%  
**Price:** $79
97 Taylor Fladgate 2011 Vintage Port. There is an initial smoky character, followed by a burst of ripe, rich black fruits, giving the wine weight and a dark, brooding core. Black plum and berry fruits, considerable acidity and a delicate final perfume flesh out this wine's character. For serious aging. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 20%  
Price: $116

96 Freemark Abbey 2009 Sycamore Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). An amazing wine, possibly the winery's finest Sycamore ever. It's ripe and concentrated, in typical California Cabernet fashion. It dazzles with black currants, crème de cassis and chocolate, yet is firm and dry throughout. The tannin-acid balance is near perfect. Really impresses for sheer power and authority, and will age for a very long time. Best after 2018. —S.H.
abv: 14.4%  
Price: $100

96 Capanna 2007 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). An amazing and impressive feat of winemaking, this riserva is so tightly wound with gorgeous aromatic intensity, it peels back, layer after layer, and evolves smoothly the more you leave it in the glass. Not drinking it immediately is difficult because of the delicious quality of fruit on display here and the lush, soft mouthfeel, but this should be at its best after 2018. Masciarelli Wine Co. —M.L.
abv: 15%  
Price: $70

96 Roche de Bellene 2010 Les Grandes Lolières (Corton Les Lolières). Les Grandes Lolières is a vineyard in the large Corton Grand Cru. This Pinot Noir shows a delicate balance between fine structure and beautiful red-fruit flavors. At the same time, it has weight and richness that lend this wine power as well as the chance to age for many years. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5%  
Price: $104

96 Figgins 2010 Estate Red Wine (Walla Walla Valley). This is the third release of Figgins, a single wine produced by Leonetti's Chris Figgins from his Figgins Estate vineyard. Intensely aromatic, it explodes from the glass with baking spices and deep cassis fruit. Over the course of three days it opened into a sleek, stylish, complex mix of purple- and black-berries, dried herbs, bark, dusty cocoa and a streak of caramel. Long and luscious, it's a wine to cellar for a decade or more. —P.G.
abv: 14.3%  
Price: $85

How the Wines Break Down

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alsace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bordeaux</td>
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<td>Burgundy</td>
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<td>Rhône</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roussillon</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest France</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19

**Wine & Soul 2009 Pintas Character (Douro).** From a great vintage in the Douro, this is a dark, closed, brooding wine. It has the richest texture, full of dark layers of black plums, chocolate, leather and followed by concentrated acidity. These elements are still combining to create a potentially serious, very ageworthy wine. Give it seven years and more. Winebow. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5%  
Price: $32

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20

**Merry Edwards 2010 Meredith Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This is an amazingly complex wine and a fine expression of the cool vintage. Perhaps the most notable feature is acidity, it's strong, almost tingly, and will certainly help the wine age. The flavors are explosive yet refined, with notes of cherries, cola, pomegranates and plums. Good as it is to drink now, you'll want to cellar it until 2018, and it will provide beauty for many additional years. —S.H.

**abv:** 14.2%  
Price: $57

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21

**Château Léoville Las Cases 2010 Saint-Julien.** A hugely powerful wine, full of dark, brooding tannins. It's a wine for seriously long-term aging; a sculptural vision of classic Bordeaux structure with with classy, ripe blackberry fruits. It has fresh acidity and an immense full-bodied character, cut through with mineral acidity. A great wine, with great potential. —R.V.

**abv:** 13.7%  
Price: $359

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22

**Trisaetum 2012 Estates Reserve Riesling (Willamette Valley).** This limited reserve incorporates the best of 82 different lots, some done in stainless steel, some in neutral oak, and some in concrete eggs. Phenomenal concentration reveals a wine packed with powerful fruit flavors that cover the spectrum of citrus, apple, peach and pear. The luscious combination is supported with natural acidity and an underlying minerality. It's deep, long and satisfying, with the structure to age for decades. —P.G.

**abv:** 10.5%  
Price: $60

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23

**Nefarious Cellars 2010 Rocky Mother Vineyard Estate Syrah (Columbia Valley).** Once again, the Syrah from the Rocky Mother Vineyard proves its mettle, with a young, juicy, jammy, joyful expression of pure berry flavor. Compelling structure, amazing purity and a well-modulated hint of chocolate from aging in 20% new French oak complete the picture. —P.G.

