



TOP 100 BEST BUYS 2009



Our editors select the best value-priced wines of the year.

At *Wine Enthusiast*, our tasting panel's job is relatively straightforward: judge and rate wines blind based purely on quality, with no inkling of producer or price. But at the end of the day when choosing what we'll pour at the dinner table, we're like any other wine lover in these tough economic times: price matters, and we're as thrilled for ourselves as for our readers when we find an outstanding Cabernet for \$15, or a knockout Sauvignon Blanc that won't break the bank.

That's why we're pleased to share with our readers the discoveries we find as reviewers: when the bags that disguise reviewed wines' identities come off and the scores are in, we then determine whether the wine can be given the Best Buy status, i.e. if a wine's score on the *Wine Enthusiast* 100-point scale is high in relation to its price (a very precise formula we keep to ourselves, but 87-points-and-above and \$15-and-below are approximate yardsticks). The higher the ruling and lower the price, the more of a quintessential Best Buy a wine becomes—no mystery about that. Only about 10% of the 10,000 wines we review annually merit this designation. So enjoy this elite grouping of Best Buy wines. In selecting, opening and sharing with friends and family, you won't be disappointed.

25 **Kanonkop 2007 Kadette** (Stellenbosch); \$13.

90 Full-bodied with juicy flavors of berry and plum underscored by smoke, spicebox and leather, this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinotage, Merlot and Cabernet Franc has an ageable and elegant character whose slight rigidity will soften over time. Pair with grilled meats, robust cheeses. Imported by Cape Classics.