

SPECIAL ISSUE
Wine Country Travel

Wine Spectator

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Exploring California

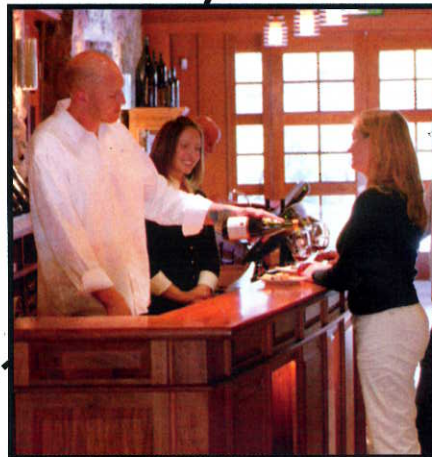
Where to Wine and Dine in
Five Vineyard Regions



SONOMA VALLEY



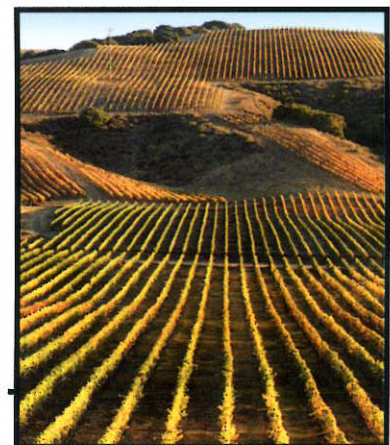
ANDERSON VALLEY



NAPA VALLEY



SIERRA FOOTHILLS



SANTA BARBARA

JUNE 15, 2008

Austria: Whites Excel in 2006
Great Values From France
Scandal Strikes Brunello

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87 Graf Hardegg Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Niederösterreich Vom Schloss 2006 \$21 Tastes of white currant, pippin apple and apricot, with hints of mango and spice. The ripe finish features smoke and grapefruit notes. Drink now. 120 cases imported.—K.M.

87 Michlits Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Meinklang 2006 \$14 Offers lots of intense grapefruit flavors, with some mineral notes. There's an herbal edge to the finish. Try with oysters. Drink now through 2011. 1,250 cases made.—K.M.

87 Bernhard Ott Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Wagram Der Ott 2006 \$25 This has a nice ripeness, with fruity and spicy flavors of peach, apricot, ripe pear and baked apple. The broad finish features smoky notes. Drink now through 2011. 1,250 cases made.—K.M.

87 Bernhard Ott Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Wagram Fass 4 2006 \$21 Ruby grapefruit, peach, smoke and spice flavors mix easily in this ripe style Grüner. The clean finish features mineral notes. Drink now through 2010. 5,000 cases made.—K.M.

87 Josef Schmid Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Cuvée Pepino 2006 \$15 Crisp, with green apple, peach and grapefruit flavors. White pepper and spice linger on the finish. Drink now. 200 cases imported.—K.M.

87 Stiftung Fürst Liechtenstein Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Weinviertel 2006 \$14 Grapefruit and mineral flavors fill this medium-bodied white with plenty of zest. There's a creamy lift to the finish. Drink now through 2011. 2,000 cases made.—K.M.

86 Hugl Weine Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Niederösterreich 2006 \$12/1L Flavors of fresh-squeezed lime and crunchy apple give this a lively allure. Has a snappy finish of sea salt and pepper. Drink now. 2,133 cases imported.—K.M.

86 Laurenz Five Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Niederösterreich Laurenz und Sophie Singing 2006 \$14 Ripe peach and baked apple flavors fill this balanced and firm-tasting white. Finishes with mineral and spice, with notes of grapefruit. Drink now. 16,666 cases made.—K.M.

86 Wieninger Qualitätswein Trocken Wien Nussberg Alte Reben 2006 \$13 Firm, with concentrated ripe apple, peach and apricot flavors. Finishes with notes of butter and spice. Drink now. 1,250 cases made.—K.M.

