

Wine Spectator

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FREE
PULL-OUT
VINTAGE CHART

EDITORS' PICKS WINES TO DISCOVER IN 2014

2011 VINTAGE PORT: TWO DOZEN CLASSICS
OREGON PINOT NOIR: WHAT TO BUY NOW
A MENU MATCHED WITH SPIRITS
2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



SAVVY SHOPPER

MOSELS MOMENT

The challenges of the 2012 vintage in Germany's Mosel region—from poor flowering to a cool summer—make it a year for drier-style Rieslings. These producers all rise to the occasion.

SCHLOSS LIESER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Juffer-Sonnenberg 2012 (95, \$34) Lush, elegant black currant, slate, pepper, honeysuckle
SCHLOSS LIESER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Niederberg Heiligen 2012 (94, \$32) Pure, racy, white fruit, elderflower, cream
VON HÖVEL Riesling Kabinett Mosel Saar Oberemeler Hütte 2012 (93, \$25) Mint, dried mango, guava, baked apple, pear, spice
DR. PAULY-BERGWELDER Riesling Auslese Mosel Bernkasteler Badstube 2012 (93, \$30) Canded fruit, peach, melon, pear, spice; lush
MAX FERD. RICHTER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenberg 2012 (93, \$29) Taut, racy apple, citrus, honeydew
MAX FERD. RICHTER Riesling Spätlese Mosel Veldenzer Eilenseberg 2012 (93, \$27) White peach, apricot, quail, mineral, lacy
VON HÖVEL Riesling Kabinett Mosel Saar Schwarzhofberg 2012 (92, \$23) Crystalline, precise, apricot, tinned, pure racy grapefruit
DR. F. WEINS-PROHM Riesling Kabinett Mosel Wehlener Sonnenberg 2012 (92, \$22) Honeydew, ripe citrus, gooseberry, mineral, spice

CONTINENTAL CHARM

These Old World reds and whites deliver plenty of charm for the price. Some are varietals and others are blends, but no matter, they all reflect their regions. The Fattoria Carpoli Toscana Sada Baldoro is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Montepulciano and Alicante.

BODEGAS ESTEFANIA Merlot Barrio Tilenos Pagos de Pisada 2009 (93, \$30) Polished, elegant plum, cassis, granola, vanilla, menthol
RICCARDO BARACCHI Toscana O'Illoio 192 (92, \$17) Cherry, raspberry, spice, mineral, vibrant, juicy
DOMAINE DU RAUFAYL Chiron-Clos du Villy 2010 (92, \$25) Black currant, bitter cherry, blackberry, licorice root, tobacco, juniper
VINJA SONOZA Godello Valdeorras Sobre Lias 2012 (92, \$20) Generous, firm; smoke, mineral, citrus, white fruit
BOGOSIA Y VIREDO CASTRO VENTOSA Bierzo El Castro de Valluile 2010 (92, \$25) Black cherry, plum, fig paste, cocoa, dense
AZELIA Nebbiolo Langhe 2011 (91, \$23) Elegant, flowers, strawberry, raspberry, pepper
MARQUÉS DE CACERES Rioja White Antea Barbel-Fermentado 2012 (91, \$32) Dense, muscular; quince, pear, almond, beeswax
FATTORIA CARPOLI Toscana Sada Baldoro 2011 (91, \$24) Black currant, cherry, cedar, iron, bright
DOMAINE DELLA Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2011 (90, \$25) Racy, raspberry, blackberry, anise, violet, graphite

WINTER WONDERLAND

Here's a group of hearty reds from California, Argentina and Chile to help keep you warm through the winter. Try with braised meats and stews.

