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THE ULTIMATE PAIRING PAGE 58

# VINE ENTHUSIAST®

THE WORLD IN YOUR GLASS

MARCH 2014

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emag.com



**Bellisario 2012 Vigneti del Cerro (Verdicchio di Matelica).** This textbook Verdicchio from Matelica opens with enticing aromas of yellow flowers, stone fruit and citrus. The delicious palate offers peach, tropical fruit and mineral flavors with a hint of sea salt. Villa Italia. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**Fontezoppa 2012 Verdicchio di Matelica.** This beautiful wine opens with a heady floral fragrance of jasmine, broom, acacia and beeswax. The palate delivers succulent creamy peach and pineapple notes, with a hint of bitter almond. The creaminess is brightened by mouthwatering acidity and, delicious now, this will develop additional complexity; drink 2014–2020. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**Price:** \$10

**Muròla 2012 Verdicchio di Matelica.** For full review see page 76. *Best Buy.*  
**Price:** \$14

**Bellisario 2012 Terre di Valbona (Verdicchio di Matelica).** This opens with attractive aromas of yellow spring flowers and an assortment of tree fruits. The vibrant palate offers lemon, lime, apple and pineapple flavors alongside acidity. Artisan Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**Price:** \$14

## OFFIDA PECORINO

**Guido Cocci Grifoni 2012 Colle Vecchio (Offida Pecorino).** From the estate that saved the Offida Pecorino grape from extinction, this focused and elegant wine intrigues from the start, with its floral aromas of jasmine and acacia, layered with whiffs of aromatic herbs. The palate demonstrates lovely balance and elegance, with peach and tropical fruit accents, accented by mineral and almond. Empson Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**Price:** \$16

**Ciù Ciù 2012 Merlettaie (Offida Pecorino).** This opens with Pecorino's classic fragrance of acacia and hawthorne, accented with hints of stone fruit. On the palate, it delivers a mix of peach and apple flavors, with notes of ginger, lime and a drop of honey. Energizing minerality carries through the finish. Villa Italia. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**Price:** \$17

**Clara Marcelli 2012 IRATA (Offida Pecorino).** Made from organically farmed grapes, this wine opens with intense aromas of acacia and hawthorne. The medium-bodied palate delivers a mix of fruit, peach and pear flavors alongside crisp acidity. A delicate mineral note marks the close. Vinum USA Inc. —K.O.  
**Price:** \$23

**Colli Ripani 2012 Rugaro Gold (Offida Pecorino).** Bright and savory, this floral scented

Pecorino offers juicy tropical fruit and lemon drop sensations accented by notes of mint and thyme. The ripe fruit is balanced by brisk acidity that leaves the palate feeling cleansed and refreshed. The Harvest Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Poderi San Lazzaro 2012 Pistillo (Offida Pecorino).** Attractive floral scents of yellow flowers and Alpine herbs meld with juicy flavors of creamy peach, apple and lemon, all accented by hints of thyme and sage. Aging 25% of the wine in wood lends a touch of complexity to the savory flavors. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

**89 Villa Bizzarri 2012 Primo Cerchio (Offida Pecorino).** Here's a delicious Pecorino that opens with appealing if unusual aromas of tilled soil alongside more classic floral notes of Spanish broom and acacia. It boasts ripe white peach, juicy pineapple and lemon custard flavors, along with almond and mineral notes. Siena Imports. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Collevite 2012 Villa Piatti (Offida Pecorino).** This opens with variety's signature floral fragrance of acacia and jasmine, accented by tropical fruit. The flavors of creamy lemon, pear, tangerine and lime are accented with hints of dried Mediterranean herbs. This is linear and focused. Park Avenue Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$22

**88 Saladini Pilastrini 2012 Offida Pecorino.** Here's a bright and delicious Pecorino, with sensations of white peach, pear, tropical fruit and lemon zest. The savory palate is uplifted by a vein of energizing minerality. Pair this with pastas topped with shellfish. Saranty Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 La Canosa 2012 Pekò (Offida Pecorino).** Made from 100% Pecorino, this offers floral aromas of acacia and jasmine. On the palate, it shows tropical fruit flavors of pineapple and banana, accented by notes of thyme, mint and a hint of vanilla. Vinum USA Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

## AUSTRIA

### BLAUFRÄNKISCH

**94 Krutzler 2011 Perwolff Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** The combination of just-ripe cherry fruit and fresh blackberries with bracing acidity distinguishes this clean-cut red. A totally winning interplay of refreshingly tart fruit in a gentle structure, carefully framed by oak, this shows immense purity and is joy to drink. Drink after 2015. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Umathum, 2011 Kirschgarten Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Flinty elderberry and crushed blackberry are the dark-fruited aromatics that pervade the nose and palate of this wine. There is a smoky smudge to the velvet tannins, making this intriguing and elegant. The tannic structure frames this medium-bodied charmer, and its superb balance and aromatic layers make you come back for more. Ready from 2016. Winemonger. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$46

