



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **MARCH 31, 2014** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's March 31 Bordeaux issue features more than 750 reviews from the 2011 vintage. Plus, a profile of Baroness Philippine de Rothschild, owner of Château Mouton-Rothschild. And don't miss our coverage of the dynamic California Rhône scene, offering both classic wines and good values.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

97 CHÂTEAU COUTET Barsac 2011 • \$70
White peach, pineapple, white ginger, orange zest and green fig notes are clear and racy, while green almond, brioche, pear and yellow apple details wait in reserve. Offers stunning range and polish, showing terrific energy and cut on the finish. An estate that has been rising steadily for a while now. Best from 2016 through 2035. 2,915 cases made.—*J.M.*

97 CHÂTEAU GUIRAUD Sauternes 2011 • \$50
A large-scale version, with seamlessly layered notes of almond cream, apricot, ginger, mango, piecrust, papaya and toasted hazelnut. The long, spice-infused finish shows ample depth, echoing with an enticing tarte Tatin note. Best from 2016 through 2035. 7,000 cases made.—*J.M.*

93 CONCHA Y TORO Cabernet Sauvignon Puente Alto Marqués de Casa Concha 2011 • \$26
Dense, rich and full of dark fruit and spice flavors, supported by muscular tannins and acidity. The dried blackberry, black fig and smoke-infused cocoa powder notes feature some accents of dried meat. Best from 2015 through 2022. 77,220 cases made.—*K.M.*

93 GIRARD Petite Sirah Napa Valley 2011 • \$30
A tremendous wine, showing both polish and power. Smoky, toasty notes frame the pepper, sandalwood, tar and licorice flavors, but with fresh, vibrant flavors of raspberry, kirsch and plum at the core. Drink now through 2025. 4,432 cases made.—*M.W.*

93 TWO HANDS Cabernet Sauvignon McLaren Vale Sexy Beast 2012 • \$40
Ripe, round and generous, with raspberry and black cherry fruit at the core, shaded by spicy, toasty, herbal nuances. This has depth and presence, and the finish doesn't quit. Drink now through 2022. 4,500 cases made.—*H.S.*

COLLECTIBLES

99 CHÂTEAU D'YQUEM Sauternes 2011 • \$400
A lovely, creamy, tropical style, with mango, papaya and guava notes lending a caressing feel, while singed almond and warm piecrust accents blossom through the lush finish. Just when you think that's all there is, toasted coconut, fig, orange blossom and persimmon details kick in, lending length and dimension. The finish is ridiculously long. Best from 2020 through 2060.—*J.M.*

97 CHÂTEAU CLIMENS Barsac 2011 • \$115
Still tight, with an energetic core of white peach, creamed pineapple, persimmon and white ginger flavors. The backdrop of orange blossom and singed almond notes adds extra dimension on the finish. This will go a long way in the cellar. Best from 2016 through 2035. 4,025 cases made.—*J.M.*

96 CHÂTEAU LATOUR Pauillac 2011 • \$690
This has a gorgeous core of steeped plum, boysenberry and black currant coulis flavors, backed by a prominent graphite note that drives through the lengthy finish, where extra hints of anise and sweet tobacco flutter in the background. Regal. Best from 2018 through 2035. 5,835 cases made.—*J.M.*

95 CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION Pessac-Léognan 2011 • \$560
This packs some serious density for the vintage, with layers of braised fig, blackberry pâte de fruit and dark currant paste, all inlaid with lively briar, tobacco leaf and roasted apple wood notes. Shows lots of energy through the finish, with the grip generating a mouthwatering feel. One of the stars of the vintage. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*J.M.*

COLLECTIBLES (continued)

- 95 CHÂTEAU LÉOVILLE LAS CASES** St.-Julien 2011 • \$165
This has some toast to shed, but retains a terrific core of crushed plum and blackberry confiture. There's a beautiful ripple of charcoal for texture, with honest acidity for balance and a bolt of iron that keeps this firmly grounded. A brick-house Cabernet. Best from 2018 through 2030. 8,330 cases made.—*J.M.*
- 95 CHÂTEAU MOUTON-ROTHSCHILD** Pauillac 2011 • \$545
This delivers a gorgeously pure beam of cassis and cherry compote, with singed apple wood, graphite and iron notes hanging in the background for now. Long and polished through the finish, showing serious depth in reserve. Best from 2018 through 2035.—*J.M.*