**abv:** 14.6%  
Price: $40

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24

**Le Macchiole 2009 Paleo (Toscana).** Made from 100% Cabernet Franc, Paleo opens with concentrated, sweet-smelling aromas of plum, cherry and cinnamon, which translate to the palate with added notes of spice, leather and tobacco. This is bold, opulent and delicious, and it's guaranteed to please. Hold for 10 years or more. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —M.L.

**abv:** 14.5%  
Price: $130

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25

**Warre’s 2011 Vintage Port.** A dark, black-fruited wine, with the fruit hanging off the hard tannins. The wine is tight and concentrated, the fruit expressing itself as fragrant black currants. This dry wine is very firm and destined for a serious, long-term future. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

**abv:** 20%  
Price: $95

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26

**J. Rochioli 2011 West Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This is a huge wine that's dense in flavors, rich in tannins, and with the soft lusciousness associated with this vineyard. Made from old vines, it's bold in cherry pie, red currants and mocha, yet dry and resilient on the finish. Delicious as it is now, it's a wine with a successful history for aging. Resist the temptation to drink it now and cellar. Best from 2017 and beyond. —S.H.

**abv:** 14.5%  
Price: $100

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27

**Clos Troteligotte 2011 K-2 Malbec (Caors).** An expressive wine, with solid, dense and powerful tannins. With a spicy, leathery and dry textured feel, and perfumed fruits supporting it, this is a wine for the seriously long-term. It is black and solid, an impressive evocation of the structure of great Malbec in Cahors. Keep for at least eight years. Authentique Vin. —R.V.

**abv:** 13%  
Price: $60

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28

**Abeja 2009 Heather Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** There is a leafy, herbal component to this estate-grown Cabernet Sauvignon, plus suggestions of fresh-cut tobacco and black tea. Aromatic and inviting, the wine also offers a subtle moist-earth note under the ripe, rich flavor of black fruit. Delicious and beautifully structured, this is for aging over the next 5–10 years. —P.G.

**abv:** 14.8%  
Price: $55

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29

**Valdicava 2007 Madonna del Piano Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** Here's an unforgettable wine that absolutely makes the case for 2007 being one of the best vintages of late in Montalcino. The wine is broad and polished, with masculine tones of dark fruit, leather and tobacco. These aromas evolve so quickly and with such pulsing intensity, the wine comes alive suddenly. There are dusty mineral shadings at the...
back with tightly textured tannins. Hold 10 more years. Vinifera Imports. —M.L. 

**30**

**Terra Valentine 2010 K-Block Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain).** An amazingly delicious Cabernet, this is so rich and lush in blackberries, black currants, dark chocolate and minerals, you just want to gulp down the whole bottle. The grapes are from a portion of the Wurtele Vineyard, which consistently produces spectacular Cabernets. The wine is rich enough to drink now for sheer power, but should easily hold in the bottle for years, gradually picking up bottle complexity. Only 106 cases were produced. —S.H. 

abv: 14.9% 

Price: $219

**31**

**Niepoort 2011 Vintage Port.** Fruit and acidity dominate the initial impression. The wine certainly has power and richness, as it’s full in the mouth, juicy and fruity. In the background, there is a darker element, solid and dense, promising long-term aging. Martine’s Wines. —R.V. 

abv: 20% 

Price: $80

**32**

**Bollinger 2004 La Grande Année Brut (Champagne).** A blend of 66% Pinot Noir and 34% Chardonnay, this is opulent and full bodied, with toast and wood flavors. Rich and ripe, this beautiful wine is generous and still young, with just a touch of bitterness at the end. Terlato Wines International. —R.V. 

abv: 12% 

Price: $155

**33**

**Padelletti 2007 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** This is absolutely gorgeous, with generous tones of earthy tobacco, leather, cured meat, licorice, smoky ash and crushed mineral. In terms of fruit flavors, it offers cassis, dried raspberry and cherry. The wine should age 10 years or more to allow the tannins to become finer and even more elegant. Holiday Beverage. —M.L. 

