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WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2011



THE
CHAMPS-ELYSEES
COCKTAIL
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>>> FIND THE BEST

PINOT NOIR

WASHINGTON STATE
CULT WINE

Croatia
AN HISTORIC WINE
LOVER'S PARADISE

WINE ♦ FOOD ♦ TRAVEL



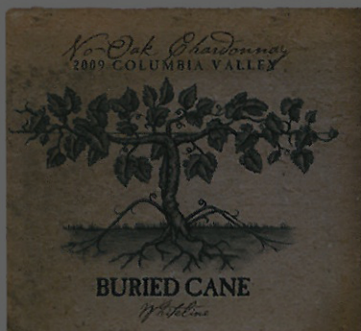
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Valley of the Moon

Chardonnay

Valley of the Moon 2010 Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley); \$14. A treat for the richness. Even though there's no oak, it is opulently sweet in pineapples, green apples, ananas, mangoes, limes, honey and vanilla. Serve with roast salmon and summer corn on the cob. **Wine Enthusiast's Choice.** —S.H.



Buried Cane 2009 Whiteline No-Oak Chardonnay (Columbia Valley); \$14. A clean, tart and lightly spicy all-stainless style. Late fruit puts the accent on lime and lemon. Keeps the alcohol low (13.3%), and makes this a great match for shellfish, white fish and light pasta. —P.G.



Korta Katarina 2009 Plavac Mali-Zinfandel (Pelješac); \$21. While just a touch ripe for its age, this rosé is wonderfully dry with a bright and cherry compote palate accented by deep minerality. Full bodied, yet pleasantly astringent and fresh, it's the perfect accompaniment to seafood. —A.I.

Silver Ridge

Sauvignon Blanc

86 Silver Ridge 2008 Sauvignon Blanc (California); \$12. Lots of sweet, ripe apricot, citrus and honeysuckle flavors in this wine, which straddles the line between dry and off dry. It's brightened with crisp acidity. A nice, versatile white wine for drinking with a wide range of fare. —S.H.

SPIRITS



92 Dewar's 12 Years Old (Scotland; Bacardi USA, Miami, FL); 40% abv, \$29. At first, the scent is mild and sweet, but with time opens up to a distinct caramel aroma with a tinge of orange peel. Although fairly boozy on the palate at first sip, eventually this viscous, honey-colored spirit emerges as mellow and fruity, and faintly peated. A splash of water coaxes out more vanilla tones. Good value.

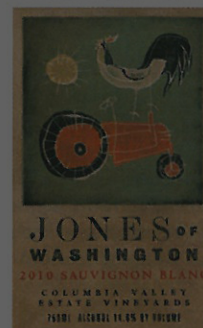


91 Dewar's 18 Years Old (Scotland; Bacardi USA, Miami, FL); 40% abv, \$80. Give this soft, smooth whisky a little time to open up. At first, it reads as fruity, oaky and a little floral, but after a while deeper caramel and almond aromas open up. Dried fruit, vanilla, and caramel flavors segue into a lingering smoky finish, which accelerates with repeated sips.



94 Samuel Smith's Old Brewery Pale Ale (English Pale Ale; Samuel Smith Old Brewery (Tadcaster), England); 5.0% abv, \$4/550 ml. This classic English pale ale pours a clear, light mahogany hue with a small, coffee-colored head and a nice rim of lacing. A rich toasted malt core leads the way, with notes of caramel, raw sweet dough and baked apple adding complexity throughout. The medium-weight mouth is full and satisfying but remarkably clean thanks to assertive carbonation and a floral hop finish with an appropriate dryness.

BEST BUYS



91 Jones of Washington 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley); \$15. Honeysuckle scents and ripe, fresh-fruit flavors run from grapefruit on into tropical. This was fermented in Hungarian puncheons, picking up just a hint of toast along the way. Clean and quite delicious. **Best Buy.** —P.G.

CAMERON HUGHES

LOT 240

2009
Albariño
CLARKSBURG

90 Cameron Hughes 2009 Lot 240 Albariño (Clarksburg); \$11. The kind of light-drinking, balanced, crisp, clean white wine one could drink all day, from Clarksburg-grown grapes, another testament to the appellation's ability to do nice things with Mediterranean whites. Juicy with sweet peach, lime and apple and a nose full of honeysuckle, it finishes easy. **Best Buy.** —V.B.

FRUNZA PINOT NOIR

2009



CAMERON HUGHES
SELECTION

86 Cameron Hughes 2009 Frunza Pinot Noir (Viile Timisului); \$7. Puckery sweet morello cherries scent this refreshing, medium-bodied Romanian Pinot Noir. On the palate, jammy red fruit is balanced by soft tannins and glimmers of granite, gravel and sun-dried hay. Not too shabby at \$7. Imported by Cameron Hughes Wine. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

COASTAL RIDGE

MOSCATO

86 Coastal Ridge 2010 Moscato (California); \$8. With distinctly sweet flavors that cross over beyond off dry, this pleasantly tart Moscato is best thought of as a dessert wine. It has savory flavors of oranges, honey and vanilla. **Best Buy.** —S.H.



85 Barefoot NV Refreshingly Sweet Riesling (California); \$7. Kudos to Gallo for letting people know this wine is sweet. That avoids a lot of confusion. The honey, tangerine and peach flavors are balanced with lots of zesty acidity. Delightful, and a great bargain. **Best Buy.** —S.H.

