

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On Sale Beverage Profits



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USA: Top 2013 Pinot Noirs & Chardonnays,

Exceptional 2012 Cabernet Sauvignons

Germany: 300+ 2013 Rieslings (Trodden to TBA),

Silvaners, Pinot Gris & Pinot Noirs

Italy: Excellent values from Soave



STAR LISTINGS



EVERY ISSUE, YOU CAN DEVELOP AN OUTSTANDING, WELL BALANCED WINE LIST AND WINE BY-THE-GLASS PROGRAM FROM THE WINES RECOMMENDED HERE.

RESTAURANT WINE®'S EVALUATION SYSTEM

QUALITY ratings are:

- ★★★★★ **EXCEPTIONAL** quality for its type and style; a superstar within its price category. Merits an extra special effort to purchase. Very highly recommended.
- ★★★★ **EXCELLENT** quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended.
- ★★★ **VERY GOOD** quality for its type, style, and price. Has distinctive character and positive attributes. Recommended.



Unusually smooth for the wine's type and age, and a good wine by-the-glass choice.

Alcohol content – as stated, by volume (i.e., 7.5% to 22%)

[2014-2015] Anticipated peak drinkability, not aging potential.

★★★★★★★★★★

USA

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We taste 2-3 times as many wines for each issue as appear in these pages. The top 1,000 are recommended here.

Wines & Wineries to Watch

USA—The 2013 vintage yielded stunning wines in California. Several Chardonnays that we especially like for both quality and value include those from **Dutton-Goldfield, Folie a Deux, Jordan, Kendall-Jackson, Kosta Browne, Kuleto Estate, Laetitia, Merry Edwards, Nickel & Nickel, Pellegrini Wine Co., Presqu'ile, Talbott, and Truchard** . . . 2013 Sauvignon Blancs also excelled (**Amici, Grgich Hills, Hess Collection, Merry Edwards, Roth Estate**) . . . Another fine 2013 not to miss is **Lang & Reed's** Chenin Blanc, and late harvest Rieslings from **Chateau Ste. Michelle, Greenwood Ridge, and Michelle-Loosen** . . . 2014 dry Roses to seek out include those from **Blackbird, Sidebar (Ramey), and St. Supery** . . .

Turning to red wines: superb 2013 Pinot Noirs were produced by **Amici, Beresini, Dutton-Goldfield, EnRoute, Hyde and Sons, Kendall-Jackson, Kosta Browne, Laetitia, Merry Edwards, Patz & Hall, Pellegrini Wine Co., Talbott**—and in Oregon, **Gran Moraine** . . . 2012 was a banner year for California Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet family blends, including those from **Amici, Blackbird, Cakebread, Charles Krug, Far Niente, Hess Collection, J. Lohr, Kuleto Estate, Roth Estate, Saint Helena Winery, Sebastiani, Truchard, Vine Cliff, and William Hill** . . . U.S. Syrahs keep getting better and better: **Tenet** in Washington state, and **HdV, Nickel & Nickel, Ramey, and Truchard** are making outstanding versions of the varietal.

GERMANY—German had a fine vintage in 2013, even if the style of the wines produced tended to be a bit leaner, lower in alcohol, higher in extract, and higher in acidity than the 2012s, for example. The 2013 whites, in general, are a little reclusive, with very elegant character. Thus, while the wines may not 'wow' like the 2011s or 2012s in their youth, their concentration and firm acidities suggest that the wines will need two or more years in order to display the true depth of their character.

