



# WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **OCT. 31, 2012** ISSUE,  
FEATURING ALL OF THE SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

*Wine Spectator's* Oct. 31 issue features our annual spotlight on Italy, including tasting reports from Tuscany and Veneto. Plus, a travel guide to Sardinia, with great hotels, fine food and distinctive wines.

## SMART BUYS

92

**DOMAINES SCHLUMBERGER** Pinot Gris Alsace Les Princes Abbés 2010 • \$20

Finely knit, with a vibrancy to the refined acidity that focuses the flavors of ripe peach, pear, guava and kumquat. Silky in texture, with a core of smoky minerality that pushes through on the lasting finish. Drink now through 2022. 2,100 cases imported.—*A.N.*

92

**VECCHIA CANTINA DI MONTEPULCIANO** Vino Nobile di Montepulciano  
Leone d'Oro 2009 • \$24

A meaty, graphite-tinged red, offering sweet cherry, licorice and spice flavors. Balanced, with dense tannins and a long aftertaste of tar and spice. Best from 2014 through 2028. 2,000 cases imported.—*B.S.*

91

**PERRIN & FILS** Vinsobres Les Cornuds 2010 • \$22

Dense and layered, but very refined, with a violet note stitching the crushed black cherry, steeped blackberry and anise flavors together, while an iron note adds range to the finish. Drink now through 2018. 4,000 cases imported.—*J.M.*

90

**ALTOS LAS HORMIGAS** Malbec Uco Valley Terroir 2010 • \$18

A dark red, with bright acidity supporting juicy blackberry, currant and blueberry notes that pick up hints of wild flowers, hot stone and tar. Shows nice range and cut. Drink now. 4,000 cases imported.—*N.W.*

90

**BODEGAS RAMÓN BILBAO** Rioja Limited Edition 2009 • \$17

Dense yet lithe, this red shows lively cherry and orange peel flavors, deepened by loam, soy and anise notes. Not showy, but drives through the savory finish. Drink now through 2016. 21,000 cases made.—*T.M.*

90

**EFESTE** Riesling Columbia Valley Evergreen Vineyard Evergreen 2011 • \$18

Light and silky, with a jolt of acidity to balance the delicate sweetness, allowing the peach, pear and floral flavors to come through unhindered. Drink now through 2015. 1,059 cases made.—*H.S.*

90

**HUGEL** Pinot Gris Alsace Classic 2008 • \$22

Dry and smoky, with a laser beam of acidity and mineral notes framing flavors of dried apricot, almond skin, forest floor, orange zest and fleur de sel. Lingering finish. Drink now through 2018. 1,500 cases imported.—*A.N.*

90

**FATTORIA LA RIPA** Chianti Classico 2010 • \$18

Bursting with black cherry and earth aromas and flavors, this is intense, with the fruit balanced by lively acidity and moderately firm tannins. Iron and spice notes linger. Drink now through 2020. 3,333 cases made.—*B.S.*