

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



WINE ON-PREMISE 2014

pg. 2

— What to Do in a Flat Market?

Germany: VDP's New Vineyard Classification

pg. 4

Focus on Alsace Dry Rieslings

pg. 38

STAR LISTINGS

pg. 8

— USA: Exceptional 2011 & 2012 Chardonnays;

Top Value Sauvignon Blancs & Rieslings;

Superb 2010 Cabernets & Merlots;

Outstanding 2011 Pinot Noirs

— Great Values from Argentina, Australia, Chile

— Italy: Soave Continues to Shine

Magnificent Montefalco Reds

Top Barolos & Barbarescos

— France: 2011 Alsace Dry Rieslings

— Portugal: Extraordinary 2011 Douro Reds



STAR LISTINGS



EVERY ISSUE, YOU CAN DEVELOP AN OUTSTANDING, WELL BALANCED WINE LIST AND WINE BY-THE-GLASS PROGRAM FROM THE WINES RECOMMENDED HERE.

RESTAURANT WINE®'S EVALUATION SYSTEM

QUALITY ratings are:

★★★★★ **EXCEPTIONAL** quality for its type and style; a superstar within its price category. Merits an extra special effort to purchase. Very highly recommended.

★★★★ **EXCELLENT** quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended.

★★★ **VERY GOOD** quality for its type, style, and price. Has distinctive character and positive attributes. Recommended.



Unusually smooth for the wine's type and age, and a good wine by-the-glass choice.

1.5 liter Wine is available in 1.5 liter size, at a discount to the **375 m.l.** 750 m.l. case price; available in half bottles

[2014-2015] Anticipated peak drinkability, not aging potential.

★★★★★★★★★★

USA

Sparkling wines, Chardonnay	pg. 9
Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling	pg. 14
Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot	pg. 17
Pinot Noir, Syrah	pg. 23
Zinfandel	pg. 28

Argentina – white & red wines	pg. 29
Australia – white, rose & red wines	pg. 32
Austria – white & rose wines	pg. 36
Chile – white, rose & red wines	pg. 36
France – sparkling, white, rose & red wines	pg. 37
France – Alsace Riesling	pg. 37
Germany – sparkling, Riesling, other whites, Pinot Noir, other reds	pg. 45
Italy – sparkling, white, rose & red wines	pg. 71
Italy – Soave	pg. 72
Italy – Montefalco white & red wines	pg. 75
New Zealand – white & red wines	pg. 81
Portugal – white & red wines	pg. 82
South Africa – white & red wines	pg. 84
Spain – white, rose, red wines & Sherry	pg. 86

We taste 3-4 times as many wines for each issue as appear in these pages. For this triple issue, the top 987 are recommended here.

Wines & Wineries to Watch

USA

J Vineyards and Winery is one of California's best sparkling wine producers . . . Two 2012 Arroyo Seco Chardonnays to seek out are those from **Scott Family** and **Ventana** . . . Across the board, **Ramey's** 2011 Chardonnays are perhaps its best-ever . . . **Handley's** white wines—especially its Pinot Gris and Riesling—are excellent wines and remarkable values . . . Other fine Rieslings not to miss are those from **Michelle-Loosen** (Eroica) and **Dr. Konstantin Frank** . . . Two of the best Gewurztraminer values in the

market are those from **Firestone Vineyard** and **Dr. Konstantin Frank** . . . **Chateau Ste. Michelle** produced outstanding Cabernets and Cabernet blends in 2010 . . . While in California, so, too, did **Amici, Beringer, Conn Creek, Corison, Corley, Provenance, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, St. Supery, Trincherro,** and **William Hill**, among others . . . As did **Whitehall Lane** and **Trincherro** (Daybreak Block) in Merlot . . . Some 2011 Pinot Noirs not to miss include those from **Carmel Road, Lafond, Lincourt, MacMurray Ranch, MacPhail, Merry Edwards,** and **Wrath** . . . **Greg Norman's** Shark Red is a fine Syrah blend and a great value . . . Two tempting top value Zins from 2011 are those from **Alexander Valley Vineyards** and **Pedroncelli**.

