

Robb Report

# HOST'S GUIDE

HOLIDAY  
2012



SUBLIME POURS TO  
SUIT THE MOST REFINED TASTES

100 WINTER WINES ★ SPIRITS FOR GIVING  
THE SEASON'S BEST BARWARE



# WINTAGES

■ Our 100 favorite wines for the season. ■

By **Brett Anderson** | Photography By **Cordero Studios**



Barware, from left: Ralph Lauren Home Sabrina tray (\$395) and Adley corkscrew (\$150/set, [www.ralphlaurenhome.com](http://www.ralphlaurenhome.com)); Baccarat Chateau wine glass (\$85) and Clair de Lune wine glasses (\$150 each); Saint-Louis Oxymore water glass (\$169, [www.saint-louis.com](http://www.saint-louis.com)); Rogaska Saint Tropez decanter (\$180). Except where otherwise indicated, all from Gearys ([www.gearys.com](http://www.gearys.com)). Wallpaper from Graham & Brown ([www.grahambrown.com](http://www.grahambrown.com)).



**"WE ARE BORN AT A GIVEN MOMENT,** in a given place," reflected the eminent psychologist Carl Gustav Jung, "and, like vintage years of wine, we have the qualities of the year and of the season of which we are born."

The similarities between people and fine wines are many. Like a full-bodied California Cabernet, some of us are vibrant and effusive in our youth, while others start out as withdrawn or reserved as a young grand cru Burgundy from the Côte de Nuits. Yet time and experience temper our excesses and reveal our true inner character. To say that we improve with age suggests that something is lacking from the start; but we do evolve,

and our personalities acquire nuances that reflect the different stages of our lives.

Particularly during this season, when young and old alike celebrate these milestones, we take special care to match the right wine to the right personality—at the right moment. Whether one is selecting a gift or hosting a holiday gathering, pairing wines with people is a delicate matter. To assist in this endeavor, we have assembled our annual list of 100 bottles, each with its own unique persona. These outstanding offerings are grouped in a convenient chart according to their styles; more detailed descriptions of each release can be found in the alphabetical listings that follow.

### BIG, BOLD, AND RICH

Amuse Bouche 2010 Merlot Napa Valley  
 Au Sommet 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley  
 Bello Family Vineyards 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Rutherford  
 Bond Estate 2008 Vecina Napa Valley  
 Château Pavie 2009 St.-Émilion  
 Craggy Range 2010 Le Sol Gimblett Gravels Vineyard Hawke's Bay  
 E. Guigal 2008 Côte-Rôtie La Landonne  
 Hall 2009 Kathryn Hall Cabernet Sauvignon  
 Joseph Drouhin 2009 Musigny Grand Cru  
 Lokoya 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Mt. Veeder  
 Marchesi Antinori 2008 Solaia Toscana  
 Mt. Brave 2009 Malbec Mt. Veeder  
 Pénfolds 2007 Grange South Australia  
 Vin Perdu 2010 Napa Valley

### CLASSIC BALANCE AND FINESSE

Blackbird Vineyards 2009 Illustration Proprietary Red Wine  
 Chappellet 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Pritchard Hill  
 Château Haut-Brion 2009 Pessac-Léognan  
 Colgin 2009 IX Estate Proprietary Red Wine  
 Dominus Estate 2009 Red Wine Napa Valley  
 Fattoria le Pupille 2007 Saffredi Maremma Toscana  
 Frank Family 2008 Winston Hill Rutherford  
 Harlan Estate 2008 Proprietary Red Napa Valley  
 Le Macchiole 2008 Messorio Toscana  
 Louis Jadot 2009 Clos Vougeot Grand Cru  
 Marchesi Antinori Guado al Tasso 2008  
 Guado al Tasso Bolgheri Superiore  
 Michele Chiarlo 2009 Barbaresco Asili  
 O'Shaughnessy Estate Vineyards 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Mount Veeder  
 Rodney Strong 2009 Alexander's Crown Cabernet Sauvignon Alexander Valley  
 Spottswoode 2009 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon  
 Tenuta dell'Ornellaia 2009 Ornellaia Toscana

