

NAPA'S MOUNTAIN-GROWN SAUVIGNON • TEQUILA WITH DINNER • JAMÓN Y JEREZ

Wine & Spirits

100

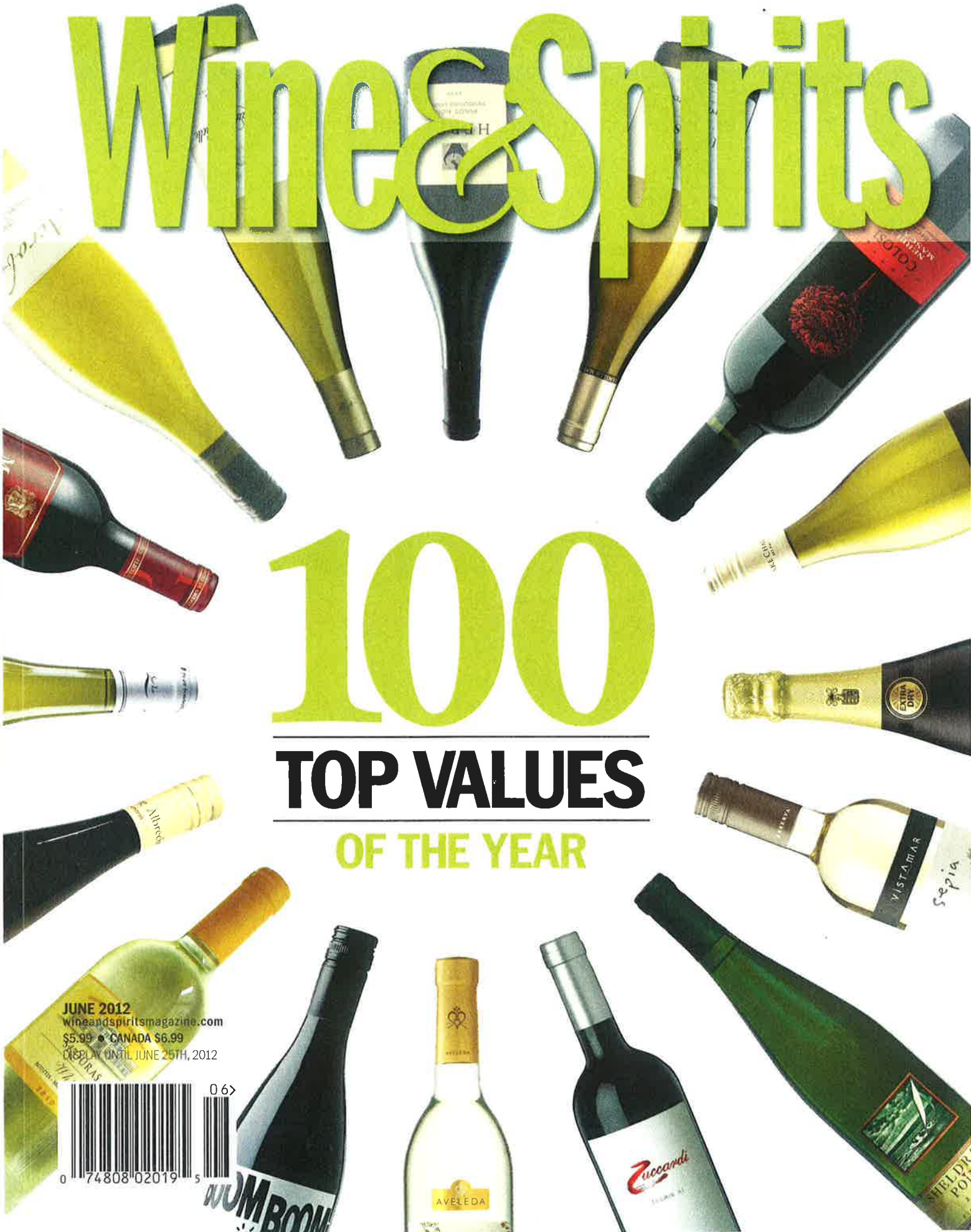
TOP VALUES

OF THE YEAR

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VALUE BRANDS
OF THE YEAR

It's summer. You're going to need a case of wine to take to the mountains for that vacation with friends, and another for the Fourth of July, when they're all coming to your place for a barbecue. You'll need a few bottles for the team after your Saturday-afternoon soccer game, and more to take to the beach. And what about that date at Tanglewood, or the food truck convention downtown?

