

TOP 50 WINES OF THE YEAR



From more than 3,200 wines recommended in *Decanter* over the past year, our tastings team has picked out not only the highest-scoring but also the best-value wines. These top 50 are listed here in one handy guide, with updated UK prices and stockists

DURING 2013 OUR experts have highlighted a wealth of fantastic wines that deserve your attention. Our writers, the most respected in the wine world, have explored regions across the globe – some relatively undiscovered, others household names – hand-picking for these pages the very best bottles they discover on their travels.

Closer to home, via the Weekday Wines section, our tasting team is constantly sampling and reviewing more affordable, accessible wines available on the shelves of UK wine merchants and high street stores.

Finally, our monthly panel tastings – where all the wines are tasted blind – are a valuable tool thanks to their focused, in-depth investigations into specific regions. Our judges are among the finest palates to be found, and the panels regularly comprise Masters of Wine and Master Sommeliers, each chosen for their expertise in whichever region finds itself under the spotlight.

We have pored over every page of the past 12 issues and selected 50 of the highest-scoring wines recommended in 2013. Our aim is to deliver a diverse selection: one that guarantees fantastic value for money, whatever the price level, and that brings attention to wines from a variety of countries and regions.

As price and UK availability were taken into account when deciding on the chosen 50, there may be instances where a wine was marginally outscored in a tasting, but made the final cut due to its outstanding value for money. Wines here have been ordered by score and then (in wines of the same score) by price, with the cheapest ranked highest. Where there is a price band, the minimum price was used in the ranking.

With something for everyone, the following pages feature some incredible buys, which truly underline the diverse and exciting nature of the world wine scene today. All come with a *Decanter* stamp of approval.



1 Faustino, Faustino I, Rioja Gran Reserva, Spain 2001

19.25/20pts (97/100pts)
£14–£20 Asda, Bestways, Costco,
Fenwick, Fine & Rare, Makro, Rhythm
& Booze, Sainsbury's, Venus Wines
Restrained, mineral style with
elegant tannins. Youthful and
fresh, feminine and complex.
Deliciously decadent, with
extraordinary vitality in the palate
and a long unique, finish. A jewel
at this price. **Drink** 2014–2030
Alcohol 13.5%

2

Santa Ana, Unánime, Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina 2007

19 (96)

£15.95-£16 **Slurp, Swig**
Expressive nose and rich palate. Perfectly structured, round and ready, showing pencil shavings, sour cherries and leafiness. **Drink** 2014-2015 **Alc** 14.5%

3

Pian dell'Orino, Rosso di Montalcino, Tuscany, Italy 2010

19 (96)

£21.99-£33 **AG Wines, Christopher Keiller, Exel Wines, Fine & Rare, Les Caves de Pyrène, Wine Bear**
Crisp hawthorn aromas, followed by rounder but still firm red cherry and raspberry flavours that coat rather than strangle your tongue for a richly digestible mouthful. **Drink** 2014-2017 **Alc** 14%

4

Alheit Vineyards, Chenin Blanc Cartology, Western Cape, South Africa 2011

19 (96)

£25-£26 **Berry Bros & Rudd, Lay & Wheeler, Noel Young, SA Wines Online, Swig, The Wine Society, Wright Wine Co**
Seven parcels of dry-farmed, 30- to 80-year-old bush vines. Bold and complex. Bright acidity lifts juicy apple, plum and citrus fruit. Creamy, nutty texture. Saline length. **Drink** 2014-2020 **Alc** 14%

5

Equipo Navazos, La Bota de Manzanilla 42, Andalucia, Spain NV

19 (96)

£27.50 **Swig**
From Bodega Sánchez Ayala in Sanlúcar de Barrameda. Six to seven years old, bottled in spring 2014. Powdery nose and savoury, saline palate with peaty whisky notes. Textured, pure, weighty, compelling, ethereal. **Drink** 2014-2014 **Alc** 15%



6

Bodegas Muriel, Rioja Reserva, Spain 2008

18.75 (95+)

£9.99 **Majestic**
Menthol and eucalyptus on the nose. More classic aromas come through with aeration. Savoury, traditional style with toasted nuts and coffee, delicate coconut and ripe, baked plum fruit. A great, classic Rioja. Complex and intriguing. **Drink** 2014-2025 **Alc** 13.5%

7

La Rioja Alta, Viña Arana, Rioja Reserva, Spain 2005

18.75 (95+)

