

# Wine Spectator

WineSpectator.com

## Barbara Banke

**EXPANDING AN  
EMPIRE AT JACKSON  
FAMILY WINES**

**CALIFORNIA  
CABERNET 2014  
A CLASSIC YEAR  
250 AT 90+**

**150 OUTSTANDING  
GLOBAL VALUES  
AT \$25 OR LESS**

NOV. 15, 2017  
\$6.99 US



46 >



# About the Buying Guide

This Buying Guide contains ratings of new releases from around the world and the results of special tastings reported on in greater depth elsewhere in the issue.

Complete tasting notes are provided for all new releases scoring 85 or more points (on the *Wine Spectator* 100-point scale, explained below); notes for wines scoring 84 points or less are included at the discretion of the taster. Additional reviews appear on our website, [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com).

Each review carries the initials of the *Wine Spectator* editor who blind-tasted and scored the wine and wrote the review, based on the regional specializations indicated below. If no reviewer's initials appear, the wine was tasted by a panel of *Wine Spectator* editors.

James Laube	California
Harvey Steiman	At large
Thomas Matthews	Spain
Kim Marcus	Argentina, California, Chile
Bruce Sanderson	Austria, Burgundy, Germany, Italy
James Molesworth	Bordeaux, Loire Valley, Port, Rhône Valley, South Africa
MaryAnn Worobiec	Australia, California, New Zealand
Alison Napjus	Alsace, Champagne, Italy
Tim Fish	California, Oregon, Washington
Gillian Sciaretta	France, Portugal

## How We Do the Tastings

*Wine Spectator* editors taste approximately 20,000 wines each year. Wines are tasted in our offices in New York and Napa, Calif. Tastings are also conducted on location in various European winegrowing regions.

All tastings are conducted in private, under controlled conditions. Wines are always tasted blind, in flights organized by varietal, appellation or region. Bottles are bagged and coded. Tasters are told only the general type of wine (varietal or region) and the vintage. Price is not taken into account. Each tasting begins with a wine previously rated, which is tasted non-blind as a reference point. Other already-rated wines are inserted into the blind tasting to ensure consistency. A typical tasting-session consists of 20 to 30 wines, with a maximum of two sessions per day. We retaste many wines to confirm impressions, always in subsequent blind tastings.

Notes and ratings are entered directly into our database prior to the removal of the bags. Additional comments may be added to a note after the identity of the wine is revealed, but the score is never changed.

## Featured Wines: Spectator Selections, Labels and Photographs

Each issue, our editors choose wines with special qualities, called Spectator Selections, they are highlighted in the first pages of this Buying Guide, along with their labels. The categories are described below. In addition, selected reviews throughout the Buying Guide include a photograph of a winery principal, presenting these producers in a more personal way. All labels and images are chosen by *Wine Spectator* for editorial purposes only and do not represent any commercial transaction between *Wine Spectator* and the producers whose wines are featured.

**Highly Recommended:** The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.

**Collectibles:** Wines that will improve most from additional bottle age and that show the greatest potential to gain in value.

**Smart Buys:** Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.

**Best Values:** Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.

## About Prices and Wines Tasted

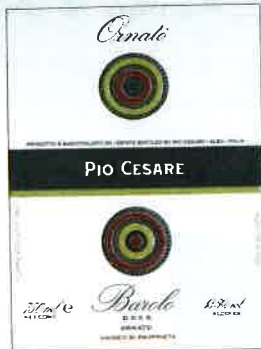
Prices shown reflect the suggested retail price. When the suggested retail price is not available, we publish the prevailing wholesale price with a standard markup added. Actual retail prices may vary.

Wines are chosen for tasting from among those sent to our offices for review and those purchased at retail. Because we for the most part serve a U.S. audience, we prefer to review wines that are widely available there.

## About the 100-Point Scale

Ratings reflect how highly our editors regard each wine relative to other wines in its category and are based on potential quality—how good the wine will be when at its peak. The score summarizes a wine's overall quality; the tasting note describes the wine's style and character.

95-100	Classic: a great wine
90-94	Outstanding: a wine of superior character and style
85-89	Very good: a wine with special qualities
80-84	Good: a solid, well-made wine
75-79	Mediocre: a drinkable wine that may have minor flaws
50-74	Not recommended



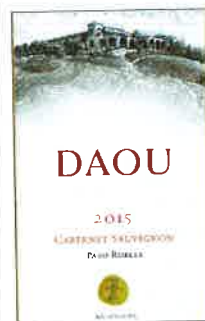
**95 Pio Cesare Barolo Ornato 2013 \$130 ITALY** Starts out with breadth and depth to the cherry, earth, leather, tar and leafy flavors, turning more focused as the tightly wound structure emerges. The kaleidoscopic finish goes on and on. Best from 2023 through 2043. 415 cases imported.—B.S.



**95 Gaja Barbaresco Sori San Lorenzo 2014 \$485 ITALY** Earthy notes lead off, followed by cherry, plum, graphite and tobacco flavors. Starts out broad and muscular, with a thick layer of tannins for support, yet gains elegance with aeration. A tad austere on the finish, but stays vibrant and long. Best from 2021 through 2036. 170 cases imported.—B.S.

## Smart Buys

Wines that deliver fine character at affordable prices and that are broadly available.



**93 Daou Cabernet Sauvignon Paso Robles 2015 \$28 CALIFORNIA** Plump and juicy, this seamless effort is focused on red berry and jammy notes, showing plush tannins, depth of flavor and length. Ultra-ripe but stays within bounds. Drink now through 2030. 20,000 cases made.—J.L.

## WINESPECTATOR.COM

For more than 358,000 wine ratings, use WineSpectator.com's Wine Ratings search, where members can search by winery, wine name, region, variety, vintage, price and score. Find it at [www.winespectator.com/wine](http://www.winespectator.com/wine).