

tones of Chambolle's black silk tannins. The flavors reverberate with a low, earthy rumble then blast off, the wine's personality bigger than any glass, seemingly beyond any taster's ability to fathom. *Vintus, Pleasantville, NY*

Best Loire Red

93 | Bernard Baudry \$33
2005 Chinon Le Clos Guillot Dark and dense, this takes its time to reveal its concentrated depth of chewy black fruit. Although dominated by its structure right now, the wine's components fit together seamlessly, its fruit, acidity and tannin all in harmonious balance, and the manner in which the minerality thoroughly saturates the dark fruit flavors is striking. *Louis/Dressner Selections, NY*

Best Rhône Reds



93 | Jean-Luc Colombo \$130
2005 Cornas Force One Syrah A limited bottling of free-run juice from a small, high-altitude parcel made only in exceptional years, this is extraordinarily intense, a distillation of Cornas's warm, rugged soil and syrah's deeply plummy flavor. Give it a decade for the tannins to relent and fully reveal the cassis flavors that glow from its core. *Palm Bay Imports, Boca Raton, FL*

93 | Philippe Faury \$28
2006 St-Joseph The scent is all it takes to fall in love with this wine: licorice and leather, lilacs and fresh, sweet, plummy syrah. The flavor just gets better, ferrous minerality and vibrant acidity holding the fruit so tight it feels like it's levitating—the flavors hover, weightless yet head-filling. It's dangerously easy to drink, though a few years in the cellar certainly wouldn't hurt. *Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant, Berkeley, CA*

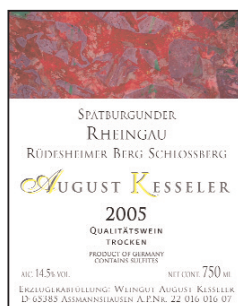
93 | Sélection Laurence Féraud \$39
2006 Châteauneuf-du-Pape Bracing acidity, dry minerality and earthy, powerful tannins bind the meaty, bacon-wrapped plum fruit in this wine, a huge Châteauneuf in need of a decade in the cellar. It's blended by Laurence Féraud of Domaine du Pegau, who worked with four growers; they had previously been sending their wine to négociants or the cooperative. *Hand Picked Selections, Warrenton, VA*

GERMANY
Best Mosel

97 | Dr. Loosen \$125/250ml
2005 Mosel Bernkasteler Lay Riesling Trockenbeereauslese This is still painfully young, dominated by smoky notes of botrytis. It's huge, with a dense, velvety concentration, yet the striking feature of this wine is its balance, supporting and shaping the flavors with intense focus and aristocratic poise. This is a great TBA, showing all of the clarity and finesse of the 2005 vintage. It's astounding that such a massively rich wine can feel so cleanly pure and easily drinkable. *Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR*

Best Rheingau

94 | Schloss Johannisberg \$486
2006 Rheingau Riesling Trockenbeereauslese Although this is clearly of very high must-weight, with a velvety, decadent texture, the balance is so impeccable that the overall feeling is one of elegance and precision. The lusciously honeyed peach and tangerine flavors are carried with finesse and aristocratic poise. *Valckenberg Int'l., Tulsa, OK*



93 | August Kessler \$144
2005 Rheingau Rudesheimer Berg Schlossberg Spätburgunder QbA This powerful pinot noir is built to age, its rich, sweet flavors of red cherry and plum feeling

tightly restrained and allowing the oak to show prominently at the moment. The texture is subtle and refined, and the fruit will gain more complexity and depth with another few years in the bottle. *Baum Wine Imports, Bensenville, IL*

Best Pfalz

94 | Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan \$305
2006 Pfalz Ruppertsberger Reiterpfad Riesling Trockenbeereauslese The rich, opulent flavors of peach, apricot and pumpkin are unctuous and velvety, moving like a glacier across the palate. It's dense, powerful and honeyed yet doesn't feel heavy, thanks to its concentrated acidity. Drink it now if you must, but it promises to get only better in the cellar. *Valckenberg Int'l., Tulsa, OK*

GREECE | Best White

93 | Sigalas \$25
2007 Santorini Barrel This may be the best barrel-fermented Santorini ever from Paris Sigalas. The ripe vintage made for strong minerality and plenty of fruit flavor, from the typical pithy lime to riper dry peach and orange; the oak seamlessly blends in, lending the wine a savory brioche richness. Exceedingly long and well structured, this should age beautifully for 15 years. *Diamond Importers, Chicago, IL*

Best Red

93 | Boutari \$35
2005 Goumenissa Filiria With this vintage of Filiria, Boutari has established Goumenissa as an appellation on par with Naoussa, its more famous neighbor 24 miles northwest. The blend is 50/50 xinomavro and negoska, planted on the estate in 1991 and organically grown. This is fragrant with exotic notes of smoky tea and dried herbs. Bright red sour cherry and raspberry flavor balance its ferrous tannins, the combination promising fine aging over a decade or more. *Terlato Wines Int'l., Lake Bluff, IL*