SUBLIME POIRS TO SUIT THE MOST REFINED TASTES

100 WINTER WINES ★ SPIRITS FOR GIVING
THE SEASON’S BEST BARWARE
Our 100 favorite wines for the season.

By Brett Anderson | Photography By Cordero Studios

Barware, from left: Ralph Lauren Home Sabrina tray ($395) and Adley corkscrew ($150) set, www.ralphlaurenhome.com); Baccarat Chateau wine glass ($85) and Clair de Lune wine glasses ($150 each); Saint-Louis Oxymore water glass ($169, www.saint-louis.com); Bogaska Saint Tropez decanter ($180). Except where otherwise indicated, all from Gearys (www.gearys.com). Wallpaper from Graham & Brown (www.grahambrown.com).
"WE ARE BORN AT A GIVEN MOMENT, in a
given place," reflected the eminent psychologist Carl Gustav Jung,
"and, like vintage years of wine, we have the qualities of the year
and of the season of which we are born."

The similarities between people and fine wines are many.
Like a full-bodied California Cabernet, some of us are vibrant
and effusive in our youth, while others start out as withdrawn
or reserved as a young grand cru Burgundy from the Côte de
Nuits. Yet time and experience temper our excesses and reveal
our true inner character. To say that we improve with age sug-
gests that something is lacking from the start; but we do evolve,
and our personalities acquire nuances that reflect the different
stages of our lives.

Particularly during this season, when young and old alike
celebrate these milestones, we take special care to match the right
wine to the right personality—at the right moment. Whether one
is selecting a gift or hosting a holiday gathering, pairing wines
with people is a delicate matter. To assist in this endeavor, we have
assembled our annual list of 100 bottles, each with its own unique
persona. These outstanding offerings are grouped in a convenient
chart according to their styles; more detailed descriptions of each
release can be found in the alphabetical listings that follow.

BIG, BOLD, AND RICH
Amuse Bouche 2010 Merlot Napa Valley
Au Sommet 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley
Bello Family Vineyards 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Rutherford
Bond Estate 2008 Vecina Napa Valley
Château Pavie 2009 St.-Emilion
Crus Gay Range 2010 La Sol Gimblett Gravels Vineyard Hawke's Bay
E. Guigal 2006 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne
Hall 2009 Kathryn Hall Cabernet Sauvignon
Joseph Drouhin 2009 Musigny Grand Cru
Lodiya 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Mt. Veeder
Marchesi Antinori 2008 Spalla Toscana
Mt. Brave 2009 Malbec Mt. Veeder
Penfolds 2007 Grange South Australia
Vin Perdu 2010 Napa Valley

CLASSIC BALANCE AND FINESSE
Blackbird Vineyards 2009 Illustration Proprietary Red Wine
Chaippelet 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Pritchard Hill Château Haut-Bron 2009 Pessac-Léognan
Fortillia le Pouillé 2007 Saffredi Maremma Toscana
Frank Family 2008 Winston Hill Rutherford
Harlan Estate 2008 Proprietary Red Napa Valley Le Macchie 2008 Masseto Toscana
Louis Jadot 2009 Clos Vougeot Grand Cru Marchesi Antinori Guado al Tasso 2008 Guado al Tasso Bolgheri Superiore
Michele Chiarlo 2009 Barberesco Asili O'Shaughnessy Estate Vineyards 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder
Rodney Strong 2009 Alexander's Crown Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley
Spotwood 2009 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Tenuta dell'Ornellaia 2009 Ornellaia Toscana

STRUCTURED & EARTHY
Armand Rousseau 2008 Chambertin Grand Cru
Badia a Coltibuono 2007 Sanguievra di Toscana
Brewer-Clifton 2009 Pinot Noir Clôs Pepe Vineyard
Capiaux Cellars 2010 Pinot Noir Pinsot Vineyard
Dana Estates 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard
Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 2009 La Tâche Grand Cru
En Route 2010 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Les Pommers
Inman Family 2009 Pinot Noir
Olivet Grange Vineyard
Kenzo 2009 Alimonté 2008 Terra di Monteverro
San Felice 2001 Pugnartello di San Felice
Staglin Family Vineyards 2009 Inox Napa Valley
Tenuta San Guido 2009 Sassicaia
Venté 2008 La Joie
Vineyard Seven and Eight 2009 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