SMART BUYS

- 95 CHÂTEAU DOISY-VÉDRINES** Barsac 2011 • \$35
Pure, with piercing persimmon, pineapple, white peach and quince flavors. Gorgeous floral notes of honeysuckle and orange blossom form the backdrop, while a heather accent caresses the finish. Overwhelmingly pure in the end, with a finish that sails on and on. Best from 2016 through 2035. 3,500 cases made.—*J.M.*
- 92 FOUR VINES** Petite Sirah Paso Robles Skeptic 2011 • \$25
Smooth for a Petite Sirah, showing an inherent fruitiness, with fresh-crushed raspberry, cherry and ripe plum flavors, accented by clove, tobacco, cedar and vanilla bean notes. Very easy-drinking, featuring a juicy finish and plush tannins. Drink now through 2026. 5,000 cases made.—*M.W.*
- 91 BODEGAS ARAGONESAS** Garnacha Campo de Borja Coto de Hayas Centenaria 2012 • \$17
This rich red delivers bold flavors of kirsch, blackberry jam, dark chocolate and toast in a plush, polished texture, with accents of licorice and smoke. Opulent, in the modern style. Drink now through 2018. 3,000 cases made.—*T.M.*
- 91 VIÑA CONO SUR** Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère Colchagua Valley 2011 • \$14
This suave version is filled with refined, mineral-infused flavors of dark currant, plum and dried blackberry. Notes of anise and cocoa powder give this added complexity. Drink now through 2020. 8,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*
- 91 VIÑA SAN PEDRO** Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley 1865 Single Vineyard 2011 • \$19
Dense and rich, offering concentrated dark plum, mocha and dried blackberry flavors that feature notes of slate and pepper. The long, layered finish has Asian spice and black fig hints, with a dash of hoisin sauce. Drink now through 2018. 43,000 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 90 REICHSRAT VON BUHL** Riesling Kabinett Pfalz Armand 2012 • \$20
A rich style, with ample minerality to the ruby grapefruit, lemon curd and green peach flavors. Granite and slate notes linger on the firm, powerful finish. Drink now through 2020. 1,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*
- 90 GUNDERLOCH** Riesling Kabinett Rheinhessen Jean-Baptiste 2012 • \$20
Features a racy edge to the apple, green peach and citrus flavors. This is lithe and fresh-tasting. Crisp acidity lends zesty purity and verve to the finish. Drink now through 2018. 3,500 cases made.—*K.M.*
- 90 CHÂTEAU HAUT-BERGEY** Pessac-Léognan 2011 • \$20
This bounces along pleasantly, with a briary hint along the edges and vivid damson plum, anise and blackberry notes at the core. A floral accent kicks in on the finish for added lift. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2020. 10,000 cases made.—*J.M.*
- 90 GREG NORMAN ESTATES** Shiraz-Cabernet Limestone Coast 2010 • \$15
Fresh and vibrant, this lively style shows expressive density to the black cherry and raspberry fruit. Peppery spice notes bolster the lingering finish. Drink now through 2018. 10,000 cases made.—*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.*); Tim Fish (*T.F.*); Alison Napjus (*A.N.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*).

BEST VALUES

- 90** **CHARLES & CHARLES** Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah Columbia Valley Post No. 35 2012 • \$12
Tightly focused and precisely defined, with dark berry, chocolate and rose petal flavors on a supple frame, lingering easily on the polished finish. Drink now through 2018. 48,000 cases made.—*H.S.*
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- 90** **VERAMONTE** Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley El Caballero 2011 • \$12
Firm and well-focused, with zesty red plum and wild berry flavors, supported by crisp acidity and chewy tannins. Green herb and spice notes appear on the finish. Drink now through 2018. 10,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*
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- 89** **14 HANDS** Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2011 • \$12
Fresh and vital, with pretty rose petal and ginger overtones to the red berry flavors, mingling enticingly as the finish lingers under a veil of refined tannins. Drink now through 2015. 185,000 cases made.—*H.S.*
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- 89** **VIÑA SANTA CAROLINA** Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley Reserva 2011 • \$11
Crisp, with a core of lithe cherry, currant and raspberry flavors, accented by notes of green herb. Finishes with white pepper and paprika hints. Drink now through 2017. 98,700 cases made.—*K.M.*
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- 87** **MEZZACORONA** Pinot Noir Vigneti delle Dolomiti 2012 • \$9
A ripe core of dried and candied strawberry and cherry fruit is layered with a fresh tang of acidity and accents of smoke, ground anise and red licorice in this creamy red. Drink now through 2017. 50,000 cases made.—*A.N.*
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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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