

100 BEST WINES OF THE YEAR

This year we tasted more than 14,700 wines at *Wine & Spirits*, recommending 4,585. Those recommended wines tend not to be the biggest, boldest or most intense. Rather, we train our tasters and critics to seek out wines that carry the flavors of a place, wines that might be shy at first but reveal themselves over several days, with the kinds of textures and aromas that emerge with decanting or bottle age. The wines that impress us most have memorable depths of flavor, suited for cellaring or as integral parts of a meal.

Our critics selected these 100 wines as the most memorable we tasted over the past year. We present them by country and region, starting with the US. **Joshua Greene, Patrick J. Comiskey** and **Luke Sykora** reviewed the US wines; **Joshua Greene, Stephanie Johnson, Patricio Tapia** and **Tara Q. Thomas** reviewed the imports. We hope you'll find these wines as memorable as we do, great dinner companions and conversation starters.



BEST BAIARRADA

94 | Vadio \$36

2006 Bairrada Red Luís Patrão, who makes the red wines at Esporão in the Alentejo, started this project in 2005 with Eduarda, his partner from Brazil, and his father, Dinis. His family has a block of baga vines, planted sometime before 1932, when Portugal started registering vineyards. They farm it organically, providing the fruit for what is now a ten-year-old wine. It has matured to graceful refinement, taking on the fennel-like notes of an older Barolo, as well as the tarriness of tannins. Those tannins bring a tomato-leaf character to the bright cherry core of fruit. Decant this gentle red for pork roasted with fennel. (*W&S* 4/16) *Langdon Shiverick, Los Angeles, CA*