### STRUCTURED & EARTHY

Armand Rousseau 2008 Chambertin Grand Cru  
 Badia a Coltobuono 2007 Sangioveseto di Toscana  
 Brewer-Clifton 2009 Pinot Noir Clos Pepe Vineyard  
 Capioux Cellars 2010 Pinot Noir Pisoni Vineyard  
 Dana Estate 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Lotus Vineyard  
 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 2009 La Tâche Grand Cru  
 En Route 2010 Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Les Pommiers  
 Inman Family 2009 Pinot Noir Olivet Grange Vineyard  
 Kenzo 2009 Ai  
 Monteverro 2008 Terra di Monteverro  
 San Felice 2007 Pugnitello de San Felice  
 Staglin Family Vineyards 2009 Ineo Napa Valley  
 Tenuta San Guido 2009 Sassicaia  
 Vérité 2008 La Joie  
 Vineyard Seven and Eight 2009 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

### RIPE AND FRUITY

Archery Summit 2009 Arcus Estate Pinot Noir  
 Beckman 2009 Grenache Purissima Mountain Vineyard  
 Freeman 2010 Pinot Noir Keefer Ranch  
 Hundred Acre 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Ark Vineyard  
 JCB by Jean-Charles Boisset No. 3 Pinot Noir  
 Paul Jaboulet Ainée 2009 Hermitage La Chapelle  
 PharaohMoans 2010 Paso Robles West Side Red Wine  
 Pine Ridge 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Fortis  
 Promise 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

### SPICE AND WOOD

Bouchard Finlayson 2009 Hannibal Walker Cape South Africa  
 Castiglioni del Bosco 2006 Brunello di Montalcino Campo del Drago  
 Domaine Faiveley 2009 Chambertin Clos de Bèze Grand Cru  
 Longoria 2009 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega Vineyard  
 Marchesi Antinori 2009 Tignanello Toscana  
 Masi 2007 Amarone di Valpolicella Costasera Riserva  
 Pali Wine Co. 2010 Pinot Noir Cargasacchi Vineyard  
 Qupè 2007 Syrah Bien Nacido Hillside  
 Tenuta degli Dei 2009 Cavalli Toscana  
 Vall Llach 2007 Vall Llach Priorat

### FULL-BODIED WHITES AND ROSÉS

Aubert 2010 Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Reuling Vineyard  
 Camille Giroud 2009 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru  
 Château d'Esclans 2010 Côtes de Provence Rosé Les Clans  
 Domaine Leflaive 2009 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru  
 Gary Farrell 2009 Chardonnay Westside Farms Russian River Valley  
 J. Rocchioli 2010 Chardonnay Russian River Valley Rachael's Vineyard  
 Joseph Drouhin 2009 Chassagne-Montrachet Morgeot Marquis de Laguiche Premier Cru  
 Louis Jadot 2009 Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru  
 M. Chapoutier 2009 Ermitage L'Ermitage Blanc  
 Olivier Leflaive 2009 Bâtard-Montrachet Grand Cru  
 Paul Hobbs 2010 Chardonnay Cuvée Agustina Richard Dinner Vineyard  
 Prête à Boire 2011 Rosé Napa Valley

### CRISP, LEAN WHITES

Capture Winery 2011 Sauvignon Blanc Les Pionniers  
 Diatom 2010 Kodo Chardonnay Santa Rita Hills  
 Inama 2010 Vingetti di Foscarino Soave Classico  
 Kenzo 2011 Asatsuyu  
 La Sirena 2011 Moscato Azul  
 Spring Mountain Vineyards 2010 Sauvignon Blanc

### SPARKLING

Charles Heidsieck 1995 Blanc des Millénaires  
 Dom Pérignon 2003 Brut Champagne  
 Dom Pérignon 1992 Oenothèque Rosé Brut Champagne  
 Domaine Carneros by Taittinger 2006 Le Rève  
 Krug Grande Cuvée Brut Champagne NV  
 Perrier-Jouet 2004 Belle Époque Florale Edition  
 Piper Heidsieck Millésime 2002 Brut Champagne Rare  
 Pol Roger 2000 Brut Blanc de Blancs  
 Salon 1999 Blanc de Blancs Champagne Le Mesnil  
 Schramsberg 2004 Reserve

