

# WINEENTHUSIAST®



## THE BEST COLLECTIBLES REVIEWED THIS YEAR.

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

**B**y and large, American culture is obsessed with the present, often favoring instant gratification over distant pleasure. But there's a real beauty and deeper sense of appreciation to purchasing a wine upon release and properly storing it until just the right moment in time. It's an experience that requires patience, but one that should not be overlooked or underestimated.

Although most wine lovers are aware of the potential benefits of aging certain special bottles, more than 80% of wines are consumed within 48 hours of being purchased, and over 95% are consumed within the next six months. Overall, consumers seem to have a hard time playing the waiting game.

That's where we at *Wine Enthusiast* hope to help. We know it's not easy—or cheap—to keep a cellar stocked with selections worthy of future enjoyment. But we also know that some of the best wines in the world deserve a little love in the

cellar. With that in mind, our editors have culled through the wines designated as “Cellar Selections” in the magazine this year, and have chosen the 100 finest candidates to lay down.

In the interest of diversity, we chose bottlings that span many countries and varieties, though it's no surprise that many of the best cellaring wines come from established regions and top vintages. Many of these wines are of limited production, and just like wines on our other Top 100 lists, some may have sold out or increased in price since our initial reviews were published.

Let's talk about price. This list emphasizes quality over value, including many reputable, top-dollar selections with price tags that should not surprise serious collectors and aficionados. But in the spirit of *Wine Enthusiast*, we still considered price and availability. Regardless of your location or wallet, these are wines that you can collect and enjoy.

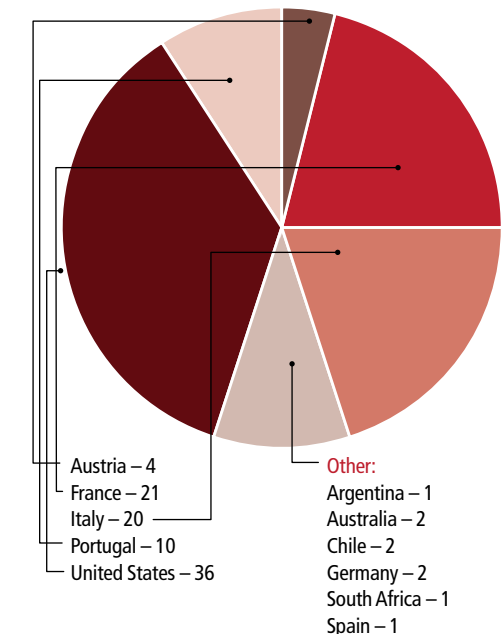


PHOTO JON VAN GORDER



**1**


**98 Marchesi Antinori 2008 Guado al Tasso (Bolgheri Superiore).** Here's a "wow" wine on every level, with incredible intensity and supple softness that builds momentum over many long minutes. A sweet cherry note at the core is surrounded by lush layers of tobacco, dark chocolate and spice, which promise to evolve gracefully over years to come. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$102

**2**


**98 Pirouette 2008 Red Wine (Columbia Valley).** A stunning Pirouette—63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot. Full and magnificently rich, it is loaded with dense and thrilling fruit flavors of black cherry and cassis. A streak of iron and a hint of citrus keep the wine evolving through a long, beautifully balanced finish. Retasted after being open for 24 hours, the wine was as fresh and thrilling as on the first day. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**3**

**98 Château Léoville-Barton 2009 Saint-Julien.** A major success of the vintage. The wine exhibits extreme richness of its fruit, with its sweet blackberry flavor. It also has underlying firm structure, density and solid tannins. Bring in the acidity at the end, and this is both impressive and ready for long-term aging. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$135

**4**

**95 Ridge 2009 Estate Monte Bello Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This Cabernet-Merlot blend is packed with blackberry and crème de cassis flavors, with a firm minerality. With the weight of the midpalate and the long, spicy finish, it's especially attractive, although it's also quite tannic. The only difference between this Estate Monte Bello Cabernet and Ridge's Monte Bello Estate Cabernet (\$150; note the difference in the placement of "estate") is that the winemaker selected lots from the vineyard that were considered more accessible, which in this case means more luscious. Despite its many charms, the wine should age for a long time. —S.H.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$40

**5**

**97 Capanna 2007 Brunello di Montalcino.** Capanna's offering in 2007 is extremely bold, dark and opulent. Loads of aromatic momentum in the form of blackberry, cherry liqueur, spice, leather, tobacco, rum cake, cinnamon, vanilla bean and bitter chocolate characterize the bouquet. The wine also shows a soft, ripe, generous texture, yet remains well-contained and balanced. Masciarelli Wine Co. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**6**

**96 Bründlmayer 2010 Zöbinger Heiligenstein Erste Lage Alte Reben Reserve Riesling (Kamptal).** A superb wine, the product of a great vineyard site and old vines. The wine is concentrated, very rich, beautifully balanced between considerable acidity and sweet white fruits and mandarin oranges. With its tense, edgy texture, it is a wine that will age for many years. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**7**

**98 Quilceda Creek 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** A bold, muscular, striking wine with nerves of steel, this offers a dense, demanding array of black fruit threaded with veins of espresso, smoke, tar, tobacco and iron. As it bursts with exotic barrel flavor, the fruit seems a bit buried, but time after time these wines unfold over the course of decades into glorious maturity. These are arguably the most long-lived and cellarworthy wines in Washington—if not in the entire country. —P.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$135

**8**

**96 Louis Jadot 2009 Corton-Pougets.** A gorgeously rich wine, powered by tannins but just as importantly by ripe berry fruit and crisp acidity. Smoky wood flavors blend with juicy fruit, powerful dark tannins and an intensely fresh finish. Age for seven years or more. Kobrand. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$110

