

WINE

ENTHUSIAST

M A G A Z I N E

SPECIAL ISSUE



TOP 100 WINES OF THE YEAR

BY THE BEVERAGE TESTING INSTITUTE IN

THIS IS IT: THE SUMMIT, THE PINNACLE, THE LOFTY MOUNT OLYMPUS OF WINES TASTED THIS YEAR. HEREWITH OUR 100 WINES OF THE GODS.

SPARKLING WINES

97 Ca' del Bosco 1991 Cuvée Annamaria Clementi, Franciacorta, Italy. Opulent aromas, with a yeasty, Champagne-like flavor profile. Rich and quite round in the mouth with an excellent persistence of bubbles. May have seen a touch of oak because vanilla nuances rear up in the finish. \$71

95 Gosset 1985 Grand Millésime, Champagne. Mature, evolved aromas have nutty, toasty richness that follows through on the palate with a silky yet powerful character showing great maturity. Aristocratic, artisan style that opens up spectacularly with aeration. Drink with food. \$82

97 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 1995 Grand Cru, La Tâche. Powerful, brooding aromas. Extremely solid and tight with enormous, earthy depth and impressive levels of ripeness, though still a very austere wine. \$350

96 Krug 1989 Brut, Champagne. Outstanding vinous nose follows through on a richly flavored palate, showing an oily texture and powerful, spicy, nutty flavors through the finish. Drinking very well now, though this will develop much more complexity. \$120

RED WINES

97 Ca' del Bosco 1995 Maurizio Zanella, Rosso del Sebino, Italy. Generous aromas follow through with complex flavors. Firm and highly structured with excellent balance and grip. Still rather tough on the finish, but should develop beautifully with age. \$82

96 Vega Sicilia 1986 Unico Reserva, Ribera del Duero, Spain. Pronounced spicy, toasty nose. Hugely concentrated plum and black-fruit flavors expand on the palate, deferring to smoky vanilla-oak flavors on the finish. Outstanding mouthfeel and length, though this is a little reined-in at present. Extra cellar age would benefit this. \$125

97 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars (CA) 1995 Cask 23, Napa Valley. Brown spice and expressive Cabernet fruit aromas open up on the palate. Forceful, abrupt dry tannins give a firm finish through which fruit generosity is still very marked. \$120

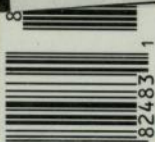
96 Guigal 1994 "La Turque," Côte-Rôtie. Exotically aromatic, with a firm and well-structured mouthfeel. Has fine intensity and length, with excellent grip through the finish. Despite the extraordinarily developed aromas, this has fine cellaring potential. \$150

96 Domaine Comte Georges de Vogüé 1996 Grand Cru, Les Bonnes Mares. Exotic aromas lead to a forceful, powerful palate. Excellent focus and depth with a firm, intense, and direct finish. Well balanced, this heavyweight should cellar for the long haul. \$NA

TOP 100 WINES OF THE YEAR

Vintage Reports From Around the World

Updated Comprehensive Vintage Chart



Can \$3.95 • UK £2.50