

The Decanter star rating system and drinking guide keys

Decanter Awards ★★★★★

Outstanding quality, a virtually perfect example

Four Star wines ★★★★

Highly Recommended

Three Star wines ★★★

Recommended

Two Star wines ★★

Quite Good

One Star wines ★

Acceptable



Lay down



Drink within 2-3 years



Drink now



Good value wine

- All Decanter tastings are blind
- Decanter Tasting Panels are selected to create a balance between specialists, expert objective tasters, MWs and experienced wine journalists
- Tastings are carried out in a controlled tasting environment
- No bottles are ever seen in the tasting room or at the discussion
- Wines selected for Decanter Awards are retasted blind, for confirmation of excellence
- Decanter tastings are EU recognised
- No tasting results are made available pre-publication

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buying guide

For more recommendations, updated weekly, see decanter.com

Over the next few pages, *Decanter* recommends a selection of the best wines available this month

WINES OF THE MONTH

BEST WHITE

FRANCE

ST VERAN LES TERRES NOIRES JL TERRIER 1999

The grapes are grown on limestone soils with distinctive black humus, hence its name 'les Terres Noires'. Thirty percent of the wine is fermented and aged in French oak barrels. Amazingly good value for burgundy. *'Lovely rich toastiness. Very ripe, concentrated apple fruit and wonderful chewy structure with a long lingering length. An absolute classic.'*

£9.75; BBR



BEST RED

ISRAEL

CASTEL GRAND VIN JUDEAN HILLS 1997

Not one, but two, of this producer's wines are recommended here this month. Our tasters were most surprised to see two winners which were from Israel, let alone from the same property. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and a touch of Petit Verdot, which was aged for 24 months in French oak barrels.

'Very honeyed, scented black fruit and chocolate, combined with sweet tannins. This is still young but will only improve with age. Delicious!'

£20.10; MDV cases only



BEST SPARKLING

FRANCE

VEUVE CLIQUOT RICH RESERVE 1993

Based on a blend of 15 premiers crus and grands crus from Montagne de Reims, Vallée de La Marne and Côtes de Blancs, this cuvée is dominated by power and vinosity of 64% Pinot Noir. The remainder consists of 33% Chardonnay and 3% Pinot Meunier.

'Rich attractive minerals, apples and toasty aromas. Good concentration and weight. Chewy, youthful fruit, with nicely high and refreshing acidity.'

£35.95; Bot, Thr, Unw, Vic

