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WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAGAZIN

SEPTEMBER 2012

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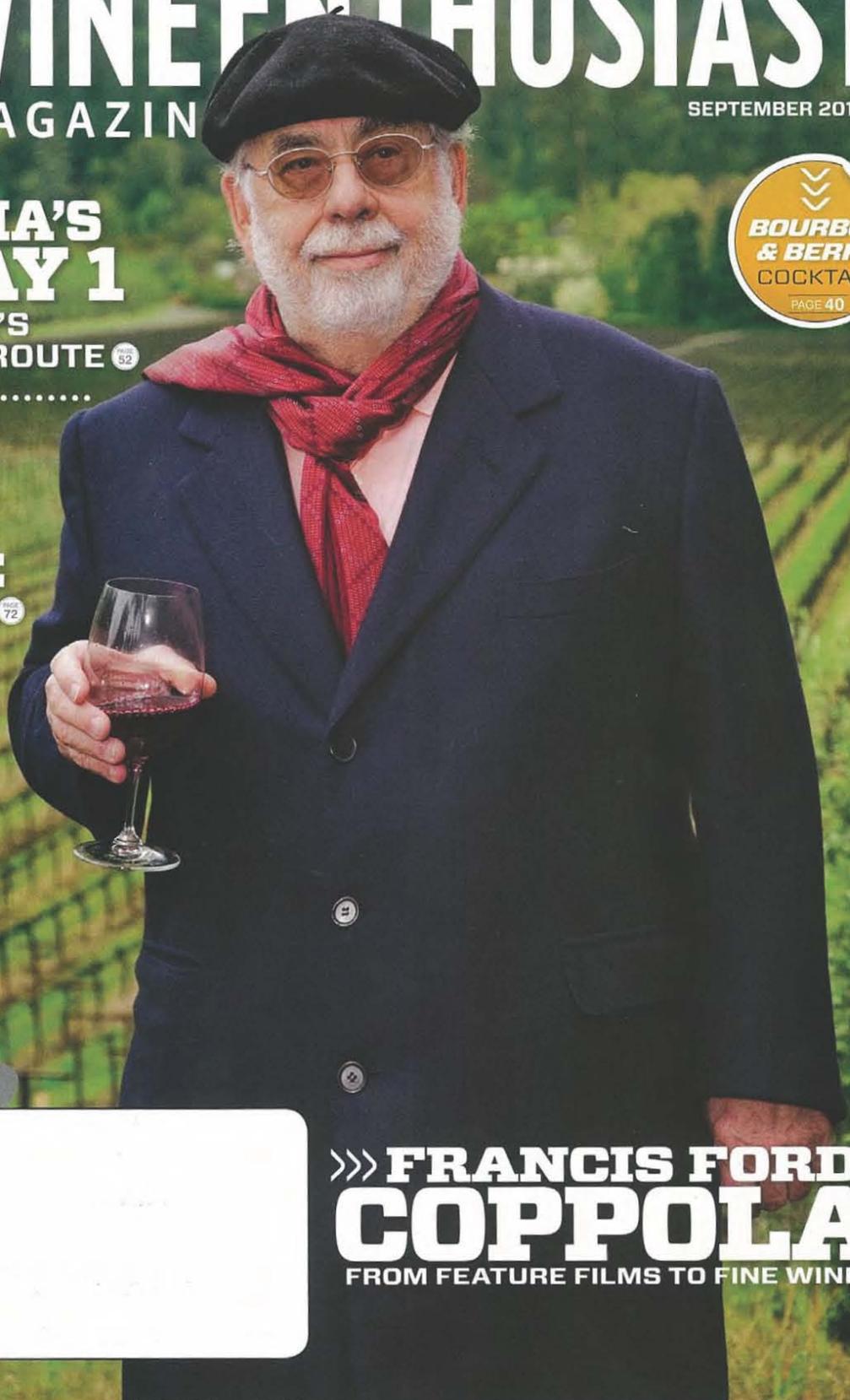
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EDITOR'S picks

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR
SUSAN KOSTRZEWA'S
FAVORITE RED BLENDS
FROM GREECE**

Greece has been producing indigenous red varieties like Agiorgitiko and Xinomavro for centuries, but recently, winemakers have married the spicy, exotic character of these native grapes with more globally popular varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot. The results are elegant, ageable, and a great way to get discerning wine lovers excited about what Greek wine has to offer.



