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THE WORLD IN YOUR GLASS

MAY 2014

THE NAPA

ISSUE

90+
POINT

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+

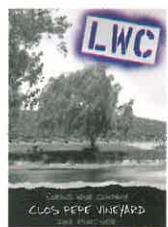
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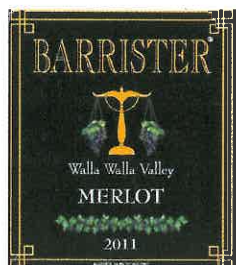
Lineage 2010 Red Wine (Livermore Valley). This is Steven Kent's fourth vintage of Lin- his blockbuster Bordeaux red from carefully ed Livermore fruit. Predominantly Cabernet ignon (65%), it includes 16% Cab Franc, 15% ot, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Malbec. Layered in e and herbal cassis, and finely structured, it is egant, herbal-kissed, slightly coy wine, enjoy- now with a big meal or ready to sleep in bottle 2024–2029. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$145**



Loring Wine Company 2012 Clos Pepe Vine- yard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a e difference between this Pinot and Loring's other vineyard-designated 2012 Pinots. But air, this is the best and most compelling, deli- : in blackberries, blueberries and cherries. It's ot to drink the entire bottle now, with its tan- ng acidity and soft but intricate tannins. And is gorgeous wine will develop bottle complex- ity until 2020 or 2021. The vineyard is in the sweet of the Santa Rita Hills. —S.H.
abv: 14.9% **Price: \$50**



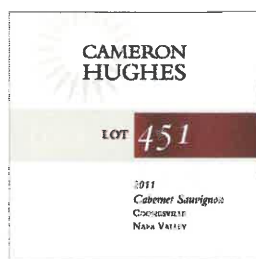
Marchesi Antinori 2010 Guado al Tasso (Bol- gheri Superiore). Antinori's blend of 55% rnet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 15% Cab- . Franc creates a vibrant, structured wine that s tension and energy. It opens with aromas of . cherry, black currant, dark spices and leather carry through to the palate alongside firm but ed tannins and vibrant freshness. It already has depth but give it time to develop complexity. t 2015–2030. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. Cel- lection. —K.O.
abv: 14.4% **Price: \$110**



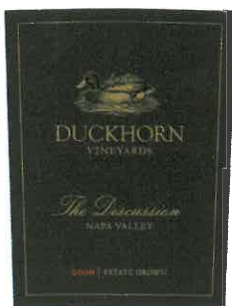
93 Barrister 2011 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). A high water mark for Barrister, this ripe and lush Merlot is sourced from the Dwellley vineyard. Chunky berry and cassis fruit is soaked in delicious baking spices, vanilla and chocolate. There's nothing shy here, but it is thoroughly enjoyable. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$29**



93 Blue Hall Vineyard 2009 Camiana Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Blue Hall's Camiana bottling of Cabernet is coming off a string of successful vintages, and this '09 is right up there. You'd hardly know the wine is already more than four years old, it's so fresh and fruity in blackber- ries, cherries, dark chocolate and cassis. This 100% Cab also is quite tannic, in the Howell Mountain way. Begin popping the cork in 2019, and the wine could still be amazing in the late 2020s. *Cellar Se- lection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$75**



93 Cameron Hughes 2011 Lot 451 Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Coombsville has emerged as the hottest appellation in Napa Valley, and Cameron Hughes is right there, doing his nego- ciant thing. The Cabernet was blended with Malbec and Merlot, and the wine is fantastically satisfying. Its rich, sturdy tannins frame elaborate blackberry, blueberry, red currant and smoky oak flavors that are wonderfully complex, with an elegant, balanced finish. This is an unbelievable price for a Cabernet of this high quality. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$27**



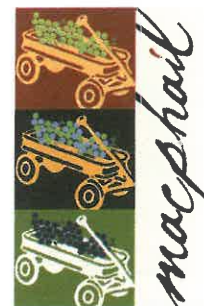
93 Duckhorn 2009 The Discussion (Napa Val- ley). Even at more than four years of age, this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot remains huge in primary cherry, blackberry, cassis and chocolate flavors. The tough, astringent tannins make it essentially undrinkable now. Yet its underling wholesomeness and balance guaran- tee development through 2021, and possibly longer. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$125**



93 Fess Parker 2012 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). This fas- cinating Chardonnay combines elegance with the opulence you expect from California. It's ripe and forward in papaya, quince, mango, pear and pineap- ple fruits, but also shows a steely minerality that's as fresh and pure as snowmelt water in a pebbly stream. It is never forward or over-the-top. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$37**



