

December 31, 2011
Circulation: 127,709 (print) 20,043 (online)





THE ENTHUSIAST 100 {2011}

THE MUST-HAVE WINES OF THE YEAR

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

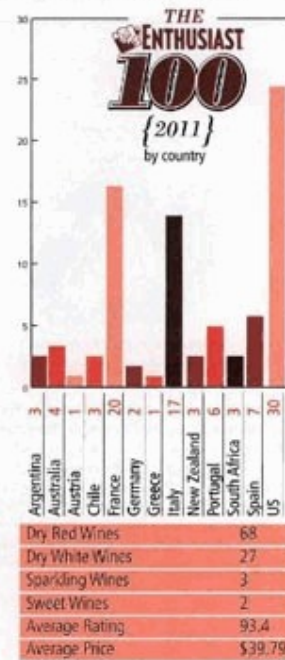
PHOTO: JON VAN GORDER

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. >>>

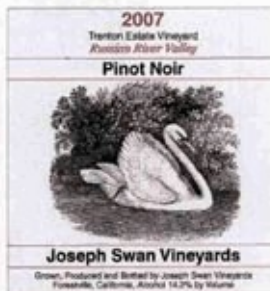


1



93 **Marchesi de' Frescobaldi 2007 Nipozzano Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** From Frescobaldi's gorgeous Nipozzano estate, this Riserva Sangiovese (with small percentages of Malvasia Nera, Cabernet and Merlot for extra density and intensity) opens with impressive generosity and personality. It offers lingering flavors of cherry, chocolate and dark spice. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

2



97 **Joseph Swan Vineyards 2007 Trenton Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** An awesome Pinot Noir—it's hard to find words to describe its beauty. It's bone dry and rich in stimulating acidity, and the cherry and raspberry fruit flavors have an earthy, mushroomy quality that grounds the wine and gives it a real sense of terroir. Shows the fleshy attractions of the amazing '07 vintage, with an undisputed capacity to age. Now–2017, at least. **Editors' Choice.** —S.H.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$52

3



98 **Leonetti Cellar 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Dense, aromatic, layered and rich, this wine explodes from the glass with scents and flavors of concentrated berries, cassis, black cherry and more. The vines have reached a mature stage that amplifies the fruit and keeps the generous barrel flavors in perfect balance. The barrel notes roll on in a chorus of toasty accents, and the finish is as good in the last minute as the first whiff from the glass. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

4



94 **O. Fournier 2006 Alfa Spiga (Ribera del Duero).** A fine and intricate heavyweight that blends power and ripeness with complexity and class. Quality leather, spice, toast and dark berry aromas set up a structured, grippy palate with generous black fruit flavors, tobacco notes and chewy tannins. Long, sweet and rewarding on the finish. Drink now through 2016. Fine Estates From Spain. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$47

5

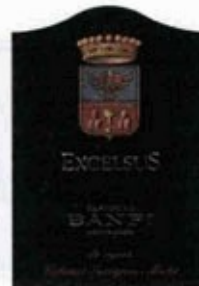


93 **Patianna Made With Organic Grapes 2009 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino).** Winemaker Mike Lee continues to prove his prowess with Sauvignon Blanc in this latest vintage of Patianna. Patti Fetzer's line of organically farmed wines from outside of Hopland in Mendocino County. Fermented entirely in stainless steel without undergoing ML or barrel aging. It delivers everything you love about the variety, inviting one in with melon and minerality, then following through with a surprising creaminess and almost decadent, mousse-like finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$17

6

93 **Fluza 2008 Ikon Chardonnay-Trincadeira (Tejo).** Aromatic, tropical textured wine. Great flavors of ripe pineapple and mango balance with more green fruit characters and a twist of lime. The wood flavors are well restrained, offering just a touch of final spice. Aidl Wines & Liquor Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

7



97 **Castello Banfi 2007 Excelsus Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Toscana).** The 2007 Excelsus is a gorgeous super Tuscan expression (with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot) that shows quality and