91 **Domaine Mercouri 2007 Cava Dry (Letrina).** Blackberry, plum and savory meat aromas give this red an earthy, visceral appeal. On the palate, bright fruit, acidity and brooding spice strike a delicious balance: think smoke, clove, and leather in character. Athenee Importers.

abv: 14% Price: \$50

89 **Zacharias 2009 Black Cubed (Peloponnese).** Crushed herb, rose petal, forest floor and red berry aromas immediately set this red apart. On the palate, it's more modern in style, with black cherry and berry flavors, and notes of tobacco and cigar box to balance, ending with a fresh finish. Stellar Importing Company, LLC.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

88 **Skouras 2008 Megas Oenos (Peloponnese).** With raspberry and vanilla notes and a pretty finish of cherry, this is a full and friendly red that should pair with everything from casual burgers to beef Bourgogne. Diamond Importers Inc.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

88 **Kir-Yianni 2007 Dyo Elies (Naoussa).** This wine has a sultry nose of plum, anise, red berry and tobacco. On the palate, it offers a full, ripe fruit character, with an overall easy-going berry-and-spice combination. A balanced red blend with widespread appeal. VOS Selections.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

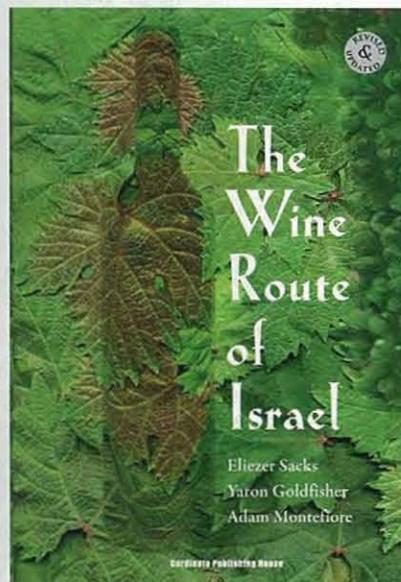
87 **Estate Biblia Chora 2006 Ovilos (Pangeon).** The Ovilos starts with aromas of rich blackberry, cedar and vanilla, and on the palate, offers a rustic, masculine edge. Lots of texture and tannin here, with layers of tobacco, leather and cedar flavors. It could age, or be paired nicely now with a grilled steak. Cava Spiliadis.

abv: 14% Price: \$55

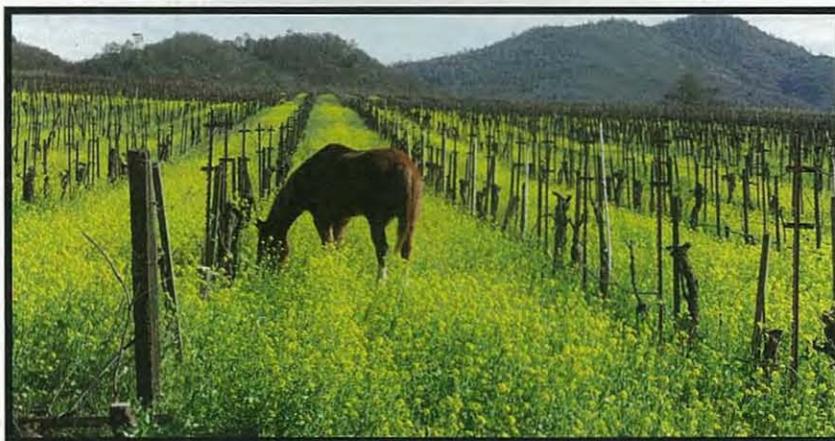
For additional reviews of Greek wines (and other selections from around the world), visit the Ratings page on winemag.com.

**The Ultimate Resource on
Israeli Wines**

In time for the High Holy Days this September, the third edition of *The Wine Route of Israel* (Cordinata Publishing House, 2012), by Eliezer Sacks, Yaron Goldfisher and Adam Montefiore, will be available in the U.S. It's the most comprehensive overview of Israel's wine industry to date, with over 250 full-color pages on nearly 100 producers, beautiful scenic images, winemaker bios and touring maps complete with winery listings. The new edition boasts forwards written by Montefiore, an Israeli-wine industry veteran and wine writer for the *Jerusalem Post* (he also works for Carmel Winery); Peter Stern, a winemaking consultant and a key player in the industry's quality improvement; and Dr. Peter Hallgarten, a U.K.-based wine importer credited as one of the first to market Israeli wines outside of the kosher niche. There are also extensive articles on the history of the region and the production of kosher wine. It's a true must-have resource to discover one of the world's oldest wine-producing regions and to learn how far it's truly come. —LAUREN BUZZEO



SNAPshot



Wine Sanctuary for Thoroughbreds, St. Helena, California

Do you know where racehorses go to live when their racing careers are over? If they're lucky, it's to RustRidge Ranch & Winery, in Napa Valley, where 17 retired thoroughbreds are now on the property, according to co-owner Jim Fresquez. The winery will donate 10% of its Racehorse Wine revenues to the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses (CANTER) to fund thoroughbred retirement programs. "The work that CANTER does is very close to our hearts," says Fresquez, a horse trainer for over 30 years. For more information, go to rustridge.com/canter. —STEVE HEIMOFF

