

Wine & Spirits

Summer Dining

(garden parties, wedding brunches, pig roasts, *asados* and food trucks)

2012 VALUE BRANDS OF THE YEAR



GARDEN PARTY



You're here to admire the flowers and relax in each other's company, not critique

Louis Bernard

A 2012 Value Brand of the Year

Louis Bernard, based in Gigondas, offers value-priced wines for anything you can toss onto the grill. Check out their bright Côtes du Rhône with chicken; the darker Côtes du Rhône Villages with a steak, and the brisk white Château Noël St-Laurent with shrimp on a skewer.



2009 Côtes du Rhône Blanc Ch. Noël St-Laurent (88 | \$12 | 10/11)

2009 Côtes du Rhône Villages (86 | \$13 | 10/11)
Boisset Family Estates, Sausalito, CA

Cramele Recca's impressive wines range from the honeydew-juicy and grapefruit-bright Dreamfish Sauvignon Blanc to the Dreambird Pinot Noir, thirst-quenchingly light with cherries and spice. Recca, which dates to 1447, is now owned by Englishman Philip Cox. He replanted it 1,730 acres and brought in Australian Hartley Smithers (of Yellowtail fame) and Nora Iriarte of Spain to assist Florin Voloaca in the cellar.

2010 Vile Timisului Dreamfish Sauvignon (88 | \$7 | 6/12)
2010 Vile Timisului Dreambird Pinot (87 | \$7 | 6/12)
Tri-Vin Imports, Mount Vernon, NY

AFTER THE FOURTH



Courtney Benham owns the Martin Ray label. He focused his brand around small lots not available in the larger Ray portfolio—often tons of things like gewürztraminer and Martin Ray's regular varieties, regions and sources change from year to year and most of the wine produced in case-runs of

NV Napa Valley Lucca Red Wine (87 | \$12 | 10/11)
2010 Napa Valley Sauvignon Blanc (85 | \$12 | 10/11)
Martin Ray Winery, Santa Rosa, CA

JUNE 2012
Wine & Spirits Magazine
\$5.99 • CANADA \$6.99
ONLINE UNTIL JUNE 25TH, 2012



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