**9**


**96 Evening Land 2010 Seven Springs Vineyard Summum Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This sets a high standard for Oregon Chardonnay. Bright and snappy, yet deep and concentrated, it's a symphony of lemon, citrus, stone and tropical fruits, well-differentiated yet perfectly integrated. The extraordinary length and precise focus, along with the overall balance and structure, suggest that this should improve for many years to come. —P.G.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$90

**10**


**95 Longoria 2009 Fe Ciega Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A top-rank Pinot Noir, this is dry, silky and elegant, with moderate alcohol despite great richness. The flavors of cherries, cola, plums and herbs are simply delicious, while the structure displays great integrity of acids and tannins. A bit tight now in youth, it should unfold over the next eight years. If you pop the cork now, give it a few hours of airing. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$48



# 11

**96 Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2009 Bernkastel-er Johannisbrünnchen Riesling Eiswein (Mosel).** This *eiswein* is supersweet, yet remains decently balanced, thanks to a laser beam of bright acidity. After an initial hint of volatility, the flavors of preserved citrus and stone fruits are almost painful in their intensity, so sip it in small doses and savor the nearly endless finish. Winesellers Ltd. —J.C.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$95/375 ml

# 12

**95 Quinta do Vale Meão 2009 Red (Douro).** With its concentration and dark tannins, this is a wine that will need many years of aging. It is a serious combination of great style and great power. From one of the top Douro vineyards, this is a wine with an impressive, long-lasting sense of presence. Deutsch Family Wine & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

# 13

**97 Luce della Vite 2007 Brunello di Montalcino.** Luce della Vite opens with an opulent, generous style and is packed with black cherry, black currant, cola, leather and pipe tobacco. This is a plush, rich and deeply textured wine, with plenty of intensity and staying power. It shows dense tannins with a touch of youthful astringency. Age 10 more years. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$93

# 14

**96 Maison Bleue 2010 Gravière Upland Vineyard Mourvèdre-Syrah-Grenache (Snipes Mountain District).** Clover, white pepper, and a whiff of animal make this blend of 75% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah and 5% Grenache compelling now, but it's certainly a wine to cellar. The aromas move through a spectrum of flower, spice, fruit and animal. It already displays tremendous length and superb aging potential. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

# 15

**97 Château Troplong Mondot 2009 Saint-Émilion.** A very concentrated wine with such a stylish feel. It balances ripe berry fruits with chocolate and wood flavors in the richest, ripest combination. The wine has power, without losing its poised character. It's ready for long aging. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$170

# 16



**96 Piña 2009 Ames Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** A vital, focused Cabernet, this shows the sheer classiness of Oakville in its concentrated blackberry and black currant flavors. It's seemingly sweet and dry at the same time, and the tannins, which are extraordinarily thick, are fine and pure. Irresistably delicious now, this changes in the glass by the second. It suggests it wants some time in the cellar, so drink now—2021. —S.H.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$85

# 17

**95 Ca' Marcanda 2007 Promis (Toscana).** From the Tuscan estate of Angelo Gaja, Promis delivers all the gorgeous intensity and complexity you should expect. The wine oozes notes of dark chocolate, cherry liqueur, spice, blackberry and moist tobacco. The mouthfeel is soft, smooth and absolutely delicious. Terlato Wines International. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

# 18

**94 Herdade do Esporão 2008 TN Touriga Nacional (Alentejano).** A superb example of the quality of Touriga Nacional. This wine combines the richness of the hot Alentejo sun with the sophisticated structure of the grape. Big, juicy and richly fruity as well as perfumed and elegant. Age it for at least 2–3 years. Esporão Wines & Olive Oils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

# 19



**95 Sierra Cantabria 2009 Finca El Bosque (Rioja).** El Bosque is an Eguren family top-shelf Rioja that's a knockout. It's dark as night, with dusty aromas of cola, cocoa, marzipan, blackberry and spice all rolled into a finessed whole. It feels tight as a drum but balanced, with monstrous flavors of boysenberry, cassis, peppercorn, baking spice and chocolate. Young and raring to go; hold until 2013, then drink through 2018. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$170

# 20

**97 Gandona 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A dramatic wine, this is rich, full bodied and incredibly complex, laced with notes of ripe, sweet blackberries and crème de cassis, with a spirituous heat from relatively high alcohol. Its pedigree is clear throughout the entire tasting experience. This is a really gorgeous Cabernet, showing refinement and grace, but it is very tannic. Give it at least 10 years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$190

# 21

**96 Tenuta Argentiera 2008 Argentiera (Bolgheri Superiore).** Here's a beautiful, rich and chocolaty blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, with plush layers of sweet cherry, Indian spice, tobacco and espresso. It is amazingly rich and long lasting, with silky, supple tannins at the very end. Keep it in your cellar 10 years or more, or drink it now. Eurobiz Inc. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

# 22

**96 Gramercy Cellars 2009 Lagniappe Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This has astonishing depth of flavor, with dense black fruits marbled with



notes of smoked meat, clove, balsamic and an earthy flavor. It is a wine to savor and cellar. —P.G.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$45

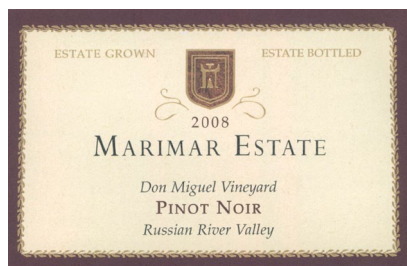
# 23

**94 Alain Brumont 2007 Château Montus (Madiran).** This is a legendary Madiran, with its fruit tannins just softened by wood aging. It's smoky, brooding, very concentrated and worth aging for 10 years. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