TURLEY Zinfandel Napa Valley Hennevin Vineyard 2011 (94, \$35) Blackberry, dried cherry, mineral, underbrush
LUCA Malbec Uco Valley 2012 (93, \$32) Blackberry, hoisin sauce, roasted plum, black pepper, tar, polished
LAPOSTOLLE Syrah Colchagua Valley Cuvée Alexandre Apalta Vineyard 2010 (92, \$23) Floral, dark cherry, mocha, chocolate, spice; plash
VINJA SANTA RITA Syrah Napa Valley Reserva 2009 (92, \$13) Dark cherry, damson plum, raspberry, chocolate
WRATH Syrah Monterey Ex Anima 2011 (92, \$25) Plum, blackberry, savory herb, game meat, fig, dense
BONNY DOON Grenache Central Coast The Wine Formerly Known as Clos de Gilroy 2012 (91, \$20) Wild berry, plum, espresso, black licorice; firm



ACROBAT Pinot Noir Oregon 2012 (90, \$20) **SHARTY BUY** Sleek, crisp; blackberry, currant, floral, spice

PORT OF CALL Syrah/Licorice, Late Bottled Port lies somewhere between ruby and Vintage. Aged in bottle four to six years before release, it shows more depth and vintage character than ruby Port and is ready to enjoy now.

PONSECA Late Bottled Port Unfiltered 2008 (93, \$24) Concentrated, red plum, crushed raspberry, violet, dark chocolate, spice
CALEM Late Bottled Port 2007 (92, \$17) Fig, mace, meat, dark plum, sandalwood, cedar, cream, luscious
QUINTA NOVA DE NOSSA SENHORA DO CARMO Late Bottled Port 2009 (91, \$28) Dark plum, raspberry, dark chocolate, Asian spice, sandalwood, white pepper
ANDRESEN Late Bottled Port 2007 (90, \$19) Damson plum, dark cherry, savory, Asian spice; firm

SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

96 St-Côme Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2010 \$58
FRANCE Densely packed, this red offers a core of baker's chocolate, espresso, bay leaf, licorice root, black currant preserves and steeped fig flavors.



COLLECTIBLE

99 Dow Vintage Port 2011 \$82
PORTUGAL Powerful, refined and luscious, with a surplus of dark plum, kirsch and cassia flavors that are unctuous and long.



SMART BUY

92 Tenata Borgo Scopeto Chianti Classico 2010 \$20
ITALY Vibrant and energetic, with a base of fine-grained tannins lifting the cherry, currant, rhubarb and tobacco flavors.



BEST VALUE

91 Loosen Bros. Riesling Glna Mosel De L 2012 \$12
GERMANY This succulent white is filled with peach-red peach, cherry and white currant flavors that are supported by zesty acidity.



IN THIS ISSUE'S BUYING GUIDE

You'll find 34 classic wines and nearly 450 outstanding wines from among reviews of \$50 new releases. Tasting notes and scores for those wines, along with 1,350 additional wines reviewed since our last issue, can be found at WineSpectator.com, using the Wine Ratings search, a members-only service.

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New Releases: Italy

88 Castello Banfi Chianti Superiore 2011 \$17 See Best Values, page 110.
88 San Felice Chianti Classico Il Griglio Riserva 2009 \$25 Fresh and vivid, evoking pure cherry, strawberry, tobacco and underbrush notes. There are stiff tannins, but this finds balance in the end. Best from 2015 through 2022. 20,000 cases made—B-.

ITALY Tuscany / Toscana

93 Campo alla Sughera Toscana 2009 \$15 A rich, extracted red, with pure fruit flavors of currant, raspberry and plum, accented by graphite and spice notes. Smooth and polished, featuring refined yet balanced tannins and lively acidity. Excellent length. Impressive, but lacks a strong sense of place. Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2023. 5,000 cases made—B-.

93 Tenuta Monteti Toscana 2008 \$40 Starts out with some earthy funk in the aroma, leading to flavors of black current, licorice, tobacco and spice on the palate. Dense, chewy and balanced, with a long aftertaste of black fruit, saline and licorice. Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2015 through 2024. 2,830 cases made—B-.

92 Riccardo Baracchi Toscana O'Illoio 2012 \$17 Round, vibrant and juicy, packing plenty of cherry, raspberry and spice flavors. Broad-shouldered and powerful, this remains focused on the fruit. Shows fine length, echoing cherry, spice and mineral notes. Merlot, Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Best from 2016 through 2025. 2,000 cases made—B-.

