

Wine Spectator

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ITALY'S Champion

Oscar Farinetti
Expands Eataly
Around the World



ITALY'S
PIEDMONT
MORE THAN 750
WINES RATED

BRUNO
GIACOSA
MAESTRO OF
NEBBIOLO

MICHAEL
MONDAVI'S
PRIVATE
CELLAR

CALIFORNIA

APRIL 30, 2013

GOLDEN STATE VALUES

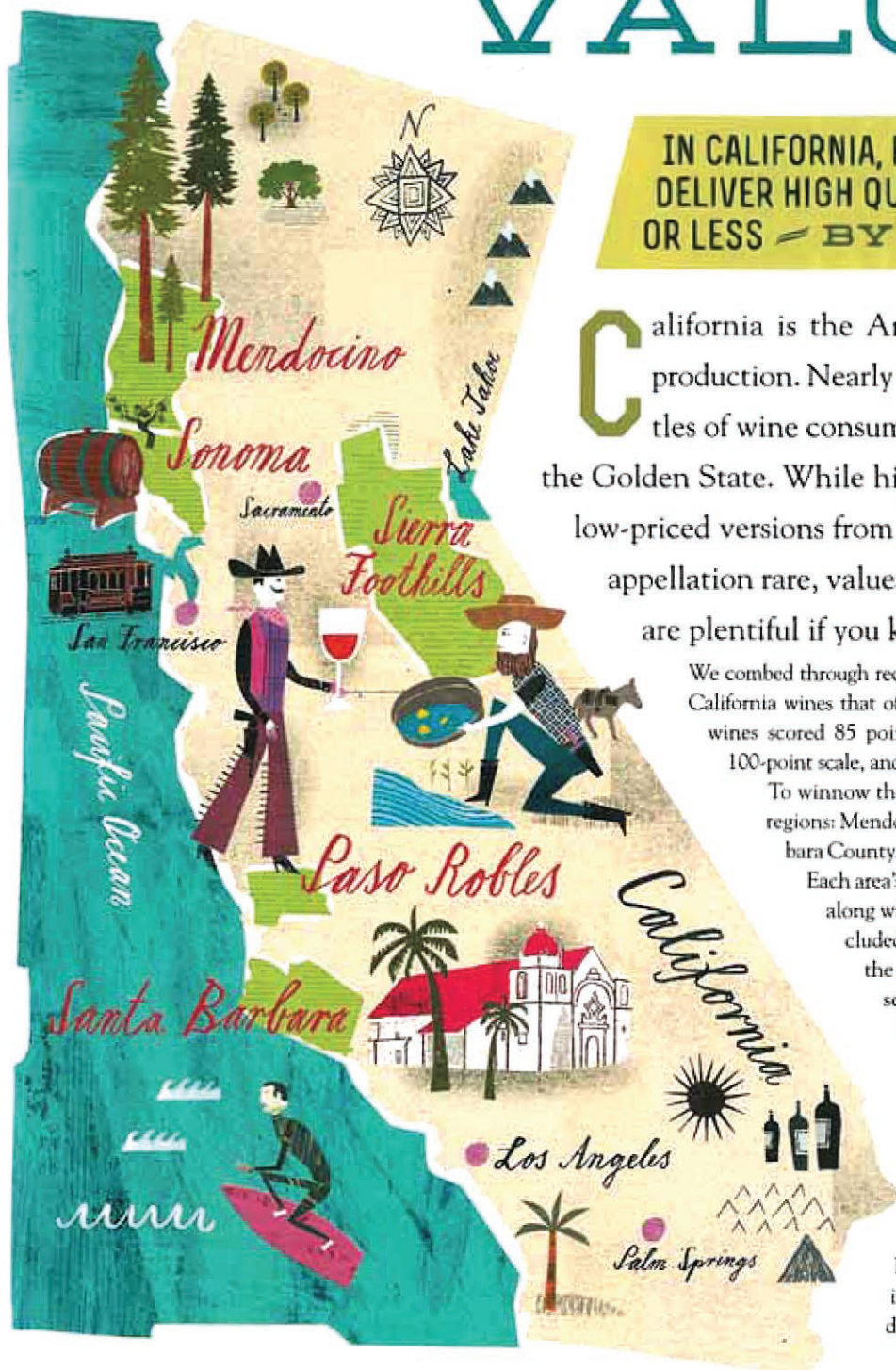
IN CALIFORNIA, FIVE WINE REGIONS
DELIVER HIGH QUALITY FOR \$25
OR LESS — BY TIM FISH

