

Get the Most From Your Wine-Buying Dollar

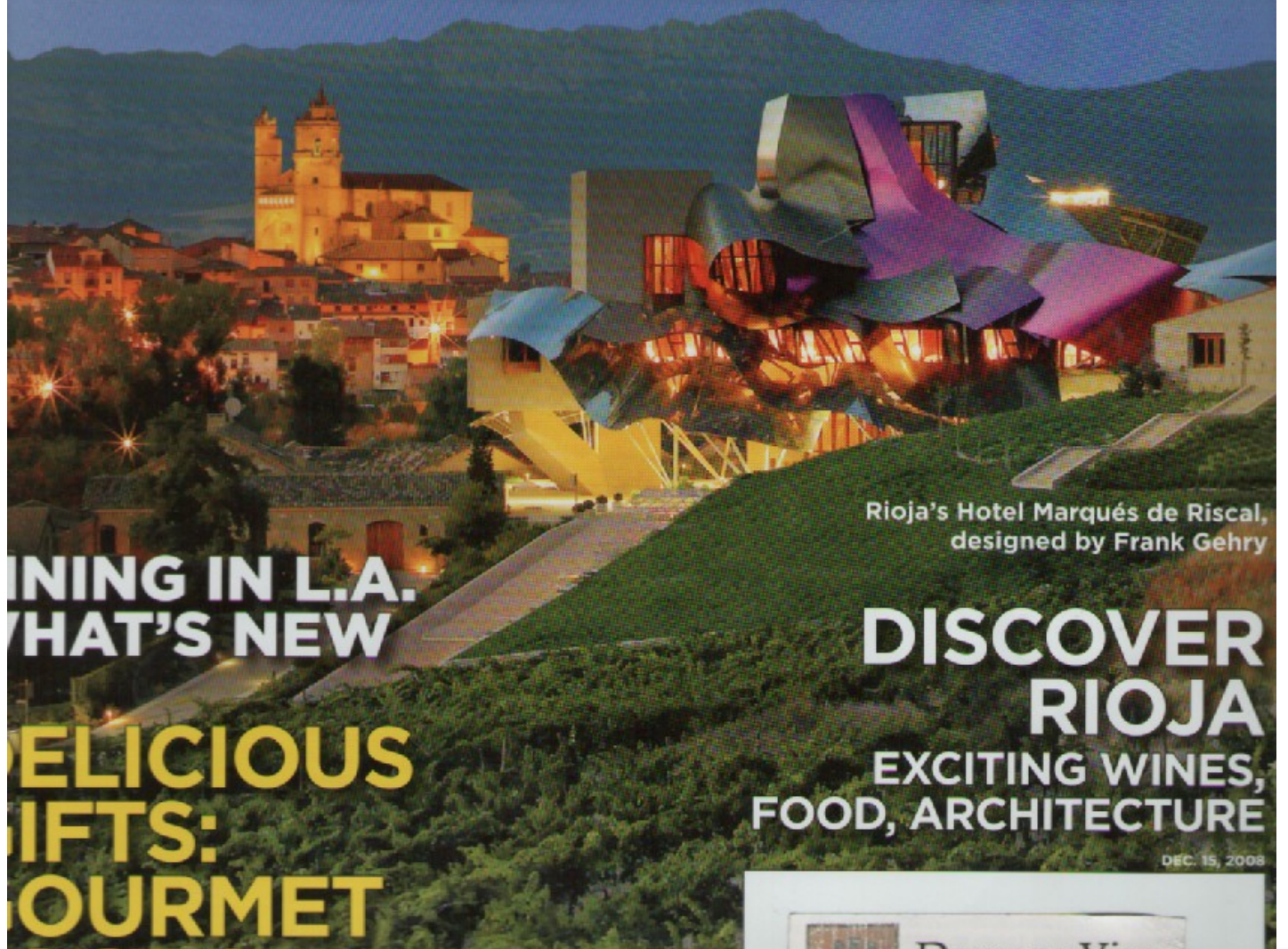
# Wine Spectator

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## Great Reds

### TOP WINES, BEST VALUES

From Spain, Portugal, Piedmont and Argentina



WINE IN L.A.  
WHAT'S NEW

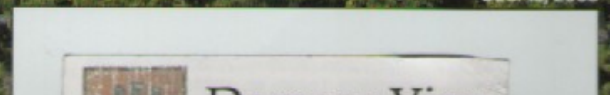
DELICIOUS  
GIFTS:  
GOURMET

Rioja's Hotel Marqués de Riscal,  
designed by Frank Gehry

DISCOVER  
RIOJA

EXCITING WINES,  
FOOD, ARCHITECTURE

DEC. 15, 2006



**Albert Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Grünhäuser Abtberg 2007** Cased, showing vanilla-tinged peach and very firm, with bracing acidity and a long finish. Needs time. Best from 2010 through 2012. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

