



France, Red

France's viticultural diversity is enormous and fascinating. In the country's ongoing efforts to face more — and fiercer — international competition, there seems to be a desire to simplify French wine by making it more "international." Loads of rubbish! If France is to remain competitive, it must maintain its own identity. When the entire world is trying to understand their terroirs, why would France give up on them? This category is proof that when quality is the main focus, France can very well produce great wines of unique character at very good prices. (Véronique Rivest)



WINNER

88 **Château Sainte Eulalie** 2004 La Cantilène Minervois La Livinière, Languedoc AB \$22, QC \$21

The 2003 vintage was best red at the 2006 IWVA, so this is a consistently good value wine. The village of La Livinière is a sub-appellation in the Minervois region, generally producing more elegant and better-extracted wines from a syrah-dominated cocktail, in this case comprised of grenache and cagnan. Ripe, rich, round and full-bodied, with gamey earthy notes to balance the abundant fruit. Very good to excellent length and great balance. Best 2008 to 2012. (SM)

JUDGES CHOICE

87 **Gerard Bertrand** 2005 Château l'Hospitalet, Coteaux du Languedoc, Languedoc **\$19**

87 **Cheval Quancard** 2003 Château de Terrefort, Bordeaux **\$16**

86 **Château de Courteillac** 2006, Entre-Deux-Mers, Bordeaux **\$11**

86 **J.P. Chenet** 2003 Founder's Reserve Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Languedoc **\$13**

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