



OVER  
**1,000**  
RATINGS IN  
THIS ISSUE

**SPECIAL 2011 BEST OF YEAR ISSUE!**

# WINE ENTHUSIAST<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 31, 2011

THE  
**2011**  
**#1 WINE OF THE YEAR**  
PAGE 30

WE REVEAL OUR

**TOP 100 WINES OF 2011**

PAGE 30

+

**50 OUTSTANDING SPIRITS**

PAGE 52

**25 ESSENTIAL BEERS**

PAGE 60

**HOTTEST TRENDS & ARTICLES OF 2011**

GO TO **WineMag.com**

\$5.99 US & CANADA



2007  
**NIPOZZANO**  
RISERVA  
CHIANTI RUFINA

**PATIANNA**  
Estate Vineyards  
MENDOCINO  
SAUVIGNON BLANC  
2009  
MADE WITH ORGANIC GRAPES

1942  
**Don Julio**  
1942  
TEQUILA AÑEJO

2007  
25TH ANNIVERSARY VINTAGE  
**DE BORTOLI**  
**NOBLE ONE**  
Botrytis Semillon  
25TH ANNIVERSARY VINTAGE  
PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA



# THE ENTHUSIAST

# 100

{ 2011 }

---

## THE MUST-HAVE WINES OF THE YEAR

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

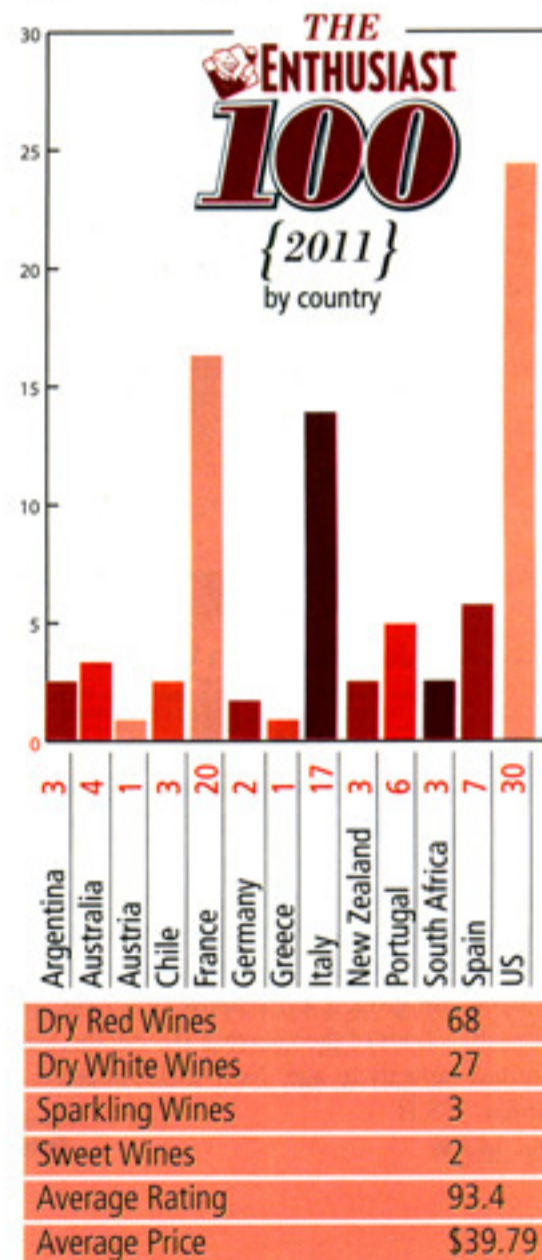
---

This year, *Wine Enthusiast's* tasting panel reviewed more than 16,000 wines. We've previously published our lists of Top 100 Best Buys (wines for \$15 or less, November) and Top 100 Cellar Selections (cellar-worthy and highly rated collectibles, December), now here comes the big kahuna.

The Enthusiast 100 are not the wines we drink on a daily basis, nor do they represent a single annual splurge. Instead, they are the solid middle ground: weekend wines, restaurant purchases, special occasion wines. In short, wines we wish we could drink more often.

To arrive at this list, we look at a myriad of factors, including rating, price, drinkability and uniqueness. Then we factor in availability, diversity and a healthy portion of subjectivity. Within the constraints of what we've tasted during the past 12 months, we try to include wines made in different regions, from various grape varieties and in many different styles.