RIPE AND FRUITY
Archer Summitt 2009 Arcus Estate Pinot Noir
Beckman 2009 Grenache Purisima Mountain Vineyard
Fremant 2010 Pinot Noir Keefar Ranch
Hundred Acre 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Arle Vineyard
JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset No. 3 Pinot Noir
Paul Jaboulet Aine 2009 Hermitage La Chapelle
Phantom Moons 2010 Paso Robles
West Side Red Wine
Pine Ridge 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Forts
Promise 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

SPICE AND WOOD
Bouchard Finlayson 2009 Harold Walker Cape South Africa
Castiglion del Bosco 2006 Brunello di Montalcino Campo del Dragó
Domaine Faiveley 2009 Chambertin Clos de Bèze Grand Cru
Longoria 2009 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega Vineyard
Marchesi Antinori 2009 Tignanello Toscana
Masi 2007 Amarone di Valpolicella Costasera Riserva
Pal Wine Co. 2010 Pinot Noir Cargasacchi Vineyard
Quipé 2007 Sirah Bien Nacido Hillside
Tenuta degli Dei 2003 Cavali Toscana
Vail Llach 2007 Vail Llach Priorat

FULL-BODIED WHITES AND ROSÉS
Aubert 2010 Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Reuling Vineyard
Cambie Girod 2009 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru
Château d'Estoublon 2010 Côtes de Provence Rosé Les Clinis
Domaine Leflaive 2009 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru
Gary Farrell 2009 Chardonnay Westside Farms Russian River Valley
J. Roccialioli 2010 Chardonnay Russian River Valley Rafael's Vineyard
Joseph Drouhin 2009 Chassagne-Montrachet
Morgex Marquis de Laguiche Premier Cru
Louis Jadot 2009 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru
M. Chapoutier 2009 Ermitage L’Ermit Blanc
Olivier Lefaive 2009 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru
Paul Hobbs 2010 Chardonnay Cuvee Agustina Richard Dinner Vineyard
Prêtre a Boire 2011 Rosé Napa Valley

CRISP, LEAN WHITES
Captive Winery 2011 Sauvignon Blanc Les Pionniers Diatom 2010 Rima Chardonnay Santa Rita Hills
Jamsa 2010 Vinogori di Forcarina Sauve Classicus
Kenzo 2011 Asaftayu
La Sirenita 2011 Moscato Azul
Spring Mountain Vineyards 2010 Sauvignon Blanc

SPARKLING
Charles Heidsieck 1995 Blanc des Millesaires
Dom Pérignon 2003 Brut Champagne
Dom Pérignon 1992 Cénothétique
Rosé Brut Champagne
Domaine Carneros by Tattinger 2006 Le Rêve
Knip Grande Cuvée Brut Champagne NV
Perrier-Jouet 2004 Belle Epoque Flora Edition
Piper Heidsieck Millesime 2002
Brut Champagne Rare
Pol Roger 2010 Brut Blanc de Blancs
Salon 1999 Blanc de Blancs Champagne Le Mesnil Schramsberg 2004 Reserve

DESSERTS
Château Climens 2009 Barsac
Château D’Yquem 2009 Sauternes
Banroosh 2007 Shinpan Late Harvest
Donnafugata 2009 Ben Ryé Passito di Pantelleria
Royal Tokaji 2005 Belsiz

24 ROBB REPORT HOLIDAY HOST'S GUIDE 2012
AMUSE BOUCHE 2010 MERLOT NAPA VALLEY
This Pomerol-style wine by Heidi Barrett, with its deeply saturated flavors of black cherry and cocoa, is as playful and lively as the original artwork that each year graces its label. This vintage features two paintings by the late Tony Curtis. ($225)

ARCHERY SUMMIT 2009 ARCUS ESTATE PINOT NOIR
This outstanding Oregon producer made just over 500 of this superb Pinot Noir, which teases the nose with the soft scent of dried roses and envelops the taste buds with jammy blackberry and cinnamon spice. ($90)

ARKENSTONE 2009 ESTATE SAUVIGNON BLANC
Redolent of honeysuckle and brimming with scents of melon, white strawberries, and lemongrass, this crisp, clean Sauvignon Blanc offers as much complexity and length as any Chardonnay from Chablis. ($60)

