

WE PICK OUR TOP 100 CELLAR SELECTIONS OF 2012 48



# WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2012

## HOST A HOLIDAY WINE DINNER

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PARTY WINES**  
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**+** GIFTS FOR THE  
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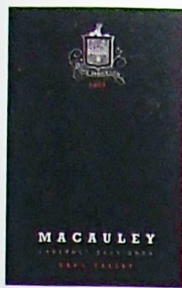
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**6** WARM COGNACS  
FOR COLD WEATHER PAGE 82

**GO TO:** [Winemag.com](http://Winemag.com)

**VEAL  
BREAST  
"AL LATTE"  
WITH FRIED  
SAGE**  
SEE PAGE 89  
FOR RECIPE

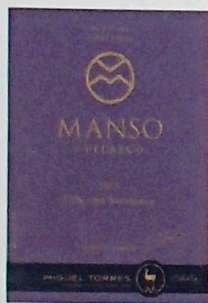




**93 Macauley 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** The question with this dramatic Cabernet is: How will it age? It's a big wine, dry and impressively rich in blackberry, black currant, dark chocolate and crème de cassis. It's also tannic, and the considerable new oak hasn't fully integrated yet. If you have a good cellar, stash it away until 2015. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$72



**93 Miguel Torres 2008 Manso de Velasco Viñas Viejas Cabernet Sauvignon (Curió Valley).** This is as stout as they come, with excellent depth, structure and pulse, all of which make it a prime cellar candidate. It shows balsamic aromas of cedar, spiced berry and earth. The mouthfeel is ripe and smooth, with grip and power held in reserve. It tastes of chocolatey berry fruit and savory herb, and it's warm and roasted on the finish. Drink from 2013–2018. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.

abv: 14%

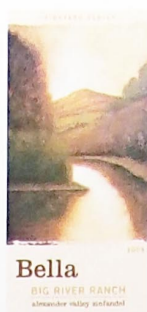
Price: \$65



**93 Trisaetum 2010 Ribbon Ridge Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** This is a firm wine, tightly-wound, with whiffs of mineral and cement. Plum and cherry flavors mingle with notes of dried herb, earth and brown spice. The wine rolls along into a lengthy finish, with excellent body and balance. *Cellar Selection.* —P.C.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$55



**92 Bella 2009 Big River Ranch Zinfandel (Alexander Valley).** This is dry, rich, heady, spicy and utterly delicious. As usual, it contains a splash of Petite Sirah. Already throwing some sediment, it's pretty tannic, with complex flavors of wild blackberry and blueberry, black currant, licorice, cola, bacon and plum sauce, with a hint of exotic pepper and spice. This great Zinfandel is a joy to drink. —S.H.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$38



**92 Feudi di San Gregorio 2010 Privilegio (Irpinia).** A precious *passito* dessert wine made partly from Fiano, this is redolent of honey, candied fruit and sweet almond. The palate is creamy and soft, with a sweet apricot overtone and a touch of fresh acidity. Palm Bay International. —M.L.

abv: 12%

Price: \$60/500 ml



**92 Feudo Arancio Stemmari 2009 Hekate Passito (Sicilia).** The folks at Feudo Arancio Stemmari have been playing around with this dessert wine's blend for a number of years. They have achieved impressive results with this vintage, which boasts a dark golden color and intense aromas of honey, candied fruit and peach. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —M.L.

abv: 12%

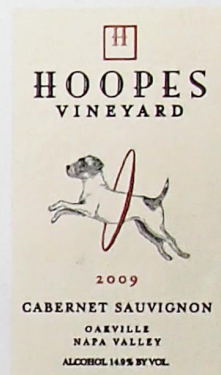
Price: \$31/500 ml



**92 H. Blin 2002 Blin's Édition Limitée Milésime Extra Brut (Champagne).** Tight acidity dominates this top cuvée from Blin, and between that and its strong citrus character, it needs time to breathe before drinking. Then it fills out with delicious, refreshing acidity, followed by a crisp finish. Robert Houde Wines. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

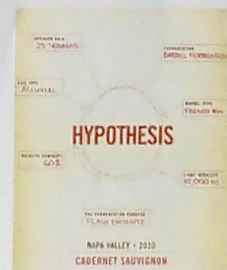
Price: \$70



**92 Hoopes 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** The tannins are tough as nails on this 100% Cabernet, so even though it has a beautiful core of blackberries and cassis, it isn't drinkable now. Such is the purity of the structure that the wine should easily hold its own for 10–12 years, throwing sediment and gathering mellow sweetness. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$65



**92 Hypothesis 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Ripe, smooth and flashy, this Cab easily stands beside more expensive bottlings. It has that Napa Valley quality of elegant complexity and dryness. The cool vintage has resulted in intense blackberry and currant flavors, while preserving vital acidity and brisk tannins. Oak adds the perfect touch of smoky-wood sweetness. Drink this fancy Cabernet over the next 4–5 years. —S.H.

abv: 15%

Price: \$40