

Spec'ssm TWELVE

for November
of 2009

YOU LOVE GREAT WINE ... but you also want some "everyday value wines" that taste really good. So do I. I love great wine, but \$15 is about my limit for my *everyday drinking wines*. To me, *value* mean a wine tastes like it costs more than it does and *everyday drinking* means wine that goes well with my life and the sorts of food I eat on a daily basis. Here are my twelve everyday value picks for November 2009, all priced under \$15.

- Bear Dalton, Spec's Fine Wine Buyer

VERAMONTE Chardonnay Reserva, Casablanca Valley - Chile, 2007
12x750ml \$9.73 \$108.27

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. 100% Chardonnay fermented using partial ML and aged 8 months in 50% French & 50% American oak (30% new). Sensory: Pale green straw in color, bright and clear with good legs; dry, medium-bodied with balanced acidity. Fresh, lively, refreshing yellow & white fruit (citrus, stone fruit, pear) with minerally earth, subtle oak, and accents of floral, and cream. Very long, lively finish; quite tasty. Fine. BS: 89.

FRIEDRICH FENDEL Riesling QbA, Rheingau, 2007
6x750ml \$14.95 \$84.18

Tech: % Alcohol. 100% Riesling fermented in stainless steel with no malolactic. Sensory: Pale straw in color, day-bright and clear with green highlights good legs; semi-sweet, medium-to-light-bodied with crisp acidity. Bright, fresh, and lively with lime, apple, and peach fruit, subtle, clean, minerally terroir accented with floral mountain meadow notes. Really very long, clean, and refreshing finish. Delicious, precise, pure ;vibrant and alive-in-the-mouth. Really Fine. BS: 90+.

COPPOLA Claret, California, 2007
12x750ml \$14.93 \$164.37

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. A blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Petite Verdot, 4% Merlot, 4% Malbec, and 3% Cabernet Franc aged 16 months in French oak barrels. Sensory: Inky purple in color with well formed legs that stain the glass; dry, medium-to-full-bodied with balanced acidity and lightly chewy phenolics. Juicy with rich, ripe mostly black with some red fruit, rich earth, subtle oak, and accents of cedar, tobacco, cocoa, and a hint of pencil shavings. Long finish; robust, integrated, quite satisfying. Very quaffable. Fine. BS: 89+.

MURPHY GOODE Merlot, Alexander Valley, 2006
12x750ml \$14.30 \$161.04

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. 98.5% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot, and 0.5% Cabernet Sauvignon (sourced predominantly from Val Peline's Terra Rosa vineyard) given both a cold soak and an extended post fermentation maceration and aged 1 year in French and American oak barrels (13% new). Sensory: Purple in color with well formed legs; dry, medium-to-full-bodied with balanced acidity and moderately chewy phenolics. Ripe, rich, chunky black fruit with earthy rich terroir, subtle oak, and accents of chocolate, black pepper, and subtle coffee grounds. Lively finish. Delicious. Really Fine. BS: 90.

DURIGUTTI Malbec, Mendoza, 2007
12x750ml \$14.30 \$161.04

Tech: 14% Alcohol. 100% Malbec from vines planted between 1928 and 1948. Sensory: Inky purple in color with well formed legs that stain the glass; dry, full-bodied with softly balanced acidity and chewy phenolics. Chewy-ripe, mostly black fruit with subtle coffee grounds earth and accents of black pepper, Asian spice, and a hint of coffee. Medium-long finish. Satisfying, rustic, and robust; a bit chunky but still supple. Fine. BS: 89+.

TAMAS Double Decker Red, Central Coast, 2007
12x750ml \$7.80 \$87.84

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. An unorthodox blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petite Sirah, and 5% Barbera fermented in upright stainless steel tanks at a cold temperature and aged separately in a combination of neutral oak and stainless steel tanks. Sensory: Purple in color with well formed legs; dry, medium-to-

full-bodied with balanced acidity and lightly chewy phenolics. Offers fresh forward black & red fruit (grapey-cherry-berry) with subtle mineral earth and accents of cocoa, tobacco, and black pepper. Very long finish. Complete and succulent. Fine. BS: 89VHR.

