

Antiyal

2003

Origin Chile, Maipo Valley

Style Dry red wine, 14.5% ABV

Grapes Carmenère, Merlot, C. Sauvignon, Syrah

Chile's first garage wine, Antiyal, was first produced in 1998 by Alvaro Espinoza, who had already made a name for himself at Santa Rita's offshoot, Carmen. Espinoza and his wife, Marina, converted a small barn in their front garden into a winery. The grapes for Antiyal come from Espinoza's front garden and other Maipo Valley vines belong to Alvaro's mother. Both Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon and Carmenère benefit from a dose of Syrah to give the wine the breadth its otherwise linear profile demands—a profile accentuated by Espinoza's then thoroughly unorthodox, non-interventionist approach.

Apart from aging in French barrels (some of which come secondhand from Santa Rita), Antiyal, which in the local Mapuche dialect means "sons of the sun," bears no winemaking airs and graces—as evinced by the 2003, a vintage of perfect balance and ripeness. Antiyal's new home from 2007 is Chile's first green winery, which makes use of solar and wind power, and even has a lunar window that can be opened to allow the barrels access to beneficial lunar forces during propitious periods. **MW**

☞☞ Drink: recent vintages for up to 15 years

The stunning Maipo Valley, Chile, with the Andes in the distance. 📷





Château Haut-Marbuzet

1999

Origin France, Bordeaux, St.-Estèphe

Style Dry red wine, 13% ABV

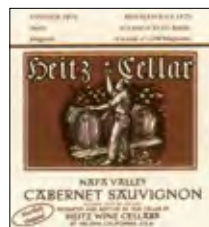
Grapes Merlot 50%, C. Sauvignon 40%, C. Franc 10%

Henri Dubosq owns a cluster of properties in the southeast corner of the appellation and Haut-Marbuzet is the best of them. Since 1952, when Henri's father began buying vines in the area, the Dubosqs have applied themselves to reconstituting the ancient *Domaine du Marbuzet*, fragmented in 1948, and the process was completed only in 1996.

There is plenty of clay in the soil at Haut-Marbuzet, which accounts for the generous proportion of Merlot, giving the wine its sensuous appeal. Another factor behind its popularity is that Dubosq ages the wine entirely in new oak. Curiously, the wine does not taste that oaky, but the new oak probably contributes to its sweetness, accessibility, and svelte texture. St.-Estèphe has a reputation for rather tough wines, but Haut-Marbuzet is always attractive from the moment of release, though it keeps well, peaking at about fifteen years of age.

The 1999, which Dubosq prefers to the 2000, is a perfect example of Haut-Marbuzet: aromatic, concentrated, and spicy, yet with integrated tannins and fine length of flavor. Haut-Marbuzet rarely lets you down. **SBr**

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Heitz Wine Cellars *Martha's*

Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 1974

Origin USA, California, Napa Valley

Style Dry red wine, 13.5% ABV

Grape Cabernet Sauvignon

From the initial release of the acclaimed 1974 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons, Heitz's *Martha's Vineyard* bottling was declared the wine of the vintage. Along with the 1968 and 1970, the 1974 is considered the finest wine Joe Heitz ever made—except he didn't make it. In fact, Joe Heitz lay in bed with a sore back when harvesting began; it was his son David who harvested and vinified the wine, marking his first vintage as winemaker. What a beginning for a young winemaker: The wine remains one of the earliest and most sought-after California cult wines of all.

Planted entirely to Cabernet Sauvignon, the vineyard's alluvial fan and bale loam soils back up against the western foothills of Napa Valley. The uniqueness of the terroir manifests itself in a distinctive eucalyptus aroma in the wine.

