

# WINE News

*Our astute buyers list their favorites for the season.*



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## Top 10 Best Buys of 2015 for the Holidays

These 10 holiday picks are among the biggest selling wines of 2015, and you can still get them in December—great gift ideas for your relatives, friends, or even for yourself.

**2010 Cantemerle, Haut-Medoc (\$42.99)** We have sold over 5,000 bottles of this wine. This wine is so delicious—simply put, it's the best Cantemerle since their mind-blowing 1949. Buy it or buy the 1949 for \$900 a bottle. This wine was scored 94 points by both Mr. Parker and Mr. Suckling. —*Clyde Beffa Jr.*

**2012 Groth Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon (\$49.99)** The Groth 2012 shows ripe red and black fruits, a juicy texture, hints of vanilla and a long, lingering finish. Like most 2012s from Napa, there is so much fruit in this wine that with some air you can enjoy it tonight! —*Trey Beffa*

**Ariston Aspasié "Carte Blanche" Brut Champagne (\$27.99)** This great bottle of Champagne has been our best selling for many years, and for good reason. Most Champagne in this price range is aged the minimum 15 months on the lees that is required to earn the name—the Aspasié gets 60 months. This has the toasty richness on the front that only time can bring, balanced by a snappy, dry finish. —*Gary Westby*

**2010 Castiglion del Bosco Brunello di Montalcino (\$39.95)** Want to bring home some Ferragamo for the holidays? Yes, the Ferragamo family owns this beautiful estate in Montalcino and produced this outstanding 96 point 2010 Brunello. The nose is full of plum, earth, smoke and hints of wood spice; excellent now with a little decanting. —*Greg. St. Clair*

**2013 Te Mata "Cape Crest" Sauvignon Blanc Hawkes Bay (\$14.99)** The bouquet soars with notes of gardenia, jasmine, white peach, nectarine, lemon/lime blossom and accents of lanolin and lemongrass. The oak is beautifully integrated into the overall superb balance, with juicy acidity escorting the long finish. Like a great white Bordeaux for a fraction of the price! —*Jim Chanteloup*

**2013 Olivier Leflaive Bourgogne Blanc "Oncle Vincent" (\$19.99)** One of our best values in the Burgundy section, this provides Chassagne-Montrachet quality! Rich, smoky, with notes of Golden Delicious apples and spice, this wine is the perfect foil for your holiday meal. —*Alex Pross*

**2008 Miguel Merino "Vitola" Reserva Rioja (\$19.99)** Hands down, my favorite \$20 bottle—think lush, spicy cherry confit fruit with orange peel nuances and chalk-driven minerality. For Rioja fans and just about any red wine drinker! —*Joe Manekin*

**2012 Villa Symposia "Equilibre" Languedoc (\$15.99)** Deep flavors of chocolate-covered cherries, tobacco, baking spices and earthy loam. The fruit is sweet, but not too much so. It has length and finesse, is immediately appealing and has enough stuffing to develop for a few years. Great for parties and office gifts. —*Keith Mabry*

**2014 Domaine Cherrier Père & Fils Sancerre (\$14.99)** Francois and Jean-Marie Cherrier, with father Pierre, produce steely and citrus-driven Sancerre from fine parcels of Sauvignon Blanc. Vibrantly aromatic and mineral-driven, this is quintessential Sancerre. —*Eric Story*

**1995 Benrines 20 Year Old K&L Exclusive Signatory Single Barrel Cask Strength Single Malt Whisky (\$99.99)** This whisky exemplifies everything we're about: finding quality products for our customers at prices that are far lower than the quality of the liquid would suggest. This explodes with rich vanilla, soft stone fruits, and a rich, textural mouthfeel that coats your palate from front to back. This is nothing but old-fashioned Scotch whisky flavor dialed up to maximum concentration, from a distillery no one's ever heard of. That's why it's \$99.99 instead of \$199.99. That's why we bought the whole freakin' barrel. —*David Driscoll*

# Clyde's Picks for Holiday Gifts: Bordeaux

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

## Under \$30 Values

**1999 Lanessan, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99)** We have sold over 4,000 bottles of this wine in the past five years. This 16-year-old bottle is drinking perfectly now if you love old school Bordeaux!

**2009 Bernadotte, Haut-Médoc (\$19.99)** From the outstanding 2009 vintage comes an absolute killer Bordeaux value. Great terroir plus new owners raising cash equals great value. Rich and ripe and very sweet. Can cellar it or drink it with a steak.

**1997 Potensac, Médoc (\$24.99)** 13,000 bottles sold and counting. Perfect for tonight. Still lively, rich and round. Delicious.

