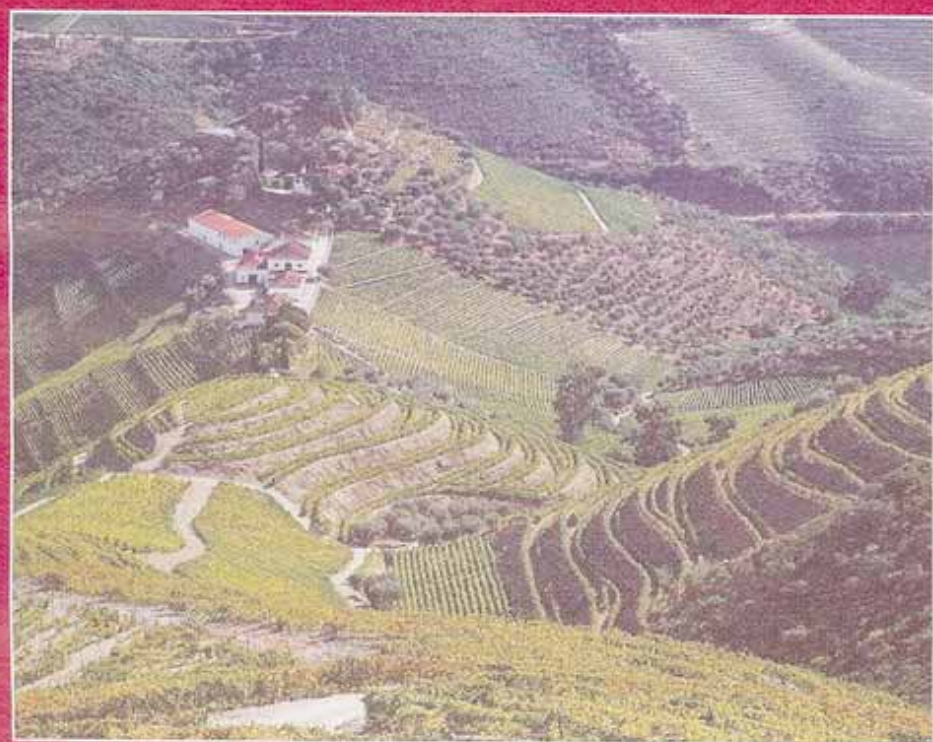


Wine Spectator

BUYING GUIDE



CONTENTS

Spectator Selections

- 209 Highly Recommended
- 209 Collectibles
- 209 Smart Buys
- 212 Best Values
- 210 About the Buying Guide

New Wines From Around the World

- 212 Argentina, Australia, Chile
- 215 France
- 218 Germany, Israel, Italy
- 224 New Zealand, Portugal,
South Africa, Spain
- 227 California, Oregon, Washington

The Buying Guide

- 207 | Buying Guide Contents
- 209 | Spectator Selections
- 210 | About the Buying Guide
- 212 | New Wines From Around the World
- 221 | Shopping List

OUR TOP-SCORING WINES THIS ISSUE



Marcassin Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Zio Tony Ranch 2003
96 POINTS, \$75



Vinha Maria Teresa

Quinta do Crasto Douro Vinha Maria Teresa 2005
96 POINTS, \$149

215 | Red Burgundy notes

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New York Wine Experience videos, online

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.



95 Quinta do Crasto Douro Reserva Old Vines 2005 \$40 Deeply colored, with intense yet refined aromas and flavors of kirsch, boysenberry, dark cherry and spice. The fruit is supported by focused notes of mineral and graphite, and the finish is loaded with dark chocolate and medium tannins. Drink now through 2015. 1,500 cases imported.—K.M.



95 Mischief & Mayhem Meursault Les Genevrières 2005 \$75 An ethereal white Burgundy, featuring white flower, lime, pear and mineral aromas and flavors that are beautifully integrated with the light-weight frame. Seamless from beginning to end, with a refreshing, mintlike aftertaste. Drink now through 2020. 50 cases made.—B.S.



94 Foradori Vigneti delle Dolomiti Granato 2004 \$60 Dark in color. Shows fabulous aromas of blackberry, mineral and licorice. Full-bodied, with big, velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Refined and polished. Very smooth. Wonderfully balanced. Teroldego. Drink now through 2012. 4,000 cases made.—J.S.



