



# TOP 100

## { CELLAR SELECTIONS }

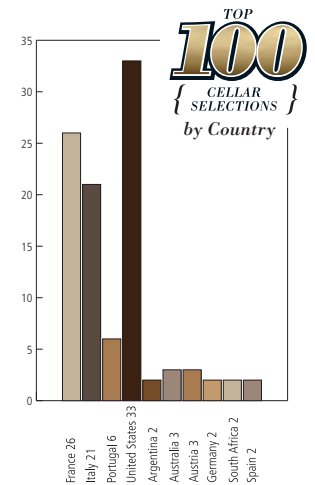
# 2011

### THE YEAR'S MOST IMPORTANT COLLECTIBLES

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

The vast majority—something like 90% or more—of wine purchased in this country is consumed within 48 hours of purchase. This list isn't about that. It's not about pop and pour; it's not about instant gratification. Instead, our list of the year's Top 100 Cellar Selections is about laying the groundwork, anticipating the pleasure and—perhaps 10 years from now—experiencing the delights only a mature wine can offer, secure in the knowledge that you purchased it on release and cellared it carefully until just the right moment.

To a large extent, our list of Top 100 Cellar Selections reflects which classic wine regions released the best vintages during the past year. In 2011, that means the list is heavy on 2007 Barolo and 2006 Brunello di Montalcino, but light on the terrific 2009 Bordeaux and Burgundies, which are largely yet to be reviewed. In the interest of diversity, we sprinkle in wines from a wide range of countries and grape varieties, but since most of these ageworthy wines come from established regions and top vintages, the emphasis is on quality, not value. Despite that, this year's list does feature 30 wines that were originally released for \$50 per bottle or less, including the year's top pick. Multimillionaires shouldn't have all the fun, should they? >>>



Dry Red Wines:	79
Dry White Wines:	12
Sparkling Wines:	3
Sweet Wines:	6
Average Rating:	95.1
Average Price:	\$97.51

PHOTO: JON VAN GORDER

**1**

**96 Poggio Nardone 2006 Brunello di Montalcino.** Poggio Nardone offers an absolutely gorgeous Brunello with incredibly smooth, rich and beautiful aromas of mature blackberry, coffee, tobacco and smoky barbecue sauce. The wine's texture is dense but also silky and the fruit-driven finish lasts many minutes. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.L.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**2**

**99 Stonestreet 2007 Rockfall Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** This is Cabernet Sauvignon lifted to greatness, an impeccable statement concerning this region of the high Mayacamas Mountains on the Sonoma side that, by law, is forced to bear a "valley" appellation. The wine is awesome, vast and complex, fascinating in every aspect, yet locked down in tough tannins that exaggerate the acidity, making the wine functionally undrinkable. It is a beautiful, classic Cabernet, very near perfect, and certainly one of the successes of the vintage. Don't even think of drinking it before 2014, and it should evolve in the bottle for a good 10 years after that. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**3**

**97 Domaine Huët 2010 Le Mont Première Trie Moelleux (Vouvray).** This will be a wonderful wine. Already, it is fine, with lovely acidity, bright and richly sweet at the same time. Yellow fruits mingle with honey, pear, almonds and the intense sweetness of botrytis. Rare Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$69

**4**

**95 Hirsch 2007 San Andreas Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Young and tart in cool-climate acidity, this Pinot needs time in the cellar. It's an exotic wine, spicy and peppery, almost briary, like a Zinfandel, except with flavors of wild forest raspberries, cherries, orange zest and a hint of pine cone. It's as cellarable a Pinot Noir as exists in California. Best after 2015. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**5**



**97 Merryvale 2008 Profile (Napa Valley).** A tremendous wine that shows how Merryvale is absolutely at the top of its game. Impeccable in structure, with refined tannins that are soft and firm at the same time, and a fine cut of acidity. Entirely dry, the Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend is awesome in blackberry, cherry, cassis and oak flavors, with complexities of anise, soy sauce, grilled meats and minerals. Beyond the particulars, it just feels dramatic and rich in the mouth. A great wine that should develop in the bottle over the next decade. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$165

**6**

**97 Casanova di Neri 2006 Tenuta Nuova (Brunello di Montalcino).** A *wow!* wine on every level. This is a lovely, dark, smooth and rich expression that is packed tight with intensity and personality. The biggest, boldest wine by far from Montalcino's 2006 vintage, this bottle will age nicely and add value to your cellar collection. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**7**



**98 Von Strasser 2008 Reserve (Diamond Mountain).** As good as the winery's other 2008s are, this wine raises the stakes. It's bone dry, deeply tannic and marked by classic varietal flavors of blackberries, cassis and dark chocolate, with sweet, smoky oak. Almost a food group in itself for its complex-

ity, it's dazzling now for its sheer luxurious deliciousness, yet is guaranteed to develop over at least the next 10 years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$125

**8**

**98 Le Macchiole 2007 Paleo Cabernet Franc (Toscana).** Paleo (a pure expression of Cabernet Franc from coastal Tuscany) is a drop-dead gorgeous wine with amazing intensity and purity of aromas. You get it all here: bright berry notes, drying mineral, exotic spice, cooling acidity and firm, satisfying structure. It's a rich, velvety and beautiful wine that will award you a memorable drinking experience now or in 10 years time. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —M.L.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$125

**9**

**94 Luis Duarte 2009 Rapariga da Quinta Reserva (Alentejano).** A smooth wine, all its structure encased in warm black fruit and toast. It develops slowly in the mouth, revealing sweet tannins and an opulent juiciness. The acidity is an equally warming addition to the final spice character. Age for 3–4 years. Laurel Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**10**



