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A NEW WAY
TO LIVE
in the West



2013
IDEA HOUSE
REVEALED!
SEABROOK, WA

50 GREAT
WINES
UNDER \$12

P. 76

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LESSON N°6

For red wine lovers, CAB AND PINOT ARE JUST THE BEGINNING

Our judges soldiered through veritable oceans of solid Cabernet and Pinot Noir to get to their real entertainment—the knockout alternatives to the West's marquee reds.

Ancient Peaks 2010 Margarita Vineyard Petit Verdot (Paso Robles; \$35)

Carmen 2011 Apalta Vineyard Gran Reserva Carmenère (Colchagua Valley, Chile; \$15)

Claudia Springs 2010 Rhodes Vineyard Grenache (Redwood Valley; \$22)

Jeff Runquist 2011 Cooper Vineyard Barbera (Amador County; \$26)

Marchesi 2009 "Emma" Reserve Sangiovese (Columbia Valley; \$42)

Shadow Chaser 2012 Grenache (McLaren Vale, Australia; \$15)

Vina Robles 2010 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles; \$26)



SARA'S PICK FOR A BEEF DINNER WITH FRIENDS

BRIDESMAID 2009 RED

(Napa Valley; \$39)

Perfect balance in a wine (a Cabernet-based Bordeaux blend here) makes the food taste better; complex flavors (dark fruit, spice, licorice, mint) somehow make the conversation flow; and sheer quality like this makes you feel like you spent more for the wine than you really did.

LESSON N°9

SOME BIG-TICKET WINES ARE TRULY WORTH IT

Many wines count on sticker shock to deliver a marketing message. (A \$100 bottle *has* to be good, right?) Without the ability to flash their price in our blind judging, the expensive wines rode on merit alone. These bottles earned exceptional scores.

Betz Family 2010 "Père de Famille" Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley; \$68) Dark chocolate and leather under gorgeous cassis and black cherry.

Kenefick Ranch 2009 "Chris's Cuvée" Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga, Napa Valley; \$65) Concentrated but fresh, minty blackberry with elegant tannins and a streak of minerality.

La Rochelle 2010 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands; \$75) Big, ripe, and round, with black cherry, cola, and silky tannins.

Ravenswood 2010 Old Hill Single Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley; \$60) Violets, pepper, and spice over layers of black fruit.

Trincher 2009 Cloud's Nest Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder, Napa Valley; \$70) Black cherry and cassis with whiffs of violet and cedar.

V. Sattui 2009 "Paradiso" (Napa Valley; \$70) Juicy cherry-berry fruit with cinnamon, cocoa, and vanilla shadings.

LESSON N°7

Spain IS THE NEW ITALY

SPAIN

Condes de Albarei 2011 Valle del Salnés Albariño (Rías Baixas DO; \$12)

Murviedro 2012 Colección Sauvignon Blanc (Valencia DO; \$8)

Bodegas Riojanas 2010 Puerta Vieja Crianza (Rioja DOCa; \$15)

Castillo de Monsérán 2010 Garnacha (Cariñena DO; \$7)

Ergo 2010 Tempranillo (Rioja DOCa; \$15)

Murviedro 2012 Colección Tempranillo (Utiel-Requena DO; \$8)

Verano 2011 Tempranillo/Cabernet (Valencia DO; \$14)

Viña Eguía 2008 Crianza (Rioja DOCa; \$15)

WEST COAST

New Clairvaux 2012 St. James Block Albariño (Tehama County; \$17)

Camaraderie 2009 Tempranillo (Yakima Valley; \$28)

Remember when we discovered Chianti, Pinot Grigio, and Prosecco? Now it's Tempranillo, Garnacha, and Albariño from Spain—and increasingly from California, Southern Oregon, and Washington.



Casa de Arcilla 2010 Tempranillo (Paso Robles; \$14)

Hoyt Family 2010 Tempranillo (Paso Robles; \$35)

Kenneth Volk 2009 John Smith Vineyard Tempranillo (San Benito County; \$36)

Matchbook 2009 Tempranillo (Dunnigan Hills; \$15)

LESSON N°8

CRAZY RED BLENDS AREN'T JUST GIMMICKS

Winemakers crafting avant-garde mash-ups—putting Cabernet and Zinfandel in the same bottle, for instance—are blending for quality (not just using up excess juice).

Beaulieu Vineyard 2009 "Beaurouge" (Napa Valley; \$25)

Buena Vista Viticultural Society 2011 "The Count of Buena Vista" (Sonoma County; \$20)

Cholame 2010 "Cross Country" (Monterey County; \$20)

Deering 2009 "Ideal, A Better Red" (Sonoma Valley; \$45)

Enkidu 2009 "Humbaba" (California; \$28)

Lone Madrone 2009 "Old Hat" (Paso Robles; \$46)

Martella 2010 "GTA" (California; \$32)

Renwood 2010 "Clarion" (Amador County; \$20)

Telaya 2009 "Turax" (Columbia Valley; \$32)