85 Graf Hardegg Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Niederösterreich Veltlinsky 2006 \$12 Juicy and crisp, with concentrated green apple and citrus flavors. Finishes with white pepper and mineral. Drink now. 800 cases imported.—K.M.

85 Bernhard Ott Grüner Veltliner Qualitätswein Trocken Niederösterreich Am Berg 2006 \$16 Shows crisp, well-defined lemon-lime flavors, with notes of green apple. Has a very clean, focused finish. Drink now. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 5,000 cases made.—K.M.

AUSTRIA

Zweigelt & Blends

90 Domäne Müller Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Süsteiermark Ried Deutsche Weingärten 2000 \$30 A rich red, with a complex array of dark plum, pomegranate and dark chocolate flavors. There's also plenty of vanilla, which lingers on the finish with notes of fresh ground coffee and mocha. Drink now through 2012. 600 cases made.—K.M.

89 Kurt Angerer Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Kamptal Granit 2006 \$20 Concentrated flavors of dark plum, kirsch and blackberry fill this rich, ripe red, which is also powered by hints of smoke and beef. Has a luscious finish of mincemeat and black licorice. Drink now through 2011. 583 cases made.—K.M.

89 Claus Preisinger Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Paradigma 2004 \$60 Lush and rich, with loads of blueberry, dark plum and kirsch flavors. The tannins are big, but in bounds. Has a powerful finish of French roast and raspberry. Zweigelt and Merlot. Drink now through 2011.—K.M.

88 Paul Achs Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Langer Acker 2006 \$38 A fruity, lip-smacking red, with essence of blueberry and lush flavors of raspberry and cream. The snappy finish is filled with nutmeg, chocolate and vanilla. Drink now through 2011.—K.M.

88 Gernot Heinrich Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Pannobile 2005 \$45 This is spicy, showing ripe, well-concentrated flavors of kirsch, dark plum and spice, with medium-grained tannins and chocolate and mint notes on the finish. Zweigelt, Blaufränkisch and Merlot. Drink now through 2010.—K.M.

88 Weninger Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Mittelburgenland 2006 \$15 There's a deep well of red plum, raspberry and kirsch flavors in this juicy, well-structured red. Has plenty of spice, along with hints of black olive and licorice on the long finish. Drink now through 2011. 150 cases imported.—K.M.

88 Winzer Kreams Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Reserve 2003 \$20 Blueberry aromas and flavors fill this spicy, vibrant red, which shows licorice, raspberry and cream on the rich finish. Drink now.—K.M.

87 Feiler-Artinger Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland 2005 \$16 This features ripe flavors of kirsch, blueberry and dark cherry. The lively finish lengthens out nicely with notes of spice and cream. Drink now through 2010. 625 cases made.—K.M.

87 Gernot Heinrich Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland 2006 \$23 Focused flavors of cherry, licorice and dark plum are well-structured, with hints of roast beef. Finishes with powerful spice and red currant notes. Drink now through 2010.—K.M.

87 Winzer Kreams Blauer Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal Edition Chremisa 2005 \$18 Has a silky texture, with plenty of zip to the cherry, plum and red currant flavors. Raspberry and cream fill the finish. Drink now through 2010. 1,250 cases made.—K.M.

87 Zull Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Niederösterreich 2006 \$18 A vibrant, spicy red, with delicious cherry and berry flavors. The refined finish features touches of mocha and cream. Drink now. 1,167 cases made.—K.M.

86 J. Heinrich Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Siglos 2006 \$18 Juicy, with snappy red plum, raspberry and cherry flavors that lengthen out well on the zippy finish. Zweigelt and Blaufränkisch. Drink now. 4,167 cases made.—K.M.

85 Schloss Halbturn Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Zwei. 12006 \$12 Quite beefy and ripe-tasting, with a core of dried cherry and raspberry flavors to back it up. Spicy finish. Drink now. 5,000 cases made.—K.M.

85 Winzer Kreams Blauer Zweigelt Qualitätswein Trocken Kremstal St.-Severin 2006 \$10 Fresh and juicy, with lively flavors of red plum and berry, followed by hints of tobacco leaf on the finish. Drink now. 12,500 cases made.—K.M.

