

BUYING GUIDE



CONTENTS

Spectator Selections

- 131 Highly Recommended
131 Collections
133 Sweet Buys
134 Best Values
132 About the Buying Guide

New Wines From Around the World

- 135 Australia
136 Austria, Chile, France
139 Germany
139 California

Tasting Reports

- 140 Bordeaux
144 Germany

MARCH 11, 2011 WINE SPECTATOR 129

New Releases: Austria / Chile / France

AUSTRIA

93 Bründlmayer Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese Kamptal Zöbinger Heiligenstein 2000 \$93/\$75ml The aroma lives on the edge, with a hint of acetone to the pungent orange peel and honey-suckle notes, but the palate brings it all back down to earth, showing honey, citrus and juicy flavors, well-balanced and ending with a long aftertaste of honey-suckle and orange peel. Drink now through 2012.—B.S.

93 Schloss Gobelsburg Grüner Veltliner Eiswein Kamptal 2001 \$45/\$375ml A waxy, lead-in aroma introduces this intensely sweet yet delicate dessert wine. The flavors are reminiscent of peach and apple, fresh and punctuated by a bright acidity. Fine length. Perfect for a fruit tart. Drink now through 2012. 40 cases made.—B.S.

93 Krat Südburg wonderful intense in the unadorned, this is a taste of Sweet, but Cabernet?

92 Die auslese 7 \$100/\$7 sweet off von, sport impressive now there

92 Wini Neusiedl Thick and lively acidity, which provides a perfect backdrop for the grapefruit and fig flavors. Great concentration and precision of flavors, just a tad cloying on the finish. Drink now through 2010. 250 cases made.—B.S.

93 Prager Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Weissenkirchner Weitenberg 2001 \$40 Extremely fragrant, delivering violet, peach, cardamom and white pepper aromas and flavors across a silky, graceful structure. There's fine acidity, and the whole presentation is beautifully integrated, with a lingering aftertaste of minerals. Drink now through 2012.—B.S.

92 F. Schöberl Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Spitzler Hochrain 2001 \$86 A honey, seductive floral, tropical fruit and citrus aroma and flavors are packed into an elegant frame and supported by a vibrant structure. Fine balance and harmony, with a lingering aftertaste of minerals. Drink now through 2010.—B.S.

91 Heider Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Kamptal Thal Novemberlese 2001 \$27 A silvery white, ending smoke and nut oil flavors with accents of grapefruit and white pepper, this warms a mineral thread from start to finish, backed by a firm, stoney structure. Drink now through 2010. 150 cases made.—B.S.

91 Knoll Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Lobbeer Vinthochkühling 2001 \$60 Dense, backward and full-bodied, this is a powerful white, with more mineral notes and structure than fruit at present. It has fine acidity underneath and a terrific finish, so give it time to harmonize and express itself. Best from 2004 through 2012.—B.S.

CHILE

Chardonnay

90 Concha y Toro Chardonnay Pinque Marques de Casa Concha 2001 \$24 For hot jaws, this tasty Chardonnay delivers plenty of fig, quince, pear and toast flavors, with hints of honey-suckle and minerals clinging to on the finish for added effect. Open-knit and delicious. Drink now through

dark plum and birch flavors that are ripe and fleshy, with alluring spice and smoke notes coming in on the finish. Good density, but stays elegant. Drink now through 2004.—J.M.

87 MontGras Merlot Colchagua Valley Reserva 1999 \$10 Shows plum, graphite, roasted coffee bean and cocoa notes, with a chunky, butter-fleshed finish. More like a Cab than Merlot, but still solid. Drink now through 2004.—J.M.

86 Las Villas de la Colina Merlot Made Valley Reserva 2001 \$8 See Best Values, page 135.

86 La Playa Merlot Colchagua Valley Estate Reserva 1999 \$10 There's a good core of plum and black cherry, with some obvious sweet toast as well. Fresh, with a lingering, chocolatey finish. Drink now. 8,500 cases made.—J.M.

93 Prager Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Trocken Wachau Weissenkirchner Weitenberg 2001 \$40

Extremely fragrant, delivering violet, peach, cardamom and white pepper aromas and flavors across a silky, graceful structure. There's fine acidity, and the whole presentation is beautifully integrated, with a lingering aftertaste of minerals. Drink now through 2012.—B.S.

85 Las Villas de la Colina Chardonnay Casillero Valley Reserva 2001 \$8 See Best Values, page 135.

CHILE

Red

89 Wini Montes Merlot Santa Cruz Alpha Apalta Viequand 2000 \$22 Lovely balance, with black cherry, currant and berry flavors offset by hints of cocoa, vanilla and spice. Full-bodied, but elegant, with nice length on the finish. Well-done. Drink now through 2004. 12,000 cases made.—J.M.

88 Wini Carmen Carmenère-Cabernet Sauvignon Malpo Valley Reserva 2000 \$25 Lovely aromas of dried currants, spice and tobacco, with the flavors evolving on the palate. Understated in style, but ripe and well-balanced through the finish. Drink now through 2004. 15,000 cases made.—J.M.

88 Wini Carmen Merlot Rapel Valley Reserva 2000 \$25 Full and juicy, with blackberry and black cherry fruit augmented by cedar, vanilla and coffee notes. Sleazy finish lingers. Tasty. Drink now through 2004. 16,000 cases made.—J.M.

88 Wini Errázuriz Merlot Aconcagua Valley Max Reserva 2000 \$25 This Merlot has good

1,200 cases made.—J.S.

89 Château Mouton Bordeaux Supérieur 2000 \$15 Decadent aromas of crushed plums, with rose water. Full-bodied, silky and refined. Good value. Not exactly the Mouton, but very good indeed. A real fraction of the price. Best after 2005.—J.S.

89 Château Le Pin Beaujolais Bordeaux Supérieur 2000 \$20 Very impressive concentration and balance. The blackberry and wet earth character jumps out of the glass. Medium- to full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Very well-done. Best after 2004. 2,080 cases made.—J.S.

89 Château Razou Despagne Bordeaux Grande Réserve 2000 \$M4 Intense aromas of ripe fruit, tobacco and tea. Full-bodied, with big, chewy tannins and a long, rich finish. This is serious for fine appreciation. Best after 2005. 1,500 cases made.—J.S.

88 Château Tour de Mirabeau Bordeaux Supérieur Cuvée Passée 2000 \$20 Lovely aromas of chocolate, berry and tobacco in this one. Full-bodied, with soft and succulent tannins and a caressing finish. Very fine. Best after 2005. 2,500 cases made.—J.S.

86 Château Clos de la Tour Bordeaux Supérieur Réserve 2000 \$M4 Plum skin and tea aromas. Medium-bodied, with firm tannins and a fresh,