

Wine Spectator

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Dec.31,2005 – Jan.15,2006

| THE TOP |

100

| PLUS: |

WINE OF THE YEAR

OUR EDITORS SELECT THE MOST
EXCITING WINES OF 2005

Wine Spectator's **TOP 100** At A Glance

RANK	SCORE	PRICE	WINE
1	98	\$150	Joseph Phelps Insignia Napa Valley 2002
2	97	\$68	Clos des Papes Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2003
3	96	\$29	Rosenblum Zinfandel Rockpile Rockpile Road Vineyard 2003
4	96	\$45	Concha y Toro Cabernet Sauvignon Puente Alto Don Melchor 2001
5	96	\$95	Sette Ponti Toscana Oreno 2003
6	96	\$56	Alban Syrah Edna Valley Revs 2003
7	96	\$65	Lewis Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2002
8	96	\$125	Castello Banfi Brunello di Montalcino Poggio all'Orto Riserva 1999
9	96	\$125	Staglin Cabernet Sauvignon Rutherford 20th Anniversary 2002
10	100	\$400	Château d'Yquem Sauternes 2001
11	96	\$28	Kosta Browne Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast 2003
12	96	\$23	Crocker & Starr Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley 2004
13	96	\$50	Campo Eliseo Toro 2002
14	96	\$50	Tenimenti Luigi d'Alessandro Syrah Cortona Il Bosco 2003
15	97	\$45	W.H. Smith Wines Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast Maritime Vineyard 2003
16	96	\$65	Charles Heidsieck Brut Champagne 1995
17	96	\$75	Beaux Frères Pinot Noir Willamette Valley The Beaux Frères Vineyard 2003
18	93	\$20	Thom-Clarke Shiraz Barossa Valley Shottle Ridge 2003
19	96	\$55	Félicien Doffort & Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Cuvée du Vatican Sixtine Réserve 2003
20	96	\$190	Château Latour Pauillac 2002
21	97	\$85	Barossa Valley Estate Shiraz Barossa Valley E&E Black Pepper 2002
22	96	\$40	Alain Jaume Châteauneuf-du-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur Les Origines 2003
23	97	\$99	Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Brunello di Montalcino Castelflocondo Ripe al Convento Riserva 1999
24	96	\$50	DuMOL Syrah Russian River Valley 2003
25	96	\$99	Contino-Fantino Barolo Sori Ginestra 2001
26	96	\$105	Paolo Scavino Barolo Bric del Fiasc 2001
27	96	\$36	Quinta do Vallado Douro Reserve 2003
28	96	\$65	Leeuwin Chardonnay Margaret River Art Series 2002
29	96	\$56	Branca Maremma Toscana Iattala 2003
30	96	\$19	Rosenblum Zinfandel Paso Robles Richard Sauret Vineyards 2003
31	96	\$85	Achéval-Ferrer Malbec Mendoza Finca Altamira 2003
32	93	\$30	Rosemount GSM South Australia 2001
33	93	\$35	Columbia Crest Walter Clore Private Reserve Columbia Valley 2002
34	93	\$15	Buehler Zinfandel Napa Valley 2003
35	93	\$25	Château Lagrange St-Julien 2002
36	93	\$40	Penner-Ash Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2003
37	96	\$62	Shafer Relentless Napa Valley 2002
38	93	\$25	Orin Swift The Prisoner Napa Valley 2003
39	93	\$17	Matus Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Peretal 2004
40	96	\$55	Two Hands Shiraz Barossa Valley Bella's Garden 2003
41	93	\$11	St-Urbans-Hof Riesling QbA Mosel-Saar-Ruwer 2004
42	93	\$24	Altos Las Hormigas Malbec Mendoza Viña Hormigas Reserva 2002
43	93	\$16	Finca Luzón Jumilla Altos de Luzón 2003
44	93	\$19	Novy Syrah Sonoma County 2003
45	93	\$19	Wilson Riesling Clare Valley Polish Hill River 2003
46	93	\$28	Truchard Chardonnay Napa Valley Camerus 2003
47	93	\$28	Goldeneye Pinot Noir Anderson Valley Migration 2003
48	93	\$27	Ehlers Estate Merlot Napa Valley 2002
49	93	\$28	Stefano Farina Barolo 2001
50	93	\$30	Sea Smoke Pinot Noir Santa Rita Hills Botella 2003