# 24



**95 Marimar Estate 2008 Cristina Don Miguel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** The winery held this back an additional six months after their other 2008 Pinots were released, presumably to let it become integrated. Still, it's quite tannic, with a sandpaper-like toughness. Despite the astringency, the massive wild-cherry, cola, mushroom and anise flavors come through. It's a huge wine, feral and untamed—quite exquisite in its wildness. So delicious now, it's hard to resist, but the wise collector will cellar it for 4–5 years, maybe even longer. —S.H.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$49

# 25

**95 Bergström 2009 Bergström Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Sourced entirely from the biodynamic estate vineyard, this extraordinary wine delivers compact, complex, detailed aromas and flavors in perfect proportion. The blueberry and cherry fruit is wreathed in dried herbs and flowers. Fourteen months in French oak, roughly half new, adds a thread of vanilla bean. Loads of dried extract, polished tannins and a moist earth note bring in more nuances. —P.G.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$81

# 26

**96 Corte Pavone 2007 Brunello di Montalcino.** This dark Brunello opens with thick concentration and balsam notes of cola, humus and eucalyptus. Despite the thick extraction, the berry aromas are delicate, with lingering wild raspberry and forest fruit. The wine shows a nice juxtaposition between its bold, masculine side and an elegant feminine one. The mouthfeel is bold, plush and powerful. HeyDay Corporation. —M.L.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

# 27

**94 Quinta da Romaneira 2008 Tinto (Douro).** Since we last reviewed a vintage of Romaneira, with the 2005 wine, the estate has moved closer to realizing its potential. This is an impressive, powerful yet elegant wine. Its dark fruits are sustained by wood and leavened by acidity. It has a great sense of style and considerable aging potential. Southern Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

# 28

**96 Duckhorn 2008 Patzimar Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Huge, rich and flamboyant, this has a sweetness at its core—like the essence of red and black currants, with an elaborate note of caramel imparted from smoky oak. Yet everything about it is utterly and properly dry. The vineyard is in St. Helena, not quite in the Spring Mountain appellation, yet it shows the fruit concentration and firm tannins of mountain-grown grapes. Just a stupendous wine; try after 2016. —S.H.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$95

# 29

**98 Domaine Leflaive 2009 Bienvenues Bâtard-Montrachet.** With its concentrated yellow fruits, this is already a powerful wine. It is packed with acidity, toast, peach flavors and minerality, starting out as a gorgeously rich wine from a ripe vintage. Of course, it will age over many years; open in 10 years. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$410

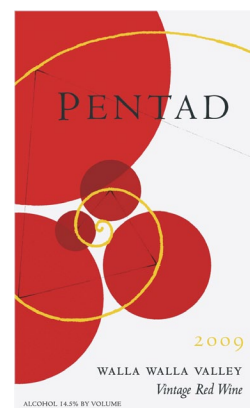
# 30

**96 Gianni Voerzio 2007 La Serra (Barolo).** A stunning wine with amazing intensity and a very distinct personality, this has aromas of ripe fruit, leather, tobacco, cola, dried ginger and cigar box. The mouthfeel is very long, smooth and velvety. Age this wine 10–15 more years. Superior Wines LLC. —M.L.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$125

# 31



**96 Seven Hills 2009 Pentad Red Wine (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Petit Verdot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 7% Malbec and 7% Merlot. A masterpiece of blending, it has myriad pinpoint details: from the nose of flowers and berries to the mouthfilling mélange of red and black fruits to the finishing highlights of pepper and Asian spice. A precise, complex, elegant and powerful Pentad with tremendous length, it represents the pinnacle of vintner Casey McClellan's 25 years of wine-making. —P.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

# 32

**95 Château Giscours 2009 Margaux.** Dark and structured, this is a firm wine. It has a smoky wood character, with powerful tannins set over intensely ripe fruit. Acidity and sweetness balance to give a dense wine, powered with richness and destined to age for many years. —R.V.

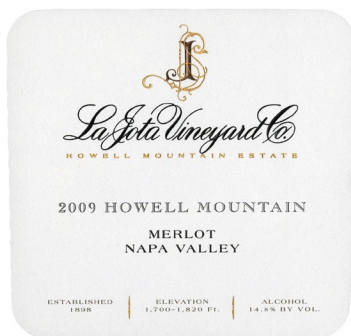
abv: 13%

Price: \$69





# 33



**95 La Jota Vineyard 2009 Merlot (Howell Mountain).** The tannins are so fierce on this baby Cabernet that they effectively lock it down and make it tough to drink now. Yet there's a fabulous core of blackberries that are rich, ripe and intense. Everything about it suggests ageability. Give it at least eight years in a proper cellar, and it could age even longer. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

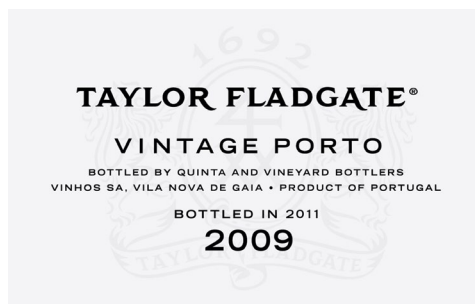
# 34

**98 Valdicava 2006 Madonna del Piano Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** This beautiful Riserva shows enormous thickness and blackness, like midnight of a new moon. The wine delivers impenetrable density, extraction, black fruit, spice, berry preserves, licorice, asphalt, ground black pepper, cherry liqueur and crème de cassis. There are seemingly no limits to the intensity and complexity here. The mouthfeel is dense, plush, firmly structured and very long. Keep this Brunello safely in your cellar 20 years or more. Vinifera Imports. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$275

