



# WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **APRIL 30, 2012** ISSUE,  
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

*Wine Spectator's* annual Piedmont issue features an extensive tasting report on the region's best Barolos, Barbarescos and Barberas. The wines of Germany are also included in this special issue, along with a round-up of great values from California, Oregon and Washington.

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

95

### **GIANFRANCO ALESSANDRIA** Barolo 2006 • \$45

A pure, airy style, evoking violet, black currant and cherry fruit, accented by iron and spice notes. Taut and linear, with refined yet assertive tannins keeping everything in their grip. The fruit and mineral notes linger for some time. Best from 2015 through 2033. 350 cases made.—*B.S.*

95

### **ELVIO COGNO** Barolo Cascina Nuova 2007 • \$53

Cherry and raspberry notes are shaded with eucalyptus and tobacco accents. Lively and vibrant, with dense, well-integrated tannins providing support without being intrusive. Impeccably balanced, it all comes together on the elegant finish. Best from 2014 through 2030. 550 cases imported.—*B.S.*

95

### **CORINO** Barolo 2007 • \$45

A beauty, this seduces from the get-go with its sweet cherry, berry, spice and tobacco aromas and flavors. Polished, dense and supple, yet with no shortage of grip. The finish is superb, with elements of sweet fruit and spice. Best from 2014 through 2030. 540 cases made.—*B.S.*

95

### **PUNSET** Barbaresco 2007 • \$40

A concentrated, well-toned red, packed with cherry, plum, soy and spice aromas and flavors. Round and balanced, with a sweet berry and mineral aftertaste. Really builds nicely, gaining elegance and intensity. The fine aftertaste of cherry, tobacco and woody notes lingers. Best from 2014 through 2027. 1,400 cases made.—*B.S.*

94

### **BERINGER** Cabernet Sauvignon Knights Valley Reserve 2009 • \$45

Offers rich, smooth, layered flavors of blackberry, wild berry, plum and cassis. Full-bodied, yet graceful and elegant, this is most interesting on the finish, where the flavors glide along and pick up a subtle lift of spice and mocha. Drink now through 2024. 3,602 cases made.—*J.L.*

93

### **LA CONRERIA D'SCALA DEI** Priorat lugiter 2007 • \$40

This racy red shows cut and focus, with vibrant flavors of black cherry, wild berry, wild herb and mineral. The tannins are light but firm, the acidity bright and fresh. Shows excellent intensity and drive. Drink now through 2020. 500 cases made.—*T.M.*

## COLLECTIBLES

96

### **MARCASSIN** Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2006 • \$125

Graceful, elegant and stylish, offering a pleasant touch of maturity, with a complex array of anise, cherry, raspberry, red licorice and fresh porcini flavors leading to a medium body. Shows the benefits of cellaring. Drink now through 2018. 960 cases made.—*J.L.*

96

### **GIUSEPPE RINALDI** Barolo Brunate-Le Coste 2007 • \$130

A ripe, sweet cherry- and raspberry-flavored red, accented by flowers, white pepper and cinnamon. Generous and vibrant, with a pleasant hint of astringency on the finish. Very elegant, in a traditional style where finesse meets intensity. Best from 2015 through 2032. 800 cases made.—*B.S.*

### COLLECTIBLES (continued)

- 96 VIETTI** Barolo Villero Riserva 2004 • \$300  
Smells enticing, exhibiting aromas of cherry and flowers that segue to the sweet spice, floral and tar aromas typical of a mature Barolo. The cherry flavor builds on the palate, backed by a stern structure. A touch austere on the finish now, with excellent potential. Best from 2015 through 2032. 315 cases made.—*B.S.*
- 95 ALDO CONTERNO** Barolo Bussia Cicala 2007 • \$140  
Scented with black cherry and plum, this international-style red shows plenty of smoky, toasty oak on the palate. It's rich, with sweet fruit, ample power and complexity, but will take some time to integrate the tannins. Best from 2016 through 2035. 300 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 95 CROFT** Vintage Port 2009 • \$80  
Redolent of blackberry and dark fruits, this also features a fascinating mix of mocha, graphite and tobacco. Very juicy as well, which features into the finish of fine-grained tannins and spice. An exuberant and refined Vintage Port. Best from 2020 through 2050. 5,000 cases made.—*K.M.*

