



A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE AUGUST 31ST ISSUE

Wine Spectator's annual Restaurant Awards issue features Grand Award winners and a complete Dining Guide to nearly 4,000 restaurants. Also, a look at the New American Steak Houses which now include top chefs, creative menus, and adventurous wine lists. Plus, tasting reports on California Sauvignon Blanc and southern France.

96

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

**CASANOVA DI NERI**

Sant'Antimo Pietradonice 2004 • \$95

Gorgeous nose of blackberries and minerals follows through to a full-bodied palate, with fine tannins and a long, caressing finish. Massages the palate. A beauty. Pure Cabernet. Best after 2011.—J.S.

95

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

**M. CHAPOUTIER**

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Barbe Rac 2004 • \$80

Combines fruit and *terroir* in spades, with notes of raspberry ganache and fig layered with tar, loam and *garrigue*. Builds slowly through the finish, delivering an encore of dark fruit and minerality, with a hint of grilled beef. A huge wine that demands cellaring. Best from 2009 through 2027.—J.M.

94

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

**ARDÈVOL**

Priorat Terra d'Hom 2004 • \$50

Firm and focused, this polished red shows black fruit, mineral and mountain herb flavors that are harmonious and balanced. Not showy, but has great density and real elegance. Best after 2008.—T.M.

93

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

**DUTSCHKE**

Shiraz Barossa Valley St. Jakobi Single Vineyard 2005 • \$40

Beautifully formed and harmonious, offering a stylish balance of plum, licorice, blackberry and pepper, with fine tannins and lacy acidity. Lets the flavors roll on through the long, long finish. Best from 2009 through 2017.—H.S.

99

COLLECTIBLE

**E. GUIGAL**

Côte-Rôtie La Mouline 2003 • \$490

Racy and defined, with a torrent of pure red currant and raspberry ganache and a mouthwatering mineral note. Has a terrific spine, with iron and spice notes mingling with the endless stream of raspberry fruit. A really stunning display of fruit and precision. Drink now through 2030.—J.M.

98

COLLECTIBLE

**E. GUIGAL**

Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2003 • \$490

Plush and smoky, with loads of flesh carrying black olive, fig, tobacco, currant and game notes. The broad, powerful finish shows a roasted quality, with dark, smoky bacon and fig notes and an exotic hint of spice. A huge wine that is only showing bits of what it will eventually offer. Best from 2010 through 2030.—J.M.

98

COLLECTIBLE

**E. GUIGAL**

Côte-Rôtie La Turque 2003 • \$490

Incredibly dense and concentrated, with a polished layer of mocha-infused toast pushed by blackberry, black currant, black tea and dark olive flavors. Has tremendous power, but is also suave, with sweet, exotic fruit notes that linger on the long, fleshy finish. Best from 2010 through 2030.—J.M.

97

COLLECTIBLE

**LOUIS JADOT**

Chevalier-Montrachet Les Demoiselles 2005 • \$294

The definition of class and refinement. Subtle yet intense, this white unravels its lime, hazelnut, acacia and yellow plum aromas and flavors on a seamless profile, only showing its youth as it firms up on the long, toasty, mineral-filled finish. Best from 2010 through 2030.—B.S.

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92

SMART BUY

**VIÑA MONTES**

Syrah Colchagua Valley Alpha Apalta Vineyard 2005 • \$25

This is ripe and concentrated yet polished and refined, with layers of dark cherry, blackberry and briar caressed by suave toast, vanilla and mineral notes. Long and fleshy through the finish, which shows solid grip. Contains 7 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 3 percent Viognier. Drink now through 2009.—*J.M.*

91

SMART BUY

**FETISH**

The Watcher Barossa Valley 2005 • \$20

Dark and juicy. A ripe mouthful of licorice-accented blackberry and black cherry fruit, hinting at dark chocolate on the open-textured finish. Shiraz. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*

90

SMART BUY

**CHATEAU ST. JEAN**

Fumé Blanc Russian River Valley La Petite Etoile Vineyard 2005 • \$20

Stylish, with a complex smoky-spicy note that weaves its way through the honeysuckle, mango, guava and citrus flavors. Fragrant and juicy, both intense and delicate, with a lingering finish. Drink now through 2009.

90

SMART BUY

**GOATS DO ROAM WINE COMPANY**

Goat-Roti Coastal Region 2005 • \$20

This has lots of dark, juicy briar, blackberry and licorice flavors, with judicious toast and a lingering cocoa note on the finish. A crowd-pleasing red with legitimate complexity. Drink now.—*J.M.*

90

SMART BUY

**KUMEU RIVER**

Chardonnay Kumeu Village 2006 • \$19

Streamlined and subtle, with fine-grained intensity to the pear, lemon blossom, orange curd and soya flavors. Mineral nuances and nicely integrated oak tones fold into the finish. Drink now through 2010.—*D.S.*

88

SMART BUY

**CARM**

Douro 2004 • \$15

Ripe and juicy red, with an aroma of freshly ground coffee and supple flavors of dark plum, cherry and licorice. Boysenberry fills the finish. Drink now.—*K.M.*

90

BEST VALUE

**BODEGAS BORSAO**

Garnacha Campo de Borja Tres Picos 2005 • \$12

Vivid and concentrated yet still focused and nimble, this red delivers plenty of black cherry and raspberry flavors, framed by toasty, smoky oak. The tannins and acidity are both gentle, but there's enough to keep this balanced and lively. Drink now through 2010.—*T.M.*

90

BEST VALUE

**RAZOR'S EDGE**

Shiraz McLaren Vale 2005 • \$12

Smooth and round, with ripe plum, blackberry and dusky spice flavors that just don't quit, lingering on the open-textured finish. Not a big wine, but flavorful and graceful. Drink now through 2012.—*H.S.*

87

BEST VALUE

**MARQUÉS DE CÁCERES**

Rioja Rosado 2006 • \$8

A bold rosé, delivering cherry, rose, menthol and herb flavors in a firm, full-bodied style. A bit rich on its own, but a good match for food. Drink now through 2008.—*T.M.*

87

BEST VALUE

**BARON GASSIER**

Côtes de Provence Rosé Sables d'Azur 2006 • \$10

This has a rose petal aroma and structured, well-defined berry, cherry and Fuji apple flavors, with a creamy finish. Drink now.—*K.M.*

86

BEST VALUE

**THIRTY NINE DEGREES**

Sauvignon Blanc Lake County 2006 • \$9

Crisp pineapple, mango, citrus and papaya flavors have a light touch, with a hint of pea blossom and Key lime on the finish. Drink now.

86

BEST VALUE

**ALICE WHITE**

Cabernet Sauvignon South Eastern Australia 2006 • \$7

On the light side, with pretty currant and white pepper flavors, finishing on a creamy note. Drink now.—*H.S.*

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.*); James Suckling (*J.S.*); Jo Cooke (*J.C.*); Daniel Sogg (*D.S.*). A lack of initials indicates the wine was reviewed by a *Wine Spectator* panel.