

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



— Conversations with Master Sommeliers:

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STAR LISTINGS *pg. 23*

— USA: Exceptional 2012 Pinot Noirs & Chardonnays;

2013 Roses; Top Syrahs & Cabernet Sauvignons

— Argentina: Outstanding 2011 & 2012 Malbecs

— Australia: Remarkable wines from Clare Valley

— Chile: Casablanca & Colchagua values

— Germany: Superb 2012 Mosel Rieslings

— Italy: Fine Franciacorta sparklers

— Other Gems from France, New Zealand,

Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay

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Issues #155, #156 & #157

**MERLOT & CABERNET SAUVIGNON— High Priced:
\$201-\$400/case (\$25.10-\$50/btl. full retail)****TENUTA DEGLI DEI, 2012 LE REDINI, TOSCANA (IGT), \$208 (\$26) ★★★★★**

Excellent Merlot blend. It is fleshy in texture, full bodied, moderately rich in flavor, and well balanced; a wine with crisp acidity and a long finish, tasting of cherry, plum, red currant, toast, vanilla, and spicy oak. 90% Merlot, 10% Alicante. Aged 10 months in oak barrels and casks. 13.5% [2015-2018] Massanois Imports, Scarsdale, NY 888.242.1342, and others

**MERLOT & CABERNET SAUVIGNON — Expensive:
\$401-\$800/case (\$50.10-\$100/btl. full retail)****TENUTA DEGLI DEI, 2011 CAVALLI, TOSCANA (IGT), \$400 (\$50) ★★★★★**

Excellent quality and value. This is a full bodied, crisp, fairly complex Cabernet blend with elegant character (blueberry, cherry, black currant, violet) and overtones of toast, tobacco, and vanilla. Long, lightly tannic finish. Warrants further aging. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Petit Verdot, 15% Cabernet Franc. Aged 18 months in oak barrels and casks. 14% [2016-2020] Massanois Imports, Scarsdale, NY 888.242.1342, and others

AVIGNONESI SOCIETA AGRICOLA, 2011 DESIDERIO, TOSCANA (IGT), \$244/6 (\$61) ★★★★★

Fleshy in texture and full bodied, this wine is ripely flavored, moderately rich, and balanced, with a persistent, lightly tannic finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of raspberry, black currant, cherry, cedar, vanilla, and spicy oak. Excellent. 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 16 months in French oak barrels, 35% new. 1,110 cases. 14.5% [2015-2019] Domaine Select Merchants, New York, NY 212.279.0799


**NEW ZEALAND
(WHITE & RED WINES)**
**WHITE VARIETALS — Medium Priced:
\$73-\$144/case (\$9.10-\$18/btl. full retail)****CLIFFORD BAY, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, MARLBOROUGH, \$108 (\$13.50) ★★★★★**

Screw cap. Zesty, fresh, and full bodied, this is an excellent wine at the price. It has tropical fruit and lemon grass aromas/flavors, with overtones of green apple and dried fig. 13% [2014-2015] Folely Family Wines, Sonoma, CA 707.657.4850

ECHO BAY, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, MARLBOROUGH, \$120 (\$15) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Very good quality and value. This is a full bodied, crisp Sauvignon with intense lemon grass, grapefruit, passion fruit, guava, and dried fig aromas/flavors, a hint of sweetness, and medium length. 13% [2014] Trinchero Family Estates, St. Helena, CA 707.963.3104

FORREST WINES — Marlborough

- 2012 THE DOCTORS', RIESLING, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★
- 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★
- 2013 THE DOCTORS', SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★

All three wines have screw cap closures. Forrest Wines is a leading Marlborough producer, well known for its lower-alcohol varietals, bottled with The Doctors' blessing. The 2012 Riesling is lightly sweet, light bodied, and crisp; a Mosel-like Riesling, in the best sense. It is

finely flavored (apple, lime, honeysuckle), crisp, and medium long on the finish. Excellent value. 8,000 cases. 8.5%. The Forrest Sauvignon, at 12.5% alcohol, is also excellent. It is a vibrant, medium bodied wine with crisp acidity, good balance, and a very long finish, tasting of lemon, green apple, pepper, grapefruit, and passion fruit. Nearly austere in style. 12,000 cases. The Doctors' Sauvignon is very fine: fragrant and very distinct (pear, lime, lemon grass, passion fruit), crisp, and long and dry on the finish. Delicate in style. 6,000 cases. 9.5% [2014-2015] Pacific Prime Wines, Oakland, CA 301.802.0293

GROVE MILL, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, WAIRAU VALLEY, MARLBOROUGH, \$132 (\$16.50) ★★★★★

Screw cap. Exceptional quality and value. It is supple in texture, intensely flavored, and very well balanced, with a crisp, persistent finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of passion fruit, pineapple, guava, green apple, and grapefruit. 13% [2014-2015] Folely Family Wines, Sonoma, CA 707.657.4850

LAKE CHALICE**LAKE CHALICE****— Marlborough**

- 2013 THE NEST, SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★
 - 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, \$144 (\$18) ★★★★★
- Both wines have screw cap closures. The Nest is an excellent wine: round, full bodied, and lightly sweet, it is distinctly flavored (lime, apple, guava, passion fruit), balanced, and medium long on the finish. 15,000 cases. 13%. The black label Sauvignon is exceptional wine: full bodied, crisp, and finely flavored (lime, passion fruit, grapefruit, guava), with excellent balance and length. Great value. Produced from Wairau Valley fruit. 15,000 cases. 13% [2014-2015] Pacific Prime Wines, Oakland, CA 301.802.0293

MAIMAI VINEYARDS, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, HAWKE'S BAY, \$128 (\$16) ★★★★★

Screw cap. A medium bodied Sauvignon that is crisp and long on the palate, with a lingering finish, tasting of pear, lime, lemon grass, and guava. 15,000 cases. 12% [2014] Pacific Prime Wines, Oakland, CA 301.802.0293

MASSIMO, 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC, MARLBOROUGH, \$112 (\$14) ★★★★★

Screw cap. An excellent wine: intensely flavored (grapefruit, guava, lime, fig), full bodied, and crisp; a wine with a hint of sweetness and a zesty, medium long finish. Excellent value. 13% [2014-2015] DFV Wines, Napa, CA 707.265.1700