

Wine Spectator

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NEW!
TOP 100
TOP VALUES

THE Top 100

THE MOST EXCITING
WINES OF 2011

WINE OF THE YEAR

BEST CHAMPAGNES

PALM BEACH DINING

WINE EXPERIENCE: 30TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW BOOKS FOR WINE LOVERS

DEC. 31, 2011 - JAN. 15, 2012
\$5.95 US



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10 YEARS OF TOP 10s

2010

1	CALIFORNIA	98
Saxum James Berry Vineyard Paso Robles 2007 (\$67)		
2	AUSTRALIA	9
Two Hands Shiraz Barossa Valley Bella's Garden 2008 (\$55)		
3	CALIFORNIA	9
Peter Michael Chardonnay Sonoma County Ma Belle-Fille 2008 (\$85)		
4	CALIFORNIA	9
Revana Cabernet Sauvignon St. Helena 2007 (\$125)		
5	CALIFORNIA	9
Altamura Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2007 (\$85)		
6	CALIFORNIA	9
Paul Hobbs Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2008 (\$45)		
7	AUSTRALIA	9
Schild Shiraz Barossa 2008 (\$20)		
8	ITALY	9
Fontodi Colli della Toscana Centrale Flaccianello 2007 (\$110)		
9	PORTUGAL	9
CARM Douro Reserva 2007 (\$27)		
10	FRANCE	9
Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape White 2009 (\$100)		

2009

1	WASHINGTON	9
Columbia Crest Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Reserve 2005 (\$27)		
2	SPAIN	9
Numanthia-Termes Toro Termes 2005 (\$27)		

3	FRANCE	95
Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau 2007 (\$70)		

5	FRANCE	95
Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau 2005 (\$55)		

7	ITALY	97
Tenuta dell'Ornellaia Bolgheri Superiore Ornellaia 2004 (\$150)		

8	AUSTRALIA	95
Muldoon Shiraz McLaren Vale Equal of Love 2006 (\$80)		

	CALIFORNIA	95
Port Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Valley Reserve 2004 (\$125)		

	FRANCE	99
Brut Champagne 1996 (\$250)		

2006

	ITALY	97
Clos di Neri Brunello di Montalcino Tenuta Nuova 2001 (\$70)		

	WASHINGTON	95
Tablas Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2003 (\$85)		

	FRANCE	98
Château de Beaucastel Léoville Barton St.-Julien 2003 (\$75)		

	CHILE	96
Clos de la Cruz Cabernet Sauvignon Alto Don Melchor 2003 (\$47)		

	FRANCE	97
Château de Beaucastel Pégau Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée Réserve 2003 (\$70)		

	FRANCE	97
Château de Beaucastel L'Esprit de Beaucastel 2003 (\$45)		

	CALIFORNIA	96
Clos de la Cruz Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2004 (\$38)		

	CALIFORNIA	97
Clos de la Cruz Chardonnay Napa Valley 2003 (\$75)		



TABLAS CREEK

Côtes de Tablas Paso Robles 2009

93 \$30 CALIFORNIA

This Châteauneuf-du-Pape-style red blend has lived in the shadow of the winery's more expensive Esprit de Beaucastel, but this year it outranked its stablemate, earning its best review to date. With the Perrin family of Château de Beaucastel as a key partner, Tablas Creek has perfected a uniquely Californian take on the Rhône Valley. Grenache accounts for nearly half of the blend, along with Syrah, Cunoise, and Mourvèdre, fermented in both stainless steel and wood. The wine was aged in 1,200-gallon French oak casks. 1,050 cases made.

37

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works, Oregon's leading producer of quality-for-value wines, in 2007. The change in ownership and a new winemaking team led by Sam Tannahill, Cheryl Francis and Michael Davies is already paying off, with the overall quality of the wines on the rise. Davies used purchased and estate grapes from all seven of Willamette Valley's appellations in this red, the winery's entry level Pinot, to produce a wine that is powerful yet elegant. 6,162 cases made.

After a long career in the wine industry, winemaker Ron Coleman and his wife, Jamie, founded their own winery in 1998. The couple found space in a restored World War II firehouse near the Walla Walla airport. Tamarack's wines consistently rate very good to outstanding, but it raised the quality level with its 2007 Cabernet, its highest rated yet. Coleman blended 86 percent Cabernet with Merlot and Cabernet Franc from vineyards throughout eastern Washington. 1,064 cases made.

10

BINGER

Chardonnay Napa Valley Private Reserve 2009

\$37 CALIFORNIA

Beringer is doing something right—its Private Reserve Chardonnay is the only white wine ever to be crowned Wine of the Year, in 1996, and with the exception of two vintages it has rated outstanding since the 1992 vintage. The 2009 comes mostly from Gamble Ranch, near the town of Yountville. Winemaker Laurie Hook fermented the pressed juice in 76 percent new French oak barrels and stirred the lees weekly to create a rich wine with just the right touch of oak. 12,500 cases made.