**2010 Tertre Daugay, St-Emilion (\$29.99)** This property was bought by the Haut Brion people and it is now called Quintus, which sells for \$100-plus. Superb value and great terroir. 92 points JS.

**2009 Maison Blanche, Médoc (1.5L \$29.99)** 91 points WS. We sold over 14,000 bottles of the 750ml. This is stunningly delicious: blackberries and toasty oak abound. Will cellar well for five-plus years. Fresh and vibrant. The best value magnum at K&L right now. 400 bottles left.

## Picks in the \$30-\$100 Range

**2011 Doisy-Védrières, Sauternes (375ml \$21.99; 750ml \$39.99)** Our favorite value stickie. 95 points WS: "Pure, with piercing persimmon, pineapple, white peach and quince flavors."

**2009 Brown, Pessac-Léognan (\$32.99)** 92 points WE: "A deeply rich-colored and flavored wine, smooth and showing the great ripeness of the vintage. Acidity and firm tannins offer structure to what is a spicy, fruity wine, dominated by fresh black plum and prune flavors."

**1999 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (750ml \$44.99; 1.5L \$99.99)** Price-to-quality ratio at Cantemerle has consistently been wonderful. The '99 is no exception. Perfumy nose, slightly oaky aromas. Broad flavors with sweet and silky fruit. Good balance, with strong tannins on the end.

**1996 Lynch-Moussas, Pauillac (\$49.99)** Just tasted in 2015, the wine sings. Old school, Bordeaux-pure cassis and red fruits. Wonderful balance and length. Superb value.

**2009 Reserve de Comtesse de Pichon Lalande, Pauillac (\$49.99)** 91 points RP: "...notes of forest floor, white chocolate, licorice, black currants and vanillin-infused black cherries. It possesses a sweet, round, generous style given its high glycerin."

**2005 d'Angludet, Margaux (\$59.99)** A Robert Parker "sleeper of the vintage," and a Clyde Beffa favorite.

**2012 Léoville-Barton, St-Julien (\$79.99)** This wine is perfect as they get—seamless and all fruit. 94-96 points WE.

**1995 Malescot St-Exupery, Margaux (\$89.99)** and **1995 Gruaud Larose, St-Julien (\$99.99)** These two outstanding 20-year-old Bordeaux are ready to enjoy with decanting or they can be cellared five more years. Two of my favorite properties.

## The Best of the Best \$100+

**2012 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (750ml \$109.99; 1.5L 199.99)** 92 points WS: "This has a very solid core of dark plum, crushed black currant and blackberry fruit, with lightly firm flesh and good drive through the finish, where alder and iron notes fill in..."

**1996 Cantemerle, Haut-Médoc (1.5L \$119.99)** One of our top picks for value-of-the-vintage. Fabulous nose, rich, deep flavors, and a great value for the high quality. We weren't the only ones who liked it, either. It got 91 points and a "Highly Recommended" designation from *Wine Spectator*.

**2005 Lynch-Bages, Pauillac (\$199.99)** Very limited availability here. 96 points James Suckling: "A meaty and decadent Lynch with very ripe currant aromas on the nose."

**2000 Léoville-Poyferré, St-Julien (\$229.99)** 97 points Robert Parker: "The plushest, most ostentatious and dramatic of all the Leovilles in 2000, this wine is already sumptuous."

**2010 Pontet-Canet, Pauillac (\$279.99)** A perfect 100 points, and this wine will last for another 50 years—easily. Mind-blowing.

**2003 Latour, Pauillac (\$999.99)** A perfect 100 points and the best of the 2003 vintage. For your best friend or yourself.

**1995 d'Yquem, Sauternes (\$249.99)** There are hints of honey, raisins, and jam due to the 1995 vintage's superb concentration. The bouquet also reveals aromas of quince, fig, and hazelnut. Twenty year anniversary gift for the holidays?

**2011 d'Yquem, Sauternes (\$399.99)** 99 points WS and 97 points RP. When only the best will do. Very limited availability.



## K&L Wine Clubs: The Perfect Holiday Gift Idea!

Have a loved one, relative or friend who is tough to shop for? K&L has the perfect solution: Give them a **K&L Wine Club** membership. We have five wonderful club options and we're sure one of them will be the ideal holiday gift. You can sign them up for as few as three shipments, and we can ship to them directly or allow them to conveniently pick up in one of our three store locations.

We can send out a gift letter announcement or send you a printable PDF gift letter to enclose in a holiday card. Signing up is easy—just go online to [KLWines.com](http://KLWines.com) and click on **wine clubs** and follow the enrollment steps.