AU SOMMET 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY
The pinnacle of perfection, this high-altitude Cabernet from Napa Valley's Atlas Peak region layers flavors of black cherry, dried herbs, and menthol atop a remarkably powerful structure. ($275)

AUBERT 2010 CHARDONNAY SONOMA COAST REULING VINEYARD
Winemaker Mark Aubert brings to his Chardonnay all the finesse, structure, and purity that have characterized the Bordeaux-style wines he has made for such labels as Colgin, Sloan, and Peter Michael. Delicious essences of cool vanilla, baked apple, pear, and sweet mint meld on the tongue. ($151)

BADIA A COLTIBUONO 2007 SANGIOVETO DI TOSCANA
From one of the most storied producers in Chianti Classico, this 100-percent Sangiovese exudes poignant aromas of peony, plum, wild strawberry, rhubarb, anise, and mint. ($60)

BECKMEN 2009 GRENACHE PURISIMA MOUNTAIN VINEYARD
This delightfully tart rendition of Grenache has great intensity and depth, showing bright notes of red currant, cranberry, and raspberry supported by leather undertones and substantial yet soft tannins. ($52)

BELLO FAMILY VINEYARDS 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE RUTHERFORD
The result of a collaboration between farm manager David Abreu and winemaker Aaron Pott, this Rutherford Cab is pure black velvet: Its flavors of black plum and licorice glide across the palate atop an almost impossibly silky texture. ($100)

BLACKBIRD VINEYARDS 2009 ILLUSTRATION PROPRIETARY RED WINE
The signature blend from this Oak Knoll District producer, this masterful Pomerol-style blend—another creation from winemaker Aaron Pott—unfolds on the palate with ripe cherry, coffee, and caramel notes that lead to an earthy finish enlivened by bright acidity. ($125)

BOND ESTATES 2008 VECINA NAPA VALLEY
Among the more fascinating aspects of this tour de force from Bond Estates are its unique aroma and flavor profiles, which combine the power and ripeness typical of Napa Valley Cabernet with some of the savory characteristics of a fine Northern Rhône, including deep leather, tobacco, soy, and peppercorn notes. ($275)

BOUCHARD FINLAYSON 2009 HANNIBAL WALKER BAY WESTERN CAPE SOUTH AFRICA
This unusual South African blend of Italian (Sangiovese, Nebbiolo, Barbera) and French (Pinot Noir, Syrah, Mourvèdre) varietals has a surprisingly subtle, smooth, and earthy profile dominated by wild-berry, smoke, and mineral essences. ($45)
BREWER-CLIFTON 2009 PINOT NOIR CLOS PEPE VINEYARD
This tightly wound, immensely structured Pinot Noir from this pedigreed vineyard in Santa Barbara County’s Santa Rita Hills region displays essences of wild strawberry, porcini mushroom, and subtle notes of ferrous minerality on the finish. ($48)

CAMILLE GIROUD 2009 CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU
Vibrant yet supple, this glittering example of Corton-Charlemagne from the storied négociant is perfumed with lime blossom, and its flavors of citrus, honeydew, and lemongrass unfold before an extended finish. ($175)

CAPUALX CELLARS 2010 PINOT NOIR PISONI VINEYARD
A dense and inky-purple Pinot Noir, this magnificent red is redolent of violets, rose petals, and blackberry, yet on the palate, floral and fruit notes play a supporting role to mushroom and sweet pine essences. ($52)

CAPTûRE 2011 SAUVIGNON BLANC LES PIONNIERS
Faceted and sparkling as a pale-yellow diamond, this sensuous yet cerebral Sauvignon Blanc combines scents of gardenia and spring mint with enticing flavors of candied citrus, creamy pear, and tangy peach. ($45)

CARDINALE 2008 NAPA VALLEY
This superb Bordoux-style blend tempers the natural tannic force of Napa Valley’s hillside and mountain vineyards with flawless balance, a silky texture, and intricately layered expressions of lavender, boysenberry, and exotic wood. ($250)

CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO 2006 BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO CAMPO DEL DRAGO
This superbly articulated Sangiovese requires cellaring to achieve its full potential, yet even in its youth, the wine abounds with notes of brambleberry fruit, wood spice, sweet tobacco, white pepper, and laurel leaf. ($70)

