

GREATEST WINE PRODUCERS

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

FASTEST-IMPROVING PRODUCERS

- 1 Recaș Winery (Romania)
- 2 Carl Reh Winery (Romania)
- 3 Stork Nest Estates (Bulgaria)
- 4 Domaine Szeremley (Hungary)
- 5 Georgian Wines and Spirits Company (Georgia)
- 6 SERVE (Romania)
- 7 Cricova-Acorex (Moldova)
- 8 Belvedere Group (Domaine Menada, Domaine Sakar, Oriachovitza, Bulgaria)
- 9 AurVin (Firebird, Moldova)
- 10 Murfatlar (Romania) (dry whites)

NEW UP-AND-COMING PRODUCERS

- 1 Dobogó (Tokaj, Hungary)
- 2 Maxxima (Bulgaria)
- 3 Sutor (Slovenia)
- 4 Takler (Hungary)
- 5 Kupljen (Slovenia)
- 6 Vylyan (Hungary)
- 7 Santa Sarah (Bulgaria)
- 8 Damianitza (Bulgaria)
- 9 Liszt Pincezet (Hungary)
- 10 Arvay (Hungary)

BEST-VALUE PRODUCERS

- 1 Recaș Winery (Romania)
- 2 Carl Reh Winery (Romania)
- 3 Chateau Vincent (Hungary)
- 4 Hilltop Neszmély Winery (Hungary)

- 5 Maxxima (Bulgaria)
- 6 Nagyréde Winery (Hungary)
- 7 Stork Nest Estates (Bulgaria)
- 8 Nyakas Winery (Budai, Hungary)
- 9 Chapel Hill, Balaton-Boglár Winery (Hungary)
- 10 Halewood Wine Cellars (Romania)

GREATEST-QUALITY WINES

- 1 Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos 2000 Szepsy, Hungary (HUF 19,800)
- 2 Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos 2000 Királyudvar, Hungary (HUF 14,600)
- 3 Kapi Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos 1999 Domaine de Disznókő, Hungary (HUF 15,000)
- 4 Duet Riserva 2001 Edi Simčič, Slovenia (SIT 8,500)
- 5 Teodor Belo Reserve 2001 Marjan Simčič, Slovenia (SIT 3,000)
- 6 Villány Cabernet Franc Selection 2002 Weninger & Gere, Hungary (HUF 6,300)
- 7 Villány Cabernet Franc 2003 Malatinszky Kúria, Hungary (HUF 12,000)
- 8 Solus Merlot 2000 Atila Gere, Hungary (HUF 8,500)
- 9 Pinot Gris 2003 Edi Simčič, Slovenia (SIT 4,000)
- 10 Private Reserve 2001 Maxxima, Bulgaria (BGN 23.50)

BEST BARGAINS

- 1 La Cetate Merlot 2003 Carl Reh Winery, Romania (ROL 190,000)
- 2 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva 2002 Recaș Winery, Romania (ROL 300,000)
- 3 Crystal Dry 2000 Chateau Vincent, Hungary (HUF 2,100)
- 4 Pinot Noir 2003 Recaș Winery, Romania (ROL 100,000)
- 5 Szamarodni 2002 Zemplén Ridge, Hungary (HUF 4,900)
- 6 Tokaji Furmint 2003 Royal Tokaji Wine Company, Hungary (HUF 1,500)

- 7 Ats Cuvée 2003 Royal Tokaji Wine Company, Hungary (HUF 2,700)
- 8 Kékoportó 2003 Tiffán Ede és Zsolt, Hungary (HUF 1,400)
- 9 Pinot Grigio River Route 2004 Carl Reh Winery, Romania (ROL 113,000)
- 10 ZZ (Zenit/Zefir) 2003 Hungarovin, Hungary (HUF 1,000)

MOST EXCITING OR UNUSUAL FINDS

- 1 Tokaji Furmint Szent Tamás 2003 Szepsy, Hungary (HUF 6,700) Furmint is best known for sweet wines. Tokaji's leading producer, István Szepsy, has produced his first dry wine under his own name. A superb example of Furmint's potential as a high-quality wine and its ability to reflect terroir. Arguably the finest dry Tokaji so far.
- 2 Graševina Kasna Berba 2002 Ivan Enjingi, Croatia (HRK 76) Fantastic depth and complexity from a grape that is often just a workhorse across Eastern Europe. Enjingi is passionate about the potential for this grape from what he believes is its true homeland in continental Croatia.
- 3 La Cetate Shiraz 2003 Carl Reh Winery, Romania (ROL 1,500,000 per 1.5-litre bottle, limited release) Shiraz is not as yet an authorized grape for Romania, but this ripe, harmonious wine from young vines demonstrates that it has real potential here on outcrops of Terra Rossa down in the far southwest.
- 4 Kékfrankos Selection 2000 Takler, Hungary (HUF 3,200) A revelation for the often-thin Kékfrankos, showing that careful selection, low yields, and good winemaking can make it a rich, velvety, blackberry-and-spice wine.
- 5 Teodor Rdece Réserve 2000 Marjan Simčič, Slovenia (SIT 4,200) Based on Merlot with a touch of Cabernet. It is mainly grown in vineyards over the Italian border into Collio, but winemaking in Slovenia means value for money. Lovely complexity and elegance.
- 6 Rebula 2002 Sutor, Slovenia (SIT 3,800) Rebula is showing great potential in Slovenia for distinctive, high-quality wines. A lovely example from an upcoming producer, with lots of depth and complexity.
- 7 Soproni Frettner 2001 Weninger, Hungary (HUF 2,600) A harmonious blend of Kékfrankos, Merlot, and Shiraz that demonstrates a new level of winemaking in Sopron by Austrian Franz Weninger. The moderating effect of the lake nearby makes it possible to ripen red varieties like Shiraz in spite of its northerly location.
- 8 Fetească Regală 2004 Recaș Winery, Romania (ROL 90,000) Grown only here and in Hungary, Fetească Regală is generally sweetened and sold locally or to Scandinavia. Its attractive floral aromatics combined with peachy fruit and good body suggest it is worthy of attention as a dry wine — and at a bargain price, too.
- 9 Kéknyelű 2003 Domaine Szeremley, Hungary (HUF 2,500) A new vintage of the rare 'blue stem' grape shows that it is not just a quirky one-off. Hungary should look to its distinctive local varieties to help create a unique identity.
- 10 Tamada Napareuli 2001 Georgian Wines & Spirits, Georgia (GEL 15) GWS's Georgian-Australian winemaker has been working hard to tame Saperavi, which has huge potential for high-quality wines but needs care to manage its fierce acidity and tannic structure. Enormous colour and concentration; built to last.