The end result? A list of 100 wines we'd be happy to drink any night of the week. >>>



**43**

**92 Lapostolle 2009 Cuvée Alexandre Apalta Vineyard Carmenère (Colchagua Valley)** Rich and dark smelling, with alluring pastry, earth, herb and soothing berry aromas. Deep, meaty and very ripe across the mouth, with cola, chocolate, roasted berry and fresh prune flavors. Toasty and lush as it fades away. Fun and modern; drink now through 2013. Most Hennessy USA. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$24

**44**

**92 Domaine Sigalas 2010 Assyrtiko (Santorini)**. Sigalas sets the bar high for Assyrtiko as usual. This 2010 is a balance of rounded citrus, crisp sea salt and sparkling minerality. Delicious with grilled fish, fruit or alone on a hot day, this is an elegant gem of a white that represents some of the best of Greek wine offered today. Diamond Importers Inc. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$24

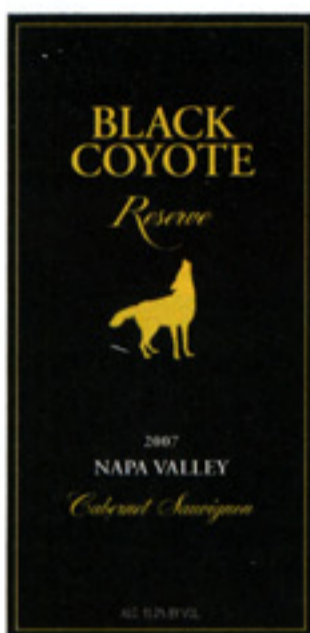
**45**

**92 Laurent Miquel 2007 Saga Pegot Syrah (Faugères)**. Saga Pegot is a gorgeous single-block expression of Syrah, aged 14 months in French oak. The oak is present and forward, lending a great decadence to the wine by way of sweet wood and strong mocha characteristics among the black berry and cherry fruit core. Additional nuances of licorice stick, crushed purple florals and thin mint add depth to the lush mouth. Firm, gripping tannins and a dense fruit core provide a texture like crushed velvet. Drinkable now, but should age nicely through 2017. Laurent Miquel. *Editors' Choice*. —L.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**46**

**94 Capanna 2006 Brunello di Montalcino**. This beautiful Brunello will charm your socks off. The wine is rich and plush, deep and concentrated, intense and ripe with personality. It offers a modern yet sneakily sophisticated nose with tones of bright cherry, almond paste and vanilla. The tannins are still a bit firm and so give it another five years of cellar aging. Masciarelli Wine Co. *Editors' Choice*. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**47**



**97 Black Coyote 2007 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak)**. Tasted blind in a large group of Napa Valley Cabernets, this one stood out for sheer power and authority. It's absolutely delicious, dazzling showing blackberry tart, cherry pie with the sweet, smoky crust, cassis and baking spice flavors, wrapped into wonderfully thick, fine tannins. Pure California fruit, but dry, balanced and nuanced. A classic, but high-alcohol haters will find plenty to complain about. Drink now–2020. —S.H.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$85

**48**

**94 Jacquesson et Fils NV Cuvée 734 Brut (Champagne)**. Based on the 2006 vintage, this current release of Jacquesson's nonvintage wine has richness and power, while tight acidity surrounds the core of pear and pineapple fruits. The touch of steel gives a great final bite. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70

**49**

**93 Piazzo Armando 2007 Barolo**. This is a very impressive expression of Nebbiolo from the celebrated 2007 vintage that shows sweet vanilla and spice tones at the back of blueberry, cassis and cherry cola. The wine shows a softer, more immediate quality than compared to past vintages. Angelini Wine. —M.L.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$43

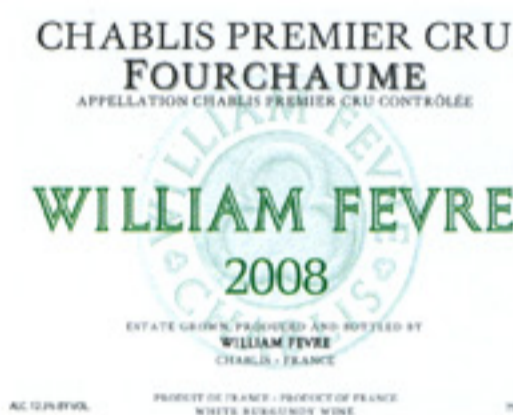
**50**

**93 Masút 2009 Pinot Noir (Mendocino)**. A beautifully balanced, well-made Pinot Noir from the sons of the late Bobby Fetzer of the famed Mendocino Fetzer family, who started Masút originally to farm organic Pinot grapes with his sons. Ben and Jake do honor to their family heritage here with a clean, bright bottle of high-toned cranberry and tart cherry accompanied by a richness of texture and just a touch of oak. —L.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

**51**

**93 David Sterza 2007 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico**. With a building fan base, David Sterza is quickly emerging as one of the best Amarone producers to watch. His 2007 vintage opens with drying mineral notes that form a delicate contour around bright cherry, savory spice and dried tobacco leaf. The Italian Wine Trader. *Editors' Choice*. —M.L.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**52**



**93 William Fèvre 2008 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis)**. A beautifully balanced wine, mixing an intense, nervy, crisp fruit character with light wood flavors and the most piercing acidity. This is a serious wine, for aging over 3–5 years while retaining impeccable fruit. Henriot Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**53**

**96 Sequoia Grove 2007 Rutherford Bench Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford)**. A stunningly beautiful Cabernet, made from the estate vineyard of all five classic Bordeaux varieties. Softly tannic and dry, it shows lush flavors of green olives, black cherries, anise and smoky oak that swirl into a long, impressive finish. Drinkable now for sheer beauty, it will develop over the next decade. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$65



*“Making good wine is a skill; making fine wine is an art.”*  
—Robert Mondavi