# 35

**98 Château Léoville Las Cases 2009 Saint-Julien.** A beautifully structured wine, with its tannins layered between the ripest black plums, damsons and black currants. It is opulent while remaining dense, concentrated and very serious. Certainly a wine for long-term aging. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$360

# 36



**96 Taylor Fladgate 2009 Vintage Porto.** Taylor Fladgate's vintage Ports are always among the legendary wines. This hugely structured wine keeps the dense, perfumed tradition very much alive. Along with the power, it also has wonderful fruit, bursting out with blackberry jam. Even with all the fruitiness, it needs to age for decades. Kobrand. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20.5% **Price:** \$99

# 37

**97 Leonetti Cellar 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This is the best bottling of a very fine lineup from Leonetti. Dense, textural and complex, it showcases exceptional blending of flavors from the addition of just 7% Merlot, 4% Carmenère and 1% Malbec. Notes of plum, cassis, coffee grounds, dark chocolate and a hint of herb run through a complete and engaging finish, retaining both elegance and power. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$88

# 38

**97 Fattoria Petrola 2001 San Petrola (Tuscany).** In a league with Italy's best dessert wines, San Petrola is a superrich and concentrated wine that almost has a hard time pouring out of the bottle. The wine does indeed have the consistency of maple syrup, with a deep brown color and gorgeous aromas of toasted almond, chestnut honey, crème caramel and crème brûlée. Vintus LLC. —M.L.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$60/375 ml

# 39

**96 Rochioli 2010 West Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** We can quibble over whether the cherries are red or black, or if it's persimmons or pomegranates, or if the mushrooms are fresh or sautéed, but that's the point. This wine is so complex, it initiates discussion. Fine acidity and rich tannins pro-

vide structure, and although the wine is silky enough to enjoy now, you really want to give it 6–8 years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

# 40

**98 Château Palmer 2009 Margaux.** A beautiful wine, with the firmest tannins surrounded by perfumed fruit. It is dense, of course, but this density is balanced with great elegance, blackberry fruits, sweetness and final juicy acidity. The wine is structured, a powerhouse of concentration while preserving this complete style. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$380

# 41



**95 Elvio Cogno 2007 Cascina Nuova (Barolo).** Elvio Cogno and his son-in-law have worked tirelessly since 1990 to uncover the best expressions of Nebbiolo from their hillside vineyards. This is gorgeous, showing power, intensity and complexity. Aromas include cassis, ginger, cola and crushed granite. It is finely textured and very long on the finish. Drink after 2018. Vias Imports. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

# 42

**94 Clarendon Hills 2008 Astralis Syrah (Clarendon).** A step up from the other Syrahs in the 2008 Clarendon Hills' lineup, the Astralis is firmly tannic and should be long-lived. The masses of rich black-cherry fruit are amply framed by cedary oak without ever being overwhelmed, with the fruit persisting on the long finish. Try around 2018. E & J Gallo. —J.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$225



# 43

**94 Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin 2004 Brut (Champagne).** One of the best vintages since the great 2002, this is a sophisticated, fruit- and yeast-driven wine. It has a delicate touch, with its white fruit flavors well integrated into the toasty and tangy texture. It will age for many more years. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$89

# 44

**95 Renteria 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** This remarkable Cabernet was grown and produced by a longtime Mexican-American immigrant. It is an extraordinary wine, rich and full-bodied, explosive in sweetly ripe blackberries, cherries and black currants, yet given firmness by a firm minerality that must come from the soil. Defines André Tchelistcheff's description of Stags Leap Cabernets as an iron fist in a velvet glove. Drink now–2020. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

# 45

**94 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2008 Guardiola (Etna).** From what may well be the most beautiful vineyard in Italy comes this gorgeous expression of elegance and power. Guardiola is a tiny plot on the slopes of Mount Etna with blackened soils, majestic fruit trees and religious shrines peppered between a jungle of gnarled grapevines. The wine delivers a steady stream of wild berry and mineral nuances, all backed by a firm, drying mouthfeel. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

# 46

**94 Brittan Vineyards 2009 Basalt Block Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The fourth vintage for Brittan's elegant Basalt Block Pinot Noir is arguably the finest yet. Tangy and pure, with an immaculate, expressive cherry flavor, it has great purity, with great depth of flavor and vivid minerality. It's a beautifully crafted wine, sure to continue to improve over a decade or more. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

# 47

**99 Château Latour 2009 Pauillac.** This is a big, powerful wine that sums up the richness of the vintage. It is densely fruity and spicy, with an enormous black-plum and berry fruit character to go with the acidity. It's concentrated while still showing such wonderfully pure fruit. The aging potential is immense. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$2300

# 48



**94 Quinta do Crasto 2009 Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** Old vines in this case means an average age of 70 years, from a vineyard that is a mix of different varieties. The result is impressive and very floral, with notes of sweet black fruit, licorice and the ripest of tannins. Age this wine for 5–6 years. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$43

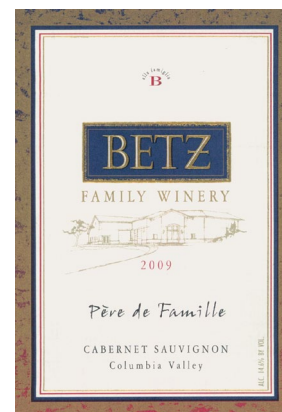
# 49

**95 Tua Rita 2008 Giusto di Notri (Toscana).** This fabulous blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot delivers loads of plush softness and succulent richness. Aromas of chocolate, ripe fruit and spice are distinct and clear, and the wine shows compelling complexity and intensity overall. Winebow. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