**93 Birgit Braunstein 2011 Felsenstein Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Initially tight and closed, a few minutes in the glass reveal ballet-like elegance, slender but defined muscle and tightly-packed, dark cherry fruit, along with the aromatic allure of elderberries. This is sleek and spicy and totally worth the wait with its seductive, ethereal aromas. Drink from 2015. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Gernot and Heike Heinrich 2011 Alter Berg Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** This is a compelling red for those who like a bit of mystery: is it red or black cherry? Or possibly, dark, aromatic elderberry? Oak spicily supports this interchange of fruit, and firm tannins lend structure while the fresh acidity keeps it lively. It's almost like a whole cast of characters were lined up in this wine for your entertainment. The lingering finish is especially convincing. This will get even better with cellaring; drink from 2016. Winebow. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

**93 Krutzler 2011 Reserve Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Alluring white-pepper spice, with nuances of dried thyme and seductive cherry fruit, make this a compelling choice with more depth than force. This is subtle and velvety, quietly convincing and very long. Firm yet ripe tannins provide structure and ageability. This will be even more elegant with a few years of cellaring; drink 2016–2020. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Birgit Braunstein 2011 Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg).** Black cherry and ripe blackberry would sumptuously lull you in if it weren't for that tender frame of acidity and soft, supple tannins, keeping everything in check and making this a versatile food wine. This has immense charm and pure, long, peppery fruit. —A.K.  
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**92 Muhr-Van der Niepoort 2011 Spitzerberg Blaufränkisch (Carnuntum).** A great purity of lifted, wild blackberry, fringed by ivy leaves, makes a lasting impression on this mysterious, ethereal wine. Deeper down lurk darker notes of smoke, elderberry, tar and flint. A slender body with fresh acidity destined this for the table: wherever intriguing aromatics are required, this is the wine. Martine's Wines. —A.K.  
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abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

**92 Prieler 2010 Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg).** Red cherry fruit, with edges of white pepper, plays charmingly on both the nose and palate. The svelte figure of the wine belies its depth: this has subtle, Burgundian virtues and earthy undertones that provoke stimulating conversation and thought. An ideal accompaniment for subtle, nuanced dishes or a really good book. Michael Skurnik Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$58

**91 Iby 2011 Chevalier Blaufränkisch (Mittelburgenland).** If you expect coquettish flirting you must go elsewhere: this amply layered red will not give up its secrets easily. But engage with it and it will reward with poised, polished structure, subtle pepper spice and ripe but reined-in cherry fruit. The more time you spend with it, the more you'll discover. Ready from 2015. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

**91 Krutzler 2012 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Dark cherry, blackberry and ripe blueberries vie for attention on the nose. The palate is elegant and tight, with some oak spice and soft but palpable tannins and food-friendly acidity. This is ideal for subtle dishes that demand a red wine with depth and quiet power. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**90 Wohlmuth 2011 Rabenkropf Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Red and black cherry and crushed blackberry unite with hints of cinnamon and clove in this medium-bodied wine. With ample depth and elegance, this takes time to open up but provides a lovely, velvety texture, with ripe but still textured tannins. This is ready now but will also benefit from cellaring. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —A.K.

abv: 14% Price: \$40

**89 Hafner 2012 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Rounded, ripe and luscious cherry and blackberry fruit boast a meaty edge for added interest. The body is ample without any heaviness, pierced by a lively, appetizing freshness and shades of darker, smoky berries in the background. Apollo Fine Spirits. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**89 Iby 2011 Quintus Blaufränkisch (Mittelburgenland).** Cinnamon and ripe blueberry flash out from this concentrated, almost broodingly seductive red. It takes time to open up but fulfills its promise with a supple, generous body. Soft tannins have their counterpoint in ripe, almost luscious fruit that is as warming and soft as a velvet blanket. This works well with or without food. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**89 Pittnauer 2011 Ungerberg Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Ripe, sweet blueberries, black pepper and refreshing acidity make this an

incredibly appetizing wine. In sheer, unadulterated drinkability, this scores so well: It's fresh-faced and uncomplicated but very moreish. Magellan Wine Imports. —A.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$59

**89 Prieler 2011 Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg).** Initially reticent, with just a hint of ground white pepper that also persists on the palate, this elegant and sleek red convinces with concentration of forest berries rather than with power. Its fine-tuned acidity makes it perfect for the table, while the soft tannins mean that it does not necessarily need fatty meat. Its peppery finish is delicious. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$58

**89 Prieler 2011 Johanneshöhe Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** A concentrated palate of black cherry and wild blueberry combine to give a full-fruited midpalate, with supple tannins and a juicy, moreish freshness. This strikes a convincing balance between rounded richness and refreshing lightness. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$23

