

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



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Top Value Sauvignon Blancs & Rieslings;

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Outstanding 2011 Pinot Noirs

— Great Values from Argentina, Australia, Chile

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Magnificent Montefalco Reds

Top Barolos & Barbarescos

— France: 2011 Alsace Dry Rieslings

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WEINGUT SCHNAITMANN


WEINGUT SCHNAITMANN, 2011 'GG' LAMMLER BERGMANDEL, FELLBACHER LAMMLER BERGMANDEL, \$400/6 (\$100) ★★★★★

Rainer Schnaitmann is a dynamic, pioneering Wurttemberg producer who produced his first wine under his own name in 1997. He and his wife now own 47 acres (19 hectares) of vines, planted to more than 25 different varieties—both international and traditional—although Pinot Noir, Lemberger, and Riesling are his main focus, and account for roughly 40% of his total production (11,000 cases). In style, Schnaitmann's wines are supple, full flavored, and complex—generous wines with intense fruit character. This wine comes from 46 year old vines in the prestigious Lammler Bergmandel vineyard. It is superb: a velvety, ripely flavored wine that has excellent depth of flavor, good balance, and a very long finish, with a persistent, lightly tannic finish tasting of cherry, blueberry jam, black pepper, toast, clove, spicy oak, and nutmeg. Aged 18 months in new oak casks. AP #025/13. [2015-2018] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

GERMAN PINOT NOIR (SPATBURGUNDER) — Very Expensive: \$1201/case & Up (\$150.10/btl. & Up full retail)

WEINGUT FRANZ KELLER, 2011 'A', EICHBERG, BADEN, \$640/6 (\$160) ★★★★★

A stylish, complex, richly flavored Pinot Noir. It is supple and long on the palate, with a lightly toasty, persistent finish, tasting of red currant, cherry, spicy oak, tobacco, and vanilla. Exceptional. AP #16/13. 49 cases. [2015-2018] Schmitt Soehne, Millersville, MD 410.729.4083

GERMAN LEMBERGER — Medium Priced: \$97-\$200/case (\$12.10-\$25/btl. full retail)
WEINGUT DES GRAFEN NEIPPERG, 2011 WURTTENBERG, \$200 (\$25) ★★★★★+

Full bodied and supple in texture, this is also a vibrant Lemberger, with firm acidity, complex flavor (plum, cranberry, toast, violet, pepper)—in the style of an outstanding Piedmont Barbera. Very long finish. Excellent. AP #016/12. [2014-2016] Valckenberg USA, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

GERMAN LEMBERGER — High Priced: \$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)
WEINGUT SCHNAITMANN

- 2012 2 STERN, WURTTENBERG, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★
- 2011 SIMONROTH 'S', WURTTENBERG, \$360 (\$45) ★★★★★

Exceptional Lembergers, from this top producer. The '2 Stern' (two stars) is supple and complex in style; a wine with good depth of fruit and excellent flavor and balance. It is long on the finish, displaying modest oakiness, and tastes of blueberry, black pepper, cedar, cooked meat, and boysenberry. Very fine quality. Fermented and aged in 30% new oak barrels. AP #024. The Simonroth is a bit richer and more complex. It is a wine with intense fruitiness (plum, blueberry jam), a long flavor evolution on the palate, and a persistent, harmonious finish, displaying overtones of violet, rosehips, pepper, and spicy oak. Fermented and aged in 80% new oak barrels. AP #028. [2015-2018] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

GERMAN LEMBERGER — Expensive: \$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)
WEINGUT SCHNAITMANN, 2011 'GG' LAMMLER BERGMANDEL, FELLBACHER LAMMLER BERGMANDEL, \$336/6 (\$84) ★★★★★

A rich, fleshy, complex Lemberger of outstanding quality. It is full bodied and full flavored; a wine with wonderful depth and length, finishing with long persistence and light tannin. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of cedar, blueberry jam, cassis, new oak, and white pepper. Aged 18 months in new oak casks. AP #027. [2016-2020] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499


ITALY

(SPARKLING, WHITE & RED WINES)

ITALIAN WHITE WINES — Medium Priced: \$73-\$144/case (\$9.10-\$18/btl. full retail)
ROCCA DI MONTEMASSI, 2012 ASTRARIO, VIOGNIER, MAREMMA TOSCANA, \$72/6 (\$18) ★★★+