abv: 14.5% 

Price: $100

**34**

**34 Lyman 2011 Jenkins Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Everything about this wine screams for aging. It’s tight in acids and tannins, and the fruitiness tastes young and jammy, with waves of raspberries, cherries, red currants and mocha. By turns, it’s sweet and bitter, but always succulent, and with a finish so long and spicy, it persists after a full minute. Cellar until 2017, and it should provide beautiful drinking for many more years. —S.H. 

abv: 14.3% 

Price: $70

**35**

**Glaetzer 2010 Amon-Ra Unfiltered Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Despite this wine’s weight and richness, it retains a superb sense of balance and structure. Firm acids and tannins support the blueberry fruit, while savory notes of mocha and roasted meat provide added dimension. Give it a few years in the cellar and drink it from 2015–2025. Epicurean Wines. —J.C. 

abv: 15.1% 

Price: $110

**36**

**Château Suduiraut 2009 Sauternes.** The new-wood smokiness is an important element of this creamy-textured wine. The richness bares flavors of honey, botrytis, almond and orange peel. Ripe and age worthy, this wine’s opulence is just beginning to show. —R.V. 

abv: 14.3% 

Price: $111

**37**

**K Vintners 2009 The Creator Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This is co-fermented Old Stone Vineyard and Cailloux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) and Syrah (40%), showing the funk of the terroir and less of the varietal character of the fruit. It’s flavorful and textural, with earth, anise and smoke notes, plus a mineral-driven wet-stone base and exceptional length. —P.G. 

abv: 14.5% 

Price: $55

**38**

**Dei 2010 Vino Nobile di Montepulciano.** This savory wine has earthy and fruity fragrances of underbrush, spice and plum. The palate delivers a lush dark cherry flavor, accented by white pepper, cinnamon and licorice spice. With its fresh acidity and firm but elegant tannins, this has complexity and modest aging potential. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O. 

abv: 14% 

Price: $32

**39**

**Tantara 2010 Gwendolyn Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tantara’s nine new Pinot Noirs are all fabulous, but the Gwendolyn is their best. It is, in a word, gorgeous. Brick in acidity, balanced in alcohol and oak, it displays a complex array of flavors, ranging from black cherries and cola to pomegranates, rhubarbs, persimmons and sweet currants. For all the power, it feels as delicate as a rose petal. Drink this lush wine now and over the next 10 years. —S.H. 

abv: 13% 

Price: $70

**40**

**Château Climens 2009 Barsac.** The superb palate boasts richness, with honey and orange zest notes. It shows fine balance between the flavors of orange jelly and the intense botrytis-driven notes. It has a light, delicate texture and acidity. —R.V. 

abv: 13% 

Price: $126

**41**

**Castello di Ama 2008 L’Apparita (Toscana).** One of the greatest Italian Merlots, the pedigree of L’Apparita is evident the minute you raise the glass to your nose. Notes of cherry and blackberry are seamlessly integrated with touches of oak spice, leather, tobacco and dark chocolate. The finish is long and smooth, and there’s enough freshness and structure to allow this bottle to age for 10 years or more. The Sorting Table. —M.L. 

abv: 13.5% 

Price: $180

**42**

**Passarela 2009 Casa da Passarela O Oenologo Vinhas Velhas Tinto (Dão).** A superbly ripe wine that is selected from old vines, this is very rich and solidly structured. It has weight and ripe black fruits that are laced with fresh acidity and plum jam flavors. It’s dark, dense, full of great depths of flavor, and worthy of serious aging. Drink from 2017. M Imports. LLC. —R.V. 

abv: 14% 

Price: $34
**94** Prospect 772 2010 The Instigator Syrah (Sonoma County). Powerful and decadent, this 100% Syrah has a lush palate that comes with impressive streaks of gamy meat and earth, plus a note of bright blackberry jam. The long, concentrated finish bears a touch of tar. Let this relax a few years, and it will get even better. —V.B.  
*abv: 15%*  
*Price: $36*