**96 Reynolds Family Winery 2007 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** A big, vital and important Cabernet that deserves a place in the cellar. It hits the mouth with huge tannins that are tight and locked down, yet sweetly ripe. That contradiction persists throughout the fantastically complex blackberry, cherry, currant and mocha flavors. A very fine, superior wine that exemplifies the Stags Leap iron fist in a velvet glove. As delicious as it is, you should hold this Cabernet for a good six years, and it could easily develop for an additional decade. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$89

**11**

**99 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia 2007 Ornellaia (Bolgheri Superiore).** The 2007 Ornellaia is a masterpiece blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and a tiny element of Petit Verdot. The intensity and purity are outstanding and the wine delivers beautiful notes of chocolate, black cherry, leather, cedar and spice. It's a big, modern expression that closes long with luscious softness and opulent fruit. Hold 10 years or more. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.L.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$200

**12**

**96 Château Léoville-Barton 2008 Saint-Julien.** A dense, beautifully structured wine. It shows intense, ripe fruit with balanced acidity. It's the fine tannins that give it such class, surrounding the fruit, promising long aging. This is a classic for Léoville-Barton. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$90

**13**



**96 Schramsberg 2004 J. Schram (North Coast).** Don't even think about opening this brut for at least six years and probably far longer. Made from 85% Chardonnay and 15% Pinot Noir, it's rich and full-bodied, with elaborately ripe flavors of tangerines, raspberries, roasted almonds and coconut, brioche, honey and vanilla. Good as it is, it simply needs time for everything to transmute into magic. —S.H.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$100

**14**



**98 Fattoria Petrola 2007 Galatrona (Toscana).** Galatrona is an opulent, gorgeous wine (from the excellent 2007 vintage) that shows the very best of Merlot in Italy. Thanks to a unique growing climate located between Florence, Siena and Arezzo, as well as extremely low vineyard yields, the wine feels soft and velvety and imparts long-lasting flavors of black cherry, lively spice, tobacco and cigar box. The true beauty of Galatrona is that it shows all the passion and enthusiasm of its very talented winemaker. Vintus LLC. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$135

**15**

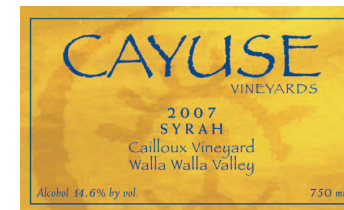


**95 Domaine Serene 2007 Evenstad Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A very elegant and refined Evenstad Reserve, with grace notes of sandalwood and a lovely cherry core. The fruit is immaculate, the concentration focused and lengthy, and the flavors are so artfully blended that the wine is seamless and perfectly balanced. Although it is drinking like a mature wine, there is every reason to cellar wines such as this—it can develop like a fine Burgundy, over decades. —P.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$58

**16**

**96 Buty 2007 Columbia Rediviva Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills).** From the winery's Phinny Hill vineyard, the Columbia Rediviva is 48% Cabernet Sauvignon and 52% Syrah. Complex and satiny, it's a riveting wine, inky and bursting with a sensuous mix of berry, cassis, mocha, loam, cinnamon and spice. Tremendous density and depth; despite its youth the wine curls around the tongue like thick smoke, showing more and more detail. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**17**



**99 Cayuse 2007 Cailloux Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** The only one of the Cayuse Syrahs that is co-fermented with Viognier, this opens with a stunning, floral bouquet, showing extraordinary depth and texture. The wine has a floral top, a thickly fruity middle and a base with smoke, rock and meat. Still very young, it is already a complete, fully realized, near-perfect wine with a finish that extends for many minutes. This should age for 25–30 years. Right now, it's almost frozen in place; still a bit tannic, but with superb aging potential. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

**18**

**97 Marchesi Antinori 2007 Guado al Tasso (Bolgheri Superiore).** Guado al Tasso is a wine that will make you fall uncontrollably in love with Italy. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot are expertly blended to produce amazing intensity, purity and texture. You'll appreciate aromas of mineral, ripe fruit, leather, tobacco and chocolate. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$102



**Words of Winedom**

"Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance."

—Benjamin Franklin



**19**

**97 Franz Hirtzberger 2010 Singerriedel Riesling Smaragd (Wachau).** A supreme wine, the embodiment of Wachau Riesling. The steely character with its parallel acidity is beautifully integrated into grapefruit and perfumed white fruits. A taut, nervy texture adds tension to a wine that will age 10 years or more. Vin Divino. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$144

**20**

**94 Jean-Luc Baldès 2007 Clos Triguédina Les Petites Cailles (Cahors).** The third and most impressive wine in a series of single-vineyard wines, from the 900-foot plateau above the Lot River. This is a wine to age, very mineral in character and very structured, with tight tannins. Keep for six years and more. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$30

**21**



**95 Trisaetum 2010 Estates Reserve Riesling (Ribbon Ridge).** A two-barrel selection consisting of the favorite sweeter barrel from each of the two estate vineyards. Intense, bright and focused, with candied lemon/lime fruit flavors. The power and concentration of the wine is remarkable. —P.C.  
abv: 11% Price: \$32

**The Black Sheep of Barolo**

While Barolo Chinato is included under the standard Barolo DOCG designation, it is quite the unique bottling. To produce it, Barolo wine is steeped in an array of ingredients including cinchona bark and mint, making for a great digestif.