Wine Map of Israel

1 1848 WINERY

2 Alexander

3 BARKAN

4 יקב בולת הגולן
BAZELET HAGOLAN WINERY

5 BINYAMINA

6 CARMEL WINERY
Since 1882

7 The Cave
המערה

8 domaine du castel

9 DOMAINE NETOFA

10 FLAM

11 Gamla

12 MORAD WINERY

13 PSAGOT

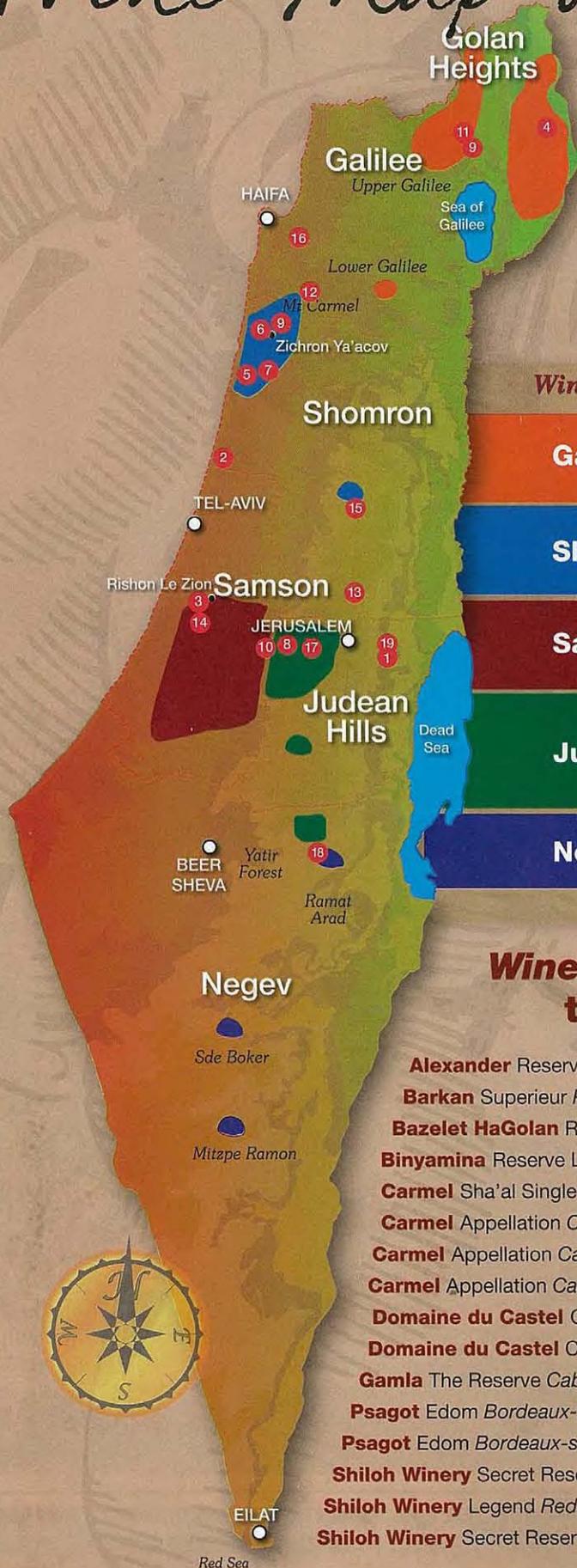
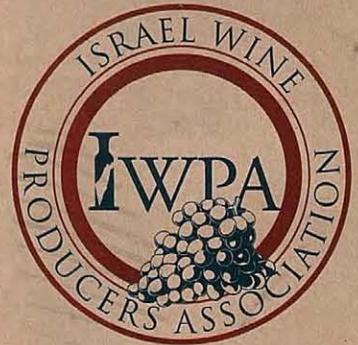
14 Segal's
shiloh

16 Tulip
winery

17 TZUBA

18 YATIR

19 ZION



Wine Regions

Vineyard Areas

Galilee

Upper Galilee
Lower Galilee
Golan Heights

Shomron

Mt. Carmel
Sharon
Shomron Hills

Samson

Coastal Plain
Judean Lowland
Shefela

Judean Hills

Judean Foothills
Jerusalem
Gush Etzion
Yatir Forest

Negev

Northern Negev
Negev Highlands

Wine Enthusiast scores for the Wines of Israel

Alexander Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon-2009 • 90

Barkan Superieur Pinotage-2007 • 90

Bazelet HaGolan Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon-2009 • 91

Binyamina Reserve Late Harvest Cluster Select Gewürztraminer-2009 • 90

Carmel Sha'al Single Vineyard Late Harvest Gewürztraminer-2007 • 90

Carmel Appellation Cabernet Franc-2009 • 90 **Editors' Choice**

Carmel Appellation Cabernet Sauvignon -2009 • 90 **Editors' Choice**

Carmel Appellation Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz-2009 • 90 **Editors' Choice**

Domaine du Castel Grand Vin-2007 • 91

Domaine du Castel C Blanc du Castel Chardonnay-2010 • 91

Gamla The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon-2009 • 90 **Editors' Choice**

Psagot Edom Bordeaux-style Red Blend-2009 • 91

Psagot Edom Bordeaux-style Red Blend-2010 • 90

Shiloh Winery Secret Reserve Shiraz-2009 • 90

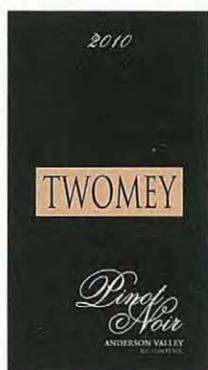
Shiloh Winery Legend Red Blend-2009 • 90