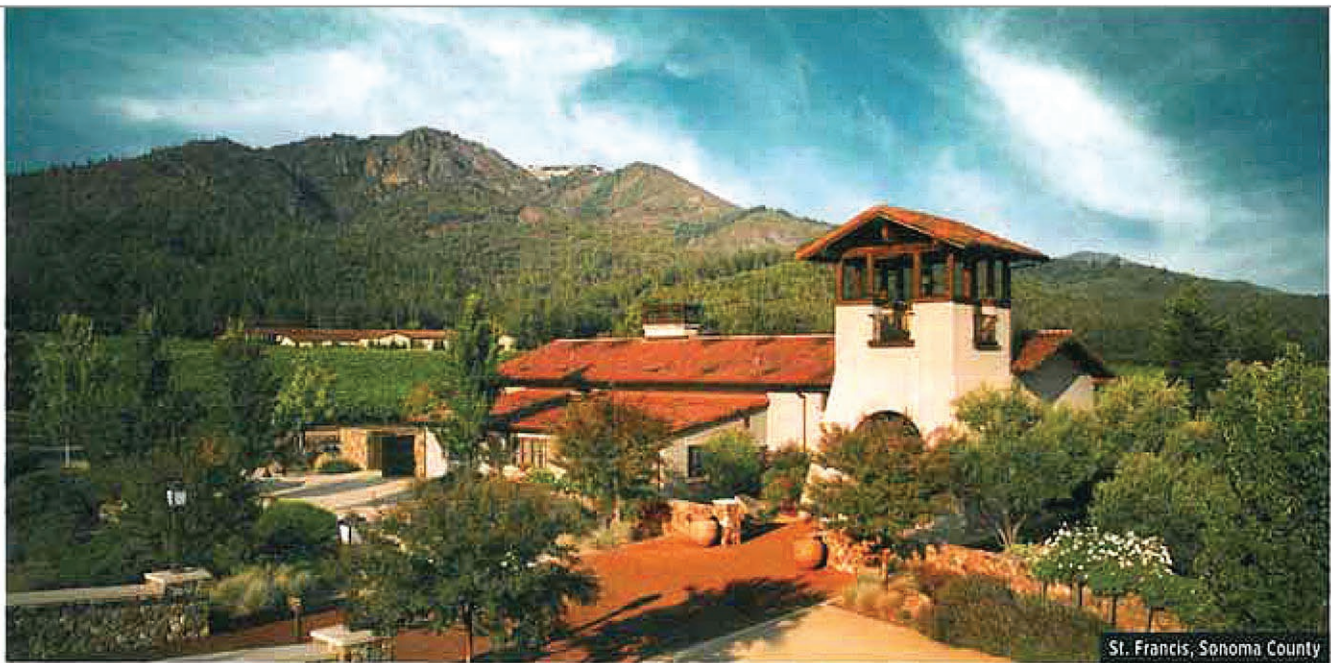
California is the American dynamo of wine production. Nearly two out of every three bottles of wine consumed domestically hail from the Golden State. While high production costs make low-priced versions from the marquee Napa Valley appellation rare, values from other major regions are plentiful if you know where to look.

We combed through recent tastings and found more than 100 California wines that offer quality at a fair price. Each of the wines scored 85 points or higher on the *Wine Spectator* 100-point scale, and not one costs more than \$25 a bottle.

To winnow the choices, we focused on five specific regions: Mendocino County, Paso Robles, Santa Barbara County, Sierra Foothills and Sonoma County. Each area's wines offer a distinctive sense of place along with high quality. In addition, we've included a list of recommended wines carrying the California designation, which represents bottlings made from vineyard sources throughout the state.

Our picks include a wide range of wines, from Zinfandel to Cabernet Sauvignon, Rhône-style blends to sparkling wine, with many offering the bold, fruit-forward flavors that California is known for. Most of these wines have good national availability, making them reliable choices for everyday drinking pleasure.