**22**

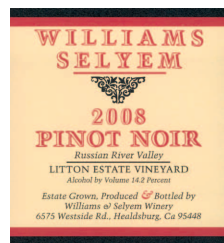


**96 Cordero di Montezemolo 2007 Bricco Gattera (Barolo).** This is an exceptional wine that will leave a mark, and a memory, with those who drink it. It's irresistible because of its brilliant, but simple, philosophy. Traditional Nebbiolo tones of cola, licorice and pressed violets are set beautifully against modern tones of spice, chocolate and vanilla. It's the integration of these two extremes that make this Barolo so important. Omnivines Distribution. —M.L.  
abv: NA Price: \$80

**23**

**98 Campbells NV Isabella Rare Tokay (Rutherglen).** Dark amber in color and going greenish at the rim, the basis of this wine is clearly old stocks going back well over 60 years. It's full-bodied, unctuous and superrich, oozing with molasses and rancio character, but balanced by citrusy notes. The finish is incredibly sweet and long, coating the mouth with coffee-like essences that linger for minutes. Click Wine Group. —J.C.  
abv: 18% Price: \$97/375 ml

**24**



**98 Williams Selyem 2008 Litton Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This is the best of the winery's new releases, both for drinking now and for cellaring. Combines power and elegance, with upscale flavors of cherries, currants, cola, rhubarbs, dried herbs and oak, wrapped into devastat-

ingly rich tannins and a perfect touch of acidity. Should age well for 10 years. —S.H.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$100

**25**



**96 Poggio al Tesoro 2007 Dedicato a Walter (Toscana).** An impressive wine from an impressive vintage, this Tuscan expression of Cabernet Franc opens with opulent fruit notes of blackberry, prune, plum and ripe cherry backed by clove, pepper, leather and cigar box. The tannins are firm and silky and the finish is long and velvety. Winebow. —M.L.  
abv: NA Price: \$90

**26**

**97 Rasa Vineyards 2008 Creative Impulse DuBrul Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Yakima Valley).** A fine expression of the special strengths of the DuBrul vineyard. The fruit is pure and juicy, a riot of blueberry, blackberry and cassis. There is a focused thread of fresh herb and as the nose expands the baking spices kick in beautifully. A wine to study and explore; it can continue to evolve for hours, if not days. —P.C.  
abv: NA Price: \$95

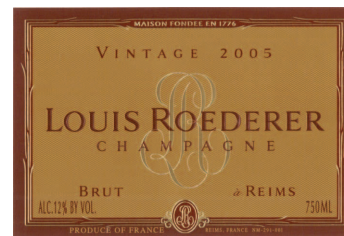
**27**

**98 Gaja 2006 Sperss (Langhe).** Sperss (the name is inspired by the local word for "nostalgia") is a vineyard located in the Barolo territory of Serralunga. Angelo Gaja adds 6% Barbera to the wine for brightness and freshness but the overall ensemble shows so much more than that. It delivers sophisticated softness and a velvety texture that is backed by exotic spice and loads of wild berry and licorice. Add huge depth and intensity and you have the criteria for a cellar-worthy wine. Will be ready to drink after 220. Terlato Wines International. —M.L.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$255

**28**

**95 Terra Valentine 2007 Wurtele Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain).** A well-made wine, showing lots of terroir in the mineral-infused blackberry, black currant, chocolate and anise flavors. The tannins are structurally superb, while the finish is dry and complex. A very fine wine that should gather momentum for at least a decade. —S.H.  
abv: NA Price: \$65

**29**



**95 Louis Roederer 2005 Brut (Champagne).** A superbly rich and creamy wine, powered by ripe Pinot Noir, with elegance and élan. The wine is concentrated, powerful, packed with intense white fruit flavors and citrus. Always at the back is the richness. For aging, Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$70

**30**



**99 Charles Smith 2007 Royal City Stoneridge Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley).** Depth and texture dominate; it's all whole-cluster fruit, aged in new barriques. This fine follow-up to the 2006 features a little more delicacy, with a lovely floral component and some earth. The depth is astonishing in the weight and texture and the way the wine plays out

across the palate. The finish never ends: a glorious mix of black cherry, earth, herb, spice and rock. —P.G.  
abv: NA Price: \$140

**31**

**95 Sesta di Sopra 2006 Brunello di Montalcino.** Sesta di Sopra delivers a superb and beautiful Brunello with impossible richness and gorgeous intensity. Aromas include black cherry, vanilla, dark mocha, freshly ground espresso and a subtle touch of mineral dryness at the end. It's equally impressive on the palate with smooth, thick intensity. Premier Wine Co. —M.L.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**32**



**95 Quinta do Vale Meão 2008 Red Wine (Douro).** One of Portugal's great wines, this epitomizes the minerality and the rich, dark fruit of the Douro. It is intensely structured, powered by dark tannins, with rich berry fruit, layers of wood and acidity. With the extra freshness and pure fruits that are typical of 2008, this will age for many years. W.J. Deutsch & Sons. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

**33**

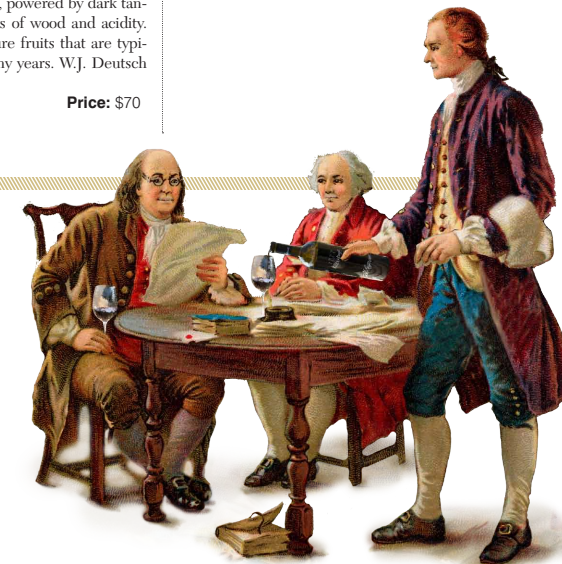
**94 Bernard Baudry 2008 La Croix Boisée (Chinon).** With a touch of initial mineral austerity, this still-young wine offers tannins and a solid structure as well as black cherry and dark plum fruits. Beautifully balanced, it will develop slowly, leaving its minerality and rounding out. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$37

