

World Wine



Japanese icon

Grace Cuvee Misawa Blanc 2008
Region Japan Rating 95/100

Deep yellow colour, bright, with a slight brassy tint. Funky, oaky and smoky sulfide bouquet, complex and lees-influenced: a matchstick character. Quite multifaceted. The palate is rich and full, soft and rounded, loaded with flavour and lush, rewarding buttery and nougat flavours, some fruit sweetness in the middle palate and most satisfying depth of flavour and length of finish. A totally surprising wine. Drink: 2012-2014. Price: \$127.50. Rating: 94/100. **Huon Hooke, HuonHooke.com**

\$99.99
across any 12
\$109.99 per bottle



1. Bodegas LAN Rioja 2006
Region Spain Rating 93/100

This eminently drinkable tempranillo from Spain is one of those reds that emerges with breathing, losing some fusty characters to reveal cherry, spice, leather and mineral earth aromas of appealing rustic charm. The palate is medium bodied with good texture and structure, and a succulence that keeps you coming back for more. 4 stars.

Ralph Kyte-Powell, The Age, Epicure - Uncorked, November 2010
RRP \$27.50

\$21.99
across any 12
\$23.99 per bottle

2. Dr Loosen Dry Riesling 2011
Region Germany Rating 94/100

Intense fruit aromas of ripe, juicy citrus and stone fruit, with hints of spring blossoms and pear. Big ripe flavours of lemon/lime, apricot and yellow peach are balanced by fine acidity and a beautiful talc mineral texture. Despite the richly intense fruit flavours, the wine finishes clean, dry and mouth-watering. Very smart.

RRP \$26.00

\$29.99
across any 12
\$32.99 per bottle

3. Domaine Sigalas Santorini Assyrtiko 2011
Region Greece Rating 94/100

The 2011 Santorini is an exceptional Assyrtiko from Sigalas, another great moment for this estate. On opening, I was actually surprised at how fruity and accessible it seemed, since these often need a lot of time to show well when young. It seemed elegant and refined, with a lush texture and a beautifully lingering finish... It is crisp and persistent, beautifully put together and impeccably balanced, mingling elegance with that fine structure. It is built to age. This is a wine that should drink better in the next year or two, even if it is entirely enjoyable now. Drink: now-2021. Rating: 93/100.

Mark Squires, eRobertParker.com, April 2012
RRP \$34.50

\$15.99
across any 12
\$18.99 per bottle

4. Jed Malbec 2011
Region Argentina Rating 92/100

Argentina and malbec, it seems, is a match made in heaven. And so to Jed - this wine is an absolute belter. Lively red and dark-fruited aromas, with violets and a savoury herbal and smoky oak edge. Juicy plum, cherry, and raspberry flavours with a dash of dried herb, tobacco and a good whack of ripe grippy tannin. Ready to drink now with a big juicy steak.

RRP \$23.00

\$15.99
across any 12
\$17.99 per bottle

5. Hand Picked Carmenere 2008
Region Chile Rating 89/100

Give this some air and it comes up trumps. Raisins/sultans, meat, smoke, earth and gamey, chewy cherries. Emphasis on the chewiness and on the smokiness, in both cases as a positive, not the cleanest wine in the world - partly why it's good. Alcohol: 13.5%. Closure: screwcap. Drink: now-2014+. Price: \$20. Rating: 89/100.

RRP \$20.00

\$37.99
across any 12
\$39.99 per bottle

6. Argyle Reserve Pinot Noir 2009
Region United States Rating 93/100

The 2009 Pinot Noir Reserve is a more expressive, structured effort, darker in color with aromas of violets, incense, cinnamon, black cherry, and black raspberry. Richer and more structured than the Willamette Valley cuvee, it will evolve for 2-3 years and offer prime drinking from 2012 to 2019. Drink: 2012-2019. Rating: 90/100.

Jay Miller, eRobertParker.com, October 2011
RRP \$43.99