**89 Wohlmuth 2012 Hochberg Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Notes of juicy black cherries, a velvety texture and streamlined acidity make this a lip-smackingly lively wine, with a svelte but toned body. It is the sort of wine you are looking for when the food is hearty but not heavy—this red will be an elegant accompaniment. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —A.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**88 Judith Beck 2012 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Tart morello cherries exert a strong, moreish pull on the nose and palate. The fruitiness is central but partnered with serious structure and food-friendly acidity. Ripe red-cherry flavor shows on the palate, as do supple, ripe tannins that never overpower the fruit. VOS Selections. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$20

**88 Nittaus Anita und Hans 2011 Kalk und Schiefer Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** A very quintessential Blaufränkisch, this boasts a light-footed balance of cherry, dark berries, sprightly acidity and medium body in a sleek and elegantly silhouetted frame, with ripe, soft tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**88 Preisinger 2012 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Crushed blackberry and smoky blueberry show a vibrant presence. This is luscious and velvety, without ever losing its continental-climate freshness and poise. Really refreshing and uncomplicated, but definitely not simple, this provides exciting fruit and is easy to drink on its own. Circo Vino. —A.K.

abv: 14% Price: \$23

ST. LAURENT

**93 Johanneshof Reinisch 2011 Frauenfeld St. Laurent (Thermenregion).** A very intriguing nose of fresh dill and dried anise gives this plenty of aromatic lift, following through on the concentrated palate where ripe cherries join. Oak tannins lend additional structure but never dominate. While lovely now, this will certainly gain from a year or two in the cellar. Its soft, but full body is a triumph. Drink from 2016–2020. Circo Vino. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**93 Johanneshof Reinisch 2011 Holzspur St. Laurent (Thermenregion).** The appetizing and enticing savoriness of freshly chopped dill runs like a faultline through this concentrated, yet elegant red. Ripe cherry hides behind the straightening tannins of oak and waits to burst out as this softens with a little bottle age. Very finely-knit tannins extend a gentle grip and frame a compelling, layered wine. Drink from 2016–2020. Circo Vino. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$90

**91 R&A Pfaffl 2011 Altenberg Reserve St. Laurent (Niederösterreich).** For full review see page 73.

abv: 13% Price: \$44

**89 Birgit Braunstein 2011 Goldberg St. Laurent (Burgenland).** A soft, light-footed entry is followed by extracted, yet still finely-knit tannins—presently, black cherry fruit is hidden behind them, but a juicy acidity promises they will come to the surface before long. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**89 Hafner 2011 Classique St. Laurent (Burgenland).** Highly aromatic, black elderberries explode on the nose. Blueberry follows against a backdrop of graphite and plays the same delicious accords on the soft, supple and juicy palate of this appetizing wine. Kosher. Apollo Fine Spirits. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$12

**89 Kurt Angerer 2011 St. Laurent (Niederösterreich).** Brooding and mysterious—giving away just a hint of white pepper, dark plum and floral notes of peony—this richly purple wine gives up more of its secrets on the palate, revealing ripe plum fruit and sweeter spice from oak. Tannins are plentiful, ripe and supple, while lovely pepperiness carries through from start to finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**89 Stift Klosterneuburg 2011 Reserve St. Laurent (Thermenregion).** Gentle and elegant red cherry and plum smooth out the structured body of this concentrated, medium-bodied wine. Initially closed, this invites further inspection and conversation with the promise of plush fruit and

## BUYINGGUIDE

a subdued, velvety finish. Leopold Imports LLC. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Bründlmayer 2011 Ladner St. Laurent (Niederösterreich).** Subtle pepper and undergrowth notes play as strongly as the gentle red currant fruit in this understated, lighter-bodied but spicy wine. Made in a very traditional vein, it is an unobtrusive, versatile red for lighter lunches where its pepperiness will score extra points. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

### ZWEIGELT

**92 Netzl 2011 Haidacker Zweigelt (Carntum).** A concentrated but restrained wine that is a bit like French couture: timeless elegant, quietly confident but incredibly well-made and fitting. The tannins provide structure without being obtrusive. Oak plays a sonorous supporting role and dark cherry beckons on the nose and palate, all concluding in a peppery, long finish. Ready now but will keep till 2016. Select Wines. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**92 Schloss Gobelsburg 2011 Haide Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** This is a Zweigelt with an identity crisis that thinks it may be Pinot Noir. It's elegant and silky, with a gentle tannic touch, refreshing acidity and restrained but evocative red-currant and cranberry fruit. Overtones of peony and iris make this more intriguing, while there is substance despite its light body. This is delicious now, but will reward cellaring for one to two years to let earthy, tertiary flavors develop. Drink from 2014. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**91 Leth 2011 Gigama Grande Reserve Zweigelt (Wagram-Donauland).** An unusually rounded, fuller-bodied Zweigelt in a rather successful marriage with oak. Cinnamon, clove and vanilla flesh out the fresh cherry and blackberry flavors to result in a harmonious, appetizing wine with supple, ripe tannins and a resonant finish. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**90 Birgit Braunstein 2011 Goldberg Zweigelt (Burgenland).** Crushed boysenberry is foremost on the nose and palate, while a rounded, supple but defined structure makes this a winning choice for subtle foods. There is both elegance and length and a lovely, integrated touch of well-handled oaky vanilla. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Kurt Angerer 2011 Granit Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** An inviting combination of aromatic cinnamon with primary plum fruit that resembles a spiced plum tart straight out of the oven—simply irresistible. There is tannic texture and a concentrated, aromatic core of plummy de-