93 Bodegas y Viñedos O. Fournier Malbec Uco Valley Alfa Crux 2004 \$44 This is dark and packed with a large core of hoisin sauce, Port reduction, bittersweet cocoa, raspberry ganache and charcoal that manages to stay fleshy and driven through the long, structured finish. Offers youthful impact now, but really built for cellaring—unlike most of its peers, which offer vivid fruit right out of the gate. Best from 2009 through 2015. 500 cases imported.—J.M.



92 Robert Eymael (Mönchhof) Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwer Ürziger Würzgarten 2006 \$30 A lush, concentrated white, exhibiting raisin, peach, pastry and lime notes. This gets support from the bright structure, showing more nectarine and mandarin orange accents as it lingers nicely. Drink now through 2028. 500 cases imported.—B.S.

Collectibles

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



96 Marcassin Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Zio Tony Ranch 2003 \$75 Fresh, vibrant and concentrated, delivering a complex array of spicy anise-tinged melon, fig, citrus and lemon custard. Lively acidity keeps the flavors dancing on the finish. Drink now through 2012. 98 cases made.—J.L.



93 Marcassin Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2003 \$100 Creamy-textured, with hints of vanilla, anise, pear and melon that are intense, focused and concentrated. Still young and tight, showing great intensity and persistent flavors. Drink now through 2011. 335 cases made.—J.L.



93 Marcassin Chardonnay Three Sisters Vineyard 2003 full-bodied style, with a mix of ripe melon, eysuckle shaded by clean vanilla-tinged long, complex finish that for all its size and refined. Drink now through 2012. 200 cases made.—J.L.

Smart Buys

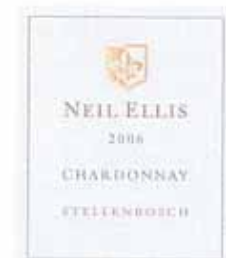
Wines that deliver fine character at a price and that are broadly available.



92 Beringer Alluvium Blanc 2006 \$16 Offers wonderful with a rich, vibrant beam of tangerine and subtle pear shadings. Finishes with a long, which shows a hint of sage. Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier. Drink now through 2015. 9,000 cases made.—J.L.



91 Bodega Luigi Bosca Malbec Reserva 2005 \$18 A big, bold wine, with muscular layers of black fig, cocoa and dark licorice piled on top of big tannins. A bit of a brute in style, but softened its edges enough. Drink now through 2012. 100 cases made.—J.M.



91 Neil Ellis Chardonnay Stellenbosch 2006 \$20 A bright, unadorned style, with a very long finish is chiseled and leaves a moist, tart apple, lime and kiwifruit backed by firm tannins. Drink now through 2009. 700 cases imported.—J.L.

On the Buying Guide cover: The vineyards of Quinta do Crasto rise along the hillsides above Portugal's Douro River. Photograph by Mick Rock/CEPHAS.

cellent Sauvignon, with lots of character. Drink now. 4,330 cases made.—J.S.

Venezia-Giulia JN 2005 \$29 Very scotch, honey and hints of pineapple to a full-bodied palate, with loads of big, flavorful finish. Big and rich, with juicy. The best ever from this producer. Sauvignon. Drink now. 440 cases made.—J.S.

Pinot Grigio Collio 2006 \$37 Lemon, pineapple and papaya aromas to a full-bodied palate, with fresh, lively, appley finish. Balanced and flavorful. 500 cases made.—J.S.

NEW ZEALAND

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2005 \$25 Fleshy and concentrated, with a mineral, grapefruit-lime, anise and oyster shell and citrus acidity linger, with a hint of honey. Drink now. 500 cases imported.—D.S.

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$13 See Smart Buys, page 211.

Pinot Noir Chardonnay Kumeu 2005 \$33 Intense, with pastry dough, lemon skin, peach flavors. Stone, mineral and vibrant nonize deftly in the finish. Drink now through 2012. 3,000 cases made.—D.S.

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$25 Oyster shell, wet stone, grass and grapefruit. Delivers very good concentration, with a fatting the finish. Drink now through 2012. 500 cases made.—D.S.