# 50

**95 W.H. Smith 2009 Bill and Joan's Special Selection Maritime Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A gorgeous evocation of Pinot Noir. Pours pale in color and translucent, suggesting it is not a heavy fruit bomb, and indeed it is not. Feels as light as a cloud, yet with intense flavors of red stone fruits, bacon and spices, and that feral, wild forest quality you get from the best Sonoma Coast Pinot Noirs. Bone dry, but so sweet in fruit and cedar, with wonderful acidity. Superb now, after decanting, and should develop over the next 6–8 years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$60

# 51



**96 Betz Family 2009 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** A portion of the Cabernet Sauvignon is sourced from vines planted in 1973, with additions of 10% Petit Verdot and 8% Merlot. It's an exceptionally fine-tuned blend, with pinpoint fruit flavors, sappy acids and complementary barrel notes. The classic structure, which is the hallmark of all Betz wines, suggests a long life ahead. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

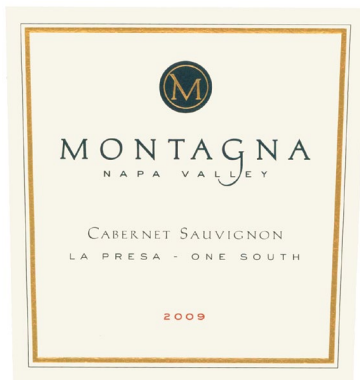
# 52

**95 Domaine Jean-Paul et Benoît Droin 2010 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** This is taut and mineral, with hidden power. It's very closed at this stage. It's a wine with acidity and notes of green fruits and crisp apples, with just a touch of wood. This will age for many years. European Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70



**53**


**95 Arnaldo Caprai 2007 25 Anni (Sagrantino di Montefalco).** One of the top, if not the top, red wines from Umbria. The naturally tannic Sagrantino grape is softened by the careful oak aging that adds layers of chocolate and spice to the grape's aromas of black cherry, tobacco and leather. This is bold, powerful, masculine and velvety on the finish. Pair it with stewed or grilled meat marinated in rosemary and garlic. Age this in a cellar for 10 years or longer. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$100

**54**


**96 Montagna 2009 La Presa One South Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Absolutely delicious and a joy to drink, this tastes like fine blackberry preserves spread onto buttered whole-wheat toast, sprinkled with cinnamon and black pepper. Despite the rich sweetness, the finish is bone dry. But the tannins are considerable, giving the mouthfeel a furry astringency. This elegant, pure, young Cabernet should begin to open in 10 years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$125

**55**

**96 Château Lynch-Bages 2009 Pauillac.** A dense, immense, solidly powerful wine. The ripest fruit overflows, paralleling the dark, solid tannins. As so often, Lynch-Bages is a blockbuster, dark and concentrated, with immense aging potential. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$195

**56**

**93 Bodega Norton 2009 Privada (Mendoza).** Solid and brimming with more potential than it's displaying, this Bordeaux-style blend of Malbec, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon starts with aromas of graham cracker, lush berry and pastry. It feels perfectly framed by acidity and tannins, with spicy, complex blackberry and cassis flavors. Toasty and a mile long on the finish, drink this from 2014–2020. T.G.I.C. Importers. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$23

**57**

**94 Dao Sul 2009 Casa de Santar Conde de Santar (Dão).** The aristocratic estate of Santar produces some of the most elegant wines in the Dão. The 2009 vintage adds richness to a deep, complex and powerful wine, which is full of dark plum and damson flavors, rounded by wood aging. Age for 3–4 years. HGC Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**58**

**98 Casanova di Neri 2006 Cerretalto (Brunello di Montalcino).** Cerretalto delivers aromas of natural complexity and oak-driven tones of cinnamon, clove, chocolate and exotic spice. The fruit is dark, dense and ripe. There's extra roundness and density in the mouth that holds together the wine's firm tannins and its crisp, acidic component. Hold 10–20 more years. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$215

**59**

**95 Nefarious Cellars 2009 Rocky Mother Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This unique Syrah vineyard is located at the northwestern edge of the Columbia Valley American Viticultural Area. Exotic, silky and compelling, the aromas and flavors combine gorgeously sleek berry flavors with a foundation of liquid rock (hence the vineyard name). Sup-

ple, authoritative and long, it gathers both strength and subtlety as it breathes. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$42

**60**

**96 Groth 2008 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** A huge Cabernet, in the best sense of the word. It wasn't the easiest vintage, as 2007 was, but meticulous winemaking did the job, resulting in this amazingly rich, impressively ripe wine that's drinkable now and will develop for many years. The fruits veer toward blackberries, cherries and cola, and the tannins are soft and refined. One hundred percent new French oak isn't at all heavy, lending nuances of buttered toast and sweet wood tannins. Will easily age for 15 years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$125

**61**

**94 Henri Bourgeois 2010 Jadis (Sancerre).** One of the top wines from Henri Bourgeois, this is rich and age worthy. Its green and white fruits push through a concentrated structure to give a dense wine with ripeness and great elegance. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**62**

**95 Massolino 2007 Margheria (Barolo).** Massolino delivers a beautiful Barolo with delicate, silky strokes of small berry, white pepper, asphalt, tar, smoke and cured meat. On the palate, it shows, power, smooth tannins and excellent length. Pair this with roast pork and baked prune. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**63**