ARGENTINA—It's hard to beat the quality/value ratio that Argentine wines offer: excellent varietal Torrontes and blends are available for \$144/case or less (**Amalaya, Bodega Colome, Familia Zuccardi, Santa Julia, Trivento**); and remarkable Cabernet Sauvignons, Malbecs, Pinot Noirs, and blends can be readily found under \$200/case (**Andeluna, Dona Paula, Santa Julia, Trivento**) . . . High end Argentine reds continue to improve: witness **Zuccardi's** Zeta and Aluvional, or **Colome's** Malbec Reserva—all from 2009.

AUSTRALIA – Australia's dry Rieslings get better and better, and many are very modestly priced, including those from **Peter Lehmann, Pewsey Vale, Wakefield,** and **Yalumba** . . . Many wonderful Cabernets and Cabernet blends are being produced in Australia, by such producers as **Earthworks, Jim Barry, Peter Lehmann, Ringbolt, Tahbilk, Wakefield**—and we are especially keen on this latter's top Cabernet, The Visionary (an outstanding wine) . . . Shiraz producers of note—particularly for value—include **Charles Melton, Earthworks, Four Sisters, Jim Barry, Langmeil, Nine Stones, Peter Lehmann, Tahbilk, Yalumba,** and **Wakefield**.

FRANCE – **Champagne Deutz's** vintage dated wines are outstanding wines, and remarkably good values . . . Alsace producers of note include **Charles Sparr, Domaine Weinbach, Domaines du Chateau de Riquewihr, Gustave Lorentz, Jean Becker, Ostertag, Pierre Sparr, Rene Mure** . . . Two top value reds from the south of France to seek out are those from **Chateau Roquecourbe** and **Domaine St. Roch**.

GERMANY – 2012 was nearly a bumper crop for dry Rieslings, in part because botrytis was not as prevalent as in prior vintages. There are many great values available; among them, wines from **A. Christmann, Kloster Eberbach, Louis Guntrum, Johannishof, Pffeffingen, Robert Weil, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Reinhartshausen, Schloss Schonborn, Schloss Vollrads, Schnaittman, Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt,** and **Wagner-Stempel**. And many top dry Rieslings, notably from **A. Christmann, Bassermann-Jordan, Donnhoff, Dr. Burklin-Wolf, Dr. Loosen, Hans Wirsching, Karthausenhof, Kloster Eberbach, Kuhling-Gillot, Muller-Catoir, Pffeffingen, Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt, Robert Weil, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Schonborn, Schloss Vollrads, Schnaittman, Willi Schaefer,** and **Wittmann**. In the fruitier style, in addition to producers noted above, **Bollig-Lehnert, Dr. Fischer, Fritz Haag, Georg Albrecht Schneider, Max Ferd. Richter, Reinhold Haart,** and **Schloss Saarstein** produced outstanding Rieslings . . . German producers also make top wines from other varietals, including Pinot Gris (**Dr. Heger**); Pinot Blanc (**Franz Keller, Gut Hermannsberg**); Gewurztraminer (**Pffeffingen**); Scheurebe (**Bruder Dr. Becker, Hans Wirsching**); and Silvaner (**Furst Castell, Graf von Schonborn, Hans Wirsching, Juliuusspital**). Fine Pinot Noir producers include **Bernhard Huber, Dr. Heger, Dr. Nagler, Franz Keller,** and

**SAUVIGNON BLANC — Medium Priced:
\$65-\$144/case (\$8.10-\$18/btl. full retail)**

BUTTERFIELD STATION, 2012 CALIFORNIA, ★★★★★+
\$82 (\$10.25)

Screw cap. Very good quality: medium bodied, round, fruity (apple, with fig and lime overtones); an easy to drink version with medium length. [2014-2015] 800.568.8851



MURPHY-GOODE, 2012 THE FUME, ★★★★★
NORTH COAST, \$108 (\$13.50)

Screw cap. Softly textured and full bodied; a Sauvignon with ripe fruit character (melon, peach, pineapple) and overtones of lemon grass and oak. Long aftertaste. Excellent. 7% Semillon. Partially fermented in French and American oak barrels. [2014-2015] 707.431.7644