ROGGIANO, Morellino di Scansano DOCG, 2008
12x750ml \$13.99 \$158.51

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. 100% Sangiovese. Sensory: Medium-purple-red in color with well formed legs; dry, medium-bodied with fresh acidity and slightly chewy phenolics. Lively with spicy fresh red & black cherry berry fruit, gravelly earth, and accents of cedar, black pepper, and hints of tea & tobacco. Very long finish. Elegant, exciting, lively. Perfect pasta or pizza choice. Really Fine. BS: 90+.

Los ALISOS Chardonnay, Santa Barbara County, 2007
12x750ml \$12.99 \$144.54

Tech: 14.5% Alcohol. 100% Chardonnay from three estate properties in Los Alamos Valley (Barham, Mission Peak and Sainz) tank fermented with full malo lactic and 8 months aging in all oak barrels (70% French 30% American ; 13% new) with stirred lees. Sensory: Yellow gold in color, bright and clear with good legs; dry, full-bodied with softly balanced acidity and very light phenolics. Offers dusty-juicy, ripe tropical fruit with pear, pear peel, red apple, banana , and hints of honey & pineapple combined with subtle mushroomy earth, present oak, and accents of vanilla and creamy butter. Long finish. Rounded, rich, and ripe - big in the mouth in an old school style. Fine. BS: 89.

A-TO-Z Pinot Gris, Willamette Valley, 2007
12x750ml \$12.73 \$143.33

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. 100% Pinot Gris fermented and aged in stainless steel for 4 months with no malolactic. Sensory: Straw in color with copper highlights, bright and clear with well formed legs; dry, medium light-bodied with fresh acidity and very light phenolics. Juicy and lively with fresh pear fruit, lime and mineral; alive in the mouth. YUM. Excellent. BS: 91.

GRAVITY HILLS "Killer Climb" Syrah, Paso Robles, 2005
12x750ml \$11.99 \$134.98

Tech: 14.4% Alcohol. 100% Syrah dry farmed on the steepest vineyard in all of California. Aged 10 months in oak barrels. Sensory: Inky purple in color with well formed legs. Stains the glass. Dry, very full-bodied with balanced acidity and very chewy phenolics. This juicy, black fruit Syrah offers coffee grounds and mixed black and white pepper along with gravelly terroir and subtle oak. Rough and rustic. Perfect for cool weather cooking - especially braised meats. Fine. BS: 89.

VIGILANCE Sauvignon Blanc, Lake County, 2008
12x750ml \$11.93 \$134.40

Tech: 14.3% Alcohol. 100% Sauvignon Blanc fermented (no ML) and aged in stainless steel tanks. Sensory: Pale straw in color, day bright and clear with good legs; dry, light-bodied with fresh acidity. Offers fresh lively mainly citrus fruit (lemon, lime, orange with a hint of peach) with minerally volcanic earth and accents of subtle, cut grass, and a hint of flower-shop; Long, clean, refreshing finish. Pure, lively, fresh, and precise; alive-in-the-mouth. Fine. BS: 88+.

La PLANTA (Arzuaga), Ribera del Duero, 2007
12x750ml \$12.75 \$142.80

Tech: 13.5% Alcohol. 100% Tempranillo aged 6 months in a mix of French and American oak barrels. Sensory: deep purple in color with well formed legs; dry, medium-to-full-bodied with balanced acidity and moderately chewy phenolics. Dark with dusty juicy spicy black & red fruit, earthy rich terroir, and accents of black pepper, chocolate, coffee, savory spice, smokey meat, and leather. Very long finish. Rustic, robust, satisfying; quite tasty. Really Fine. BS: 90.

Special for SPEC's KEY holders:

Buy a mixed case consisting of one 750ml bottle of each of the TWELVE for November 2009 selections for only **\$142.46**, a savings of \$9.93 over SPEC's already low cash bottle price. This special price is good through 11/30/09. UPC: 00000656306