91 Fattoria Carpoli Toscana Sada Baldoro 2011 \$24 Bright Cabernet Sauvignon flavors of black cherry, cherry, cedar and iron inform this elegant, medium-bodied red, which is balanced and harmonious, with a dusty coating of tannins on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Montepulciano and Alicante. Drink now through 2018. 1,400 cases made—B-.



ALFONSO SADA Fattoria Carpoli

91 Castiglion del Bosco Toscana Prima Pietra 2010 \$75 This is fragrant, with black current, herb and cedar flavors, turning leaser and tighter on the palate. Hints of black olive and tobacco linger on the perfume. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2015 through 2023. 150 cases imported—B-.

90 Cecchi Toscana Coevo 2010 \$35 Black cherry, black currant and cedar aromas and flavors mark this tight, densely tannic red, presenting a long, fruit-filled aftertaste. Just needs time. Sangiovese, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2015 through 2023. 100 cases imported—B-.

90 San Felice Pugnello Toscana 2010 \$50 Offering a dark well of black cherry, blackberry, leather and spice flavors, this red features formidable tannins but remains balanced, with bright, saturated fruit and a rich texture. The grip holds up to grilled and roast. Best from 2016 through 2025. 1,025 cases made—B-.

89 Tenuta Monteti Toscana Caburnio 2010 \$20 An aromatic version, with flavors of flowers, black currant, raspberry and briar backed by burly tannins. On the wild side, showing personality and length. Should pair well with grilled lamb. Cabernet Sauvignon, Alicante, Brachetto, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2015 through 2021. 8,830 cases made—B-.

87 Caparzo Sangiovese Toscana 2012 \$14 Black cherry, earth and briar flavors greet the senses in this supple red. Balanced, with fine length and well-mannered tannins on the finish. Sangiovese, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Alicante. Drink now through 2016. 9,500 cases imported—B-.

86 Castello Banfi Toscana Centine Red 2011 \$17 A cherry flavor marks this red, leaning toward cherry jam on the palate. Fresh and firm, with a good finish. Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2018. 40,000 cases imported—B-.

ITALY Tuscany / Other

94 Podere Sapalo Bolgheri Superiore 2009 \$80 An intense, powerful red offering effusive aromas and flavors of black cherry, black currant, vanilla and roasted oak, with tobacco and leather elements emerging at the unfolds on the palate. Firmly structured and long, this gives elegance and grace on the long aftertaste. Best from 2015 through 2024. 1,700 cases made—B-.

93 Castiglion del Bosco Brunello di Montalcino Campo del Drago 2007 \$72 A full, rich, supple red, featuring cedar, incense, cherry, tobacco and earth flavors. Fresh and lively, displaying warmth and hints of wild Mediterranean scrub. The lingering aftertaste echoes the wild herb and tobacco notes. Best from 2016 through 2027. 80 cases imported—B-.

93 Rocca di Frassinello Maremma Toscana Baffonero 2011 \$229 A deeply colored, black currant- and spice-flavored red, with fresh acidity and mouthcoating tannins. Elegant and balanced, with fine length and dimension on the vibrant finish. Merlot. Best from 2015 through 2020. 250 cases made—B-.

92 Podere Sapalo Bolgheri Volpelo 2010 \$40 Offers a well of black cherry, black currant and plum fruit, suffused with accents of sandalwood and baking spices. Balanced and light-footed, with a long aftertaste of fruit and spice. A modern, harmonious style. Drink now through 2020. 6,700 cases made—B-.

91 Campo alla Sughera Bolgheri Adio 2011 \$30 Black cherry, sweet spice, toast, cedar and bell pepper aromas and flavors highlight this smooth red, showing fine intensity and a long, low-oil-infused finish. Drink now through 2018. 30,000 cases made—B-.

91 Cecchi Vino Nobile di Montepulciano 2009 \$50 A warm, dark red, boasting black cherry, plum, tobacco and spice flavors. Harmonious and approachable now, with well-integrated, dusty tannins and a long finish. Drink now through 2018. 750 cases imported—B-.