**Albert Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Saar-Ruwerloch 2007 \$40** A soft, peachy wine with lime and mineral notes in a supported middle, firming up on the finish. Needs time. Best from 2010 through 2012. 350 cases imported.—B.S.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Auslese Gold Roth Lay 2006 \$88/375ml** A rich and complex, featuring apricot, slate aromas and flavors. This is a wine that keeps it fresh and lively. Really juicy and accessible. Best from 2010 through 2012. 350 cases imported.—B.S.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Qualitätswein Roth Lay 2006 \$62** Focused, with a richness seeping in around the edges and mineral flavors hold sway, as this pushes to its conclusion. Surprises and surprises. Drink now.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Auslese Roth Lay Kirchenstück 2006 \$54** Citrus notes play out in this elegant and delicate, it has intensity and a lingering finish. Finishes on the dry side. Best from 2012 through 2024.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Qualitätswein Roth Lay 2006 \$62** Ripe, with mineral, peach and citrus aromas. Firms up on the finish. Best from 2012 through 2024.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Qualitätswein Roth Lay 2006 \$38** Light yet buttery and mineral salt notes. This is vivid and stays lively through the lingering finish. Drink now.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Qualitätswein Roth Lay Schlossberg 2006 \$49** Exotic even, with pineapple, citrus. On the dry side and savory, with persistence. Drink now through 2012.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Kabinett Mosel-Ruwerloch 2006 \$23** Light and lively. Peach, grapefruit, stone and citrus. Firm from the bracing structure, with persistence. Drink now through 2012.

**Ernst Stein Riesling Spätlese Mosel-Ruwerloch 2006 \$34** A firm core in this peachy wine. Here's bright structure and a long finish. Drink now through 2012.

## ITALY Piedmont / Barbaresco

**95 Bruno Giacosa Barbaresco Rabajà 2005 SNA** There's wonderful perfumes in this young Barbaresco, with flowers and ripe berries, as well as strawberry. Full-bodied, chewy and long. Massive on the finish. A superb wine. To be released spring 2009. Best after 2011. 600 cases made.—J.S.

**93 Oriando Abrigo Barbaresco Vigna Montersino 2005 \$50** Soft and sweet, with beautiful plum and berry character and coffee flavors underneath. Rich and very long. A gorgeous young wine. Best after 2011. 600 cases made.—J.S.

**93 Bruno Giacosa Barbaresco Asili 2005 SNA** This is delicate at first, but then turns to a solid, tannic and structured red, with loads of plum and light toasty oak. It's all on the finish. Give this time to show what it has. To be released spring 2009. Best after 2013. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

**93 Cecilia Monte Barbaresco Serracapelli 2004 \$75** Complex and beautiful, offering crushed plum and blackberry, with hints of lemongrass and rose. There's also some tar. Full-bodied, with a supersilky mouthfeel and a long, long finish. A gorgeous Barbaresco. Best after 2011. 405 cases made.—J.S.

**93 Paitin Barbaresco Sori Paitin 2005 \$48** Dense and concentrated, with lots of berries and cherry, with a cut wood note. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a mouth-puckering finish. Needs lots of time in the bottle to come around, but should be really outstanding in the end. Best after 2013. 2,000 cases made.—J.S.

**93 Prunotto Barbaresco Bric Turot 2004 \$80** This is very rich and jammy, with a thick palate of plum jam and toasty oak, along with coffee and cedar undertones. Full, rich and very long, with impressive concentration and wonderful length. Best after 2012. 1,300 cases made.—J.S.

**92 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Moccagatta Riserva 2004 \$80** Wonderful perfumes of plum and strawberry, with hints of flowers. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and beautiful fruit. This shows such lovely sweet fruit on the finish, with balance and beauty. Best after 2011. 850 cases made.—J.S.