liciousness. A versatile food wine, especially where there are fruity accents. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Nitnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Luckenwald Zweigelt (Neusiedlersee).** Toasty oak and backed structure appear first, with lots of charming cherry fruit and savory notes of undergrowth, inside. Tightly knit and well made, with a dense core of red cherry and an appetizing length. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Weingut Christ 2011 Bisamberg Zweigelt (Vienna).** A deep smoky red in color, this exudes fresh but tart blackberry, with hints of cinnamon on the nose. These flavors are pleasantly present on the palate, where low-level tannins are sleek and elegant. A juicy, concentrated, vibrant and refreshing wine from one of Vienna's famous vineyards that delivers with its slender body, gentle tannins and good length. Carlo Huber Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89 Hannes Reeh 2012 Zweigelt (Neusiedlersee).** An incredibly balanced wine where red cherry fruit marries with velvety tannins, medium body and clean-cut acidity and cinnamon hints in the background. This is an ideal, unobtrusive but delicious food wine that will perform no matter what. Acid Inc Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**89 Hannes Reeh 2012 Unplugged Zweigelt (Burgenland).** Black, ripe elderberries, with a tart but supple body make this an appetizing, lighter wine that holds an unusual aromatic intensity. There is an intriguing hint of wilderness and a streak of fresh acidity that makes this soft wine an ideal match for lighter foods. Drink this while it's young and vibrant. Acid Inc Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**88 Anton Bauer 2011 Alte Reben Zweigelt (Wagram-Donauland).** Fresh, friendly, straightforward red cherry fruit on the nose and palate, extend with pleasing concentration and a supple, balanced body. Peppery spice lurks in the background against a tightly-knit, but soft tannic structure providing additional interest and making this a versatile, fruitful and refreshing wine. Prescott Wines. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

### PINOT NOIR

**93 Umatham 2011 Unter den Terrassen Pinot Noir (Burgenland).** Once coaxed out of the glass, there is something ethereal about this Pinot Noir in its compelling, lifted nose of elderberry, wild raspberry and aromatic nettle. It is deceptively light on the surface with translucent veils of silky tannins that draw you in. While there is engaging verve right

now, this will come into its own once time has revealed the deeper layers of fruit. Drink from 2016. Winemonger. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$39

**92 Anton Bauer 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Wagram-Donauland).** Ripe, red cherry, with floral notes of rose, iris and a hint of cinnamon introduce this ripe and luscious wine that is already surprisingly open and generous. Its gentle, finely-knit tannic structure will allow this to age, but there is a pleasant, seductive mellowness already in the alternating layers of spice and cherry. Drink from 2014–2018. Prescott Wines. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Fischer 2011 Premium Pinot Noir (Thermenregion).** Everything about this wine is subtle—in an orchestra, this would be the harp. The balance between red berry and cherry, medium body and fine acidity is supreme. There are notions of peppery undergrowth and the firm hold of finely woven tannin. This aromatic, disciplined wine will break out of its corset in time and display autumnal leaves and fruit—the persistent length is most promising. Ready to drink from 2016. Vignaioli Selection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$37

**92 Fritsch 2011 'P' Pinot Noir (Wagram-Donauland).** Very subtle but ultimately seductive wild cherry notes captivate on the nose, while the body is luscious, rounded, generous and inviting, without an ounce of fat. There are hints of clove and anise, a deep, mellow cherry core and haunting floral hints. Drink 2015–2020. Monika Caha Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Bründlmayer 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** Smoky cinnamon dominates the nose, on the palate where notes of red currant and cranberry become apparent. The palate is tightly gathered in its finely constructed, tannic frame. Time in glass reveals riper cherry fruit at the heart. In two to three years it will mellow and show its true aromatic colors. The substance is evident now, but the aromas bid you to wait. Ready from 2016. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$63

