



# WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **JAN. 31 – FEB. 28, 2021** ISSUE,  
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

*Wine Spectator's* Feb. 28 Smart Buys issue includes more than 550 wines that scored 90 points or higher and cost \$25 or less in 2020. Plus, a special feature on affordable collectible wines to stock your cellar with. Tasting reports cover recent vintages for the Rhône Valley and Port. Don't miss this must-read issue packed with insider tips!

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- 96** **FONTANAFREDDA** Barolo La Rosa 2016 • \$125  
On the savory side, this red opens with freshly mowed grass, hay and eucalyptus aromas before revealing cherry, strawberry, rose and mineral flavors. Fleshy, with a matrix of dense tannins flexing their muscles on the finish. Shows excellent potential. Best from 2023 through 2042. 1,000 cases made, 250 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 96** **TAYLOR FLADGATE** Vintage Port 2018 • \$120  
Remarkably harmonious already, with a beautiful display of unadulterated blueberry, blackberry and plum sauce flavors that fan out, while anise, ganache and cassis accents fill in. So lush and seductive through the finish, it's nearly drinkable. But just wait. Best from 2030 through 2050. 7,800 cases made.—*J.M.*
- 95** **ÖKONOMIERAT REBHOZ** Riesling Pfalz Kastanienbusch GG 2019 • \$125  
Starts on the slightly austere side, but opens up with air, expressing a mineral element that is joined by complex flavors of white peach and grapefruit allied to a supple texture. This has a vibrant structure that keeps it all intact, cruising to a long, floral- and stone-filled aftertaste. Needs more time, but should develop beautifully. Best from 2024 through 2036. 400 cases made, 28 cases imported.—*A.Z.*
- 95** **DOMAINE SANTA DUC** Châteauneuf-du-Pape Habemus Papam 2018 • \$47  
Rather lush, with a gorgeous velvety mouthfeel to its mix of crushed plum, boysenberry puree and steeped black cherry fruit. Long threads of black tea, mineral and incense dangle through the finish, adding to the alluring feel. Best from 2023 through 2036. 980 cases made, 250 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 94** **BRICK HOUSE** Pinot Noir Ribbon Ridge Les Dijonnais 2018 • \$54  
Ethereal and expressively floral, with multilayered raspberry, rose petal and cherry blossom flavors, plus orange peel accents that build richness toward polished tannins. Drink now through 2028. 685 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 93** **ALAIN GRAILLOT** Crozes-Hermitage 2018 • \$45  
Alluring, with alder, juniper and bay leaf aromas already pulling you in before the crushed cherry and plum fruit shows itself. An iron note curls around the finish, pulling everything together and bringing you back for more. Drink now through 2028. 6,500 cases made, 600 cases imported.—*J.M.*

## COLLECTIBLES

- 97** **JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE** Hermitage 2017 • \$350  
This delivers a long, flowing feel, letting cassis, plum reduction and blackberry compote flavors unfurl slowly while black tea, singed alder, tar, warm loam and dried anise notes play out in the background. Shows grace, power and wonderful length, with the finish, built on tannins at first glance, revealing buried acidity and latent mineral notes. Best from 2023 through 2040. 1,600 cases made, 250 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 97** **E. GUIGAL** Côte-Rôtie La Landonne 2016 • \$600  
This sports some ripe black cherry, bitter plum and black currant fruit flavors allied to a bolt of cast iron through the middle, while mesquite, bay leaf and savory notes scurry about. Shows lots of energy and detail on the finish, with the cast iron edge extending lengthily. Should cruise in the cellar. Best from 2023 through 2040. 125 cases imported.—*J.M.*

## COLLECTIBLES (continued)

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- 97 QUINTA DO NOVAL** Vintage Port 2018 • \$100  
Juicy and muscular, with a ball of plum paste, warmed fig compote and black currant reduction flavors that need time to unwind. Ample graphite- and bramble-accented grip underscores the fruit on the finish, while a ganache note finds room to strut its stuff in the end. Should be one of the longer-lived wines of the vintage. Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Cão, Sousão and Tinta Roriz. Best from 2030 through 2055. 1,600 cases made, 490 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 97 LUCIANO SANDRONE** Barolo Aleste 2016 • \$175  
A core of ripe, sweet cherry lurks beneath the iron, tar, eucalyptus and tobacco flavors in this firmly structured red, which shows freshness. This has both finesse and power, with a tight matrix of tannins and a long finish. Best from 2023 through 2047. 160 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 96 GIUSEPPE RINALDI** Barolo Tre Tine 2016 • \$250  
Kirsch, cherry and floral aromas and flavors kick off, augmented by eucalyptus, tar, tobacco and mineral notes. Tightly wound, this is more expressive than austere, with fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity driving the long finish. This should be superb in about 10 years. Best from 2023 through 2045. 600 cases made, 110 cases imported.—*B.S.*
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## SMART BUYS