Shiloh Winery Secret Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon-2009 • 90





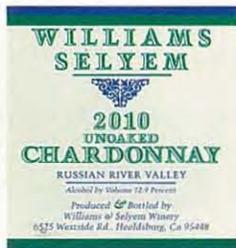
91 Terre da Vino 2008 Essenze (Barolo). Inky and dark, this has modern touches of toast oak and exotic spice. Those smoky aromas will decrease with time, giving prominence to the cherry and blackberry flavors already present. International Wine Traders. —M.L.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60



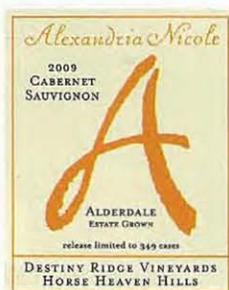
91 Twomey 2010 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). All of the parts haven't yet come together: The oak, acidity, fruit and tannins hover around, but they're not quite completely harmonious yet. Still, it's very rich, with a massive black-cherry core. It seems to have all the components for a little time in the cellar. —S.H.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$46



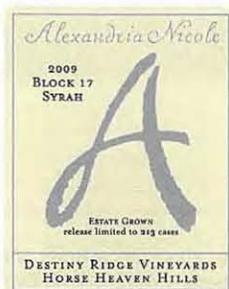
91 Vineyard 7&8 2009 7 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain). It's soft and gentle in texture, yet richly tannic, with complex blackberry, black currant, herb and cedar flavors. It shows the classic elegance that's characteristic of this mountain vineyard site. Drink over the next 3–4 years. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75



91 Williams Selyem 2010 Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). An interesting, crisp and bone-dry Chardonnay that succeeds in offering plenty of complexity despite the absence of any oak influence. The flavors carry the load, with intense notes of apricots, Meyer lemons and guavas, and a wonderful minerality—like a lick of cold steel. —S.H.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$37



90 Alexandria Nicole 2009 Alderdale Destiny Ridge Vineyards Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Beautifully structured, this fruit-laden Cabernet shows a rich core of sweet blackberry, cherry and cassis notes that are dappled with pretty baking spices. The tannins are smooth and supple; the finish is clean and inviting. —P.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32



90 Alexandria Nicole 2009 Block 17 Destiny Ridge Vineyards Estate Grown Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills). Cofermented with Viognier and blended with 13% Grenache, this concentrated Syrah offers flavors of blackberry, boysenberry and black cherry wreathed in juicy, citrusy acidity. It's an excellent example of the fresh, vivid flavors of Washington-grown Syrah. —P.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42



90 Beaucanon 2009 Longwood Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A charming young Cabernet, this is rich in blackberry, currant and anise flavors that are complex and interesting. It's a very dry wine, but the fruit is so polished, it seems almost sweet. This is delicious now, although it's pretty tannic and could develop bottle complexity over the next 6–8 years. —S.H.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$32



90 Beni di Batasiolo 2009 Barbaresco. A bright Barbaresco—this opens with a fresh, floral quality that recalls blue flower and pressed rose. Beyond those aromas are layers of almond skin, ginger, cola and hazelnut. It's an elegant and fine expression that needs five more years of cellar aging. Boisset Family Estates. —M.L.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36



90 Binyamina 2009 Reserve Late Harvest Cluster Select Gewürztraminer (Galilee). This is a stunning, well-balanced late-harvest selection that's sure to be a welcome addition to any dessert course. Notes of ginger and sweet baking spice lift the baked-apple, peach and apricot-preserve fruit core. A kiss of honeyed sweetness and a soft, candied orange-peel flavor lingers on the close. Ample acidity keeps the palate fresh and lifted. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$27/375 ml



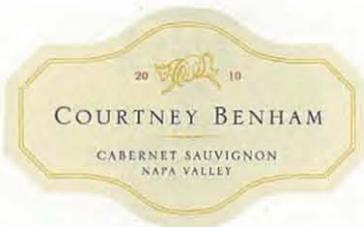
90 Carmel 2009 Appellation Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). Violet, blackberry, cassis and blueberry aromas immediately waft from the glass. Rich and ripe, the palate boasts more of the same concentrated fruit in a lush, creamy, crushed-velvet-like texture. Notes of charred espresso bean, vanilla pod and licorice root all unfold on the long finish. Balanced, delicious and affordable. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. *Editors' Choice.* —L.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



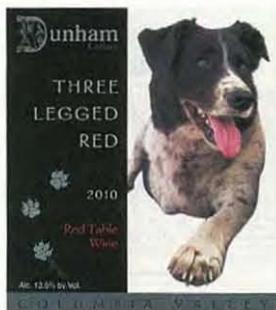
90 Carmel 2009 Appellation Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Galilee). This versatile, food-friendly blend is a great value that's perfect for entertaining. Scents of brambly berry and black plum skin immediately unfold on the nose, while dense notes of cassis and blackberry take center stage on the palate. Balanced and accessible, the crushed satin texture is framed with medium tannins and lush, rich fruit flavors that stay through the long cocoa-kissed finish. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. *Editors' Choice.* —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20