**90 Loimer 2011 Anning Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** It is white pepper rather than fruit that pervades the nose and palate on this wine, displaying a tight grip and slender body—not to say that deeper berry fruit does not slumber in the depths. This still has to come out of its shell and is best served with subtle, nuanced food that will mirror its intriguing nature. This will certainly blossom in a year or two. Ready from 2015. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Markowitsch 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Carntum).** The vanilla and cookie-dough lick of toasty oak lends softness, warmth and spice

to the red currant fruit of this slender, but elegant wine. Slightly more bottle age is needed for fruit and wood to marry completely, but it finishes with a wonderfully savory flourish of pepper and undergrowth. Ready from 2015. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Höppler 2011 Pinot Noir (Burgenland).** Subdued notes of clove and pepper mixed with tart cranberry make this an appetizing, fresh-faced red. The body is light but packs lots of flavor. What you see is what you get—in the most charming way possible. USA Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Kurt Angerer 2011 Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** Primary red-cherry notes charm the nose, while gentle vanilla and hints of oak, flowers and clove build a framework. There is some grip in this medium-bodied wine, thanks to the finely-woven tannins. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Nitnaus Hans und Christine 2011 The Pinot Puzzle Pinot Noir (Burgenland).** This is one of those Pinot Noirs that play hide and seek with you: is that violet or rose? Is it Bing cherry or Amarena? There is red currant and cherry fruit at the center, with overtones of oak, bright acidity and gentle tannins. This will perform best if served with food. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Leth 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Wagram-Donauland).** Here's a rather slender Pinot Noir, with soft cranberry fruit, hints of smoky mocha and a little clove. There is something chocolaty, and at the same time refreshing, about this wine, and the tannins are silky-soft in a light and restrained body. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88 Schloss Gobelsburg 2011 Alte Haide Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** The gentle red currant and raspberry fruit in this subtly oaked red lurks amid notes of spicy pepper, undergrowth and autumn leaves. There is a gentle grip and a very natural, unforced sense of elegance to the structure. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

### GREECE ASSYRTICO

**89 Greek Wine Cellars 2011 Assyrtico (Santorini).** Fresh, clean and elegant aromas of citrus and flowers start this classic Assyrtico. On the palate, balanced flavors of lemon, sea salt and white fruits offer food-friendly, quaffable character. A fantastic house wine. Nestor Imports. *Best Buy.* —S.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Wine Art Estate 2011 Idisma Drios Assyrtico (Drama).** Spice, vanilla and cinnamon aromas speak to the oak aging on this fresh white. On the palate, robust, yet refreshing flavors of fresh white fruits and vanilla offer complexity with food-friendly zest. Distinctive Imports LLC. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**87 My Big Fat Greek Wine 2011 Assyrtico (Santorini).** Aromas of pineapple, white fruit and apple start this likeable white from Santorini. Citrus, tropical fruit and apple flavors on the palate are fuller bodied but still lively. A solid white for everyday enjoyment. Hellas Import Limited. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Papaioannou 2011 St. Elias Vineyards Dry White Assyrtico (Corinthia).** Lemon preserve and melon aromas are followed by peach and tropical fruit flavors, all balanced with telltale Greek acidity. Balanced and well made, and a good pairing with fruit, salads and seafood. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Spyros Hatzilyiannis 2011 Assyrtico (Santorini).** Aromas of sea salt, pineapple and citrus start this lively Assyrtico. It offers a fresh mineral character rounded by tropical fruit. Friendly and not fussy. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

### WHITE BLENDS

**87 Estate Biblia Chora 2011 Ovilos White (Pangeon).** Lemon zest, lime and melon aromas lead this elegant white blend. Zesty citrus and lush melon on the palate offers a refined character that is nonetheless fine for everyday enjoyment. The finish is expressive and slightly floral. Cava Spiliadis. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**86 A. Parparoussis 2008 Les Dons de Dionysos Barrel Fermented Assyrtico-Athiri (Achaia).** A nose of fresh-cut flowers, tropical fruit and melon leads this barrel-fermented white blend. On the palate, the wine has a lovely floral character but lacks some of the minerality that gives Greek whites their lively touch. Pair with fish or cheeses. Cava Spiliadis. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

**86 Oenogenesis 2011 En Oeno... Sauvignon Blanc-Assyrtico (Macedonia).** This Assyrtico, Sauvignon Blanc blend offers a zesty, poppy Sauvignon Blanc nose with pineapple, fresh peach and a mineral spin on the palate. Balanced acidity keeps it steady. Likeable and enjoyable, but not intellectual. Eklektikon, LLC. —S.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 Tsantali 2011 Metoxi Chromitsa X Single Vineyard Assyrtico-Athiri-Sauvignon Blanc**

(Agiorgitiko). Candied lemon and lush tropical fruits start this Assyrtiko, Athiri blend from established producer in northern Greece. Fresh and slightly sweet on the palate, the wine has a more feminine touch than many Greek whites. Great with lighter fare like salads and grilled food. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** 12%

### AGIORGITIKO

**90 Papaioannou 2005 Microclima Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** This is a delicious example of what Agiorgitiko should be—complex but direct, fresh but full of flavor. The nose starts with cassis, cherry and plum aromas, followed by notes of blackcurrant, pepper, cherry and cinnamon are rounded and layered. The wine ends with a lovely mineral spin. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5%