Key: \* Direct Buy Imports PA Pre-Arrival RP Robert Parker's Wine Advocate WS *Wine Spectator* WE *Wine Enthusiast* JS James Suckling W&S *Wine & Spirits*  
AG Antonio Galloni's Vinous JH James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion BC Bob Campbell RC Raymond Chan

## Gifting Wine: It's Not so Easy!

By Trey Beffa

**Giving a bottle of wine as a gift can be a bit tricky.** What type of wine does the recipient like? Does he or she have a wine cellar? You can bet that if they travel to wine country on their vacations and routinely attend wine dinners, you have someone who knows what they like. So, what type of wine do you give a wine nut? If you are not quite sure what type of wines they enjoy, I would stick with the basics: Bordeaux, Burgundy, California Cabernet or Pinot Noir. Here are a few picks I think could be sure bets for that perfect gifting bottle:



**2005 d'Angludet, Margaux (\$59.99)** The 2005 vintage will grab connoisseurs right off the bat! D'Angludet is a small property in Margaux that we have been following for years here at K&L. This is a dark, spicy wine that is filled with flavors of minerals, blackberries, cedar and licorice. It is a wine you could enjoy tonight or lay down for a few more years. Always a great value in Bordeaux!



**2013 DuMol Russian River Pinot Noir (\$69.99)** For me, the Russian River Valley is still the epicenter for Pinot Noir in California. The DuMol is a wonderfully rich, deep, and decadent wine that coats the palate with flavors of blackberry, cola and spice, yet possesses enough acidity and finesse to carry it through to the finish.

**2012 Pierre Gelin Fixin 1er Cru "Clos Napoléon" (\$59.99)** We poured this wine in a consumer tasting a while back and it was a hit. It possesses all those classic Burgundy flavors you look for, along with a nice dollop of fruit, thanks to the 2012 vintage. This is good candidate for cellaring for several more years or enjoying after decanting for an hour or so.



**Opus One "Overture" Napa Valley Bordeaux Blend (\$109.99)** Until last year, Overture was only available for purchase at the winery and a few select restaurants. That alone will make it interesting to many wine fans. A blend of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 vintages, this wine is made in the exactly same facilities as Opus One, and by the same winemaking team, with the same fruit sources. It just sells for less than half the price! This wine is made to be enjoyed upon release, so enjoy it now!



## Domestic Wine Highlights

By Bryan Brick

**The holidays are upon us with parties, celebrations, feasts and gifts galore.** Here are some of my favorite picks that will go over well in any occasion, rich or poor.

**2011 Heitz Cellar Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (\$44.99)** Always one of the standard-bearers for "classic" Napa Valley Cabernet, Heitz made the best out of a tough vintage in 2011. They declassified all of the famed Martha's Vineyard, and the shamefully overlooked Trailside Vineyard designate bottlings, and added all that juice to this wine. The result is outstanding and has elevated this wine to a whole other level of quality. Bright and more "claret-like," this has snappy red fruits and fennel on the nose with traditional notes of redwood and warm gravel. High toned and full of raspberry, crushed cherry, sandalwood, sweet pipe tobacco and the unmistakable eucalyptus notes of Martha's Vineyard, this is a steal of a wine. Don't miss out on this because of any preconceptions of the vintage.



**2012 Roco Willamette Valley Pinot Noir (\$24.99)** This Pinot is from our friend, and one of the great winemakers in the Willamette Valley, Rollin Soles. As one of the original owners and longtime winemaker of Argyle Wines, Rollin has a wealth of knowledge and experience making delicious wines from Oregon. A few years back, he started Roco with his wife, Corby, and has been pouring all of his energy into making these deliciously accessible wines. The 2012 Willamette Valley Pinot is just about perfect, giving plenty of rich boysenberry, pine, cherry preserves and fennel on an imminently drinkable, mid-weighted frame. Easygoing and full of vigor and charm, this mirrors Rollin's personality and will be a hit either as a cocktail or at the table.



**2012 Obsidian Ridge "Obsidian Ridge Vineyard" Red Hills Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon (\$24.99)** We've always been high on this wine, from a vineyard half a mile high in Lake County. Whether it's the singular terroir of having massive veins of obsidian running through the vineyard, or the judicious use of Hungarian oak, this Cab is just "different" in all the right ways. Powerful as any from Napa, this wine has always held its own with its more highly regarded big brother, yet does so on a tremendous budget. Volcanic in personality, this has deep-set black fruits, ash, exotic spices, vanilla and sandalwood bursting from the glass. Inky and rich, with rock-solid structure, this is one of my sleeper picks every year for drinkable yet age-worthy Cab on a budget.