**47** Flora Springs 2010 Rutherford Hillside Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Don’t even think of opening this Cab before 2018. It’s very tannic and closed, and locked down in astringency still. But it’s so balanced, so rich with blackberries, chocolate and cassis, and yet so dry and minerally, that it’s the modern poster child for an ageable Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Wonderful to see this veteran Napa producer remaining vital and relevant after all these years. —S.H.  
*abv: 14.5%*  
*Price: $125*

**48** Domaine de Chevalier 2010 Pessac-Léognan. This is a great wine, with swathes of ripe fruit allied to a very structured character. It is concentrated with complex flavors that bring in wood, tropical fruits, apricots and a dense texture. Combined, these elements give the wine great style and aging potential. —R.V.  
*abv: 14%*  
*Price: $132*

**51** Brancaia 2009 Il Blu (Toscana). Sangiovese, Merlot and some Cabernet Sauvignon are blended to create a bold and determined wine. Huge aromas of espresso bean, black fruit, tobacco and dark chocolate make for a meaty and dense bouquet. There’s an enormous depth on the palate, where the wine feels rich and softly velvety. It’s a Tuscan blend of the highest caliber, so hold it for 10 years or more. E & J Gallo. —M.L.  
*abv: 14.5%*  
*Price: $85*

**95** Brancaia 2009 Il Blu (Toscana). Sangiovese, Merlot and some Cabernet Sauvignon are blended to create a bold and determined wine. Huge aromas of espresso bean, black fruit, tobacco and dark chocolate make for a meaty and dense bouquet. There’s an enormous depth on the palate, where the wine feels rich and softly velvety. It’s a Tuscan blend of the highest caliber, so hold it for 10 years or more. E & J Gallo. —M.L.  
*abv: 14.5%*  
*Price: $85*

**52** Domaine Bruno Clair 2010 Bonnes-Mares. This is a big, dense wine that has great generosity. It’s ripe, full bodied and opulent now, and it offers concentration and depth of flavor. The fruit used to make this wine was sourced from 60-year-old vines located near Clos de Tart. It has considerable aging potential, so cellar this for 8–10 years. Martin Scott Wines. —R.V.  
*abv: 13%*  
*Price: $281*

**49** Kollwentz 2011 Leithagebirge Chardonnay (Burgenland). A very young wine, this is still quite reticent at this stage. It is structured and austere with intense minerality and acidity. Complex on the palate, it’s laced with wood, green fruits and a slowly evolving richness. This wine will need many years to develop fully, so give it at least six. VOS Selections. —R.V.  
*abv: 14%*  
*Price: $38*

**50** Von Strasser 2010 Sori Bricco Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain). This is an enormous Cabernet, as packed with intensity and power as anything in Napa Valley. The vineyard is Von Strasser’s highest on the mountain, which maximally exposes it to the sun, and you can taste the solar ripeness in the intense essence of black currants and dark chocolate. The tannins exhibit classic Diamond Mountain potency. This is a dense Cabernet that needs serious time in the cellar. Hold until 2019, and it will continue to develop for many years afterward. —S.H.  
*abv: 14%*  
*Price: $80*
95 Venge 2010 Bone Ash Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon doesn’t get much more rich or ripe than this bottling. Made from grapes grown in Calistoga, this 100% varietal wine offers blackberry jam and crème de cassis flavors. Lots of new French oak influence adds sweet toast and caramel notes. Dramatically complex and powerful, this tannic selection will benefit from being cellared for a minimum of eight years, and it should continue to develop well beyond that time frame. —S.H.  
abv: 14.9%  
Price: $85

95 Doubleback 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This is a heavy-duty Cabernet, big in every way, with rich black cherry and cassis fruit, and dense, dark tannins. The long, slightly grainy finish reinforces the impression of raw power, yet the wine retains perfect proportion and is nicely differentiated from the other 2010s crafted by winemaker Chris Figgins. —P.G.  
abv: 14.4%  
Price: $89

94 Kelley Fox 2010 Maresh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Made using fruit sourced from 40-year-old vines, this elegant and detailed Pinot does not shy away from flavors of leaf and herb. But they are anchored in pure and expressive fruit, with old-vine flavors of bramble and pepper. What is most exceptional is the delicacy and length of this wine, two characteristics shared by all the Kelley Fox wines. —P.G.  
abv: 13%  
Price: $60

