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, indepth 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 bard, 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, Bestway, 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
   £15.95–£16 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
   £21.99–£33 AG Wines, Christopher
   Keiller, Exel Wines, Fine & Rare, Les
   Cavas de Pyrène, Wino Bar
   Crisp Hawthorn aromas, followed
   by sourness 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, Noël 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 Bodegas 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 Armitt, Secret Cellars, Swig,
   Tanners, Waitrose
   Traditional, savoury style with soy
   sauce and rusticity. Typical Rioja
   with elegance and class. A great
   wine. An archetypal 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 terror. 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%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Wine Name</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Viña Mayu, Syrah Reserva, Elqui Valley, Chile</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>£10.99 (Asda)</td>
<td>The meaty, dried violet and creamy notes have evolved beautifully in bottle. (See Weekday Wines, p95, for a review of the 2010 vintage of this wine.) <strong>Drink 2014 Alc 14%</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Haridimos Hatzidakis, Assyrtiko, Santorini, Greece</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>£11.99–£12.95 (Tanners, Waitrose)</td>
<td>Honey-baked fruits, banana leaf, jasmine, flowers, pine, lime and grapefruit lift. Immediately lively and bold on the full-throttle, textured, harmonious palate: mouth-watering freshness with tart lemon-curd ripeness, underlined by punchy minerality. <strong>Drink 2014–2021 Alc 13.5%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Terredora, Fiano di Avellino, Campania, Italy</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>£16.10 (Tanners)</td>
<td>Delightful hazelnuts and pear fruit on the nose and palate. Fine raciness and a good body. <strong>Drink 2014–2020 Alc 13%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Casa Marin, Miramar Vineyard Riesling, San Antonio, Chile</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>£16.95–£18.00 (NO John, Noel Yoan, Swig, Surpr, Wimbledon Wine Cellar)</td>
<td>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. <strong>Drink 2014–2020 Alc 12.5%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Domaine des Escaravaives, Héritage 1924, Rasteau, Rhône, France</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>£21.95 (Imbimbo)</td>
<td>Confident, with a deeply fruited bouquet. Solid and complete, with a classy Grenache depth. A beauty; Delf tannins, good cut. <strong>Drink 2014–2023 Alc 15%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Château La Truffe, Pomerol, Bordeaux, France</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>£23 (York Wines)</td>
<td>Sweet, juicy, oaky nose – the cherry fruit, has thair 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 acidity gives it drive, elegance, and length. Lovely, poised and complex wine. <strong>Drink 2015–2035 Alc 14%</strong></td>
</tr>
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18

Inama, Vigneti di Foscarino, 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 & Sleigh, 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%

21

Ridge Estate, Cabernet Sauvignon, Santa Cruz Mountains, California, USA 2010 18.5 (95)

£36-£43 Berry Bros & Rudd, Butlers Wine Cellar, Dawes Fine Wine, Fine & Rare, Secret Cellar, Selfridges, Swig

Great structure and precision, with deep cassis and black cherry fruit, cedar and forest-floor shadings, and an extraordinarily long finish. Drink 2014-2024 Alc 13%

22

Jean-Paul & Benoit 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 seeweed. 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, mineral 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 2014-2022 Alc 14.5%

24

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

£45-£60-£69 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, Philigra & Swigport, Secret Cellar, The House 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
Sumpuous 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 length. Drink 2014–2024 Alc 13.6%

27 Taylor’s, Quinta de Vargellas, Vinha Velha, Port, Portugal 2011
18.5 (95)
£150 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, and a lift 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 & Raro, Justerini & Brooks
The Brunate cru makes the most intensely perfumed and balanced Barolos of all. Plenty of floral finesse and energy here. Drink 2013–2025 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, Ciro, Calabria, Italy 2012
16 (93)
A 100% Greco that is lively, summery and fruity. There’s a citrus zing to a clear drop and apple sherbert 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 2014–2024 Alc 14.2%

32 Falernia, Syrah, Elqui Valley, Chile 2010
18 (93)
£8.95 – £9.99 Carruthers & Kent, Slurp, Tenners
Vivid, evocitive 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 2014–2024 Alc 12.5%

33 Castello di Tassarolo, Spinola NS, Gavi, Piedmont, Italy 2011
18 (93)
£9.99 Vineremors
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)
£10.99 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, carriageworthy Bordeaux that speaks eloquently, and 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 Phiglas & Swiggett
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, Houts, Inverarity Morton & Mirbel, Ninesprings, Soho Wine Supply, Springwell Wines & Spirits, Wright Wine Co
Texture defines this blend of Cabernet, Merlot, Shiraz and Mourvèdre – 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 Montachet 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 Annet Vin, Berry Bros & Rudd, General Wine Lipshock, Oz Wines
Red pepper, blueberries and liqueurice characters – striking intensity and persistence of fruit. Lovely silky tannins, celestial freshness, elegance and finesse - a classic. Drink 2015-2035 Alc 14.5%

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

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 Griqua, 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 salinity 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 Comoy & 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, Laurence Pinot Noir, Oregon, USA 2008 18 (93)
£55 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)

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 pink 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 mass-selection wine, made with 25 different clones. Aromatic and mineral with hints of salinity and peach fruit – quite tannic, concentrated, pure, complex and rich. Drink 2014-2020 Alc 14%

48
Braida, Bricco dell’Uccellino, Barbera d’Asti, Piedmont, Italy 2009 18 (93)
£45.50 Recioco 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 15%

49
Château Certan-De-May, Pomerol, Bordeaux, France 2006 18 (93)
£50-£65 Armit, Christopher Keller, Corks 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)
£77-£79.80 Howard Ripley, Gw Leeb Seductive aromes of spices, herbs, red fruits and earth. Silky tannins with flavors 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 Ibiza’s best producers visit the Decanter Spain & Portugal Fine Wine Encounter on 22 February 2014.

Book today at www.decanter.com/spainandportugal or call +44 (0)20 346 4913

For full details of UK stockists, see p97