

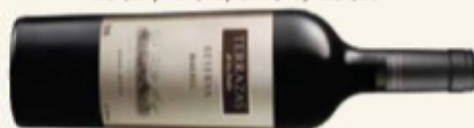
BEST BUY

- 90** BRANCAIA 2009 Tre
Tuscany, Italy
BC \$31 speculative – Trialto Wine Group,
AB \$25 fine wine shops, ON \$23, QC \$23, NS \$28

Tre is an 80/10/10 mix of three grapes — sangiovese, merlot and cabernet sauvignon, respectively — picked from three estates in Castellina, Radda and Morellino di Scansano. There is much more elegance here than in earlier versions. Love the open, fresh, savoury, cran-cherry, floral nose, flecked with licorice and tobacco. More cassis and smoky, cherry, licorice flavours alongside a balanced alcohol level make this classic Tuscan red ideal for pastas or chicken. (AG)

CELLAR DWELLER

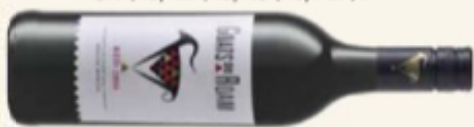
- 90** TERRAZAS DE LOS ANDES 2009
Malbec Reserva
Mendoza, Argentina
BC \$21, AB \$19, ON \$18, QC \$20



Chocolate, peppery, spicy, savoury, floral, barnyard, black cherry, tobacco aromas. Dry, full, supple, smooth palate with peppery, smoky, spicy, tobacco, cherry jam, chocolate, orange, leather and licorice flavours. Finish is young and warm with fine concentration and finesse. Needs 2 to 4 years more in bottle to express all its talent. Great wine for steak. (ST)

KILLER VALUE

- 87** GOATS DO ROAM 2010 Red
South Africa
BC \$15 specialty, AB \$14, SK \$13,
ON \$13, NB \$13, NS \$13, PEI \$14



Smoky, meaty, earthy, saddle leather, tobacco, coffee, black cherry, barnyard aromas. Soft, round, easy palate with fresh acidity. Spicy, meaty, cherry, coffee, smoky, earthy, saddle leather flavours with a touch of orange peel. It finishes warm and a bit tart, but would be fine with stews or grilled meats. (AG)

LOCAL HEROES

- 89** MISSION HILL 2010
Viognier Reserve
Okanagan Valley, British Columbia,
Canada
BC \$18



Bright citrus, floral, honey, light lees aromas flecked with green apple and light sausage notes. Fresh, juicy, crisp, off-dry palate with a touch of oiliness. Red apple, honey, nectarine, ginger, grapefruit rind and spice flavours. Match with spicy seafood dishes. Easy to recommend. (ST)

TAKE ME TO DINNER

- 90** BERINGER 2010 Chardonnay
Napa Valley, California,
United States
BC \$25 specialty, AB \$25, MB \$35, ON \$25,
QC \$27, NL \$30



Yes it's Napa, and there is a sense of richness on the nose, but this wine is as trimmed down as Napa gets, with its fresher, leaner, mineral/citrus aromas and flavours that descend into a fresh, creamy finish with flecks of orange and red apple. Perfect lees management adds to its complexity. Excellent value. (AG)

WEEKEND WARRIOR

- 88** CHONO 2008 Reserva Syrah
Elqui Valley, Chile
BC \$20, AB \$17, ON \$17



Good intense aromas with ripe blackberry and plum, pepper, violet, roasted meat, blueberry and oak. The palate is quite full with balanced acidity and ripe tannins and flavours of chocolate, oak, blackberry, black cherry, pepper, coconut, merquén and roast herbs with medium length. Pair with merquén-rubbed, garlic-studded leg of lamb. (RP)

- 92** BACHELDER 2009
Chardonnay
Niagara Peninsula,
Ontario, Canada
ON \$35, QC \$35



This Niagara version of the Bachelder trilogy (Burgundy and Oregon) is made in a tight, mineral style that is more about finesse and grace than power. It has blossomed into a more voluptuous wine over months in the bottle. Impeccable balance through the long finish. (RVS) WA