OPEN RANGE, 2012 CALIFORNIA, \$136 (\$17) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. A round, full bodied, crisp wine with herbal-fruity character (lemon grass, green apple, fig, passion fruit, grapefruit), good balance, and a medium long finish. Fine value. 1,674 cases. [2014-2015] 415.435.2225



THREE RIVERS WINERY, 2012 COLUMBIA VALLEY, WA, \$136 (\$17) ★★★★★

Supple and full bodied, this is a fruity Sauvignon with good balance and a long, smooth finish. It tastes of pear, melon, pineapple, and lime. 8% Semillon. Aged 7 months in French oak barrels, 15% new. 270 cases. [2014-2015] 509.526.9463

**SAUVIGNON BLANC — High Priced:
\$145-\$240/case (\$18.10-\$30/btl. full retail)**

AMICI, 2012 NAPA VALLEY, \$208 (\$26) ★★★★★+

An aromatic, extremely distinct Sauvignon. It is full bodied, round, and crisp and very long on the finish, with aromas/flavors reminiscent of pineapple, lemon peel, lemon grass, guava, and lime. Very fine quality. 50% Sauvignon Musque. 10% aged in French oak barrels; 10% ML. [2014-2015] 707.967.9560

ANDIS, 2012 AMADOR COUNTY, \$168 (\$21) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. Round and fruity in style, this Sauvignon is medium full bodied and balanced, with a medium length finish. It tastes of peach, lime, grapefruit, and lemon grass. 861 cases. [2014-2015] 209.245.6177

CASEY FLAT RANCH, 2012 CFR, CAPAY VALLEY, ★★★★★+
\$200 (\$25)

A fleshy, ripely flavored Sauvignon of excellent quality. It is medium rich, lightly oaked, well balanced, and persistent on the finish, tasting of melon, honey, toast, lemon grass, and grapefruit. Very fine value. 1,119 cases. [2014-2015] 415.435.2225

CLOS DU VAL, 2012 NAPA VALLEY, \$208 (\$26) ★★★★★+

A supple, ripely flavored wine that is also crisp and long on the palate, with a persistent finish, tasting of lemon peel, pineapple, lemon grass, pear, and peach. Unwooded. 3,500 cases. [2014-2015] 707.261.5200

COQUEREL — Le Petit Coquerel

- 2011 NAPA VALLEY, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★
- 2012 NAPA VALLEY, \$176 (\$22) ★★★★★+

Both wines are unwooded (aged 7 months in stainless steel barrels); both are excellent values. The 2011 is very distinct in character (fig, lemon peel, lime, grapefruit), full bodied, and balanced; a Sauvignon with a long flavor evolution on the palate, and a medium long finish. 1,474 cases. The 2012 is riper and smoother in style; a wine that is supple, fruity

(pear, grapefruit, lemon grass, lime), well balanced, and long on the finish. 1,934 cases. [2014-2015] 707.942.4534

CORNERSTONE CELLARS



CORNERSTONE CELLARS, 2011 NAPA VALLEY, ★★★★★
\$216 (\$27)

Delicious Sauvignon, in a fruity, complex style. It is full bodied, supple in texture, and very long on the finish, tasting of apple, lemon grass, vanilla, lime, passion fruit, and toast. Aged 5 months in older French oak barrels. Grapes from Talcott Vineyard, St. Helena. 361 cases. [2014-2015] 707.945.0388

DECOY, 2012 SONOMA COUNTY, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. A fruity and lightly herbal style of Sauvignon. It is smoothly textured, crisp, and full bodied, with pear, grapefruit, pineapple, and lemon grass aromas/flavors. Very good value. [2014-2015] 707.963.7108

GEYSER PEAK WINERY, 2011 RIVER RANCHES, ★★★★★
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$180 (\$22.50)

Screw cap. Intensely flavored, supple, and full bodied, this Sauvignon has apple, pear, lemon grass, fig, and grapefruit aromas/flavors, and a crisp finish. [2014-2015] 707.857.2500