**95 Château Canon la Gaffelière 2009 Saint-Émilion.** One of the peculiarities of Saint-Émilion's classification is that Canon la Gaffelière is not classed in the top rung; as this wine shows, it produces superb wines. This is ripe while so elegant, with great intensity and sweet perfumes. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$110





# 64

**94 Tendril 2009 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Deep, firm and concentrated, this gorgeous wine has the muscularity of Cabernet, but the plush, velvet elegance of Pinot Noir. Youthful and rich, it has deep fruit flavors of blackberry and black cherry, with barrel notes of coffee, chocolate and anise. Full, smooth and supple, it is certainly among the best of the Oregon 2009s. —P.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$48

# 65

**95 Hanzell 2009 Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley).** A tremendous Chardonnay. As always, the winery's '09 is bone dry, crisply acidic and minerally. You might call it austere at this point, with its tart finish of grapefruit. But a great Hanzell Chardonnay will improve for at least a decade, possible two, and this is a great Hanzell Chardonnay. The score reflects what the wine likely will be approximately eight years down the road. —S.H.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

# 66

**95 Alain Jaume et Fils 2009 Domaine Grand Veneur Vieilles Vignes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** A prodigious effort, the 2009 Vieilles Vignes from Grand Veneur includes a whopping 40% Mourvèdre in the blend (there's also 10% Syrah, with the balance being Grenache), which no doubt accounts for its dark flavor profile. This is a full-bodied, lushly textured, expansive wine, with a finish that seems to go on forever. Approachable now, it should age well for 10–12 years at least. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$121

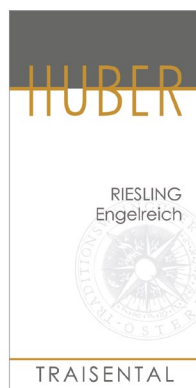
# 67

**94 Cartuxa 2009 Pêra-Manca Branco (Alentejo).** One of Portugal's legendary wines, this white Pêra-Manca is beautifully round and ripe, with notes of apricot, toast and an intense series of fruit and herb flavors. It has concentration, while also showing great elegance and impressive aging potential. Drink in two years, but also age for five. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$33

# 68



**93 Markus Huber 2011 Engelreich Riesling (Traisental).** From the single vineyard Engelreich—which translates to the angel's kingdom—this is rich, with a concentration of perfumed fruit and intense layers of minerality. It has spice, kiwi and pink grapefruit flavors. This is a wine that needs to age for several years. Screwcap. Circo Vino. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25



There have been many experiments throughout history aimed at creating an artificially accelerated aging process for wine, including exposure to high-voltage electricity and ultrasonic waves. Wine critics have yet to meet these techniques with enthusiastic reviews.

# 69

**95 Mark Ryan 2009 Long Haul Merlot-Cabernet Franc-Malbec-Petit Verdot (Red Mountain).** A blend of 64% Merlot and 27% Cabernet Franc, with splashes of Malbec and Petit Verdot, this is built for the long haul. Raspberries, cherries and rich chocolate notes run through this fine-tuned, focused wine. It's deep, elegant and penetrating, with a show-stopping layer of pure mineral that is so powerful the fruit seems soaked in rock. —P.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$48

# 70

**96 Capezzana 2005 Riserva (Vin Santo di Carmignano).** This gorgeous Vin Santo from the Carmignano subzone of Tuscany is made with 90% Trebbiano and 10% Sancelomano. With a luscious, dark amber color, this sweet wine offers smooth, long tones of raisin, dried apricot, honey and toasted nut. It's a true masterpiece with amazing intensity and complexity. Mionetto USA. —M.L.

abv: 14%

Price: \$55/375 ml

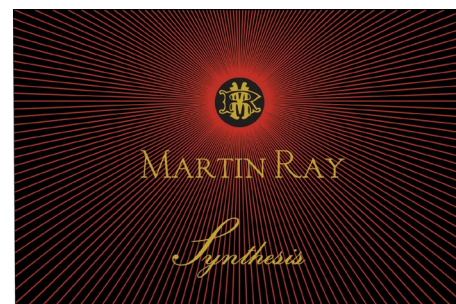
# 71

**96 Château Pichon Longueville 2009 Pauillac.** With a structure that runs between acidity and dark smoky tannins, this is a wine with potential opulence. It's very rich in character, dense and dark. The black plum flavors are dominant, along with excellent acidity. For the long-term. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$200

# 72



**95 Martin Ray 2007 Synthesis (Napa Valley).** A terrific wine, smooth, complex and age worthy. Mainly Cabernet Sauvignon from Diamond Mountain, it shows mountain intensity of fruit, with a molten core of blackberries and black currants. The tannins are big, yet smooth and refined in the modern style. The finish is elaborate with notes of fruits and spices. A monu-





ment to what this fine winery can achieve at the top level. Hold until 2015, after which it should provide great drinking for additional years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$75

# 73

**94** **Girolamo Russo 2008 San Lorenzo (Etna).** One of the ultimate expressions of Etna, San Lorenzo is an elegant, determined and sophisticated wine, with a steady stream of delicate aromas—wild berry, crushed granite, smoke and cola—that build in momentum and evolve beautifully over time. The mouthfeel is firm and structured, with polished tannins and a bright berry endnote. Panebianco. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

# 74

**93** **Geyerhof 2010 Kirchensteig Erste Lage Reserve Riesling (Kremstal).** One of a series of great single-vineyard wines from Geyerhof, this is as impressive as the rest. It has weight, complexity and richness. Its perfumed fruits provide a delicate counterpoint to the acidity, taut minerality and herbal edge. For aging over at least five years. Martin Scott Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