Pinot Noir Ruster Riesling Waipara Hull Late harvest 2006 \$30/375ml With very good concentration to apple and green apple, lemon and tangy apricot. Drink now through 2009. 250 cases made.—D.S.

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$25 Light, with very good intensity to grass, lime and grapefruit tones. Pronounced flavors extend through the concentrated finish. 100,000 cases imported.—D.S.

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$25 Lemon, grapefruit and aromatic oyster shell and intensity, with grass and stone accents in the finish. Drink now. 3,250 cases made.—D.S.

Pinot Noir Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$25 See Best Values, page 211.

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$18 Mineral and lime flavors have very good grass and herb accents highlighting the finish. 15,000 cases imported.—D.S.

Pinot Noir Ford Chardonnay Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$17 Poached pear, roasted yellow skin flavors have very good concentration. 5,000 cases imported.—D.S.

Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Marlborough 2007 \$25 With very good concentration to lime, mineral and grassy flavors. A trace of sweetie finish. Drink now. 75,000 cases made.—D.S.

Pinot Noir Ga Chardonnay Martinborough Marlborough 2007 \$25 With apricot, peach pit and poached citrus roasty oak, caramel and vanilla

highlight the finish. Drink now. 2,000 cases imported.—D.S.

86 Wither Hills Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2007 \$15 Grass, mineral, green pear and lime flavors have very good depth, with intense stoniness extending through the finish. Drink now. 150,000 cases made.—D.S.

85 Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Vicar's Choice 2007 \$16 Bright and citrusy, with fine vibrancy to lime and grapefruit flavors accented by mineral and grassy undertones. Drink now. 50,000 cases made.—D.S.

84 Villa Maria Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Private Bin 2007 \$15 —D.S.

PORTUGAL

96 Quinta do Crasto Douro Vinha Maria Teresa 2005 \$149 Delivers gorgeous aromas and flavors of chocolate, dark cherry and spice. Concentrated and refined, this luscious, unctuous red is filled with silky tannins and enough crushed red fruit and mineral notes to linger long after the last sip. Drink now through 2015. 50 cases imported.—K.M.

95 Quinta do Crasto Douro Reserva Old Vines 2005 \$40 See Highly Recommended, page 209.

95 Niepoort Douro Charme 2005 \$98 An elegant red from the Douro in a Burgundian style, with a beefy aroma and refined flavors of plum, raspberry, dark cherry and sandalwood. Has silky tannins, with a long, entrancing finish filled with cream, mocha and chocolate. Drink now through 2014. 225 cases made.—K.M.

94 Quinta do Crasto Touriga Nacional Douro 2005 \$99 A vibrant expression of Touriga, with intense, well-sculpted flavors of red plum, kirsch, red cherry and mineral. The long finish features medium-grained tannins, with layers of cream, spice and chocolate. Tempting now. Best from 2009 through 2014. 100 cases imported.—K.M.

93 Lemos & Van Zeller Douro Curriculum Vitae 2005 \$100 Inky and rich, with a surplus of dark chocolate, blackberry and mocha flavors. Powerful but balanced. Has a long finish of French roast and mineral, with plenty of Asian spice in the mix. Drink now through 2014. 75 cases imported.—K.M.

93 Lemos & Van Zeller Douro Van Zellers Red 2004 \$25 A powerful red, with a deep well of dark plum, blackberry and smoked cherry flavors. Finishes long, with lots of chocolate, bacon and spice. Drink now through 2012. 150 cases imported.—K.M.

92 Lemos & Van Zeller Douro Quinta Vale D. Maria 2005 \$65 Has a spicy, peppery aroma, with flavors of dark plum, dark cherry and hints of pomegranate. Notes of iron and mineral also pervade this muscular red, with plenty of tannins on the finish. Best from 2009 through 2014. 250 cases imported.—K.M.

92 Niepoort Douro Batuta 2005 \$110 Full-bodied and elegant, displaying concentrated flavors of dark plum, meat and mocha, with hints of hickory. The long finish highlights the ripe fruit and silky tannins. Drink now through 2011. 700 cases made.—K.M.