RANK	SCORE	PRICE	WINE
51	91	\$13	Argyle Chardonnay Willamette Valley 2002
52	91	\$13	Allan Scott Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2005
53	93	\$45	Domaine du Vieux Télégraphe Châteauneuf-du-Pape La Crau 2003
54	93	\$40	Paul Hobbs Pinot Noir Russian River Valley 2003
55	91	\$13	Quinta de Rotiz Douro Prazo 2003
56	90	\$13	Babich Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2005
57	91	\$14	Château Marls Syrah Minervois La Livinière La Touge 2002
58	90	\$16	Greg Norman Estates Shiraz Limestone Coast 2002
59	91	\$30	Duval-Leroy Brut Champagne NV
60	92	\$33	Damiano Barolo 2001
61	93	\$32	La Chablisienne Chablis Mont de Milieu 2002
62	91	\$23	Viña Montes Syrah Colchagua Valley Alpha Apalta Vineyard 2003
63	91	\$23	Forefathers Shiraz McLaren Vale 2003
64	92	\$33	Simi Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley Landslide 2001
65	92	\$30	Álvoro Palacios Priorat Les Terrasses 2003
66	93	\$45	Bodega Catena Zapata Malbec Mendoza Alta 2002
67	91	\$16	Thierry Germain Saumur-Champigny Domaine des Roches Neuves 2004
68	92	\$30	Alain Graillot Crozes-Hermitage 2003
69	90	\$13	Fairview Goats do Room in Villages Red Coastal Region 2003
70	91	\$19	Alta Vista Malbec Mendoza Grande Reserve Terroir Selection 2003
71	92	\$32	Bodegas Emilio Moro Ribera del Duero 2003
72	91	\$18	Cantina Terlano Pinot Bianco Alto Adige Classico Terlano 2003
73	90	\$14	Quinta de Ventozelo Douro Reserva 2000
74	90	\$35	Luvo Feluga Colli Orientali del Friuli Terre Alte 2002
75	91	\$28	Argyle Pinot Noir Willamette Valley Reserve 2002
76	91	\$40	Tumbull Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2002
77	90	\$17	Sebastiani Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County 2002
78	90	\$18	Seghesio Zinfandel Sonoma County Sonoma 2003
79	90	\$16	Evans & Tate Chardonnay Margaret River 2004
80	90	\$18	Allegrini Verona Palazzo della Torre 2001
81	92	\$35	Paul Autard Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2003
82	96	\$100	Bonneau du Martray Corton-Charlemagne 2002
83	91	\$30	Pentín & Fils Châteauneuf-du-Pape Les Sinauds 2003
84	91	\$30	Amisfield Pinot Noir Central Otago 2003
85	90	\$15	Bodegas Terrazas de los Andes Malbec Mendoza Reserva 2003
86	90	\$21	Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Chianti Rufina Castello di Nipozzano Riserva 2002
87	90	\$18	Marque Phillips Cabernet Sauvignon South Eastern Australia 2003
88	92	\$39	Bodegas Monasterio Ribera del Duero Hacienda Monasterio Crianza 2001
89	90	\$18	Château de Lancy Coteaux du Languedoc Pic St-Loup Vieilles Vignes 2001
90	92	\$35	Gunderloch Riesling Spätlese Rheinhessen Nackenheim Rothenberg 2003
91	90	\$15	Mount Lang Ghiran Shiraz Victoria Billi Billi 2002
92	90	\$25	Luca della Vite Toscana Lucente 2003
93	90	\$19	Lagar de Fomelos Albariño Rias Baixas Lagar de Cervera 2004
94	90	\$20	Morgan Chardonnay Monterey 2003
95	90	\$19	Bernard Griffin Merlot Columbia Valley 2003
96	90	\$25	Château Lagôzette Cahors 2001
97	90	\$16	Spadina Nero d'Avola Sicilia Una Rosa 2002
98	91	\$19	Pentín & Fils Vacqueyras Les Christins 2003
99	91	\$20	Cortes de Cima Touriga Nacional Alentejo 2002
100	92	\$47	Vincent Girardin Gevrey-Chambertin Vieilles Vignes 2002

GREAT VALUES IN 2005

Outstanding wines for \$15 or less

The hunt for quality wine is made more challenging when price is taken into account, but finding value adds to every wine lover's pleasure, no matter what the budget may be. To assist you in this search, we have highlighted more than 50 wines that offer great value from among the wines tasted by our editors in 2005.

Value is an important consideration as we set about choosing our Top 100 wines each year; this year, the rounded average score among our picks is 92 points, while the average bottle price (calculated using release prices) is just more than \$43.

Many high-scoring wines did not make our list because they were too expensive; some wines with low prices and solid scores also missed the cutoff. Here is a list of wines that scored 90 or more points and sell for \$15 or less. Eleven of these wines impressed us so strongly that we included them in the Top 100; they are indicated in **bold type**.

Together, these wines represent 10 countries and a diversity of styles. All will stretch your wine-buying dollars and bring pleasure to your table.

