The vast majority—something like 90% or more—of wine purchased in this country is consumed within 48 hours of purchase. This list isn’t about that. It’s not about pop and pour; it’s not about instant gratification. Instead, our list of the year’s Top 100 Cellar Selections is about laying the groundwork, anticipating the pleasure and—perhaps 10 years from now—experiencing the delights only a mature wine can offer, secure in the knowledge that you purchased it on release and cellared it carefully until just the right moment.

To a large extent, our list of Top 100 Cellar Selections reflects which classic wine regions released the best vintages during the past year. In 2011, that means the list is heavy on 2007 Barolo and 2006 Brunello di Montalcino, but light on the terrific 2009 Bordeaux and Burgundies, which are largely yet to be reviewed. In the interest of diversity, we sprinkle in wines from a wide range of countries and grape varieties, but since most of these ageworthy wines come from established regions and top vintages, the emphasis is on quality, not value. Despite that, this year’s list does feature 30 wines that were originally released for $50 per bottle or less, including the year’s top pick. Multimillionaires shouldn’t have all the fun, should they?
“Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance.”
–Benjamin Franklin

1. **Le Macchiole 2007 Paleo Cabernet Franc (Toscanam).** A drop-dead gorgeous wine with incredible intensity and purity of aromas. You get it all here: bright berry notes, drying mineral, exotic spice, cooling acidity and firm, satisfying struc- ture. It’s a rich, robust and beautiful wine that will award you a memorable drinking experience now or in 10 years time. Domaine Select Wine Estates. —M.L. Price: $125

2. **Domaine Nortier 2006 Brouilly (Beaujolais).** A small wine, in all its structure encased in warm black fruit and oak. It de- velops slowly in the mouth, revealing sweet tannins and an opulent juciness. This acidity is in equally warming additions to the final silky character Age for 3–4 years. Lusted Importers. —R.V. Price: $23

3. **Marchesi Antinori 2007 Guado al Tasso (Montalcino).** A dense, beautifully structured wine. It shows ripeness, ripe fruit with balanced acidity. It’s the finesse that gives it such class, surrounding the fruit, promising long aging. This is a classic for Livello-Bor- toni. —R.V. Price: $140

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**WineMag.com**

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**Words of Winedom**

"Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance."

—Benjamin Franklin

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is steeped in an array of ingredients. The steely
character with its parallel acidity is beautifully integrat-
ed into grapefruit and perfumed white fruits. A fast,
salty texture adds tension to a wine that will age 10
years or more. Van Dusen. —B.V.

**abv:**

Franz Hirtzberger 2010 Singierndassel Riesling Smaragd. A super-
wine, the embodiment of Wachau Riesling. The studied character with its parallel acidity is beautifully integrat-
ed into grapefruit and perfumed white fruits. A fast,
salty texture adds tension to a wine that will age 10
years or more. Van Dusen. —B.V.

**abv:**

Jean-Luc Baldo 2008 Clos Triguedina
Les Petits Catelles (Cahors). The third and most impressive wine in a series of single-vineyard wines, from the 2,000-foot plateau above the Lot River. This is a wine to age, very mineral in character and very
structured, with tight tannins. Keep for six years and
more. Miss Imports.—R.V.

**abv:**

Cordero di Montezemolo 2007 Bricco Gallera (Barolo). This is an exceptional wine that will have a mark, and a memory, with those who drink it. It’s irresistible because of its brilliant, but sim-
ple, philosophy. Realistic Nebbiolo notes of roses, lic-
rice and pressed violets are set beautifully against mid-
toned tones of spice, chocolate and vanilla. It’s the Inte-
gration of these two essences that make this Barolo so
important. Omnibus Distribution.—M.L.

**abv:**

Poggio al Teatro 2007 Dedica a Walter (Toscana). An impressive wine from an impres-
tive vintage, this Tuscan expression of Cabernet Franc opens with opulent fruit notes of blackberry, prune, plum and ripe cherry backed by sleek, pepper, leather and cigar-box notes. The tannins are fine and silky, and the fin-
ish is long and velvety. Winebow.—M.L.

**abv:**

Campbeltown NV Isabella Rare Tokay (Hungary). Dark amber in color and giving
greenish at the rim, the hint of this wine is clearly old
stock going back well over 60 years. Its full-bodied, umliscious, unctuous and repose, resting with malolactic and oxi-
dis and integrated tannin. It is incredibly smooth and
coating the mouth with coffee-like essence that lingers for minutes. Click Wine
Group.—J.C.