**34**

**95 Mark Ryan 2008 Dead Horse (Red Mountain).** This is the first wine to be blended each year, though it is not labeled a reserve. The new vintage has amazing depth, running down through a litany of red and black fruits, into veins of earth and tannin and graphite, and finishing with densely textured barrel notes of toast, coffee and bitter chocolate. Beautifully proportioned, deep and cellarworthy. —P.G.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$45

**T.J. as Sommelier**

Thomas Jefferson's fine wine appreciation gained him the responsibility of helping stock the wine cellars of the first five U.S. presidents.



**35**



**95 Aurelio Settimo 2007 Rocche dell'Annunziata (Barolo).** Wonderful, this is a wine that will blow you away. It's magnificent on all levels, from its complexity to its long endurance on the palate. Aromas of red fruit, roasted coffee bean, smoked pancetta and soft spice build in intensity and brightness the longer the wine stays in the glass. Firm, velvety tannins promise long aging potential. Masciarelli Wine Co. —M.L.  
abv: NA Price: \$65

**36**



**96 Vineyard 7&8 2008 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain).** It's hard to exaggerate the purity of this wine, which is 100% Cabernet. It startles for the intensity of mountain blackberries and raspberries, and then a firm minerality kicks in, along with the tannins, providing grounding structure. The finish lasts for a full minute. Winemaker Luc Morlet has really hit the jackpot with this dry, spectacularly complex young wine, which will develop for at least a decade. —S.H.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$125

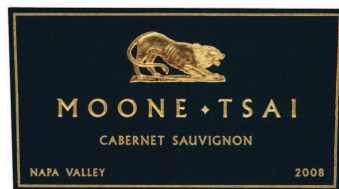
**37**

**94 William Fèvre 2008 Montmains Premier Cru Domaine Fèvre (Chablis).** A very taut wine. Yes, it has richness and weight with ripe fruits, but the main character is dominated by a tense line of acidity, of very crisp fruit and of an intense steely texture. For aging over 4-5 years. Henriot Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

**38**

**95 Januk 2007 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** This includes grapes from Block One (the 1972 planting) and several other more recent plantings at Champoux; essentially this is pure Cabernet Sauvignon. It smells like a fine Bordeaux, still very young and tight, with well-defined layers of flavor. Black cherry, cassis, lead pencil, smoke and baking spices are tightly stacked and particularly apparent in the aromas. Give this one a decade or more in the cellar; if you are drinking now, decant for at least two hours. —P.G.  
abv: NA Price: \$50

**39**



**95 Moone-Tsai 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** One sip is all it takes to fall in love with this Cabernet, which contains a little Merlot. It's rich and lush and authoritative on every level. The texture is soft as velvet, but the tannins are firm, backing up blackberry, cherry, chocolate, cassis, mineral and new oak flavors that are complex and linger long into the spicy finish. Such are the tannins that the wine is likely to age well through 2016, at least. —S.H.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$75

**40**

**94 Poeira 2008 Red (Douro).** Wonderfully balanced and structured, this is a wine that gives a complete series of flavors from chocolate, black stone fruits, layers of wood and finally the essential acidity. Its texture is grainy, dusty, firm and ready to age for several years. Vinum Wine Importing and Distributing LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**41**



**95 Betz Family 2008 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Seductive and complex, the inviting aromas mix incense, blueberries, cassis, licorice and threads of herb and graphite. Flavors are wrapped tightly and unfold gracefully through a long finish. The herbal side of Cabernet is noted without being intrusive. Classic, deep and expressive. —P.G.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$60

**42**

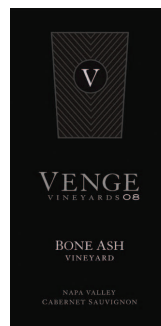


**94 La Rasina 2006 Brunello di Montalcino.** La Rasina offers a beautifully dark and austere expression of Brunello with almost exaggerated intensity. The wine is dense, extracted and velvety with smooth cherry and vanilla backed by a firm tannic backbone. Drink after 2015. Montecastelli Selections. —M.L.  
abv: 14% Price: \$44

**43**

**94 Donelan 2009 Kobler Family Vineyard Syrah (Green Valley).** An amazing wine, massively concentrated in fruit, yet beautifully balanced. Clearly one of the greatest California Syrahs of the vintage. Dry and complex, it shows intricate flavors of blackberries, Canadian bacon, mushu pork sauce, black pepper and smoky cedar flavors. Gorgeous and compelling, but far too young. Drink 2012-2018. —S.H.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$45

**44**



**95 Venge 2008 Bone Ash Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A beautiful, brilliant but immature Cabernet. It's massively rich in blackberry and cherry pie filling, cassis, dark chocolate and fine, smoky oak flavors, wrapped into thick but fine, sweet tannins. Shows elegance and finesse despite the power, but needs time. Best after 2014. —S.H.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$76

**45**

**95 Adelsheim 2009 Nicholas Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** The best of a great flight of single-vineyard 2009 Pinots from Adelsheim, this new entry into the lineup is all muscle and black fruits. It is power-packed with dense, rich flavors, nuanced with exotic spices and black tea, moving into silky tannins and an extremely long, satisfying finish. —P.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$90