£16-£23 **Armit, Secret Cellar, Swig, Tanners, Waitrose**
Traditional, savoury style with soy sauce and rusticity. Typical Rioja with elegance and class. A great wine. An archetype of what makes Rioja unique: harmonious American oak, stylish oxidative development and fresh balance. This is smooth, long and classy. **Drink** 2014-2040 **Alc** 13%

8

Dominio de Tares, Cepas Viejas, Bierzo, Spain 2009

18.75 (95+)

£19.50-£23.50 **Harvey Nichols, Swig**
Aromatics abound with cedar, mint and spices. Meaty, earthy, sensual and unique. Great intensity of fruit on the palate, with finely grained tannins and a complex fruit expression of great originality, crying out what is a unique terroir. **Drink** 2014-2022 **Alc** 14%

9

Gilles Robin, Albéric Bouvet, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France 2010

18.75 (95+)

£19.95 **Lea & Sandeman**
Dark berry, floral and fennel nose, sleek texture, good concentration and focus. Good acidity and ripe tannins. Liquorice, chocolate, coffee and pepper on the finish; not too weighty, very stylish and long. **Drink** 2014-2019 **Alc** 13.5% ➤

10

Paringa Estate, Estate Pinot Noir, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, Australia 2010

18.75 (95+)

£48.80-£60 **Fine & Rare, Handford Wines, Secret Cellar, Swig**

Warm, resonant, lifted, and fragrant. It tapers beautifully with the refined liquorice-tinged fruits: very classy indeed. Poised, pure, long, lots of currant fruit and very intense. Stylistically impeccable. Bravo! **Drink 2014-2020 Alc 14.5%**



11

Viña Mayu, Syrah Reserva, Elqui Valley, Chile 2009

18.5 (95)

£10.99 **Asda**

The meaty, dried violet and creamy notes have evolved beautifully in bottle. (See *Weekday Wines*, p98, for a review of the 2010 vintage of this wine.)

Drink 2014 Alc 14%



12

Haridimos Hatzidakis, Assyrtiko, Santorini, Greece 2012

18.5 (95)

£11.99-£12.95 **Tanners, Waitrose**

Honey-baked fruits, banana leaf, jasmine, flowers, pine, lime and grapefruit lift. Immediately lively and bold on the full-throttle, textured, harmonious palate: mouthwatering freshness with tart lemon-curd ripeness, underlined by punchy minerality.

Drink 2014-2021 Alc 13.5%



14

Terredora, Fiano di Avellino, Campania, Italy 2011

18.5 (95)

£16.10 **Tanners**

Delightful hazelnuts and pear fruit on the nose and palate. Fine racy acidity and a good body.

Drink 2014-2020 Alc 13%

15

Casa Marin, Miramar Vineyard Riesling, San Antonio, Chile 2010

18.5 (95)

£16.95-£18 **ND John, Noel Young, Swig, Slurp, Wimbledon Wine Cellar**

The 2009 was sensational and now this 2010, produced in tiny quantities after the vineyard was hit by frost, is coming into its own. There's an almost Austrian elegance here: it's broad but grounded, with toasty lime and effortless mineral refinement.

Drink 2014-2020 Alc 12.5%

16

Domaine des Escaravilles, Héritage 1924, Rasteau, Rhône, France 2010

18.5 (95)

£21.95 **Imbibros**

Confident, with a deeply fruited bouquet. Solid and complete, with a classy Grenache depth. A beauty. Deft tannins, good cut.

Drink 2014-2023 Alc 15%

17

Château La Truffe, Pomerol, Bordeaux, France 2010

18.5 (95)

£23 **York Wines**

Sweet, juicy, oaky nose – the cherry fruit, has flair and charm. Quite rich and succulent, with good density of fruit. Not an extracted style yet it has ample structure and grip, with firm but refined tannins, and the acidity gives it drive, elegance, and length. Lovely, poised and complex wine. **Drink 2015-2035 Alc 14%**

18

Inama, Vigneti di Foscario, Soave Classico, Veneto, Italy 2011 18.5 (95)

£24 Swig

A fine Soave producer who has been in the business for more than 40 years. Garganega is hand-harvested from a single 10ha vineyard on basaltic lava soils. Gorgeous nose of honeyed citrus and melon, and a nutty, toasty character. Savoury notes mingle with citrus and stone fruit, and lead to a long, complex finish. **Drink** 2014–2015 **Alc** 12.5%



