



WINE SPECTATOR'S Advance

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE BUYING GUIDE FOR THE **JAN. 31 – FEB. 29, 2008** ISSUE

Wine Spectator's Ultimate Buying Guide includes more than 16,000 wine ratings. Don't miss the 2008 preview of wine regions and the updated pull-out vintage chart.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

95 QUINTA DO CRASTO Douro Reserva Old Vines 2005 • \$40
Deeply colored, with intense yet refined aromas and flavors of kirsch, boysenberry, dark cherry and spice. The fruit is supported by focused notes of mineral and graphite, and the finish is loaded with dark chocolate and medium tannins. Drink now through 2015.—*K.M.*

94 FORADORI Vigneti delle Dolomiti Granato 2004 • \$60
Dark in color. Shows fabulous aromas of blackberry, mineral and licorice. Full-bodied, with big, velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Refined and polished. Very smooth. Wonderfully balanced. Teroldego. Drink now through 2012.—*J.S.*

93 BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS O. FOURNIER Malbec Uco Valley Alfa Crux 2004 • \$44
Dark, and packed with hoisin sauce, Port reduction, bittersweet cocoa, raspberry ganache and charcoal that stay fleshy and driven through the long and structured finish. Offers youthful impact now, but really built for cellaring. Best from 2009 through 2015. 500 cases imported.—*J.M.*

COLLECTIBLES

96 MARCASSIN Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Zio Tony Ranch 2003 • \$75
Fresh, vibrant and concentrated, delivering a complex array of spicy anise-tinged melon, fig, citrus and lemon custard. Lively acidity keeps the flavors dancing on the finish. Drink now through 2012.—*J.L.*

93 MARCASSIN Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Marcassin Vineyard 2003 • \$100
Creamy-textured, with hints of vanilla, anise, pear and melon that are intense, focused and concentrated. Still young and tight, showing great intensity and persistent flavors. Drink now through 2011.—*J.L.*

93 MARCASSIN Chardonnay Sonoma Coast Three Sisters Vineyard 2003 • \$75
A rich, full-bodied style, with a mix of ripe melon, fig and honeysuckle shaded by clean vanilla-tinged oak. Ends with a long, complex finish that for all its size remains elegant and refined. Drink now through 2011.—*J.L.*

SMART BUYS

92 BERINGER Alluvium Blanc Knights Valley 2006 • \$16
Wonderful purity of fruit, with a rich, vibrant beam of tangerine and nectarine and subtle pear shadings. Finishes with a long, clean aftertaste, with a hint of sage. Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Viognier. Drink now through 2011.—*J.L.*