

Wine & Spirits | 29th Annual BUYING GUIDE

SPECIAL ISSUE

100

Best Wines Best Buys

Top 100 Wineries of 2015



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Four of our Top 100:
Cobb, Niepoort,
Penfolds and Bollinger



Wineries to Watch

It's exciting to discover a new bottle of great wine, especially when it's from a winery that's just beginning to flourish. These 12 wineries caught our attention as talent to follow in the coming year.

Walter Scott Wines in

Eola-Amity Hills, Oregon

Walter Scott was established in 2009 by Ken Pahlow and Erica Landon, young wine professionals from different arms of the industry—Pahlow managed sales at two Oregon wineries, St. Innocent and Evening Land Vineyards; Landon spent her early career as a sommelier, working at *10-01* in Portland's Pearl District and Mt. Hood's Timberline Lodge. The winery is on Bethel Heights Road, planted squarely in the blast zone of the Van Duzer Corridor. Focusing on chardonnay and pinot noir, Pahlow and Landon draw nearly all of their fruit from this southerly sub-AVA, turning out wines like the 2012 Temperance Hill Pinot: vinous, earthbound and savory, a wine true to its place. —P.J.C.

Envínate in Spain

Four friends from university, Laura Ramos, Roberto Santana, Jose Martinez and Alfonso Torrente are revolutionizing Spanish wine. After graduation from enology school in 2005, they began to consult for wineries. Now they've launched their own project, making wines in some of Spain's most rugged and challenging environments. Focusing on very old vines and native grapes, they work in an old-school way, without any chemicals in the vineyards or additives in the winery, aging their foot-trodden wines in old wooden barrels. Whether it's a white blended from 100-year-old plantings of gual, listán blanco, marmajuelo, albillo criollo and malvasia in Tenerife, or a wild mencia from Ribeira Sacra in Galicia (like the Parcela Camino Novo, off 70-year-old vines at 1,400 feet in altitude), their wines are fresh, alive and pure in their flavors. —P.T.

Imported by José Pastor Selections/Vinos and Gourmet, Richmond, CA



Richard Böcking in Mosel, Germany

Although this estate dates to Napoleon's time, it had fallen off the map until 2010, when owner Leweke von Marschall decided she either needed to sell the winery or pour energy into renewing it.

She went for a complete overhaul, as the estate has great bones—all of its holdings are in top-class sites, such as Trarbacher Schlossberg, a steep slope of decomposed gray slate with vines as old as 80 years. Her new team is led by 33-year-old winemaker Simon Trös, who vinifies without added yeast, and ages the wines in a combination of oak and stainless steel. The 2012s—the first vintage from the renewed estate—are impressive across the board, most especially the Alte Reben QbA, its stony flavor welling up to fill the mouth with a force and presence that promises more to come with time. —T.Q.T.

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