**abv:**

Raza Vineyards 2008 Creative Impulse Dubulr Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-
Mallol (Yakima valley). A fine expression of the special strength of the Dubulr vineyard. The fruit is
pure and pure, a true love of blueberry, blackberry and currants. There is a focused breadth of fresh herb and the nose expands the balsamic hue to beautiful. A wine to study and explore; it can continue to evolve for hours, if not days.—PG.

**abv:**

Gaja 2006 Sperss (Langhe). Sperss (the Italian name is inspired by the}
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35
Aurelio Sottino 2007 Rocche dell’Annunziata (Barolo). Wonderful, this is a wine that will blow you away. It’s magnum in all levels from its complexity to its long-endurance on the palate. Aromas of red currant, coffee bean, smoked pancetta and soft spice build in intensity and brightness the longer the wine stays in the glass. Flavors are wrapped tightly and unfold gracefully for at least a decade or more in the cellar, if you are drinking now, drink for at least two hours. —S.H. abv: NA Price: $65

38
Janulik 2007 Champsour Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This includes grapes from Black One (the 1972 planting) and several other more recent plantings at Champsour, essentially this is pure Cabernet Sauvignon. It smells like a fine Bordeaux, still very young and tight, with well-defined layers of flavor. Black cherry, cocoa leaf, pencil lead, smoke and baking spices are tightly stacked and particularly apparent in the aroma. Give this wine a decade or more in the cellar, if you are drinking now, drink for at least two hours. —P.G. abv: NA Price: $50

39
Betz Family 2008 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Sublime and complex, the tannins are not issue, blueberries, carob, licorice and threads of herb and graphite. Flavors are wrapped tightly and unfold gracefully for at least 14 years. The herbal side of Cabernet is noted without losing elegance. Classic, deep and expressive. abv: 14.6% Price: $60

41
Donelan 2009 Kobler Family Vineyard Syrah (Green Valley). An amazing wine, marvelously concentrated in fruit, yet beautifully balanced. Clearly one of the greatest California Syrahs of the decade. Dry and complex, it shows intricate flavors of blackberries, Canadian bacon, mushroom paste, black pepper and smoky cedar flavors. Garonne and compelling, but far too young. Drink 2015-2025. —S.H. abv: 13.8% Price: $45

42
Post-Construction Bash After the U.S. Constitution was outlined, the 35 drafters celebrated with 54 bottles of wine. They are in the center of a lush, beautifully rich series of flavors that range from fruit to licorice to spice. The wine shows great aging potential. Kobrand. —R.V. abv: NA Price: $55

44

47
Donnie Moolea 2008 Alliumberg Pinot Gris (Alsace). Rich and meaty wine in character with a Vincentin Tannins. It is gorgeous and opulent, while balanced and elegant. The acidity is in wonderful contrast to the smoky hazelnut and orange zest flavors. A hint of bitterness suggests, for sure, that this wine will be even more wonderful when aged. Vineyard Brands. —R.V. abv: 14.5% Price: $45

51
Kuleto Estate 2006 India Ink Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). There’s no use for the cellar guarantee. It shows all the classic hallmarks of an ageworthy Napa Cabernet. Dry, tannic and closed, with majestically concentrated blackberry and cassis flavors, and a firm grounding of minerals. Very fine and
complex, very impressive. Hold for at least six years, and should develop in the bottle for far longer. —S.H.

**54**

Kapcsandy Family Winery 2008 Endre (Yountville). Here’s one for the cellar. It’s a big, dry, muscular wine; assertive in tannins, with mineral-driven blackberry and black currant flavors. Muscular and intense, it should provide great drinking starting in 2015 and for many years after. A very great expression of its vineyard, which is basically the old Beringer State Lane Vineyard. —S.H.

*abv: NA*

*Price: $90*

**55**

Silvio Grasso 2007 Ciabot Manzoni (Barolo). This is a wine to fall immediately in love with. How can anyone resist this density, richness in color and concentration? Black spice and mature fruit aromas are woven around delicate touches of red rose, cherries, and mesquite smoke. The wine’s generous persistency can be counted in many long minutes. Drink after 2018. A Marc de Grazia selection; various American importers. —M.L.