95 La Chablisienne 2010 Château Grenouilles Grand Cru (Chablis). Château Grenouilles is a parcel within the Grenouilles Grand Cru, a monopoly of the La Chablisienne cooperative. The wine is always impressive. It has weight, richness, concentration and considerable potential. Yellow fruits, wood-aging, spice and a firm structure indicate keeping this wine for six years. Blasens de Bourgogne Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 13%  
Price: $90

94 Gary Farrell 2010 Rochioli Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Gary Farrell is one of the few wineries to obtain fruit from this coveted vineyard. As always, the wine is intensely concentrated in tropical fruits, green apples and pears, with such weight that it can easily handle lavish new French oak. The alcohol is refreshing low and the acidity is brisk and mouthwatering. This gorgeous evocation of Russian River Chardonnay is flashy and delicious now, but the window of opportunity seems to be between 2014–2017 before the fruit starts to fade away. —S.H.  
abv: 14.1%  
Price: $45

94 Domaine Schoffit 2010 Sommerberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This powerful, concentrated wine hails from the steep granite slopes of the Sommerberg. It is packed with both acidity and structured white fruits and citrus. The wine is textured with great depth of flavor, the acidity streaking right through the wine. It needs aging over at least 5–6 years. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5%  
Price: $50

94 L’Ecole No. 41 2010 Perigee Estate Seven Hills Vineyard (Walla Walla Valley). A five-grape Bordeaux-style blend from the estate vineyard, this has lovely aromatics, as well as firm yet supple tannins. The black fruits are dotted with details of licorice, black tea and coffee. It’s smooth and balanced.
through the lengthy finish, and continues to improve overnight, suggesting it also has serious aging potential. —P.G.

**abv:** 14.5%  
**Price:** $50

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**62**

**94** Joseph Phelps 2011 Freestone Vineyards Estate Grown Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). What a roll Phelps has been on these past few cool vintages in this, its far Sonoma Coast vineyard. The wine is bright in mouthwatering acidity, and tantalizing, with a subtle vein of lime, golden mango, orange zest and honeysuckle. Firm minerals are enriched by toasty oak. The alcohol is moderate. As delicious as this wine is, it should develop nicely over the next 5–6 years. —S.H.

**abv:** 13.5%  
**Price:** $55

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**63**

**95** S.A. Prüm 2010 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Mosel). This stunning TBA is a powerhouse of superripe peach, mango and orange flavors. The palate feels smooth and rich, with honey and marmalade flavors, but it’s ethereally light, with a dusty minerality and shrieking lemon acidity that reverberates on the finish. Gorgeous now, but should develop an earthy, honeyed intensity over the next decade. Palm Bay International. —A.I.

**abv:** 5.5%  
**Price:** $200/375 ml

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**64**

**95** Joseph Drouhin 2010 Marquis de Laguiche Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). The vineyards of the Marquis de Laguiche date back to before the French Revolution, and Drouhin is fully responsible for producing the wines since the 1940s. This ripe, opulent selection lives up to its illustrious pedigree. It is full bodied, and it offers vibrant acidity and minerality. It’s a wine for aging over eight years and many more. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.

**abv:** 13.5%  
**Price:** $114

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**65**

**95** Schramsberg 2005 Reserve (North Coast). Very fine and complex, this is a great sparkling wine, but one that needs lots of time in the bottle. A classic brut blended with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, it’s rich with flavors of strawberries, limes, vanilla and honey, with lots of smoky toast and yeasiness. Above all, the mousse is exceptionally refined and pure. —S.H.

**abv:** 12.5%  
**Price:** $110

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**66**

**94** Markus Huber 2011 Berg Erste Lage Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Traisental). A high altitude vineyard yields a cool feeling wine that’s very crisp and fragrant. Concentrated and full, this has great acidity, fruitiness and spice all blending together. This is a dense wine with singular intensity that needs time, so give it 3–5 years. Screwcap. Circo Vino. —R.V.

