

# Wine Spectator

WineSpectator.com

## GREAT WINES TO DISCOVER



EDITORS' PICKS:  
**30** WINERIES  
TO TRUST

ULTIMATE VALUES:  
**1,236** WINES  
90+/\$30 OR LESS

BUYING GUIDE:  
**650+** WINES  
REVIEWED

THE ABCs  
OF PORT

IRISH  
WHISKEY



**30**

# WINERIES TO DISCOVER

**NEW WORLD** — **40** California, Oregon and Washington **48** Argentina and Chile **50** South Africa, Australia and New Zealand  
**OLD WORLD** — **56** France **61** Italy **65** Spain and Portugal **67** Austria



Illustrations by  
Dan Williams

**W**ineries stand out from the crowd for various reasons. Some are historical leaders in their region. Some produce large quantities of good-value wines. Still others create excitement by combining quality and rarity.

But many great wineries still fly under the radar of most wine lovers. We want to shine the spotlight on some of these underappreciated gems. Think of them as wineries to trust, because these are producers that offer a broad range of wines that consistently deliver both excellence and affordability. That may be an even greater achievement than making a single iconic wine: It requires more nimbleness in the winery and more effort to stand out in the market. However, this approach allows winemakers to drill deeper into the particularities of *terroir* and varietal character.

Some of these wineries' bottlings may be small in terms of production, and therefore a bit more difficult to find. But a winemaker's ability to succeed with multiple cuvées makes his or her bottlings safe bets no matter which of them you encounter.

For this story, we asked our senior tasters to recommend exemplary wineries to explore from the regions they cover. This package spotlights 30 wineries from around the world that produce broad portfolios of distinctive wines. Some are well-established, while others are emerging stars; all consistently deliver high quality and relative value. Almost all the wines referenced in the following pages scored 90 points or higher, or "outstanding," on our 100-point scale, and none are priced in the stratosphere.

These are wineries that deserve your attention, and we encourage you to discover all they have to offer.

## PORTUGAL

### Lavradores de Feitoria

#### *A Force for Small Producers in the Douro*

Portugal's Douro River Valley has seen a boom in the quality of its wines over the past two decades, but financial success has not always been equally shared. Lavradores de Feitoria, founded in 2000, is an attempt to bring a measure of financial stability to some of the region's smaller growers and vintners. Results in the bottle have been impressive, especially in the most recent vintages.

Lavradores de Feitoria roughly translates as "growers of the factory" in Portuguese, which speaks to its collaborative structure: Based in the village of Sabrosa in the Cima Corgo, it brings together 15 producers and

19 quintas (estates) in a modified cooperative venture run as a private company. The aim here is to achieve the highest quality. If a member's grapes fail to meet the strict quality standards of the board of directors, they are not used.

A guiding force has been Dirk Niepoort, one of the Douro's leading table wine and Port vintners. Early on, he was instrumental in hiring the talented Olga Martins, who now oversees the Lavradores' cellars. "The goal has been, since the beginning, to create balanced and elegant wines that age well, having as a starting point the declared commitment to the excellence and tradition of the Douro," says Martins.

The group's members are located in all three major regions of the Douro: Cima Corgo, Baixa Corgo and Douro Superior. The individual quintas cover a wide range of altitudes, exposures and *terroirs*, which are expressed in an impressive range of blends that are some of the most well-priced

in the Douro. Quality is hitting on all cylinders lately, and Lavradores' reds and whites offer a fine entrée into what the region has to offer. —K.M.

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**Lavradores de Feitoria Douro Três Bagos Grande Escolha 2011** | 92 | \$40 | 500 cases made

This comes from old-vine vineyards that are filled with dozens of native Portuguese grape types. A big and rich red, featuring concentrated dark fruit flavors.

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**Lavradores de Feitoria Douro Meruge 2013** | 91 | \$26 | 1,200 cases made

Grapes for this elegant red are harvested from older, north-facing vineyards in the Cima Corgo, in the heart of the Douro. This sees 14 months of aging in new French oak.

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**Lavradores de Feitoria Douro Três Bagos 2013** | 90 | \$15 | 8,000 cases made

A fine entry-level blend that combines three leading Douro grapes—Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca—and features powerful flavors of dark plum, violet and dried berry.

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**Lavradores de Feitoria Douro White Meruge 2014** | 90 | \$26 | 300 cases made

This is a barrel-fermented and barrel-aged version of old-vine Viosinho, a formerly overlooked white variety that Douro vintners are now eager to exploit. Plush and spicy, with rich, creamy flavors.

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Paulo Ruão and Olga Martins of Lavradores de Feitoria