91 Rocca di Frassinello Maremma Toscana Ornello 2011 \$32 Ripe and polished, this red features flavors of black cherry, black currant and sweet spice on the nose, with a hint of tar. Though dense, this is well-balanced, with the youthful tannins asserting themselves on the lingering finish. Drink now through 2018. 4,166 cases made—B-.

90 Riccardo Baracchi Sangiovese Cortona Smeriglio 2011 \$30 Plenty of strawberry and cherry flavors mark this pure, elegant red. Picks up hints of leather and tobacco, but the beam of intense fruit lingers. Drink now through 2016. 1,100 cases made—B-.

90 Tenata Borgo Scopeto Vin Santo dei Chianti Classico 2005 \$50/\$75M The core of caramel is shaded by orange, roasted walnut, baking spices and fig paste. Offers moderate sweetness and weight, with a bright finish. Drink now through 2010. 150 cases imported—B-.

90 Collemassari Montecucco Rigipoleto 2011 \$18 Smoke and coffee aromas lead to flavors of black cherry and plum in this smooth, stylish red. Supple and polished, with firm yet well-integrated tannins and a lingering finish. Drink now through 2018. 6,750 cases made—B-.

90 Matè Rosso di Montalcino 2011 \$28 Round and fleshy, offering raspberry, cherry and spice flavors, this red is firm and focused, with moderate tannins and acidity driving the spice and savory-filled finish. Drink now through 2017. 200 cases made—A-.

88 Castello Banfi Rosso di Montalcino 2011 \$23 The cherry pie, wild herb and tobacco flavors are supported by a firm structure in this red. Though tight and grainy on the finish, this has good balance overall. Drink now through 2016. 10,000 cases imported—B-.

87 Castello Banfi Toscana Centine White 2012 \$17 Round and firm, displaying grapefruit, plum and grassy flavors. This is balanced, finishing with a dash of grapefruit. Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio and Chardonnay. Drink now, 11,000 cases imported—B-.

ITALY Veneto / Amaronella della Valpolicella

93 Nicolis Amaronella della Valpolicella Classico Ambrasan 2006 \$75 Rich notes of plum cherry, roasted plum and burnt pudding are wrapped in threads of ground spice and licorice, with accents of smoke and dried thyme framed by fine-grained tannins and lightly tangy acidity. Long finish. Drink now through 2026. 550 cases made—A-.

92 Monte Faustino Amaronella della Valpolicella Classico 2008 \$75 Silky and layered, featuring an elegant frame finished out by cocoa and candied cherry notes, accented by hints of date, melted licorice, loamy earth and ground spice. Finely balanced, with a lasting finish. Drink now through 2023. 2,000 cases made—A-.

92 Sartori Amaronella della Valpolicella Classico Corte Brà 2007 \$52 A skin of rich, dusty ground spice unrolls through flavors of puffed plum, roasted fig, licorice drop, date and chocolate-covered strawberry. Light tannins lend grip, but this remains supple and elegant overall. Drink now through 2027. 450 cases imported—A-.

91 Fattori Amaronella della Valpolicella Col de la Bastia 2010 \$54 This elegant, spicy version offers ripe flavors of sun-dried black cherry, date and fig paste set on a medium-bodied, little-framed and backed by clean, mouthwatering acidity. A hint of tannic mist underscores the fruit while the ground spice details persist on the finish. Drink now through 2022. 200 cases made—A-.

90 Cesari Amaronella della Valpolicella Classico Il Bosco 2007 \$100 This lightly spicy version offers a smoky base note, with accents of grilled plum, raspberry pears, dried herb and sour-bait. Medium-bodied and grippy, offering a moderate finish. Drink now through 2022. 2,500 cases made—A-.

90 Fattori Amaronella della Valpolicella 2007 \$80 Lightly crisp, this balanced version offers notes of smoke and spice box, with accents of dried cherry and cranberry, rhubarb, grilled plum and licorice. Drink now through 2019. 100 cases made—A-.