

## GREATEST WINE PRODUCERS

- 1 Szepsy (Hungary)
- 2 Királyudvar (Hungary)
- 3 Domaine de Disznókő (Hungary)
- 4 Chateau Dereszla (Hungary)
- 5 Malatinszky Kúria (Hungary)
- 6 Gere Atila (Hungary)
- 7 Weninger (Hungary)
- 8 (Marjan) Simčič (Slovenia)
- 9 Edi Simčič (Slovenia)
- 10 Chateau Belá (Slovakia)

## FASTEST-IMPROVING PRODUCERS

- 1 Rečas Winery (Romania)
- 2 Carl Reh Winery (Romania)
- 3 Szekszárd Winery (previously Liszt Winery) (Hungary)
- 4 Garamvári Szőlőbirtok (Hungary)
- 5 Csányi Winery (Hungary)
- 6 Damianitza (Bulgaria)
- 7 Belvedere Group (Domaine Menada, Domaine Sakar, Oriachovitza) (Bulgaria)
- 8 AurVin (Firebird) (Moldova)
- 9 Stork Nest Estates (Bulgaria)
- 10 Sodap (Kamanterena Winery) (Cyprus)

## NEW UP-AND-COMING PRODUCERS

- 1 Bessa Valley Winery (Bulgaria)
- 2 Konyári (Hungary)
- 3 Grof Buttler (Hungary)
- 4 Chateau de Val (Bulgaria)
- 5 Pannonhalmi Apátság Pincészet (Hungary)
- 6 Prince Știrbey (Romania)
- 7 Kyperounda Winery (Cyprus)
- 8 Santa Sarah (Bulgaria)
- 9 Villa Liubimetz (Bulgaria)
- 10 Cekorov (Macedonia)

## BEST-VALUE PRODUCERS

- 1 Rečas Winery (Romania)
- 2 Carl Reh Winery (Romania)

- 3 Pannonhalmi Apátság Pincészet (Hungary)
- 4 Chateau Vincent (Hungary)
- 5 Nyakas Winery (Budai) (Hungary)
- 6 Nagyréde Winery (Hungary)
- 7 Törley Wine Cellars (Hungary)
- 8 Stork Nest Estates (Bulgaria)
- 9 Hilltop Neszmély Winery (whites) (Hungary)
- 10 Maxxima (Bulgaria)

## GREATEST-QUALITY WINES

- 1 Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos 2000 Szepsy, Hungary (HUF 21,000)
- 2 Tokaji Aszú Esszencia 2000 Chateau Dereszla, Hungary (HUF 16,000)
- 3 Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos 2000 Királyudvar, Hungary (HUF 14,600)
- 4 Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos Kapi 1999 Domaine de Disznókő, Hungary (HUF 15,000)
- 5 Villány Cabernet Franc 2003 Malatinszky Kúria, Hungary (HUF 10,000)
- 6 Solus Merlot 2003 Gere Atila, Hungary (HUF 12,500)
- 7 Teodor Rdece Reserve 2000 (Marjan) Simčič, Slovenia (SIT 4,620)
- 8 Duet Riserva 2002 Edi Simčič, Slovenia (SIT 9,000)
- 9 Syrah 2003 Bock Pince, Hungary (HUF 14,000)
- 10 Kékfrankos Selection 2003 Weninger, Hungary (HUF 5,300)

## BEST BARGAINS

- 1 Tramini 2005 Pannonhalmi Apátság Pincészet, Hungary (HUF 1,400)
- 2 La Cetate Merlot 2003 Carl Reh Winery, Romania (RON 22)
- 3 Crystal Dry 2000 Chateau Vincent, Hungary (HUF 2,100)
- 4 Budai Sauvignon Blanc 2005 Nyakas Winery, Hungary (HUF 1,400)

- 5 Noblesse Sauvignon Blanc 2004 Haloze, Slovenia (SIT 900)
- 6 Quercus Pinot Gris 2004 Vinska Klet Goriška Brda, Slovenia (SIT 938)
- 7 Andante 2003 Degenfeld, Hungary (HUF 3,200)
- 8 Oak-fermented Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 Vinprom Yambol, Bulgaria (BGN 5)
- 9 Riesling 2005 Rečas Winery, Romania (RON 13)
- 10 Albastrela Sauvignon Blanc 2005 Acorex, Moldova (MDL 60)

## MOST EXCITING OR UNUSUAL FINDS

- 1 Enira 2004 Bessa Valley Winery, Bulgaria (BGN 24) *The first commercial release from the Bessa Valley investment by Stephan von Niepperg of Chateau Canon-La-Gaffelière. A single-estate wine, which is a rare thing for Bulgaria, and already showing great promise.*
- 2 Pinot Noir Réserve 2003 (Marjan) Simčič, Slovenia (SIT 4,320) *Marjan Simčič's reds show lovely elegance and subtlety compared to his hugely concentrated whites. This is just his second release of Pinot Noir.*
- 3 Viognier 2003 Tibor Gál, Hungary (HUF 4,500) *Hungary's only Viognier, planted by the late Tibor Gál. Eger may be most famous for its 'Bull's Blood', but this fine mineral Viognier shows the potential for whites in this northerly region, with its long, mild autumn.*
- 4 Pinot Blanc 2003 Grof Buttler, Hungary (HUF 3,200) *A new producer with 40 ha in Eger, already making an impression with its first releases from 2003. There's a plummy, concentrated Egri Bikavér and this rich 'peaches and cream' Pinot Blanc.*
- 5 Claret 2003 Chateau de Val, Bulgaria (BGN 15) *A ripe, rounded wine with a real sense of place, made from a mix of varieties (including Saperavi, Gamza, and Pamid) grown in a 100-year-old family vineyard. The EU may not take well to the name, but Bulgaria needs its new terroir producers to rescue its image from cheap varietal wines.*
- 6 Sessio 2003 Konyári, Hungary (HUF 6,400) *The southern shore of Lake Balaton is not usually known for high quality, but this recently established boutique winery is setting new standards for the region with this finely crafted Merlot.*
- 7 Crămposie Selecționată Sec 2004 Prince Știrbey, Romania (RON 21) *A promising revival of an ancient variety from Drăgășani, believed to be at least 3,000 years old. Fresh and fragrant on the nose with plenty of fruit weight, mineral notes, and good acidity – a white variety with some real character.*
- 8 Petritis 2004 Kyperounda Winery, Cyprus (CYP 2.90) *From possibly the highest winery in Europe, with vineyards up to 1,480 m (4,855 ft). Xynisteri is usually vinified as a simple wine for drinking immediately. This is Xynisteri with a difference: part barrel-fermented to give much more weight and texture. It develops nicely for at least a couple of years, too.*
- 9 Sensum 2003 Maxxima, Bulgaria (BGN 18) *Cabernet picked around Vidin in the far northwest, aiming to establish a reputation for quality in this part of Bulgaria. An elegant wine, with fine damson fruit, subtle oak, and violet overtones.*
- 10 Privat 2004 Santa Sarah, Bulgaria (BGN 30) *The addition of some 'knockout' Mavrud to the Cabernet Sauvignon gives this powerful wine a unique Bulgarian personality.*