GREENWOOD RIDGE WINERY, ★★★★★+
2012 ANDERSON VALLEY, \$160 (\$20)

Screw cap. A supple, full bodied Sauvignon with elegant, complex flavors, good balance, and a long finish, tasting of apple, honeydew melon, peach, crème brulee, lemon grass, and grapefruit. Great value. 24% Semillon. Aged 5 months in French oak barrels. 300 cases. [2014-2015] 707.895.2002

MATANZAS CREEK, 2012 SONOMA COUNTY, ★★★★★
\$172 (\$21.50)

Screw cap. Intensely flavored, crisp, and full bodied, this Sauvignon has very distinct character (grapefruit, green apple, lemon grass) and a long, crisp finish. Excellent. 6% Semillon. [2014-2015] 800.590.6464

The wines included here are the highest rated of all those we taste—and account for only 30% to 40% of all wines tasted, percentages in line with 'award wines' at leading international wine competitions.

NAPA CELLARS, 2012 NAPA VALLEY, \$160 (\$20) ★★☆☆
Screw cap. Supple and full bodied, this is a fruity, supple Sauvignon with good depth of fruit and a long finish. It tastes of apple, lemon grass, toast, and grapefruit. Unwooded. 14,000 cases. [2014-2015] 707.963.3104

RUTHERFORD RANCH, 2012 NAPA VALLEY, \$152 (\$19) ★★☆☆
Very good Sauvignon: aromatic and very distinct (lemon grass, fig, apple, grapefruit), with medium body, crisp acidity, and a lingering finish. Unwooded. 2,500 cases. [2014-2015] 707.963.5251

SCHUG, 2012 SONOMA COAST, \$180 (\$22.50) ★★★★★
Very fine quality, this is a luscious, full bodied, well balanced Sauvignon with a long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of white peach, honey, lemon peel, and roasted nut. Aged 3 months: 85% in French oak casks, and 15% in stainless steel. 2,427 cases. [2014-2015] 800.966.9365

WHITEHALL LANE WINERY, 2012 NAPA VALLEY, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★
Screw cap. Fine Sauvignon Blanc, in a supple, full, fruity style. It is well balanced and medium long on the finish, and tastes of apple, pear, pineapple, lemon peel, and grapefruit. 9% Semillon. 13,110 cases. [2014-2015] 707.963.9454

**SAUVIGNON BLANC — Expensive:
\$257/case & Up (\$32.10/btl. & Up full retail)**

COQUEREL, 2011 TERROIR COQUEREL, CALISTOGA, \$272 (\$34) ★★★★★
Excellent quality: a complex, full bodied, well balanced Sauvignon with firm acidity, light toastiness, and a very long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of vanilla, lemon grass, candied lemon, toast, honey, tobacco, and pink grapefruit. Aged 7 months in French oak barrels, 20% new. 1,474 cases. [2014-2015] 707.942.4534

CROCKER & STARR, 2012 NAPA VALLEY, \$288 (\$36) ★★★★★
Very fine quality Sauvignon: distinct, fully bodied, and beautifully balanced; a wine displaying both elegance and complexity. It is very long on the finish, tasting of apple, lime, lemon grass, guava, and toast. [2014-2015] 707.967.9111

GRGICH HILLS – Napa Valley

• **2012 FUME BLANC, \$318 (\$39.75)** ★★★★★
• **2012 ESSENCE, \$440 (\$55)** ★★★★★
Two of California's best Sauvignons (and both produced from certified biodynamic grapes). The Fume Blanc is supple in texture and both complex and very ripe in flavor (apple, honey, peach, lime, lemon grass). It is full bodied, well balanced, and crisp and long on the finish. Aged 6 months in older French oak barrels and casks. 11,611 cases. The 2012 Essence Sauvignon Blanc is exceptional: full bodied and intensely flavored; a crisp, concentrated wine that is very long on the palate, with a persistent finish, tasting of honey, grapefruit, tobacco, and lime. Certified biodynamic grapes. Aged 9 months in French oak casks. 722 cases. [2015-2017] 800.532.3057