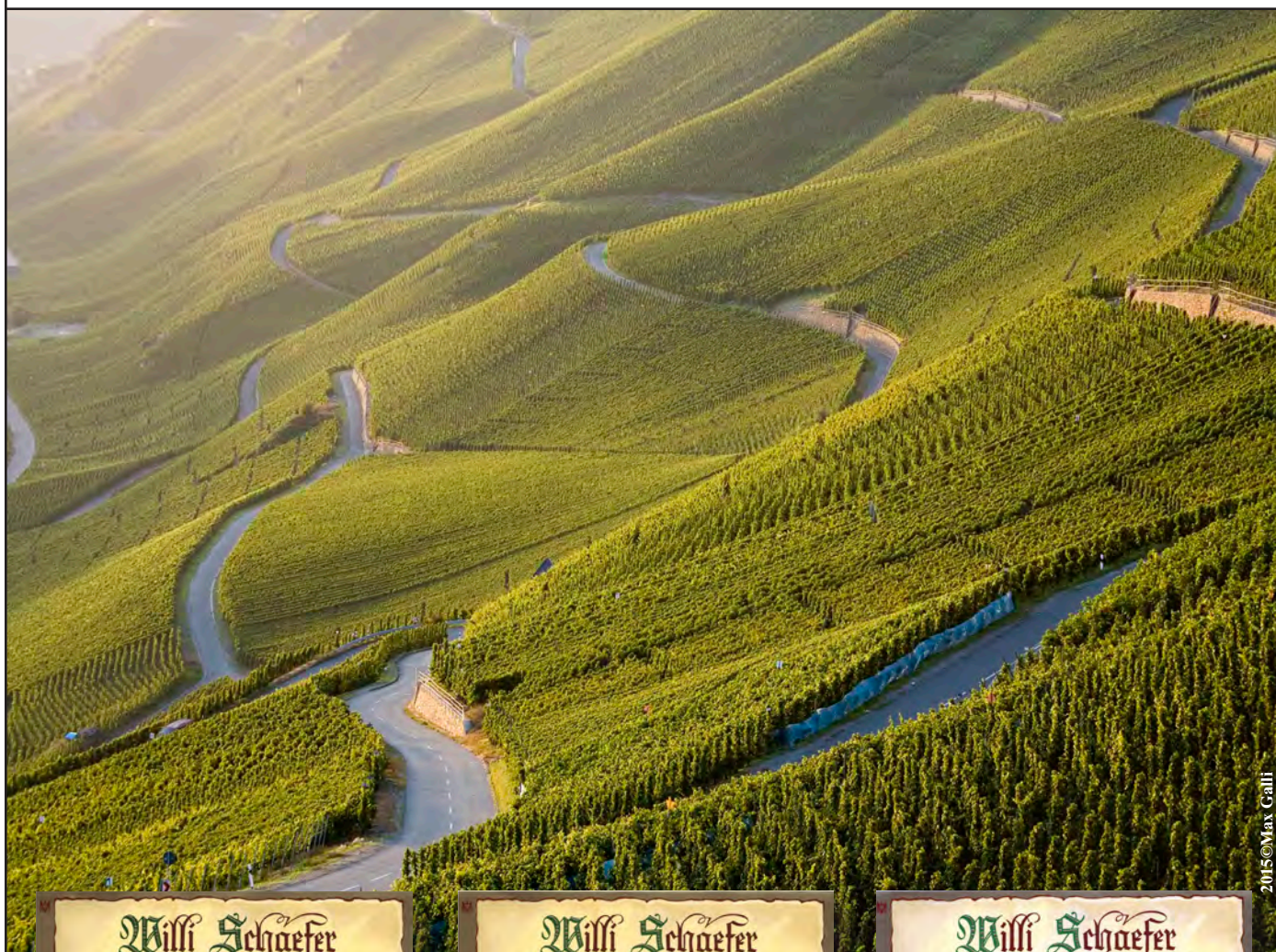
Dry Rieslings that stand out in 2013 include those from **A. Christmann, Battenfeld-Spanier, Bassermann-Jordan, Burg Ravensburg, Domdechant Werner, Donnhoff, Dr. Burklin-Wolf, Dr. Loosen, Grans-Fassian, Hans Wirsching, Karthausenhof, Kloster Eberbach, Kuhling-Gillot, Muller-Catoir, Prinz zu Salm, Robert Weil, Schlossgut Diel, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Schonborn, Schloss Vollrads, Schnaitmann, von Kesselstatt, Wagner-Stempel, and Wittmann**, . . . Terrific dry Silvaners were also produced in 2013: look for those from **Dr. Heger, Furstlich Castell, Hans Wirsching, Horst Sauer, and Julisspital** . . .

