RIOJA

2014 Cune Crianza Rioja, Spain 89 Points VINOUS

March 2017, by Josh Raynolds

"Deep ruby. Smoke-tinged cherry and floral scents show good clarity and spicy lift. Juicy and energetic on the palate, offering bitter cherry, red currant and vanilla flavors that deepen slowly and pick up a peppery element as the wine opens up. Fruit-driven and approachable, with a smooth, gently tannic finish that echoes the cherry and spice notes."

408172 (\$13*)
* This is not the current DABC pricing

2010 CVNE Viña Real Gran Reserva Rioja, Spain 94 Points

Wine Advocate #226 Aug '16 by Luis Gutierrez

"I was waiting waiting to compare the 2010 Viña Real Gran REserva with the Imperial Gran Reserva from that same vintage, as the comparison promised to be fascinating. This red blend from the Alavesa part of Rioja produced in its own winery is 95% Tempranillo and the rest Graciano; it fermented in stainless steel and matured in oak barrels for two years. The wine shows superb balance and harmony, with very subtle aromas of spices and flowers. It is one of those noses that make you go back to the wine over and over again, as it developed subtle nuances every time you smelled it. The palate feels a bit light compared with the Contino, which has more clout. I was going back and forth and at the end, I believe the three have a very similar quality level; what's best is that each has its own style and personality. 20,000 bottles produced."

408178 (\$42*)
*This is not the current DABC pricing

2012 CVNE Viña Real Gran Reserva Rioja, Spain 93 Points

Wine Advocate #235 Feb '18 by Luis Gutierrez

"The classical 2012 Vina Real Gran Reserva is produced with 95% Tempranillo and 5% Graciano, fermented in stainless steel with neutral dry yeasts and aged in new oak barrels for two years. It's very spicy and creamy, with developed aromas, open and expressive. The palate feels very polished, with a fine thread of acidity going through its core. There is good balance between power and elegance. It should develop nicely in bottle, even if it's approachable now. 30,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in April 2015."

408178 (\$47*)
*This is not the current DABC pricing

BODEGAS MEDRANO IRAZU

2011 Crianza Rioja Alavesa, Spain 89 Points

Wine Spectator, September 30th, 2014

"Cherry and licorice flavors show savory notes of black olive and sage in this polished red, supported by firm, well-integrated tannins. The acidity keeps this lively. Drink now through 2018. 7,000 cases made. – TM"

914737 (\$16*)
*This is not the current DABC price

Bodegas Medrano Irazu

2009 Reserva Rioja Alavesa, Spain 91 POINTS

WineSpectator.com, December 15th, 2015

"This sleek red hows focus and depth. Black cherry, licorice, eigar box and dried herb flavors are supported by firm, well-integrated tannins and fresh acidity. Has good density and a spicy finish.

Drink now through 2022. 1,750 cases made."

(914738, \$25*)
*This is not the current DABC price

BODEGAS MURO

2009 Crianza Rioja Alavesa, Spain

89 Points

Steven Tanzer's International Wine Cellar Sept/Oct 2013, by Josh Raynolds

"(all tempranillo,): Inky ruby. Ripe cherry, dark berries and coconut on the fragrant nose. Plush and sweet in the mouth, offering cherry-vanilla and spicecake flavors and a hint of mocha. Showing its oak today but there's plenty of fruit here to handle it. Finishes smooth and sweet, with even tannins and a touch of warmth."

BODEGAS SANTIAGO IJALBA

2008 Ogga Reserva, Rioja, Spain

91 Points

By Josh Raynolds,

Steven Tanzer's IWC, September 2012

"(100% Tempranillo, aged for 20 months in French oak): Dark ruby. A highly fragrant, pungent bouquet displays cherry and dark berries, licorice and mocha. Dense and chewy, offering bitter cherry and spicecake flavors and a hint of star anise. Lively and focused on the finish, which strongly echoes the cherry note. The massive bottle that this wine comes in belies its actual elegance; you'd be forgiven for supposing that it contained an oak- or ooze-monster."

