

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



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STAR LISTINGS



EVERY ISSUE, YOU CAN DEVELOP AN OUTSTANDING, WELL BALANCED WINE LIST AND WINE BY-THE-GLASS PROGRAM FROM THE WINES RECOMMENDED HERE.

RESTAURANT WINE®'S EVALUATION SYSTEM

QUALITY ratings are:

- ★★★★★ EXCEPTIONAL quality for its type and style; a superstar within its price category. Merits an extra special effort to purchase. Very highly recommended.
- ★★★★ EXCELLENT quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended.
- ★★★ VERY GOOD quality for its type, style, and price. Has distinctive character and positive attributes. Recommended.



Unusually smooth for the wine's type and age, and a good wine by-the-glass choice.

Alcohol content – as stated, by volume (i.e., 7.5% to 22%)

[2016-2017] Anticipated peak drinkability, not aging potential.

★★★★★★★★★★

USA

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We taste twice as many wines for each issue as appear in these pages. The top 1,077 are recommended here.

Wines & Wineries to Watch

USA—California sparkling wines from **Gloria Ferrer** and **J Wine Company** continue to impress, as does **Sea Smoke's** Late Disgorged Blanc de Noirs . . . The 2014 was an outstanding one in California for many varietals: Chardonnays to seek out include those from **Edna Valley Vineyard**, **Hartford Court**, **J. Lohr**, **Patz & Hall**, **Ten Acre**, **Trefethen**,

Truchard, and **Vine Cliff**. 2014 Sauvignons to seek out include those from **Lancaster Estate**, **Quivira**, and **St. Supery**.

Much attention is being (rightly) given to the 2013 California Cabernet Sauvignons and Cabernet blends. Among those we are especially keen on were produced by **Blackbird**, **Charles Krug**, **Grgich Hills**, **J. Lohr**, **Kendall-Jackson**, **Louis Martini**, **Ramey**, **St. Supery**, **Stanton**, **Sodaro Estate**, and **Vine Cliff**—and in Washington State, by **DeLille Cellars**. But don't overlook the top 2012 Cabernets from **Alpha Omega**, **Lancaster Estate**, **Swanson**, **The Debate**, **The Hess Collection**, and **Trinchero** . . . First rate Merlots not to miss: the 2013s from **Blackbird**, **Buty**, **DeLille**, **Greenwood Ridge**, **Kendall-Jackson**, **Matanzas Creek**, and **St. Supery** . . . The quality of the best 2013 Pinot Noirs is undisputed: they are among the best-ever produced in California. Don't miss those from **Ferrari-Carano**, **Foley Estate**, **Hyde de Villaine**, **La Follette**, **Lafond Vineyards**, **MacPhail**, **Patz & Hall**, **Roth Estate**, and **Ten Acre**. However, the 2014 Pinots are proving to be equally exciting wines; try those from **J Vineyards**, **Ramey**, **Santa Barbara Winery**, and **Williams Selyem** to get a taste of how good this vintage is for Pinot Noir . . . Very impressive Syrahs are being made by **DeLille**, **Hyde de Villaine**, **Ramey**, and **Truchard** . . . Excellent quality, top value red wine blends are currently available from **North by Northwest**, **Decoy**, and **Roth Estate**, among others.

ARGENTINA—**Nieto Senetiner** is making terrific wines, from Torrontes to Malbec . . . As is **Columbe** and **Santa Julia**, whose wines—across the board—are of very high quality for their respective prices.

AUSTRALIA—**Frankland River**, in Western Australia, has been an 'emerging' wine region for several decades—yet produces some of Western Australia's best Rieslings and Shirazs, as clearly demonstrated by **Frankland Estate's** remarkable versions of both varieties. (We think it has arrived.) . . . Other Shiraz producers to look for include **Wakefield**, whose 2014 Jaraman is terrific; **Henry's Drive** ('H' Syrah); **Calabria Family's** Three Bridges Shiraz; and **Tahbilk**, which consistently produces stylish, reasonably priced Marsanne, Viognier, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

FRANCE—France's huge Languedoc-Roussillon region is the source for an increasing number of the country's best value wines, from the whites of **Pic-Saint-Loup** to the reds from the **Cotes-du-Roussillon**. Red wines we especially recommend here include **Mont Gravet's** Vieilles Vignes Carignan; **Mas Janeil's** Le Petit Pas; and **Domaine de la Reserve d'O's** La Reserve d'O.