**88 Papaioannou 2004 Terroir Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** Savory, smoked meat aromas give this lively Agiorgitiko soul. Flavors of leather, smoke, spice and red berry are layered and clean. A masculine pour that will pair well with dried meats, steak and burgers. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** 14%

**86 Papaioannou 2006 Old Vines Single Vineyard Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** Violet, herb and mint aromas start this Agiorgitiko. On the palate, coca, vanilla, red berry and a savory touch add depth. Fresh and friendly but substantial wine can age. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5%

**86 Tsantali 2009 Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** This wine has a savory overall character. Clove, cinnamon and plum on the nose and palate, red fruit and leather on the palate. A balance of minerals gives it lift. Pair with roast lamb. A great deal and a good wine. Fantis Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —S.K.  
**abv:** 12.5%

### RED BLENDS

**91 Tsantali 2010 Reserve (Rapsani).** Peeling red starts with a nose of exotic tobacco, cocoa and red berries, followed by a juicy palate of black fruit, cocoa and vanilla. The oak is obvious here, offering vanilla notes, but the round fruit character keeps it in check. Elegant and fun. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
**abv:** 13.5%

**90 Chatzivari 2010 Staphylos Cabernet Sauvignon (Slopes).** This Xinomavro/Cabernet blend is elegant and approachable, with aromas of vanilla, tobacco and spice and flavors of black cherry, cigar

velvety finish. Leopold Imports LLC.

Price: \$NA

**90** **Bründlmayer 2011 Ladner St. Laurent (Niederösterreich).** Subtle pepper and undergrowth play as strongly of a role as the gentle fruit in this understated, lighter-bodied wine. Made in a very traditional vein, it is a versatile, red for lighter lunches. Its pepperyness will score extra points. —A.K.  
Price: \$NA

ZWEIGELT

**90** **Bründlmayer 2011 Haidacker Zweigelt (Carnuntum).** Concentrated but restrained wine that is a touch couture: timelessly elegant, quietly made and fitting. The tight structure without being obtrusive. It has a supporting role and dark cherry in the nose and palate, all concluding in a long finish. Ready now but will keep till 2020. —A.K.  
Price: \$55

**90** **Bründlmayer 2011 Haide Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** This is a Zweigelt with a structure that thinks it may be Pinot Noir. It is rich and silky, with a gentle tannic touch and a restrained but evocative red-cranberry fruit. Overtones of peony and rose are more intriguing, while there is subtle light body. This is delicious now, and cellaring for one to two years to let its flavors develop. Drink from 2014. —A.K.  
Price: \$36

**90** **Bründlmayer 2011 Gigama Grande Reserve Zweigelt (Wagram-Donauland).** An unusually rounded Zweigelt in a rather successful blend with oak, cinnamon, clove and vanilla. Fresh cherry and blackberry flavors to its harmonious, appetizing wine with supple tannins and a resonant finish. Domaine Skurnik Wines. —A.K.  
Price: \$70

**90** **Braunstein 2011 Goldberg Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** Crushed boysenberry in the nose and palate, while a rounded, tight structure makes this a winning blend for lighter foods. There is both elegance and a lovely, integrated touch of well-han-illa. —A.K.  
Price: \$NA

**90** **Angerer 2011 Granit Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** An inviting combination of plum with primary plum fruit that is irresistible. There is tannic texture and a crated, aromatic core of plummy de-

liciousness. A versatile food wine, especially where there are fruity accents. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**90** **Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Luckenwald Zweigelt (Neusiedlersee).** Toasty oak and backed structure appear first, with lots of charming cherry fruit and savory notes of undergrowth, inside. Tightly knit and well made, with a dense core of red cherry and an appetizing length. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

**90** **Weingut Christ 2011 Bisamberg Zweigelt (Vienna).** A deep smoky red in color, this exudes fresh but tart blackberry, with hints of cinnamon on the nose. These flavors are pleasantly present on the palate, where low-level tannins are sleek and elegant. A juicy, concentrated, vibrant and refreshing wine from one of Vienna's famous vineyards that delivers with its slender body, gentle tannins and good length. Carlo Huber Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$22

**89** **Hannes Reeh 2012 Zweigelt (Neusiedlersee).** An incredibly balanced wine where red cherry fruit marries with velvety tannins, medium body and clean-cut acidity and cinnamon hints in the background. This is an ideal, unobtrusive but delicious food wine that will perform no matter what. Acid Inc Selections. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$34

**89** **Hannes Reeh 2012 Unplugged Zweigelt (Burgenland).** Black, ripe elderberries, with a tart but supple body make this an appetizing, lighter wine that holds an unusual aromatic intensity. There is an intriguing hint of wilderness and a streak of fresh acidity that makes this soft wine an ideal match for lighter foods. Drink this while it's young and vibrant. Acid Inc Selections. —A.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$34

