

James Molesworth's Recommended Wines From the Loire

More than 325 wines were reviewed for this report. A free alphabetical list is available at www.winespectator.com/061511. WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
S.A. HUËT Vouvray Cuvée Constance 2009 This stunning wine is fresh, pure and driven at first, with seamless ginger, creamed fig and glazed pear fruit, before showing its density and power via the core of honeycomb, quince and heather.	98	\$160 500ml
S.A. HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Clos du Bourg Première Trie 2009 Gorgeous, with ginger, orange, clementine, white peach and green fig notes all bouncing off one another, but working harmoniously.	96	\$69
S.A. HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Clos du Bourg Première Trie 2008 Starts with a tangy crème fraîche note before giving way to green almond, green tea, chamomile, powdered ginger and mineral flavors.	95	\$65
DIDIER DAGUENEAU Pouilly-Fumé Silex 2007 Weighty, but lithe and balanced, with alluring honeysuckle, macadamia nut, white asparagus, lemon curd, quinine and straw notes.	94	\$125
GAUTHIER-LHOMME Vouvray Domaine du Viking Cuvée Aurélie 1990 Gorgeous, with sweet dried mango and papaya flavors laced with date, persimmon, ginger powder and green fig marmalade notes.	94	\$80
S.A. HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Le Mont 2009 This wants to be lush, with mango and green fig fruit, but the minerality and ginger blossom and melon rind notes harness it all.	94	\$49
S.A. HUËT Vouvray Moelleux Le Mont Première Trie 2009 A ripe, juicy style, with green almond, fig and pear notes backed by more quince and melon on the rounded, opulent finish.	94	\$69
DIDIER DAGUENEAU Pouilly-Fumé Pur Sang 2007 Shows impressive range and depth, with candied lemon peel and quince hints leading to macadamianut, wet straw and white peach.	93	\$91
GAUTHIER-LHOMME Vouvray Domaine du Viking Cuvée Aurélie 1989 Having shed its opulence, this offers pure apple, melon and persimmon fruit flavors. A lovely contrast to the more powerful 1990.	93	\$80
CHÂTEAU DE LA ROULERIE Coteaux du Layon-Chaume 2009 Plump, juicy and enticing, with a big core of quince, pear and fig fruit laced with notes of ginger and pie crust.	93	\$35
CHÂTEAU DE LA ROULERIE Coteaux du Layon-Chaume Les Aunis 2009 Rounded and lush, but defined and pure, with creamed green melon, fig, glazed pear and papaya character. Very flattering.	93	\$38

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
IGNOBLES DU PARADIS Chinon Cuvée Signée par Romain Parsis 2009 Ripe and focused, delivering a delicious score of crushed cherry, plum and raspberry flavors. Very pure.	91	\$15
THOMAS & DENIS GAMBIER Bourgueil Domaine Des Ouches Igoranda 2009 Firm, displaying an iron spine running through the briar, cherry and currant core, with a long, grippy finish.	90	\$15
CAVE DES VIGNERONS DE SAUMUR Saumur-Champigny Réserve des Vignerons 2009 Fresh, ripe and racy, showing a grippy edge to its black currant and fig notes, with tobacco and dark olive underneath.	90	\$15

TOP VALUES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CHÂTEAU DE LA BONNELIÈRE Chinon Rive Gauche 2009 Very fresh, almost primal, with intense blackberry and cherry fruit.	89	\$15
CAVE DE BOURGUEIL Bourgueil Domaine de Matabrune 2009 This mouthfilling red has briar, cassis, tobacco and bitter cherry notes.	89	\$15
CLOS DE NOUYS Vouvray Demi-Sec 2009 Plump and off-dry, with up-front quince, green melon and fig notes.	89	\$15
CHÂTEAU DE RIVIÈRE Chinon 2009 Ripe and fresh, with snappy blackberry and red currant fruit.	89	\$15
CAVE DES VIGNERONS DE SAUMUR Saumur White Les Epinats 2009 Green fig and quince flavor stuns mineral, with peach and floral notes.	89	\$15
CAVE DES VIGNERONS DE SAUMUR Saumur White Réserve des Vignerons 2009 Bright and juicy, offering green plum and yellow apple fruit.	89	\$12
VIGNERONS DU PALLET Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Jubilation 2007 Mature, with paraffin and lemon curd notes, but still lively.	89	\$12
CAVE DE BOURGUEIL Bourgueil Beauregard 2009 Rounded for Bourgueil, with black cherry and mulled blackberry fruit.	88	\$12
CLAUDE BRANGER Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie Le Fils des Gras Moutons 2008 This crackles nicely, exhibiting lemon zest and fleur de sel notes.	88	\$14
PIERRE CHAINIER Vouvray Roc de Châteauvieux 2008 Quite open, offering a core of green almond and apple character.	88	\$10
LUC & JÉRÔME CHOBLET Muscadet-Côtes de Grandlieu Sur Lie Domaine des Herbauges Classic 2009 Ripe and juicy, with grapefruit and lemon notes. Open and inviting.	88	\$14
BENOIT GAUTIER Vouvray 2008 A soft, friendly style, with green melon, apple and fig flavors.	88	\$15
CAVE DU HAUT POITOU Sauvignon Haut Poitou 2009 This fresh, racy white shows thyme, lemon peel and mineral flavors.	88	\$12
COMTE DE MALESTROIT Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie Château La Noë 2009 Very vibrant, with a great racy citrus and straw profile. Pure and long.	88	\$10
DOMAINE DE LA MOUTONNIÈRE Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie 2009 A fresh white, with floral, lime and thyme notes that stay nicely bracing.	88	\$12
CHÂTEAU DE LA ROULERIE Chenin Blanc Anjou 2009 A ripe, friendly style, showing quince, anise and pear tartine notes.	88	\$15
DOMAINE TROIS FRÈRES Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie 2009 Fresh, with a racy beam of verbena and chamomile flavors.	88	\$15
LES VIGNERONS DES COTEAUX ROMANAIS Sauvignon Touraine Domaine du Haut Morlu 2009 Brisk and focused, with mouthwatering chive, thyme and lime zest.	88	\$12
VIGNERONS DU PALLET Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie Les Roches Blanches 2009 Pure and chiseled, with fleur de sel, lime and herb notes that stay racy.	88	\$10