*abv: NA*

*Price: $93*

**56**

Gramercy Cellars 2009 The Third Man Red (Columbia Valley). This Priorat-like blend of 50% Grenache, 28% Syrah, and 22% Mourvèdre is pungent and spicy, with a bit of menthol in the nose. Supple and luxurious fruit, a mix of raspberry and black fruits, baking spices and sweet barrel flavors. Powerful and rich, this is a big wine with tobacco and clove highlights and a little heat in the finish. —P.G.

*abv: NA*

*Price: $45*

**57**

Bacalhôa Wines of Portugal 2007 Palácio da Bacalhôa (Península de Setúbal). A selection from the Quinta da Bacalhôa vineyard, this sumptuous wine layers the darkest fruit flavors with a structure that is solid, dense and powerful. Juicy plums, licorice and a firm, starchy edge go with wood aging and bone–dry tannins. Age for 5-6 years. Admiral Imports. —R.V.

*abv: 14%*

*Price: $49*

**58**

Emmerich Knoll 2008 Ried Loibenberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau). The Knoll Grüner style is for a hint of steel, doses of minerality and not too much ornamentation despite the wonderfully elaborate traditional bottle labels. The intense fruit, spice and peach character is balanced by acidity, a taut, nervy edge. It will certainly age for 5–6 years. Circo Vino. —R.V.

*abv: 13.5%*

*Price: $50*

**59**

Rivetto 2007 Serralunga (Barolo). An up-and-coming star of Barolo Serralunga, Rivetto delivers a supersized wine with immense concentration and rock-solid structure. In fact, this wine needs another 10–15 years of aging to complete its long evolution. Already present, however, are tonic tones of red cherry, coffee, mocha, spice and cured meat. Vintage Imports, Inc. —M.L.

*abv: NA*

*Price: $50*

**60**

Joel Gott 2007 GOT7 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Shows a tightly wound structure, with big, hard tannins wrapped like a vise around fresh flavors of blackberries, cherries and cassis. There’s a firm, mineral tang of iron at the core of this
ageworthy wine. Better after 2015, when it should begin to mellow. —S.H.

**61**

**94** Laura Zahtila 2007 Barlow Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Very dark, rich and dramatic. Massively constructed, with vast reserves of blackberry jam, blackstrap molasses, mocha, smoked meat, mushroom sauce and sweet, smoky oak. The tannins are big, ripe and astringent. A great Cabernet that clearly needs plenty of time. Drink 2015 and beyond. —S.H.

**abv:** 14.2%  
**Price:** $50

**62**

**94** Avedea 2004 Grande Follies Vinhas da Quinta da Agueira (Beiras). A superb, concentrated wine, powered by ripe fruits that are now reaching their peak. The wine has a dense texture, with rich berry and sweet plum fruits, bitter chocolate and solid, dark tannins. Age for 5-6 years. FJN Fine Wines LLC. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5%  
**Price:** $50

**63**

**95** Joseph Drouhin 2007 Marquis de Laguiche Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). The magnificent wines from the Marquis de Laguiche estate are produced by Joseph Drouhin. This Morgeot is rich, intense, beautifully concentrated. It has toast, apricot and peach fruits to go with its tight mineral texture. Delicious now, but will age for many years. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.

**abv:** 13.5%  
**Price:** $99

**64**

**95** Domaine de Chevalier 2008 Blanc (Pessac-Léognan). A superb wine. Oily textured, very rich, its fruit ripe. Pear, honey and yellow fruits are allied with taut acidity and light hints of wood. Likely to age over many years. —R.V.

**abv:** NA  
**Price:** $100

**65**

**95** Hestan 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Another excellent Cabernet from Hestan. It’s riper and juicier than the ’06, showing the babyfat of this famous vintage. But it’s no less complex or ageworthy, just drinkable earlier. Shows concentrated blackberry, black currant, anise, licorice and smoky oak flavors, wrapped into dramatic, thick, firm tannins. Should develop over the next decade and beyond. —S.H.

**abv:** 14.6%  
**Price:** $100

**66**

**94** Grimaldi Bruna 2007 Badarina (Barolo). Barolo Badarina deserves praise for the intensity of its aromas and the fine quality of its mouthfeel. Bold oak tones of spice and toasted hazelnut will soon fall to the back of the wine’s bright fruit and cola flavors. Give it time, patience and drink after 2018. Premium Brands. —M.L.