(915264)

BODEGAS ONDALAN

2014 Tempranillo Rioja, Spain 88 Points

Tanzer's International Wine Cellar September '15, by Josh Raynolds

"Bright violet color. Fresh cherry and blackcurrant and on the spice-accented nose and in the mouth. Offers juicy dark fruit and licorice pastille flavors that are sweetened by a hint of vanilla. Closes with good focus and spicy cut, leaving a subtle bitter cherry note behind."

(908755 - \$14*)
*This is not the current DABC price

BODEGAS ONDALAN

2010 RESERVA Rioja, Spain 90 Points VINOUS

September 15, by Josh Raynolds

"Ruby-red. Aromas of cherry pit, cassis and cracked pepper, with a subtle vanilla note in the background. Chewy and focused on the palate, offering mineral-accented dark fruit flavors that turn increasingly lively with aeration. Clings very nicely on a long, minerally finish firmed by smooth tannins. In a suave style and quite approachable now, especially with an hour or so of aeration."

 $(914736 \$30^*)$ *This is not the current DABC price

BODEGAS ONDALAN

2012 Crianza Rioja Alavesa, Spain 88 Points VINOUS September 2015, by Josh Raynolds

"Deep ruby. Dried cherry, redcurrant and a hint of tobacco on the fragrant nose. Lithe and spicy in the mouth, offering bitter cherry and succulent herb flavors that are sweetened by a suggestion of vanilla. Closes on a tangy note, with good cut and a whisper of dusty tannins."

402839 (\$18*)

* This is not the current DABC pricing

RIBERA DEL DUERO

BODEGAS EMILIO MORO

2011 Malleolus Ribera del Duero, Spain

94 Points

Wine Enthusiast Magazine, 9/1/2015

"This pure, bullish, smoky Tinto Fino is full of charred blackberry, cassis and licorice aromas. The palate is massive but superbly balanced. Flavors of mocha, black coffee, bitter chocolate, toast, blackberry and cassis finish with power and precision. Drink 2017-2025."

(918577) \$49*
*This is not the current DABC price

BODEGAS HESVERA

2012 Seis Meses Ribera del Duero, Spain 88 Points

Steven Tanzer's International Wine Cellar Sept/Oct 2014, by Josh Raynolds

"Brilliant ruby. Oak-spiced cherry and dark berries on the nose and in the mouth. Fleshy and sweet, showing good focus and a bit of back-end warmth. Pliant tannins build slowly and add shape to the finish, which leaves vanilla and cherry pit notes behind.

\$16.00 (918346)
*This is not the current DABC price

PRIORAT

2013 CLOS MOGADOR

Priorat, Spain 98 POINTS

Wine Advocate, Issue #227, October 2016 By Luis Gutierrez

"One of only two Vins de Finca Qualificada from Priorat, the 2013 Clod Mogador is a complex blend of Garnacha and Cariñena with a touch of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. It felt serious and a little backward, terribly balanced with shy notes of peat and graphite emerging with some time in the glass, subtle and complex, slowly revealing nuances of dark cherries, violets, black olives and later some red fruit. The palate is surprising: when I expect it to show its power, it just whispered and danced on my tongue with lively acidity that made it feel a lot lighter than it is. There is depth, elegance and incipient complexity. Here everything is in perfect harmony, with lots of everything, dry extract, acidity, alcohol and tannin, but somehow you don't notice any of it. A remarkable vintage of Mogador. Given the quality, the price seems like a bargain, and availability shouldn't be too bad either, as some 28,000 bottles were filled in June 2015. Put it aside in your cellar, because this is a 20-year bottle of Priorat."