92 Niepoort Douro Vertente 2005 \$32 The aroma is redolent of berry and cherry, with rich, lush flavors of plum, raspberry, cherry and spice, flanked by veins of mineral. The long finish is filled with mocha and cream. Drink now through 2014. 1,740 cases made.—K.M.

92 Poças Junior Douro Reserva 2004 \$25 A concentrated red in a dry Port style, with intense aromas and flavors of dark currant, kirsch, cherry and spice. This is no-holds-barred with the tannins, showing a deep vein of dark chocolate and espresso flavors that linger with plenty of grip on the finish. Touriga Nacional, Touriga

Franca, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca. Drink now through 2015. 600 cases made.—K.M.

92 Quinta do Vallado Douro Reserva 2005 \$65 Concentrated blackberry aromas and flavors dominate this very juicy, fresh-tasting red. Strong notes of dark chocolate and French roast fill the finish. Drink now through 2012. 150 cases imported.—K.M.

92 Quinta do Vallado Touriga Nacional Douro 2005 \$55 A muscular, strapping Touriga, with concentrated flavors of dark plum, red cherry and raspberry. Has a long, lingering finish of dark chocolate and ganach. Drink now through 2012. 100 cases imported.—K.M.

91 Vinhos Borges Douro Quinta de Soalheiro 2005 \$12 A pure expression of raspberry, red plum and pepper flavors. Long and concentrated, with a smoky finish filled with plenty of coffee bean, chocolate and mocha. Needs some time in the cellar to flesh out. Best from 2009 through 2013. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 200 cases imported.—K.M.

91 Niepoort Douro Redoma Red 2005 \$55 Powerful and focused, with crushed red fruit flavors and plenty of mineral and chocolate notes. Finishes crisp, with spice and mint. Drink now through 2012. 2,080 cases made.—K.M.

90 Niepoort Douro White Tiara 2006 \$29 Very creamy, with rich, perfumed aromas and lush flavors of apricot, peach, baked apple and tropical fruits. Smoky and rich on the finish. Drink now through 2012. 560 cases made.—K.M.

90 Quinta dos Roques Touriga Nacional Dão 2005 \$35 Ripe and smoky, with loads of dark cherry, cassis and boysenberry flavors. There's also a deep well of dark chocolate and spice, which carries through to a long finish. Drink now through 2014. 400 cases made.—K.M.

89 Niepoort Douro Redoma Reserva White 2005 \$57 A rich, ripe white, with an enticing spicy aroma and lush, full-bodied flavors of ripe apple, mango, honey and cream. Finishes with smoked almond. Drink now through 2011. 515 cases made.—K.M.

89 Poças Junior Douro Coroa d'Ouro Reserva Red 2004 \$12 A refined red from the Douro, with concentrated flavors of sandalwood, red cherry and plum. Has plenty of acidity and structure to back it up. Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca and Tinto Cão. Drink now through 2013. 2,500 cases made.—K.M.

89 Poças Junior Douro Novus 2004 \$18 Lush and juicy, with well-defined flavors of red plum, raspberry, smoke and spice. Shows plenty of bright fruit on the finish, with silky tannins. Should be a fine match for roast poultry. Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca. Drink now through 2012. 1,500 cases made.—K.M.

88 Prats & Symington Douro Chryseia 2005 \$66 Spicy, with supple flavors of cream, raspberry and mocha and silky tannins. The lingering finish is filled with milk chocolate. Drink now through 2010. 5,000 cases imported.—K.M.

88 Quinta do Vallado Douro 2005 \$20 Medium- to full-bodied, with mouthfilling red plum, dark cherry and berry flavors. Has plenty of tannins on the finish, with a smoky note. Drink now. 400 cases imported.—K.M.

87 Quinta do Vallado Douro White Reserva 2006 \$50 A juicy, lively white, showing pear, citrus and apple flavors, with notes of honey and spice. Finishes with sea salt and mineral. Drink now. 50 cases imported.—K.M.

86 Vinhos Borges Vinho Verde Gatão NV \$7 Crisp and peachy-tasting, with notes of tangerine, mineral and lime. Medium-bodied, with a juicy, appley finish. Drink now. 700 cases imported.—K.M.