## Introducing the Next Big Thing: Copper & Kings

By David Driscoll

When I visited Kentucky this past September, I went in search of great bourbon. What I didn't expect to find was great brandy, yet I left the Bluegrass State having purchased far more grape spirits than I had corn. Joe Heron's Copper & Kings distillery is a modern slice of American ingenuity in the middle of an old industrial Louisville neighborhood known as Butchertown.

Amidst the run-down brick buildings and old Victorian-style houses is a cleanly-cut vision of steel and glass, loaded with three pot stills that pump out beautiful fruit-based spirits by the day. Joe was smart right from the beginning, and he studied his contemporaries. Whereas the Utah whiskey distillery High West had gone around and cleaned out America's last remaining stocks of rye whiskey, blending the rations into an aged spirit it could sell out of the gate, Heron went and did the same thing—albeit with brandy. He scoured the country in search of aged expressions, purchased what he could, and turned the mature stocks into a giant solera system into which he adds his newly-distilled brandies. Over time the stocks will intermingle and his Copper & Kings-distilled brandies will take over the lion's share of the supply. In the meantime, however, Joe has created something incredible for drinking right now! We hit it off completely on our visit, and Joe decided to make K&L his exclusive source for C&K spirits on the West Coast. We've brought in the standard brandy, the cask-strength Butchertown version, along with some incredible apple-based

selections. While we've long extolled the virtues of Cognac and Armagnac to our spirits customers, it's about time for America to join the party. Come see what the fuss is all about and why brandy is truly the next big thing for our liquor department.

**Copper & Kings American Small Batch Brandy (\$34.99)** A supple and wonderfully balanced brandy that offers both extreme sippability and an incredible value-oriented price. This should be a staple of your home bar from this point forward. Non-chill filtered and without any caramel coloring or artificial sweeteners (few Cognacs can claim that these days).

**Copper & Kings Butchertown Reserve Casks Brandy (\$59.99)** Cask strength bourbon drinkers—take note! This is 62%, bold and in-your-face brandy that drinks like one of our Four Roses barrels. An explosive spirit that should completely change the face of our brandy department.

**Copper & Kings American Apple Brandy (\$39.99)** The key flavor ingredient in this deliciously apple skin-flavored brandy is the usage of sherry casks in the maturation. That little bit of richness really rounds out the spirit and gives it an incredible finish.



## Our Fall Line of K&L Exclusive Single Casks is Here

By David Othenin-Girard

This year's Whisky Season started late, but after a long wait, we've finally got our single cask selections for the year! It's a huge variety of exciting casks of various styles. We have more than 30 exclusive casks in stock right now, but here is a selection of our most exciting offerings. They won't last forever, so act quickly! All are cask strength:

**Invergordon 27 Year Old Sovereign Single Grain Whisky (\$129.99)**

We've had incredible luck finding some of these single grains recently. Many of our suppliers are realizing that this is a great avenue to get old whisky out and are starting to charge exorbitant prices for good whisky, simply because it's been aged for more than 25 years. Since we buy direct, we're able to cut out the middleman and continue to get *awesome*, well-developed grains at a fraction of the price of other bottlings. Indeed, we're selling another cask of Invergordon right now that's only a few years older for \$70 more than this special cask. This is an absolute gem, and even though it's not made with malt, it is really a special value at this price.

**Invergordon 50 Year Old Sovereign Single Grain Whisky (\$299.99)**

We have four single casks of old grain this year, but the Invergordon 50 year is, without a doubt, the highlight. Sure, it's \$300, but this whisky was distilled five decades ago! Ultra-dense dried fruit, exotic wood and caramelized fruit—the result of excellent quality casks and slow concentration over a half century.

**Springbank 18 Year Old Hunter Laing's "Old & Rare" Sherry Butt (\$299.99)** It's been years since anyone has offered us Springbank single casks. Usually when they do, they're asking £300 wholesale. This stupendous sherry butt reminds me of the old days of Springbank, the malt richness combined with the perfect amount of sherry, peat, and that sweet, funky, savory quality that Springbank does best.

**Longmorn 29 Year Old Hunter Laing's "Old & Rare" (\$349.99)**

This magnificent distillery is rare in most any form, but finding an old one is nearly impossible. This ultra-complex, soft and rich Speysider reminds me why I love Scotch! Surely it's not inexpensive, but without a doubt, a veritable legend.

**Blair Athol 26 Year Old Signatory Single Sherry Butt (\$179.99)**

This cask of the infamous Blair Athol is a follow-up to our most popular cask of last year's campaign. Ultra-dense and almost red with sherry intensity, this will have you wanting to visit this gorgeous, unknown distillery. Nothing on the market compares to these wonderful butts from Signatory.