19

Pio Cesare, Fides, Barbera d'Alba, Piedmont, Italy 2010 18.5 (95)

£35 Edencroft Fine Wine, Exel Wines, Fine & Rare, Jeroboams, Planet of the Grapes, Portland Wine Co, Roberts & Speight, Whitebridge Wines

Incredible vanilla and spice from the oak. Floral nose of rose and liquorice. Tannins are evident, but well integrated with good acidity. Amazing complexity with luscious summer fruit pudding character and exemplary length. **Drink** 2014–2016 **Alc** 14.5%



20

Leeuwin Estate, Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, Western Australia, Australia 2010

18.5 (95)

£35 Domaine Direct

Lively, lifted cherry fruit. Medium body with impressive intensity and persistence. Vivacious, feminine and silky-smooth, yet also with loads of stamina and energy. **Drink** 2015–2035 **Alc** 14%



22

Jean-Paul & Benoît Droin, Grenouille Grand Cru, Chablis, Burgundy, France 2011 18.5 (95)

£38–£39.60 Armit, Howard Ripley
Made from 65-year-old vines, it is minerally with subtlety and persistence. Finish is reminiscent of Japanese seaweed. Complex and delicate with obvious grand cru quality. **Drink** 2015–2025 **Alc** 13%

23

Louis Jadot, Clos de la Barre, Monopole, Volnay, Burgundy, France 2010 18.5 (95)

£42 Hatch Mansfield

Delicately fragrant and with a light minerality on the nose. Light, fine tannins and an elegant, ripe, red fruit flavour, subtle minerality and with both length and class on the palate. Fine, minerally aromatic length with Volnay delicacy and charm. Very pretty with class and finesse. Complete for the vintage, but will need a few years yet. **Drink** 2014–2028 **Alc** 13.5%

24

Tua Rita, Giusto di Notri, Tuscany, Italy 2010 18.5 (95)

£45.60–£59 Armit, Swig

Zesty, elegant oaky nose. Suave and succulent, with lovely mouthwatering fruit. Invigorating, with a long, chocolatey finish.

Drink 2014–2022 **Alc** 14.5%

25

López de Heredia, Viña Tondonia, Rioja Gran Reserva, Spain 1994 18.5 (95)

£63–£67 Berry Bros & Rudd, Fortnum & Mason, Philglas & Swiggot, Secret Cellar, Theatre of Wine, Wright Wine Co
An original. With up to 10 years of age in US oak, this is attenuated in colour, but not in palate strength. Tertiary flavours combine with subtle notes of vanilla, fruit and sweet spice, and firm acidity. **Drink** 2014–2033 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

26

Antica Terra, Estate Pinot Noir, Oregon, USA 2009

18.5 (95)

£81-£113 **Bordeaux Index, Hedonism, Wine Treasury**

Sumptuous red fruits nose with a great depth of fruit - luxurious and opulent. Very rich and concentrated but not too dense or extracted, with supple tannins and fine legnth. **Drink** 2014-2024 **Alc** 13.6%

27

Taylor's, Quinta de Vargellas, Vinha Velha, Port, Portugal 2011

18.5 (95)

£160 **Berry Bros & Rudd, The Wine Society**

From five plots of vines 80 to 120 years old. Tight-knit, pure, silky fruit, long and beautifully focused. **Drink** 2030-2050 **Alc** 20%

28

Jim Barry, The Lodge Hill Dry Riesling, Clare Valley, South Australia 2012

18.25 (94)

£12.49-£13.95 **Majestic, Slurp**

From a single vineyard planted in 1979, this release is one of the finest to date. It boasts great fruit purity of mandarin and lime on the nose, mirrored on the zesty, mineral, bone-dry palate that's lifted by tropical fruit. Super.

Drink 2014-2025 **Alc** 12.5%

29

Mario Marengo, Brunate, Barolo, Piedmont, Italy 2006

18.25 (94)

£34.90-£38.90 **Fine & Rare, Justerini & Brooks**

The Brunate cru makes the most intensely perfumed and balanced Barolos of all. Plenty of floral finesse and energy here

Drink 2015-2025 **Alc** 14%



30

Bonneau du Martray, Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru, Burgundy, France 2011

18.25 (94)

£81.90-£89.95 **Corney & Barrow, Howard Ripley**

A classic Corton-Charlemagne with lifted floral notes and toasted nuts adding to the wine's complex flavour profile. Wonderful depth and weight with a long finish.