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Other Red

91 Schloss Halbturn Pinot Noir Qualitätswein Trocken Neusiedlersee 2005 \$75 A suave texture and flavors of raspberry, spice, dark cherry and chocolate fill this rich red. The finish lingers with hints of hickory

smoke and mocha. Drink now through 2012. 750 cases made.—K.M.

90 Leo Hillinger Pinot Noir Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland 2004 \$18 Smooth and seductive, with ripe flavors of cherry, spice, mincemeat and smoke. There's also plenty of dark chocolate and olive, with hints of mint on the long finish. Drink now through 2012. 500 cases made.—K.M.

90 Pittnauer Pinot Noir Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Reserve 2005 \$60 A spicy, well-crafted Austrian red, with cherry and berry flavors. Fine-grained tannins and lots of lush, creamy notes fill the fresh finish. Drink now through 2011. 100 cases made.—K.M.

89 Umatham Pinot Noir Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Unter den Terrassen zu Jois 2005 \$79 Lush and vibrant, with silky tannins and a mouthful of sweet cherry, spice and roast beef flavors. Stylish, with a rich finish of cream and hints of mocha. Drink now through 2011. 465 cases made.—K.M.

88 Birgit Braunstein Saint Laurent Qualitätswein Trocken Neusiedlersee-Hügelland Goldberg 2004 \$33 Very plummy- and fruity-tasting, with concentrated blueberry notes and an intense mineral element. Notes of espresso and dark chocolate fill the finish. Powerful. Drink now through 2011. 500 cases made.—K.M.

88 House of Hafner Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Dornröschen 2003 \$25 This is spicy and supple, with deliciously ripe, fruity flavors of red plum, cherry, paprika and sandalwood. Finishes with milk chocolate notes. A good quaff for roast pork or barbecue fare. Dornfelder and Rösler. Kosher. Drink now through 2010. 583 cases made.—K.M.

88 Juris Saint Laurent Qualitätswein Trocken Burgenland Reserve 2004 \$42 A thick, rich-tasting Saint Laurent, showing plenty of dark plum and cassis flavors, with hints of mint. The lush finish features plenty of spice and smoke. Drink now through 2011. 667 cases made.—K.M.

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Other White

94 Knoll Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Dürnsteiner Ried Schütt 2006 \$79 A big, rich Riesling, with tropical fruit flavors of mango and guava, along with luscious ripe peach and apple. The finish is filled with spice and smoke. This is really humming. Drink now through 2018. 25 cases imported.—K.M.

93 Allram Riesling Qualitätswein Trocken Kamptal Strasser Gaisberg Reserve 2006 \$32 Exhibits enticing aromas of cherry and plum, with pear, apple and lemon curd flavors, which are accented by powerful mineral notes. Sea salt and pepper fill the crisp finish. This should age beautifully. Drink now through 2015. 833 cases made.—K.M.

93 Knoll Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Dürnsteiner Ried Kellerberg 2006 \$70 Rich and powerful, with loads of luscious apple, peach, ripe pear and currant flavors. Notes of mineral and smoke are joined by plenty of spice on the lush yet firm finish. One for the cellar. Best from 2009 through 2016. 35 cases imported.—K.M.

92 Knoll Riesling Smaragd Trocken Wachau Loibner Ried Loibenberg 2006 \$64 Lush, with a rich texture and a concentrated array of powerful apple, nectarine, mineral and crisp apple flavors. There's also plenty of ripe tropical fruit notes, with a long, spicy finish. Drink now through 2015. 50 cases imported.—K.M.

91 Bründlmayer Riesling Qualitätswein Trocken Kamptal Zöbinger Heiligenstein Lyra 2006 \$70 A creamy white, offering rich, ripe tropical fruit flavors, with notes of smoke and spice. Shows honey and meringue on the finish. Drink now through 2012.—K.M.