Check out the rest of our single casks in the Signatory, Hepburn's Choice and Sovereign line, [online](#) or in the store!



# Champagne!

By Gary Westby

**This year we have a better selection of Champagne for the holidays than ever before.** It has been a decade since we have had so many great Champagnes under \$30, and we also have access to some of the very best, special high-end selections in our history. With the dollar very strong, and the world market a little weak, we have a rare opportunity to both offer great values and get better access to hard-to-acquire wines. Here are a few highlights from our nearly 300-strong list of Champagne:

**Baron Fuente “Grande Réserve” Brut Champagne (\$23.99)** Most Champagne on the U.S. market goes from import company to distributor to retailer before finally ending up in your hands. With Baron Fuente, we have cut out two of the middlemen to bring you a ridiculous deal in real Champagne. The Grande Réserve is composed of 60% Meunier, 30% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Noir, from fruit that is estate or purchased while still on the vine in the western part of Champagne. It has authentic toast from three years on the lees, a surprising amount of interest and complexity and a crisp, persistent finish.



**2006 Baron Fuente “Grand Millésimé” Brut Champagne (\$29.99)** This Baron Fuente vintage is 30% Chardonnay, 60% Meunier and 10% Pinot Noir, only from estate fruit. With eight years of aging on the lees, it has pinpoint streamers and a velvety texture, without losing the vivacious snap and refreshment that we all love about Champagne. Your guests will never guess what you paid for this!

**2008 Louise Brison Vintage Brut Champagne (\$29.99)** This is “the Champagne that broke the internet,” and one of the best-selling bottles of all time at K&L. We took nearly the entire production of this small, organic producer from the Aube, and now it is nearly all gone. This all-estate wine is half tank-fermented Pinot Noir and half barrel-fermented Chardonnay from the best vintage since 1996 in Champagne. If you like dry, bright, delineated, mineral-driven Champagne, this is for you! While this is delicious right now, this will also make a great 20-year-old, so take advantage of the great price and buy a few for the future, as well!



**Jean-Jacques Lamoureux “Réserve” Brut Champagne (\$29.99)** This round, charming, easygoing Champagne is all estate-grown Pinot Noir from les Riceys, a village just three miles from the border with Burgundy. If you are looking for something full-bodied, toasty and fun to drink, the Lamoureux will deliver. I think you will be surprised at the depth of this fantastic little grower Champagne!

**Franck Bonville “Belles Voyes” Brut Blanc de Blancs Champagne (\$69.99)** This single vineyard, all-Chardonnay, barrel-aged Champagne is simply one of our best at any price. It comes from a mid-slope parcel in the grand cru of Oger that was planted in the late '20s or early '30s, and has concentration, complexity and length on the level of the greatest wines from any region at any price. This is bone-dry, serious Champagne that will leave the connoisseur wanting for very little...except another glass. And at only 3,000 bottles produced, that could be hard to come by.



**2006 Drappier “Grande Sendrée” Brut Champagne (\$99.00)** This single vineyard Champagne gets its name from the ashes left behind from a great fire in 1836. The vineyard is in Urville in the middle of the Aube, far from the ocean. But 150 million years ago this site was a beach, and the fresh sea air seems trapped in this magical wine to this day. The soil is very much like Chablis here, and this blend of 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay shows like a grand cru from one of the best names in that part of Burgundy: dry, etched and long, but still marvelously full-bodied.

**1999 Billecart-Salmon “Cuvée Nicolas François Billecart” Brut Champagne (\$99.00)** This even blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is one of the most elegant, gently toasty, silky Champagnes that we have at any price. For special occasions, this gorgeous bottle will never disappoint, and it makes a great gift, as Billecart has a reputation for quality that many houses envy.



**Billecart-Salmon Brut Rosé Champagne (\$74.99)** What could be more civilized than treating your special someone to an aperitif of rosé Champagne? Elegant and focused, with a fine bead, light salmon color, creamy texture and lingering finish. Our rosé sales leader for many years—since 1979.

**2007 Louis Roederer “Cristal” Brut Champagne (\$199.00)** Every Champagne fan knows the name Cristal, but how many know that it is all estate grown, from the chalkiest, oldest vineyard sites of the great Roederer holdings in Champagne? How many know that this wine is now mostly from organic sites? There is a reason that Cristal is the benchmark for purity, finesse and precision in Champagne! The 2007 is the most streamlined and ethereal that they have made since the great 2004, and one that should keep for decades if you can keep your hands off of it!



