



WINES FOR **\$15** OR LESS **RATED 90+**

WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAGAZINE

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**SUPER
SIMPLE
ST-GERMAIN
COCKTAIL**

PAGE 28

TOP

100

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FROM
THE

**WINE
FRIENDLY
RECIPES
THANK
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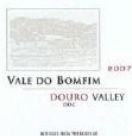
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TOP 100 BEST BUYS 2010

62

90 Château de Valcombe 2005 Prestige (Costières de Nîmes); \$15. There's a lot going on in this bargain-priced beauty: black olive, earth, leather and coffee mingle on the nose, while the flavors add fruitier notes of black cherry and savory notes of dried spices. It's softly tannic, and long on the finish. Drink now–2015. Imported by Robert Kacher Imports.

66



69



88 Luigi B. (Luján) Viognier with come across as and balance, w cot properly re into play. Fade the finish, whic ing the wine. Imported by T

70

90 Casa do Valle 2008 Grande Escolha (Vinho Verde); \$15. Made to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Casa do Valle winery, this is an impressively rich Vinho Verde. It is smooth, creamy, with green plum and apricot flavors, the acidity a well-balanced counterpoint. Imported by Triage Wines.

90 Te Ka (Mart) Pinot Noir, ju bright, berry-sc ously earthy an elements backed by dark fruit and a long, cloy finish. Drink it now and over the next few years. Imported by Liquid Brands LLC.

65

89 Pedro Romero NV Dark, Sweet Moscatel (Jerez); \$13. Cinnamon, nutmeg, a pinch of iodine and more spice than fruit on the nose. Flavors of brown sugar and toffee are satisfying, while the feel is fresh with no excess weight. Finishes with caramel, butter, toffee, coffee and pepper. A fit wine that's priced well. Imported by Frontier Wine Imports.

68

87 Rayun 2008 Syrah (Rapel Valley); \$8. If you don't mind a bit of herbal character, this is a nice, easy drinking Syrah with raspberry and cherry aromas and timidity as opposed to a forceful attack. Zesty berry fruit rules the palate, which finishes in round, roasted form. Nice but sort of generic. Imported by Montecastelli Selections.

71



90 Cameron Hughes 2007 Lot 129 Gamacha (Campo de Borja); \$15. This is nothing more than a few barrels of wine bottled by Hughes, a so-called "global vintner." And like its Lot 128 brother, it is really good juice. Inky and floral, with blueberry and wild raspberry flavors. It's smooth, fresh, bold and finishes with mint and

LIVERMORE, FOREVERMORE

The first American wine to win a French competition hailed not from Napa Valley, but Cresta Blanca Winery in Livermore, some 60 miles southeast. It received the Grand Prix at the 1889 Paris Exposition with its first vintage.