



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **OCT. 15, 2020** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's annual Oct. 15 California Pinot Noir issue features more than 600 wines reviewed, along with profiles of top producers and benchmark bottlings. Plus, don't miss our tasting report on the latest releases from Spain. Finally, we offer great values from the Southern Hemisphere: 100 wines at 88 points or higher and \$30 or less.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- 97** **CARNASCIALE** Toscana Il Caberlot 2016 • \$275 / 1.5L
Alluring, forthcoming aromas of black currant, cedar, lead pencil and iron mark this suave and polished red. Builds on the palate to the long finish, firming up along the way, yet remains harmonious and beautifully defined. Shows excellent length and grace overall. Caberlot. Drink now through 2035. 4,800 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 97** **ROTEM & MOUNIR SAOUMA** Châteauneuf-du-Pape White Magis 2017 • \$150
Gorgeous in every way, from the lush and silky feel to the waves of creamed melon, white peach and green fig flavors, accented by spritely chamomile and verbena details. The long finish lets a shortbread note echo, rippling with latent energy. Drink now through 2028. 70 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 95** **ARISTA** Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Harper's Rest 2017 • \$110
Chiseled, ripe and rich-tasting, with intense minerality to the concentrated cherry, dried raspberry and damson plum flavors, backed by fresh acidity. White pepper accents show on the lithe finish. Drink now through 2026. 192 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 95** **AUBERT** Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast UV Vineyard 2018 • \$85
Powerful and structured, with mineral richness to the fine-edged red fruit and savory spice flavors. The sleek finish offers impressive purity and clarity to the notes of hot stone, flint and underbrush. Best from 2021 through 2026. 993 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 95** **GARY FARRELL** Pinot Noir Fort Ross-Seaview Fort Ross Vineyard 2017 • \$75
Powerful, pure-tasting and focused, with intense cherry and red currant flavors, backed by fresh acidity. Flinty accents show midpalate, followed by a finish that lingers with dried berry and spice components. Just a baby. Best from 2021 through 2026. 458 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 95** **VECCHIE TERRE DI MONTEFILI** Toscana Anfiteatro 2016 • \$120
A laser beam of black currant, blackberry, graphite and Mediterranean scrub infuses this racy red, which is intense, yet refined and vibrant. Reveals a firm structure underneath as this glides to the long, fruit- and mineral-inflected aftertaste. Sangiovese. Best from 2022 through 2040. 272 cases made, 100 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 94** **BOSCARELLI** Vino Nobile di Montepulciano 2016 • \$41
Expressive and harmonious, this red exhibits cherry, blackberry, violet and mineral aromas and flavors. Pure and elegant, with an underlying tension and intensity that drives the lingering aftertaste of fruit, stone and earth, showing a hint of wild herbs. Sangiovese, Canaiolo, Mammolo and Colorino. Best from 2022 through 2038. 4,200 cases made, 800 cases imported.—*B.S.*

COLLECTIBLES

- 97** **LE CHIUSE** Brunello di Montalcino Diecianni Riserva 2010 • \$180
Complex and ready to enjoy now, this red features cherry, plum, leather, iron and wild herb flavors. The vibrant acidity keeps this resonant and tangy, while an inherent spiciness lends distinction and allure. Shows fine balance and a lingering, savory aftertaste. Drink now through 2038. 1,300 cases made, 500 cases imported.—*B.S.*

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COLLECTIBLES (continued)

- 95 BODEGAS MUGA** Rioja Torre Muga 2016 • \$150
This bold red is assertive, yet holds power in reserve. A thick texture, supported by muscular tannins, supports ripe flavors of currant, fig, cocoa, loamy earth and tar. Concentrated, but remains harmonious. Impressive, in the modern style. Best from 2022 through 2036. 3,000 cases made, 400 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 95 CASTELLO DEI RAMPOLLA** Toscana Sammarco 2015 • \$99
This is dense and muscular, revealing a tightly wound matrix of black cherry, blackberry, iron, earth and tobacco flavors. Balsamic elements of wild juniper and rosemary emerge as this extends on the finish. Though gripping, this is also very pure, fresh and balanced. Needs time. Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Merlot. Best from 2022 through 2036. 2,400 cases made, 300 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 95 BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA** Ribera del Duero Unico Reserva Especial NV • \$700
This generous red offers rich flavors of plum, currant, licorice, tea and forest floor. Well-integrated tannins and orange peel acidity keep this focused, in a traditional style. Harmonious and long. Tinto Fino and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2030. 1,420 cases made, 66 cases imported.—*T.M.*
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SMART BUYS