Top-Scoring Value Releases of 2005

SCORE	WINE	RELEASE PRICE	CASES MADE
93	Boehler Zinfandel Napa Valley 2003	\$15	1,200
92	Château Cabezac Minervois Cuvée Arthur 2002	\$12	2,083
92	Evans & Tate Chardonnay Margaret River 2003	\$15	9,000
91	Argyle Chardonnay Willamette Valley 2002	\$13	8,512
91	Ferrari-Carano Fumé Blanc Sonoma County 2004	\$15	30,000
91	Kenwood Sauvignon Blanc Sonoma County 2004	\$13	78,000
91	Ladgewood Creek Sauvignon Blanc Suisun Valley 2004	\$10	250
91	Château Maris Minervois 2003	\$10	5,000
91	Château Maris Syrah Minervois La Livinière La Touge 2002	\$14	4,200
91	Palliser Sauvignon Blanc Martinborough Pencarrow 2004	\$14	*400
91	Hnos. Sánchez Romate Pedro Ximénez Jerez Cardenal Cisneros NV	\$15	1,500
91	Quinta de Roriz Douro Prazo 2003	\$13	*2,000
91	Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Vicar's Choice 2004	\$12	*5,000
91	Allan Scott Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2005	\$13	20,000
91	St-Urbans-Hof Riesling QbA Mosel-Saar-Ruwer 2004	\$11	15,000
90	Bodegas Agnusdei Albaniho Rias Baixas Campus Stella 2003	\$13	1,680
90	Allendale Sémillon Hunter Valley 2002	\$15	800
90	Paul Autant Côtes du Rhône 2003	\$14	5,000
90	Babich Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2005	\$13	85,000
90	Adega Cooperativa de Borba Touriga Nacional Alentejo 2002	\$10	1,200
90	Chateau Souverain Sauvignon Blanc Alexander Valley 2004	\$14	9,468
90	Clos de los Siete Mendoza 2003	\$15	10,000
90	Crossroads Chardonnay Hawkes Bay Destination Series 2003	\$14	1,000
90	Fairview Goats de Room In Villages Red Coastal Region 2003	\$13	12,000
90	Gordon Brothers Merlot Columbia Valley 2002	\$15	2,561
90	Bodegas Hidalgo Manzanilla Jerez La Gitana NV	\$11/500ml	3,000*

SCORE	WINE	RELEASE PRICE	CASES MADE
90	Jardin Sauvignon Blanc Stellenbosch 2004	\$13	5,500
90	Lake Chalice Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2005	\$14	16,500
90	Leacock's Madeira Rainwater Medium Dry NV	\$13	NA
90	Leasingham Riesling Clare Valley Bin 7 2004	\$15	*950
90	Long Flat Riesling Eden Valley 2004	\$13	1,500
90	Lunelli Chardonnay Trentino Villa Gentilotti 2000	\$15	12,500
90	Massolino Chardonnay Langhe 2002	\$14	300
90	Mount Langi Ghiran Shiraz Victoria Billi Billi 2002	\$15	*2,000
90	Marc Olivier Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie Domaine de la Pépière Clos des Briords 2003	\$13	*550
90	Château d'Oupia Minervois 2003	\$12	3,000
90	Domaine Pélauqué Côtes du Rhône-Villages Laudun 2003	\$15	800
90	Château de Pemon Madiran 2001	\$10	*1,300
90	Pettavel Shiraz Victoria Boolaroo 2003	\$14	*1,000
90	Rocky Gully Riesling Frankland River Dry 2004	\$13	*750
90	Hnos. Sánchez Romate Cream Jerez Iberia NV	\$15	1,500
90	Selaks Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough Premium Selection 2005	\$15	*8,000
90	Stonehaven Riesling South Australia Winemaker's Selection 2004	\$9	3,000
90	Bodegas Terrazas de los Andes Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Reserva 2003	\$15	26,000
90	Bodegas Terrazas de los Andes Malbec Mendoza Reserva 2003	\$15	32,000
90	Three Rivers Gewürztraminer Walla Walla Valley Late Harvest Biscuit Ridge Vineyard 2003	\$12/375ml	536
90	Tohu Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough 2004	\$15	35,000
90	Quinta de Ventozelos Douro Reserva 2000	\$14	7,000
90	Villa Maia Chardonnay Marlborough Private Bin 2002	\$13	*2,000
90	Vinum Petite Sirah Clarkburg Pets Wilson Vineyards 2003	\$13	5,950
90	Water Wheel Memsie Bendigo 2004	\$14	10,000