GERMANY—2014 was a very good vintage in Germany, yielding relatively crisp—and sometimes austere white wines (both dry and fruity). It was a less ripe vintage than 2013, for example, and far fewer noble late harvest wines were made. Even so, quality producers made excellent wines. We were especially impressed with the trocken/dry 2014 Rieslings from: **A. Christmann**, **Bassermann-Jordan**, **Battenfeld-Spanier**, **Furstlich Castell**, **Domaine Wittmann**, **Domdechant Werner**, **Donnhoff**, **Grans-Fassian**, **Karl Schaefer**, **Kloster Eberbach**, **Kuhling-Gillot**, **Muller-Catoir**, **Pfeffingen**, **Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt**, **Robert Weil**, **Schloss Johannisberg**, **Schloss Vollrads**, and **Wagner-Stempel**. And with the fruity/fruchtig 2014 Rieslings from **Donnhoff**, **Dr. Loosen**, **Johannishof**, **Karthauserhof**, **Muller-Catoir**, **Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt**, **Robert Weil**, **Schloss Johannisberg**, and **Willi Schaefer**.

Two other German wine types stood out in our tastings: 1.) the wonderful 2014 Silvaners from **Furstlich Castell** and **Juliuspital**, in Franconia (Franken); and 2.) the outstanding 2013 Spatburgunders (Pinot Noirs) from **Juliuspital**, **Kloster Eberbach**, and **Stadt Klingenberg**.



WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- 2014 ‘GG’ DELLCHEN, NORHEIMER ★★★★★+
DELLCHEN, \$276/6 (\$69)
- 2014 ‘GG’ FELSEBERG ★★★★★+
‘FELSENTURMCHEN’, SCHLOSSBOCKEL
HEIMER FELSEBERG, \$256/6 (\$64)
- 2014 ‘GG’ HERMANNSHOHLE, ★★★★★+
NIEDERHAUSER HERMANNSHOHLE, \$292/6 (\$73)

These are superb GG Rieslings. The Dellchen a very fine wine: ripely flavored, full bodied, and refined in character (lime, apple, pineapple, honeysuckle, white peach), with excellent depth and balance, and a long, harmonious finish. AP #21. VDP.Grosse Lage 13% The Felsenberg is exceptional: rich, full bodied, and complex in flavor, with excellent persistence. AP #22. VDP.Grosse Lage 13% All three wines warrant at least 3-5 more years of aging. [2019-2024] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- 2014 ‘GG’ JOHANNISBERG HOLLE, \$280/6 (\$70) ★★★★★
- 2014 ‘GG’ RUESHEIM BERG ROTTLAND, ★★★★★+
\$280/6 (\$70)

Two fine GG Riesling, both in a very ripe style. The Holle is a supple medium full bodied wine, that is long on the palate and lingering on the finish, tasting of apple, pineapple, peach, honey, lime, grapefruit, and honeysuckle. Excellent. AP #017. VDP.Grosse Lage. 12.5% The Berg Rottland is fleshier in texture and somewhat fuller bodied. It has intense peach, apple, honey, honeysuckle, and lime aromas/flavors, firm acidity, and a very long finish. AP #018. VDP.Grosse Lage. 13% Both wines warrant further aging. [2017-2020] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

**WEINGUT KARL SCHAEFER, 2014 ‘GG’
HERRENBERG, UNGSTEINER HERRENBERG, \$320/6 (\$80) ★★★★★+**

Very fine dry Riesling from this excellent vineyard. It is complex and refined in character (linden blossom, apple, elderflower, lemon, peach, passion fruit), supple in texture, crisp and very long on the palate, with a very persistent finish. Organic. AP #18. VDP.Grosse Lage. 66 cases. 12% [2017-2021] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

**WEINGUT KARTHAUSERHOF, 2014 ALTE
REBEN, EITELSBACHER KARTHAUSERHOFBERG
SPATLESE TROCKEN, \$360/6 (\$90) ★★★★★**

Very fine quality: a vibrant, medium bodied dry Riesling that is crisp on the palate, with a very long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of lime,

green apple, linden blossom, pineapple, grapefruit, and honey. Warrants aging. AP #008. 11.5% [2018-2022] Slocum & Sons, North Haven, CT 203.239.3254

**WEINGUT KLOSTER EBERBACH, 2014 ‘GG’
MARCOBRUNN, ERBACHER MARCOBRUNN,
\$300/6 (\$75) ★★★★★+**

Screw cap. Luscious and medium full bodied, this is a wonderful wine. It is concentrated, fleshy in texture, and well balanced; a wine with layers of complexity (peach, honey, pineapple, lime, spearmint, linden blossom), and a persistent, lingering finish AP #067. VDP.Grosses Gewachs. 12.5% [2017-2021] David Bowler Wine, New York, NY 212.807.1680

WEINGUT KUHLING-GILLOT

- 2014 ‘GG’ OLBERG, NIERSTEINER OLBERG, ★★★★★
\$288/6 (\$72)
- 2014 ‘GG’ HIPPING, NIERSTEINER ★★★★★+
HIPPING, \$342/6 (\$85.50)
- 2014 ‘GG’ PETTENTHAL, NIERSTEINER ★★★★★+
PETTENTHAL, \$342/6 (\$85.50)