915513 (\$80*) *This is not the current DABC price

2014 CLOS MOGADOR

Priorat, Spain 98 POINTS

Wine Advocate, Issue #236, April 2018 By Luis Gutierrez

"The blend of the top-of-the-range and flagship red changes with the vintage. The 2014 Clos Mogador is 49% Garnacha, 25% Cariñena, 15% Syrah and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon from the vineyard that names the wine (and the winery) planted on llicorella slate soils at 350 meters in altitude. Eighty percent of the vines are 25 to 35 years old. It fermented with indigenous yeasts and had 35- to 45-day maceration, followed by an élevage in 300-liter barrels and 2,000-liter foudres that lasted 18 months. They introduced oak foudres in 2011, which is the big change, and they use less and less barriques now. They are also using more and more Cariñena and Garnacha, but it depends on the vintage. All of the more recent wines have less tannins from the oak and less Cabernet Sauvignon, and they feel more elegant and balanced. There is great harmony on the palate, with very fine tannins and a velvety texture with great seriousness. This will develop at a very slow pace in bottle. They picked the grapes before the rains, and it's a concentrated year with nice extract but very good acidity. 31,000 bottles were filled in late June 2016."

915513 (\$100*) *This is not the current DABC price

RIBIERO

Coto de Gomariz

2013 Blanco D.O. Ribeiro, Spain 91 POINTS

Wine & Spirits Magazine, August 2015

"Based on Treixadura (70 percent of the blend), this wine's flavors come in waves of nuts and mild fruit notes. It feels strong, silky and welcoming, finishing rich and long. Cellar this for at least two years."

908522 (\$25*)

*This is not the current DABC pricing

Coto de Gomariz

2016 Blanco

D.O. Ribeiro, Spain

92 POINTS

www.JamesSuckling.com

"Really appealing and exuberant aromas of ripe peaches and papaya. Fleshy palate with a really juicy core of ripe stone-fruit flavors. Drink now."

EXTREMADURA

BODEGAS HABLA

2015 Habla La Tierra Extremadura, Spain

88 Points

JamesSuckling.com - July 2017

"A soft and easy red with dried berry, tea leaf and wet earth character. Medium body, juicy finish.

Drink now."

(918871) \$15*

CONCA DEL RIU ANOIA

RAVENTOS I BLANC

2012 De Nit Brut Rose

Conca del Riu Anoia, Barcelona

92 POINTS

Wine & Spirits Magazine, August 2015

"For this cuvee, in addition to the three traditional white Catalan varieties, Pepe Raventos added five percent monastrell from 40-year old vines, providing the pale hue of this wine. Its flavor melds nuts and citrus tones with herbs in a generous, smooth texture. Its lively bubbles combine with the acidity to refresh everything in their path."

(\$24*) 917967 *This is not the current DABC price

RAVENTOS I BLANC

2013 De Nit Brut Rose Conca del Riu Anoia, Barcelona

91 POINTS

The Wine Advocate, #219 – June 2015. By Luis Gutierrez

"The 2013 De Nit is a blend of the three classical white grapes from the region, Macabeo, Xarello, Parellada and a pinch (5%) of red Monastrell sourced from the historical Viña de la Plana. The wine had an average of 24 months in contact with the lees (18 for the first disgorgement and up to 30 for the last bottles before they finish the vintage and start with a new one). The color is extremely pale (it could even pass as a Blanc de Noir) and the nose is very similar to the 2013 L'Hereu, perhaps not as fine, with very nice, clean fruit. The palate might have a little more weight, with faint flower notes, very good acidity and a little bit of tannin coupled with acidity that gives it length and persistence and a distinct elegant rusticity. I'm not a great fan of pink sparkling wine in general, but I'm a fan of this one. This is a perfect aperitif wine. 180,000 bottles produced."

 $(\$28^*)$ 917967 *This is not the current DABC price

RAVENTOS I BLANC

2014 De Nit Rose Conca del Riu Anoia, Spain

90 Points

WineSpectator.com - Nov. 30th, 2017

"Delicate toast and smoke scents on the nose lead to white cherry, lemon pith and peach skin flavors in this elegant rosé sparkler. Ballet-slipper pink, with a lacy, almost crunchy mousse. Disgorged March 2017.

Drink now through 2020. 16,000 cases made."

 $(\$28.00^*) \, 917967$ *This is not the current DABC price

RAVENTOS I BLANC

2012 L'Hereu Brut

Conca del Riu Anoia, Spain

92 Points

Wine & Spirits Magazine, August 2015

"The Raventos family doesn't label their wine as Cava. In 2012 they decided to leave the DO as they consider it too generic, preferring to focus on a tighter geographic identity: the calcareous and sandy soils of the Conca del Riu Anoia, where they grow most of their grapes.

