



Leading Edge:

Discover Cutting-edge Wine Regions and Hot Upcoming Wineries



Jay Miller Reviews and Articles



Dr. Jay Miller's wine career dates back to 1977 and includes experience as a consultant and wine retailer as well as being Robert Parker's assistant for 13 years. He currently covers the wines of Oregon, Washington, Spain, Australia, South America and Vintage Ports.

Spain's Top 100 Wine Values

Imports of Spanish wines remain strong (particularly at the value-end of the spectrum). I did sit-down tastings with at least 40 importers and received samples from at least as many more. As one might expect given the harsh economic climate, sales of Spain's higher-end wines (to be reported upon in Part II in April) have slowed but sales of value-priced wines are booming as importers try to reposition their portfolios to reflect market trends. The good news is that there are so many remarkable values; the bad news is that with increased competition a flood of less than good Spanish wines are entering the arena. For every wine that made this report, there was at least one that could not be recommended.

Happily for Spain, they are working with a remarkable palette of regions (DOs) and grape varieties so that there is literally something for everyone. For my Top 100 list (actually 113), an amazing thirty-three DOs are represented and nearly as many grape varieties. One might guess that the more famous regions would be under-represented because of price considerations. In fact, the opposite is true; there are thirteen wines from Ribera del Duero, ten from Montsant, nine from Rioja, seven from Bierzo, and seven from Priorat. Among DOs specializing in white wines, there are six entries from Valdeorras (home of my favorite white grape, Godello), five from Rias Baixas (where Albariño thrives), and four from Ribeiro.

Wines for this report were tasted from November 2008 through January 2009. To qualify for the Top 100 list, a wine had to achieve a score of at least 90 points and cost \$25 or less.

—Jay Miller

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current Cost
Wine Advocate # 181 Feb 2009	Jay Miller	90	Drink: 2009 - 2012	\$16-\$17 (€21)

2007 Bodegas Vina Mein Vina Mein

A Proprietary Blend Dry White Table wine from Ribeiro, Spain

The 2007 Vina Mein is a blend of multiple indigenous grape varieties, the principal component Treixadura. Medium straw-colored, it offers up a complex aromatic array of mineral, slate, white peach, melon, and baking spices. Round and creamy on the palate, it has excellent depth of flavor and a lengthy, refreshing finish. Drink this exceptional value over the next three years.

Importer: Andre Tamers, De Maison Selections, Chapel Hill, NC; www.demaisonselections.com