WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

BUYING GUIDE

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STEVE HIX/SOMOS IMAGES/AGE FOTOSTOCK

Flavors of herbal red berry, carob and dried leaves end with a touch of heat. South American Wine Importers. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** $NA

86 Yali 2011 Wetland Winemaker's Selection Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). After a gritty, fruity smelling opening, this Cabernet-led blend offers fresh, easy flavors of raspberry and plum that conclude simply, light and mellow. This is a fresh, fruity style of red wine with little oak that's more than appealing for the price. San Francisco Wine Exchange. ***Best Buy.*** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

85 Cornellana 2011 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley). With rubbery, slightly herbal aromas of generic red berry, this comes across standard on the nose. In the mouth, it's fresh but smacks hard with acidity, while simple raspberry and plum flavors end herbal and lightly baked tasting. Viña La Rosa USA. ***Best Buy.*** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

85 Sundance 2010 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maule Valley). Herbal plum and berry aromas turn a bit green and herbaceous with airing. In the mouth, this is modest and regular feeling, with leafy flavors of wintergreen running alongside peppery cherry and berry. A short, herbal finish is the close. IBESC Wine Distributor. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** $12

84 Tres Palacios 2011 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Herbal aromas teeter on herbaceous, with bell pepper, rosemary and thyme scents running on top of raspberry and rhubarb. This is full bodied and a bit oaky tasting, with campfire, herbal berry and roasted flavors. A hot finish with bacon, mint and toast is the close. Michael Skurnik Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** $12

83 Botalcura 2009 Gran Reserva La Porfia Cabernet Franc (Curicó Valley). The nose is appealing; there's a mix of wet clay, spice, red currant and herbs. In the mouth, however, this is tangy to the max, with tart red plum, pie cherry and vanilla flavors. By the time it finishes, acidity has assumed the throne. This is extremely lean and zesty for Cab Franc. Specialty Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** $20

83 San Nicolas 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Curicó Valley). Gritty, herbal aromas of generic berry don't exactly draw you in. The palate on this rudimentary Cab is rather weak in structure, with herbal, slightly salty flavors of dry, generic berry fruits. Montcalm Wine Importers. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** $10

82 Aguirre 2011 Reina Ana Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Central Valley). Scratchy, earthy aromas of red plum and cherry lead to a bland palate with modest raspberry and red plum flavors. This closes with dried-out red-fruit notes and little else. Global Alliance TR Corp. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** $9

82 Sundance 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Maule Valley). This weakly constituted Cabernet opens with raisiny aromas. Those are backed by a chunky, low-acid palate with raisin and baked plum flavors. The finish tastes baked and feels rubbery. IBESC Wine Distributor. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** $9

81 Cornellana 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Cachapoal Valley). Rubbery, mulchy aromas never clean up and rank as rough. Roughness describes the palate, too, while flavors of herbal fruit, bitterness, hard spices and buttery oak fail to come around. Viña La Rosa USA. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $10

AUSTRIA

GRÜNER VELTLINER

93 Emmerich Knoll 2011 Ried Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). There is deliciously pure fruit here, rich certainly but with a straight line to pear, sweet orange and peach flavors. Behind the fruity exterior is a more structured core, showing spice as well as density and final acidity. Age for three years and more. Circo Vino. ***Cellar Selection.*** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $56

92 Emmerich Knoll 2011 Loibner Grüner Veltliner Smaragd Vinothekfüllung (Wachau). Big, rich wine, packed with spice, ripe peach and mango flavors. Designated a Library Wine by Knoll, it is complex, ageworthy, with a weight of both fruit and pepper to it. Keep this powerful wine for at least another 2–3 years. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** $79

92 Emmerich Knoll 2011 Ried Schütt Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). Give Grüner the chance to become really ripe and you end up with luscious, rich wines like this. It may be dry, but its texture is so unctuous and soft. Its peach, lychee and kiwi fruit acidity offer the chance for drinking soon, but also promise good aging over the next 2–3 years. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $56