**abv:** 13.5%  
**Price:** $56

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**67**

**96** Cantina Bartolo Mascarello 2009 (Barolo). This producer has made an outstanding Barolo 2009—no easy feat in this vintage. This bottling is made from top vineyards in Barolo and La Morra. It has a gorgeous bouquet of rose, leather and a whiff of tar. The palate delivers a hint of carob, spice and succulent black cherry notes. Impeccably balanced, this is elegant and complex. A textbook Barolo. Rare Wine Company. —K.O.

**abv:** 14.5%  
**Price:** $120

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**68**

**95** Ruinart 2002 Dom Ruinart Brut (Champagne). A superb, mature wine that is ripe, toasty and full of yellow- and white-fruit flavors. A fine balance brings up spice, an opulent texture, a taut edge of steel and a feeling that this fine wine is ready to drink. It can age, and it will be better over the next few years as its secondary aromas stay in balance with the fruitiness. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.

**abv:** 12.5%  
**Price:** $130

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**69**

**94** Buty 2009 Phinny Hill Vineyard Columbia Rediviva Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Columbia Valley). Supple and sturdy, this beautifully structured blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Syrah, which uses fruit sourced from the estate vineyard, utilizes the best assets of both grapes. The Cabernet gives it both firmness and depth, while the
Syrah pipes in vivid, juicy, berry flavors. Still young and primary, the best is clearly yet to come. —P.G.

**Tenuta Argentiera 2009 Argentiera (Bolgheri Superiore).** Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc are blended together to create this plump, superrich wine. There are hints of cured meat, Christmas spice and dark berry fruit. The palate reveals ripe fruit flavors and velvety tannins. Hold this for 7–10 years. David Vincent Selection. —M.L.

**Produttori del Barbaresco 2008 Vigneti in Muncagota Riserva (Barbaresco).** This single-vineyard Barbaresco Riserva shows lovely floral and fruit scents of violet, iris, ripe berry and pressed powder. The palate is delicious, with black cherry, plum and spice uplifted by freshness and energizing mineral notes. It has ample depth and balance, and while it’s drinking well now, it will also age for years. Vias Imports. —K.O.

**Domaine Nicolas Rossignol 2011 Santenots Premier Cru (Volnay).** This wine has a gamy character with spicy tannins. It is rich and succulent with black fruits, but has an earthy texture and is solid and powerful. It brings out both the terroir and the potential richness of a Volnay. For aging over seven years. Becky Wasserman Selections. —R.V.

**Quinta da Romaneira 2009 Reserva (Douro).** The Reserva takes the produce of the great terroir of Romaneira to another level. It’s a wine of power, flavor intensity and a finely integrated structure. Rich black fruits combine with a dry core, acidity and the promise of long-term aging. Drink from 2017. Dionysos Imports Inc. —R.V.

**King Estate 2009 Domaine Pinot Noir (Oregon).** Ignore its generic Oregon AVA—this is King Estate’s top wine, a rich reserve-level Pinot Noir redolent with Asian spices, saffron, cumin and more. Nuances of dusty cocoa powder lead into a thrilling wine with a spine of steel, focusing its ripe, fleshy fruit through a long, cellar-worthy finish. —P.G.

**Perrier Jouët 2006 Belle Epoque (Champagne).** This is a full-bodied and ripe wine, showing some toastiness as well as the delicious, concentrated apple and peach flavors. There is a crisp edge to this opulent and rich wine. It has a great future: it is drinkable now, but will continue well into the 2020s. Pernod Ricard. —R.V.

**Riglos 2010 Las Divas Vineyard Gran Malbec (Tupungato).** While Argentine Malbecs aren’t textbook cellaring wines, this one has enough spirit, tannin and structure to benefit from a few years on its side. Now, it’s lush on the nose, with ripe berry, pencil eraser, vanilla and marzipan aromas. The palate is chewy but well built, with dense blackberry, cassis, coconut and chocolate flavors. On the finish, things only intensify. Will be at its best around 2015–2016. Paul Hobbs Wines. —M.S.
94 Gundlach Bundschu 2009 Vintage Reserve (Sonoma Valley). Mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, with some Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this is the winery's best Bordeaux-style wine to date. It's dry, smooth and utterly delicious, with herb-infused blackberry jam, mocha and sandalwood flavors. The mouthfeel is joyously addictive. Although it's certainly fine now, it should continue to improve for at least a dozen years. —S.H.  
*abv: 14.4%*  
*Price: $80*