**92 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Montefico Riserva 2004 \$80** A wine with wonderful clarity and freshness, with sliced strawberry and cut flowers. Full and chewy, with fine tannins and a long finish. A racy and pretty young wine. Needs time. Best after 2011. 550 cases made.—J.S.

**92 Paitin Barbaresco Sori Paitin Vecchie Vigne 2004 \$80** I like the decadent and rich fruit character in this wine, which is full, round and soft. Pretty and satisfying. A rustic, rich, old-vine style. Best after 2011. 500 cases made.—J.S.

**92 Ronchi Barbaresco Ronchi 2005 \$65** A solid wine, with a dense and tightly wound mouthfeel, offering ripe blackberry and toasty oak. Big, chewy and very rich. Needs lots of bottle time. This is even better than the 2004. Best after 2013. 400 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Oriando Abrigo Barbaresco Vigna Rongallo 2005 \$50** This Barbaresco has impressive concentration of fruit, as well as a floral, earthy undertone. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Turns chewy. Best after 2011. 600 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Montestefano Riserva 2004 \$80** So floral and beautiful on the nose, with sweet, ripe fruit. Full-bodied, with supersilky tannins that caress the palate. Long and fruity, with lots of flavor and character. Best after 2010. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Ovello Riserva 2004 \$80** This has nice freshly sliced plum and peach character. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins, a long finish and an impressive backbone of tannins. Best after 2011. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Pajé Riserva 2004 \$80** A soft and friendly Barbaresco, with plum jam and hints of toasty oak. Full-bodied, round and very friendly and caressing. Floral and pretty. Best after 2011. 550 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Río Sordo Riserva 2004 \$80** Subtle aromas of raspberry and strawberry jam follow through to a medium-to-full body, with soft tannins and an aftertaste of fresh fruit. A balanced and very pretty wine. Best after 2010. 850 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Piero Busso Barbaresco S. Stefanetto 2005 \$55** A lot of new wood on the nose and palate, but the palate is firm and silky, with clean fruit and a long finish. Tight and in need of bottle age to mellow. Best after 2011. 400 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Cigluti Barbaresco Vigne Erte 2005 \$60** Ripe strawberry, with hints of cherry and flowers. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and rich fruit. Tight and firm. Needs time. Best after 2010. 540 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Fontanafredda Barbaresco Coste Rubin 2005 \$65** This shows a lot of cool fruit, with blueberry and blackberry character. Full and chewy, with dusty tannins and a woody finish. A big wine. Best after 2012. 2,100 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Molino Barbaresco Teorema 2005 SNA** A pure and fruity Barbaresco, with plenty of raspberry and strawberry jam and chocolate and vanilla undertones. Full and velvety. Long and rich. Best after 2012. 300 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Dante Rivetti Barbaresco Bricco 2004 \$58** This is thick and very ripe, with raisin, meat and toffee aromas and flavors. Full and chewy, yet almost ultraripely on the palate. Better than previously reviewed. Best after 2011. 550 cases made.—J.S.

**91 Vigin Barbaresco Noemy 2005 \$50** Soft and pretty, with plum and light bitter chocolate character both on the nose and palate. Long and rich. Best after 2010. 340 cases made.—J.S.

**90 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Asili Riserva 2004 \$80** Not a big Barbaresco, but a perfumed, delicate and very friendly red, with strawberry and floral character on the nose and palate. Medium- to full-bodied, with fine tannins and a fresh finish. Best after 2011. 850 cases made.—J.S.

**90 Produttori del Barbaresco Barbaresco Rabajà Riserva 2004 \$80** A very tightly woven red, with chewy, mineral tannins and floral and raspberry character. Medium- to full-bodied, with silky tannins and a reserved finish. This is really holding back right now. Best after 2010. 750 cases made.—J.S.

**90 Bruno Giacosa Barbaresco Santo Stefano di Neive 2005 SNA** Perfumed and very beautiful, with strawberry and flowers. Subtle. Starts off slowly and builds to a full body, with chewy yet silky tannins and a focused, delicate chocolate, berry and light vanilla aftertaste. To be released spring 2009. Best from 2009 through 2013. 1,100 cases made.—J.S.