# 75

**95** **Niepoort 2009 Vintage Port.** A powerful, almost black-colored Port. It has the richness of the vintage allied to ripe blackberry flavors, and a mineral, tannic structure. Its great fruit makes it almost drinkable now, but aging will add so many more dimensions. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20.5% **Price:** \$90

# 76

**95** **Domaine de Chevalier 2009 Blanc (Pessac-Léognan).** An impeccable wine, this is so finely balanced between its rich fruits and structure. With its seamless character, it offers both fine acidity, green and white fruit and an undertow of wood aging. This is a wine for long-term aging. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$115

# 77



**95** **Schramsberg 2005 J. Schram (Napa-Mendocino-Sonoma-Marin).** This four-county blend is a selection of what the winemakers consider their best lots of the vintage. Made from 86% Chardonnay and 14% Pinot Noir, it most certainly needs some time in the cellar, as it's scoury right now. But its richness is already apparent: it shows complex toast, leesy yeast, crème brûlée, lemondrop sour candy and ripe pear flavors. A gorgeous sparkling wine that will benefit from at least 12 years of aging. —S.H.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$115

# 78



**95** **Woodward Canyon 2009 Artist Series #18 Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington).** Here the high alcohol does not obscure the layered fruits and overall complexity of this exceptional Cabernet. Thick, ripe and richly endowed, it keeps its black fruit, ripe tannins and liquorous barrel notes all in proportion, and pulls in top flight fruit from Champoux, Sagemoor, the estate vineyard and other select sites. Earth, cedar and tobacco notes highlight the extended finish. —P.G.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$49

# 79



**94** **Domaine Serene 2008 Evenstad Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Dark, full, generous and ripe to the far edge of elegance, this powerful Pinot is saturated with black fruits, annotated with fennel, pepper, smoke and espresso, the rich and varied flavors rolling right through a lush midpalate and on into a gently fading finish. Retasted over 24–48 hours, it continued to evolve and develop additional nuances. A wine to cellar for a decade or more. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$65

# 80



**94** **Feudi di San Gregorio 2004 Piano di Montevergine Riserva (Taurasi).** This vineyard-designate Taurasi Riserva is probably one of the biggest, boldest wines produced in Italy. It opens with an inky black color and intense aromas of black fruit, toast, spice, espresso bean and bitter black chocolate. The jackhammer tannins are steady and firm, and there's a long trail of prune and black fruit on the finish. Palm Bay International. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65



# 81

**93 Salomon-Undhof 2011 Wachtberg Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** This is a ripe, creamy wine made with grapes from a single vineyard. It's smooth yet laced with minerality and a tang of lemon zest, green apple and kiwi. This should age nicely for 3–4 years. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

# 82



**94 Domaine Vincent Girardin 2010 Charmes-Chambertin.** Big and concentrated, this is packed with tannins and solid dark fruits. It's powerful with a dark plum flavor and an impressive density of texture. Give it at least 7–10 years. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$128

# 83

**94 Prats & Symington LDA 2009 Chryseia (Douro).** Still an icon of Douro reds, this is marked by elegance. The fruit blends effortlessly with the acid-laced, firm tannins. It has fine potential for aging over at least five years. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

## 55°F

In a wine cellar, temperature is everything. Maintain a constant temperature of about 55°F so that your wines don't freeze or bake.

## 1%

An age-worthy wine is hard to find: Jancis Robinson, MW, estimates that only about 1% of all wines will improve after a decade.

# 84

**95 Capture 2009 Harmonie (Sonoma County).** This Bordeaux blend is delicious, refined and age worthy. It's dry and quite tannic now, but underneath the astringency is a beautifully balanced wine with intensely concentrated blackberry and dark chocolate fruit, with an earthiness. A terrific wine that should come into its own after 2017. —S.H.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$120

# 85

**96 Maximin Grünhäuser 2009 Herrenberg Riesling Eiswein (Mosel).** Von Schubert bottled two eisweins from the Herrenberg in 2009. This one is pale in color, with intense pineapple and honey flavors. The wine is sweet, luscious and viscous yet never cloying, with a long finish that features unfolding layers of fruit flavor. Valckenberg International, Inc. —J.C.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$228

# 86

**93 Lapostolle 2009 Clos Apalta (Colchagua Valley).** Typically intense, polished and smooth up front, this has concentrated aromas of graphite, cola, wild berry, spice, coconut and wood. It feels full and makes a statement on the palate, where baked, earthy, fully loaded flavors of clove, herb and black fruit hold court. Oaky and spicy on the finish, this needs another 2–4 years to fully settle. Terlato Wines International. —M.S.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

# 87

**94 Speri 2008 Vigneto Monte Sant'Urbano (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** From one of the Valpolicella's best producers, this vineyard-designate Amarone is amazingly soft and velvety, with aromas of softly worn leather, moist chewing tobacco, ripe black cherry and barbecue smoke. It's an elegant but modern rendition, showing power, intensity and impressive length. Best yet, the fruit is young enough to promise more years of graceful aging. Empson (USA) Ltd. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80

# 88

**95 Domaine Faiveley 2010 Echézeaux.** Very structured and firm, this has the weight, rich-

ness and power that is typical of Echézeaux. It's the tension between the tannins and the ripe black fruits that give this wine its great aging ability and depth of flavor. It needs at least six years. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$225

