

100 PERFECT POURS

Treasures of the vine.

By Brett Anderson / Photography by Cordero Studios

Humorist Fran Lebowitz once amended Eleanor Roosevelt's much-quoted remark on great minds (the former first lady took it as a matter of course that her own passed muster), stating, "Great people talk about ideas, average people talk about things, and small people talk about wine." We are inclined to agree with Lebowitz: Why talk about wine when you can drink it? Toward that end, we will keep the introduction to our list of the year's worthiest bottles pleasantly brief. The selections presented herein have been categorized as red or white, though the latter grouping also includes dessert and sparkling wines. For many listings, we have included estimates of the average current market price; unless it is marked as an estimate, the given number reflects the suggested retail price at the time of release. And now, enough chatter. Let us indulge. After all, as one very small person by the name of Benjamin Franklin observed, "[Wine is] a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy."

Red Wines

**BLACKBIRD
VINEYARDS 2006
CONTRARIAN
NAPA VALLEY
PROPRIETARY RED**

Renowned for its miraculously complex Merlot-based wine, Blackbird Vineyards has historically flouted Napa Valley tradition by emphasizing red Bordeaux varietals other than Cabernet Sauvignon in its wine program. Winemaker Aaron Pott has rendered a lush liquid masterpiece in this blend, which is dominated by Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Redolent of raspberry and boysenberry, Contrarian reveals layers of dried blueberry, cocoa, coffee, fig, and cardamom spice. (\$90)



SASSICAIA

2005

BOLGHERI SASSICAIA

Imbottigliato all'origine dal produttore
Tenuta San Guido - Castagneto Carducci
ITALIA

ESTATE
CORRADO G. BORGATTI
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