**abv:** NA  
**Price:** $52

**67**

**95** Billecart-Salmon 2000 Cuvée Nicolas François Billecart Brut (Champagne). A wine that strikes a great balance between its intense fruitiness and a pure steely character. It makes it a dry Champagne, while it also has the richness to make it a great wine. It has weight, intensity and several years more aging. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.

**abv:** 12%  
**Price:** $90

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**Tantalize Your Tongue**

Sweet and salty combinations make for a perfect pairing. Just as a chocolate peanut butter cup combines these two taste sensations, a luscious Sauternes and a hunk of Roquefort will do the same.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Wine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 72  | Casa Cadaval 2007 Marquesa de Cada-val (Tejo). New wood gives this wine a polished feel, its berry fruits pushing through dense tannins. It is balanced in the sense that fruit and wood are coming well together, but this impressive wine needs several years’ aging. VOS Selections. —R.V.  
  abv: 14%  
  Price: $25 |
| 73  | Château Giscours 2008 Margaux. A dense wine, powerful while also elegant. It shows all the best character of a grand Margaux, with fine tannins as well as dense structure. It will age well.  —R.V.  
  abv: NA  
  Price: $60 |
| 74  | Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2008 Clos Des Hospices Dans les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis). This Grand Cru within a Grand Cru is a magnificent, opulent wine. It has all the power of a great white Burgundy, the richness allied to minerality and then given weight by toast, yellow fruits and a pure, straight line of acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd.  —M.L.  
  abv: 13.5%  
  Price: $120 |
| 75  | Rocca di Frassinello 2008 Baffonero (Maremma). Baffonero (“black mustache”) is a pure expression of Merlot and represents a new generation of exciting super Tuscans from the southern part of Tuscany. Rocca di Frassinello is betting on this wine to match the greatest Italian Merlots and this first vintage is very impressive indeed. Soft cherry is followed by chocolate, exotic spice, tobacco and clove. Vias Imports.  —M.L.  
  abv: 13.5%  
  Price: $120 |
| 76  | Eyrie 2007 Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The Eyrie reserve is a single-vineyard selection from the estate’s oldest vines, planted between 1967 and 1973. The longevity of these wines is a proven fact; they evolve (and generally improve) for decades. This is already delicious, smoky, almost ethereal, with truly Burgundian finesse and depth. This wine, as much or more than any other, expresses the potential of Oregon Pinot Noir to approach the majesty of fine Burgundy.  —P.G.  
  abv: NA  
  Price: $62 |
| 77  | Château Pontet-Canet 2008 Pauillac. Smooth, with dense tannins hidden behind the ripe, pure fruit, this important wine shows class and an impeccable balance of fruit and tannin. Rich as well as structured, this is a beautiful wine.  —R.V.  
  abv: NA  
  Price: $125 |
| 78  | Albert Bichot 2005 Domaine du Clos Frantin Aux Malconsorts Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). A superb wine, the tannins carrying along the dense structure with ease and grace. The purity of the ripe berry fruit is very marked, with acidity giving freshness to the sweet wine. The whole ensemble is developing well, but will need many years’ aging. A French Paradox.  —R.V.  
  abv: NA  
  Price: $115 |
| 79  | R&A Pfaffl 2010 Hundseleiten Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Rich, smooth and opulent wine from the top Hundseleiten vineyard. It is driven by a taut line of acidity that is surrounded by ripe pear and melon flavors and a rounded, concentrated texture. Fruit is right to the fore in a refined way, and pepper is on the finish. Palm Bay International.  —R.V.  
  abv: 13%  
  Price: $31 |
| 80  | Domaine Dujac 2009 Bonnes-Mares. Firm, but so generous and elegant. There is an ethereal perfumed character, along with mineral and earth notes. The tannins are integrating well in this powerful, impressive, age-worthy wine. The Sorting Table.  —R.V.  
  abv: NA  
  Price: $344 |
| 81  | Domaine Leflaive 2008 Bienvenues Bâtard-Montrachet. A marvelously intense wine, the Chardonnay singing with light toast and acidity. The wine has layers of green apple, spice, a tight texture and orange zest highlights. Age for at least seven years. Wilson Daniels Ltd.  —R.V.  
  abv: 14%  
  Price: $410 |

