



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **MARCH 31, 2015** ISSUE,
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Wine Spectator's March 31 issue features nearly 800 wines from Bordeaux's outstanding 2012 vintage, including many good values. Plus, our cover story profiles celebrity chef, author and television star Anthony Bourdain.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

95

KNOLL Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Wachau Loibner Vinothekfülling 2012 • \$80

This races across the palate, with a rich mix of baked apple, dried pineapple and roasted peach flavors that are full of exotic spicy notes. Well-extracted, showing hints of grapefruit peel that glide into the powerfully creamy finish, ending with nuances of white chocolate. Drink now through 2026. 833 cases made.—*K.M.*

94

CLOS FOURTET St.-Emilion 2012 • \$72

Gorgeous, with a pure, unadorned violet aroma giving way to very ripe and stylish plum, boysenberry and blackberry fruit. Offers a suave mouthfeel, with anise and tobacco hints filling the background. A finely stitched chalk note extends the finish. Not shy on depth, and sneakily long. Best from 2017 through 2030. 3,500 cases made.—*J.M.*

93

CHÂTEAU CANTENAC-BROWN Margaux 2012 • \$44

This offers beguiling aromas of bergamot, roasted sandalwood and black tea, before giving way to a well-endowed core of plum, blackberry and raspberry reduction notes. The structure is remarkably fine-grained, showing seamless integration through the long finish. A really great showing. Best from 2017 through 2025. 8,500 cases made.—*J.M.*

93

NERVI Gattinara 2006 • \$35

Rich, exuding licorice, cherry, strawberry, floral and spice flavors, singed by iron and tobacco notes. Intense and harmonious, with excellent grip and a lingering aftertaste. Drink now through 2020. 600 cases imported.—*B.S.*

92

BENI DI BATASIOLO Barbaresco 2010 • \$32

A supple, fluid version, evoking cherry, licorice, leather and cedar, this red is elegant and persistent through the lingering finish. The aftertaste boasts ripe fruit, with floral and mineral notes. Best from 2016 through 2026. 6,600 cases made.—*B.S.*

COLLECTIBLES

96

CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION Pessac-Léognan White 2012 • \$1,038

This displays an impressive profile, with rich white peach, salted butter, macadamia nut, tangerine and warm brioche notes that show superior cut and definition, thanks to a terrific quinine accent that ripples on and on through the gorgeous finish. Should be rather long-lived as well. Best from 2017 through 2030. 574 cases made.—*J.M.*

96

PÉTRUS Pomerol 2012 • \$2,150

This has some serious muscle, with rivets of graphite studding a beam of dense, gravelly grip that holds the core of steeped plum and raspberry notes together. Very long, with superior cut. A graphite note powers through the finish, while the fruit drips on and on. Best from 2018 through 2032.—*J.M.*

96

CHÂTEAU LE PIN Pomerol 2012 • \$1,599

Stunning, with a focused beam of raspberry confiture defining the experience, while anise, blackberry coulis, black tea and incense notes fill the edges. The backdrop is a deep purple velvet curtain, while a long graphite element on the finish melds seamlessly with the lingering raspberry flavors. Delivers breathtaking opulence and definition. Best from 2017 through 2030.—*J.M.*

COLLECTIBLES (continued)

96 CHÂTEAU TROTANOY Pomerol 2012 • \$230
This combines serious fruit and grip with a torrent of blackberry, raspberry and boysenberry pâte de fruit notes, liberally laced with smoldering charcoal and tobacco accents. The long, loamy edge drives the finish, along with hints of bay leaf and warm stones, while the fruit pours through. A very serious effort for the vintage. Best from 2018 through 2032. 1,341 cases made.—*J.M.*

95 PAOLO SCAVINO Barolo Rocche dell'Annunziata Riserva 2008 • \$170
Marked by beautiful fruit and alluring aromas of black cherry, black currant, violet, spice, tar and tobacco, this holds plenty in reserve. The tannins are dense and assertive, though the lasting impression is one of sweet fruit and elegance. Fine length. Best from 2017 through 2033. 248 cases made.—*B.S.*

SMART BUYS

92 VIÑA MONTES Syrah Colchagua Valley Alpha 2012 • \$22
Deeply colored and voluptuous, with a lush, spicy aroma and rich flavors of blackberry, blueberry and dark plum. Concentrated chocolate mousse notes emerge midpalate, leading to a cream-filled finish that ends with plenty of mocha accents. Drink now through 2021. 2,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