MAISONRY, 2012 HUDSON VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★
A complex Sauvignon, with a strong oak presence, it is nevertheless quite rich and full bodied, with good balance and a very long on the finish, tasting of lime, lemon grass, honey, toast, nutmeg, and spicy oak. Excellent. Can be aged a bit. Fermented and aged for 8 months in French oak barrels, 50% new. [2014-2016] 707.944.0889

MERRY EDWARDS, 2012 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★
An elegant, ripely flavored, full bodied wine of outstanding quality. It

is crisp and long on the palate, with a persistent finish, tasting of pear, apple, lemon grass, vanilla, crème brulee, and lime blossom. First rate. 20% Sauvignon Musque. [2014-2016] 707.823.7466

ST. SUPERY, 2012 DOLLARHIDE, NAPA VALLEY, \$155/6 (\$38.75) ★★★★★
A ripe, full bodied, fleshy Sauvignon with excellent character and balance. It is quite rich in flavor and persistent, tasting of lime, grapefruit, vanilla, toast, pineapple, and toast. Exceptional. 19% BF and aged 7 months in new French oak barrels; 81% stainless steel. 1,801 cases. [2015-2017] 800.942.0809

**SEMILLON — High Priced:
\$145-\$240/case (\$18.10-\$30/btl. full retail)**

ANDIS, 2012 BILL DILLIAN VINEYARD, AMADOR COUNTY, \$168 (\$21) ★★★★★
Screw cap. Excellent: fresh and fruity in style, this is a supple, medium bodied, balanced wine with delicate character (honey, green apple, lime, peach, honeysuckle), and a smooth, crisp finish. 715 cases. [2014-2015] 209.245.6177

BUTY, 2012 62% SEMILLON 21% SAUVIGNON 17% MUSCADELLE, COLUMBIA VALLEY, WA, \$208 (\$26) ★★★★★
Luscious and full bodied, this is a fine blend. It is rich but subtle in flavor, well balanced, and medium long on the finish, tasting of melon, peach, grapefruit, lime blossom, and honeysuckle. Fine value. [2014-2015] 509.527.0901

**SEMILLON — Expensive:
\$257/case & Up (\$32.10/btl. & Up full retail)**

ST. SUPERY – Napa Valley

• **2012 VIRTU, NAPA VALLEY, \$132/6 (\$33)** ★★★★★
• **2012 DOLLARHIDE, \$132/6 (\$33)** ★★★★★
These are excellent Semillon bottlings. The Virtue is a very fine blend (56% Semillon, 44% Sauvignon Blanc) that is a bit leaner, crisper, and more herbal wine than the varietal Semillon. It is full bodied and very long on the palate, with a persistent finish, tasting of lemon grass, tobacco, grapefruit, fig, and lime. 6% ML. Aged 7 months in French oak barrels, 44% new. 2,799 cases. The Dollarhide Semillon is luscious and full bodied; a ripely flavored (honeydew melon, pear, lemon peel) and relatively complex (fig, vanilla, toast, spicy oak) version of the varietal, with excellent balance and a long finish. 31% ML. Aged 7 months in French oak barrels, 46% new. 559 cases. Both wines will develop with additional bottle aging. [2014-2016] 800.942.0809

**RIESLING — Medium Priced:
\$65-\$128/case (\$8.10-\$18/btl. full retail)**

CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE, 2012 DRY RIESLING, COLUMBIA VALLEY, WA, \$98 (\$12.25) ★★★★★
An excellent dry Riesling: full bodied, and floral and fruity in character; a wine with intense pear, grapefruit, and honeysuckle character, with overtones of peach and lime. [2014-2015] 425.488.1133

DR. KONSTANTIN FRANK – Finger Lakes, New York

• **2012 SEMI-DRY, \$144 (\$18)** ★★★★★
• **2012 DRY RIESLING, \$144 (\$18)** ★★★★★
Some of the finest Rieslings produced in the USA derive from the Finger Lakes. (And this winery was the pioneering vinifera producer in the region, founded in 1962.) These two Rieslings are distinct in character, and excellent values. The Semi-Dry Riesling is mildly sweet, supple, medium bodied, and finely flavored; wine that is crisp and long