88 Winzer Krems 2012 Kellermeister Privat Kremser Goldberg Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). The wine served at Vienna's famed Opera Ball, this is crisp, herbaceous with apple and citrus fruits already showing a totally refreshing character. It would benefit from a few months in bottle. Screwcap. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $18

88 Winzer Krems 2012 Kremser Sandgrube Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). The Sandgrube vineyard is one of the larger vineyards in the Krems area, well exposed to the Danube river. This Grüner is soft, finely formed, with a youthful texture that gives a mineral tang. Keep this wine for a year. Screwcap. Total Wine & More. ***Best Buy.*** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $11

88 Winzer Krems 2012 Wein Manufaktur Krems Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). A ripe and full-bodied wine. It offers rich creamed apple and peach flavors as well as a contrasting citrus element. Minerality adds texture to this still young wine that needs some bottle aging. Screwcap. Total Wine & More. ***Best Buy.*** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $13

87 Hirsch 2010 Veltliner No 1 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Deliciously refreshing, peach and apricot flavored wine. It is soft while also crisp, bright and fruity. There's a refreshing lemon zest tang to finish. Screwcap. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** $NA

87 Höpler 2012 Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). Tangy orange zest and lime are the dominant flavors of this bright, refreshing wine. There's almost a spritz here, very fruity, crisp, finishing with spice and pepper. Screwcap. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $NA

86 Winzer Krems 2012 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Creamy textured wine, soft and ripe. It has attractive pure acidity that lies lightly on the palate, blended well with riper red apple, pear and just crisp acidity. Ready to drink in six months. Screwcap. Total Wine & More. ***Best Buy.*** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $10

85 Lustig 2011 Grüner Veltliner (Weinland Österreich). A fresh, fruity wine, full of crisp apples with a touch of pear. It's in the bright, light style of the one liter bottles from Austria, a great party wine. Monika Caha Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $NA/1 L

85 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Mo-Velt Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). A rich style of Grüner, showing pear and peach fruits and a warm texture. There is citrus acidity present, supporting the richness. It's a ready-to-drink simple wine, finishing full and fruity. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. ***Best Buy.*** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $10

84 Winzer Krems 2012 Sandgrube 13 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). A wine that is soft, fragrant and very fruity. There's a touch of spice, pepper as well as tangy lemon zest. Sandgrube 13 is the address of the Krems cooperative. Screwcap. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $10

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 Neumeister 2011 Klausen Sauvignon Blanc (Südoststeiermark). A rounded style of Sauvignon Blanc that has a full feeling to it. Yes, there is plenty of herbaceous and citrus character but this is just a part of a rich medley of riper fruits all in a steely

texture. Worth aging for 2–3 years. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $NA

92 Sattlerhof 2011 Sernauberg Erste Lage Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). Ripe mango, peach and pineapple all come together in this rich, opulent wine. Round yet there's a strong ginger and spice component. This is a complex wine, textured, rich and worth aging for at least another two years. Glass stopper. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $38

91 Sattlerhof 2010 Kranachberg Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). The village of Gamlitz is dominated by the Kranachberg vineyard. The example from Sattlerhof shows the natural tropical richness from the warm soils. There is a herbal character to go with the more spicy, fruity. A mineral texture at the end gives bite. Glass stopper. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $52

89 Neumeister 2011 Steirische Klassik Sauvignon Blanc (Steiermark). Bright, fruity Sauvignon Blanc that has a touch of tropical fruits as well as more citrus and grassy characters. Klassik is the most open, attractive, ready-to-drink style from Styria. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $NA

89 Sattlerhof 2011 Steirische Klassik Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). With tropical fruit richness, this is a full and rounded Sauvignon Blanc. It has weight, its spicy texture filled out with both opulent fruits and a crisper citrus acidity. Glass stopper. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $27

87 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2012 Obere Wies Sauvignon Blanc (Burgenland). Ripe, tropical fruit Sauvignon Blanc from vines close to the Neusiedlersee lake. The wine has peach and pineapple flavors that are counterbalance by a more herbal, grassy back taste. Because it is so young, it does need a few more months in bottle. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $17