90 Château Lanbersac 2009 Puisseguin Saint-Émilion. This is a firm yet ripe wine that boasts ripe black-plum flavors layered with dense and dusty tannins. The wine is concentrated, with wood aging filling out the structure. It is big and bold, finishing with great ripe fruit. Superb Wine International LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18



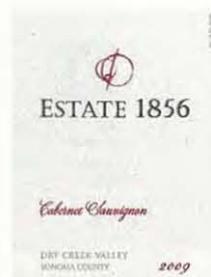
90 Courtney Benham 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Go ahead and taste this Cabernet alongside bottlings that cost twice as much—it holds its head high. Dry and smooth on the palate, it has complex flavors of blackberries, currants, herbs and spices. It feels a little light in body, but very graceful and elegant. —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25



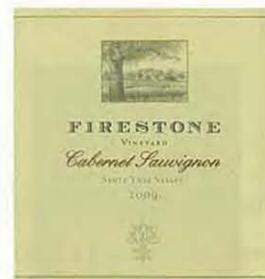
90 Dunham Cellars 2010 Three Legged Red (Columbia Valley). This is a blend of almost 50% Syrah, with Sangiovese, Cabernet and splashes of three other grapes. Jumping from the glass are flavors of juicy raspberry and sweet cherry swathed in a note of chocolate. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19



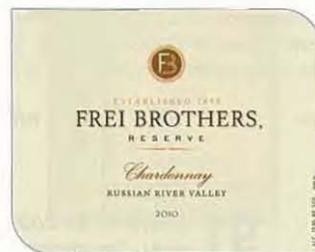
90 Eberle 2008 Wine-Bush Vineyard 60% Steinbeck Vineyard 40% Zinfandel (Paso Robles). A spice note marks this lusty, briary Zinfandel. It tingles with touches of clove, anise, cinnamon, white pepper and nutmeg. It's also warm, but that heat merges with the spices to give it a stimulating mouthfeel. With bright cherry fruit and a jacket of cedar, it's a fine Zin—one of Eberle's best in years. —S.H.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$26



90 Estate 1856 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Voluptuous in the mouth, with a velvety, chocolate-layer-cake richness. It has flavors of cassis liqueur and blackberries in every form—from freshly picked to dried. It's a delicious wine for drinking now and over the next few years. —S.H.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30



90 Firestone 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Except for being just a bit linear, this is a really good Cabernet for the price. It offers rich blackberry, black currant liqueur, anise and cedar flavors that are wrapped into firm tannins. The balance is really impressive. It's throwing some sediment already, so decant it. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Frei Brothers 2010 Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Lots of toasty, caramelized oak tones combine with ripe flavors of pineapples, pears and green apples. It seems a little sweet on the finish, but that's balanced by a swirl of acidity. Drink now. *Editors' Choice.* —S.H.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

that comes through on the finish. Ready to drink. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

VAL DE LOIRE

87 Pascal Jolivet 2010 Attitude (Val de Loire). More fragrant than herbaceous, this is a rounded, creamy wine. It has creamed pear, apricot and ripe lime flavors to go with the smooth texture and finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 Domaine Laporte 2011 Le Bouquet (Val de Loire). Truly herbaceous and aromatic, this is a crisp, clean, easy-drinking wine, with a fresh, bright line of acidity. Ready to drink now. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

86 Henri Bourgeois 2011 Petit Bourgeois (Val de Loire). A light, bright, herbaceous wine, this is the epitome of easy-drinking Sauvignon Blanc. Crisp apple and grapefruit flavors dominate the lemon zest texture. Drink now. Screwcap. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Guy Saget 2009 Château de la Mulonnière l'Effet Papillon (Savennières). Like most Savennières, this is a dry wine. Yet it is so rich, rounded and packed with ripe tropical fruits. The texture is opulent, smooth, creamy and concentrated. It needs to age for at least four years. Pasternak Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Guy Saget 2009 Château de la Mulonnière à la Faveur d'Automne (Coteaux du Layon Beaulieu). This is a sweet, botrytized wine, treading the line between richness and intense acidity. A dry edge and flavors of ripe yellow fruits and a touch of maple syrup give the wine both complexity and aging potential. Pasternak Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Domaine Brisebarre 2009 Sec (Vouvray). This is a perfumed wine, moving easily between crisp, dry acidity and a more rounded almond and pear flavor. There are flavors of spice and freshly baked bread, with warm acidity on the finish. Good Company Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Guy Saget 2010 Marie de Beauregard (Vouvray). This is an off dry Chenin Blanc with the hallmark flavors of ripe yellow fruits and almonds that are balanced by intense acidity. With its still youthful crisp character, the wine should age. Pasternak Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Fournier Père et Fils 2010 Côtes de Morigues (Menetou-Salon). One of the small Sauvignon Blanc areas close to Sancerre, Menetou-Salon produces a light, crisp and herbal style of wine. This

