Every issue of Wine Spectator magazine includes a self-contained Buying Guide, a curated collection of 500+ recent reviews of wines from around the world. The Spectator Selections feature our top picks in four categories: Highly Recommended, Collectibles, Smart Buys and Best Values.

Because many wine lovers are making decisions in wine shops or restaurants, we offer access to wine reviews on your mobile devices. WineRatings+ is our app for iPhone; Wine Spectator Mobile is included with membership to our website, WineSpectator.com.

WineSpectator.com membership brings many routes to access our reviews. Members may search our full database of wine ratings, more than 270,000 strong now. Twice weekly, our Tasting Highlights section delivers focused groups of 10 to 20 wines, with insightful introductions. And members receive two exclusive newsletters: the weekly Insider, which features the highly rated, low-production wines most likely to sell out quickly; and the Advance, which gives a sneak peek at the top reviews from each issue’s Buying Guide.

REVIEWS YOU CAN USE

P. 1  EXPERT ADVICE: Access our nearly 20,000 reviews each year from a variety of devices and formats
P. 2  THE ADVANCE: A sneak preview of the top wines in each issue of Wine Spectator
P. 3  TASTING HIGHLIGHTS: Exciting wines selected by our editors from recent tastings
P. 4  THE INSIDER: Early reviews of top-scoring, low-production wines sure to sell out

Wine is not a mass-produced good. That is one of its great virtues, but it can also be a source of great frustration. Many of the world’s best wines are made in limited—sometimes very limited—quantities. Wine lovers are always looking for early notice of the release of top wines and good values, so that they can find these exciting bottles before they are sold out.

Wine Spectator can help. Our editors review nearly 20,000 wines each year, searching for the diamonds in the rough. Our goal is to find the best wines from the top regions in the great vintages, all around the world. And then let our readers know about them.

We have created a number of channels to communicate news about exciting wines.
**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:** The issue’s most impressive wines

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<th>WINE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOOKER</strong> Syrah Paso Robles Fracture 2010 • $70</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Features amazing richness, focus and purity of flavor, presented on a beam of acidity. Offers great aromatics and flavors to match, with tiers of blackberry, mahogany, wild berry, raspberry and black licorice that form a tight, persistent core, ending with a pleasant loamy earthiness. Drink now through 2026. 866 cases made.—J.L.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IRON HORSE</strong> Brut Green Valley of Russian River Valley Classic Vintage 2007 • $38</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Seamless from start to finish, both rich and elegantly sleek. Floral Asian pear and creamy almond aromas lead to complex and delicately balanced flavors of lively lemon and raspberry, plus ginger and spice. The finish lingers beautifully. Drink now through 2016. 1,000 cases made.—T.F.</td>
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**COLLECTIBLES:** Wines that will improve with age, and potentially increase in value

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<tr>
<td><strong>COLGIN</strong> Syrah Napa Valley IX Estate 2009 • $175</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>A brilliant expression of dense, rich layers of spice, beef, wild berry, savory and herbal notes, offering intensity, focus, grace and finesse. Should evolve beautifully over the next decade or two. Drink now through 2030. 420 cases made.—J.L.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DOMAINE FAIVELEY</strong> Nuits-St.-Georges Les Pôrets St.-Georges 2010 • $155</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Though still compact and firm, this red is pure, offering cherry, berry and mineral flavors on a well-toned frame. Balanced in an athletic way, with a lingering aftertaste of fruit and spice. Both intense and elegant. Best from 2015 through 2028. 160 cases imported.—B.S.</td>
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**SMART BUYS:** Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices

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<tr>
<td><strong>DESCENDIENTES DE J. PALACIOS</strong> Bierzo Pétalos 2010 • $22</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>This plush red delivers black cherry, licorice, mineral and smoke flavors. Harmonious and focused, supported by well-integrated tannins and firm acidity. Not a showy wine, but has complexity and depth. Drink now through 2018. 50,000 cases made.—T.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CLIFFORD BAY</strong> Pinot Noir Marlborough 2010 • $15</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>Robust, offering plenty of fresh black cherry and plum flavors that are extremely juicy and intense, with cigar box and spice details and firm tannins. Drink now through 2020. 30,000 cases made.—M.W.</td>
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**BEST VALUES:** Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution

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<tr>
<td><strong>VERAMONTE</strong> Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley El Caballero 2010 • $12</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>This suave red offers tangy layers of cassis, crushed cherry, licorice and mocha notes on a full yet silky frame. There’s grip, but the finish delivers ample fruit, spice and toasty oak notes. Drink now. 13,000 cases made.—N.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CAVES ALIANÇA</strong> Douro Foral 2011 • $9</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>The vibrant flavors of boysenberry, blackberry and plum pudding are lush and flanked by notes of vanilla and cinnamon. Dark chocolate and pepper accents enliven the finish. Drink now. 15,000 cases made.—K.M.</td>
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As our editors finish their tastings each week, they look back and select a group of wines that share a common theme, but stand out individually for quality and value. These groups are published in Tasting Highlights, and the analysis and reviews are available to WineSpectator.com members only. Here is a recent version that focused on the increasingly popular California Rhône-style red category.