Here's your shopping list, our 59 favorite value brands from a year of tastings — selected from more than 3,700 wines priced \$18 or less. These are names to know for all your summer events. Each one of the brands on the following pages stands out for its range of notable wines at prices that beat the competition—the definition of great value.

All our Value Brands are worth committing to memory for a year's worth of good drinking.

We've listed the two highest-scoring values from each brand (you can find a complete list of recommended wines online at wineandspiritsmagazine.com). And we asked our editors to share a few specifics on the brands as well as their favorite ways to enjoy them, with notes from Patrick J. Comiskey, Carson Demmond, Lara Douglass, Joshua Greene, Luke Sykora, Patricio Tapia and Tara Q. Thomas.



You're on the twitter feed for your favorite food trucks; you keep a set of foldout chairs, napkins and glasses in the trunk; your corkscrew's in the glove compartment...



Georg Albrecht Schneider's Niersteiner Paterberg Kabinett is hard to beat when it comes to elegance and mineral complexity for \$14; the '09 Dornfelder is also mouthwatering in its bright fruit. Find your favorite truck serving lobster rolls and you'll have all your bases covered.

2010 Rheinhessen Niersteiner Paterberg Riesling Kabinett
(90 | \$14 | 12/11)

2009 Rheinhessen Dornfelder QbA Trocken (88 | \$13 | 12/11)
Winesellers, Niles, IL

Finca El Peral's unoaked Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc should be at the ready for shrimp tacos and guacamole; for barba-coa, uncork the Reserva Red from 70-year-old vineyards growing at 3,609 feet in Tupungato.

2008 Tupungato Reserva Red (90 | \$13 | 6/12)

2011 Chardonnay Tupungato (88 | \$13 | 6/12)
Catamarca Imports, Atlanta, GA



Stone Cap grows at Goose Ridge, a vast estate vineyard near Red Mountain, where the Monson family farms 1,500 acres planted to ten varieties. You'll not find a more affordable estate wine in Washington State. Keep the syrah and merlot on hand for Korean taco truck sightings; they have the heft for short rib tacos or a kim-cheesesteak.

2010 Columbia Valley Syrah
(88 | \$8 | 2/12)

2009 Columbia Valley Estate Merlot
(87 | \$8 | 12/11)

Goose Ridge Vineyards, Benton City, WA



Pacific Rim's riesling is ready for a night by your favorite spicy Thai or pork dumpling truck. The brand, founded by Randall Graham, was snapped up by Banfi Vintners in 2011, now expanding to include a variety of spot-on and delicious chenin blanc.

2008 Columbia Valley Chenin Blanc (90 | \$11 | 4/12)

2010 Columbia Valley Sweet Riesling (90 | \$11 | 4/12)

Pacific Rim, Richland, WA



Kourtaki has become one of Greece's most popular brands on the strength of its easy-going Vin de Crete, restrained piney Retsina or Kouros, a light red made from agiorgitiko—a terrific red for souvlaki. Over the years, Kourtaki has been a consistent member of our Value Brand list.

Mavrodaphne of Patras
(88 | \$14 | 8/11)

2007 Nemea Kouros
(87 | \$14 | 8/11)

Nestor Imports, NY



Forstreiter is the wine for fried chicken—for what is fried chicken but the American version of schnitzel? Try the crisp, herbal 2010 Kremser Kögl or the juicy, spicy Zvy-gelt, the red sibling of their Grooner. Based in Kremstal, 45-year-old Meinhard Forstreiter is regarded as one of the region's most promising winemakers, presiding over 63 sustainably farmed acres.

2009 Niederosterreich Zvy-gelt Zweigelt (90 | \$12 | 4/12)

2010 Niederosterreich Kremser Kögl Grüner Veltliner
(83 | \$15 | 4/12)

Monika Caha Selections/Frederick Wildman and Sons, NY



Mancura's Gran Reserva 2009, a blend of syrah, cabernet franc and merlot, is one of the least expensive cool-climate reds you'll find at such a high level of quality. It's made by Morandé, a Casablanca Valley pioneer, and it's ready for the porchetta truck—or whatever meaty goodness drives down the street.

2009 Casablanca Valley Gran Reserva (91 | \$10 | 6/12)

2010 Maipo Valley Guardian Reserva Carmenère
(88 | \$11 | 6/12)

Morande USA, Atlanta, GA