fits that bill well, its freshness contained within the flavors of hedgerow fruits and tangy acids. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Domaine de la Tourmaline 2010 Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre Et Maine). Made by the top Muscadet producer Christophe Gadais, this is beautifully clean and crisp. It has fragrant fruit flavors of citrus and apple, with a light, dancing character. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 Domaine Philippe Portier 2010 Cuvée des Victoires (Quincy). The small appellation of Quincy, near Sancerre, produces soft, ripe Sauvignon Blanc. This has ripe acidity, with flavors of baked apple and pear and a fine citrus streak. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Joseph Mellot 2011 Destinée Sauvignon Blanc (Pays de Loire). This is a smooth, ripe fruited wine. It has refreshing pink-grapefruit and lime flavors bursting with crispness and surrounded by a creamy character. Screwcap. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Domaine du Salvard 2010 Cheverny. This is an attractive mint- and pear-flavored wine with citrus acidity. There is a delicious refreshing orange character to this soft, light and very fresh wine. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

86 Fournier Père et Fils 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (Pays de Loire). Light and bright, this is full of crisp green-apple and citrus flavors, with an herbaceous edge. It's a summer wine, ready to drink now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

85 Alpha Loire 2011 Domaine de la Croix Bouqure (Touraine). Taut and herbaceous, this has a refreshing line of perfumed pear and lime flavors. It's crisp, tangy and drinkable now with a clean, bright finish. Luxe Vintages. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

ISRAEL

CHARDONNAY

91 Domaine du Castel 2010 C Blanc du Castel Chardonnay (Judean Hills). Castel's Blanc is always a well-made selection, and the 2010 carries on that tradition. With 12 months spent in French oak, this is a rich and rounded Chardonnay that exhibits excellent balance and structure, matching bright acidity and refreshing sweet citrus flavors with lush notes of wood-grilled apple, orange creamsicle, crushed yellow flower and peach pit nuttiness. Accents of woody spice and lime zest carry onto the long finish. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

88 Recanati 2010 Chardonnay (Galilee). Soft toasted-brioche and hay notes add depth to the orange rind and apple fruit center. Balanced and refreshing, the ripe fruit flavors flesh out the palate, transitioning onto the medium-length finish. Glimmers of sweet spice and peach pit linger on the close. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Recanati 2010 Special Reserve White (Galilee). A blend of 50% Chardonnay, 25% Sauvignon Blanc and 25% Viognier, this wine needs time to really open up in the glass, and should not be served too cold, as some of the more nuanced aromas will be masked. Rich apple and peach fruit mingle with notes of white and yellow flowers and fresh-cut herbs. The texture is round and lush, but the finish is clean and lifted with a tart melon-rind accent. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

85 Recanati 2011 Yasmin White (Shomron). Always a good value, Recanati's Yasmin line is an easy-pleasing selection. Inviting aromas of freshly sliced peach, lychee and rose water lead seamlessly into flavors of green melon and lime on the palate. The finish is short, but clean and refreshing. Mevushal. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Recanati 2010 Sauvignon Blanc (Shomron). Notes of light grass, green melon rind and a touch of green pepper unfold in the bouquet, while the palate boasts more citrus-based flavors of lime and tart gooseberry. This is bright and lively, with a short, mouthwatering finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

ROSÉS

86 Odem Mountain 2011 Volcanic Dry Rosé (Galilee). A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, this offers dainty aromas of peony, nectarine and white strawberry. Fresh and bright, this has a lively mouthfeel and a zippy finish. Kosher. Happy Hearts Wine LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

86 Recanati 2010 Rosé (Galilee). This deep rosé—made from 70% Barbera and 30% Merlot—exhibits intense aromas of red plum and strawberry, along with a hint of pomegranate. Light weight but fruit forward, this has assertive flavors of red cherry and berry that show good length on the finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

CABERNETS & BLENDS

91 Bazelet HaGolan 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Golan Heights). Lush and decadent, this starts off with such an opulent bouquet of jammy black fruit and sultry spice. Rich and mouth-filling, it boasts a creamy yet firm texture with supporting tannins and a seemingly endless finish. Notes of tobacco, leather and intense wood-driven spice all mingle

seamlessly with the dark fruit core. Drinkable now, but this should age well through 2017. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 15.5% Price: \$60

91 **Domaine du Castel 2009 Grand Vin (Haut-Judeé).**

This classic Bordeaux-style blend—made with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot—is a stunner now, and it shows the potential to age for another 5–10 years. Black cherry, cassis and wild blackberry notes dominate the nose and mouth, but supporting accents of forest and cigar box spice add depth and interest to the fruit core. Thick and slightly chewy, the dense texture and firm structure promises longevity and additional development to come. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

90 **Carmel 2009 Appellation Cabernet Franc (Galilee).**

Cedar, tobacco and leather complement the notes of brambly berry, forest and a touch of cocoa spice. The medium tannins provide a gripping structure, firming the berry and plum flavors on the palate. Waves of cigar box spice and tanned hide undulate on the finish. Drinkable now, but it shows the stuffing to age gracefully as well. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation.

Editors' Choice. —L.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 **Carmel 2009 Appellation Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee).**

For full review see page 88.

