

GLOBAL REACH

150 WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD THAT OFFER OUTSTANDING QUALITY AT \$25 OR LESS

BY KEITH NEWTON

Not long ago, there were only a handful of countries that produced truly great wines at affordable prices. Established regions with a long tradition of winegrowing were able to deliver

high quality at lower prices and in larger quantities. There were certainly bargains to be found in other areas, but many of them lacked the character or complexity to be considered exceptional.

The past decade has blurred this divide. There are now producers in every corner of the wine world delivering well-priced bottlings that consistently earn outstanding ratings of 90 points or higher on *Wine Spectator's* 100-point scale. Improved farming techniques and winemaking methods have greatly contributed to this change, as has a deeper sense among vintners, especially in the New World, of which grapes are best-suited to which appellations. Another important factor has been growing consumer demand, since wine drinkers are more knowledgeable than ever and are clamoring for distinctive wines at every price point.

Covering many of the world's major wine regions, the wines selected for this story all rate 90-plus, cost \$25 or less and are made in large-enough quantities to be widely available. They are representative of the best each country has to offer in terms of quality for the price and also make an excellent introduction to their leading grapes and styles. In some cases, it's mainly a region's signature wine that makes the cut—Pinot Noir in Oregon, Malbec in Argentina, Douro reds in Portugal—yet in many other places, from California, Australia and Chile to France, Italy and Spain, there's an impressive level of diversity on display, revealing just how many great values are being made in the world today.



Argentina

92 | \$25 | Bodega Colomé | Malbec Salta 2014 | Offers zesty flavors redolent of kirsch, raspberry ganache, red currant and crushed red plum, with concentrated minerality midpalate. (K.M.)

91 | \$22 | Finca Decero | Malbec Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2015 | Elegant, with cherry, plum and currant flavors supported by fresh acidity, lingering with ginger and white pepper. (K.M.)

90 | \$18 | Antigal Winery & Estates | Malbec Mendoza Uno 2014 | This structured red offers flavors of dried raspberry and cherry tart accented by beefy notes, ending minerally. (K.M.)

90 | \$20 | Clos de los Siete | Uco Valley 2013 | Dark plum, cherry and blackberry flavors show lots of plush minty notes in this red, lathered with rich, spicy accents. Malbec blend. (K.M.)

90 | \$25 | Lamadrid | Bonarda Agrelo Reserva 2014 | There are lots of brick notes in this brambly red, with sanguine accents, followed by Asian spice and steeped tea details on the finish. (K.M.)

90 | \$17 | Piattelli | Cabernet Sauvignon Cafayate Valley Reserve 2015 | Dense and juicy, with muscular tannins behind the roasted plum, dark chocolate and cherry tart flavors, showing ample minerality. (K.M.)

Australia

92 | \$25 | Chateau Tanunda | Cabernet Sauvignon Barossa Grand Barossa 2015 | Generous, with plush blackberry and blueberry flavors that show notes of Turkish coffee, cigar box and green peppercorn. (M.W.)

92 | \$20 | First Drop | Shiraz Barossa Mother's Milk 2015 | Juicy and vivid, this red bursts with cherry and cranberry flavors that are smooth and generous, finishing supple and creamy. (M.W.)

92 | \$20 | Schild | Shiraz Barossa Valley 2015 | Toasted herb notes are distinctive in this expressive red, with rosemary and bay leaf accents to the dried cherry and blackberry core. (M.W.)

92 | \$20 | Yalumba | Grenache Barossa Old Bush Vine 2015 | Elegant, with plump, ripe raspberry flavors at the core, accented by hints of tobacco, licorice and spice. Powerful and pure on the finish. (M.W.)

91 | \$20 | Austins & Co. | Pinot Noir Geelong Six Foot Six 2014 | Supple and aromatic, offering juicy cherry and strawberry flavors at the core, accented by hints of sage, cedar, green tea and spice. (M.W.)