And while dry/trocken Rieslings tend to receive the lion's share of consumer/trade attention these days, fruity-to-sweet wines from 2013 can be amazing . . . Witness those from **Baron Knyphausen, Battenfeld-Spanier, Donnhoff, Dr. Loosen, Grans-Fassian, Hans Wirsching, Karthausenhof, Kuhling-Gillot, Markus Molitor, Muller-Catoir, Prinz zu Salm, Robert Weil, Schlossgut Diel, Schloss Johannisberg, Schloss Saarstein, Schloss Vollrads, St. Urbans-Hof, von Kesselstatt, and Willi Schaefer**.

ITALY—Delicious 2012 and 2013 Soaves to seek out include those from **Cantina del Castello, Corte Adami, Coffele, Guerrieri Rizzardi, Le Battistelle, Le Mondolare, Marcato, and Sandro de Bruno**.

NEW ZEALAND—Impressive values in Sauvignon Blanc from the 2014 vintage include those from **Forrest Estate and Lake Chalice**.

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER



2015 © Max Galli

**WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER**

- 2013 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH KABINETT, ★★★★★
\$240 (\$30)
- 2013 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH SPATLESE, ★★★★★
\$320 (\$40)
- 2013 GRAACHER DOMPROBST KABINETT, ★★★★★
\$240 (\$30)
- 2013 GRAACHER DOMPROBST SPATLESE, ★★★★★
NO. 5, \$400 (\$50)

Schaefer's 2013 Rieslings are outstanding, across the board—every one reviewed here first rate. Himmelreich's wines are known for their finesse, and these two versions are exemplary for their designations. The Himmelreich Kabinett (screw cap closure) is a crisp, light bodied wine with fine character (lime, pineapple, apple, peach skin), intense flavor, excellent balance, and a very persistent finish. Great Kabinett. 5% R.S. AP #02. 216 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% The

Himmelreich Spatlese is richer; a refined, intensely flavored, well balanced Spatlese of exceptional quality. It has good depth of fruit, firm acidity, and elegant character, reminiscent of linden blossom, lime, pineapple, green apple, and honey. Superb. 7.1% R.S. AP #08. 216 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% Domprobst's wines are riper and a bit fuller than Himmelreich's, yet display equal complexity and finesse. Schaefer's two 2013s are remarkable wines. The Kabinett is rich, round, and yet light bodied; a wine with ripe fruit character, crisp acidity, excellent balance, and a very long, harmonious finish, tasting of apple, pineapple, lime, and honeysuckle. 5.5% R.S. AP #03. 300 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% The Spatlese is wonderful: intense and ripe in flavor, light bodied, round, and crisp, with refined character (honey, green apple, linden blossom, lime), and a firm, persistent finish. 7.6% R.S. AP #5. 250 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% All four wines warrant additional bottle aging. [2016-2022] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

Spatlese is outstanding: extremely rich and ripe in style (Auslese-like), it is light bodied, sweet but finely balanced, complex in character (peach, honey, apricot, pineapple, linden blossom), and very long and persistent on the finish. Superb. AP #21. 8.5% The Scharlachberg Auslese is stunning: fleshy in texture, light medium bodied, and richly flavored; a wine with fine character and balance, and a very long, crisp finish, tasting of white peach, honey, pineapple, linden blossom, and cherimoya. AP #20. 8% All three wines warrant additional bottle aging. [2017-2022] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT REINHOLD HAART, ★★★★★+
2013 PIESPORTER GOLDTROPFCHEN
AUSLESE, \$264/6 (\$66)

Very fine Auslese: subtle in character but also refined, it is a rich, round, crisp and well balanced wine, with green apple, mint, lime, honey, and apricot aromas/flavors and an extremely long finish. Great value. AP #15. 7% [2018-2028] Cellars International, San Marcos, CA 760.566.0499

WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL

- **2013 KIEDRICH TURMBERG SPATLESE, ★★★★★+**
\$704 (\$88)
- **2013 KIEDRICH GRAFENBERG SPATLESE, ★★★★★**
\$704 (\$88)

Two fine quality Spatleses from Robert Weil. The Turmberg is a medium rich wine that is firmly structured, well balanced, and finely flavored (lime, pear, honeysuckle, apple, pineapple), with a very long, harmonious finish. Still quite young. Very fine quality. AP #010. VDP.Erste Lage. 7.5% The Grafenberg is exceptional: a beautifully balanced Spatlese of very fine quality. It is subtle yet rich, and long and crisp on the finish, tasting of honeysuckle, apple, white peach, and honey. AP #011. VDP. Grosse Lage. 8% Both wines warrant several more years of bottle aging. [2017-2024] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT SCHLOSS SAARSTEIN, 2013 SERRIG ★★★★★
SCHLOSS SAARSTEINER AUSLESE, \$568 (\$71)