# The Great 2010 Brunello di Montalcino

By Greg St. Clair

The 2010 vintage for Brunello di Montalcino was, as James Suckling wrote last year, a “vintage of a lifetime.” I have never tasted a broader range of quality from any previous vintage in Montalcino. Almost every producer made wine that is, if not their best wine ever, then most certainly just as good. This is an unusual vintage, in the sense that the wines aren’t young and fruity. They already display savory, salty flavors, characteristics that normally take a decade to emerge. Yet this isn’t a sign of early maturity. It is a sign that the wines were harvested with a complete phenolic ripeness and are so well balanced, you can drink them now. And with a bit of decanting, they are glorious! So this holiday season, add Brunello to your table! Here’s a selection of some of our best values.

## 2010 Baricci Brunello di Montalcino (\$42.99)

K&L’s number one staff favorite Brunello. We all love the complex earthiness, which has a cherry tobacco, plum mixture that graces the elegant and lithe body. This wine favors grace over power, and requires a curious mind and a bit of patience to delve into the layers of spice, earth and fruit. It is a wine without a need to speak loudly and leaves itself to be discovered, rather than shouting out its own name. 93 points JS.



## 2010 Il Valentiano Brunello di Montalcino

(\$34.99) A bit shy and subtle at first in the nose, it’s really best after decanting for two-plus hours. Then, slowly, this wine begins to release its core: it’s a gentle flow, exuding a composed center, no rush or hurry here. On the palate, the wine has a really savory quality: salty, iron, leather. Then, slowly, the fruit escapes from its tightly wound core where hints of wild cherry, plum and cocoa powder mix with fine-grained tannin to give a really focused palate presence. The long, persistent finish, with layer after layer, gradually makes its presence felt with superb balance and a growing flavor crescendo. 92 points JS.

## 2010 La Lecciaia Brunello di Montalcino

(\$34.99) This up-and-coming estate sits between Biondi Santi and Fattoria dei Barbi in the middle of one of Montalcino’s most famous zones. Its nose is full of plum, spice, leather, gravel and smoke. That might seem a disparate blend for some of you, but it is heavenly flow of aromatics that escape your glass. On the palate, the wine is classic: a long, vibrant flow from front to back that is layers of wild cherry, smoke and leather couched in a richly textured center. Superb balance and vibrant, classic aromatics, and at the price an unbelievable deal. 94 points AG.



## 2010 Poggiarellino Brunello di Montalcino (\$34.99)

Another K&L favorite, this wine is sensational. When you first smell this wine, the gamut of aromas is classic Poggiarellino: wild Marasca cherry and plum, with a certain wild *sauvage* character. On the palate, the wine shows a broad richness, with a decisive tannic structure (not obtrusive or harsh, just powerful and fine grained) that shows the how big the frame of this wine really is. The flavors reflect the aromatics: more Marasca cherry, with plum and red berry, then hints of saddle leather followed by a long, elegant and impressive finish. 95 points JS.



## 2010 San Giacomo Brunello di Montalcino

(\$39.99) The nose is a little reticent at first, then gradually it opens into spicy, wild cherry and leather; gently flowing, not bold, but vibrant. The wine has an elegant presence, and the savory flavors grow, with bits of leather, and morph into a meaty, spicy richness with ultra-fine tannins. The finish is the highlight of this wine—it isn’t bold or forward, just exceptionally balanced. 94 points JS.

2010 Villa Poggio Salvi Brunello di Montalcino (\$39.99) The nose on this wine is classic: all leather, earth, spice, wild cherry with hints of roasted chestnuts. Then, a muscular, sinewy, long, and leathery feel with layers of savory, salty, umami-like character. This isn’t a lush, plump wine. It has a very fine-grained tannin feel to it, stretched out along a powerful interior, acidic core that allows the tannins to blend in harmoniously. A long finish where the earthy, spicy flavors seem to last for minutes. 94 points WE.

2010 Ilceus Brunello di Montalcino (\$39.99) Sangiovese in barrique: it takes the right producer to be able to grow fruit powerful enough to withstand the barrel’s character, and Ilceus is that wine. The nose is packed with dense fruit, a combination of wild cherry, ripe, yet vibrant plum, bits of leather and spice. Very aromatic. Superbly balanced yet opulent, the finish is long and powerful. This is a delicious wine.

## 2010 Terralsole Brunello di Montalcino (\$49.99)

The nose reflects the winery’s name, “Land pointed at the Sun” (pardon the interpretation, it’s less poetic but more accurate). A warm ripeness emerges from the glass, but in all of my notes from tasting this wine more than a half a dozen times, I always used the words “cool fruit.” The flavors are a complex blend of fruit compote and spice drawer, hints of exotic woods, sandalwood, cedar and a slice of umami, porcini-like flavors as well. This wine has a lot of mid-palate richness. It is supple, smooth and luxurious, but all really well balanced by a freshening, lifting acidity. 96 points JS.