St. Francis, Sonoma County

87	DOMAINE DE LA TERRE ROUGE Tête-à-Tête Sierra Foothills 2009	\$18
87	RENWOOD Zinfandel Amador County Premier Old Vine 2010	\$20
86	BOEGER Barbera El Dorado 2010	\$17
86	RENWOOD Clarion Amador County 2010	\$20
85	KLASSEN The Big Mouth Calaveras County 2010	\$16

SONOMA COUNTY

No winegrowing region in California offers more diversity than Sonoma County. Pinot Noir and Chardonnay thrive in the cool, foggy areas of Carneros, Sonoma Coast and Russian River, while Alexander Valley is known for its supple Cabernet Sauvignons, and Dry Creek Valley for its zesty Zinfandels. Overall, there are 15 subappellations with distinctive microclimates, covering a total of about 57,000 acres of grapevines.

Sonoma Valley is considered the birthplace of the California wine industry. In the mid-1850s, Hungarian aristocrat Agoston Haraszthy established Buena Vista, now thought to be the state's oldest commercial winery. The first wine-minded visitors to the area were the Franciscan fathers, who established the Sonoma Mission in 1823 and planted grapes to make sacramental wine.

Sonoma has built its reputation in recent years on impressive and often expensive Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, yet it has a long-standing commitment to value, thanks in part to the thrifty traditions of immigrant Italians who maintain deep roots in the county.

92	CHATEAU ST. JEAN Chardonnay Alexander Valley Robert Young Vineyard 2010	\$25
91	FOUR VINES Zinfandel Sonoma County The Sophisticate 2010	\$25
90	BEDROCK Zinfandel Sonoma Valley Old Vine 2011	\$24
90	GLORIA FERRER Blanc de Noirs Carneros NV	\$20
90	PETERSON Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley 2010	\$25
89	ST. FRANCIS Zinfandel Sonoma County Old Vines 2010	\$20
88	ALEXANDER VALLEY VINEYARDS Merlot Alexander Valley Wetzel Family Estate 2009	\$20
88	ARTEZIN Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley 2010	\$25
88	BELLA Zinfandel Dry Creek Valley 2010	\$25

88	CHATEAU ST. JEAN Chardonnay Alexander Valley Belle Terre Vineyard 2010	\$25
88	ENVOLVE Rosé Sonoma Mountain 2011	\$25
88	FREI BROTHERS Merlot Dry Creek Valley Reserve 2010	\$20
88	GLORIA FERRER Va de Vi Ultra Cuvée Sonoma County NV	\$22
88	JCB Pinot Noir Russian River Valley Rosé No. 8 2011	\$25
88	KENWOOD Zinfandel Sonoma Mountain Jack London Vineyard 2010	\$22
88	LASSETER FAMILY Enjoué Sonoma Valley 2011	\$24
88	PARKERS ESTATE Zinfandel Sonoma County Dillon Springs Road 2010	\$20
88	TRENTADUE Zinfandel Alexander Valley La Storia 2011	\$25
87	CHATEAU ST. JEAN Cabernet Sauvignon Sonoma County 2009	\$20
87	GLORIA FERRER Brut Sonoma County Sonoma NV	\$20
87	LA CREMA Chardonnay Sonoma Coast 2010	\$22
87	SEBASTIANI Merlot Sonoma County 2008	\$17
87	SIDURI Pinot Noir Sonoma County 2011	\$22
86	TOAD HOLLOW Merlot Russian River Valley Richard McDowell Vineyard 2009	\$13

OTHER BUYS FROM AROUND THE STATE

92	MEIOMI Pinot Noir Monterey-Santa Barbara- Sonoma Counties 2011	\$22
89	TREANA Marsanne-Viognier Central Coast 2010	\$20
88	BOGLE Merlot California 2010	\$10
88	HAHN GSM Central Coast 2011	\$14
87	BOGLE Zinfandel California Old Vine 2010	\$11
87	CLOS LACHANCE Merlot Central Coast 2009	\$15
86	CASTLE ROCK Zinfandel Lodi 2011	\$11
86	CHÂTEAU JULIEN Merlot Monterey 2010	\$13
86	MATTHEW FRITZ Pinot Noir North Coast 2011	\$15
86	MICHAEL & DAVID PHILLIPS Zinfandel Lodi 7 Deadly Zins Old Vine 2010	\$16
86	PLUNGERHEAD Zinfandel Lodi Old Vine 2011	\$16
85	CAMPUS OAKS Petite Sirah Lodi Old Vine 2009	\$10
85	THE CRUSHER Clarksburg Sugar Beet Ranch 2011	\$18
85	HANDCRAFT Petite Sirah California Artisan Collection 2010	\$12