Kuhling-Gillot made very fine dry Rieslings in 2014 from the estate’s best sites. Here, the Olberg is excellent: an aromatic, refined Riesling with fine character (apple, lime, pineapple, honeysuckle, peach, cherimoya), medium full body, supple texture, good balance, and a persistent finish. Organic. AP #37. VDP. Grosse Lage. 12.5% The Hipping is a concentrated, ripely flavored (lime, passion fruit, apple, honeysuckle, toast, white peach) wine that is smooth and long on the palate, and persistent and lightly toasty on the finish. Excellent. Organic. AP #36. VDP.Grosse Lage. 12.5% The Pettenthal is richly flavored and complex; a Riesling that is medium full bodied, crisp, and very long on the palate, with a vibrant aftertaste (peach, apple, dried fig, honey, lime, toast). Organic. AP #35. VDP.Grosse Lage. 12.5% All three wines warrant several more years of bottle aging. [2017-2021] Domaine Select Merchants, New York, NY 212.279.0799

WEINGUT PFEFFINGEN



**WEINGUT PFEFFINGEN,
2014 ‘GG’WEILBERG,
UNGSTEINER WEILBERG,
\$224/6 (\$56) ★★★★★**

Exceptional: a supple, ripely flavored, full bodied Riesling with refined character (peach, lime, honeysuckle, papaya, apple, grapefruit), excellent balance, and a very long finish. AP #21. VDP.Grosse Lage. 13.5% [2018-2021] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

WEINGUT HANS LANG, 2002 HATTENHEIMER SCHTUZENHAUS SPATLESE, \$152/6 (\$38) ★★★★★

Great value! A mature, ripely flavored, rich Spatlese that is light bodied, medium sweet, and well balanced, with a long finish, tasting of peach jam, crème brulee, baked apple, toffee, and apple. Delicious! AP #004/03. VDP.Erste Lage. 8.5% [2016-2018] Vision Wine Brands, Port Chester, NY 914.481.5170

WEINGUT HERMANN DONNHOF

- **2014 OBERHAUSER LEISTENBERG KABINETT, \$224 (\$28)** ★★★★★
- **2014 NORHEIMER KIRSCHHECK SPATLESE, \$312 (\$39)** ★★★★★

These are very fine Rieslings. The Kabinett (screw cap) is very fruity in character, light bodied, and crisp; a wine with moderate sweetness, good balance, and a long finish, tasting of honeysuckle, peach skin, lime, and pineapple. AP #03. 9% The Spatlese is exceptional: elegantly flavored, light bodied, and fairly rich; a wine with firm acidity, good balance, and a very long finish, tasting of honeysuckle, white peach, lime, and pineapple. AP #10. 8% Both wines warrant further aging. [2018-2022] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM

- **2014 WEHLENER SONNENUHR KABINETT, \$256 (\$32)** ★★★★★
- **2014 WEHLENER SONNENUHR SPATLESE, \$360 (\$45)** ★★★★★

Sonnenuhr is one of the Mosel's most-celebrated vineyards, and this producer one of its best. Here, the Kabinett is fragrant, light bodied, and crisp, with good balance and medium length, and tastes of linden blossom, peach, apple, and lime. AP #19. 8% The Spatlese is richer and finer: finely flavored, light bodied, and crisp; a wine with excellent balance and a long finish, tasting of lime, pear, honey, white peach, and pineapple. AP #09. 7.5% [2018-2023] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT JOHANNISHOF

- **2014 JOHANNISBERGER KLAUS SPATLESE, \$360 (\$45)** ★★★★★
- **2014 RUDESHEIMER BERG ROTTLAND SPATLESE, \$360 (\$45)** ★★★★★

These are excellent Spatleses, in a very ripe style. The Klaus is intense and elegant in flavor (peach, honeysuckle, linden blossom, honey, pineapple), crisp, balanced, and very long on the finish. 6.45% R.S. AP #013. 8% The Berg Rottland is a more powerful wine: fleshy in texture, quite rich in flavor (apple, pineapple, peach, apricot, lime, honeysuckle), and very persistent on the finish. 6.38% R.S. AP #014. 151 cases. 8% Both wines can be aged further. [2018-2021] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT KARTHAUSERHOF

- **2014 SCHIEFERKRISTALL, EITELSBACHER KARTHAUSERHOFBERG KABINETT FEINHERB, \$288 (\$36)** ★★★★★
- **2014 EITELSBACHER KARTHAUSERHOFBERG KABINETT, \$320 (\$40)** ★★★★★

