



# BUYING GUIDE DECEMBER/2012

A bunch of Furmint grapes, with some botrytis-affected (aszú) berries, in Tokaj, Hungary.



**96** Knights Bridge 2009 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Beckstoffer To Kalon Cabs aren't always fabulous, because so many wineries source its fruit, but Knights Bridge has a great track record. This release is their best ever. Dry and soft in the mouth, it's drinkable now, yet so firm are the tannins that it will easily age. As for the flavors, they're incredibly complex in blackberries, black currant and licorice. Best now and through the next 10 years. —S.H.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$135



**95** Knights Bridge 2009 Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dusty tannins and notes of dried herbs give this vigorous young Cabernet a mark of immaturity that strongly suggests time in the cellar, despite flashy blackberry and black currant flavors. The winery has done a great job with fruit from the Dr. Crane Vineyard for several years, and this majestic wine is right up there with the great '07 vintage. Best after 2018. *Cellar Selection.* —S.H.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$135



**93** Knights Bridge 2010 West Block Chardonnay (Knights Valley). This wine has varied over the years, but with the cool 2010 vintage, it really shows how fine its terroir can shine. A full degree of alcohol lower than the 2009, it's bone dry, brisk in acidity, and stimulating in its mineral taste and texture—like a lick of cold steel. There is a fortunate streak of Meyer lemon candy that lends enough richness to satisfy. Reminiscent of a fine Chablis, it's drinking well now. —S.H.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65



**93** Knights Bridge 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). An extraordinarily ripe, graceful Cabernet, rich and forward in blackberry, cassis and dark chocolate flavors. It feels velvety and refined, with that hard-to-define quality of importance that characterizes the best wines. It should develop bottle complexity over the years, but it's so fresh and delicious that it's fine to drink now too. —S.H.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$115

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