CHAPPELLET 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON PRITCHARD HILL
This elegant and restrained Cabernet’s nose of crushed violets and blueberry precedes flavors of boysenberry, coffee, and sweet sandalwood on the palate. ($135)

CHARLES HEIDSIECK 1995 BLANC DES MILLÉNAIRES
This magical blanc de blancs radiates a magnificent pale-golden color and teases the nose with aromas of candied cherry, orange zest, and toasted almonds. ($170)

CHÂTEAU CLimens 2009 BARSAC
Luxuriously textured, this Barsac brings its honey, peach, apricot, hazelnut, and toasted-oat flavors to a clean, resonant, and pinpoint finish. ($150)

CHÂTEAU D’ESCLANS 2010 CÔTES DE PROVENCE ROSÉ LES CLANS
Though summer remains for most the favorite season for sipping rosé, this exquisitely dense and stupendously structured iteration offers enough plum, ginger, and black-cherry flavors to stand up to even the heaviest holiday menu. ($65)

CHÂTEAU D’YQUEM 2009 SAUTERNES
This vintage of Sauternes’s most legendary wine presents a particularly floral profile, sending up soft perfumes of honeysuckle and jasmine. On the palate, dried apricot, candied orange, hazelnut, and honeycomb culminate in a crisp, acid finish. ($800)

CHÂTEAU HAUT-BRION 2009 PESSAC-LÉOGNAN
Despite its alcohol level of 14.3 percent, the latest release from this First Growth remains a remarkably smooth composition of red cherry and raspberry fruit leavened by traces of clove and graphite. ($1,050)
CHÂTEAU PAVE 2009 ST.-ÉMILION
Sensual and dark, this near-perfect St.-Emilion layers bittersweet-chocolate, tobacco, and roasted-coffee notes atop black currant and plum fruit. ($294)

COLGIN 2009 IX ESTATE PROPRIETARY RED WINE
Another flawless red from Ann Colgin’s flagship vineyard, this blend of Bordeaux varietals exquisitely integrates flavors of blackberry fruit with dried chaparral, anise, and granite. ($325)

CRAGGY RANGE 2010 LE SOL GIMBLETT GRAVELS VINEYARD HAWKES BAY
Consistently among New Zealand’s finest red wines, this outstanding blue-black Syrah laces the palate with hefty helpings of blackberry liqueur, sweet tar, baked fig, licorice, and dried game. ($100)

DANA ESTATES 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON LOTUS VINEYARD
This generous single-vineyard Cabernet blossoms on the nose with scents of violet, lilac, and red currant, while on the palate it takes an earthy turn, revealing flavors of leather, tobacco, and coffee. ($325)

DARIOUSH 2007 LATE HARVEST SHAHPAR
This limited-production, late-harvest wine is a veritable confluence of apricot, candied orange zest, vanilla, and toasted hazelnut. ($70/375 mL)

DIATOM 2010 KODO CHARDONNAY SANTA RITA HILLS
With his own label, which focuses entirely on Chardonnay, Greg Brewer has refined this varietal to its essence. This expression combines the scent of white lilies with peach fruit, wet granite, and steely acidity. ($36)

DOM PÉRIGNON 2003 BRUT CHAMPAGNE
Though many houses did not declare a vintage in 2003, Dom Pérignon delivered this dramatic sparkling wine, whose weightless richness is infused with essences of hibiscus, butterscotch, pear, smoky cumin, brioche, and seaweed-like minerality. ($699)

DOM PÉRIGNON 1992 OENOThÈQUE ROSE BRUT CHAMPAGNE
This newly released vintage in the house’s Oenothèque series has a pronounced fragrance of peonies and concentrated flavors of cherry, cantaloupe, loquat, marmalade, and vanilla. ($159)

DOMAINE ARMAND ROUSSEAU 2008 CHAMBERTIN GRAND CRU
A fine, silky, earthy rendering of Pinot Noir from Chambertin, this red Burgundy treats the senses to a medley of rose petals and soft Indian-spice scents followed by bright, acidic red-raspberry fruit. ($455)

DOMAINE CARNEROS BY TAITTINGER 2006 LE RÊVE
Resplendent with aromas of honeysuckle, citrus blossom, jasmine, white peach, and pear, this 100-percent Chardonnay exhibits restrained yet refreshing flavors of vanilla, buttery pastry, and marzipan. ($95)