**88** **Anton Bauer 2011 Alte Reben Zweigelt (Wagram-Donauland).** Fresh, friendly, straightforward red cherry fruit on the nose and palate, extend with pleasing concentration and a supple, balanced body. Peppery spice lurks in the background against a tightly-knit, but soft tannic structure providing additional interest and making this a versatile, fruitful and refreshing wine. Prescott Wines. —A.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

PINOT NOIR

**93** **Umatham 2011 Unter den Terrassen Pinot Noir (Burgenland).** Once coaxed out of the glass, there is something ethereal about this Pinot Noir in its compelling, lifted nose of elderberry, wild raspberry and aromatic nettle. It is deceptively light on the surface with translucent veils of silky tannins that draw you in. While there is engaging verve right

now, this will come into its own once time has revealed the deeper layers of fruit. Drink from 2016. Winemonger. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$39

**92** **Anton Bauer 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Wagram-Donauland).** Ripe, red cherry, with floral notes of rose, iris and a hint of cinnamon introduce this ripe and luscious wine that is already surprisingly open and generous. Its gentle, finely-knit tannic structure will allow this to age, but there is a pleasant, seductive mellowness already in the alternating layers of spice and cherry. Drink from 2014–2018. Prescott Wines. —A.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**92** **Fischer 2011 Premium Pinot Noir (Thermenregion).** Everything about this wine is subtle—in an orchestra, this would be the harp. The balance between red berry and cherry, medium body and fine acidity is supreme. There are notions of peppery undergrowth and the firm hold of finely woven tannin. This aromatic, disciplined wine will break out of its corset in time and display autumnal leaves and fruit—the persistent length is most promising. Ready to drink from 2016. Vignaioli Selection. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$37

**92** **Fritsch 2011 'P' Pinot Noir (Wagram-Donauland).** Very subtle but ultimately seductive wild cherry notes captivate on the nose, while the body is luscious, rounded, generous and inviting, without an ounce of fat. There are hints of clove and anise, a deep, mellow cherry core and haunting floral hints. Drink 2015–2020. Monika Caha Selections. —A.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

**90** **Bründlmayer 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** Smoky cinnamon dominates the nose, on the palate where notes of red currant and cranberry become apparent. The palate is tightly gathered in its finely constructed, tannic frame. Time in glass reveals riper cherry fruit at the heart. In two to three years it will mellow and show its true aromatic colors. The substance is evident now, but the aromas bid you to wait. Ready from 2016. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$63

**90** **Loimer 2011 Anning Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** It is white pepper rather than fruit that pervades the nose and palate on this wine, displaying a tight grip and slender body—not to say that deeper berry fruit does not slumber in the depths. This still has to come out of its shell and is best served with subtle, nuanced food that will mirror its intriguing nature. This will certainly blossom in a year or two. Ready from 2015. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**90** **Markowitsch 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Carnuntum).** The vanilla and cookie-dough lick of toasty oak lends softness, warmth and spice

to the red currant fruit of this slender, but elegant wine. Slightly more bottle age is needed for fruit and wood to marry completely, but it finishes with a wonderfully savory flourish of pepper and undergrowth. Ready from 2015. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**89** **Höpler 2011 Pinot Noir (Burgenland).** Subdued notes of clove and pepper mixed with tart cranberry make this an appetizing, fresh-faced red. The body is light but packs lots of flavor. What you see is what you get—in the most charming way possible. USA Wine Imports. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**89** **Kurt Angerer 2011 Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** Primary red-cherry notes charm the nose, while gentle vanilla and hints of oak, flowers and clove build a framework. There is some grip in this medium-bodied wine, thanks to the finely-woven tannins. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**89** **Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 The Pinot Puzzle Pinot Noir (Burgenland).** This is one of those Pinot Noirs that play hide and seek with you: is that violet or rose? Is it Bing cherry or Amarena? There is red currant and cherry fruit at the center, with overtones of oak, bright acidity and gentle tannins. This will perform best if served with food. Wein-Bauer Distributing. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

**88** **Leth 2011 Reserve Pinot Noir (Wagram-Donauland).** Here's a rather slender Pinot Noir, with soft cranberry fruit, hints of smoky mocha and a little clove. There is something chocolaty, and at the same time refreshing, about this wine, and the tannins are silky-soft in a light and restrained body. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —A.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$35

**88** **Schloss Gobelsburg 2011 Alte Haide Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** The gentle red currant and raspberry fruit in this subtly oaked red lurks amid notes of spicy pepper, undergrowth and autumn leaves. There is a gentle grip and a very natural, unforced sense of elegance to the structure. Michael Skurnik Wines. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$36

