



basket, bottle + vine

a newsletter dedicated to the santorini vineyard: december 2010

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UP CLOSE



Vinsanto: Hitting the sweet spot

LONG-MALIGNED AS UNSERIOUS, sweet wines are reclaiming their rightful place as wines of elegance and style. This emerging movement comes at a time when consumers are increasingly exploring lesser-known regions and varieties, and becoming more sophisticated about food pairings.

Vinsanto's challenge? Educating the public about its true origins. Vinsanto, as we know, hails from Santorini, made from at least 75 percent Assyrtiko (the remaining varieties can be Aidani and Athiri). But many consumers associate it with the Italian Vino Santo — also an ancient wine, but a distant cousin of the naturally sweet original from Santorini.

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IN THE VINEYARD



Harvest: Bring it on

BLESSED WITH ENVIABLE WEATHER and a viticulture that's

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Who's talking?

Paul Einbund, The Slanted Door Restaurant Group, San Francisco
[\(SEE VIDEO\)](#)

UK wine expert Tom Cannavan explains why variety is the spice of life.
[\(SEE VIDEO\)](#)

[HOT PICKS](#)

2003 Gavalas Vinsanto, 2004 SantoWines Vinsanto
[\(VIEW ARTICLE\)](#)

2008 SantoWines Nykteri Reserve, Estate Argyros Oak Fermented Assyrtiko, 1999 Canava Roussos Vinsanto, 2008 Domainw Sigalas
[\(VIEW ARTICLE\)](#)

2009 Domaine Sigalas
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[HOT BUTTONS](#)

"Not your Mama's Retsina"
San Francisco wine writer Tim Teichgraeber has something to write home about to his native Minneapolis

Dueling bottles: Assyrtiko stands up to Riesling

East, drink & be Greek: Wines contribute to Greece's gastronomic reputation

[HOT STUFF](#)

Long name makes the short list

Wine Spectator named

adapted to the unique volcanic environment of the island, the vineyard of Santorini doesn't experience a great deal of variation in harvest from year to year.

But that hasn't stopped producers from saying this year's harvest was considered one of the best of the last decade

"The harvests are usually classified as good or very good," says Yiota Ioakimoglou of Estate Argyros.

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ON PREMISE



Assyrtiko: A rising star from coast to coast

LONG A FAVORITE OF SAVVY SOMMELIERS, Assyrtiko is now popping up by the glass at many of the nation's top restaurants. In San Francisco, Paul Einbund, wine director at the Slanted Door Restaurant Group, says that he's been tasting Greek wine for several years and recently "the quality in Greece has really gone through the roof."

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Koutsoyiannopoulos Santorini 2009 (Volcan Winery) to its Top 100 List, giving the wine a 91 rating.

Our Annual Roundup of the Year's Most Exciting Wines
WINE SPECTATOR'S TOP 100 AT A GLANCE

86 91 93 Koutsoyiannopoulos Santorini 2009

Rank	Wine	Score	Wine	Score	
1	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	101	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
2	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	102	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
3	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	103	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
4	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	104	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
5	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	105	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
6	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	106	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
7	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	107	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
8	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	108	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
9	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	109	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
10	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	110	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
11	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	111	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
12	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	112	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
13	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	113	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
14	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	114	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
15	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	115	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
16	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	116	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
17	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	117	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
18	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	118	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
19	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	119	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
20	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	120	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
21	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	121	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
22	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	122	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
23	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	123	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
24	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	124	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
25	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	125	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
26	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	126	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
27	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	127	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
28	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	128	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
29	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	129	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
30	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	130	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
31	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	131	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
32	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	132	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
33	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	133	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
34	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	134	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
35	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	135	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
36	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	136	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
37	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	137	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
38	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	138	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
39	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	139	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
40	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	140	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
41	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	141	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
42	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	142	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
43	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	143	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
44	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	144	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
45	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	145	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
46	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	146	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
47	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	147	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
48	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	148	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
49	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	149	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
50	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	150	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
51	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	151	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
52	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	152	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
53	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	153	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
54	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	154	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
55	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	155	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
56	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	156	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
57	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	157	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
58	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	158	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
59	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	159	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
60	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	160	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
61	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	161	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
62	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	162	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
63	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	163	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
64	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	164	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
65	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	165	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
66	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	166	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
67	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	167	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
68	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	168	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
69	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	169	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
70	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	170	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
71	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	171	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
72	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	172	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
73	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	173	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
74	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	174	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
75	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	175	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
76	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	176	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
77	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	177	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
78	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	178	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
79	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	179	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
80	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	180	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
81	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	181	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
82	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	182	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
83	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	183	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
84	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	184	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
85	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	185	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
86	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	186	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
87	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	187	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
88	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	188	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
89	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	189	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
90	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	190	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
91	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	191	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
92	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	192	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
93	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	193	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
94	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	194	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
95	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	195	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
96	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	196	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
97	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	197	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
98	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	198	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
99	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	199	Chateau Margaux 2008	98
100	Chateau Margaux 2008	98	200	Chateau Margaux 2008	98

Elin McCoy writes about Greece's Isle of White in Bloomberg Markets magazine



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MISSION
Wines from Santorini is a campaign to increase awareness of the unique PDO wines and vineyard of Santorini through cutting-edge education and promotion.