



PHOTO JONVAN GORDER

WINE ENTHUSIAST
MAGAZINE

TOP
1000
BEST BUYS
2011

OUR EXCLUSIVE
RANKING OF THE YEAR'S
BEST VALUES

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

Wine lovers the world over share a common complaint: Why does the stuff we so adore often seem to cost more than we can afford? This list is our antidote to rising wine prices, the remedy for what ails us. All of these wines carry suggested retail prices of \$15 or less, which makes it a list of brands, regions and varieties you can bank on to keep your palate happy and your wallet fat.

Over the past 12 months, our tasting panels reviewed more than 16,000 wines, granting the coveted Best Buy designation to only 1,224 (7.6%). From there, we whittled the numbers down to the Top 100 listed here, based on the relationship between score and price and factoring in availability and buzz. We also tried to balance the list in terms of wine style, variety and origin. The result is one of the finest and most eclectic collections of Best Buys we've ever come up with, testament to the efforts of the wine industry to offer ever-improving wines at realistic prices, and—dare we toot our own horn a little—our reviewers' efforts to find the wine world's best values. >>>



Argentina	7
Australia	6
Chile	9
France	12
Italy	7
Portugal	10
Spain	9
United States	32
Other	8
Austria 2, Germany 1, Greece 1, New Zealand 1, South Africa 3	

Number of Countries Represented:	13
Number of Grape Varieties:	more than 30
Average Rating:	89.5
Average Price:	\$11.89

82


90 Montes 2010 Limited Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). This SB has one of Chile's best track records for high quality. The nose and flavors both exceed norms, with the former showing bold citrus, lime and melon aromas and the latter revolving around grapefruit, lime and gooseberry. It's ripe, healthy, pithy, acid-driven and piercing. Summer sipping calls. T.G.I.C. Importers. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

83

88 Santa Quiteria 2009 Altitud 1.100 Garnacha (Almansa). Opens with a nice mix of black fruit scents, primarily blackberry. The palate is juicy and healthy, with berry, plum, spice and herbal flavors. Fades smoothly for a \$10 Garnacha, with controlled herbal accents. An honest wine for all-occasion drinking. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

84

89 Dr. Fischer 2009 Ockfener Bockstein Riesling (Mosel). A strong showing for this entry-level offering from the Dr. Fischer estate on the Saar, with some funky passion fruit notes adding character to this creamy-textured, amply concentrated wine. Finishes off-dry, with lingering mineral notes. Hand-picked at kabinett-level ripeness, this is a great value. Winesellers Ltd. —J.C.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$13

85

91 Barnard Griffin 2009 Fumé Blanc (Columbia Valley). This could be called the signature white for Barnard Griffin, for it always delivers astonishing flavor for the modest price. A small percentage of Sémillon is in the blend, but the sappy, spicy, penetrating herbaceousness of Sauvignon Blanc is showcased, not disguised. Done in a Sancerre-like style, under 13% alcohol, this is a gorgeous food wine, but you may just want to sip it all by itself. —P.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$9

86

88 Château de Parenchère 2010 Bordeaux Blanc. Attractive wine, boasting a good balance between herbaceous Sauvignon Blanc and a more perfumed character from Muscadelle. It has a creamy character along with intense acidity, leaving a fresh taste in the mouth. The Country Vintner. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

87

89 Night & Day 2008 Red (Rogue Valley). A kitchen sink sort of blend, this nonetheless retains its focus and brings bright and spicy red fruits to the front and center. It's a yummy style, fresh and simply delicious, in the manner of a good country wine. But it goes farther than you expect, lingering and layering up through a medium-deep finish. —P.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

88


89 Machherndl 2008 Kollmütz Grüner Veltliner Federspiel (Wachau). A steely side of Grüner here, very crisp with a strong mineral element. The wine is razor sharp and bright, with a brittle texture. With its vibrant acidity, this is a great food-pairing wine. Screwcap. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

89


89 Kenwood 2008 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). A solid Zinfandel, made in the dependable Kenwood style. Shows real varietal flair, with ripe forest berry fruit sprinkled with cloves and pepper. With smooth tannins and a firm finish, it's a real bargain at this price. —S.H.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

90

92 R.L. Buller & Son NV Premium Fine Tokay (Victoria). A bargain among Down Under fortifieds, Buller's Victorian blended Tokay features wonderfully complex notes of tea, spice and citrus atop lush caramel-like sweetness. It's silky and balanced, with a long, citrusy finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.C.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$15/375 ml

91


89 Cachette 2009 Côtes du Rhône. Rich, ripe and chocolaty in style, this is a full-bodied yet soft and velvety-textured wine. It's a rich, satisfying mouthful of lusty red from the right bank of the Rhône, made by Laudun Chusclan Vignerons for the importer. Quintessential Wines. —J.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

92


88 Korbel NV Sweet Rosé (California). Even if you don't like sweet sparkling wine, it will be hard to turn down another glass of this beauty. It's so clean and delicious, with a raspberry sorbet and vanilla richness. One of the best sweet bubbliques out there, at a great price. —S.H.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$12

Buckeyes' Pride

Prior to the Civil War, Ohio was considered America's most important wine-producing state.