Editors' Choice.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 **Carmel 2009 Appellation Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Galilee).**

For full review see page 88.

Editors' Choice.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 **Or Haganuz Winery 2009 Namura Select (Galilee).**

For full review see page 89.

abv: 14% Price: \$34

90 **Psagot 2010 Edom (Judean Hills).**

Dense layers of dark fruits—black plum, cassis and cherry—integrate with complex accents of black tea leaves, tanned hide and woody spice. Supporting tannins provide the palate a firm structure, framing the lush, concentrated black-fruit-driven flavor. Drinkable now, but it should age nicely through 2016. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$35

90 **Recanati 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee).**

For full review see page 89.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

89 **Binyamina 2009 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee).**

Dark, earthy aromas of black plum and chocolate-coated cherry are in the foreground of this wine's bouquet, although additional notes of hoisin and balsamic unfold in the backdrop. Round and mouthfilling, this has rich notes of crushed vanilla pod and coffee grinds that accent the black fruit core for added depth of flavor. Mevushal. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 14% Price: \$25

89 **Or Haganuz Winery 2009 Amuka Merlot-Carignan-Petit Verdot (Upper Galilee).**

Notes of fresh savory herb and black pepper spice up the plum, cherry and blueberry fruit center of this wine. A blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Carignan and 10% Petit Verdot, this medium-weight selection offers a rich, fruit-driven palate with approachable tannins and a solid finish. Kosher. Happy Hearts Wine LLC. —L.B.

abv: 13.3% Price: \$16

88 **Psagot 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Judean Hills).**

A bit closed—give this wine some time in the open bottle or glass to better express itself. Black plum and berry fruit lead the nose and palate, with more intensity appearing alongside the additional spicy notes of licorice stick and coffee grounds. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$30

87 **Mony 2009 Reserve Dry Red Cabernet Sauvignon (Samson).**

This medium-weight selection offers concentrated aromas and flavors of black currant and blackberry laced with accents of pepper and earthy spice. There's a bit of bite to the moderate tannins, while hints of tobacco leaf and cocoa nib spice up the finish. Kosher. Happy Hearts Wine LLC. —L.B.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

86 **Or Haganuz Winery 2010 Har Sinai Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Galilee).**

This interesting selection offers something different—after being harvested by hand, the grapes were frozen for three days and then heated on an open olive-wood fire before fermenting. The resulting wine is full-bodied yet soft all at once, with dusty tannins that frame the dried berry, plum and black cherry fruit. Accents of crushed cocoa nib and balsamic grace the medium-length finish. Kosher. Happy Hearts Wine LLC. —L.B.

abv: 15.5% Price: \$39

86 **Psagot 2010 Cabernet Franc (Judean Hills).**

Soft accents of carnation and forest floor marry with the red currant and bright white-strawberry aromas and flavors. Medium weight with fine, fleeting tannins, this has a clean, medium-length finish. Drink now. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$34

85 **Dovev 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee).**

Jammy and fruit forward, this has intense notes of strawberry, blueberry and plum flesh throughout. The lively palate is bright and juicy, ending with an easy, mouthwatering finish. Mevushal. Kosher. Happy Hearts Wine LLC. *Best Buy.* —L.B.

abv: 13.3% Price: \$10

85 **Recanati 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee).**

On the nose and palate, notes of delicate cinnamon spice and bramble mingle with the blackberry and cassis fruit. Light weight and juicy, this has approachable tannins and a clean finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

85 **Recanati 2011 Yasmin Red (Galilee).**

Attractive notes of dried red berry and bramble mingle with hints of savory herb and soft peppery spice



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on the bouquet of this blend. Skin-driven fruit flavors dominate the palate, followed by a clean finish. A blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon; Mevushal. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

MERLOT

87 Bazelet HaGolan 2010 Merlot (Golan Heights). Although the alcohol is relatively high, it's balanced by the wine's rich and ripe fruit core and soft tannic structure. The nose needs time to fully open up, revealing intense black-plum and cherry aromas. Jammy and full on the palate, this has a hint of black pepper on the close. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$40

86 Recanati 2010 Merlot (Galilee). Black plum and cherry aromas take second stage to the earthy notes of bramble, spice and crushed iris petal. Medium weight with satiny tannins, this has a spicy black-cherry finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 Odem Mountain 2009 Volcanic Red Dry Merlot (Galilee). Strawberry and rhubarb aromas open the bouquet of this Merlot, with hints of cinnamon, bark and raw cocoa nib unfolding shortly after. Medium weight with soft, approachable tannins, this has a clean, cherry-flavored finish. Kosher. Happy Hearts Wine LLC. —L.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

OTHER RED WINES

90 Recanati 2009 Reserve Wild Carignan (Judean Hills). Here's a unique selection that offers concentrated aromas and flavors of cherry, raspberry, red plum flesh and stewed rhubarb, partnered with nuances of earthy spice and vanilla bean. Medium acidity keeps the palate bright, while medium tannins provide structure and a velvety texture to the close. Kosher. Palm Bay International. —L.B.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Recanati 2010 Shiraz (Galilee). For full review see page 91. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 Binyamina 2010 Reserve Carignan (Galilee). Bright yet concentrated notes of plum, blueberry, cherry and soft bramble grace the nose and palate of this ripe wine. Straightforward, yet juicy and attractive, this is medium weight with a vanilla-kissed finish. Mevushal. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