87 Sattlerhof 2012 Vom Sand Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark). Styria's trademark Sauvignon Blanc in its purest, freshest form. It has delicious acidity, pear and white peach flavors and a burst of grapefruit freshness. Drink now, or hold for a year. Screwcap. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $19

RIESLING

94 Emmerich Knoll 2011 Ried Schütt Dürnsteiner Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). From vineyards close to the romantic ruins of Dürnstein castle, this is a steely, tight, nervy wine, full of citrus fruits, taut acidity and a a crisp texture. It's still very young, a wine that needs several years to really age properly. Circo Vino. ***Cellar Selection.*** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $74

92 Emmerich Knoll 2011 Ried Loibenberg Riesling Smaragd (Wachau). Tight, bright acidity leads off this elegant, perfumed wine. With its white fruit and citrus flavors it is both rich and refreshing. A fine mineral streak runs right through this complex, certainly ageworthy wine. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $61

91 Emmerich Knoll 2011 Ried Pfaffenberg Steiner Selection Riesling (Niederösterreich). Ripe and weighty, this is a rich wine from the Pfaffenberg vineyard in Krems. It has spice as well as perfumed white fruits, a sense of structure and concentration. It feels warm with peach and white fruit flavors likely to develop along with acidity over the next 3–4 years. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $66

88 Höpler 2011 Riesling (Burgenland). Riesling is a rare visitor in the warm climate of Burgenland. But its delicious perfumed acidity is all there, bringing out white peach and lime flavors. Crisp and likely to benefit from a year's aging. Screwcap. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $NA

WHITE BLENDS

92 Loimer 2011 Schell Mann in Gumpoldskirchen (Thermenregion). A blend of local grapes (Zierfandler and Rotgipfler) this is impressive. Rich, perfumed, its fragrant fruits a medley of mulberry, pear and spiced apple. The acidity cuts right through, giving a wine that is both very ripe, balanced and finely textured. Screwcap. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $24

90 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2010 Leithaberg Pinot Blanc-Chardonnay (Burgenland). Rich, tropical fruit flavors. It shows a light touch of wood aging to round and soften the intense and ripe fruits. With the complex fruits, the concentrated texture and the full-bodied character, this is a wine for aging over at least three years. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. ***Editors' Choice.*** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $23

87 Neumeister 2011 Gemischter Satz (Südoststeiermark). A field blend that's an Austrian tradition. It's a delicious, precocious mouth full with its apple acidity and fresh pink grapefruit flavors. It's a pleasure to drink now as an aperitif wine. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** $NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Johanneshof Reinisch 2011 Satzing Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). A single vineyard wine with the typical spice and richness of Rotgipfler, a rare grape found only in Thermenregion, south of Vienna. Just off dry, so soft and warm in character, it has ripe pear, lychee and kiwi fruit flavors. Ready to drink, or age another year or two. Circo Vino. ***Cellar Selection.*** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $42

91 Neumeister 2011 Steintal Roter Traminer (Südoststeiermark). Heavily perfumed Traminer that comes with the faintest pink tinge. The wine has a rich, fragrant character that is shot through with fresher acidity. Try this wine with spicy foods or as a vivid aperitif. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $NA

90 Neumeister 2011 Steirische Klassik Grauburgunder (Südoststeiermark). Grauburgunder, aka Pinot Gris from warm vineyards, giving a rich, unctuous texture, a lightly perfumed character that also maintains freshness and attractive acidity. Keep for six months. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $NA

88 Johanneshof Reinisch 2012 Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). Rotgipfler is almost an exclusivity to Thermenregion. This bright, fruity wine is deliciously crisp with spice, pepper and pear flavors. It has a light lemon edge brought out by the refreshing acidity. Screwcap. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $20