DOMAINE DE LA ROMANÈE-CONTI 2009 LA TÂCHE GRAND CRU
At once delicate and powerful, this pure expression of Pinot Noir from the famed monopole is perfumed with dark plum fruit and unfolds gradually on the palate with notes of blackberry, Moroccan spice, leather, and mint. ($1,250–$1,400)

DOMAINE FAIVELEY 2009 CHAMBERTIN CLOS DE BÊZE GRAND CRU
This grand cru delivers concentrated wild-berry notes on the nose as well as on the palate, where its ripeness is balanced by sweet smoke and licorice. ($385)

DOMAINE LEFLAIVE 2009 BÂTARD-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU
This monumental white combines intense expressions of citrus and peach fruit with delicate traces of granite, hazelnut, and tar. ($475)
DOMINUS ESTATE 2009 RED WINE NAPA VALLEY
This dark gem glitters in the glass and on the tongue, where flavors of black cherry, boysenberry, sweet tar, and allspice meld in a precise and memorable finish. ($179)

DONNAFUGATA 2009 BEN RYE PASSITO DI PANTELLERIA
This sweet, golden wine made from the Zibibbo grape on the Sicilian island of Pantelleria shines with amber highlights and teases the taste buds with notes of apricot jam, baked fig, honeycomb, and dried thyme. ($40/375 mL)

E. GUIGAL 2008 CÔTE-RÔTIE LA LANDONNE
This red Rhône has bouillon-like concentration, blending brandied plum fruit with dried herbs, espresso, dark chocolate, and sweet smoke. ($224)

ENROUTE 2010 PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY LES POMMIERS
First introduced with the superbly aromatic 2007 vintage, this Russian River Valley Pinot Noir offers sophisticated scents of rose petal and pomegranate and saturated flavors of red cherry, cranberry, and sandalwood. ($65)

FATTORIA LE PUPILLE 2007 SAFFREDI MAREMMA TOSCANA
This Super Tuscan from Maremma broods with aromas of wild berry, coffee, and roses and enlivens the palate with its silky texture and notes of cassis and red apple. ($100)

FRANK FAMILY 2008 WINSTON HILL RUTHERFORD
This classic hillside Cabernet maintains perfect poise between power and finesse, integrating ripe wild berry and black cherry with satiny tannins. ($150)

FREEMAN 2010 PINOT NOIR KEEFER RANCH
This stylish Pinot from Akiko and Ken Freeman gushes with raspberry, black cherry, and refreshing grapefruit acidity. ($48)

GARY FARRELL 2009 CHARDONNAY WESTSIDE FARMS RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
This small-production Chardonnay is a creamy composition of pear, vanilla, and toasted hazelnut enhanced with a hint of lemon zest. ($38)

HALL 2009 KATHRYN HALL CABERNET SAUVIGNON
This signature cuvée will appeal to lovers of unabashedly big Cabernet from Napa—dark, extracted, and rich with essences of boysenberry, bittersweet chocolate, and roasted coffee. ($110)

HARLAN ESTATE 2008 PROPRIETARY RED NAPA VALLEY
Grace in liquid form, this Oakville beauty has a consistency and concentration like crème de cassis laced with anise, chocolate, and a piquant touch of char. ($750)

HUNDRED ACRE 2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON ARK VINEYARD
This superb Cabernet greets the senses with a supernova of blackberry and black-raspberry fruit, yet this burst of ripeness gives way to gentle waves of earth and spice. ($300)

INAMA 2010 SOAVE CLASSICO VIGNETI DI FOSCARINO
This light-gold Soave offers up a surprisingly fleshy nose of peach, ripe lemon, and pineapple, but its fruit is restrained on the palate, allowing its crisp acidity and wet-stone minerality to permeate the senses. ($24)

INMAN FAMILY 2009 PINOT NOIR OLIVET GRANGE VINEYARD
Organically grown and exquisitely crafted, this stellar Pinot Noir presents its dark side first—blackberry, ground coffee, cocoa, and grilled bread—before introducing more subtle notes of rhubarb, raspberry, and ruby grapefruit. ($56)
J. ROCHIOLI 2010 CHARDONNAY RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY RACHAEL'S VINEYARD
An expansive rendering of Chardonnay, this single-vineyard white leaves the palate awash in white peach, orange, and lime flavors. ($72)