**46**



**94 Fontanafredda 2007 Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo).** Thanks to new ownership and recent dynamic changes, the historic Fontanafredda estate is poised to bring us many beautiful surprises in the future. This gorgeous Nebbiolo from the opulent 2007 vintage delivers delicate floral aromas of red rose and violet in front of espresso, chocolate, cola and black cherry. Drink after 2018. Palm Bay International. —M.L.  
abv: NA Price: \$45

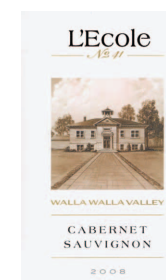
**47**

**94 Domaine Weinbach 2008 Altenbourg Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Rich and sweet wine in character with a Vendange Tardive. It is gorgeous and opulent, while balanced and elegant. The acidity is in wonderful contrast to the smoky honey and orange zest flavors. A hint of bitterness suggests, for sure, that this wine will be even more wonderful when aged. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

**48**

**95 Louis Jadot 2005 Les Baudes Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny).** This is a wonderful wine, very ripe, the blackberry and sweet fruits all here. While the tannins are solid and concentrated, they are in the center of a lush, beautifully rich series of flavors that range from fruit to licorice to spice. The wine shows great aging potential. Kobrand. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$95

**49**



**94 L'Ecole No. 41 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Fragrant with smoky red fruits, this tight, young, pure Cabernet Sauvignon brings a generous mix of raspberry, pomegranate and cherry fruit into play. The firm and supple tannins are folded in seamlessly, with hints of iron, coffee and chocolate. —P.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$37

**50**

**94 Benanti 2006 Serra della Contessa (Sicilia).** A stellar, superb wine that embodies all the grace, power and charm of the Mount Etna volcano in Sicily. This highly unique and distinctive territory has shaped an elegant expression of Nerello Mascalese (with 20% Nerello Cappuccio) offering aromas of wild berry set against delicately toasted pistachio nut. In the mouth, the wine is silky, compact and very persistent. Stellar Cellars Imports. —M.L.  
abv: 14% Price: \$49

**51**



**95 Kuleto Estate 2006 India Ink Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Here's one for the cellar, guaranteed. It shows all the classic hallmarks of an age-worthy Napa Cabernet. Dry, tannic and closed, with massively concentrated blackberry and cassis flavors, and a firm grounding of minerals. Very fine and



**Post-Constitution Bash**

After the U.S. Constitution was outlined, the 55 drafters celebrated with 54 bottles of

Madeira, 60 bottles of claret, 8 bottles of whiskey, 22 bottles of Port, 8 bottles of hard cider, 12 beers and 7 rather large bowls of alcoholic punch.



54

57

**95 Kapsandy Family Winery 2008 Endre (Yountville).** Here's one for the cellar. It's a big, dry, muscular wine, assertive in tannins, with mineral-driven blackberry and black currant flavors. Muscular and intense. It should provide great drinking starting in 2015 and for many years after. A very great expression of its vineyard, which is basically the old Beringer State Lane Vineyard. —S.H.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$90

**95 Remo Farina 2004 Monte Fante Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This Riserva Amarone proves to be an extremely elegant and sophisticated wine with enormously rich notes of black fruit supported by savory tones of exotic spice, leather, dried tobacco and beef jerky. The wine is beautifully polished and smooth, but it also delivers unforgettable power and depth. Banville & Jones Wine Merchants. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

**94 Bacalhóa Wines of Portugal 2007 Palácio da Bacalhóa (Península de Setúbal).** A selection from the Quinta da Bacalhóa vineyard, this sumptuous wine layers the darkest fruit flavors with a structure that is solid, dense and powerful. Juicy plums, licorice and a firm, starchy edge go with wood aging and bone-dry tannins. Age for 5-6 years. Adminal Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$49

55

58

**95 Silvio Grasso 2007 Ciabot Manzoni (Barolo).** This is a wine to fall immediately in love with. How can anyone resist this density, richness in color and concentration? Black spice and mature fruit aromas are woven around delicate touches of red rose, cherry cola and mesquite smoke. The wine's generous persistence can be counted in many long minutes. Drink after 2018. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$93

**94 Emmerich Knoll 2008 Ried Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau).** The Knoll Grüner style is for a hint of steel, doses of minerality and not too much ornateness despite the wonderfully elaborate traditional bottle labels. The intense fruit, spice and peach character is balanced by acidity, a taut, nervy edge. It will certainly age for 5-6 years. Circo Vino. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

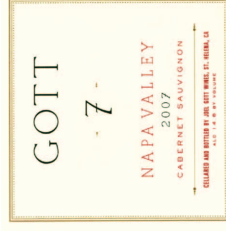
56

59

**94 Gramercy Cellars 2009 The Third Man Red (Columbia Valley).** This Pictorial-like blend of 50% Grenache, 25% Syrah, and 22% Mourvèdre is pungent and spicy, with a bit of menthol in the nose. Supple and luxurious fruit, a mix of raspberry and black fruits, baking spices and sweet barrel flavors. Powerful and rich, this is a big wine with tobacco and clove highlights and a little heat in the finish. —P.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**94 Rivetto 2007 Serralunga (Barolo).** An up-and-coming star of Barolo, Serralunga, Rivetto delivers a supesized wine with immense concentration and rock-solid structure. In fact, this wine needs another 10-15 years of aging to complete its long evolution. Already present, however, are tonic tones of red cherry, coffee, mocha, spice and cured meat. Vintage Imports, Inc. —M.L.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$50

60



**Millennia of Experience**  
Burgundy has been producing wine for over 2,000 years. Prior to the Romans conquering the region in 51 B.C., the Celts were already producing wine.