### DESSERTS

Château Climens 2009 Barsac  
 Château D'Yquem 2009 Sauternes  
 Darroush 2007 Shahpar Late Harvest  
 Donnafugata 2009 Ben Ryé Passito di Pantelleria  
 Royal Tokaji 2005 Betsék







### M. CHAPOUTIER 2009 ERMITAGE L'ERMITTE BLANC

A tropical sensation, this creamy, full-bodied white Rhône bursts forth with coconut, mango, and banana, as well as ripe fig. (\$325)

### MARCHESI ANTINORI 2008 GUADO AL TASSO BOLGHERI SUPERIORE

This gorgeous Bordeaux-style blend from Bolgheri is beautifully paced on the palate, gradually unfolding its layers of black currant, dried sage, and graphite. (\$100)

### MARCHESI ANTINORI 2008 SOLAIA TOSCANA

This superb small-production wine is alluringly dark—an inky infusion of black cherry, blackberry, dark chocolate, anise, and roasted coffee. (\$325)

### MARCHESI ANTINORI 2009 TIGNANELLO TOSCANA

The sister wine of Solaia, this scintillating Sangiovese blend permeates the senses, revealing essences of spiced black cherry, tea, cigar box, and baked clay. (\$105)

### MASI 2007 AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA RISERVA DI COSTASERA

Redolent of violets and dried Bing cherry, this opaque Amarone has a finely wrought tannic structure and bright, fruity acids spiced with black pepper, tea, and cocoa. (\$95)

### MICHELE CHIARLO 2009 BARBARESCO ASILI

The intensity of fragrance rising from this masterful Barbaresco draws the nose down into the glass to take in its rose-petal, peony, and cherry-blossom aromas. On the palate, this wine is supple and splendidly structured. (\$90)

### MONTEVERRO 2008 TERRA DI MONTEVERRO TOSCANA

At once rustic and refined, this Bordeaux-style blend from southern Tuscany contains a cornucopia of flavors: cassis, boysenberry, grilled bread, black olive, and white mushroom. (\$75)

### MT. BRAVE 2009 MALBEC MT. VEEDER

This dark-hued elixir conjures up delicious notes of black raspberry, anise, allspice, and sarsaparilla. (\$60)

### O'SHAUGHNESSY ESTATE WINERY 2009 CABERNET SAUVIGNON MT. VEEDER

Though the backbone of this massive mountain Cabernet consists of flinty mineral and brawny tannins, it nevertheless reveals, even in extreme youth, a fleshy outward personality of ripe wild berry, black fig, and spearmint. (\$100)

### OLIVIER LEFLAIVE 2009 BÂTARD-MONTRACHET GRAND CRU

This wine showcases the richer side of white Burgundy from the Côte de Beaune, displaying essences of vanilla ice cream, caramel, and candied pineapple followed by bracing acidity. (\$325)

### PALI WINE CO. 2010 PINOT NOIR CARGASACCHI VINEYARD SANTA RITA HILLS

Despite its gorgeous raspberry fruit, this profoundly potable Pinot is defined by spicy elements of cinnamon, sandalwood, clove, and orange zest. (\$54)

### PAUL HOBBS 2010 CHARDONNAY CUVÉE AGUSTINA RICHARD DINNER VINEYARD SONOMA MOUNTAIN

This white's beautiful, mineral-dominated nose of brine and light tobacco belies its luscious flavor profile of peach, pineapple, and hazelnut. (\$100)

### PAUL JABOULET AÎNÉ 2009 HERMITAGE LA CHAPELLE

This big, ripe, gamy northern Rhône red reveals unbelievable breadth and depth, displaying notes of extracted blackberry, black tea, licorice, stony minerals, dried meat, and hints of rust. (\$355)