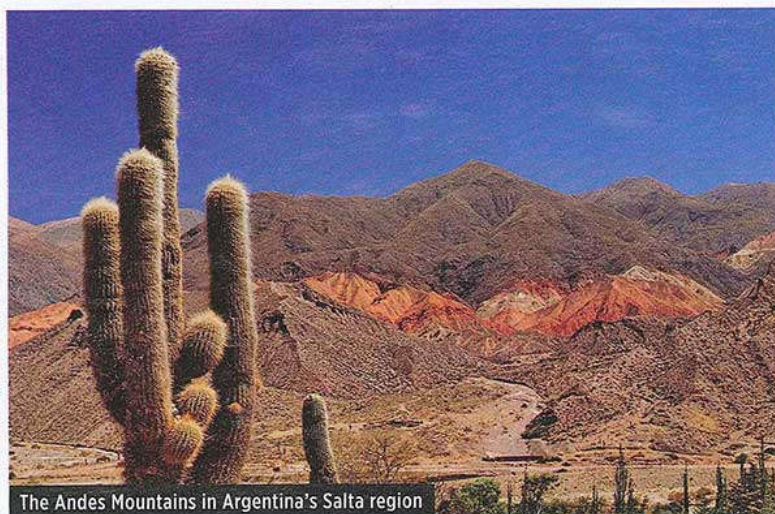
91 | \$20 | Jim Barry | Riesling Clare Valley The Lodge Hill Dry 2016 | A taut and linear white, with a lip-smacking blend of peach, lime and green apple flavors, finishing on a refreshing note. (M.W.)

91 | \$23 | Tait | The Ball Buster Barossa Valley 2014 | Bold, with dark chocolate-covered coffee bean, plum paste, wild blackberry, cigar box and date bread notes. Expressive and generous. Shiraz blend. (M.W.)

90 | \$20 | Innocent Bystander | Pinot Noir Yarra Valley 2016 | Plush and elegant, with raspberry, cherry and fresh sage notes that are harmonious, juicy and intense on the finish. (M.W.)

90 | \$20 | Penley | Cabernet Sauvignon Coonawarra Phoenix 2015 | Dense tannins and flavors are packed into this red, with olive and licorice nuances to the plum, cassis, sage, tobacco and cedar flavors. (M.W.)

90 | \$17 | Wakefield | Riesling Clare Valley 2016 | Citrus and floral notes mingle effortlessly on a light, lithe body in this charming white, with a crescendo of acidity on the finish. (M.W.)



The Andes Mountains in Argentina's Salta region

Chile

92 | \$23 | Viña Montes | Syrah Colchagua Valley Alpha 2014 | Lithe, rich and concentrated, this red offers dark plum, currant and bramble flavors flanked by Asian spice and mocha notes. (K.M.)

91 | \$20 | Viña Errázuriz | Chardonnay Aconcagua Coast Max Reserva 2016 | Minerally and rich-tasting, with finely crafted flavors of apple, citrus, pear and spice that are supported by fresh acidity. (K.M.)

90 | \$20 | Casas del Bosque | Pinot Noir Casablanca Valley Gran Reserva 2014 | Offers lots of cedary accents to the fresh, concentrated and well-integrated flavors of dried cherry, wild plum and pomegranate. (K.M.)

90 | \$17 | Chateau Los Boldos | Cabernet Sauvignon Cachapoal Valley Grande Reserve 2015 | Polished and rich-tasting, showing dark plum, cherry tart and chocolate mousse flavors, with dried blackberry and green olive notes. (K.M.)

90 | \$22 | Concha y Toro | Chardonnay Limarí Valley Marques de Casa Concha 2015 | Steely and rich, with powerful flavors of dried apple, pear and allspice that show luscious honeysuckle details midpalate. (K.M.)

90 | \$15 | Viña Siegel | 1234 Reserva Colchagua Valley 2015 | Offers lots of freshness, with green herb accents to the dark currant and roasted plum flavors, followed by a minerally finish. Syrah blend. (K.M.)

90 | \$18 | Viña Tarapacá | Carmenère Maipo Valley Gran Reserva 2015 | Lip-smacking flavors of plum tart, cherry and kirsch show floral accents, with lively acidity and a lingering finish of olive and coffee. (K.M.)

90 | \$20 | Los Vascos | Cabernet Sauvignon Colchagua Grande Reserve 2013 | This plush, juicy red features well-structured flavors of dark plum, forest floor, smoke and black currant, accented by savory notes. (K.M.)

France

92 | \$20 | Château Brown | Pessac-Léognan 2014 | Very solid, offering a core of gently steeped black currant and plum fruit that shows ample depth, with notes of bay leaf, loam and bramble. (J.M.)

92 | \$22 | Château Laroze | St.-Emilion 2014 | Broad and fleshy, with a core of warm fig and blackberry confiture that unfolds slowly, letting licorice, tobacco and bramble notes fan out. (J.M.)

91 | \$24 | Boutinot | Côtes du Rhône-Villages Séguret Les Coteaux Schisteux 2014 | An alluring red, with mulled spice and black tea aromas leading to a silky core of raspberry and plum sauce flavors. (J.M.)