* Indicates cases imported; NA means not available

SMART BUYS

RED

ARGENTINA			
92	Altos Las Hormigas Malbec Mendoza Viña Hormigas Reserva 2004 (12/31/05)	\$23	2,650
91	Achával-Ferrer Malbec Mendoza 2004 (12/15/05)	\$24	3,330
	Alta Vista Malbec Mendoza Grande Reserve Terroir Selection 2003 (11/15/05)	\$19	*1,500
90	Achával-Ferrer Malbec Mendoza 2003 (9/30/05)	\$22	3,000
90	Clos de los Siete Mendoza 2003 (6/15/05)	\$15	10,000
90	Bodega Norton Malbec Mendoza Reserve 2003 (10/15/05)	\$17	16,000
90	Bodegas Terrazas de los Andes Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Reserva 2003 (10/15/05)	\$15	26,000
90	Bodegas Terrazas de los Andes Malbec Mendoza Reserva 2003 (9/30/05)	\$15	32,000
89	Bodegas Nieto Senetiner Don Nicanor Mendoza 2002 (6/30/05)	\$14	2,000
AUSTRALIA			
93	Thorn-Clarke Shiraz Barossa Valley Shottfire Ridge 2003 (10/15/05)	\$20	12,000
91	Tapestry Shiraz McLaren Vale 2002 (9/30/05)	\$21	3,000
90	Greg Norman Estates Shiraz Limestone Coast 2002 (4/30/05)	\$16	*45,000
90	Tintara Shiraz McLaren Vale 2003 (10/15/05)	\$18	*12,000
90	Water Wheel Merries Bendigo 2004 (12/15/05)	\$14	10,000
89	Jacob's Creek Shiraz South Australia Reserve 2002 (7/31/05)	\$13	1,169,000
89	Two Hands Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Valley The Lucky Country 2003 (4/30/05)	\$15	11,000
CHILE			
91	Casa Lapostolle Syrah Rapel Valley Cuvée Alexandre 2003 (10/15/05)	\$23	2,175
91	Concha y Toro Cabernet Sauvignon Puente Alto Marqués de Casa Concha 2003 (9/30/05)	\$16	*23,800
90	Concha y Toro Syrah Peumo Marqués de Casa Concha 2003 (9/30/05)	\$16	*5,200
90	Vila Montes Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Valley Alpha Apalta Vineyard 2003 (9/30/05)	\$23	25,000
89	Vila Santa Rita Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Medalla Real Special Reserve 2002 (2/28/05)	\$18	30,000
89	Veramonte Pinus Casablanca Valley 2003 (12/31/05)	\$17	28,000
89	Veramonte Pinus Casablanca Valley 2002 (2/28/05)	\$16	16,200

FRANCE			
Bordeaux			
92	Château Lagrange St-Julien 2002 (3/31/05)	\$25	NA
FRANCE			
Languedoc-Roussillon			
92	Gérard Bertrand Coteaux du Languedoc La Cape Château l'Hospitalet La Reserve 2003 (8/31/05)	\$22	3,000
90	Château de Lancyre Coteaux du Languedoc Pic St-Loup Vieilles Vignes 2001 (3/31/05)	\$18	5,500
89	Gérard Bertrand Fitou Terroir Les Falaises 2003 (12/31/05)	\$15	10,000
89	Elisabeth & Brigitte Jeanjean Coteaux du Languedoc Devais des Agneaux d'Aumelas 2001 (7/31/05)	\$15	*1,000
FRANCE			
Loire			
91	Thierry Germaine Saumur-Champigny Domaine des Roches Neuves 2004 (10/31/05)	\$16	5,000
89	Cave de Bourgueil Bourgueil Beauregard 2003 (5/31/05)	\$14	3,000
FRANCE			
Rhône			
90	Paul Astarac Côtes du Rhône 2003 (8/31/05)	\$14	5,000
89	Louis Bernard Lirac 2004 (10/15/05)	\$15	20,000
FRANCE			
Southwest			
91	Château Haut-Monplaisir Cahors Prestige 2001 (4/30/05)	\$20	2,500
90	François Paillet Cahors Croix du Mayne 2002 (4/30/05)	\$17	8,300
ITALY			
Lombardy			
90	Nino Negri Valtellina Superiore Inferno Mazzi 2001 (2/28/05)	\$18	4,600
ITALY			
Tuscany			
90	Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Chianti Rufina Castello di Nipozzano Riserva 2002 (10/31/05)	\$21	72,800
ITALY			
Veneto			
90	Allegrini Verona Palazzo della Torre 2001 (10/31/05)	\$18	22,500
PORTUGAL			
Quinta de Roriz Douro Prazo 2003 (5/31/05)		\$13	*2,000
90	Quinta de Ventozelo Douro Reserva 2000 (5/31/05)	\$14	7,000
89	Caves do Salgueiral Douro Andreza 2003 (12/31/05)	\$12	7,000
SOUTH AFRICA			
91	Boschkloof Syrah Coastal Region 2003 (2/28/05)	\$25	2,400
90	Falrivier Goats do Roam In Villages Red Coastal Region 2003 (2/28/05)	\$13	12,000
90	Jardin Cabernet Sauvignon Stellenbosch 2001 (4/30/05)	\$20	3,700
SPAIN			
90	Pago de los Capellanes Ribera del Duero 2003 (8/31/05)	\$16	*1,500