85 Hevron Heights Winery 2007 Judean Heights Tempranillo (Judean Hills). Red cherry and raspberry aromas lead the bouquet, with secondary notes of red currant and savory herb in the background. This is medium weight, with dusty but gripping tannins and a firm structure. Kosher. Happy Hearts Wine LLC. —L.B.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Psagot 2010 Shiraz (Judean Hills). This Shiraz spends 13 months in French and American oak, and it shows, thanks to decadent notes of chocolate-covered cherry, cocoa powder and tree bark. The palate exhibits a bit more fruitiness, with flavors of red plum and cherry flesh. A hint of white pepper stays through the medium-length close. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —L.B.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

GREECE

ASSYRTICO

91 Argyros 2010 Estate Argyros Assyrtico (Santorini). Elegant mineral, citrus and spice aromas lead into complex layers of sea salt and lemon flavors. Overall this is balanced, but with a bracing edge that's refreshing and refined. Athenee Importers. —S.K.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

91 Gaia Wines 2011 Thalassitis Assyrtico (Santorini). Bright lemon, tropical fruit and a sea spray wave lead the nose of this energetic white. On the palate, the wine has balanced acidity, appealing bounce and a finish of alternately lush and bracing fruit. A great example of how elegant and likeable Greek whites can be. Athenee Importers. —S.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Argyros 2010 Assyrtiko (Santorini). Aromas of fleshy white fruits and spice give this Greek white a soulful edge. On the palate, clean, bracing flavors of bright lemon and minerals mean this is a multiple-glass choice. This should pair well with grilled octopus and fish. Athenee Importers. —S.K.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$20

87 Pavlidis 2010 Emphasis Assyrtico (Drama). Alluring aromas of tropical fruit, flower and a spin of citrus are followed by soft flavors of pineapple and tropical fruit. Less bounce and brace than typical, which means it's a great choice for fans of rounder whites. Athenee Importers. —S.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

86 Estate Biblia Chora 2010 Areti Assyrtico (Pangeon). Alluring aromas of exotic fruit and citrus are followed by equally lush flavors throughout: think pineapple, lemon curd and even banana. Intriguing and fun, but not overly complex. Cava Spiliadis. —S.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

CHARDONNAY

91 Domaine Gerovassilou 2010 Chardonnay (Epanomi). For full review see page 86.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

89 Pavlidis 2010 Emphasis Chardonnay (Drama). Fresh, fruity aromas lead this distinctive Chardonnay. The peach, lemon and spice flavors on the palate are easy going and food friendly, but overall the wine has an added flair that gives it an advantage

over others. Pair with seafood salads and fruit desserts. Athenee Importers. —S.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Domaine Katsaros 2010 Chardonnay (Krania Olympus). For full review see page 90.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Skouras 2010 Almyra Chardonnay (Peloponnese). Lemon preserve and orange peel aromas lead this lush-style Chardonnay. On the palate, tropical fruit is laced with minerals and sea salt to create an overall friendly and food-focused white. Pair with oysters and fuller-bodied fish. Diamond Importers Inc. —S.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Wine Art Estate 2010 Idisma Drios Chardonnay (Drama). Balanced, elegant aromas of citrus and fresh white fruit give this immediate appeal. On the palate, there are layers of ripe tropical fruits and a touch of spice. Traditional in style, but with a stylish edge. Distinctive Imports LLC. —S.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

MOSCHOFILERO

89 Skouras 2011 Georges Skouras Moschofilero (Peloponnese). A soft lemon note mingles with touches of spice, sea salt and ripe white fruit on the nose of this snappy but sophisticated Moschofilero. Clean, fresh and spicy white-fruit flavors and a pert finish give this wine poise, but there's still enough fruit to add dimension. It's versatile with food, too. Diamond Importers Inc. —S.K.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Zacharias 2011 White Symmetry Moschofilero (Peloponnese). Dried apricot, lemon zest and flower notes lead the nose. Flavors of fresh white fruit and citrus are laced with a chalky bite, giving the wine focus and an elegant edge. A classy white for everyday sipping. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. —S.K.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

86 Ktima Tselepos 2010 Blanc de Gris Dry White Moschofilero (Arcadia). Rose and white flower notes lead the nose on this fragrant, distinctive white. On the palate, stone fruit, vanilla, and spice flavors are subtle and appealing. Distinctive Imports LLC. —S.K.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

85 Spiropoulos 2010 Made with Organic Grapes Moschofilero (Mantinia). Soft aromas of lemon blossom, flower and citrus lead into appealing flavors of citrus, sea salt and spice. It's not an overly complex white but does not need to be. Enjoy this with grilled seafood, vegetables and fruit. Athenee Importers. —S.K.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18