Drink 2016-2025 **Alc** 13%

31

Librandi, Cirò, Calabria, Italy 2012

18 (93)

£8.75-£11.99 **Blanco & Gomez, Christopher Keller, Eclectic Tastes, Exel Wines, Fine Wine Co, Valvona & Crolla, Weald Wine Cellar, Winedirect**

A 100% Greco that is lively, summery and fruity. There's a citrus zing to a pear drop and apple sherbet nose with soft sweet vanilla notes, and the palate displays appley, off-dry flavours and a rounded mouthfeel. Great to enjoy on its own. **Drink** 2014

Alc 12.5%

32

Falernia, Syrah, Elqui Valley, Chile 2010

18 (93)

£8.95-£9.99 **Carruthers & Kent, Slurp, Tanners**

Vivid, evocative Syrah bursting with engaging flavours of black olive tapenade, black pepper and rich dark fruit. This spicy, savoury style is tailor-made for venison or game dishes. Superb value.

Drink 2014-2014 **Alc** 14.2%

33

Castello di Tassarolo, Spinola NS, Gavi, Piedmont, Italy 2011

18 (93)

£9.99 **Vinceremos**

Soft apple-crumble flavours that are tangy and broad not spritzy and lean, with an enveloping savouriness.

Drink 2014 **Alc** 12.5% ➤

34

Château La Grande Maye, Côtes de Castillon, Bordeaux, France 2003 18 (93)

£10.90 **Justerini & Brooks**
Look beyond the hot vintage and lesser-known name to a fabulous wine at a great price. This is your Christmas claret bargain – as long as you appreciate sturdy, carnal, autumnally mature Bordeaux that speaks (eloquently) with a thick country accent. A fine match for game. **Drink** 2014 **Alc** 13.5%

35

Clos Basté, L'Esprit de Basté, Madiran, France 2009 18 (93)

£13–£14.70 **Philglas & Swiggot, Wine Story**
Rising star Philippe Mur makes this entry-level wine (70% Tannat) for relatively early drinking. The bouquet has an explosion of summer fruits – particularly blueberries as well as hints of autumn foliage. Intense on entry, nice structure but easy to drink with soft tannins. **Drink** 2014–2015 **Alc** 13.5%

36

Vuurberg, White, Western Cape, South Africa 2011 18 (93)

£14.99–£17 **D Byrne & Co, Noel Young, Palmers Wine Store, Randall's, Secret Cellar**
Round and exciting with apple, pear and a creamy vanilla note. Bright mandarin fruit acidity. Textural, tight and minerally. **Drink** 2014–2020 **Alc** 14%

37

Adoro, Western Cape, South Africa 2006 18 (93)

£16.50–£16.99 **Bottle Apostle, Hoult, Inverarity Morton, Mirbel, Ninesprings, Soho Wine Supply, Springwell Wines & Spirits, Wright Wine Co**
Texture defines this blend of Cabernet, Merlot, Shiraz and Mourvedre – even the nose is velvety! Elegant with rich, ripe blackberry flavours with a sprinkling of cocoa and cigar box spice. **Drink** 2014–2015 **Alc** 14.5%



38

Domaine Yann Chave, Le Rouvre, Crozes-Hermitage, Rhône, France 2010 18 (93)

£19.95–£25 **Montrachet Fine Wine, Stone Vine & Sun, The Vintner**
Crozes-Hermitage is a vast area with magical pockets of soil and this wine comes from one of them, made in a tiny winery. The nose is full of opulent damson, liquorice, vanilla and cherries. Juicy and peppery on the palate, it's a restrained and intriguing wine. **Drink** 2017–2027 **Alc** 13.5%

39

McHenry Hohnen, Rolling Stone, Margaret River, Western Australia 2010 18 (93)

£19.99 **Ann et Vin, Berry Bros & Rudd, General Wine Liphook, Oz Wines**
Red pepper, blueberries and liquorice characters – striking intensity and persistence of fruit. Lovely silky tannins, delicious freshness, elegance and finesse – a classic. **Drink** 2015–2035 **Alc** 14.5%

40

Château Larose Perganson, Haut-Médoc, Bordeaux, France 2010 18 (93)

£21–£25 **Bay Tree Wine, Bordeaux Index, Christopher Keiller, Eclectic Tastes, Halifax Wine, Invinity Wines, The Fine Wine Co, The Drink Shop**
Forward new oak nose with vanilla, powerful black fruit and violets. Flamboyant, concentrated, complex and spicy, with bags of vigour. Tight and structured, peppery and long. Shows the Haut-Médoc in the best way. Very good. **Drink** 2014–2022 **Alc** 13%