Wonderful Auslese: elegantly flavored, light bodied, crisp, and well balanced; a wine with subtle, intense character (honey, lily of the valley, pineapple, honeysuckle, lime) and a long, vibrant finish. Needs aging. 7.06% R.S. AP #11. 33 cases. 8% [2018-2026] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT ST. URBANS-HOF, ★★★★★
2013 PIESPORTER GOLDTROPFCHEN
AUSLESE, \$260/6 (\$65)

Fleshy, rich, and light bodied, this is a finely balanced Auslese with complex character and a very long, harmonious finish, tasting of honey, pineapple, lime, honeysuckle, peach, and pine resin. Can be aged. 10.8% R.S. AP #25. 8% [2017-2024] HB Merchants, New York, NY 917.402.0456

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER

- **2013 AUCTION LOT, GRAACHER DOMPROBST ★★★★★**
SPATLESE, NO. 09, \$480 (\$60)
- **2013 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH AUSLESE, ★★★★★**
NO. 4, \$300/6 (\$75)
- **2013 GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, ★★★★★**
NO. 11, \$300/6 (\$50/375 m.l.)

A trio of stunning Graach Rieslings. The Domprobst Spatlese (Auction Lot) is an intensely flavored, refined Spatlese with terrific flavor and balance. It is light bodied, concentrated, and crisp, with an extremely long, vibrant finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of honey, lime, white peach, and linden blossom. Extremely youthful. 9% R.S. AP #09. 56 cases. VDP. Grosse Lage. 7.5% The Himmelreich Auslese No. 4 is also remarkable: an exceptional Auslese that is elegant, crisp, and concentrated, with fine character (lime, pineapple, mint, honey) and an extremely long, persistent finish. 8.6% R.S. AP #04. 110 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7% The Domprobst Auslese No. 11 is stunning: rich and elegant, light

bodied, and beautifully balanced; a wine with concentrated flavor (honey, white peach, linden blossom, lime, pineapple), firm acidity, and a very long, harmonious, persistent finish. Outstanding. 10% R.S. AP #11. 45 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% All three wines warrant several more years of bottle aging. [2017-2024] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

NOBLE & RICH GERMAN RIESLING — Very Expensive:
\$801/case & Up (\$100.10/btl. & Up full retail)

SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERG, 2013 ROSALACK, ★★★★★+
SCHLOSS JOHANNISBERGER AUSLESE, No. 398,
\$604/12 375 m.l. (\$76/375 m.l.)

Very fine Auslese: extremely concentrated (Beerenauslese-rich), light bodied, very crisp, and well balanced; a very youthful Riesling with honey, peach, honeysuckle, lime, and green apple aromas/flavors and a very long finish. Warrants aging. AP #009. 9.5% [2020-2030] MW Imports, Brooklyn, NY 718.596.3339

WEINGUT BATTENFELD SPANIER, ★★★★★
2013 NIEDER-FLORSHEIM FRAUENBERG
BEERENAUSLESE, \$480/6 375 m.l. (\$120/375 m.l.)

This is a luscious, rich BA of outstanding quality. Medium green gold color. It is very complex in character (apricot, peach jam, lime, honey, toast, candied lemon), beautifully balanced (firm acidity), and a very long, harmonious finish. Outstanding quality. Organic. VDP.Grosse Lage. [2017-2025] Domaine Select Merchants, New York, NY 212.279.0799

WEINGUT DR. LOOSEN

- **2013 ERDENER PRALAT AUSLESE ★★★★★**
GOLDKAPSEL, \$440/6 (\$110)
- **2006 WEHLENER SONNENUHR TROCKEN ★★★★★**
BEERENAUSLESE, \$180/6 187 m.l. (\$45/187 m.l.)