**Ultimate Cellar Selection**

In 1867, the world’s oldest bottle was unearthed near the town of Speyer, Germany, during the excavation of a vineyard. The bottle has been traced to the 325 A.D. vintage and is displayed at the Historisches Museum der Pfalz.
### Top 100 Cellar Selections 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Wine</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 94     | Château du Cèdre 2007 Le Cèdre (Cadours) | High toast aromas are filled out on the palate with rich, concentrated fruit and bitter chocolate flavors. This powerful, impressive wine is spicy and densely packed. At this stage, it feels hard edged, but that will fill out in the next 3–4 years as the wine broadens out. Martine’s Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5%  
**Price:** $60 |
| 94     | Château Pavie Macquin 2008 Saint-Emilion | An impressive wine, beautifully structured, never too powerful, very elegant. If it feels a little austere at this stage, that is because the structure is dominating the fruit. Give it 5–6 years and the full splendor will be revealed. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA  
**Price:** $80 |
| 97     | Geh. Rat Dr. von Bassermann-Jordan 2008 Deidesheimer Hohennorgan Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Pfalz) | Exceeds even this producer's stunning beerenauslese, featuring an even more intoxicating perfume of honey, dried apricots and candied pineapple, with slightly more acidity to provide balance to the extra level of sweetness, so much so that this wine comes across as refreshing on the finish, despite the incredibly high levels of sugar. Drink now–2050, possibly longer. Valckenberg International, Inc. —J.C.  
**abv:** 6.5%  
**Price:** $245/375 ml |
| 94     | Château Haut-Brion 2007 Blanc (Pessac-Léognan) | The palate opens slowly, offering an initial citrus character, followed by wood and then, finally, wonderfully rich but taut fruit. There is still a toast character here, with apricots and pear on top of the citrus, but it is still only just developing. In 10–15 years, it will be a magnificent wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA  
**Price:** $800 |
| 94     | Domaine de Courcel 2007 Les Rugiens Premier Cru (Pommard) | This has the great aromatic complexity you expect from Rugiens. Generous and full textured, this is a full-bodied, rounded wine. Sweet red fruits, touched by spice, are well balanced with a streak of acidity. Wait for four years, at least. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA  
**Price:** $80 |
| 93     | Joan Simó 2006 Les Eres Vinyes Velles (Priorat) | Pungent up front, with dry bayberry, leather, jam notes and schisty minerality. The palate is all about structure, snappy acids, sinewy tannins and lively, full-force red fruit and plum flavors. Like in the past, this is a top-notch Priorato that holds its form through the acid-driven finish. Best from 2011–2015. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.6%  
**Price:** $66 |
| 93     | Marcarini 2007 Brunate (Barolo) | This Barolo from the Brunate cru shows gorgeous characteristics of mature fruit, spice, natural rubber, asphalt, tar and root beer. The wine’s personality is marked by a comforting, almost familiar territory-driven feel that recalls the greatest Nebbiolo-based wines from Piedmont. Save this bottle in your cellar for 10 years or more. Empson (USA) Ltd. —M.L.  
**abv:** NA  
**Price:** $54 |
Hanzell 2007 Ambassador’s 1953 Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Shows the dryness, acidity and tightly wound minerality of all Hanzell’s young Chardonnays, but with a depth of citrus and apricot fruit that marks it as a reserve. It really warrants time in the cellar. Best after 2013, and should develop for several more years. —S.H.  
abv: 14.3%  
Price: $130

Edgebaston 2008 GS Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch). Hearty and complex, this beautifully intense yet balanced Cab is begging for some time in the cellar. Strong aromas of cassis, forest berries, licorice, clove and bittersweet chocolate flood the nose, while flavors of black plum, leather hide, roasted cocoa nibs and cigar box spice unfold in the lush mouth and transition through to the long finish. With everything so proportionately big and powerful, give this until 2014–2018. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.  
abv: 15%  
Price: $60

Brokenwood 2007 Oakey Creek Sémillon (Hunter Valley). Of Brokenwood’s three current-release Sémillons, this one gets the nod as the most complete. It’s light to medium in weight, but oh so long and precise on the finish, and intense yet seemingly transparent, like spider’s silk, with fleeting glimpses of wet stones and moss. Try between 2015 and 2025. Old Bridge Cellars. —J.C.  
abv: 11.5%  
Price: $32

The Brain is to Blame!  
Ever feel like after tasting many wines they all start to taste the same? While many people assume their taste buds and sense of smell grow tired, researchers believe the brain’s concentration is to blame. For rejuvenation, take a short break and allow your mind to rest.