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- 93 JEAN-LOUIS CHAVE SÉLECTION** St.-Joseph Offerus 2018 • \$36  
This is lively, with bright black cherry and blackberry coulis flavors racing along, lined with a fresh sanguine note and backed by a mineral edge on the finish. A flash of bay leaf in the background adds range. Drink now through 2030. 3,100 cases made, 1,000 cases imported.—*J.M.*
- 92 VIÑA SANTA EMA** Carmenère Peumo Amplus One 2018 • \$30  
A polished and vibrantly juicy red, with a blend of red currant and cherry flavors backed by fresh acidity. Shows minty accents on the finish, with notes of slate and spice. Drink now through 2025. 1,200 cases imported.—*K.M.*
- 91 CHATEAU STE. MICHELLE-DR. LOOSEN** Riesling Columbia Valley Eroica 2018 • \$20  
A lovely wine, appealingly off-dry and boldly expressive, with honeysuckle, peach, grapefruit and spice flavors that linger on the lush, crisp finish. Drink now. 10,000 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 91 LAFOND** Syrah Sta. Rita Hills SRH 2016 • \$24  
This sleek red is compelling, with fresh black raspberry flavors that show a whiff of smoky meat and cracked pepper. Drink now through 2026. 2,000 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 90 BODEGAS OLARRA** Rioja Cerro Añon Reserva 2016 • \$18  
This red is graceful and harmonious, with black cherry, licorice, leafy and mineral notes supported by moderate tannins and juicy acidity. Not showy, but focused and long. Drink now through 2028. 25,000 cases made, 10,000 cases imported.—*T.M.*
- 90 ENRICO PIERAZZUOLI** Chianti Montalbano 2019 • \$16  
This balanced red offers an appealing mix of ripe cherry, sweet woodsmoke and humus on the nose, with cherry and plum fruit holding court on the palate, lingering with cherry and earth accents. Drink now through 2028. 9,000 cases made, 3,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*
- 90 SEVEN HILLS** Sauvignon Blanc Columbia Valley 2019 • \$16  
A compelling white, with expressive orange blossom, peach and lemon flavors that fan out and show detail on the long finish. Drink now. 4,450 cases made.—*T.F.*
- 90 ST.-COSME** Côtes du Rhône 2019 • \$18  
Ripe and friendly, with a blast of plum and boysenberry compote flavors laced with licorice and backed by a twinge of lavender on the plump finish. Drink now through 2022. 35,000 cases made, 20,000 cases imported.—*J.M.*
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## BEST VALUES

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- 90** **CHARLES & CHARLES** Riesling Yakima Valley Art Den Hoed Vineyard 2018 • \$14  
Leads off with steely dryness before evolving to an off-dry profile, opening to star fruit, petrol and nectarine accents layered on a plush finish. Drink now. 15,000 cases made.—*T.F.*
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- 90** **FAMILLE PERRIN** Côtes du Rhône-Villages 2018 • \$15  
Friendly in feel, with crushed plum, black cherry and raspberry fruit mixed together with a lacing of black licorice on the finish. A subtle juniper echo adds range. Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Drink now through 2022. 12,000 cases imported.—*J.M.*
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- 88** **PACIFIC RIM** Riesling Columbia Valley Sweet 2019 • \$11  
Soft and fairly sweet, with honeysuckle and orange blossom aromas and tropical fruit flavors. Drink now. 70,000 cases made.—*T.F.*
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- 88** **LOS VASCOS** Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua 2018 • \$12  
Supple and well-knit, with ripe dark fruit and cooking spice flavors that show loamy notes. Ends with hints of mocha and dried tarragon on the firm finish. Drink now through 2023. 280,000 cases made, 45,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*
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- 87** **CHATEAU SOUVERAIN** Cabernet Sauvignon California 2018 • \$10  
Straightforward, with a good core of cherry and cassis notes laced with a touch of singed vanilla through the finish. Drink now. 185,000 cases made.—*J.M.*
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### ABOUT THE 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.

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

**Smart Buys:** Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

**Best Values:** Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

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.*); Tim Fish (*T.F.*); Alison Napjus (*A.N.*); MaryAnn Worobiec (*M.W.*); Gillian Sciaretta (*G.S.*); Aleks Zecevic (*A.Z.*).