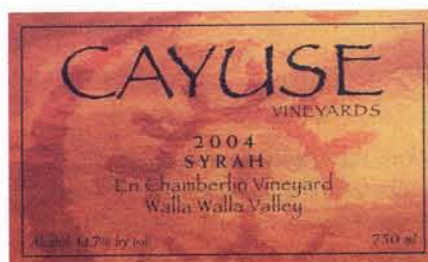


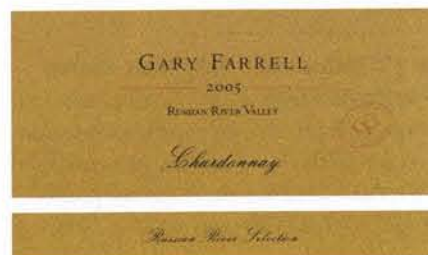
SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Highly Recommended

The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.



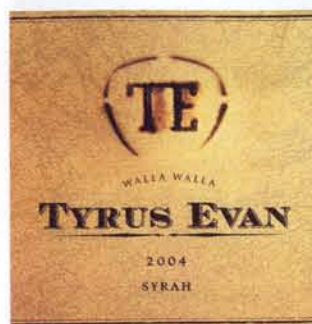
94 Cayuse Syrah Walla Walla Valley En Chamberlin Vineyard 2004 \$55 Superpolished, big and ripe. A lavish mouthful of cherry and plum, with a whole shelf of fresh spices that sail on and on. An earthy note adds interest to the aromas, and a distinct mineral undertone emerges strongly as the finish persists beautifully. Drink now through 2014. 372 cases made.—H.S.



93 Gary Farrell Chardonnay Russian River Valley Russian River Selection 2005 \$33 Rich and expressive, with a wide range of flavors built around pear, spice, hazelnut and green apple. Yet this is tightly focused, deeply concentrated, and fresh and lively on the palate. Drink now through 2010. 5,592 cases made.—J.L.



93 Orin Swift The Prisoner Napa Valley 2005 \$35 A delicious wine that offers the best of both worlds: zesty wild berry, spice and fresh tobacco, with focused, well-structured blackberry flavors. Plush, rich and concentrated, with a wonderful focus on the core fruit flavors. Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Petite Sirah and Charbono. Drink now through 2011. 20,000 cases made.—J.L.



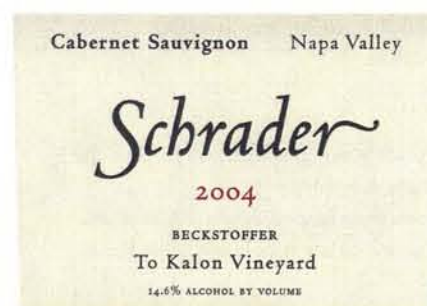
93 Tyrus Evan Syrah Walla Walla 2004 \$33 Ripe and fleshy, with a range of exotic spice, sassafras and espresso notes surrounding a vivid core of black cherry and blackberry fruit that just doesn't quit as the finish rolls on. A harmonious wine, this has power along with a sense of refinement, showing a dash of minerality on the finish. Best from 2008 through 2014. 605 cases made.—H.S.



92 Dominio Basconillos Ribera del Duero 2004 \$21 Dense and well-integrated, this polished red isn't expressive now, but has beautiful balance, showing hints of black cherry, blackberry, licorice, mineral and toast. Drink now through 2014. 100 cases imported.—T.M.

Collectibles

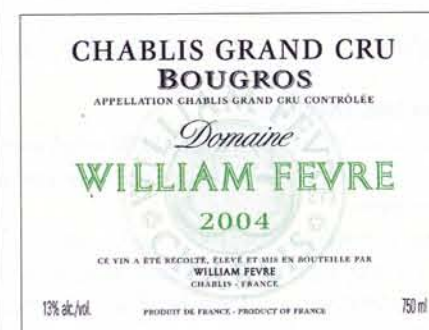
Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.



97 Schrader Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard 2004 \$95 Dark, dense and powerful without being heavy or ponderous. Tiers of mocha-laced currant, cassis, blackberry, spice and subtle herb shadings give this tightly focused wine great depth and personality. Drink now through 2015. 250 cases made.—J.L.



95 Quilceda Creek Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley 2004 \$100 Velvety and generous. A supple, insinuating style, with coffee and bitter-sweet chocolate accents around a beautifully contained core of ripe currant, plum and cherry fruit. Has great presence, balance and harmony. The finish expands impressively against a veil of firm tannins and well-integrated oak flavors. Best from 2010 through 2020. 3,400 cases made.—H.S.



93 William Fèvre Chablis Bougros Domaine 2004 \$70 Firm and compact, with a kernel of citrus, apple and vanilla waiting to be unlocked. Well-balanced, this should fatten up a little with time. Best from 2009 through 2020. 80 cases imported.—B.S.



92 Domaine Laroche Chablis Les Clos 2004 \$75 Ripe and powerful, this has a vanilla element adding complexity to the peach, apple and mineral flavors. Balanced, but needs time to really integrate and show its potential. Best from 2009 through 2020. 670 cases made.—B.S.

On the Buying Guide cover: The vineyards of Paul Achs in the Burgenland region of Austria. Photograph by Sabine Gruber.