88 Neumeister 2011 Steirische Klassik Gelber Muskateller (Steiermark). There is just a hint of perfume on this orange peel and rosewater flavored wine. Crisp, clean and light, it dances across the palate with bright, easy steps. The edgy texture adds a touch of complexity. Screwcap. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** $NA

87 Höpler 2012 Pinot Blanc (Burgenland). Soft and fruity wine with flavors of bananas, pineapple and crisper acidity. There is a lively essence of lemon flavor that shows brightly through the riper texture. Drink this wine now and over the next year. Screwcap. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $NA

87 Johanneshof Reinisch 2011 Spiegel Zierfandler (Thermenregion). One of two grapes found exclusively in Thermenregion (the other is Rotgipfler), Zierfandler, as here, produces floral wines with intense acidity. This wine is bright, lemon and pear fruits cutting the texture. There is just a touch of sweetness to balance all the acidity. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $42

86 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2012 Heideboden Chardonnay (Burgenland). Superripe wine that shows plenty of warm, aromatic Chardonnay fruits. White plums are balanced by intense spicy acidity with a more rounded core. The wine has a weight and richness that is cut by a grapefruit freshness. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $17

85 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2012 Muskat Ottonel (Burgenland). Often used to make Austrian sweet wines, Muskat Ottonel here is an off-dry wine. The wine brings out the perfumed character of the grape, a simple, full and ripe wine that has rough edges. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** $15

ROSÉ

86 Winzer Krems 2012 Sandgrube 13 Rosé Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). A deliciously fragrant, fresh wine, bright and lively. It has intense, tangy acidity that cuts right through red currant and raspberry fruit flavors. Ready to go now. Screwcap. Total Wine & More. ***Best Buy.*** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** $10

PINOT NOIR

90 Johanneshof Reinisch 2010 Grillenhügel Pinot Noir (Thermenregion). Bitter cherry fruits and firmer tannins dominate this serious, concentrated Pinot Noir. It has weight and a youthful bitterness that needs time to round out. The juiciness and the structure are both there for aging. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $42

86 Höpler 2009 Pinot Noir (Burgenland). Juicy, light in color and texture, the wine is ready to drink with its soft red fruits and fine tannins. The acidity gives a little lift at the end. Screwcap. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $NA

86 Johanneshof Reinisch 2011 Pinot Noir (Thermenregion). Soft, perfumed wine that has fresh red berry fruits, ripe tannins and a juicy fragrance. This is fruity and ready for drinking in the next 2–3 years. Screwcap. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $20

ZWEIGELT

88 Johanneshof Reinisch 2011 Zweigelt (Thermenregion). A firmly tannic wine, its dry core surrounded by dark plum skin and damson flavors. It has weight, a potential for richness that will develop over the next 2–3 years. Solid and chunky aftertaste. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $18

88 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Heideboden Zweigelt (Burgenland). From the Heideboden vineyard, this mineral, structured wine has serious, dark fruits and an initial austerity. Spice, firm tannins and a dark character offer the potential for aging over a good few years–give it at least 4. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $17

86 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2009 Zwickl Zweigelt (Burgenland). Soft, earthy, full-bodied wine. It has attractive red berry fruits, light tannins, a juicy wine that has open fruit flavors. Drink now. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $20

85 Ecker 2011 Zweigelt (Weinland Österreich). Fresh and fruity, this brings out the strawberry and bright fruits of the Zweigelt. A touch of tannin gives the wine shape and structure, while it finishes with juicy, fruity acidity. Michael Skurnik Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $NA/1 L

RED BLENDS

89 Loimer 2010 Schell Mann an der Südbahn (Thermenregion). Loimer, better known as a producer in Kamptal, also has vines in the Thermenregion, south of Vienna. This perfumed, smoky wine is deliciously juicy, a welter of red berries balanced with acidity. Great fruit with just enough tannins to ensure structure. Glass stopper. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** $24