An excellent pair of later-harvested Rieslings. The Pralat Auslese is a concentrated wine that is luscious in texture, light bodied, crisp, and complex in flavor (honey, peach, lime, pineapple, linden blossom), with fine balance and a very long finish. Excellent. AP #51. 7.5% The 2006 Sonnenuhr TBA is also excellent: light medium gold color; supple in texture, very rich in flavor, and luscious and long on the palate, with a very persistent finish, tasting of honey, lime, linden blossom, and peach. AP #14/14. 7% Both wines warrant several more years of bottle aging. [2018-2028] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT JOH. JOS. PRUM

- **2012 GRAACHER HIMMELREICH AUSLESE ★★★★★**
GOLDKAPSEL, \$880 (\$110)
- **2012 WEHLENER SONNENUHR AUSLESE ★★★★★**
GOLDKAPSEL, \$1,000 (\$125)

Two of the best Ausleses we have tasted from this winery in years (and years). The Himmelreich is light bodied, rich but subtle in flavor, crisp, and long on the palate, with a zesty finish, tasting of lime, apple, pineapple, honey, and linden blossom. AP #16. 7% The Sonnenuhr is also excellent: light bodied, round, and intensely flavored; a vibrant, balanced wine with a long finish, tasting of apple, pineapple, honey, grapefruit, peach, and honeysuckle. AP #19. 8% Both wines warrant several more years of bottle aging. [2018-2028] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

WEINGUT KLOSTER EBERBACH, ★★★★★
2010 ERBACHER MARCOBRUNN AUSLESE,
\$248/6 375 m.l. (\$62/375 m.l.)

Screw cap. Extremely distinct in character and very complex, this is a remarkable Auslese. It is very rich on the palate, with very firm acidity, a long flavor evolution, and a very long finish, tasting of peach, honey, pineapple, tobacco, and candied lemon. Superb quality. AP #014. 9.5% [2016-2022] David Bowler Wine, New York, NY 212.807.1680

WEINGUT KUHLING-GILLOT, 2013 NIERSTEIN ★★★★★
PETTENTHAL TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE,
\$660/6 375 m.l. (\$165/375 m.l.)

Splendid TBA! Medium greenish gold color. It is refined and complex in character; very rich on the palate, with very firm acidity; and crisp and persistent on the finish. In addition to beautiful botrytis character (peach, apricot, honey), it has a range of vineyard specific aromas/flavors (straw, peach, dried fig, tobacco) that are reminiscent of great Marcobrunns (Erbach). Organic. AP #35. 9% [2020-2035] Domaine Select Merchants, New York, NY 212.279.0799

WEINGUT ROBERT WEIL – Kiedrich Grafenberg

- **2013 AUSLESE, \$712/6 (\$178)** ★★★★★
- **2013 BEERENAUSLESE, \$1,454/6 375 m.l. (\$363.50/375 m.l.)** ★★★★★
- **2013 TROCKENBEERENAUSLESE, \$1,340/3 375 m.l. (\$670/375 m.l.)** ★★★★★

Grafenberg is one of the greatest Rheingau vineyards, and the Robert Weil estate is its champion, producing—year in and year out—splendid dry, off dry, medium sweet, noble, and rich Rieslings from it. The 2013 Auslese is a very fine wine: light bodied, concentrated, and balanced; a rich wine with refined character (peach, lime, mint, apricot, honey, white pepper), good balance, and a very long, crisp finish. AP #014. 8.5% Nevertheless, however good Weil's other 2013 Grafenberg bottlings are (dry to sweet), the richest of all are also its most successful—and stunning. The BA is fragrant and refined in character; an amazing BA.

WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER



WEINGUT WILLI SCHAEFER

- **2013 GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, NO. 14, \$880 (\$110)** ★★★★★
- **2013 AUCTION LOT, GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, NO. 1, \$600/6 (\$150)** ★★★★★

Willi Schaefer (and son Christoph) produced amazing wines in 2013 from their 10 acres (4 hectares) of top Mittel Mosel sites. Here, the Domprobst Auslese No. 14 is superb: quite rich, but also crisp, with light body, excellent balance, and very refined character (linden blossom, pineapple, lime, honey). It is very long, crisp, and persistent on the finish—a terrific wine. 10.5% R.S. AP #14. 110 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7% The Domprobst Auslese No. 1 is, indeed, number one: a BA-rich wine that is extremely fragrant and refined in character (kiwi fruit, mint, honey, linden blossom, pineapple), richly flavored, and very crisp, with an extremely long finish. Combines depth and finesse. Exceptional quality. Can age for years. 10.8% R.S. AP #1. 24 cases. VDP.Grosse Lage. 7.5% Both wines warrant several more years of additional bottle aging. [2016-2024] Skurnik Wines & Spirits, Syosset, NY 516.677.9300

