

Schloss Gobelsburg Gruner Veltliner 'Steinsetz' 2010 - The Gobelsburg 2010 Gruner Veltliner Steinsetz – which wasn't picked until mid-November – unites textural richness with refreshment, pithy piquancy, and mineral impingement. Cress and lime; green bean and coffee; crushed stone and iodine convey their complex, interactive message on a polished, buoyant (at 12.7% alcohol) palate, leading to a finish both exuberant and gripping. This may prove too much a mouthful of minerals for some, but should prove fascinatingly versatile for at least the next 6-8 years. 90 pts WA

Joseph Leitz 'Leitz out' Riesling 2010 - This fabulous value bursts at the seams with smoky minerals, sweet limes, and white flowers. Intense, deep, and concentrated, it displays superb purity and length. A word of caution for those who fear vibrant acidity: this wine has the means to make your teeth rattle.

Hofer Zweigelt Rosé 2010 - Austrian wine growers from Krems to the Neusiedlersee have demonstrated repeatedly that their indigenous red crossing can taste great in pink, and the Hofers' 2010 Zweigelt Rose will prove a treat for drinking anytime over the next nine-twelve months. Brimming with sour cherry and rhubarb, it offers tart, thirst-quenching refreshment, with invigorating seasoning of cress, salt, and white pepper.

Ecker Zweigelt 2008 - This wine offers a classic aromatic and initial palate expression of this variety's exuberant cherry fruit, tinged with cinnamon, vanilla, and toasted almond. But it is robbed of some sap by the effects of the barriques in which it matured, and finishes with more smoke, resin, and brown spice than persistence of fruit.

Granger Beaujolais Villages Le Bouteau 2007 - The 2007 Beaujolais-Villages Le Bouteau combines memorable concentration and textural presence for a wine of this modest appellation with a clarity of flavors that is both literally and figuratively refreshing. Ripe cherry, red raspberry, and rose hip aromas and fruit flavors never stray into superficial sweetness, and there is that deep, marrow-like meatiness shared by many of the best cru Beaujolais. Subtle tartness and sense of hard-to-describe minerality in the finish really encourage return sips.

Copain 'Tous Ensemble' Pinot Noir 2009 - Bright ruby. Subtly aromatic nose of cherry, mocha, cinnamon and musky herbs. Smooth and expressive, with dark cherry and spice flavors and an appealing pliant texture. Nicely concentrated and seamless, with very good finishing breadth and cling. Aeration allows this wine to stretch out so give it an hour or so in a decanter if it's on your upcoming drinking list. 90 pts IWC