



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **OCT. 31, 2010** ISSUE

Wine Spectator's Oct. 31 Italy Travel issue presents our annual feature on Italian wine and culture. Our tasting report on Tuscany is packed with terrific wines, while our travel coverage takes you to Merano, a luxury resort town in the Italian Alps. Plus, Italian-inspired menus with matching wines.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

97 **PODERE POGGIO SCALETTE** Alta Valle della Greve Il Carbonaione 2007 • \$50
A gorgeous Sangiovese, with blueberry, raspberry and floral notes. Full-bodied, with supervelvet tannins and a long, caressing finish. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

96 **RUFFINO** Toscana Modus 2007 • \$25
This is phenomenal on the nose, with blueberry, light toasty oak, coffee and sweet tobacco. The palate is full and utterly captivating, with its combination of fruit and very subtle, silky tannins. Goes on and on. Best after 2014.—*J.S.*

95 **FONTODI** Colli della Toscana Centrale Flaccianello 2007 • \$110
A generous Sangiovese, with loads of blackberry, dark cherry and berry on the nose and palate. Full, long and chewy. The new wood could stand to have a little less barley flavor, but the fruit is fabulous. Takes off on the finish. Gorgeous. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

92 **SETTE PONTI** Toscana Crognolo 2008 • \$35
Very silky and fine, with currant and berry on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, with a wonderful mouthfeel. Clean, fresh and direct. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*

COLLECTIBLES

100 **SCHRADER CELLARS** Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard MM VII 2007 • \$350 / 1.5L
Incredibly rich and layered, with a profound mix of pure ripe plum, crème de cassis, blackberry, wild berry, spice, red and black licorice, mocha, mineral and fresh-cut flowers—amazing flavors that are pure and balanced, combining power with finesse. Drink now through 2030.—*J.L.*

100 **SCHRADER CELLARS** Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley CCS Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2007 • \$150
Offering riveting aromas of red and black cherry, red and black licorice, plum, spice and cedar, this is firm, deep, dense and concentrated, not wanting to bend much now, but the muscular thrust of flavors and backbone bodes well for cellaring. Best from 2012 through 2025.—*J.L.*

97 **TENUTA DELL'ORNELLAIA** Bolgheri Superiore Ornellaia 2007 • \$200
A wine that does everything right and puts it in beautiful balance. Full-bodied, yet reserved, silky and elegant, with wonderful fruit and friendly tannins. Best after 2012.—*J.S.*

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SMART BUYS

- 92** **ST-URBANS-HOF** Riesling Kabinett Mosel Ockfen Bockstein 2009 • \$19
Offers enticing peach, apricot, lime and slate aromas and flavors, with a touch of vanilla cream. Creamy, yet bright and pure, with persistence and a complex finish. Drink now through 2025.—*B.S.*
- 91** **LE CINCIOLE** Chianti Classico 2007 • \$25
A layered and pretty wine, showing berry and cherry character, with hints of new wood. Full-bodied, yet reserved and balanced. Best from 2011 through 2016.—*J.S.*
- 91** **MARCHESI DE' FRESCOBALDI** Chianti Rufina Castello di Nipozzano Riserva 2007 • \$20
A burly Rufina, with dried dark fruits, chewy tannins and a dark chocolate and mineral aftertaste. Full and satisfying. Always the fresh acidity in the back palate. A go-to Chianti. Drink now.—*J.S.*
- 91** **TABLELANDS** Sauvignon Blanc Martinborough 2009 • \$13
Wonderfully aromatic, with honeysuckle notes that give way to lush flavors of apricot, mango and pineapple. Ripe, spicy and medium-bodied, with terrific intensity and a refreshing acidity. Drink now.—*M.W.*
- 90** **AIA VECCHIA** Toscana Lagone 2008 • \$17
A full, velvety and juicy red, delivering lots of Christmas pudding and dried fruit character on the nose and palate. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*
- 90** **RUFFINO** Toscana Il Ducale 2007 • \$18
A little lean, but there's plenty of ripe fruit, offering berry and blueberry aromas and flavors, with hints of light toasty oak. This should soften with bottle age. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*
- 89** **BODEGAS CAMPO VIEJO** Tempranillo Rioja Reserva 2005 • \$15
This maturing red shows dried berry, floral and anise notes, with tobacco, cedar and earth undertones. The tannins are softening, while the acidity remains fresh. Harmonious, in the traditional style. Drink now through 2015.—*T.M.*
- 89** **CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE** Sauvignon Blanc Horse Heaven Hills Horse Heaven Vineyard 2009 • \$15
Bright and juicy, offering a lively mouthful of pear, herb and lime flavors, lingering easily. Drink now.—*H.S.*

BEST VALUES

- 88** **CAPEZZANA** Toscana Monna Nera 2007 • \$8
Exhibits plum and cedar on the nose and palate. Medium and chewy, with fresh acidity and a clean finish. 50 percent Sangiovese, 20 percent Merlot, 10 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 10 percent Canaiolo. Best after 2011.—*J.S.*
- 88** **COLUMBIA CREST** Riesling Washington Two Vines 2009 • \$8
Sweet, but not soft, with a lively tang of acidity to balance the deftly nuanced pear, honey and floral flavors, lingering well. Drink now through 2015.—*H.S.*
- 88** **SNOQUALMIE** Riesling Columbia Valley Winemaker's Select 2009 • \$10
Bright and lively, with a sweet finish preceded by tangy pear and apple fruit. Drink now.—*H.S.*
- 86** **PINE & POST** Chardonnay Washington 2007 • \$8
Light and tangy, with grapefruit peel overtones to the apple and spice flavors. Drink now.—*H.S.*
- 85** **VIDIGAL** Lisboa Reserva 2008 • \$8
Bright and juicy, with red plum, boysenberry and briar flavors. Finishes with spice and hot stone, with touches of mocha. Drink now.—*K.M.*

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.*).