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WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAY 2016

THE SPORTS ISSUE

Exclusive Interviews

Dwyane Wade
Roger Federer
Jeff Gordon
and more

Perfect Wines for
the Sports Fan



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on the
Margarita PAGE 32

A New
Style of
Syrah PAGE 72



Dwyane
Wade of the
Miami Heat
and Wade
Cellars

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

MAY 2016

A cypress-lined road
in Tuscany, with the
village of Montalcino
in the distance.

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

PINOTS FOR EVERYONE

Over 180 reviews of Pinot Noir from California, New York, Canada, Burgundy and the Loire Valley.

GOLD RUSH

Emboss your glass with these enticing California Chardonnays.

BRUNELLO BONANZA

More than 80 reviews from the stellar 2010 vintage, plus additional reviews from 2011.



93 Dutton-Goldfield 2013 Dutton Ranch Free-stone Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This tightly wound wine opens in the glass, with intense, bright acidity that wraps around herbal, minty undertones. Blackberry, raspberry and clove give it plenty of varietal classicism, but it's the strong earthy loam and forest floor that provide intrigue and elegance. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$72



93 Dutton-Goldfield 2013 Dutton Ranch Rued Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley). The producer found out after planting this site in 1969 that half of what it thought was Old Wente selection is the Rued clone, also known as the Chardonnay musque selection. Caramel and butterscotch greet the nose on entry before lushly lean streaks of apple skin and mango weave their way on the dappled palate. There's a compelling crispness to the finish. Editors' Choice. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50



93 Efestä 2012 Big Papa Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). All varietal, this wine is mostly Klipsun and Bacchus vineyards, with Kiona and Red Willow rounding it out. The aromas bring immediate appeal, with pure notes of black cherry, fresh and dried savory herbs and crushed granite, showing pleasing complexities. The palate is tightly wound, showing a fine sense of depth that is balanced by bright acid and firm tannins. The finish lingers. It's a compelling example of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$60



93 Fess Parker 2013 Parker West Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A rugged and feral quality marks the nose of this excellent wine. Black raspberry and plum aromas are laid across savory beef fat, dried sage and scents of mint, pencil lead and Indian spice. The mouthfeel is soft and the palate is meaty, with baked plum, black cherry, black cardamom and raw beef flavors, lifted by a minty quality. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$55



93 Jean-Luc Colombo 2011 La Louvée Syrah (Carnas). Plummy and ripe, with a sheen of glossy, cedary oak, this is as plush as it gets in the northern Rhône. It's full-bodied, supple and open, with a long, velvety finish. Drink now–2030. Palm Bay International. —J.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85



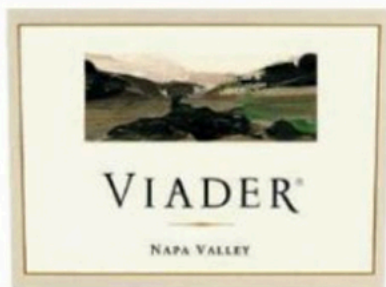
93 Obsidian Ridge 2011 Half Mile (Red Hills Lake County). This densely packed and very firm-textured wine will need aging to show its full potential. It has smoky, black pepper aromas and concentrated, dry flavors that layer with blackberry, blueberry and dark-chocolate impressions. A welcome sense of austerity keeps it from seeming sweet, and it features an elegant balance. Best after 2019. Cellar Selection. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60



93 Steele 2012 Stymie Syrah (Lake County). This wine towers over the competition, and not only because the bottle is an inch and a half taller than most. Its aroma is exotic and compelling, like singed rosemary branches (in a good way). The flavors bring clove, blackberry, ripe blueberry and dried-cherry notes. The texture is buoyed by fine tannins and firm acidity for a feeling of agility and strength. It should be prime to drink after 2018. Cellar Selection. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$36



93 Two Sisters 2013 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Clove-spiced pomegranate juice hits the nose first on this top-end bottling from the Foley family. It also offers some soy and sesame scents. A mineral line of pencil lead and black rocks coalesce the palate around savory, tangy flavors of tart cherry, incense, Earl Grey tea and orange rind. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$75



93 Viader 2013 Red (Napa Valley). A slight majority of Cabernet Sauvignon is blended with 47% Cabernet Franc to offer an explosion of chocolate, blackberry jam and bitter black tea against more classical undertones of brushy sage and cedar. A powerhouse of a wine, it finishes in grippy tannin and oak. Cellar through 2023. Cellar Selection. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$150