TWISTED

MOSCATO
2010
CALIFORNIA

84 Twisted 2010 Moscato (California); \$8. Very sweet, with honeyed flavors of tangerines and peaches. Crisp acidity provides balance. A charming, low-alcohol dessert wine for beachside drinking. **Best Buy.** —S.H.

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE ON SALE SEPTEMBER 13

The Hill Towns of Tuscany
What's So Special About East Oakville?
Beaujolais Crus
The Kentucky Bourbon Trail
Sicilian Classics

And in the Buying Guide: Reviews of the wines of Argentina, Austria, California, France, Italy, Oregon, Spain and more, plus coffee and tea liqueurs and Belgian-Style Tripels.



THE WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new releases and selected older wines evaluated by *Wine Enthusiast Magazine's* editors and other qualified tasters. On a regular basis the Buying Guide includes reports on special tastings and tastings of wines of specific producers. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Senior Editor/Tasting Director Joe Czerwin, Assistant Tasting Director Lauren Buzzeo, Tasting Coordinator Anna Lee C. Iijima, Executive Editor Susan Kostrzewa, a Contributing Editor Michael Schachner in New York, European Editor Roger Voss in Bordeaux, Italian Editor Mon Lamert in Rome, Contributing Editor Steve Heimoff in Oregon, Contributing Editor Paul Gregutt in Seattle and Contributing Reviewer Virginia Boone in Santa Rosa. If a wine was evaluated by a single reviewer, that taster's initials appear following the note. When no initials appear, the wine was evaluated by two or more reviewers and the score and tasting note reflect the input of all tasters.

Each review contains a score, the full name of the wine, suggested national retail price, and a tasting note. If price could not be confirmed, SNA (not available) will be printed. Prices are for 750-ml bottles unless otherwise indicated.

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

Tastings are conducted individually or in a group setting, performed blind or in accordance with accepted industry practices. Price is not a factor in assigning scores. When possible, wines considered flawed or uncustomary are retasted.

ABOUT THE SCORES

Ratings reflect what our editors felt about a particular wine. Beyond the rating, we encourage you to read the accompanying tasting note to learn about a wine's special characteristics.

- Classic 98–100:** The pinnacle of quality.
- Superb 94–97:** A great achievement.
- Excellent 90–93:** Highly recommended.
- Very Good 87–89:** Often good value; well recommended.
- Good 83–86:** Suitable for everyday consumption; often good value.
- Acceptable 80–82:** Can be employed in casual, less-critical circumstances.

Wines receiving a rating below 80 are not reviewed.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Editors' Choice wines are those that offer excellent quality at a price above our Best Buy range, or a wine at any price with unique qualities that merit special attention.

Cellar Selections are wines deemed highly collectible and/or requiring time in a temperature-controlled wine cellar to reach their maximum potential. A Cellar Selection designation does not mean that a wine must be stored to be enjoyed, but that cellaring will probably result in a more enjoyable bottle. In general, an optimum time for cellaring will be indicated.

Best Buys are wines that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. There are no specific guidelines or formulas determining Best Buys, but they are generally priced at \$15 or less.

SUBMITTING WINES FOR REVIEW

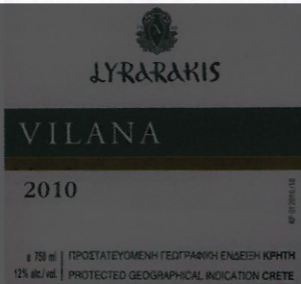
Wines should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online at winemag.com/contactus. Inquiries should be addressed to Tasting Coordinator Anna Lee C. Iijima at 914.345.9463 or etastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting wines.** We make every effort to taste all wines submitted for review, but there is no guarantee that all wines submitted will be tasted, or that reviews will appear in magazine. All wines must be accompanied by a submission form, which may be downloaded from our Web site.

LABELS

Labels are paid promotions. Wineries and wine representatives are given the opportunity to submit labels which are reproduced and printed along with tasting notes and scores. For information on label purchases, contact Daniela Valenza at 813.571.1122; fax 866.896.8786; or [email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net](mailto:dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net).

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at winemag.com.

BESTBUYS



88 Lyrarakis 2010 Vilana (Crete); \$13. A nose of lemon, slate and rich, ripe fruit leads into balanced, fuller-bodied flavors of citrus and tropical fruit. Fresh acidity balances out the curvier side of the wine. Easygoing and a good everyday sip. Imported by Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —S.K.



88 Vaeni NV Makedonikos Red Semi-Dry Wine (Macedonia); \$11. This fun, fresh Xinomavro from Greece maintains poise between easygoing red fruit and a more serious, spicy backbone. Red cherry, strawberry, leather and pepper lead. A great everyday red with some exotic character. Imported by Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —S.K.

FRUNZA MERLOT

2009



CAMERON HUGHES
SELECTION

87 Cameron Hughes 2009 Frunza Merlot (Viile Timisului); \$7. Deeply concentrated on the nose with pure black fruit and whiffs of toast and wood, this Merlot packs a lot of bang for the buck. Full bodied and dry, it's mellow but bright, overflowing with cassis and black cherry flavors and a fresh, herbal finish. Imported by Cameron Hughes Wine. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