L' Hereu is their basic blend of three native grapes of Catalonia, aged on its lees for 18 months. What's impressive is how crystalline and cool the flavors feel, with herbal notes over delicate citrus fruit. The bubbles feel fine and refreshing, the wine cool and vibrant, a memory of sweet spice that brings you back for a second glass."

(\$21*) 917966 *This is not the current DABC price

RAVENTOS I BLANC

2013 L'Hereu Blanc de Blancs

Conca del Riu Anoia, Spain

91 Points

The Wine Advocate, #219 - June 2015. By Luis Gutierrez

"The 2013 L'Hereu Brut is produced from what Pepe Raventós considers a great vintage that will be considered historic in the future. That year they harvested 25 days later than the recent average, so the grapes had time to ripen slowly to perfection with a long cycle that also held acidity and the wines are very fresh. This is sourced mostly form the Viña de la Plana, which has plenty of clay on the chalky mother rock (120 centimeters below) and quite deep soils that produce wines of good freshness and balance. They also use part of purchased grapes from organic growers as their idea is to keep some 20% of grapes from external suppliers. They like to work with some of the old-timers, the local people that know and understand the zone. The wine blends the three traditional grapes, Macabeo, Xarello and Parellada and ages no less than 18 months in contact with the lees (with a maximum of 30 and an average of 24). It is Extra-Brut (five grams of residual sugar). The powerful and expressive nose is really fresh, mixing fennel, aniseed, bread dough, in a very balanced, elegant and subtle way. The palate is extremely fresh (the signature of the vintage) and balanced with amazing weight of fruit, the lees/yeasts do not overpower the fruit and the finish is very long. This is one of the best sparkling wines in its category and price range, especially in this vintage. 220,000 bottles produced." (\$25*) 917966

*This is not the current DABC price

RAVENTOS I BLANC

2014 L' Herueu Blanc de Blancs Conca del Riu Anoia, Spain

89 Points

WineSpectator.com - 2017

"Firm and finely meshed, this elegant blanc de blancs offers an appealing mix of pastry, glazed apricot and candied ginger notes, underscored by smoke and lemon curd flavors. Drink now through 2020. 17,000 cases made."

 $(\$25^*)$ 917966 *This is not the current DABC price

SHERRY & VERMOUTH

NV Lustau Vermut Rojo

Jerez, Spain

92 Points

WINE ENTHUSIAST, 11/1/2016

"An interesting newcomer to the U.S. market, the base of this vermouth is rich, nutty Sherry-80% amontillado and 20% Pedro Ximenez, to be precise. It has a coffee-brown hue and a bright dried-herb scent. The palate wows with sticky toffee, dried apricot, orange peel and cocoa. Ideal for adding complexity to drinks featuring dark spirits."

(952434) \$22*

* This is not the current DABC pricing

NV Lustau Vermut Blanco Jerez, Spain 94 Points

Wine Enthusiast, 3/1/2018

"This pale gold, Sherry-based vermouth is made from fino, sweetened with Moscatel wine. Mild, grassy aromas lead into a sweet and citrusy palate, with mouthwatering acidity and a fresh, grassy exit accented by a floral hint."

(098720) \$22*

*This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Deluxe Cream Capataz Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

88 POINTS

Wine Spectator, August 31, 2016

"Rather fresh for a cream style, with raisin, fruitcake and toffee notes, laced with a lively green tea edge. Gentle finish. Drink now. 1,600 cases made - JM"

091544 (\$20/500ml*)

*This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Dry Oloroso Don Nuño Solera Reserva Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

94 POINTS

The Wine Advocate #202, August 2012 By Robert Parker

"If you are looking for a dry sherry made in a slightly more oxidized style, the non-vintage Dry Oloroso Don Nuño Solera Reserva is your choice. Again, a nuttiness (in this case, walnuts) intermixed with a hint of Chinese black tea combine with salty, caramelized flavors make for a delicious glass of sherry."