Very good wine: supple and medium full bodied, this is a moderately intense Viognier with grapefruit, peach, and honeysuckle aromas/flavors, and a crisp finish. [2014-2015] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180

ITALIAN WHITE WINES — Medium Priced: \$73-\$144/case (\$9.10-\$18/btl. full retail)
CASTELLO DI MONSANTO, 2011 FABRIZIO BIANCHI COLLEZIONE, CHARDONNAY, TOSCANA (IGT), \$220 (\$27.50) ★★★★★

An elegant Chardonnay that is complex in flavor, full bodied, and crisp; a wine with pineapple, peach, pear, and citrus fruitiness and evident oakiness (toast, tobacco, spicy oak). Long finish. Excellent. Can be aged a bit. [2015-2017] MW Imports, Brooklyn, NY 718.596.3339



PODERI LUIGI EINAUDI

PODERI LUIGI EINAUDI

- 2009 BAROLO, COSTA GRIMALDI, \$382/6 (\$95.50) ★★★★★+
- 2009 BAROLO, CANNUBI, \$382/6 (\$95.50) ★★★★★

Two very fine cru Barolos from the excellent 2009 vintage, and both from the Barolo district. Costa Grimaldi is full bodied and fleshy in texture; firmly structured and somewhat tannic wine with rich fruitiness (plum, berry), and overtones of tobacco, oak, violet, and aniseed. Very long finish. Aged 2 years in French and Slavonian barrels and casks. 725 cases. Cannubi, from one of the most celebrated vineyards in all of Piedmont (not merely Barolo), is exceptional: fleshy in texture and rich in flavor; a concentrated full bodied Cannubi with terrific depth and complexity (cassis, cherry, toast, tobacco, aniseed, new oak). It is firm and long on the finish, with evident tannin. Needs several years of aging. Aged 30 months in French oak; 18 months in barrels and 12 months in casks. 950 cases. [2017-2023] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**BARBERA/DOLCETTO — Medium Priced:
\$81-\$160/case (\$10.10-\$20/btl. full retail)**

PODERI MARCARINI, 2012 FONTANAZZA, DOLCETTO D'ALBA, \$152 (\$19) ★★★★★

Youthful, fruity, and medium bodied, this is a fresh, crisp Dolcetto with plum, red currant, white pepper, and rosehips aromas/flavors. Fine value. Unwooded. 1,500 cases. [2014-2015] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900



**BARBERA/DOLCETTO — High Priced:
\$161-\$320/case (\$20.10-\$40/btl. full retail)**

AZ. AGR. CONTERNO FANTINO, 2012 BRICCO BASTIA, DOLCETTO D'ALBA, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★+

Supple and full bodied, this is a fruity, medium rich, well balanced Dolcetto with plum, melon, pear, rosehips, and toast aromas/flavors. Long finish. Excellent value. Aged 8 months in stainless steel tanks. 2,050 cases. [2014-2016] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

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AZ. AGR. RABAJA'

- 2010 BARBERA D'ASTI, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★
- 2012 TRIFOLE, DOLCETTO D'ALBA, \$192 (\$24) ★★★★★+

These are fine versions of their types. The Asti Barbera in a full bodied, crisp, and moderately toasty style. It is intensely fruity (blueberry, sour cherry, rhubarb) and crisp and long on the finish, with modest oak overtones. An excellent wine. The Dolcetto is elegant: full bodied and vibrantly fruity (plum, sour cherry, red currant) with floral, spicy overtones. Long, crisp finish. [2014-2015] Epic Wines, Santa Cruz, CA 831.689.9080

CA' ROMEO, 2011 LA GAMBERAJA, BARBERA D'ALBA, \$304 (\$38) ★★★★★

The Gamberaja vineyard was planted in 1975, and in 2011 yielded an intensely flavored and complex Barbera of tremendous concentration and very distinct character (black pepper, blackberry jam, sour cherry, sage). It is full bodied, long on the palate, and long and full on the finish, with excellent flavor persistence. Superb quality. Can age for years. Aged 12 months in 50% new French barrels and Slovenian casks. 300 cases. [2015-2020] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