GREECE

ASSYRTICO

**89** **Greek Wine Cellars 2011 Assyrtico (Santorini).** Fresh, clean and elegant aromas of citrus and flowers start this classic Assyrtico. On the palate, balanced flavors of lemon, sea salt and white fruits offer food-friendly, quaffable character. A fantastic house wine. Nestor Imports. *Best Buy.* —S.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

**88** **Wine Art Estate 2011 Idisma Drios Assyrtico (Drama).** Spice, vanilla and cinnamon aromas speak to the oak aging on this fresh white. On the palate, robust, yet refreshing flavors of fresh white fruits and vanilla offer complexity with food-friendly zest. Distinctive Imports LLC. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

**87** **My Big Fat Greek Wine 2011 Assyrtico (Santorini).** Aromas of pineapple, white fruit and apple start this likeable white from Santorini. Citrus, tropical fruit and apple flavors on the palate are fuller bodied but still lively. A solid white for everyday enjoyment. Hellas Import Limited. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**86** **Papaioannou 2011 St. Elias Vineyards Dry White Assyrtico (Corinthia).** Lemon preserve and melon aromas are followed by peach and tropical fruit flavors, all balanced with telltale Greek acidity. Balanced and well made, and a good pairing with fruit, salads and seafood. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**86** **Spyros Hatzilyannis 2011 Assyrtico (Santorini).** Aromas of sea salt, pineapple and citrus start this lively Assyrtico. It offers a fresh mineral character rounded by tropical fruit. Friendly and not fussy. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

WHITE BLENDS

**87** **Estate Biblia Chora 2011 Ovilos White (Peloponnese).** Lemon zest, lime and melon aromas lead this elegant white blend. Zesty citrus and lush melon on the palate offers a refined character that is nonetheless fine for everyday enjoyment. The finish is expressive and slightly floral. Cava Spiliadis. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$38

**86** **A. Parparoussis 2008 Les Dons de Dionysos Barrel Fermented Assyrtico-Athiri (Achaia).** A nose of fresh-cut flowers, tropical fruit and melon leads this barrel-fermented white blend. On the palate, the wine has a lovely floral character but lacks some of the minerality that gives Greek whites their lively touch. Pair with fish or cheeses. Cava Spiliadis. —S.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$25

**86** **Oenogenesis 2011 En Oeno... Sauvignon Blanc-Assyrtico (Macedonia).** This Assyrtico, Sauvignon Blanc blend offers a zesty, poppy Sauvignon Blanc nose with pineapple, fresh peach and a mineral spin on the palate. Balanced acidity keeps it steady. Likeable and enjoyable, but not intellectual. Eklektikon, LLC. —S.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**86** **Tsantali 2011 Metoxi Chromitsa X Single Vineyard Assyrtico-Athiri-Sauvignon Blanc**

(Agioritikos). Candied lemon and lush tropical fruits start this Assyrtico, Athiri blend from an established producer in northern Greece. Fresh, fun and slightly sweet on the palate, the wine has a softer, more feminine touch than many Greek whites. Great with lighter fare like salads and grilled seafood. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
abv: 12% Price: \$25

AGIORGITIKO

**90** **Papaioannou 2005 Microclima Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** This is a delicious example of what Agiorgitiko should be—complex but delicate, fresh but full of flavor. The nose starts with vibrant cassis, cherry and plum aromas, followed by flavors of blackcurrant, pepper, cherry and cinnamon that are rounded and layered. The wine ends with a lively mineral spin. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**88** **Papaioannou 2004 Terroir Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** Savory, smoked meat and clove aromas give this lively Agiorgitiko soul. Flavors of leather, smoke, spice and red berry are balanced and clean. A masculine pour that will pair well with dried meats, steak and burgers. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$50

**86** **Papaioannou 2006 Old Vines Single Vineyard Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** Violet, crushed herb and mint aromas start this Agiorgitiko. On the palate, cocoa, vanilla, red berry and a savory spin give it depth. Fresh and friendly but substantive, this wine can age. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**86** **Tsantali 2009 Agiorgitiko (Nemea).** This wine has a savory overall character, with clove, cinnamon and plum on the nose and espresso, red fruit and leather on the palate. A balanced spin of minerals gives it lift. Pair with roast lamb or poultry. A great deal and a good wine. Fantis Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —S.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

RED BLENDS

**91** **Tsantali 2010 Reserve (Rapsani).** This appealing red starts with a nose bursting with exotic tobacco, cocoa and red berries, followed by a juicy palate of black fruit, cocoa and sweet smoke. The oak is obvious here, offering vanilla and spicy notes, but the round fruit character keeps the wine in check. Elegant and fun. Fantis Imports, Inc. —S.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

**90** **Chatzivariti 2010 Staphylus Xinomavro-Cabernet Sauvignon (Slopes of Paiko).** This Xinomavro/Cabernet blend is elegant and approachable, with aromas of vanilla, tobacco and all-spice and flavors of black cherry, cigarbox and wild