









WINE & SPIRITS

Match Game

THE PERFECT WINES FOR EVERY CHARACTER ON YOUR GIFT LIST BY BARONESS SHERI DE BORCHGRAVE

		WINE LOVER	WINE CONNOISSEUR	WINE COLLECTOR
The Poet 	For this friend, it's all about the poetry of the land, somewhere far away and dreamy	In an impressive bottle with a poem on the label, Piccini's Sasso Al Poggio 2007 Toscana is a Sangiovese, Cabernet and Merlot blend that's a great value Super Tuscan. It has a dark red color and is lush on the palate with flavors of cherries, licorice and minerals. The Piccinis have been making wine in Tuscany for 130 years (\$25). tenutepiccinil.it .	Bodega DiamAndes Gran Reserva 2007 is the first wine produced at the new DiamAndes winery in Vista Flores in the foothills of the Andes. From grapes grown at high altitude in the Uco Valley, this blend of 70-percent Malbec and 30-percent Cabernet is intensely flavored, balanced, expressive, resembling the elegance of Bordeaux (\$35). diamandes.com .	Rutini, one of Argentina's 19th-century pioneering wineries started in Maipú, has high-altitude vineyards spread over five regions of Mendoza. Apartado Gran Malbec 2009 (aged 18 months in new French oak) is the sublime expression of Rutini's best Malbec—purple-hued and richly fruit-flavored with notes of licorice, coffee and cocoa beans (\$125). rutiniwines.com .
The Entrepreneur 	Likes innovative brands and regions, wines that reflect her knowledge and status	Cloudy Bay, the winery that put New Zealand on the map for its New World benchmark Sauvignon Blanc, is now making exciting Pinot Noir. With fragrant aromas of dark berries, bramble fruit, rhubarb, mushrooms and herbs, Cloudy Bay Pinot Noir 2010 , made from six clones of hand-harvested Pinot Noir, is highly expressive (\$35). cloudybay.co.nz .	The Antinori family, now in its 26th generation over 600 years, was the first to create a Super Tuscan with their Tignanello, from their estate located in the Chianti Classico region. A blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, the eye-opening Tignanello 2008 has an intriguing bouquet of blackcurrant, blackberries, tobacco and curry powder (\$105). antinori.it .	Grapes for this iconic Cabernet come from the To Kalon vineyard, one of Napa's most esteemed, at the edge of the Mayacamas Mountains. Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 2009 is a concentrated gem of a wine with rich black plum, tobacco and olive flavors, a mineral underlay and silky tannins (\$135). robertmondaviwinery.com .
The Nature Lover 	Wants biodynamic or good-earth-policy wine that is alive with vivid flavors	On his 230-acre estate of certified biodynamic grapes in the North Willamette Valley, Rudy Marchesi makes garnet-hued Pinot Noir with notes of plums, forest floor and tobacco. Montinore Estate Reserve Pinot Noir 2010 from cool climate Oregon exudes a savory character and is extremely food-friendly (\$28). montinore.com .	Caiarossa is a Tuscan biodynamic estate overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. Its vineyards are planted at high altitude in stony soil bordering a grove of ancient olive trees. Caiarossa 2004 is a blend of Merlot, Sangiovese, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon with bright fruit and nice minerality. It has been acclaimed as Italy's best organic red wine (\$70). caiारossa.com .	Domaine Deiss, a biodynamic winery located in Alsace, spans 64 hillside vineyard acres. Thirteen grape varieties—including Riesling, Gewürztraminer and Pinot Gris—go into this Grand Cru Altenberg de Bergheim 2007 . The white blend has delicate floral aromas and balances sweetness and citrus with hints of spice, orange zest and marmalade (\$95). marceldeiss.fr .
The Sensualist 	Often a Francophile who likes nuance plus complex flavors and textures	From Bodegas Franco-Españolas, Rioja Bordon Gran Reserva 2004 sleeps poetically within caves for three years, then another three in the bottle before release. Aging brings unparalleled nuances in flavor—mushroom, pomegranate, roasted peppers, tomato and plum—and silky textures. It's a steal for a gran reserva (\$22). francoespanolas.com .	Beaune 1er Cru "Clos Du Roi" 2009 is from the house of Bouchard Aîné & Fils , which was founded in 1750 in the center of historic Burgundy. This signature Pinot Noir has intriguing sensuous aromas and titillating nuance and finesse. It is dark cherry in color and unfolds with complex black fruit flavors and licorice on the finish (\$45). bouchard-aine.fr .	Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre grapes that go into Cuvée des Cadettes are grown organically in a single vineyard. From one of the oldest Châteauneuf estates in the Rhône Valley, Château La Nerthe Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Cuvée des Cadettes 2005 has seductive aromas of fig, cocoa and leather, tastes of blackberry and has a rich texture (\$169). chateaulanerthe.fr .
The Maverick 	Wants a wine with an edge, something different, something rebellious	Made from Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre, Troublemaker Blend 3 has flavors of black cherry, licorice and an overlay aroma of smoked meats. It's from Hope Family Wines, one of the pioneering families in California's Paso Robles viticultural region. The blend is named for their son, who was kicked out of kindergarten (\$20). hopefamilywines .	From Corbières-Boutenac, a new appellation of Languedoc, ruby-hued Gérard Bertrand La Forge 2009 has luscious black and red fruit flavors. Over the span of 25 years, Bertrand has created a highly respected empire acquiring seven wineries in the region and running his flagship 2,000-acre Château L'Hospitalet (\$45). gerardbertrandwines.com .	For icewine, grapes are left frozen on their vines well into December. Made in Ontario, Canada, Inniskillin Icewine Cabernet Franc 2007 is a concentrated dessert wine that displays delightful strawberry and cream flavors and a nice acidity to balance its sweetness. It pairs brilliantly with dark chocolate or blue-veined cheeses (\$95). inniskillin.com .
The Life of the Party 	Champagne and sparkling wine fuel this ebullient and charming friend	From the high altitude Trento DOC region beneath the Dolomites, Ferrari Brut NV 100-percent Chardonnay sparkling wine has a yeasty breadbasket flavor and a crisp acidity. The family-owned Ferrari winery has taken the prestigious Tre Bicchieri award 22 times and is considered Italy's finest sparkling wine house (\$25). cantineferrari.it .	In the 1850s, Charles Heidsieck was one of the very first Champagne producers to introduce bubbly to the U.S., and he was nicknamed "Champagne Charlie." Today Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve NV is known to be the connoisseur's choice for its lively effervescence, floral aromas with a note of lilac, and flavors of pastry and apricot (\$65). charlesheidsieck.com .	Going back to the 1840s, the House of Krug is the Holy Grail to Champagne aficionados. Krug Grande Cuvée Brut is made from 120 separately vinified wines from different vintage years, resulting in a complex flavor that unfolds in layers with finesse and earthiness. A spectrum of notes—soy, mushroom, hazelnut, citrus—all come into play (\$170). krug.com .

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SOL UNIVO