The 1974, described by Robert Parker twice in one review as "monumental," was extolled for its "staggering" concentration. Thirty years from vintage, the flavor remained deep and saturated, with fully integrated tannins and sweet, rich fruit. A truly legendary wine. **LGr**

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Henschke

Hill of Grace 1998

Origin Australia, South Australia, Eden Valley

Style Dry red wine, 14% ABV

Grape Shiraz

Second only to Penfolds Grange in the Australian red wine hierarchy, Henschke's *Hill of Grace* is very different to Grange—a single-vineyard wine rather than a multiregion blend, and a wine that aims to achieve elegance rather than power.

"The Grandfathers," as the oldest part of the vineyard is called, was probably planted in the 1860s. These vines are planted on their own roots from pre-phylloxera material brought from Europe by the early settlers. The vineyard is planted predominantly to Shiraz, but it also includes other varieties such as Riesling, Sémillon, and Mataro (also called Mourvèdre).

The wine itself typically has plum, blackberry, and chocolate flavors, with supple and chalky tannins, and huge length. It can be aged with confidence for at least ten years. Current owners Stephen and Prue Henschke assert that dry growing, the age of the vines, and day/night temperature fluctuations at the vineyard are the secrets behind *Hill of Grace's* stunning quality. For some, however, Henschke's other single-vineyard Shiraz, *Mount Edelstone*, is sometimes at least its equal. **SG**

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Herdade de Cartuxa

Pera Manca 1995

Origin Portugal, Alentejo

Style Dry red wine, 14.6% ABV

Grapes Trincadeira, Aragonez, Cabernet Sauvignon

The *Convento de Cartuxa* is a former Carthusian monastery, which was founded in 1587, becoming a private estate in 1834. It was occupied by farm workers following Portugal's "Carnation Revolution" in 1974, and when the property was returned to its owners, it was in an appallingly neglected state, and the vineyards had to be thoroughly overhauled.

The estate's finest wine is *Pera Manca*. It was a well-known wine prior to the outbreak of phylloxera but after the epidemic had run its course, the land was forested and it was only in 1987 that *Pera Manca* was revived.

The wines are only released in the best years, and the 1995 is one of the most successful vintages, exuding power and richness, with a bitter-sweet, chocolate-like intensity of flavor akin to *Vintage Port*. The Cabernet just penetrates the aroma, and black currant punctuates the dense morello cherry and raisin-like fruit. A somewhat burned, feral character develops in the wine with age. *Pera Manca* commands stupendous prices, and has rapidly become the cult wine of southern Portugal, comparable with *Barca Velha* in the north. **RM**

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Domaine de Trévallon *Vin de Table des Bouches du Rhône* 2001

Origin France, Provence

Style Dry red wine, 13.5% ABV

Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah

It was a refugee from Champagne and Bordeaux, Georges Brunet, who discovered the formula for a certain sort of wine that was eventually enshrined in the creation of the AOC Coteaux des Baux de Provence—a mainstay of Cabernet Sauvignon with a healthy dollop of Syrah. It was the nearest thing to the New World that France had ever seen. Some would say it still is.

In 1973, a young architect, Eloi Durrbach—whose parents had owned a domaine in the village since the 1960s—came to Les Baux to work with Brunet at Château Vignelaure. Durrbach released his first wine in 1978 and, by the early 1980s, he had achieved a reputation for his wines at places like Willi's Wine Bar in Paris; then came accolades from Robert Parker, and there was no looking back. The authorities tried to put a spanner in the works in 1994, when they changed the rules governing the appellation. Now only 20 percent Cabernet was permitted. However, Durrbach was easily able to sell Trévallon under the lesser appellation of Vin de Pays des Bouches du Rhône.

The wine is now half and half Cabernet and Syrah. The 2001 was a small, concentrated crop, where the Mistral wind played its role in drying out the grapes. The resulting wine has wonderful color and extract. The wine smells of black currants and strawberries, and has a faint whiff of tobacco and herbs. It finishes with a distinct mineral tang. **GM**

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Domaine de Trévallon vines on the slopes of the Chaîne des Alpilles. 📍