95 Olivier Lefaive 2010 Corton-Charlemagne. Corton-Charlemagne expresses the power of Chardonnay, rather than the subtlety. Given that, Olivier Lefaive's version is finely nuanced, and its fruit flavors as the tight structure. Like most grand weight comes as much from the rich white- and yellow-olives, as well as the purity and focus that suggests cellaring to add more complexity over the course of a decade or longer. —P.G.  
*abv: 13%*  
*Price: $1500*

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**81**

84 Feather 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is Long Shadows's 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, offering a sharp-edged wine with a brilliant mix of berry, cherry and black fruits, sparked by juicy acids. There's spice and chocolate highlights as well, with a purity and focus that suggests cellaring to add more complexity over the course of a decade or longer. —P.G.  
*abv: 14.5%*  
*Price: $102*

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**82**

85 Château Lafite Rothschild 2010 Pauillac. Almost black in color, this stunning wine is gorgeous, rich and dense. It's grand and powerful, with a strong sense of its own importance. The beautiful tannins and the fragrant black currant fruits are palpable. It's a great wine, with huge potential. —B.V.  
*abv: 13%*  
*Price: $1500*

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**83**

86 Giaconda 2008 Warner Vineyard Shiraz (Victoria). With only 10 cases imported to the U.S., one suspects that this terrific wine will largely be found in exclusive restaurants. If you can find a bottle at a reasonable markup, jump on it, for this is one of Victoria's finest Shirazes. Hickory smoke, espresso and herbal notes accent raspberry fruit, whose brightness gives the wine extra lift and dimension. It's creamy and lushly textured without ever seeming heavy, and boasts a long, silky finish that echoes with suggestions of cocoa powder and pulverized coffee beans. Drink now–2025. Negociants USA, Inc. —J.C.  
*abv: 14.5%*  
*Price: $100*

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**87**

89 Pascual Toso 2010 Magdalena Toso Limited 20 Barrels Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is a potent brew with complexities galore, but there's also a simplicity about it that's appealing. Its raw size is bracing, but the structure and fabric of this Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon scream balance. Aromas of lead pencil, sawdust, coconut and brandied cherries introduce briny-dark-berry flavors. A long, minty, power-packed finish says lay this down for a few years; drink from 2014–2020. TGIC Importers. —M.S.  
*abv: 13.3%*  
*Price: $100*

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**88**

100 Château Cheval Blanc 2010 Saint-Émilion. This is the finest Cheval Blanc for many years. It is, quite simply, magnificent. The wine shows the greatness of Cabernet Franc in the vintage, with 57% of the variety in the blend. It is beautifully structured and perfumed, with velvety tannins, balanced acidity and swathes of black-currant and black-cherry fruits. It's well on course to becoming a legendary wine. —R.V.  
*abv: 14.7%*  
*Price: $1500*

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**89**

90 Ponzi 2010 Aurora Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Aurora has just a bit more texture and density than its superb companion wine, the Avellana Pinot Noir. Black cherry, cola and baking spice notes are accented with touches of iron filings and slivers of dark chocolate. Thoughtful winemaking is on display here, creating a dense wine that is nonetheless immediately accessible and delicious. —P.G.  
*abv: 13.3%*  
*Price: $100*
91

Domaine du Pegau 2009 Cuvée Réservée (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Prices for this estate's wines have skyrocketed, but there is no doubting the quality in the bottle. The 2009 Cuvée Réservée is a huge wine, overflowing with intense black cherry and plum flavors to the point of seeming a bit sweet. Yet it's all framed by strong yet softly dusty tannins that should see it age well for at least 15 years. Hand Picked Selections. —J.C.