PODERI LUIGI EINAUDI

- 2011 BARBERA, PIEMONTE, \$296 (\$37) ★★★★★
- 2011 VIGNA TECC, DOGLIANI SUPERIORE, \$260 (\$32.50) ★★★★★

The Barbera is excellent: supple and full bodied, with medium richness, and fine flavor and balance. Very long and crisp on the finish, tasting of red currant, blueberry jam, pepper, spicy oak, and plum. Aged 12-16 months in oak barrels, 20% new. 1,750 cases. The single vineyard Dolcetto is fleshy and richly flavored; a ripe, concentrated wine with good balance and a long, smooth, persistent finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of blueberry jam, black currant, toast, and red licorice. Very fine quality. Aged 10 months in oak barrels. 2,050 cases. [2015-2017] Empson USA, Alexandria, VA 703.684.0900

**SANGIOVESE & BLENDS — High Priced:
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)**

ROCCA DI MONTEMASSI, 2011 SASSABRUNA, MONTEREGIO DI MASSA MARITTIMA, \$110/6 (\$27.50) ★★★★★

Luscious in texture and full bodied, this is an exceptional blend: medium rich, very well balanced, and very ripely flavored (cassis, plum jam, blackberry, cherry), with moderate oak character. Long, mildly tannic finish. Great value. 80% Sangiovese, 10% Merlot, 10% Syrah. Aged 12 months in French oak. [2015-2018] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180

**SANGIOVESE & BLENDS — Expensive:
\$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)**

CASTELLO D'ALBOLA, 2011 ACCAILOLO, TOSCANA (IGT), \$304/6 (\$76) ★★★★★+

Very complex in style, this is a supple, full bodied blend with rich fruitiness (plum, black currant, raspberry) and layers of oak character (vanilla, toast, caramel, cedar). It is very long and persistent on the finish, with moderate tannin. Very fine quality. 65% Sangiovese, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 14 months in oak barrels, partially new. [2017-2022] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180

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**TUSCAN CABERNET SAUVIGNON & BLENDS — Expensive:
\$321-\$640/case (\$40.10-\$80/btl. full retail)**
**CASTELLO DI MONSANTO, 2007 NEMO, VIGNETO
IL MULINO, TOSCANA (IGT), \$460 (\$57.50) ★★★★★**

Full bodied and complex in style, nearly in the style of a Pessac-Leognan. It has rich fruitiness, evident oak character, and a tannic, long finish tasting of black currant, tobacco, baked potato skin, spicy oak, and mint. [2016-2022] MW Imports, Brooklyn, NY 718.596.3339

**TENUTA DI CAPEZZANA, 2008 GHIAIE DELLA
FURBE, TOSCANA (IGT), \$240/6 (\$60) ★★★★★**

Fleshy and full bodied, this is a rich, fairly powerful wine with blackberry, plum jam, black licorice, cedar, and oak aromas/flavors, and a long, moderately tannic finish. Excellent. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Syrah. Aged 16 months in French oak barrels. 1,333 cases. [2016-2020] MW Imports, Brooklyn, NY 718.596.3339

**SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES — Medium Priced:
\$80-\$160/case (\$10.10-\$20/btl. full retail)**
LA FIERA

- 2012 MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO, \$84 (\$10.50) ★★★★★+
- 2012 PRIMITIVO, SALENTO (IGT), \$84 (\$10.50) ★★★★★

Both have screw cap closures. The Montepulciano is fruity in flavor and supple in texture; a medium full bodied, well balanced wine that tastes of blackberry, black licorice, and pepper. The Primitivo is ripe-ly flavored and full bodied, with moderate richness, spicy-fruity flavors, and a medium long finish. Excellent value. [2014-2015] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

MASSERIA ALTEMURA

- 2011 NEGROAMARA, SALENTO (IGT), \$64/6 (\$16) ★★★★★
- 2011 AGLIANICO, PUGLIA (IGT), \$64/6 (\$16) ★★★★★

Excellent wines. The Negroamaro is supple, full bodied, and moderately intense in flavor (cherry, plum, pepper, herbs), with good balance and a medium length finish. Excellent value. The Aglianico is exceptional: very ripely flavored (blackberry, plum jam, black licorice) and fleshy in texture; a full bodied, balanced wine that is medium rich and long on the finish, with moderate tannin. Very fine value. [2014-2016] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180

**SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES — High Priced:
\$161-\$320/case (\$20.10-\$40/btl. full retail)**
**FEUDO PRINCIPI DI BUTERA, 2011 SYMPOSIO,
SICILIA (IGT), \$84/6 (\$21) ★★★★★**