**96 Leonetti Cellar 2008 Reserve (Waia Waia Valley).** In comparison with the 2008 Cabernet this is the bigger wine, less sleek, more chewy. As it opens in the glass, the aromas display incense scents, and there is assertive, blocky, chewy fruit—especially black cherry. The tannins are also bigger, blockier, more substantial than the Cabernet. With hours of breathing time, exotic spices (saffron and more) emerge. —P.C.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$135

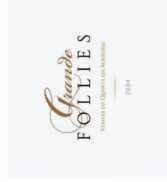
**94 Joel Gott 2007 GOTT 7 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Shows a tightly wound structure, with big, hard tannins wrapped like a vise around fresh flavors of blackberries, cherries and cassis. There's a firm, mineraly tang of iron at the core of this

ageworthy wine. Better after 2015, when it should begin to mellow. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**61**

**94 Laura Zantila 2007 Barlow Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga).** Very dark, rich and dramatic. Massively constructed, with vast reserves of blackberry jam, blackstrap molasses, mocha, smoked meat, mislu plum sauce and sweet, smoky oak. The tannins are big, ripe and astringent. A great Cabernet that clearly needs plenty of time. Drink 2015 and beyond. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**62**



**94 Aveleda 2004 Grande Follies Vinhas da Quinta da Agueira (Beiras).** A superb, concentrated wine, powered by ripe fruits that are now reaching their peak. The wine has a dense texture, with rich berry and sweet plum fruits, bitter chocolate and solid, dark tannins. Age for 5-6 years. FJN Fine Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**63**

**95 Joseph Drouhin 2007 Marquis de Laguigne-Montrachet.** The magnificent wines from the Marquis de Laguigne estate are produced by Joseph Drouhin. This Morgonot is rich, intense, beautifully concentrated. It has toast, apricot and peach fruits to go

with its tight mineral texture. Delicious now, but will age for many years. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$99

**64**

**95 Domaine de Chevalier 2008 Blanc (Pescac-Léognan).** A superb wine. Oily textured, very rich, its fruit ripe. Pear, honey and yellow fruits are allied with taut acidity and light hints of wood. Likely to age over many years. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$100

**65**

**95 Hestan 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Another excellent Cabernet from Hestan. It's riper and juicier than the '06, showing the baby-fat of this famous vintage. But it's no less complex or ageworthy, just drinkable earlier. Shows concentrated blackberry, black currant, anise, licorice and smoky oak flavors, wrapped into dramatic, thick, firm tannins. Should develop over the next decade and beyond. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$100

**66**

**94 Grimaldi Bruna 2007 Bedarina (Barolo).** Barolo Bedarina deserves praise for the intensity of its aromas and the fine quality of its mouthfeel. Bold oak tones of spice and toasted hazelnut will soon fall to the back of the wine's bright fruit and cola flavors. Give it time, patience and drink after 2018. Premium Brands. —M.L.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$32

**67**

**95 Billecart-Salmon 2000 Cuvée Nicolas François Billecart Brut (Champagne).** A wine that strikes a great balance between its intense fruitiness and a pure steely character. It makes it a dry Champagne, while it also has the richness to make it a great wine. It has weight, intensity and several years more aging. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$90

**68**

**94 Merry Edwards 2008 Meredith Estate Méthode à L'Ancienne Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** An enormous wine, rich and complex and tannic enough to cellar. Made from the estate vineyard in the Sebastopol area, it floods the mouth with savory cherry, cola, rhu barb, cocoa and cinnamon spice flavors, wrapped into a silky, velvety texture. Feels classic, but you do want to give it some time. Drink 2012-2016. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$54

**69**

**93 Château la Caminade 2008 La Commandery (Cahors).** Toasty aromas are followed by intense black plum fruits twisted with tannins and polished with wood. It's an impressive, powerful wine, with a complex structure. Firm at this stage, it need 4-5 years at least to age. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**70**

**94 La Querciola 2007 Donna Bianca (Barolo).** What a wonderful surprise! Barolo Donna Bianca is a beautiful wine with a long list of special attributes. First is the wine's complexity, which shines through in the many aromas, from pressed violets to Indian spice. Second is the wine's natural richness and smoothness of texture. Third is its ability to age a long time in your cellar. Vignaioli. —M.L.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$55

**71**

**94 Domaine Chandon de Brailles 2006 Ile de Vergeselles Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergeselles).** A ripe, red berry fruit-flavored wine, highlighted with sweet cherries. At this young stage, it shows more fruit than structure. Tannins are here, likely to flesh out the wine as it develops. For the moment, enjoy the great swathes of sweet fruit. David Bowler Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$53



**Tantalize Your Tongue**

Sweet and salty combinations make for a perfect pairing. Just as a chocolate peanut butter cup combines these two taste sensations, a luscious Sauternes and a hunk of Roquefort will do the same.

**72**

**93 Casa Cadaval 2007 Marquesa de Cadaval (Tejo).** New wood gives this wine a polished feel, its berry fruits pushing through dense tannins. It is balanced in the sense that fruit and wood are coming well together, but this impressive wine needs several years' aging. VOS Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**73**

**94 Château Giscours 2008 Margaux.** A dense wine, powerful while also elegant. It shows all the best character of a grand Margaux, with fine tannins as well as dense structure. It will age well. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$60

**74**

**95 Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2008 Clos Des Hospices Dans les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** This Grand Cru within a Grand Cru is a magnificent, opulent wine. It has all the power of a great white Burgundy, the richness allied to minerality and then given weight by toast, yellow fruits and a pure, straight line of acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$110



**Ultimate Cellar Selection**

In 1867, the world's oldest bottle was unearthed near the town of Speyer, Germany, during the excavation of a vineyard. The bottle has been traced to the 325 A.D. vintage and is displayed at the Historisches Museum der Pfalz.