JCB BY JEAN-CHARLES BOISSET NO. 3 PINOT NOIR
A native of Burgundy, vintner Jean-Charies Boisset has long dreamed of creating a wine that expresses his roots both in France and in California. Combining grapes from the Côtes de Nuits and the Russian River Valley, this lush blend of black cherry, cocoa, and herbs lingers deliciously on the finish. ($123)

JOSEPH DROUHIN 2009 CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET MORGEOT MARQUIS DE LAGUICHE PREMIER CRU
This winsome white is redolent of lemon blossom, and flavors of ripe lemon-lime dominate on the palate, though a gentle sea brine emerges on the finish. ($115)

JOSEPH DROUHIN 2009 MUSIGNY GRAND CRU
This is red Burgundy at its most magnificent—at once subtle and powerful, replete with intense wild-strawberry and cherry fruit, mushrooms, rosemary, and deep mineral essences. ($600)

KENZO ESTATE 2009 AI
The flagship Bordeaux-style blend from Kenzo Estate, Aï (Japanese for indigo) abounds in blueberry, loam, and leather essences that overlie its colossal structure. ($250)

KENZO ESTATE 2011 ASATSUYU
This delightful Sauvignon Blanc takes its name from the Japanese for morning dew—an image that aptly prefigures its mouthwatering assortment of honeysuckle, citrus, and lemon grass notes. ($80)

KRUG GRANDE CUVÉE BRUT CHAMPAGNE NV
The soul of Krug, this NV brut enrobes the mouth with its seafoam texture, gently dispersing flavors of green apple, ginger, cherry lozenge, and briny mineral. ($140)

LA SIRENA 2011 MOSCATO AZUL
Though the Moscato grape is associated most often with sweet wines, this white—which presents a gorgeous medley of honeysuckle and peach—is clean, crisp, and mineral driven. ($30)

LE MACCHIOLE 2008 MESSORIO TOSCANA
This 100-percent Merlot from Bolgheri has brooding blueberry fruit, but its overriding personality is one of silky tannins, impeccable structure, and understated, earthy flavors of cocoa and coffee. ($180)

LOKOYA 2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON MT. VEEDEER
The most powerful and densely structured of the four wines in this producer’s portfolio, this Mt. Veefer Cabernet has an impenetrable bluish-black color that portends the dark elements of spice, char, and aise that emerge on the palate. ($350)

LONGORIA 2009 PINOT NOIR FE CIEGA VINEYARD
From Longoria’s estate vineyard, this Pinot Noir combines a round, juicy flavor profile of ripe cherry with more angular notes of dried sage, tobacco leaf, and toasted wood. ($48)

LOUIS JADOT 2009 CLOS VOUGEOT GRAND CRU
This marvelous expression of Pinot from one of the Côte de Nuits’ great grand crus has a luscious mouthfeel and abundant red fruit, but its most tantalizing trait is its heady floral bouquet. ($179)

LOUIS JADOT 2009 CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE GRAND CRU
This graceful white Burgundy offers a delicate lemon-lime aroma and a splendid assortment of green-apple, peach, and mint flavors. ($189)
M. CHAPOUTIER 2009 ERMITAGE L’ERMITE BLANC
A tropical sensation, this creamy, full-bodied white Rhône bursts forth with coconut, mango, and banana, as well as ripe fig. ($325)

MARCHESI ANTINORI 2008 GUADO AL TASSO BOLGHERI SUPERIORE
This gorgeous Bordeaux-style blend from Bolgheri is beautifully paced on the palate, gradually unfolding its layers of black currant, dried sage, and graphite. ($100)

MARCHESI ANTINORI 2008 SOLAIA TOSCANA
This superb small-production wine is alluringly dark—an inky infusion of black cherry, blackberry, dark chocolate, anise, and toasted coffee. ($325)

MARCHESI ANTINORI 2009 TIGNANELLO TOSCANA
The sister wine of Solaia, this scintillating Sangiovese blend permeates the senses, revealing essences of spiced black cherry, tea, cigar box, and baked clay. ($105)

MASI 2007 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA RISERVA DI COSTASERA
Redolent of violets and dried bing cherry, this opaque Amarone has a finely wrought tannic structure and bright, fruity acids spiced with black pepper, tea, and cocoa. ($95)