91 CONCHA Y TORO Cabernet Sauvignon Puente Alto Marqués de Casa Concha 2012 • \$26
Powerful and refined, featuring flavors of dark plum, mulberry and dried berry that are laced with notes of mint and chocolate. Bittersweet chocolate accents show midpalate, with a finish that lingers with pepper and paprika details. Drink now through 2020. 77,220 cases made.—*K.M.*

91 TABLAS CREEK Patelin de Tablas Blanc Paso Robles 2013 • \$20
Lively and refreshing, with a bright mix of melon, peach, pear and honeysuckle notes, featuring a supple texture and mouthwatering finish. Pretty aromatic details of fenugreek and aniseed linger. Grenache Blanc, Viognier, Roussanne and Marsanne. Drink now. 2,950 cases made.—*M.W.*

91 TUA RITA Toscana Rosso dei Notri 2013 • \$22
This is vibrant, showing cherry, black currant, cedar and violet flavors matched to a medium-bodied frame. Harmonious and approachable now, but should improve over the short term. Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2020. 5,000 cases made.—*B.S.*

91 VOLVER Alicante Tarima Hill 2012 • \$17
Rich yet harmonious, this polished red delivers a core of black cherry and cassis framed with smoke, mineral, licorice and espresso notes. Juicy acidity and well-integrated tannins give this structure. A modern style. Drink now through 2022. 10,000 cases made.—*T.M.*

90 CHÂTEAU FOMBRAUGE St.-Emilion 2012 • \$25
Features a solid graphite note, with good heft to the plum skin, fruitcake, blackberry paste and steeped dark currant flavors. A brambly edge lines the finish. This well-built style shows good energy. Best from 2017 through 2024. 16,665 cases made.—*J.M.*

90 SOKOL BLOSSER Evolution Red 3rd Edition America NV • \$15
Supple and appealing, with blackberry, blueberry, pepper and clove flavors that glide over the polished tannins into the long finish. Syrah, Montepulciano, Sangiovese, Sémillon, Riesling, Müller-Thurgau, Pinot Gris, Gewürztraminer, Muscat and Chardonnay. Drink now through 2017. 24,000 cases made.—*H.S.*

90 VIGNAMAGGIO Sangiovese-Merlot Toscana Il Morino 2013 • \$11
Bright black cherry, blueberry and floral flavors highlight this juicy red. Firm tannins provide support, allowing this to linger on the spice-tinged aftertaste. Drink now through 2020. 2,500 cases made.—*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.*).

SMART BUYS (continued)

- 89** **CASTELLO BANFI** Pinot Grigio Toscana San Angelo 2013 • \$19
Fresh and succulent, this offers white peach and grapefruit flavors, with a hint of orange peel. Balanced and moderately long. Drink now. 40,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 89** **BODEGAS SALENTEIN** Malbec Uco Valley Killka Collection 2013 • \$15
Brooding and intense, this red is filled with dark cherry and chocolate mousse flavors that are well-concentrated. Firm tannins on the finish are offset by creamy notes. Drink now through 2019. 47,200 cases made.—*K.M.*
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BEST VALUES

- 88** **M. CHAPOUTIER** Pays d'Oc Marius White 2013 • \$12
Exotic and rich-tasting, with notes of beeswax to the ripe white plum, melon and glazed citrus flavors. Well-spiced and lively on the zesty finish. Drink now. 32,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*
- 88** **RIOJA VEGA** Rioja 2012 • \$11
Black cherry, blackberry and dark chocolate flavors mingle in this round, modern red. Well-integrated tannins and balsamic acidity impart structure. The polished texture gives way to a spicy finish. Drink now through 2018. 25,000 cases made.—*T.M.*
- 87** **AVIVA VINO** Garnacha Calatayud Retorno 2012 • \$8
Lithe and balanced, this red offers juicy flavors of raspberry and black cherry, with notes of chocolate and fresh herbs. Light tannins and fresh acidity support the supple texture and keep the finish clean and lively. Drink now. 4,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 87** **PASO A PASO** Verdejo Viño de la Tierra de Castilla 2013 • \$9
Almond and waxy notes frame pear and quince flavors in this broad white, which has a firm texture, with well-integrated acidity and light tannins. Straightforward, but has enough weight for food. Drink now through 2018. 5,000 cases made.—*T.M.*
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ABOUT THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Highly Recommended: The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.

Collectibles: Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.

Smart Buys: Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

Best Values: Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

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