**75**



**95 Rocca di Frassinello 2008 Baffonero (Maremma).** Baffonero ("black mustache") is a pure expression of Merlot and represents a new generation of exciting super-Tuscans from the southern part of Tuscany. Rocca di Frassinello is betting on this wine to match the greatest Italian Merlots and this first vintage is very impressive indeed. Soft cherry is followed by chocolate, exotic spice, tobacco and clove. Vias Imports. —M.L.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$120

**76**

**94 Eyrie 2007 Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The Eyrie reserve is a single-vineyard selection from the estate's oldest vines, planted between 1967 and 1973. The longevity of these wines is a proven fact; they evolve (and generally improve) for decades. This is already delicious, smoky, almost ethereal, with truly Burgundian finesse and depth. This wine, as much or more than any other, expresses the potential of Oregon Pinot Noir to approach the majesty of fine Burgundy. —P.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$62

**77**

**95 Château Pontet-Canet 2008 Pauillac.** Smooth, with dense tannins hidden behind the ripe, pure fruit, this important wine shows class and an impeccable balance of fruit and tannin. Rich as well as structured, this is a beautiful wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$125

**78**

**95 Albert Bichot 2005 Domaine du Clos (Vosne-Romanée).** A superb wine, the tannins carrying along the dense structure with ease and grace. The purity of the ripe berry fruit is very marked, with acidity giving freshness to the sweet wine. The whole ensemble is developing well, but will need many years' aging. A French Paradox. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$115

**79**



**93 R&A Pfaff 2010 Hundseileiten Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel).** Rich, smooth and opulent wine from the top Hundseileiten vineyard. It is driven by a taut line of acidity that is surrounded by ripe pear and melon flavors and a rounded, concentrated texture. Fruit is right to the fore in a refined way, and pepper is on the finish. Palm Bay International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$31

**80**

**97 Domaine Dujac 2009 Bonnes-Mares.** Firm, but so generous and elegant. There is an ethereal perfumed character, along with mineral and earth notes. The tannins are integrating well in this powerful, impressive, age-worthy wine. The Sorting Table. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$344

**81**



**97 Domaine Leflaive 2008 Bienvenues Bâtard-Montrachet.** A marvelously intense wine, the Chardonnay singing with light toast and acidity. The wine has layers of green apple, spice, a tight texture and orange-zest highlights. Age for at least seven years. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$410

**82**

**94 Château du Cèdre 2007 Le Cèdre (Cahors).** High toast aromas are filled out on the palate with rich, concentrated fruit and bitter, chocolate flavors. This powerful, impressive wine is spicy and densely packed. At this stage, it feels hard edged, but that will fill out in the next 3–4 years as the wine broadens out. *Martine's Wines.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**83**

**94 Château Pavie Macquin 2008 Saint-Emilion.** An impressive wine, beautifully structured, never too powerful, very elegant. If it feels a little austere at this stage, that is because the structure is dominating the fruit. Give it 5–6 years and the full splendor will be revealed. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$80

**84**

**97 Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2008 Deidesheimer Hohenmorgen Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Pfalz).** Exceeds even this producer's stunning, beerenauslese, featuring an even more intoxicating perfume of honey, dried apricots and candied pineapple, with slightly more acidity to provide balance to the extra level of sweetness, so much so that this wine comes across as refreshing on the finish, despite the incredibly high levels of sugar. Drink now–2050, possibly longer. *Valckenberg International, Inc.* —J.C.  
**abv:** 6.5% **Price:** \$245/\$75 ml

**85**

**98 Château Haut-Brion 2007 Blanc (Pessac-Léognan).** The palate opens slowly, offering an initial citrus character, followed by wood and then, finally, wonderfully rich but taut fruit. There is still a toast character here, with apricots and pear on top of the citrus, but it is still only just developing. In 10–15 years, it will be a magnificent wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$800



**Napoleon's Sweet Tooth**

After Napoleon Bonaparte's defeat at Waterloo, the French emperor turned to the revered South African dessert wine Vin de Constance to ease his qualms.

on; aromas of dried orange peel, gingerbread, toasted macadamia nut and a drizzle of molasses lead into flavors of dried red plum and fig dusted with Nutella powder and soft white pepper. Complex, spicy and full, with an endless finish. *Gérard Bertrand USA.* —L.B.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$380

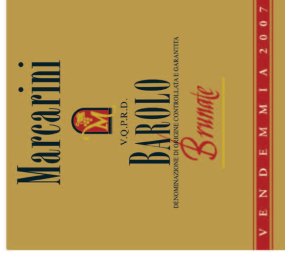
**89**

**94 Maison Jessiaume 2008 Chambertin.** At the pinnacle of Gevey-Chambertin, Chambertin Grand Cru produces immensely powerful wines. This Jessiaume fits the profile well, while also having delicious juiciness to go with the dark tannins and acidity. The result is stylish as well as concentrated. Age for 10 years at least. *USA Wine West.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$115

**90**

**93 Bodega Catena Zapata 2007 Catena Alta Malbec (Mendoza).** One sniff tells you plenty: There's attractive spice, coffee and leather to go with rich molasses and broad black fruit aromas. The palate maintains balance due to fine, fresh acidity, and the flavor profile brings mocha, coffee, berry, plum and toast. Delicious, deep, layered and refined. Will age for at least 5–6 years, but best from 2012–2014. *Winebow.* —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91**



**Price:** \$66

**93 Joan Simó 2006 Les Eres Vinyes Velles (Priorat).** Pungent up front, with dry bayberry, leather, jam notes and schisty minerality. The palate is all about structure, snappy acids, sneaky tannins and lively full-force red fruit and plum flavors. Like in the past, this is a top-notch Priorato that holds its form through the acid-driven finish. Best from 2011–2015. *Fine Estates From Spain.* —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.6%

