

Wine Spectator **Weekly**

Internet Only

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GET WINE SPECTATOR RATINGS HERE FIRST—EVERY THURSDAY

Back in the day, a man had his brand of Bourbon, his make of automobile and his traditional Sunday dinner, and that was that: His loyalty was unshakeable. There are virtues and comforts to that approach, but not when it comes to wine.

The wine world is just too big, and too diverse, to limit yourself to a single grape or region. This week's issue is a case in point. We cover four countries, each with its own distinctive character. Whether you want a minerally Riesling, a peachy Tocai, a fruit-driven Syrah or an age-worthy Cabernet, we've got great recommendations.

California

*After enduring disappointing quality in 2000 and many sky-high prices in 1999, Cabernet lovers will find the 2001s more to their liking: Overall quality is rising...
—J.L.*

Larkmead

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2001

90 points | \$45 | 3,010 cases made

High-toned ripe cherry and currant flavors form the core of this rich yet elegant Cabernet. Shows off hints of mint, herb and cedary oak, with firm tannins that beg for short-term cellaring. Best from 2005 through 2012.—J.L.

HOT WINES

These are the most exciting discoveries from our editors' most recent tastings, published exclusively in Wine Spectator Weekly. They are high-scoring, low-production wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

Larkmead

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Solari Reserve 2001

92 points | \$65 | 144 cases made

Firm and muscular, with a dense, rich, concentrated core of blackberry, currant and plum flavors, supported by tight tannins and framed by cedary oak. This wine combines power with touches of finesse. Best from 2006 through 2012. From California.—J.L.