It is extremely concentrated, yet also fresh and crisp, with good balance, and a long palate evolution, and a finish that lingers for minutes. Superb. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of honeysuckle, peach, lime, mint, pineapple, and lily of the valley). One of the wines of the vintage. AP #018. 8% The TBA is other-worldly: extremely elegant in character and finely balanced; an extraordinary TBA. It is supple and concentrated, with peach, nectarine, honey, lime, linden blossom, and pineapple aromas/flavors, firm underlying acidity, and long, persistent finish that is harmonious and resonates for several minutes. A great wine. AP #021. 7.5% [2020-2040] Loosen Bros. USA, Salem, OR 503.984.3041

WEINGUT S.A. PRUM

- **2001 GRAACHER DOMPROBST AUSLESE, FASS 45, \$432/12 375 m.l. (\$54/375 m.l.)** ★★★★★
- **2006 WEHLENER SONNENUHR BEEREN AUSLESE, FASS 24, \$792/6 375 m.l. (\$198/375 m.l.)** ★★★★★

Two currently available, maturing Rieslings from this excellent Mosel producer. The Domprobst Auslese is terrific: very ripe in flavor, complex in character (linden blossom, peach, mango, apricot jam, honey, pine resin), rich, balanced, and very long on the finish. Nearing its best, but should hold for 5+ more years. 9.2% R.S. AP #15. 22 cases. 8% The Sonnenuhr BA is fleshy, very rich, and light bodied; a superb BA just beginning to mature. It has complex character (honey, peach jam, candied lime, pineapple, mango, roasted nut, caramel), beautiful balance, and an extremely long finish. 21.22% R.S. AP #21. 57 cases. 8.5% [2017-2025] Palm Bay Int'l, Port Washington, NY 516.802.4700

**OTHER DRY/TROCKEN GERMAN WHITE — Medium Priced:
 \$97-\$200/case (\$12.10-\$25/btl. full retail)**

NOTE: Dry wines are all QUALITATSWEIN TROCKEN except where noted otherwise.

FURSTLICH CASTELL'SCHES DOMANENAMT

- **2013 CASTELLER 49° 44', SILVANER, FRANKEN, \$144 (\$18)** ★★★★★+

Both wines have screw cap closures, and both are excellent values. The 49° 44' Silvaner is very fragrant and finely flavored; a dry, round, full bodied wine that is moderately intense, well balanced, and long on the finish, tasting of apple, lime, honey, and grapefruit. AP #038. 1,041 cases. 13% The Schloss Castel dry Silvaner is exceptional: round, medium full bodied, intensely flavored (pear, apple, honey, lime), well balanced, and medium long on the finish. AP #028. 2,666 cases. 12.5% [2015-2017] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

JOACHIM HEGER

- **2013 PINOT GRIS, BADEN, \$176 (\$22)** ★★★★★
- **2013 PINOT BLANC, BADEN, \$176 (\$22)** ★★★★★

Both wines have screw cap closures. The Pinot Gris is especially good: supple and very fruity in style, with good balance, and a long finish, tasting of pear, apple, lemon peel, and honey. AP #50. 12.5% The Pinot Blanc is medium bodied and crisp in style; a fruity (pear, lemon peel) wine with a long, crisp finish. Very good value. AP #44. 12% [2015-2017] Schatzi Wines, Milan, NY 845.266.0376

P.J. VALCKENBERG, 2013 PINOT BLANC, RHEINHESSEN, \$112 (\$14) ★★★+

Screw cap. Very good quality and value. This is light-medium bodied wine with delicate pear, roasted nut, apple, and lime aromas/flavors, and a crisp finish. AP #30. 5,000 cases. 11.5% [2015-2016] Valckenberg International, Tulsa, OK 918.622.0424

Wholesale case price (9 liter case) is listed first: \$128. Retail per bottle price is listed in parentheses: (\$16).