MICHELE CHIARLO 2009 BARBARESCO ASILI
The intensity of fragrance rising from this masterful Barbaresco draws the nose down into the glass to take in its rose-petal, peony, and cherry-blossom aromas. On the palate, this wine is supple and splendidly structured. ($90)

MONTEVERRO 2008 TERRA DI MONTEVERRO TOSCANA
At once rustic and refined, this Bordeaux–style blend from southern Tuscany contains a cornucopia of flavors: cassis, boysenberry, grilled bread, black olive, and white mushroom. ($75)

MT. BRAVE 2009 MALBEC MT. VEEDER
This dark-hued elixir conjures up delicious notes of black raspberry, anise, allspice, and sarsaparilla. ($60)

O’SHAUGHNESSY ESTATE WINERY 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON MT. VEEDER
Though the backbone of this massive mountain Cabernet consists of flinty mineral and brawny tannins, it nevertheless reveals, even in extreme youth, a fleshy outward personality of ripe wild berry, black fig, and spearmint. ($100)

OLIVIER LEFLAIVE 2009 BÂTARD-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU
This wine showcases the richer side of white Burgundy from the Côte de Beaune, displaying essences of vanilla ice cream, caramel, and candied pineapple followed by bracing acidity. ($325)

PALL WINE CO. 2010 PINOT NOIR CARGASACCHI VINEYARD SANTA RITA HILLS
Despite its gorgeous raspberry fruit, this profoundly potable Pinot is defined by spicy elements of cinnamon, sandalwood, clove, and orange zest. ($54)

PAUL HOBBS 2010 CHARDONNAY CLIVÉE AGUSTINA RICHARD DINNER VINEYARD SONOMA MOUNTAIN
This white’s beautiful, mineral-dominated nose of brine and light tobacco belies its luscious flavor profile of peach, pineapple, and hazelnut. ($100)

PAUL JABOULET AÏNÉ 2009 HERMITAGE LA CHAPELLE
This big, ripe, gamy northern Rhône red reveals unbelievable breadth and depth, displaying notes of extracted blackberry, black tea, licorice, stony minerals, dried meat, and hints of rust. ($335)
PENFOLDS 2007 GRANGE SOUTH AUSTRALIA
This blockbuster South Australian red bursts forth onto the palate with blueberry, black plum, bittersweet chocolate, and a profusion of warm, brown spices. ($600)

PERRIER-JOUËT 2004 BELLE EPOQUE FLORALE EDITION
This limited-edition bottle from the noted Champagne house was designed by Japanese artist Makoto Azuma in homage to the original by Émile Gallé. The bottle’s elaborate floral theme notwithstanding, essences of candied citrus, almond paste, and honey suffuse the wine’s flavor profile. ($199)

PHARAOHMOANS 2010 PASO ROBLES WESTSIDE RED WINE
Though its name is tongue-in-cheek, this blend of Syrah and Grenache is a true treat for the taste buds, evoking notes of concentrated blackberry, espresso, and smoked meat. ($95)

PINE RIDGE 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON FORTIS NAPA VALLEY
This Cabernet sourced from vineyards in Stags Leap District and the Rutherford AVA is almost dessert-like in its marriage of sweet blueberry jam, brioche, and mocha. ($150)

PIPER-HEIDSIECK MILLÉSIME 2002 BRUT CHAMPAGNE RARE
The release exudes a bouquet of blood orange, papaya, banana, and caramelized pineapple and finishes with subtle flavors of honeycomb and brine. ($180)

POL ROGER 2000 BRUT BLANC DE BLANCS
A perfect Champagne to pair with food, this 100-percent Chardonnay boasts grapefruit zest and crème brulée flavors atop lemony acidity. ($130)

PRÉT À BOIRE 2011 ROSÉ NAPA VALLEY
This ready-to-drink rosé refreshes the thirsty palate with flavors of white strawberry, watermelon, raspberry, and freshly cut grass. ($75)

PROMISE 2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY
A well-balanced meal in a glass, this Cabernet serves up a generous helping of blackberry followed by plum, black currant, and toffee flavors spiced with cardamom and hints of molasses. ($250)

QUPE 2007 SYRAH BIEN NACIDO HILLSIDE ESTATE
A wine crafted for the hedonist rather than the aesthete, this Syrah presents a muscular mass of blueberry and plum jam laced through with licorice and hints of baked fig. ($45)