**90 Fratelli Giacosa Barbaresco Basarin Vigna Gianmaté 2004 \$52** A perfumed and floral young Barbaresco, with strawberry and light vanilla aromas and flavors. Medium- to full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a medium-to-long finish. This shows polished and thoughtful winemaking. Best after 2011. 700 cases made.—J.S.

use and palate. Full, soft and beautiful. Drink now. 550

**d'Alba Superiore 2006** with milk chocolate, lemon nose. The character in this wine, with lively acidity and a... 560 cases made.—J.S.

**ba Scarrone 2006 \$47** racter, with a hint of vanilla. of fruit and wood. Tight and red to resist now. Drink now.

**ba Tre Vigne 2006 \$26** and berry aromas that follow with fresh acidity and a citrus, now. 3,000 cases made.—J.S.

**d'Alba 2006 \$22** Shows with hints of berry. Full and a silky finish. There's choco-nish. Drink now. 6,000 cases

**bera d'Alba Falletto 2006** and licorice fruit follows with a pretty core of fruit and own for his Barolo from this also very good. Drink now.

**Barbera d'Alba Pistin** kberry aromas follow through of fruit and bright acidity. ive. Drink now. 850 cases

**lba Campolive 2006 \$30** ackberry and mineral follow silky tannins and a long, fo- cases made.—J.S.

**d'Alba Pian Romualdo** nd rich, with blackberry and full, soft and flavorful. Very uses made.—J.S.

**arbera d'Alba 2007 \$23** k in color, with a very grapey hints of cream. Full-bodied, thfeel and an aftertaste of bit- Drink now. 1,700 cases

**arbera d'Alba Donatella** nas of scented wood and ripe st and fresh herbs. Medium- of fruit and a crisp yet persis- colate. Compact. Drink now.

**'Alba Superiore Fagiani** omas of crushed berries, min- iced, with soft, silky tannins fruit. Drink now. 415 cases

**arbera d'Alba Pilade 2006** and raspberry, with hints of through to a medium body, ean, fruity finish. Very pretty 00 cases made.—J.S.

**arbera d'Alba Granera Alta** er, with a good concentration ical. Medium- to full-bodied, alate and a firm finish. Always . 5,200 cases made.—J.S.

character. Medium-bodied, with good fruit and a juicy finish. Drink now through 2011. 1,600 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Cordero di Montezemolo Barbera d'Alba 2007 \$NA** Crushed blackberry, with hints of flowers and vanilla on the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, tight and fine, with clean, persistent fruit and mineral on the finish. A structured young Barbera. Drink now. 2,400 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Gianni Gagliardo Barbera d'Alba La Matta 2005 \$45** Plum, spice and meat on the nose. Full-bodied, dense and rich, with orange peel and a decadent fruit finish. Drink now. 850 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Mauro Molino Barbera d'Alba 2007 \$20** An attractive Barbera, with chocolate and berry character on the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, with bright acidity and a fruity finish, along with some bitter chocolate. Drink now. 2,300 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Mauro Molino Barbera d'Alba Vigna Gattere 2006 \$40** Smoky, plummy and light earthy aromas follow through to a full and fruity palate. Soft and fresh, with just a hint of pretty wood on the finish. Drink now. 300 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Montaribaldi Barbera d'Alba Dû Gir 2005 \$22** Blackberry notes, with hints of cherry and spices, follow through to a full body, with soft tannins and a vel- very finish. Very polished, with a beautiful texture. Drink now. 500 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Rocche Costamagna Barbera d'Alba Annunziata 2006 \$19** Bright and fruity, with strawberry and cherry aromas. Medium-bodied, with good acidity. Fruity and fun. Drink now. 1,290 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Mauro Veglio Barbera d'Alba Cascina Nuova 2006 \$40** This shows plenty of very pretty strawberry and raspberry character on the nose and palate. Medium- to full-bodied, with soft tannins and a clean finish. Drink now. 500 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Villae Lanata Barbera d'Alba Lo Zoccolajo Sucle 2005 \$22** Cherry and plum aromas, with light mineral. Medium- to full-bodied, with light, silky tannins and a light chocolate and berry character on the finish. Drink now. 3,700 cases made.—J.S.