### SMART BUYS

- 93 NEYERS** Chardonnay Carneros 2010 • \$29  
Notably rich and creamy, yet elegant and refined, this Chardonnay delivers a supple, fleshy beam of white peach, nectarine and fresh-cut flowers, with a creamy vanilla edge. Drink now through 2018. 5,500 cases made.—*J.L.*
- 91 MARKHAM** Merlot Napa Valley 2008 • \$21  
Sleek and well-focused, with appealing aromas of red currant and toasty tomato leaf that lead to rich flavors of plum, mocha and cedar. Tannins firm up the finish. Drink now through 2017. 21,500 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 91 MILBRANDT** Merlot Wahluke Slope The Estates 2009 • \$25  
Ripe and broad, offering a plush-textured mouthful of red berry, Italian plum, prune and spice flavors, lingering on the intensely focused, toasty finish. Drink now through 2017. 1,010 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 91 ROCLAND** Shiraz Barossa Valley Chocolate Box 2009 • \$17  
Rich and ripe, bursting with cherry, floral and, yes, chocolate flavors, this is dark and dense as it drives through the long, deftly framed finish. Shows power, but ultimately comes off as graceful. Drink now through 2014. 4,800 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 90 BODEGAS BORSAO** Garnacha Campo de Borja Tres Picos 2010 • \$17  
This rich red is brimming with raspberry jam, chocolate, licorice and wild herb flavors. Firm tannins are well-integrated and buoyed by orange peel acidity. A lively modern style. Drink now through 2015. 5,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 90 GEORGES DUBOEUF** Fleurie Domaine des Quatre Vents 2010 • \$16  
Rich notes of fruitcake and spiced plum mix with hints of tea leaf, creamy black licorice and subtle mineral in this aromatic, well-structured red, which ends with a fresh, expressive finish. Drink now through 2015. 15,000 cases made.—*A.N.*
- 90 KEN FORRESTER** Chenin Blanc Stellenbosch Reserve 2010 • \$15  
Juicy and well-focused, with mouthwatering pear, fig and apple notes laced with brioche and persimmon. Shows good cut on the finish. Drink now through 2013. 1,250 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 90 BODEGAS LUZÓN** Jumilla Selección 12 Crianza 2008 • \$15  
This supple red delivers black cherry, smoke, mineral and licorice flavors that build on the palate through the smoky, meaty finish. The tannins are light but firm in this fresh, lively wine. Drink now through 2016. 2,500 cases imported.—*T.M.*

Initials at the end of each tasting note indicate the *Wine Spectator* editor who blind-tasted and scored the wine and wrote the review. The tasters are as follows: James Laube (*J.L.*); Kim Marcus (*K.M.*); Thomas Matthews (*T.M.*); James Molesworth (*J.M.*); Bruce Sanderson (*B.S.*); Harvey Steiman (*H.S.*); Tim Fish (*T.F.*); Alison Napjus (*A.N.*); *Nathan Wesley* (*N.W.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*).

### SMART BUYS (continued)

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- 90** **CAVE DES VIGNERONS DE SAUMUR** Saumur-Champigny Réserve des Vignerons 2010 • \$18  
A juicy, mouthfilling style, with bramble, blackberry and currant notes wound together and backed by a lingering tobacco edge on the finish. Drink now through 2013. 6,000 cases made.—*J.M.*
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### BEST VALUES

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- 90** **ROBERTO ANSEMI** Veneto White San Vincenzo 2010 • \$13  
Smoke and straw notes mix with tropical mango and pineapple fruit and an exotic hint of jasmine in this exuberant white, which is medium- to full-bodied without being weighty, offering good cut throughout. Drink now through 2017. 40,000 cases made.—*A.N.*
- 90** **WATERBROOK** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2009 • \$11  
Vibrant, refreshing and tight, with currant and cherry flavors, nicely shaded with gentle hints of wet loamy earth and spice. Drink now through 2014. 4,946 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 89** **BOGLE** Chardonnay California 2010 • \$10  
Deceptively complex, tight and vibrant, with a slow rise of citrus-laced mineral, green pear and honeydew melon notes that build on the finish, where a touch of nutmeg adds dimension. Drink now through 2014. 300,000 cases made.—*J.L.*
- 89** **PACIFIC RIM** Riesling Columbia Valley Dry 2009 • \$11  
Light and tangy, this is barely off-dry, with pear and apple flavors balanced against lime-scented acidity on the finish. Drink now through 2014. 4,200 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 88** **RED KNOT** Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale 2010 • \$10  
Supple, deftly balancing its pure currant flavors against a frame of cherry and spice, with a wee touch of rosemary. The finish hovers enticingly. Drink now through 2017. 20,000 cases made.—*H.S.*
- 86** **STONECAP** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2010 • \$8  
Youthful, with a tad of spritz to the bright purple fruit flavors, lingering easily. Drink now. 12,541 cases made.—*H.S.*
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#### ABOUT THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

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

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

**Smart Buys:** Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

**Best Values:** Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

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