



11. Denner's Anthony Yount

2011 TOP 100 BY REGION AND VARIETY

ARGENTINA	2	FRANCE (CONTINUED)	
AUSTRALIA	2	Loire	2
AUSTRIA	2	Rhône	6
CALIFORNIA	28	GERMANY	1
Cabernet Sauvignon	6	GREECE	1
Chardonnay	5	ITALY	20
Grenache	4	Northeast	3
Pinot Noir	6	Piedmont	5
Sauvignon Blanc	2	Tuscany	10
Syrah	2	Other	2
Zinfandel	3	NEW MEXICO	1
FRANCE	17	NEW YORK	1
Alsace	1	NEW ZEALAND	2
Beaujolais	2	OREGON	4
Bordeaux	2	PORTUGAL	4
Burgundy	1	SOUTH AFRICA	1
Champagne	1	SPAIN	7
Languedoc/Roussillon	2	WASHINGTON	7

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BONUS VIDEOS: What makes a wine a member of this exclusive club? Find out as *Wine Spectator's* senior editors discuss each of this year's Top 10 wines in a video series. Plus, get a handy printable list of the full Top 100, at <http://www.winespectator.com/top100>.

11

DENNER

The Dirt Worshipper
Paso Robles 2008

97 \$45 CALIFORNIA

Planted in 1999, Denner's 126-acre vineyard in western Paso Robles makes Ron and Marilyn Denner among the largest land owners in the region. Their grapes are a staple for some of the area's best producers, including Villa Creek, Linne Calodo and Justin. Anthony Yount is the Denner winemaker. This wine blends 95 percent Syrah and 5 percent Viognier. The Dirt Worshipper name is a nod both to the vineyard and to the Denners' previous business as dealer for Ditch Witch construction equipment. 810 cases made.

12

SEGHESSIO

Zinfandel Alexander Valley
Home Ranch 2009

95 \$38 CALIFORNIA

The Seghesio family has more than a century of winemaking experience in Sonoma County, and they produce a number of outstanding Zinfandels in a range of prices. Edoardo Seghesio planted Home Ranch in 1895 in the warm western bench of Alexander Valley. For this wine, winemaker Ted Seghesio fermented small lots in open-top containers with eight to 12 days extended maceration and frequent by-hand punch-downs; it was aged 11 months in mostly French oak, of which about 25 percent was new. It's the winery's top-scoring release to date. 2,500 cases made.

13

MOUNT EDEN VINEYARDS

Chardonnay Santa Cruz
Mountains 2008

95 \$55 CALIFORNIA

Mount Eden was one of California's pioneering wineries in the 1940s, when Martin Ray planted a vineyard in the remote Santa

Cruz Mountains, just 15 miles from the Pacific. It remains one of the best vineyards in California, with low yields, high elevation and cool temperatures that result in wines with structure and longevity. The juice is barrel-fermented in new and one-year-old Burgundy barrels, where the wine undergoes full malolactic fermentation and is aged on the lees for 10 months. 1,717 cases made.

14

FAILLA

Pinot Noir Russian River Valley
Keefer Ranch 2009

95 \$45 CALIFORNIA

Ehren Jordan's day job at Turley Wine Cellars keeps him busy with high-octane Petite Sirahs and Zinfandels. But at Failla, which he runs with his wife, Anne-Marie Failla, the focus is on cool-climate Pinot Noirs. Grapes from Keefer Ranch—a 30-acre vineyard in the heart of Russian River Valley—are destemmed into open-top fermentors, punched down twice daily during fermentation and aged in French oak barrels, one-third new. Coming from the stellar 2009 vintage, this Pinot shows elegance, finesse and purity. 550 cases made.

15

EFESTE

Syrah Yakima Valley Jolie Bouche
Boushey Vineyard 2008

95 \$36 WASHINGTON

Efeste produced its first wines from the 2005 vintage and quickly established a reputation for excellent wines, especially Syrah. This wine comes from Boushey Vineyard, one of the oldest Syrah vineyards in Washington. Efeste has a long-term lease on rows within Boushey's Factory Road block, which was planted in 1996. Winemaker Brennon Leighton, formerly of Chateau Ste. Michelle, aged this focused and expressive Syrah in 500-liter *puncheons* for 15 months. 385 cases made.