

GREATEST WINE PRODUCERS

Tokaji

- 1 Szepsy
- 2 Királyudvar
- 3 Domaine de Disznókő
- 4 Royal Tokaji Wine Company

Other wines

- 1 Edi Simčič (Slovenia)
- 2 Marjan Simčič (Slovenia)
- 3 Movia (Slovenia)
- 4 Atila Gere (Hungary)
- 5 Château Belá (Slovakia)
- 6 Vinarte (Romania)

FASTEST-IMPROVING PRODUCERS

- 1 Stork Nest Estates (Bulgaria)
- 2 Carl Reh Winery (Romania)
- 3 Receaș Winery (Romania)
- 4 Domaine Szeremley (whites only, Hungary)
- 5 Cricova-Acorex (Moldova)
- 6 SERVE (Romania)
- 7 Prahova Wine Cellars (reds only, Romania)
- 8 Georgian Wines and Spirits Company (Georgia)
- 9 Keo (Cyprus)
- 10 Sodap (Cyprus)

NEW UP-AND-COMING PRODUCERS

- 1 Santa Sarah (Bulgaria)
- 2 Árvay & Co (Tokaji, Hungary)
- 3 Tilia (Slovenia)
- 4 Dobogó (Tokaji, Hungary)
- 5 Maxxima (Bulgaria)
- 6 SERVE (Romania)
- 7 GIA (Hungary)
- 8 Sutor (Slovenia)
- 9 Damianitza (Bulgaria)
- 10 Assenovgrad (Swedish Project Wines, Bulgaria)

BEST-VALUE PRODUCERS

- 1 Chateau Vincent (Hungary)
- 2 Vinarium Szekszárdi (Hungary)
- 3 Nyakas Winery (Budai) (Hungary)
- 4 Hilltop Neszmély Winery (Hungary)
- 5 Carl Reh Winery (Romania)
- 6 Prahova Wine Cellars (reds only, Romania)
- 7 Receaș (Romania)
- 8 Nagyréde Winery (Hungary)
- 9 Carpathian Winery (Romania)
- 10 Chapel Hill (Balaton-Boglar Winery, Hungary)

GREATEST-QUALITY WINES

Tokaji

- 1 **Tokaji 6 Puttonyos 1999** Szepsy (16,800 forints, not released)
- 2 **Tokaji Cuvée 2000** Szepsy (12,600 forints, not released)
- 3 **Aszú Essencia 1995** Royal Tokaji Wine Company (42,000 forints)
- 4 **Tokaji Aszú 6 Puttonyos 1999** Domaine de Disznókő (12,000 forints)

Other wines

- 1 **Duet Riserva 2000** Edi Simčič (Slovenia, SIT 8,500)
- 2 **Chardonnay Riserva 2000** Marjan Simčič (Slovenia, SIT 2,640)
- 3 **Pinot Noir 1998** Movia (Slovenia, SIT 6,000)
- 4 **Cabernet Franc 2000** Bela Vincze (Hungary, 5,000 forints)
- 5 **Merlot 1999** Tilia (Slovenia, SIT 3,099)
- 6 **Pinot Gris 2002** Edi Simčič (Slovenia, SIT 3,800)

BEST BARGAINS

- 1 **Cabernet Sauvignon Sinai Hill 2000** St Donatus (Hungary, 2,500–2,700 forints)
- 2 **Tokaji Szamorodni 1999** Domaine de Disznókő (Hungary, 3,200 forints)
- 3 **Merlot 2000** La Cetate (Romania, 160,000–200,000 lei)
- 4 **Extra Brut 2000** Chateau Vincent (Hungary, 2,100–2,300 forints)
- 5 **Chardonnay 2002** Budai (Hungary, 960–1,100 forints)
- 6 **Pinot Noir Reserve 2000** Prahova Wine Cellars (Romania, 135,000–150,000 lei)
- 7 **Pinot Noir 2003** Receaș Winery (Romania, 90,000–100,000 lei)
- 8 **Barrel Fermented Chardonnay 2002** Chapel Hill (Hungary, 800–1,000 forints)
- 9 **Merlot 2000** Cherry Tree Hill (Romania, 635,000–700,000 lei)
- 10 **Cabernet Rosé 2002** Nagyréde (Hungary, 750–800 forints)

MOST EXCITING OR UNUSUAL FINDS

- 1 **Cabernet Sauvignon Bin 40 2002** Santa Sarah (Bulgaria, 50 leva) *German-based wine importer Ivo Genowski has set up his own winery in a rented garage. The Bin 40 is supple and appealing, a world away from the harsh green tannins of so many Bulgarian reds.*
 - 2 **Swallowtail Fetească Neagră Gran Riserva 2001** Vinarte (Romania, 380,000 lei) *The Romanians have high hopes of their local Fetească Neagră or 'Black Maiden' grape. Italian-backed Vinarte produces the best example so far.*
 - 3 **Ententa 2001** Assenovgrad (Bulgaria, 25 leva) *Swedish winemaker Lars Torstenson (of Domaine Rabiega in Provence)*
- has been making wines with Bulgarian native grapes since 2001 in a purpose-built micro-winery. This is an impressive, big, but stylish blend of Cabernet, Mavrud, and Rubin.*
- 4 **Redark Merlot 2001** Damianitza (Bulgaria, 30 leva) *Dramatic, intense Merlot made by Marc Dworkin of Château Bellefont-Belcier in St-Emilion. One of Bulgaria's finest.*
 - 5 **Leonardo Passito 1999** Marjan Simčič (Slovenia, SIT 9,600) *A real labour of love, just 380 half-bottles from 1 ha of Ribolla vines. The grapes are dried for six months and then vinified into this luscious, figgy, complex, sweet wine.*
 - 6 **Kéknyelű 2002** Domaine Szeremley (Hungary, 2,290 forints) *The almost-extinct 'blue stem' grape shows its potential for quality from one of Hungary's most promising white-wine producers.*
 - 7 **Pinot Noir 2001** Tibor Gal (Hungary, 3,500 forints) *Pinot Noir should have great potential in Hungary, and this fragrant, silky, elegant example shows real promise.*
 - 8 **Ryzlink Vlašský Ice Wine 2001** Mikros-Vin (Czech Republic, 813 korunas) *Laski Rizling as never experienced before. Not generally regarded as a grape of much class, but here it shows real intensity.*
 - 9 **Uniqato Rubin 2002** Damianitza (Bulgaria, 20 leva) *A unique Bulgarian cross of Nebbiolo and Syrah, only recently grown commercially. The Bulgarians believe it could be their Pinotage, and this wine shows that it can produce attractive, dark-fruited, velvety wines.*
 - 10 **Pinot Blanc Late Harvest 2002** Kolby (Czech Republic, 210 korunas) *A Pinot Blanc with surprising depth and intensity.*