(\$22*) 941474 *This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V East India Solera Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

89 POINTS

Wine Spectator, August 31, 2014

"Unctuous, with buckwheat and maple notes out front, followed by prune, chocolate, fruitcake and licorice snap accents that show good energy through the bramble-edged finish. A bit obvious due to the sweetness, but balanced by range and freshness. Drink now. – JM"

(\$27*) 941454 *This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Light Fino Jarana Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

92 POINTS

Wine & Spirits Magazine, 10/2015

"A classic Fino, this is precise in its structure and completely dry. With its mineral notes of iodine and salt, light hints of nuts and green olives and refreshing acidity, it's almost addictive, especially if you have prawns sautéed in garlic and herbs on hand."

091554 (\$16*)
*This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Amontillado Los Arcos Solera Reserva Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

91 POINTS

Wine Spectator-Web Only 2014

"The walnut, date, cinnamon and dried blood orange notes are backed by a long finish that lets a singed balsa wood hint hang on. Has an echo of sweetness but remains rather dry in feel. Drink

now. – JM" 914606 (\$17*) *This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Manzanilla Papirusa Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

92 POINTS

Wine & Spirits Magazine, 10/2015

"Compared to Finos, Manzanillas tend to be lighter and fresher. They age in an area with higher humidity, which allows the *flor* to grow thinker, preventing oxidization and retaining the wine's bright aromas and flavors. Papirusa is one of the clearest examples of this style. Blended from five- to - six-year-old wines, it's light and soft, full of saline mineral flavors, notes of salted nuts and marzipan. It's intense but never tiring, especially if you have *albondigas de bacalao* (cod fritters) to accompany it."

091566 (\$16*)

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Manzanilla Pasada Sanlucar de Barrameda Almacenista de Sanlucar Manuel Cuevas Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

92 POINTS

Wine Spectator, August 31, 2014

"A plump, juicy, full-bodied Manzanilla, with a quinine streak running through the core of dried grapefruit rind, lemon curd, salted almond and Brazil nut. The long finish picks up an echo of

flan. Drink now. - JM"
918412 (\$29/500ml*)
*This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Oloroso Almacenista Pata de Gallina Juan Garcia Jarana Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

91 POINTS

Wine Spectator, August 31, 2014

"Offers a flattering, off-dry edge up front, with notes of date and caramel caressing the core of bitter orange, singed almond and licorice root. Turns progressively firmer through the finish, featuring dried nectarine and toasted walnut accents. Drink now. 125 cases imported. – JM" 918095 (\$30/500ml*)

*This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Palo Cortado "Peninsula" Solera Reserva Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

90 POINTS

Wine Spectator-Web Only 2014

"Inviting, with pecan, bitter singed almond and cardamom notes, backed by singed cedar, black walnut and cocoa powder accents. The open, friendly finish lets a date hint play out. Drink

now.- JM" 091574 (\$26*)

*This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Palo Cortado Almacenista Vides Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

92 POINTS

Wine Spectator, August 31 2014

"This has a juicy feel, with blood orange, maple and gingerbread notes lining a core of walnut, date and bitter almond flavors. A lingering clove hint emerges on the energetic finish. Drink now.

- JM"

918027 (\$30/500ml*)

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Pedro Ximenez "San Emilio" Solera Reserva Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

93 POINTS

Wine & Spirits Magazine, 10/2015

"Although part of Lustau's basic line, this Solera PX shows great depth of flavor, a complex network of caramelized aromas mingling with notes reminiscent of dried plums, chocolate and exotic spices. Sweet and opulent, this is creamy and rich in all its aspects."

091670 (\$28*)
*This is not the current DABC price

EMILIO LUSTAU

N/V Rare Amontillado Escuadrilla Solera Reserva Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

90 POINTS

The Wine Advocate #208, August 2013 By Luis Gutierrez

"The NV Amontillado Escuadrilla Solera Reserva which is over 15 yeas of age reveals some caramel notes, a touch of raisins, and an overall sweet sensation in the nose, complemented by the recurring hazelnut notes, while the palate is very dry, full-bodied, powerful and even has some tannin in the finish. Very persistent. Drink 2013-2018."

091420 (\$25*)