# 89

**96 Vine Cliff 2009 16 Rows Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** As good as the winery's regular 2009 Cabernet is, this small-production selection from the estate vineyard is even better. However, as the tannins are fierce, it's not a wine you want to drink anytime soon. Through the astringency shines a bright, burning core of perfectly ripe blackberries and savory black currants. Flashy and impressive, this 100% Cabernet should begin to soften and mellow after 2018. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$150

# 90



**95 Lauren Ashton Cellars 2009 Cuvée Arlette (Red Mountain).** This is a stunning Bordeaux-style blend of 57% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 2.5% each of Petit Verdot and Malbec. Tight, dark and dense, it showcases the detailed styling that epitomizes the Lauren Ashton portfolio. Perfectly ripe and perfectly proportioned, it has the power and tannin to age for decades. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50

# 91

**94 Luis Duarte 2010 Rubrica Branco (Alentejano).** An immense and opulent wine, with a more mineral, citrus-driven backdrop. This is packed with flavors of tropical fruit, crisp green apple and cit-



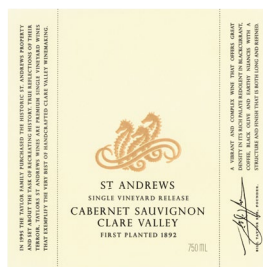
rus, with a toast and spice contrast. Give this 3–4 years of aging. Laurel Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

# 92

**94 Piper-Heidsieck 2002 Brut Cuvée Rare Millesimée (Champagne).** This is top Champagne from Piper-Heidsieck, offering the delicious airy quality that's the hallmark of this house, with crisp apple flavor, tangy acidity and the first signs of yeasty, toasty bottle age. Its fruit intensity has transformed into a splendid selection. It's worth aging for a few more years, though also delicious now. Remy Coin-treau USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$175

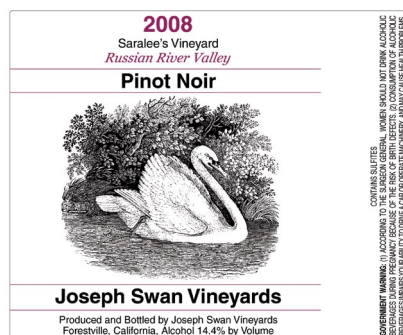
# 93

WAKEFIELD



**93 Wakefield Estate 2006 St. Andrews Cabernet Sauvignon (Clare Valley).** A perennial favorite, Wakefield's St. Andrews bottling shows how good certain parts of Clare can be for Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2006 displays a masterful blend of cedar, chocolate, mocha, cassis, baking spices and leather, all wrapped in an elegant coat of dusty but supple tannins. Drink 2015–2025. American Wine Distributors. —J.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

# 94



**94 Joseph Swan Vineyards 2008 Saralee's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A worthy followup to the 2007, perhaps not as immediately flamboyant, but a major Pinot Noir to age in the cellar. Shows flashy cherry and raspberry fruit, with tantalizingly rich spices and a perfect coating of sweet, smoky oak. Fine and delicious now, after decanting, and should develop over this decade. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$35

# 95

**94 Cesari 2006 Il Bosco (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** The Cesari family has perfected its formula for achieving pure pleasure in liquid form. This superstar Amarone has loads of chewy, ripe fruit, decadent dark chocolate, leather, moist pipe tobacco and candied raspberry flavors. Even with all of the richness, extraction and deliciousness, this is an elegant wine. Drink after 2018. Opici Wines. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

# 96

**93 Domaine de l'Ancienne Cure 2009 L'Extase (Côtes de Bergerac).** From this top Bergerac producer comes this powerful blend. With its 30% Malbec, it has intense tannins and a firm, solid structure, with dense and richly concentrated blackberry fruit. It does need to age for at least five years. Bird Rock Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

# 97

**95 K Vintners 2008 Ovide En Cerise Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Sourced from another of the Cayuse vineyards, this is two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and one-third Syrah—a proven blend in Walla Walla. There is a potently aromatic herbal quality to the perfectly rip-

ened fruit that marries black cherry and earthy tannins to the herbs. A big wine, with dried leaf character dominating the tannins. Good length, in an Italian style, with a good decade of life ahead. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

# 98



**93 J Vineyards & Winery 2010 Strata Estate Grown Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** J Winery goes against the grain of the modern high alcohol, superripe style to produce this bone dry, steely, somewhat austere young Chardonnay. It hits with a smack of acidity and minerals, with an elegant complexity that may challenge those looking for big, fruity Chards. Give it a couple years in the cellar and see how it evolves. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

# 99

**93 Miguel Torres 2008 Manso de Velasco Viñas Viejas Cabernet Sauvignon (Curicó Valley).** This is as stout as they come, with excellent depth, structure and pulse, all of which make it a prime cellar candidate. It shows balsamic aromas of cedar, spiced berry and earth. The mouthfeel is ripe and smooth, with grip and power held in reserve. It tastes of chocolaty berry fruit and savory herb, and it's warm and roasted on the finish. Drink from 2013–2018. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

# 100

**92 Meerlust 2007 Rubicon (Stellenbosch).** One of the best vintages of Rubicon to date, and for the price it's a fantastic value that's great for building up your cellar. Right now, the wine is still young and tight, with firm, gripping tannins that need some time to mellow. Fortunately, there's a great concentrated black-fruit core and enough acidity alongside the tannins to support long-term aging. It's spicy and earthy, with accents of black tea, cedar and crushed violets. Try after 2016. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —L.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31

**The first wine caves in Napa Valley were commissioned by Jacob Schram, of Schramsberg Vineyards, who in 1870 enlisted Chinese immigrant railroad workers to dig a network of caves beneath his Calistoga vineyards.**