RODNEY STRONG 2009 ALEXANDER’S CROWN CABERNET SAUVIGNON ALEXANDER VALLEY
A bouquet of black raspberry, black cherry, violets, mint, and chaparral precedes a bone-dry yet deliciously smoky flavor profile. ($75)

ROYAL TOKAJI 2005 BETSEK
This delectable dessert wine from the largest of Royal Tokaji's first-growth vineyards is drenched in essences of apricot, marmalade, clover, and honeycomb. ($110)

SALON 1999 BLANC DE BLANCS CHAMPAGNE LE MESNIL
A refined, meringue-like texture prepares the taste buds for this blanc de blancs' refined repertoire of candied lemon, ginger, and nutmeg. ($320)

SAN FELICE 2007 PUGNITELLO DE SAN FELICE
San Felice began cultivating this fascinating ancient Tuscan varietal in collaboration with the University of Florence in 1986. Aromas of dried roses and blackberry are followed on the palate by a soft medley of plum, red-apple, and charcoal flavors backed up by finely spun tannins. ($50)
SCHRAMSBERG 2004 RESERVE
Soft scents of cherry lozenge, tangerine, and almond paste rise from this effervescent wine, while a sip summons flavors of raspberry sorbet, apple pie, and hints of ginger ale. ($115)

SHAFER 2008 HILLSIDE SELECT NAPA VALLEY STAGS LEAP DISTRICT CABERNET SAUVIGNON
This signature wine from the Shafer family serves up generous helpings of blackberry, black cherry, banana, amaretto, licorice, and coffee. ($230)

SPOTTSWOODE 2009 ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON
Anyone who has forgotten what classic-style Napa Cabernet can be should sample this balanced and beautifully black composition of restrained ripeness and complex shadings of tar, licorice, and patchouli. ($145)

SPRING MOUNTAIN 2010 ESTATE SAUVIGNON BLANC
Steeped in expressions of white strawberry, peach, and fresh lime, this brisk Sauvignon Blanc pairs seamlessly with seafood courses and cheese. ($40)

STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARD 2009 INEO NAPA VALLEY
This Bordeaux-style blend shifts through many different moods in the glass—from brooding blackberry and mellow mocha to intriguing notes of pine, flaxseed oil, thyme, and tar. ($250)

TENUTA DEGLI DEI 2009 CAVALLI TOSCANA
From Italian designer Roberto Cavalli and his son Tommaso, this Super Tuscan has a royal-purple color that prefigures its nose of plum and brambleberry. On the palate, its boysenberry flavors are spiced with cinnamon, dried herbs, and spearmint. ($45)

TENUTA dell'ORNELLAIA 2009 ORNELLAIA
Sensuous, pure, and characterized by silky boysenberry-fruit, cocoa, and toasted-walnut notes, this unforgettable vintage will undoubtedly continue to flourish in the cellar. ($215)

TENUTA SAN GUIDO 2009 SASSICAIA
Big and voluptuous even for Sassicaia, the 2009 vintage departs from this wine's usually more restrained personality, offering a riotous brew of black currant, black cherry, tanned leather, dried sage, star anise, and white pepper. ($227)

VALL LLLACH 2007 VALL LLLACH PRIORAT
This blend of Carinena, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon festoons its black-fruit flavors with threads of cola, sandalwood, tarragon, black pepper, and minerals. ($95)

VÉRITÉ 2008 LA JOIE
One of California's true viticultural masterpieces, La Joie consistently envelops its flawlessly articulated structure in opulent black fruit, silky texture, and savory layers of smoky cumin, truffle, and sweet tar. ($450)

WIN PERDU 2010 NAPA VALLEY
Heidi Barrett's unusual blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Petit Verdot, Petite Sirah, Cabernet Franc, and Merlot takes the taste buds on the wildest roller-coaster ride, presenting alternating flavors of red currant, plum, berry, grapefruit, curry, and pepper, to name but a few. ($75)

VINEYARD SEVEN AND EIGHT 2009 ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON
With its emphasis on structure, this towering red from the top of Napa Valley's Spring Mountain engages the intellect yet, at the same time, satisfies the senses with aromas and flavors of blueberry, root beer, mushroom, and earth. ($125)