abv: 14%  Price: $111

92

Capture 2010 Harmonie (Pine Mountain). Capture continues to make progress in interpreting their vineyard located in this new appellation, a high elevation overlooking Alexander Valley. Based on Cabernet Sauvignon, this Bordeaux-style blend is young now, with hard tannins that interfere with the fruit. The fruit is intensely concentrated with cherry compote and cassis flavors, while new oak's vanilla and toast are proportionate to the wine's volume. A worthy followup to the 2009, and a wine to cellar for 8–10 years, if not longer. —S.H.

abv: 13.9%  Price: $120

93

Domaine Thunevin-Calvet 2008 Hugo (Côtes du Roussillon Villages). A heady and rich wine right from the start, this opens with seductive notes of brambly blackberry, wild raspberry, sweet spice, licorice and toast. It’s full and weighty, with a texture like crushed velvet and a deep palate that continues to provide additional layers of flavor with each sip. Sweet spice, cocoa powder and mocha flavors linger on the evolving finish. Drink from 2017–2020. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd, Dalavie Selection LLC. —L.B.

abv: 15%  Price: $60

94

Blackbird Vineyards 2010 Illustration (Napa Valley). There’s something enormously satisfying about this Merlot-based blend. It hits the Napa-Bordeaux sweet spot, with concentrated blackberry and cherry fruit, jacketed in sweet, smoky oak. But there’s also a fascinating olive character. The tannins are rich and dense and velvety. Great to experience now, and should be one for the long haul, perhaps through 2022. —S.H.

abv: 14.5%  Price: $125

95

Emilio Moro 2009 Malleolus de Sanchomartín (Ribera del Duero). This is the epitome of a dark, strapping, modern wine from an Old World region. Coffee, mocha and spicy yet smooth black-fruit aromas precede a rich, nacy, agile feeling palate, with toasty flavors of berry fruits, licorice, mocha and espresso. Mint and licorice flavors combine with firm tannins and heat on the finish. Hold until 2015, then drink through 2023. Michael Skurnik Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%  Price: $150

96

Penfolds 2007 St. Henri Shiraz (South Australia). The 2007 St. Henri remains broodingly dark in both color and flavor profile. Blackberry and plum notes are accented by roasted meat, leather and mocha in this full-bodied, densely packed wine. The tannins are a bit chewy right now, but the finish is long and reveals promising glimmers of fruit that portend well for aging. Drink 2018–2025 and beyond. Treasury Wine Estates. —J.C.

abv: 14.5%  Price: $65

97

Antonin Rodet 2010 Clos de Thorey Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). A solid and structured wine from this premier cru vineyard which is a Rodet monopoly. Dense and full in the mouth, the wine has delicious juicy fruits as well as powerful tannins and layers of acidity over the red fruit. Keep for 6–8 years. Boisset Family Estates. —R.V.

abv: 13%  Price: $75

98

Hillinger 2012 Traminer Eiswein (Burgenland). The wonderfully intense acidity of this Eiswein is balanced by rich honey and fruit flavors. It has a fine line of purity and freshness, with a long, satisfying finish. Drink from 2018. Select Wines. —R.V.

abv: 8.5%  Price: $44/375 ml

99

Lagar de Beznaka 2010 Aluvion Gran Reserva Ensamblaje (Cachapoal Valley). Aromas of lead pencil, cassis, violet petal and smoky chocolate are complex and attractive. The palate of this Cabernet Sauvignon-led blend is tight, pure and rich, and the flavors of toasty black fruits carry accents of licorice and coffee. The finish is spicy, with a licorice note, and the wine’s tannic composition suggests that aging is appropriate. Drink from 2014–2020. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.

abv: 14%  Price: $29

100

Simonsig 2009 Redhill Pinotage (Stellenbosch). Simonsig's Redhill Pinotage is consistently an excellent example of the variety done right, and the 2009 doesn’t disappoint. It’s brimming with assertive dark-fruit aromas and flavors of boysenberry, mulberry and plum, all jazzed up with spicy notes of vanilla, pepper and bittersweet cocoa powder. The mouthfeel is lush and full but not fat, with a texture like crushed velvet. Concentrated, firmly structured and balanced, while it’s delicious now with a big steak, it will surely develop more depth and nuance with some time in the cellar. Drink 2015–2020. Quintessential Wines. —L.B.

abv: 14%  Price: $32