



THE WORLD'S GREATEST VINTAGE CHART 2012

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WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAGAZINE

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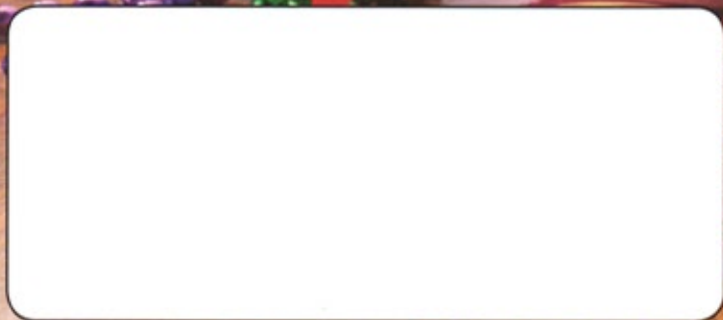
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sipping with the saints

A visit to a wine shop can seem like a trip to church, with saints popping up on labels everywhere—in appellation, winery and even grape names. Have you ever looked closely at the label on a bottle of Château Pétrus, which is named for St. Peter and bears his image holding the keys to heaven?

Think about famous wine towns, like Nuits-Saint-Georges or St. Helena, California—which, ironically, takes its name from the local chapter of the Sons of Temperance. St. Francis Winery in Sonoma, California, pays homage to Saint Francis of Assisi, the protector of animals and nature, and also to the Franciscan order that brought grapevines to the Americas.

Late January brings the Feast of St. Vincent to France's Burgundy region, where each village's elite group of wine connoisseurs, dubbed the *Chevaliers du Tastevin*, celebrate with a grand procession, roasted pig dinner and fine Pinot Noirs.

In Greece, St. Valentine doesn't have a monopoly on festivities in February. The first of the month is the feast of St. Trifonas, whose image includes a vine pruner in one hand. Greece's indigenous grape Agiorgitiko also has a religious connection, as its name translates as "St. George." Italy's Feudi di San Gregorio's modern winery and ancient vineyards are on land once dedicated to Pope Gregory the Great, who became a saint after his death in 604 A.D.

Some saintly tributes take a more familial approach. Croatia's Saints Hills Winery's vineyards are named for owners Ernest and Ivana Tolj's children, Lucia, Roko and Ante. While they have not achieved official sainthood, having your parents think you are a saint might be the highest form of reverence. —M.D. & J.J.



Marathon Tasting

After competing in the 2011 New York City Marathon, the team Grands Crus Bordeaux Runners—a 15-member group culled from top Bordeaux chateaus—took a detour to the New York retailer Zachy's on November 7, 2011, and poured their top wines for a throng of Bordeaux lovers. Guests nudged their way through the crowd to sample prestigious bottlings like 2009 Château Clinet and 2003 Château Mouton Rothschild.

—ANDREW HOOVER



PHOTO COURTESY ZACHY'S WINE AND LIQUOR, INC.

TOP10 *under \$10*

Once friends and neighbors find out we work at *Wine Enthusiast*, the first question they ask is almost invariably, "So, what's a great \$10 wine?" These wines represent some of the best inexpensive offerings we've tasted for this issue, selected for price and quality, and balanced to give a selection of wine styles. Remember, you can always visit our Ratings on winemag.com to search more than 5,000 wines we've named Best Buys.

- 
- 89** Hogue 2008 Red Table Wine (Columbia Valley). —P.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$7
- 89** StoneCap 2010 Estate Grown Riesling (Columbia Valley). —P.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$8
- 89** Real Companhia Velha 2009 Porca de Murça (Douro). Admiral Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$10
- 88** Rosemount 2009 Diamond Label Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). Treasury Wine Estates. —J.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$10
- 87** Maximo 2009 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$9
- 87** Viña Siegel 2011 Crucero Chardonnay (Colchagua Valley). Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$10
- 87** Quintas de Melgaco 2010 Terra Antiga (Vinho Verde). Grape Moments. —R.V.
abv: 11% Price: \$10
- 87** Cantarranas 2010 Verdejo (Rueda). Cognac One, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$10
- 86** Château Cabezac 2010 La Tradition Rosé (Minervois). Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$8
- 86** Viña Peralillo 2010 Arenal Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). Southern Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$10