## Holiday Best from Spain

By Joe Manekin

### Classy Bubbles

**2009 Can Mayol “Loxarel” Gran Reserva Familiar Brut Nature Penedes (\$19.99)** My pick for most exciting sparkler for under \$20 in the store! I can honestly say that this gives many Champagnes at twice the price a real run for their money. Bone dry, precise bubbles, real intensity and palpable minerality. 93 points RP.

### New Bottling from Lesmos!

**2005 Bodegas Casa Juan Señor de Lesmos Reserva Selección Especial Rioja (\$29.99)** Soooo good! Unlike the regular bottling, this one sees more new, highest quality oak. Given the quality of fruit, the wine more than holds its own. This reminds me of La Rioja Alta’s 904 Gran Reserva bottling—not at all a bad thing.

### Sure to Impress

**1982 Bodegas Olarra “Cerro Añón” Reserva Rioja (\$99.99)** If you or one extremely lucky gift recipient have a soft spot for mature vintages, then it is hard to find one as lovely as this ’82 Rioja Reserva. When this bottle is on, it has to be one of my all-time favorite examples of mature Rioja. Winemaker Ezequiel “El Brujo” García (ex-Cune in the 1960s and a portion of the ’70s) described the Cerro Añón to me as being more masculine, a very old school Riojano way of referring to a wine as “Burgundian” (think: LdH Viña Bosconia, always in the Burgundy bottle). According to García, Cerro Añón always had a hefty chunk of Mazuelo and some Garnacha to brighten things up a bit. I hope you enjoy this wine as much as I have!

## Value Trifecta

By Eric Story

**2014 Dreissigacker Riesling Trocken Rheinhessen (\$17.99)** This organically produced Riesling comes from the loess, loam and limestone vineyards in and around the village of Bechtheim. Don’t let the gentle slopes of the Rheinhessen fool you, the wines here can be some of the best expressions of terroir out there. Fermented and rested in 100% stainless steel, this wine pops with aromatic character and texture. Aromas of peach, wet herbs and mineral up top, with plenty of body and texture to coat the palate while giving off subtle notes of caraway, steely minerals and a dry, focused finish.

**2003 Joel Taluau “Vieilles Vignes” St-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil (\$24.99)** Joël Taluau is a fabulous grower in St-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil, known for making some of the purest expressions of Cabernet Franc in the Loire. All his hand-harvested cuvées are based on vine age and

soil composition, and the wines are fermented and aged in stainless steel, with a light fining and no filtration before bottling. The Vieilles Vignes, from a single plot planted in 1934, has power, depth and grace; this, their flagship wine, will improve for the next 7-9 years, but can be enjoyed now, for those of you who like a mouthful of a wine.

**Charles Baur “Emotion” Crémant d’Alsace Brut (\$19.99)** Made up of 90% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Blanc, with zero dosage, this pretty sparkling has very classy and feminine aromatics and is very nicely textured along the palate, with classic Chardonnay character that’s lightened up on the finish by the small addition of Pinot Blanc and a vibrant mineral quality. A fantastic substitute for you Champagne lovers on a budget.

## Top Picks from Oz and New Zealand—Plus English Bubbly!

By Ryan Woodhouse

### Stunning Wines, Huge Scores and Exceptional Prices!

**2013 Mount Edward Pinot Noir Central Otago (\$29.99)** A huge staff favorite, the latest release from winemaker Duncan Forsyth is perhaps the best yet! The 2012 sold out in a matter of days, so don’t miss out. Fruit was selected from three organically certified vineyards, in different sub-regions of Central Otago. 96 points J5, 95 points BC and RC.

**2012 Howard Park “Scotsdale Vineyard” Cabernet Sauvignon Great Southern (\$19.99)** New direct import from Western Australia. Howard Park is owned by the Burch family and incorporates some of the best vineyards in the region. This Cabernet is powerful, structured and refined, bursting with blackcurrant fruit, graphite, cedar and cigar box notes; a classic rendition of pure varietal character. The huge scores almost look out of place with our exceptional direct import pricing, but make no mistake, this is serious Cabernet. 97 points JH, 94 points BC.

### Return of the English!

Wiston Estate is our direct import English sparkling wine producer. I believe that Wiston Estate’s wines rival the very best of Champagne. This belief was recently reinforced by *Wine Enthusiast*.