41

Weingut Dr Heger, Winklerberg Weissburgunder, Baden, Germany 2011 18 (93)

£25.60 **The Wine Barn**
Supple aromas of apricot, smoky bacon and sweet herbs. The juicy melon fruit and bright texture are pure, ample and refreshing, providing balance and seductive length. **Drink** 2014–2018 **Alc** 13.5% ➤

42

Domaine Gripa, Les Figuiers, St-Péray, Rhône, France 2011 18 (93)

£28.50 **Harvey Nichols**
Spot-on St-Péray: flowers and ripe stone fruit with a hint of saline on the nose. Intricate blend of apricot fruit on the palate with substantial, nutty flavours. Long, with precise acidity. **Drink 2014–2024 Alc 13.5%**

43

San Giusto a Rentennano, Chianti Riserva, Tuscany, Italy 2009 18 (93)

£28.50 **Corney & Barrow**
Young and fragrant. The palate has great volume, with densely packed tannins and ripe, concentrated fruit on the finish. More solid than refined at the moment. Needs time. **Drink 2015–2020 Alc 14%**

44

Drouhin, Laurene Pinot Noir, Oregon, USA 2008 18 (93)

£35 **Secret Cellar**
Rich, spicy cherry nose that is quite oaky. Discreet but intense, palate with purity of fruit and delicacy. Ripe tannins and a long fresh finish. **Drink 2014–2022 Alc 13.9%**

45

Au Bon Climat, Sanford & Benedict Pinot Noir, Santa Ynez, California, USA 2009 18 (93)

£42–£44.99 **AG Wines, Bordeaux Index, Carruthers & Kent, Fortnum & Mason, Noel Young Wines, Secret Cellar, Swig**
Ripe, raspberry nose. Concentrated, dense and chewy without being heavy. Vivacious, spicy finish. Long. **Drink 2014–2022 Alc 13.5%**

46

Kutch, McDougall Ranch Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast, California, USA 2011 18 (93)

£44 **Swig**
From a remote coastal site, rising-star Jamie Kutch has produced this effort full of pine needle and ethereal berry fruit with a cola note, although perhaps a bit too much young oak right now. **Drink 2014–2019 Alc 13.6%**



47

Weingut Prager, Wachstum Bodenstein, Riesling Smaragd, Wachau, Austria 2011 18 (93)

£46 **Berry Bros & Rudd, Noel Young**
This is Toni Bodenstein's massal-selection wine, made with 25 different clones. Aromatic and mineral with hints of saline and peach fruit – quite tannic, concentrated, pure, complex and rich. **Drink 2014–2020 Alc 14%**

48

Braida, Bricco dell'Uccellone, Barbera d'Asti, Piedmont, Italy 2009 18 (93)

£46.50 **Hedonism**
Spicy, vibrant, black cherry nose with remarkable elegance. Sweet but not jammy: bright and fresh, with lively acidity and integrated alcohol. Limpid and long. **Drink 2014–2020 Alc 16%**

49

Château Certande-May, Pomerol, Bordeaux, France 2006 18 (93)

£50–£65 **Armit, Christopher Keiller, Corkr Fine Wines, Fine & Rare, Lay & Wheeler**
Once part of the original Certan estate, 2006 is another overlooked vintage. It's full of black plum and hedgerow scents, while the palate is poised – clean as a whistle with a mineral-rich finish. **Drink 2014–2025 Alc 12.5%**

50

Domaine Henri Gouges, Les St-Georges, Nuits-St-Georges 1er Cru, Burgundy, France 2011 18 (93)

£72–£79.80 **Howard Ripley, OW Loeb**
Seductive aromas of spices, herbs, red fruits, wood, minerals and earth. Silky tannins with flavours that envelop the palate. The most complex in the range of Gouges' wines in 2011. **Drink 2017–2027 Alc 13%**



With five of our top 10 wines of 2013 being Spanish, it's clear this country – along with its neighbour Portugal – is excelling in the value-for-money stakes.

To taste wines from some of Iberia's best producers visit the **Decanter Spain & Portugal Fine Wine Encounter** on 22 February 2014.

Book today at www.decanter.com/spainandportugal2 or call +44 (0)20 3148 4513