



# WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **OCT. 31, 2011** ISSUE

*Wine Spectator's* annual Italian Food and Wine issue features tasting reports from Tuscany and Northeast Italy. Plus, delicious recipes for Italian meals and wines to match.

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- 96** **DOMAINE DE BEAURENARD** Châteauneuf-du-Pape Boisrenard 2009 • \$75  
This powerful red offers a muscular core of roasted fig, blackberry and cassis fruit framed by thick, mesquite-tinged tannins, with loads of tobacco, pepper and tar coating the mouthwatering finish. Yet despite its power, this is racy and defined. Best from 2014 through 2024.—*J.M.*
- 94** **ARATÁS** Petite Sirah Napa Valley 2008 • \$42  
Captivating, with rich, gooey blackberry cobbler flavors that are thickly tannic and wonderfully spicy, intense and powerful, with a wonderful chew. Features hints of black licorice on the long finish. Drink now through 2019.—*M.W.*
- 94** **ALAIN GRILLOT** Crozes-Hermitage La Guiraud 2009 • \$55  
This is very tight now, with a wall of iron-clad structure holding the core of blackberry, cassis and black cherry fruit in check. Notes of tar, iron and sweet tobacco lurk in the background. The long, long finish is all minerally cut. A brick-house Crozes that demands cellaring. Best from 2013 through 2020.—*J.M.*
- 94** **GRAMERCY** Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2009 • \$45  
Supple, slinky and opulent, with black olive, oatmeal and mace overtones to the tightly knit blackberry and plum fruit, getting spicier as the finish persists. Drink now through 2019.—*H.S.*

## COLLECTIBLES

- 98** **SCHRADER CELLARS** Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2008 • \$175  
Deep, rich, pure and extracted, exhibiting focused plum, crème de cassis and wild raspberry flavors that dance, with more fruit, a shade less earth and lots of finesse and polish. Ends with a long finish. Drink now through 2024.—*J.L.*
- 97** **SCHRADER CELLARS** Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley RBS Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2008 • \$175  
Elegant and refined, showing richness, opulence and depth, with a measure of loamy earth, mineral and light cedar. Full-bodied and persistent, ending with chewy, extracted fruit and a rustic edge. Drink now through 2023.—*J.L.*

## SMART BUYS

- 92** **FONTERUTOLI** Chianti Classico 2009 • \$29  
A polished, international style, with toast and spice notes adding smoothness and depth to the black cherry and raspberry fruit. Rich and harmonious, with a long aftertaste. Best from 2013 through 2024.—*B.S.*

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### SMART BUYS (CONTINUED)

- 92** **DOMAINE DU GRAPILLON D'OR** Gigondas 2009 • \$29  
Dark and tightly wound, with a mix of mulled plum, linzer torte, cassis and blackberry preserves at the core, but held in check for now by roasted alder wood and dark bittersweet cocoa notes. Best from 2012 through 2019.—*J.M.*
- 91** **FATTORIA DI FELSINA** Chianti Classico 2009 • \$25  
In a darker, balsamic vein, this red evokes tar, black cherry, underbrush and tobacco flavors. They're all held together by the dense, fine tannins. Oak spice emerges on the taut finish. Best from 2014 through 2025.—*B.S.*
- 91** **DOMAINE JAUME** Vinsobres Altitude 420 2009 • \$17  
This sports a distinctive violet and anise edge to the plum, blackberry and fig sauce notes, which all glide seamlessly through the finish of dark tea and spice. Shows a lovely crushed velvet feel in the end. Drink now through 2013.—*J.M.*
- 91** **ROCCA DI FRASSINELLO** Maremma Toscana Le Sughere di Frassinello 2009 • \$22  
This red is imbued with black currant, cherry and cedar aromas and flavors. The tannins are firm, but nicely entwined with the texture. Finishes with a harmony of fruit and spice. Sangiovese blend. Best from 2014 through 2022.—*B.S.*
- 90** **BODEGAS DINASTÍA VIVANCO** Rioja Selección de Familia Crianza 2008 • \$18  
Velvety and voluptuous, this generous red delivers plum, blackberry, chocolate and toast flavors, with broad, soft tannins and just enough acidity to stay lively. The finish is graceful. Drink now through 2016.—*T.M.*
- 90** **RENZO MASI** Chianti Riserva 2008 • \$16  
Warm and inviting, this red matches sweet cherry, berry and spice flavors, with refined tannins, a fleshy profile and a mouthwatering finish. Should develop well. Best from 2013 through 2022.—*B.S.*
- 90** **ABBAZIA DI NOVACELLA** Lagrein Alto Adige 2010 • \$20  
This supple Lagrein shows fine-grained tannins and fresh, juicy acidity, bolstering flavors of currant, blackberry and damson plum. Medium-bodied, with hints of mineral, dried herbs and anise. Drink now through 2020.—*A.N.*

### BEST VALUES

- 89** **MELINI** Chianti Borghi d'Elsa 2010 • \$9  
Rich, with a floral wild berry edge to the cherry and strawberry core, this red also picks up a licorice note as it plays out. Firm, yet balanced and long. Drink now through 2016.—*B.S.*
- 88** **CASTELLO BANFI** Pinot Grigio Toscana Le Rime 2010 • \$9  
Round and juicy, featuring peach and light citrus tones, this is balanced and bright, with a touch of white pepper on the finish. Drink now.—*B.S.*
- 87** **AVELEDA** Vinho Verde Fonte 2010 • \$8  
Crisp apple aromas and flavors give this white plenty of verve. Ripe citrus and white raspberry notes linger on the finish, with lots of spice. Drink now.—*K.M.*
- 87** **BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS LA ESPERANZA** Cabernet Sauvignon Uco Valley Finca El Origen 2010 • \$8  
Quite fresh and bright, with boysenberry and currant flavors leading to hot stone on the finish. Drink now.—*N.W.*
- 85** **GIULIO STRACCALI** Chianti 2010 • \$9  
This cherry-flavored red is moderately rich, with light tannins and a slightly earthy finish. Drink now.—*B.S.*
- 85** **TRAMBUSTI** Chianti Gonfalone 2009 • \$6  
A rich, earthy red, with plum, cherry and tobacco flavors. The light tannins make this approachable now. Drink now through 2015.—*B.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.*).