**87**

**Price:** \$80

**94 Domaine de Courcel 2007 Les Rugiens Premier Cru (Pommard).** This has the great aromatic complexity you expect from Rugiens. Generous and full textured, this is a full-bodied, rounded wine. Sweet red fruits, touched by spice, are well balanced with a streak of acidity. Wait for four years, at least. *Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits.* —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$80

**86**

**93 Marcarini 2007 Brunate (Barolo).** This Barolo from the Brunate cru shows gorgeous characteristics of mature fruit, spice, natural rubber, asphalt, tar and root beer. The wine's personality is marked by a comforting, almost familiar territory-driven feel that recalls the greatest Nebbiolo-based wines from Piedmont. Save this bottle in your cellar for 10 years or more. *Empson (USA) Ltd.* —M.L.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$54



**92**



**94 Hanzell 2007 Ambassador's 1953 Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley).** Shows the dryness, acidity and tightly wound minerality of all Hanzell's young Chardonnays, but with a depth of citrus and apricot fruit that marks it as a reserve. It really warrants time in the cellar. Best after 2013, and should develop for several more years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$130

**93**

**93 Edgebaston 2008 GS Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** Hearty and complex, this beautifully intense yet balanced Cab is begging for some time in the cellar. Strong aromas of cassis, forest berries, licorice, clove and bittersweet chocolate flood the nose, while flavors of black plum, leather hide, roasted cocoa nibs and cigar box spice unfold in the lush mouth and transition through to the long finish. With everything so proportionately big and powerful, give this until 2014–2015. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

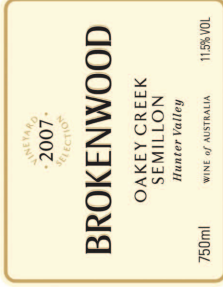
**94**

**96 St. Urbans-Hof 2008 Leiwener Laurentius Riesling Beerenauslese (Mosel-Saar-Ruwer).** From a vintage not known for its super-sweet selections, this wine is a revelation. Honey and bergamot notes mingle easily on the nose, while the palate unfolds to reveal layers of honey, dried apricots and orange marmalade. It's rich, viscous and concentrated without any heaviness, with a finish that's sweet and lingering. This should age through 2040 easily. HB Wine Merchants. —J.C.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$175/\$75 ml

**95**

**94 Domaine de la Pousse d'Or 2009 Corton Clos du Roi (Corton).** A powerful wine, very structured with wood, coffee notes and dark tannins. It feels extracted, although the weight of fruit is certainly enough to handle that. It's for the long haul, a concentrated wine that needs at least 10 years. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$163

**96**



**92 Brokenwood 2007 Oakley Creek Semillon (Hunter Valley).** Of Brokenwood's three current-release Semillons, this one gets the nod as the most complete. It's light to medium in weight, but oh so long and precise on the finish, and intense yet seemingly transparent, like spider's silk, with fleeting glimpses of wet stones and moss. Try between 2015 and 2025. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$32

**97**

**92 Glenelly 2008 Lady May Cabernet Sauvignon (Simonsberg-Stellenbosch).** It's really a shame that only 25 cases of this wine were imported, as it's a fantastic Cab that's sure to compare favorably to some of your favorites. Black currant leaf, fennel, crushed violet and dried tobacco are intricately woven into the dark fruit aromas. The medium-weight mouth has a texture like crushed velvet, with firm tannins and assertive flavors of cassis, cigar and espresso that linger endlessly. Strong and a bit tight; try holding another 2–5 years. Cape Classics. —L.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**98**

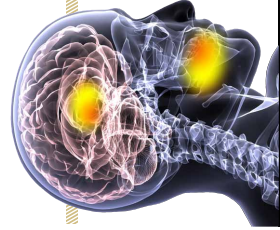
**92 Trapiche 2008 Viña Cristina y Bibiana Coleto Single Vineyard Malbec (Mendoza).** A little bit hickory-dominated on the bouquet, but also giving balsamic notes, blackberry and chocolate mint. The palate is linear due to a streak of cutting acidity, while the palate is also snappy with wild raspberry and bright plum flavors and plenty of wood tannin. A teasy finish with espresso and chocolate is fine and long. Drink now through 2017. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**99**

**91 Pentolds 2008 Bin 389 Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (South Australia).** Pentolds Chief Winemaker Peter Gago is enthusiastic about his 2008 Shirazes, including this blend of 52% Cabernet and 48% Shiraz. Bin 389 continues to represent excellent value in a cellar-worthy red; it's richly fruited, with oak in matching intensity yet not jammy or oaky, and the velvety finish lasts a good long time. Drink now–2025, and probably beyond. Treasury Wine Estates. —J.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**100**

**94 Numanthia-Ternes, S.L. 2008 Termanthia (Toro).** Lush and classy, with earthy blackberry, hard spice, chocolate and lemon peel aromas. The palate is a mile deep and tannic, but it's not too hard or mean, and it tastes fantastic, with ripe blackberry, chocolate, spice and toast flavors. Complex and masculine, with tobacco and woodspice on the finish. Drink from 2012 through 2016. Moët Hennessy USA. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$200



**The Brain is to Blame!**

Ever feel like after tasting many wines they all start to taste the same? While many people assume their taste buds and sense of smell grow tired, researchers believe the brain's concentration is to blame. For rejuvenation, take a short break and allow your mind to rest.

For a PDF of the Top 100 Cellar Selections list, visit [winemag.com/2011cellar](http://winemag.com/2011cellar)