

# Wine Spectator

[Savvy Shopper](#)

## Italian Values, Pinot Picks, A Global Cornucopia

By [Bruce Sanderson](#)

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### LA DOLCE VITA

This group of Italian values, primarily from Tuscany, are sure to enhance any occasion. Back-to-back successes from the 2015 and 2016 harvests lifted quality across the country, resulting in rewards for wine lovers.

**CASTELLO ROMITORIO** Toscana Il Toro 2015 (94, \$25)

Polished, balanced; violet, black currant, blackberry, graphite, toasty oak

**CASTELLO DI VICCHIOMAGGIO** Chianti Classico Agostina Petri Riserva 2015 (94, \$28)

Sweet cherry, plum, leather, wild herb, spice, licorice; firm, savory

**POGGIO AL TESORO** Toscana Mediterra 2015 (93, \$27)

Bright, ripe; blackberry, black currant, black pepper, ink

**FATTORIA DI BASCIANO** Chianti Rufina 2016 (91, \$15)

Black cherry, black currant, cedar, tobacco; vibrant, refined

**LUIANO** Chianti Classico 2016 (91, \$20)

Lively, elegant; cherry, strawberry, floral, mineral, tobacco

**PODERE IL PALAZZINO** Toscana Rosso del Palazzino 2015 (91, \$14)

Cherry, plum, licorice, tobacco, iron, wild herb; complex, elegant

**CERALTI** Bolgheri Scirè 2016 (90, \$20)

Fluid, athletic; black currant, blackberry, underbrush

**FALLETTO DI BRUNO GIACOSA** Dolcetto d'Alba 2017 (90, \$25)

Ripe, exotic; blackberry, boysenberry, violet, mineral

**FEUDO DI SANTA TRESA** Cerasuolo di Vittoria 2016 (90, \$17)

Crushed black cherry, dried thyme, licorice snap, mineral, spice; fresh, supple

**SELVAPIANA** Chianti Rufina 2016 (91, \$18) *Smart Buy*

Cherry, plum, smoke, tobacco, earth; juicy, balanced

## **PURE PINOT**

I'm a longtime fan of the Pinot Noirs from Oregon's Eola-Amity Hills, and Bethel Heights was one of the area's pioneers, setting down roots there in the 1970s. Nearby McMinnville also yields outstanding versions, as the Maysara attests. On the other side of the globe, New Zealand is proving its prowess with the heartbreak grape.

**BETHEL HEIGHTS** Pinot Noir Eola-Amity Hills 2016 (93, \$32)

Silky, vibrant; black cherry, raspberry, violet, black tea, cardamom, spice

**CRAGGY RANGE** Pinot Noir Martinborough 2017 (92, \$25)

Cranberry, raspberry, pine needle, loam, white pepper; fresh, harmonious

**WAIPARA SPRINGS** Pinot Noir Waipara Valley 2017 (92, \$20)

Fragrant; blackberry, plum, white pepper, paprika, black tea, nutmeg, mineral

**MAYSARA** Pinot Noir McMinnville Jamsheed Momtazi Vineyard 2015 (90, \$30)

Raspberry, orange peel, spiced cinnamon; silky, delicate

## **GLOBAL ROUNDUP**

This eclectic selection of values from around the world is sure to please a wide range of tastes. From juicy whites to racy reds, from Spain and France to Argentina and South Africa, there's something for everyone.

**COTO DE GOMARIZ** Ribeiro White The Flower and the Bee 2017 (92, \$17)

Spry, expressive; quince, guava, herbal, toast, mineral, tangerine

**DOMAINE DE L'ECHEVIN** Côtes du Rhône-Villages St.-Maurice 2016 (91, \$20)

Plum, red currant, mineral, incense, tea, floral; fresh, elegant

**ALTOS LAS HORMIGAS** Malbec Luján de Cuyo Terroir 2017 (90, \$16)

Focused, structured; red currant, dried berry, savory herb, mineral

**DOMAINE BOISSON** Cairanne Les Trois Terroirs 2016 (90, \$21)

Red and black currant, anise, black tea, bramble; lively

**EDETÀRIA** Garnatxa Blanca-Viognier Terra Alta Via Edetana 2017 (90, \$17)

Generous, firm; pear, apple, tarragon, smoke

**GLENELLY** Estate Reserve Stellenbosch 2012 (90, \$25)

Currant, blackberry, tobacco, worn leather; mature, broad

**HUGEL** Pinot Gris Alsace Classic 2016 (90, \$23)  
Lithe, juicy; melon, pickled ginger, star fruit, mineral

**KIRKLAND SIGNATURE** Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée de Nalys 2016 (90, \$18)  
Red currant, damson plum, cherry preserves, mineral; fresh

**BODEGAS LACORT** Rioja Mariano J. Crianza 2015 (90, \$15)  
Thick, velvety, focused; crushed blackberry, coffee, licorice, game

**FAMILIA ZUCCARDI** Malbec Uco Valley Q 2017 (90, \$20)  
Dark plum, dried cherry, wild herb, dark chocolate; robust, muscular, racy

**AVANCIA** Godello Valdeorras Cuvée de O 2017 (89, \$19)  
Lush, expressive; pear, guava, honey, ginger

**CHÂTEAU BEAUBOIS** Costières de Nimes 2016 (89, \$15)  
Raspberry, red currant coulis, anise, mesquite; racy

**BOXHEAD** Shiraz South Australia 2017 (89, \$14)  
Thick, focused; cassis, black tea, white pepper, loam

## **SPECTATOR SELECTIONS**

### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

#### **93 ALBAN**

**Syrah Edna Valley Patrina Alban Estate 2015 \$48**  
*California*

Dark and potently built, with expressive blackberry, pepper beef and fig aromas leading to brooding flavors that build toward broad-shouldered tannins.

### **COLLECTIBLE**

#### **98 TAYLOR FLADGATE**

**Vintage Port 2016 \$120**

*Portugal*

This is packed with raspberry, blackberry and blueberry fruit flavors, melding with anise, fruitcake and ganache notes. A seriously grippy, strapping Port, reveling in its power.

### **SMART BUY**

#### **91 HUGEL**

**Riesling Alsace Classic 2016 \$24**

*France*

A sleek, minerally, light-bodied white, with lemon peel and petrol accents to the flavors of apricot, acacia blossom, almond and pine forest.

### **BEST VALUE**

#### **89 CHOZAS CARRASCAL**

**Utiel-Requena Las Dos Ces 2016 \$9**

*Spain*

This crisp red is balanced and juicy, with bright flavors of berry and tart cherry backed by leafy and smoky notes. Bobal.