- 94 CAIAROSSA** Toscana Pergolaia 2016 • \$28
Flavors of black cherry and blackberry stand up to the dense tannins in this fresh, deep and intense red, but this is equally about the vibrant acidity driving the fruit, wild herb nuances and spice-infused aftertaste. Sangiovese with Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2022 through 2040. 4,700 cases made, 1,200 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 94 COLLE BERETO** Chianti Classico 2017 • \$28
Aromas of blood, iron and raw beef lead off, followed by flavors of cherry, plum and leather. Rich and harmonious, with a dense underlying structure and terrific length. Approachable now, but this should evolve well over the next few decades. Drink now through 2040. 3,500 cases made, 2,800 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 93 BODEGAS BERONIA** Rioja Reserva 2015 • \$20
This round, juicy red is fresh and lively. Black cherry, tangy plum, leafy, toast and vanilla flavors mingle over moderate tannins and orange peel acidity. Bright and accessible, but has the structure to age. Drink now through 2030. 50,000 cases made, 3,500 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 92 LAFOND** Pinot Noir Sta. Rita Hills SRH 2017 • \$27
This taut red features crisp red fruit and berry flavors, supported by glistening acidity. Lithe midpalate, offering ample slate notes. The finish lingers with dark chocolate hints. Drink now through 2024. 3,700 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 91 BODEGAS OLARRA** Rioja Cerro Añon Crianza 2017 • \$16
This red has depth and energy, in the traditional style. Cherry, leafy and orange peel flavors mingle with loamy earth notes, supported by firm tannins and citrusy acidity. Complex and harmonious. Tempranillo, Mazuelo and Graciano. Drink now through 2027. 17,000 cases made, 15,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 91 ROCO** Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Gravel Road 2018 • \$25
Tightly focused, this offers polish and structure, with layered raspberry and cherry flavors, laced with stony mineral and green tea notes and finishing with refined tannins. Drink now through 2028. 6,900 cases made.—*T.F.*
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BEST VALUES

- 91 BODEGAS BORSAO** Campo de Borja Berola 2016 • \$15
This red is thick yet fresh, fruit-centered but with savory elements for balance. Blackberry, currant, licorice, cocoa and loamy earth flavors mingle over firm, well-integrated tannins, focused by balsamic acidity. In the modern style. Grenache, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2030. 10,000 cases made, 4,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 91 CUNE** Rioja Crianza 2017 • \$14
This lively red combines depth with energy. Bright berry and cherry flavors mingle with notes of fresh herb, cocoa and toast, supported by light tannins and crisp acidity. Focused and harmonious. Tempranillo, Garnacha and Mazuelo. Drink now through 2025. 375,000 cases made, 15,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*
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BEST VALUES (continued)

89

BODEGAS BRECA Garnacha Spain de Fuego 2018 • \$10

This fruit-centered red delivers flavors of cherry and berry preserves, laced with mocha and spice notes. Tangy acidity keeps this lively, while light tannins impart focus through the vanilla-scented finish. Drink now through 2024. 30,000 cases made, 20,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*

89

FERRARI-CARANO Sauvignon Blanc North Coast Fumé Blanc 2019 • \$15

Floral and dried hay notes add richness to the crisp core of pear, apricot and citrus flavors, with a succulent finish and a touch of candied ginger. Drink now. 98,000 cases made.—*M.W.*

88

CAVALIERE D'ORO Chianti Gabbiano 2018 • \$10

Bright cherry fruit notes announce this juicy, balanced red, which is fresh and moderately long, with light tannins firming the finish. Drink now. 100,000 cases made, 60,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

86

STELLAR Shiraz Western Cape Organics 2019 • \$10

Bright, with lively blood orange acidity running through, lending support to notes of cherry and damson plum and hints of rosemary. Ends with a slightly chewy finish. Drink now. 90,000 cases made, 6,500 cases imported.—*A.Z.*

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.

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.*); Tim Fish (*T.F.*); Alison Napjus (*A.N.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*); Gillian Sciaretta (*G.S.*); Aleks Zecevic (*A.Z.*).