These are crisp, finely flavored Kabinett. The Scheiferkristall is light medium bodied, crisp and long on the palate, and lingering on the finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of apple, honey, lime, and grapefruit. AP #005. 10% The 'fruchtig' Kabinett is exceptional: light bodied, intensely flavored, crisp, and well balanced, with a vibrant long finish, tasting of lime, apple, pineapple, linden blossom, white peach, and honeysuckle. AP #007. 8% [2018-2021] Slocum & Sons, North Haven, CT 203.239.3254

WEINGUT KUHLLING-GILLOT, 2014 KABINETT AUS DER STEILLAGE, RHEINHESSEN KABINETT, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★

Supple and intensely flavored, this is a rich Kabinett with firm acidity, medium sweetness, fine flavors (lime, pineapple, spearmint, honeysuckle,

lemon), and a very long finish. Excellent value. Organic. AP #11. VDP. Ortswein. 10.5% [2017-2020] Domaine Select Merchants, New York, NY 212.279.0799

WEINGUT LOUIS GUNTRUM, 2014 OPPENHEIM HERRENBERG AUSLESE, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★

Screw cap. A very fine Auslese: medium bodied, medium rich, and finely flavored (peach, pineapple, apple, honey, lime). It is very long and persistent on the finish. Great value. 6.9% R.S. AP #07. 10.5% [2018-2021] Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA 804.353.1818

WEINGUT MAXIMIN GRUNHAUS

- **2014 MAXIMIN GRUNHAUSER HERRENBERG KABINETT, \$264 (\$33)** ★★★★★
- **2014 MAXIMIN GRUNHAUSER HERRENBERG SPATLESE, \$304 (\$38)** ★★★★★
- **2014 MAXIMIN GRUNHAUSER ABTSBERG KABINETT, \$280 (\$35)** ★★★★★
- **2014 MAXIMIN GRUNHAUSER ABTSBERG SPATLESE, \$328 (\$41)** ★★★★★

Maximin Grunhaus is a terrific Ruwer producer, whose 2014s are extremely good. The Herrenberg Kabinett is light bodied, quite crisp, and elegantly flavored (pear, lime, linden blossom, pineapple, honey, peach), with a long finish. Excellent. AP #10. 7.5% The Spatlese is delicious: intensely flavored, refined in character (lime, pineapple, spearmint, kiwi fruit, honeysuckle), balanced, and very long on the finish. AP #07. 7% Abtsberg is the estate's top site. The Kabinett is rich, light bodied, crisp, finely flavored, and well balanced, with a very long finish tasting of lime, pineapple, kiwi fruit, and honeysuckle. AP #11. 7.5% The Abtsberg Spatlese is very fine: concentrated, light bodied, complex in flavor (honeysuckle, white peach, lime, grapefruit, kiwi), and crisp and long on the finish. AP #12. 7.5% [2017-2021] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT MULLER-CATOIR

- **2014 GIMMELDINGEN KABINETT, \$256 (\$32)** ★★★★★
- **2014 GIMMELDINGER MANDELGARTEN SPATLESE, \$384 (\$48)** ★★★★★

Muller-Catoir's 2014s are excellent. The Gimmeldingen Kabinett is supple, crisp, finely flavored, and well balanced; a light medium bodied wine with firm acidity, pineapple, lime, honey, peach, and honeysuckle aromas/flavors, and a very long finish. Great value. AP #12. VDP. Ortswein. 10% The Spatlese, from the outstanding Mandelgarten vineyard, is exceptional: light medium bodied, refined in character (lily of the valley, white peach, pineapple, lime, honeysuckle, apricot), crisp and long on the palate, and very persistent in the finish. Superb. AP #20. VDP.Grosse Lage. 10% [2017-2022] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

WEINGUT NIK WEIS ST. URBANS-HOF, 2014 ALTE REBEN, WILTINGER QUALITATSWEIN FEINHERB, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★

A very good, off dry Saar Riesling. It is round, light bodied, medium intense in flavor, and crisp, with a long finish, tasting of honeysuckle, honey, peach, and lime. Will develop with another year or two of aging. AP #03. VDP.Ortswein. 10.5% [2018-2020] HB Merchants, New York, NY 917.402.0456

WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL

- **2014 KABINETT TRADITION, RHEINGAU RIESLING KABINETT, \$248 (\$31)** ★★★★★
- **2014 SPATLESE TRADITION, RHEINGAU RIESLING SPATLESE, \$328 (\$41)** ★★★★★

These are classic Rheingau Rieslings, for their respective types. The Kabinett is light bodied, crisp, moderately intense in flavor, well balanced, and vibrant on the finish, tasting of lime, peach, honeysuckle, grapefruit, pear, and green apple. AP #026. VDP.Ortswein. 8.5% The Spatlese is a rich and relatively complex wine, with medium sweetness, ripe fruit