



WINE ENTHUSIAST
MAGAZINE

THE

ENTHUSIAST

100

The Most Coveted Wines of 2010

BY THE EDITORS OF WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

Each year, *Wine Enthusiast's* wine tasting panel samples thousands of current releases in every style and at every price point imaginable. Striving to discover the best and most attractively priced selections, we review hundreds of wines of interest to our readers. But those chosen for The Enthusiast 100 go beyond just interest: These wines are truly exemplary, often represent the very best of their category, and should not be missed.

While the bottlings featured in this list have all received high scores from our critics, the criteria for selection extends far beyond the numbers assigned to them to include extraordinary quality-to-price ratio, immediate drinkability, and uniqueness. All offer a window into the terroir from which they come.

Another factor in selection—perhaps one less easily defined—is the wine's “it” factor. Some wines are just buzzy...they attract excitement from both consumers and the industry, and represent notable emerging or established trends in the market. Thus you'll find an Argentine Malbec in the Top 10 this year, testament to the great inroads that variety has made on the American consciousness, as well as to the intrinsic qualities of the wine itself. Our number one wine, from Piedmontese producer Renato Ratti, rewards the greatness of its 2006 Barolo Marcenasco, but also recognizes the leadership role the estate has played within Piedmont and the exceptional quality of the region's recent vintages.

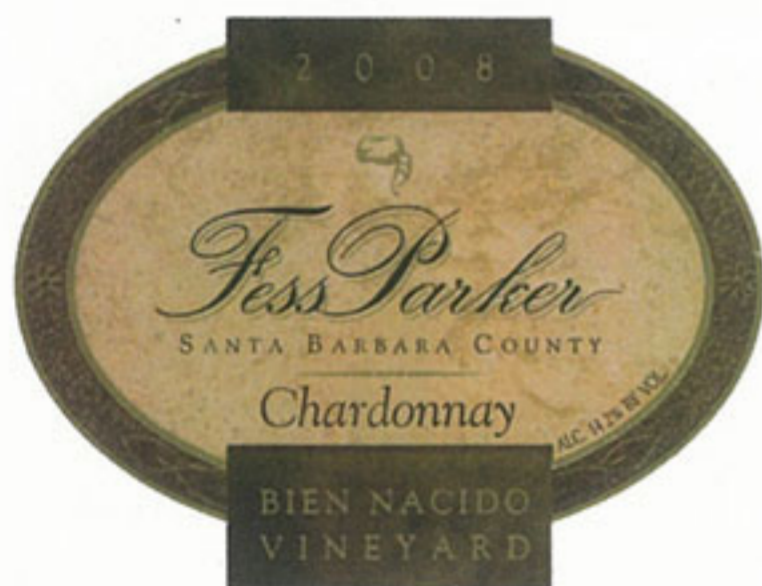
We've tried to include wines that not only represent many different regions and grape varieties, but also vary in style. You'll find red, white, sparkling, dessert and fortified wines from many of the major wine-producing countries across the full spectrum of grape varieties. One of the things we value most in the wine world is diversity, and this is our way of applauding it.

1



94 Renato Ratti 2006 Marcenasco (Barolo); \$50. Dark in color with a modern style and velvety extraction, the gorgeous Marcenasco expression of Barolo is redolent of blackberries, cherries, spice, leather and tobacco. The finish is long and elegant but not without power and determination. Keep this wine cellared for 10 years plus. Imported by Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.

2



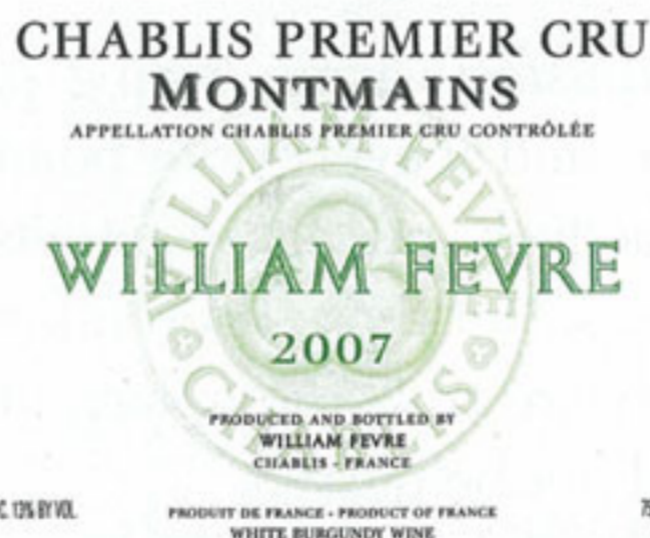
96 Fess Parker 2008 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County); \$28. What a roll Fess Parker Winery is on with their '08 Chardonnays. Not only great wine, but priced so well. This wine, sourced from Parker's U Block in this famous Santa Maria Valley vineyard, is as rich as any Chardonnay of the vintage—just massive in pineapple, pear and buttered toast flavors. Yet it's crisp and tart, clean and bracing in its minerality. Only 115 cases produced. *Editors' Choice.*

3



95 Trapiche 2006 Viña Federico Villafranca Single Vineyard Malbec (La Consulta); \$50. Probably the best value in high-end Malbec from Argentina is Trapiche's single-vineyard series, which in 2006 was led by this bottling from an Uco Valley vineyard. It's lush, perfectly ripe and full of cola, black fruit and intensity. There's nary a chink in its fiber, and the rush of fruit that hits the palate followed by layers of subtleties is impressive. Great with grilled meat; drink now through 2015. Imported by Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.*

4



94 William Fèvre 2007 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis); \$32. A beautifully elegant wine, wearing its fresh fruit and acidity on its sleeve at the moment, but promising depth of fruit skin and toast flavors as the structure develops. There's a fine tight, final mineral edge. Imported by Henriot Inc.

5



96 Long Meadow Ranch 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford); \$42. An extraordinary Cabernet that stands out even in this great vintage, and among its Rutherford peers. Quite dry and tannic in youth, it shows an astringency that strongly suggests the cellar. Underneath are powerhouse flavors of blackberries, black and red cherries, spices, tea and cedar. Really defines balance and elegance in a Napa Cabernet. Decant if you drink it now, but it should develop for years to come. *Editors' Choice.*

20,000 BUBBLES UNDER THE SEA

Bottles recovered from shipwrecks aren't the only wines aged underwater: Chilean winemaker Viña Casanueva intentionally cellars its "Cavas Submarinas" line beneath the Pacific Ocean.