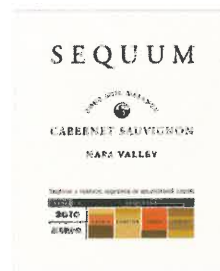
93 Jarvis 2012 Finch Hollow Estate Grown Char- donnay (Napa Valley). Jarvis has assembled a great record with this bottling over the years. The 2012 fulfills all the basic California requirements for impressive Chardonnay, with ripe, flamboyant tropical fruit, pear and pineapple flavors, along with lots of sweet, buttery, vanilla-accented oak. This is one of the most decadent Chardonnays of the vin- tage, and while it's a little soft, it is flashy. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$115**



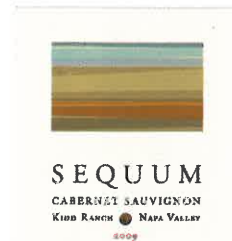
93 MacPhail 2011 Sundawg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley). The Sequana Winery has had enormous success with this vineyard over the years, and now MacPhail dips into it, with impressive re- sults. The first impression is of acidity, mouthwa- tering and tangy. Then the flavors explode into a rainbow of red cherries, pomegranates, persimmons and exotic spices. It will develop bottle complexity through at least 2021. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$49**



93 Pepper Bridge 2011 Seven Hills Vineyard (Walla Walla Valley). Aromatic with crushed rock, raspberry, cranberry and hints of clove, this well-structured wine—53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc and 10% Pe- tit Verdot—will reward additional bottle age. The young, tart red fruits are steely and precise, the bar- rel influence perfectly balanced against the natural acidity. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price: \$60**



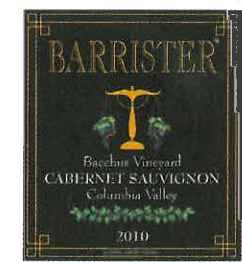
93 Sequum 2010 Four Soil Melange Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The four soils designation refers to the wine's origins in different vineyards throughout the valley. A great followup to the marvelous 2009, the wine showcases artful blending. It's incredibly rich and ripe in black cur- rants, cassis liqueur and smoky oak, yet balanced in acids and tannins. Drink now and through 2022. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$55**



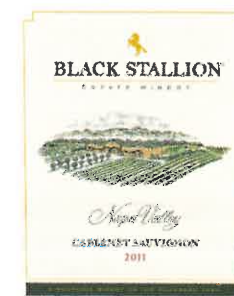
93 Sequum 2009 Kidd Ranch Cabernet Sauvi- gnon (Napa Valley). The vintage was a good one for Sequum, which is assembling an impressive track record. The wine is dry and tannic, yet won- derfully forward in blackberries and black currants, and the oak application is perfect. Give it until 2020 or so in the cellar. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price: \$62**



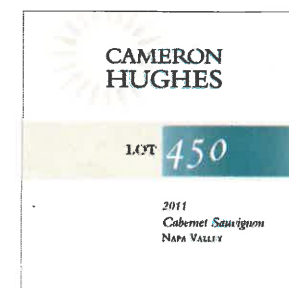
93 SignoSeis 2011 The Angel Oak Reserva Mal- bec (Valle de Uco). Rich, loamy and ripe smelling, this wine opens in fine form, with accents of raisin, cassis and ink. The mouthfeel is deep and balanced, while flavors of toasty blackberry, cassis and chocolate are ripe and modern. Finishing notes of coffee, licorice, blackened toast and pepper bring a dark side to this long-lasting, deeply etched Mal- bec. Drink through 2018. Argentinean Wines, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 15.3% **Price: \$50**



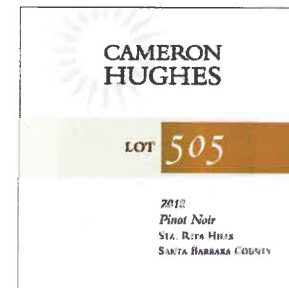
92 Barrister 2010 Bacchus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). These Bac- chus Cabernet vines were planted in 1972, and add old vine elegance to what is a dark, roasty-toasty wine redolent with new barrel scents and accents. Espresso, smoke and charred wood come out first, but the blueberry, black cherry and deep cassis fruit carries the wine through a long, supple finish. *Edi- tors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$31**



92 Black Stallion 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Here's another fantastic val- ue from Black Stallion, which has an uncanny abil- ity to produce Cabernets of great depth and charm that can stand against more expensive wines. This 2011 is dry, full-bodied and rich in flavors of black currants. It might even age, but there's no reason not to enjoy it now. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$28**



92 Cameron Hughes 2011 Lot 450 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a seriously good Cabernet, and the price makes it a relative bargain. Dry and tannic, it has complex flavors of blackberries, black currants, blueberries and plenty of new smoky oak. A tangy minerality lifts it above the ordinary. It will hold in the bottle until at least 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$27**



90 Cameron Hughes 2012 Lot 505 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). You won't find many Santa Rita Hills Pinots this good, at this price. The wine is rich in leather-scented black cherries, pomegran- ates and cola, with sandalwood and exotic spice notes that linger into a long finish. Give it some time to breathe. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.4% **Price: \$25**