Full bodied and complex in style, this is a fairly rich blend. It has good depth of fruit (blackberry, cherry, plum jam, licorice), with toasty, spicy oak overtones, and a smooth, long, mildly tannic finish. Excellent quality and value. 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Aged 18 months in French oak barrels, partially new. [2015-2018] Zonin USA, Charlottesville, VA 434.979.6180


**NEW ZEALAND
(WHITE & RED WINES)**
**WHITE VARIETALS — Medium Priced:
\$73-\$144/case (\$9.10-\$18/btl. full retail)**
**FIRE ROAD, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC,
MARLBOROUGH, \$120 (\$15) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. Extremely distinct and youthful; a crisp, full bodied Sauvignon with intense grapefruit, lemon grass, lime, and passion fruit aromas/flavors, and a medium long finish. Great value. [2014-2015] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100

**MOHUA, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC,
MARLBOROUGH, \$120 (\$15) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. Medium bodied and crisp in style, this Sauvignon has tropical and citrus fruit character (grapefruit, passion fruit, lime, pineapple), moderate depth, and a long finish. Excellent value. [2014-2015] Vineyard Brands, Birmingham, AL 205.980.8802


**WOOLLASTON, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC,
NELSON, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. Exceptional Sauvignon: round, full bodied, and fairly rich, with excellent flavor and balance. It is crisp and long on the finish, and tastes of lime, passion fruit, grapefruit, and pineapple. Great value. 10% fermented in old French oak barrels. Certified organic wine. [2014-2015] SF Wine Exchange, San Francisco, CA 415.546.0484


**WHITE VARIETALS — High Priced:
\$145-\$280/case (\$18.10-\$35/btl. full retail)**
**ROCKBURN, 2012 PINOT GRIS, CENTRAL OTAGO,
\$184 (\$23) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. Medium bodied and elegantly flavored (almond, pear, apple, roasted nut, lemon), this is an off dry (1% R.S.), well balanced Pinot Gris with a long finish. Fine quality. [2014-2015] Australian Wine Connection, Concord, CA 925.689.1500

**WILD SOUTH, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC,
MARLBOROUGH, \$160 (\$20) ★★★★★+**

Screw cap. A fresh, medium bodied, crisp Sauvignon with good balance and a medium long finish. It tastes of lemon grass, lime, litchi nut, pineapple, and fig. [2014-2015] Vino del Sol, Corralitos, CA 831.724.9560

**PINOT NOIR — Medium Priced:
\$73-\$144/case (\$9.10-\$18/btl. full retail)**
FIRE ROAD, 2012 MARLBOROUGH, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Exceptional Pinot Noir value. This is a ripe, supple, fruity wine with good flavor and depth, and a medium long finish. It tastes of plum, rosehips, cherry, and toast. [2014-2015] Winesellers, Ltd., Niles, IL 847.647.1100


MOHUA, 2012 CENTRAL OTAGO, \$184 (\$23) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. An intensely flavored Pinot Noir of very good quality. It is crisp and lightly woody on the palate, with a long finish, tasting of cranberry, sour cherry, plum, kola nut, and spicy oak. [2014-2015] Vineyard Brands, Birmingham, AL 205.980.8802

**PINOT NOIR — High Priced:
\$145-\$280/case (\$18.10-\$35/btl. full retail)**
NAUTILUS, 2011 MARLBOROUGH, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★+

Screw cap. An elegant Pinot Noir that is full bodied, supple and long on the palate, with a crisp, persistent finish. Extremely well balanced. The wine tastes of red currant, plum, raspberry, nutmeg, kola nut, and spicy oak. 6-8 day cold soak; aged 11 months in French oak barrels, partially new. [2015-2017] Negotiants USA, Napa, CA 707.259.0993

ROCKBURN, 2011 CENTRAL OTAGO, \$256 (\$32) ★★★★★

Screw cap. A vibrant, full bodied Pinot Noir of fine quality. It is lightly oaked, crisp, balanced, and finely flavored, with a medium long finish, tasting of red currant, raspberry, toast, rosehips, white pepper, and tobacco. Needs modest aging. 5-7 day cold soak. Aged 10 months in French oak barrels, 33% new. 6,300 cases. [2015-2017] Australian Wine Connection, Concord, CA 925.689.1500