**TASTING HIGHLIGHTS**

Our editors’ latest ratings of new releases, barrel samples and rare vintages, posted twice each week on WineSpectator.com.

**CALIFORNIA RHÔNE-STYLE REDS**

By MaryAnn Worobiec / Posted: Oct. 15, 2012

This week’s focus is on red wines from Rhône Valley grape varieties like Syrah, Mourvèdre and Grenache, but instead of pure expressions of these grapes, all of these wines are celebrating the art of blending. Vintners in the Golden State have recently shifted to experimenting with and choosing to blend Rhône grapes together, and after reading over the descriptors for this week’s picks, you’ll see why that’s a good move.

Blending these grapes together adds complexity, or in some cases represents an interesting expression of a single vineyard, such as the bottlings from Cypher, Carica and Gallica. There are no rules to follow when it comes to these expressive blends: Kuleto’s India Ink bottling pairs Syrah with the Bordeaux grape Cabernet Sauvignon.

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**AUTONOM** Red Cuvée California 2009 Score: 91 / $32
Intense and sharply focused on vivid dark Berry, spice, white pepper and gravelly earth, gaining momentum, depth and persis- tence, ending with a vivid medley of berry flavors. Syrah and Grenache. Drink now through 2021. 83 cases made.—J.L.

**EPIPHANY** Revelation Santa Barbara County 2009 Score: 90 / $40
Generous and up-front ripe plum and blackberry flavors have firm, structured tannins, ending with touches of black licorice, nutmeg and spice. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2020. 512 cases made.—J.L.

**CYPHER** Kiler Canyon Vineyard Paso Robles 2009 Score: 91 / $56
Offers a generous presentation of ripe cherry, raspberry and blackberry, showing good structure, with firm tannins and acidity that keeps the flavors juicy. Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2022. 500 cases made.—J.L.

**GALLICA** Suzuri Series Shake Ridge Ranch Amador County 2010 Score: 90 / $50
Offers appealingly pure and direct blueberry and blackberry fla- vors, accented by earth, graphite and mineral notes. Tightens nicely on the finish, with tannins that give the flavors traction. Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Best from 2013 through 2023. 118 cases made.—J.L.

**TERRY HOAGE** 5 Blocks Cuvée Paso Robles 2010 Score: 91 / $55
Pure, firm, rich and concentrated, tightly focused on a core of wild berry, cherry and blackberry, woven together and gaining depth and traction on the finish. Syrah, Mourvèdre, Grenache and Cinsault. Drink now through 2020. 450 cases made.—J.L.

**TERRY HOAGE** The Pick Cuvee Paso Robles The 46 2010 Score: 90 / $55
Presents a chewy, rustic and gravelly profile, with firm red berry and blackberry fruit, picking up black licorice and tightening nicely on the finish. Drink now through 2021. 350 cases made.—J.L.

**TERRY HOAGE** The Pick Cuvee Paso Robles 2010 Score: 90 / $50
Firm, fresh and lively, with vivid wild berry, spice, crushed rock and scorched earth. Gains depth and richness, tightening on the finish, where the tannins clamp down. Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Counoise. Drink now through 2020. 325 cases made.—J.L.

**ANDREW MURRAY** Espérance Central Coast 2010 Score: 91 / $25
Pure and complex, marked by grapey wild berry and blackberry, spice and crushed rock, firming with chewy tannins. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Best from 2013 through 2021. 500 cases made.—J.L.

**KULETO** India Ink Napa Valley 2009 Score: 90 / $35
There’s lots to admire in this ripe, rich, gutsy effort, which is dense, rustic and marked by crushed rock, ripe plum and berry, and ends with chewy tannins. This may always be on the chunky side, but enjoyably so. Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2020. 2,770 cases made.—J.L.

**MCPRIICE MYERS** Cuvée Kristina California 2009 Score: 91 / $48
Offers a complex mix of ripe, rich plum and blackberry, with a slice of chalky earth. Intense and focused, long on the finish. Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2021. 119 cases made.—J.L.

**CARICA** Siren Kick Ranch Sonoma County 2010 Score: 90 / $32
Firm, dense and chewy, offering a gutsy mix of rich berry, fresh earth and mineral, with touches of savory herb. Ends with grip- ping yet friendly tannins. Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2022. 183 cases made.—J.L.
Wine Spectator’s tasting staff includes 17 tasters and tasting coordinators in two offices. They work together to review nearly 20,000 wines each year, more than any other publication. Together, our six senior tasters count...