

advance

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A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE MAY 15th ISSUE

Wine Spectator's May 15th issue continues the "Great Grapes" series with an incredible overview of Cabernet Sauvignon. This feature will cover the wine styles, major growing regions and top producers of this important grape varietal. Plus, tasting reports on Chile and New Zealand.

94

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

ERIC KENT

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley
Stiling Vineyard 2004 • \$35

A rich, opulent style that's intense and concentrated, but also well-structured. The ripe plum, blackberry and blueberry fruit is pure, focused and long on the finish, with great acidity and ripe, firm tannins. Drink now through 2011.—J.L.

94

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

**DOMAINE DU VIEUX
TÉLÉGRAPHE**

Châteauneuf-du-Pape
La Crau 2004 • \$52

Pure and silky, with raspberry, cocoa, truffle and mineral notes that glide along the fresh acidity. The long finish lets the fruit and minerality hang nicely, with *garigue* in the background. Should blossom in the cellar. Best from 2008 through 2025.—J.M.

93

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

CADENCE

Tapteil Vineyard
Red Mountain 2004 • \$40

Polished, open-textured and refined, this is generous with red currant, raspberry, black cherry and dusky spice aromas and flavors. Supple texture and graceful structure make it a winner. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2014.—H.S.

93

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

FRANÇOIS CHIDAINE

Vouvray Le Bouchet 2005 • \$27

Shows gorgeous fruit—glazed pear, fig and quince—with a warm brioche note. The lush texture is made even more flattering by the off-dry feel, and the finish sings with floral and mineral notes. Drink now through 2012.—J.M.

96

COLLECTIBLE

**CHÂTEAU DE
BEAUCASTEL**

Châteauneuf-du-Pape
2004 • \$99

Thoroughly primal, with a torrent of raspberry and boysenberry fruit rushing forth. Only shows hints of its full range, with licorice, incense, graphite and mocha flavors fluttering in the background. Has an iron-clad structure, with a long finish that shows great cut and grip. Best from 2009 through 2025.—J.M.

96

COLLECTIBLE

DOMAINE DU PÉGAÛ

Châteauneuf-du-Pape
Cuvée Réservee 2004 • \$70

A real powerhouse, with muscular layers of fig and black currant compote backed by braised beef, chestnut, tobacco and tar flavors. The long, mesquite-filled finish lets additional bittersweet cocoa and dark fruit notes linger, with lots of *garigue*. Best from 2008 through 2025.—J.M.

94

COLLECTIBLE

CAYMUS

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley
Special Selection 2004 • \$136

A superb Cabernet that's ripe, plush and deeply concentrated, offering tiers of currant, plum, blackberry and spicy, cedary oak. Firmly tannic, lively and deep, revealing extra flavor nuances on the long, engaging finish. Best from 2008 through 2013.—J.L.

92

SMART BUY

ALTOS LAS HORMIGAS

Malbec Mendoza Viña Hormigas
Reserva 2005 • \$22

Very ripe, but also racy, with an exotic array of graphite, tar, sweet dark chocolate, plum, fig and violet. Has great structure and drive through the grip-filled finish. Drink now through 2009.—J.M.

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92

SMART BUY

FOUR VINES

Zinfandel Amador County
Maverick 2004 • \$20

Firm and well-structured, exhibiting ripe raspberry, wild berry and blackberry flavors that are supported by ripe, integrated tannins. Ends with a pepper and cedar note. Drink now through 2011.—*J.L.*

90

SMART BUY

HERVÉ BAUDRY

Sancerre Domaine de Rome
2004 • \$21

A hint of maturity gives this wine extra dimension, with chive butter, thistle flower and sea salt flavors that ripple through the lengthy finish. Drink now.—*J.M.*

90

SMART BUY

GROOM

Sauvignon Blanc
Adelaide Hills 2006 • \$18

Bright and juicy, with pear and citrus flavors that lilt through the lively finish. Drink now.—*H.S.*

89

SMART BUY

BODEGA DEL DESIERTO

Chardonnay Alto Valle del Rio
Colorado 25/5 2005 • \$15

Shows nice pear, hazelnut and pineapple notes yet stays bright and lively rather than turning overly buttery on the finish. Nicely done. Drink now.—*J.M.*

89

BEST VALUE

ANGOVE'S

Rosé Nine Vines
South Australia 2006 • \$10

Bright, lively and focused with lots of watermelon-scented raspberry and tangy floral flavors. Finishes off-dry and open in texture. Grenache and Shiraz. Drink now.—*H.S.*

88

BEST VALUE

PAUL AUTARD

Côtes du Rhône 2005 • \$12

Bright and fresh, with tangy blackberry fruit and floral and graphite notes that race through the finish. Very tasty. Drink now.—*J.M.*

88

BEST VALUE

HEATH WINES

Chardonnay Central Ranges
Lizard Flats 2005 • \$8

Crisp in texture, offering generous orange cream and pear flavors that just don't quit as the finish rolls on and on. Cries out for food. Drink now.—*H.S.*

87

BEST VALUE

PAVIN & RILEY

Cabernet Sauvignon
Columbia Valley 2005 • \$10

Lithe, supple and appealing for its straightforward currant and cherry flavors. Finishes with restraint. Drink now through 2009.—*H.S.*

87

BEST VALUE

SMOKING LOON

Sauvignon Blanc
California 2005 • \$9

Lime peel and pink grapefruit flavors are zingy and refreshing, with a grassy herbal note and a mineral pebble quality. Drink now.

87

BEST VALUE

BODEGAS TERRAZAS DE LOS ANDES

Cabernet Sauvignon
Mendoza 2005 • \$10

Ripe but focused, with dark berry and fig fruit backed by sweet, bacony toast and spice notes. Drink now.—*J.M.*

86

BEST VALUE

J. & F. LURTON

Malbec Uco Valley 2006 • \$9

Fresh and juicy, with lots of dark cherry, raspberry and bramble flavors and a solid finish. Drink now.—*J.M.*

85

BEST VALUE

CONCHA Y TORO

Cabernet Sauvignon
Central Valley Casillero del Diablo
2005 • \$9

Shows nice black currant and fig notes, with a soft layer of loam underneath. A juicy hint on the finish keeps it going. Drink now.—*J.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.*); James Suckling (*J.S.*); Jo Cooke (*J.C.*); Daniel Sogg (*D.S.*). A lack of initials indicates the wine was reviewed by a *Wine Spectator* panel.