**88 Gianni Voerzio Barbera d'Alba Ciabot della Luna 2006 \$48** Fresh blackberry, coffee and light vanilla character. Full, soft and rich. This finishes a little short, but it's a delicious, satisfying and juicy red. Drink now. 480 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Marziano Abbona Barbera d'Alba Rinaldi 2006 \$23** There's plenty of grapey, plummy character on the nose and palate, with bright acidity and a medium finish. Drink now. 1,200 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Orlando Abrigo Barbera d'Alba Mervisano 2006 \$20** This has red fruit and plum skin character, with a hint of vanilla. Medium-bodied. Tight and crisp on the finish. Drink now. 900 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Sergio Barale Barbera d'Alba Preda 2006 \$31** Plum and orange peel aromas follow through to a medium body, with light tannins and a bright finish. Drink now. 500 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Cordero di Montezemolo Barbera d'Alba Superiore Funtani 2006 \$40** This offers lots of new wood and ripe fruit, with blackberry and vanilla character. Medium- to full-bodied, round and rich. Holds together well. Drink now. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Corino Barbera d'Alba 2007 \$23** Gorgeous aromas of blackberry and licorice lead to a medium body, with bright fruit and a medium finish. Drink now. 550 cases made.—J.S.

through to a medium-bodied palate, with light tannins and a fruity finish. Drink now. 1,100 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Giuseppe Cortese Barbera d'Alba 2006 \$18** Earthy on the nose, but there's ripe fruit underneath. Full-bodied, with soft, almost silky tannins. Funky but delicious. Drink now. 500 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Monti Barbera d'Alba 2005 \$50** This offers potent aromas of very ripe fruit and mineral, with hints of flowers. Full-bodied, with a slightly stemmy undertone, but also lots of ripe fruit and toasty oak. Long and delicious. Drink now. 1,250 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Fiorenzo Nada Barbera d'Alba 2006 \$26** This shows ripe berries on the nose, verging on raisin. Full-bodied, with light tannins, but lots of flavor and bright acidity. Drink now. 330 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Pertinace Barbera d'Alba 2006 \$15** Bright blackberry and plum skin aromas follow through to a medium body, with soft texture and a chocolate and citrus fruit aftertaste. Drink now. 5,000 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Renato Ratti Barbera d'Alba Torriglione 2007 \$20** Crushed black fruit, with a black licorice note. Medium- to full-bodied, compact and fruity, with a slightly decadent finish of black pepper and meat. Drink now. 8,400 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Pietro Rinaldi Barbera d'Alba Monpiano 2007 \$24** Offers a mineral nose, with hints of damson and blackberry. Medium-bodied, with a tight, mineral palate and a crisp finish. There's a lovely core of fruit, and this has balance as well. Drink now. 900 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Pietro Rinaldi Barbera d'Alba Superiore Bricco Cichetta 2007 \$35** Damson and grape aromas and flavors, with hints of mineral, follow through to a full body, with a round texture and a flavorful finish. There's also a bitter coffee character. Drink now. 450 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Rocche Costamagna Barbera d'Alba Superiore Rocche delle Rocche 2006 \$25** Aromas of bright strawberry and fresh flowers. Medium-bodied, with citrus, cocoa and berry flavors. Turns a little short. Drink now. 660 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Sebaste Barbera d'Alba S. Rosalia 2007 \$15** A soft, medium-bodied red, with cherry, chocolate and a hint of orange peel that coat the light tannins and give this a tasty finish. The best Barbera from this producer for a while. Drink now. 3,400 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Socré Barbera d'Alba 2005 \$20** Blackberry and plum skin aromas follow through to a full body, with bright acidity and a fruity finish. Drink now. 500 cases made.—J.S.

**87 Vigin Barbera d'Alba My Ruby 2006 \$23** Shows strawberry, flowers and fresh oak on the nose. Full-bodied, with bright acidity and a clean, fruity aftertaste. Drink now. 350 cases made.—J.S.

**86 Cascina Val del Prete Barbera d'Alba Serra de' Gatti 2007 \$21** Pretty aromas of black cherry, strawberry and mineral follow through to a medium-bodied palate, with light tannins and a crisp, fruity finish. A nicely balanced young wine. Drink now. 1,300 cases made.

**86 Livia Fontana Barbera d'Alba 2005 \$18** Berry and cherry, with a milk chocolate undertone, turns to a medium body, with a clean palate and a fruity finish. Delicate. Drink now. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

**86 Ettore Germano Barbera d'Alba Serralunga 2007 \$19** This clean, fruity Barbera offers red berries carried by fresh acidity on a medium palate, followed by a lingering finish. Drink now. 450 cases made.