89 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2009 Nit'ana (Burgenland). A big, round and soft wine, full of blackberry and plum fruits, rich and generous. It has warm tannins as well as touches of wood and a open, ripe aftertaste. The name is a pun on the dialect—nit'ana means "not one" referring to the fact the wine is a blend (as well as the family name, Nittnaus). Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $25

86 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Famos (Burgenland). Full, ripe black berry fruited wine. Although young, it already has a soft and smooth texture bringing out richness as well as fruitiness. Spice and pepper add complexity. Not for long aging, this is ready to drink now. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** $23

OTHER RED WINES

92 Johanneshof Reinisch 2009 Holzspur St. Laurent (Thermenregion). Rounded, smooth, rich wine from the warm Holzspur vineyard. It has weight and structure as well, but it's the generosity of this wine that is immediately striking and attractive. It can be kept, but is ready to drink now. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $76

91 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Edelgrund Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). The Edelgrund vineyard, along the northern slopes of Lake Neusiedl gives a powerful, structured wine. It layers dark tannins, an initially stern mineral character that needs time to soften. At the same time, the juicy black fruits and tight acidity offer a more fruity aspect. Keep for 4–5 years. Screwcap. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** $17

91 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2009 Salzberg Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This blend of Merlot and Blaufränkisch allows the ripe Merlot to soften the natural structure of Blaufränkisch and bring out juicy, open, generous flavors. With berry fruits to the fore, rounded tannins, a touch of wood and final sweet acidity, this is a wine that will soon be ready to drink. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $30

88 Johanneshof Reinisch 2011 St. Laurent (Thermenregion). Fruity, aromatic wine, this is a few months too young to drink. Already, it is showing its attractive wild berry and rhubarb fruits and soft tannins. There is a juicy, open aftertaste. Circo Vino. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** $20

DESSERT WINES

94 Neumeister 2010 Saziani Essenz Trockenbeerenauslese (Südoststeiermark). Essenz is the style of wine given to sick emperors as the ultimate medicine. It certainly has a life-giving character, the distillation of noble rot berries, honeyed and intensely texture. The wine has a pure feel, sustained by final acidity. Drink now or age for many years. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 6% **Price:** $NA/375 ml

93 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2006 Sämling Trockenbeerenauslese (Burgenland). Totally intense, perfumed, spicy and rich in botrytis honey, this is a great sweet wine. Tropical fruits are combined with lime marmalade, the concentration balanced by formidable acidity. Keep this superb wine many years. Wein-Bauer, Inc. ***Cellar Selection.*** —R.V.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** $35/375 ml

92 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2009 Trockenbeerenauslese Essenz (Burgenland). A blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sämling, this gold straw colored wine is about freshness and acidity as much as about sweetness. That gives this ageworthy wine a great delicacy and poise, balanced and fresh, the honey botrytis texture attractively layered through this delicious wine. Wein-Bauer, Inc. ***Cellar Selection.*** —R.V.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** $35

91 Höpler 2009 Pinot Noir Eiswein (Burgenland). They could make anything into dessert wine in Burgenland, even Pinot Noir. And this bright gold colored wine is a great success, combining the sweetness and intense acidity with just the lightest touch of tannin. Age this wine for a few more years. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** $NA/375 ml

91 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2005 Chardonnay Trockenbeerenauslese Essenz (Burgenland). Luscious and opulent, this Essenz is the purest elixir. It has a rich texture, unctuous and smooth, the honey flavors laced with intense acidity. The wine tastes delicious now but all that acidity will allow it to age many years. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 6% **Price:** $40/375 ml

90 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Eiswein Exquisit (Burgenland). From grapes picked in February 2012, this light, delicate wine is still young, still finding its balanced acidity and fruit. It has a soft, almost gentle fruit and honey character that hides the intense acidity. It needs several years' aging. Wein-Bauer, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 9% **Price:** $40/375 ml

89 Nittnaus Hans und Christine 2011 Beerenauslese Exquisit (Burgenland). Aromas are all of honey, while on the palate the honey balances with acidity, rhubarb and candied orange flavors giving