



## The Most Coveted Wines of 2010

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

**E**ach year, *Wine Enthusiast's* wine tasting panel samples thousands of current releases in every style and at every price point imaginable. Striving to discover the best and most attractively priced selections, we review hundreds of wines of interest to our readers. But those chosen for The Enthusiast 100 go beyond just interest: These wines are truly exemplary, often represent the very best of their category, and should not be missed.

While the bottlings featured in this list have all received high scores from our critics, the criteria for selection extends far beyond the numbers assigned to them to include extraordinary quality-to-price ratio, immediate drinkability, and uniqueness. All offer a window into the terroir from which they come.

Another factor in selection—perhaps one less easily defined—is the wine's “it” factor. Some wines are just buzzy...they attract excitement from both consumers and the industry, and represent notable emerging or established trends in the market. Thus you'll find an Argentine Malbec in the Top 10 this year, testament to the great inroads that variety has made on the American consciousness, as well as to the intrinsic qualities of the wine itself. Our number one wine, from Piedmontese producer Renato Ratti, rewards the greatness of its 2006 Barolo Marcesasco, but also recognizes the leadership role the estate has played within Piedmont and the exceptional quality of the region's recent vintages.

We've tried to include wines that not only represent many different regions and grape varieties, but also vary in style. You'll find red, white, sparkling, dessert and fortified wines from many of the major wine-producing countries across the full spectrum of grape varieties. One of the things we value most in the wine world is diversity, and this is our way of applauding it.

73

**93 Pietro Rinaldi 2007 Vigna San Cristoforo (Barbaresco)** . Here's a bold and modern Nebbiolo from the San Cristoforo cru with a rich, extracted appearance followed by intense aromas of ripe cherry, spice, black licorice, slate roof and dried tobacco leaf. The tannins are dusty and drying but give excellent structure to the wine's overall richness and opulence. Imported by VinUS Inc.

74

**93 De Toren 2007 Fusion V (Stellenbosch); \$45.** Cedar, blackberry, plum and dark chocolate aromas and flavors give this poised red blend a mysterious edge. Anise and pepper add a spicy kick, the whole package rolls out in one impressive, rich wave, ending with a spicy finish. An ageable wine with great character and poise. One of South Africa's best. Imported by Cape Classics.

75

**93 Gonzalez Byass NV Matusalem Oloroso Dulce Viejo (Jerez); \$45/375 ml.** Outstanding Sherry with complexity, richness and character. The nose has a salinic zest to it, making it no wallflower, and of course there's raisin and prune. The palate is formed, sculpted and balanced, with peanut M&M's candy, roasted fruit, chocolate ice cream and more. A beauty with power and poise. Imported by San Francisco Wine Exchange.

76

**93 Massena 2006 The Eleventh Hour Shiraz (Barossa Valley); \$48.** Made by Dan Standish, this resembles the wines under his own label in its sense of elegance and proportion. It's big, but not too big, with intriguing aromas of smoke, blueberries and pepper, followed up by flavors of blueberry, cherry and spice. Drink now–2020. Imported by Epicurean Wines.

77

**95 Fielding Hills 2008 RiverBend Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope); \$42.** Though the blend includes small portions of other grapes—9% Syrah, 3% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc—this really champions the essential character of great Washington Cabernet Sauvignon. Its core fruit is supple, compact cassis and black cherry, with a spicy top note that resonates well into the finish. Concentrated and beautifully proportioned, with black olive and just a hint of leaf in the finish. *Editors' Choice.*

78

**100 Williams Selyem 2007 Litton Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley); \$100.** A wine of great structure, with rich acids and tannins framing grilled cherries, strawberries and raspberries, with complicating notes of cola, pomegranates, orange zest, anise, dusty Asian spices and smoky sandalwood. The vineyard, which is owned by the winery, is only 19 acres, planted to an array of newer and older clones. Best after 2013.

79

**92 Domaine Gavoty 2009 Cuvée Clarendon Rosé (Côtes de Provence); \$22.** The top wine from Gavoty, this is impressive. It has a fine structure, enveloped by rich fruits, soft apple skins and red cherry tannins and a tight layer of acidity. It could age for a year. Imported by Garber and Co.

80

**92 Henri Bourgeois 2008 Domaine Gérard Fiou (Sancerre); \$22.** An intensely mineral expression of Sauvignon Blanc, crisp, full of citrus flavors, deliciously fresh, but also complex. The wine is concentrated into a steel spring of ripeness, ready to burst from the glass. Imported by Ideal Wine and Spirits Co. Inc.

81

**93 Kilikanoon 2006 The Duke Grenache (Clare Valley); \$49.** A top-notch effort, The Duke (a single-vineyard bottling) offers lovely cherry fruit and a full body allied to a wonderfully silky texture and tremendous length. What's not to like? Drink it over the next 3–4 years. Imported by Old Bridge Cellars.

82

**94 Dowsett Family 2009 Celilo Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Columbia Gorge); \$22.** The Celilo Vineyard is arguably the finest location in Washington for growing Gewürztraminer, and over the years quite a few winemakers from both Washington and Oregon have worked with these grapes. No one does a better job than Chris Dowsett, and this new vintage is his finest to date. A thrilling wine, from the first sniff to the last lingering sip—lemon peel, sappy citrus fruits, rich minerals, perfect acidity—it's all here in spades. *Editors' Choice.*

83

**93 Finca Decero 2007 Amano Remolinos Vineyard (Agrelo); \$50.** Smoky and dark, with serious aromas of black licorice, earth and lush berry. The palate has a great feel to it along with huge flavors of cassis, blackberry, black peppercorn, coffee and sweet coconut. It's stellar from front to back, with coffee, mocha and silky tannins on the finish. Composed of 60% Malbec with 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and small parts Tannat and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2013. Imported by Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice.*

84

**98 Viña Sastre 2005 Regina Vides (Ribera del Duero); \$195.** From vines that are between 80 and 100 years, this is a marvelous example of top-notch Spanish red wine, regardless of region and grape variety. Hails from four vineyards, and the product is dark, concentrated, sultry, masculine and impressive. Giant black fruit flavors, texture, richness, coffee and cola make it truly special. Drinkable now; best in