**2010 Wiston Estate “Blanc de Blanc” Brut West Sussex (\$44.99)** 94 points *WE*: “Sophisticated aromas of Golden Pearmain apples, cream and pastry take the part of the first violin—chalky, resonant earth that of the sonorous cello. Their harmony and elegance together is astonishing...The long finish again emphasizes absolute, uncompromising elegance of this wine.”

**2011 Wiston Estate “South Downs” Brut Rosé West Sussex (\$44.99)** 94 points *WE*: “Both the fruit and the aromatic foliage of wild raspberries rise first from the glass. They are followed by richer, delicious strawberry and cream notes, with hints of almond patisserie and strawberry shortcake.”

# Roussillon Rules the Roost: Best Values of the Year

By Keith Mabry

When customers ask me for my best value picks, I often recommend wines from the Roussillon. Many times, they have replied: “I love Rhône wines,” not realizing that they are two different regions, some 150 miles apart. Now, granted, the two regions do share many of the same grape varieties, like Grenache and Syrah. But the flavors and styles of the wines can be quite different. It has been my goal this year to introduce this region to many of you, and I think we have been tremendously successful.

One of our great success stories are the wines of Mas Karolina. Vigneron Caroline Bonville has a wonderful entry-level wine in the **2013 Mas Karolina Côtes Catalanes (\$13.99)**. It is plush and luscious and eminently inviting. Even more serious is the **2012 Mas Karolina Côtes du Roussillon-Villages (\$17.99)**. Deep and brambly, this has more spice and concentrated black fruit. These are two of my favorite reds from the region.



Other top picks come to us from importer Dan Kravitz of Hand Picked Selections. His **2014 Le Cirque Grenache Gris Côtes Catalanes (\$11.99)** is a racy mineral and citrus-driven white that is zippy and fun to drink. 90 points RP. One of his rock stars is his own project, Domaine Cabirau. **2013 Domaine Cabirau Côtes du Roussillon (\$12.99)** is zesty, with ripe notes of blackberry compote and mineral-driven spices. 91 points RP. And his stellar **2013 Domaine Cabirau “Serge & Nicolas” Maury Sec (\$24.99)** is one of the stars of the vintage. It is limited and is not to be missed. 95 points RP.



Finally, our value maestro, Jean-Marc Lafage. We had five of his wines that, by themselves, could put this region on the map. Three are sold out, but we were able to secure the remaining inventory: **2013 Domaine Lafage “Bastide Miraflores” Côtes Catalanes (\$11.99)** is a rock star of a wine with its fleshy cherry fruit and sexy demeanor. 93 points RP. And the **2013 Lafage “Tessellae” Old Vines Côtes du Roussillon (\$12.99)** is one of the highest quality-to-price ratios we have had all year. 94 points RP.

## Clyde’s Holiday Values from France

By Clyde Beffa Jr.

**2014 Les Vignerons de Fontès “Prieuré Saint-Hippolyte” Languedoc Rosé (750ml \$9.99; 1.5L \$19.99)** One of our most popular rosés, this fresh and balanced wine comes from the small village of Fontès, about a one hour drive from Montpellier in the south of France. We have sold 4,000 bottles of this beauty. It’s a blend of Syrah and Grenache, grown in volcanic soils in the heart of the Languedoc. This wine would be perfect with your Thanksgiving bird or your Christmas turducken. The magnums are stunning—the best looking magnum bottle in the store these days. 94 points, for sure.



**2013 Jacques Bavard Bourgogne Blanc (\$19.99)** Here’s my house white for the holidays—I can’t drink Sancerre all of the time!—from a tiny négociant producer in Puligny-Montrachet that we found by chance during a buying trip in Burgundy, and have been carrying since the 2008 vintage. Wonderfully affordable Burgundy, and a staff favorite that is sure to sell out at a brisk pace.

**2013 Domaine Bart Bourgogne Rouge (\$16.99)** Located in Marsannay at the northern end of the Côte de Nuits, Domaine Bart is a small property that owns 19 hectares of vineyards in both Marsannay and Fixin. The wines have a reputation as being classically flavored and dependable in just about any vintage, year after year. A screaming value! I am always on the lookout for everyday-drinking red Burgundy for under \$20, and the 2013 Domaine Bart Bourgogne Rouge totally delivers. Bright red fruit, great aromas.

**2013 Château de Montfaucon Lirac (\$14.99)** This is Château de Montfaucon’s first vintage for this wine, and it is a winner. Fresh and vibrant, with raspberry and red licorice flavors, and exhibiting a juicy feel on the finish. Wonderful with turkey and trimmings, but also fine with prime rib roast, this is a spicy wine, with tons of sweetness and some spicy nuances.



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