



TOP 100 CELLAR SELECTIONS OF 2011

WINE ENTHUSIAST

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1, 2011

CHAMPAGNE ON ICE >>>

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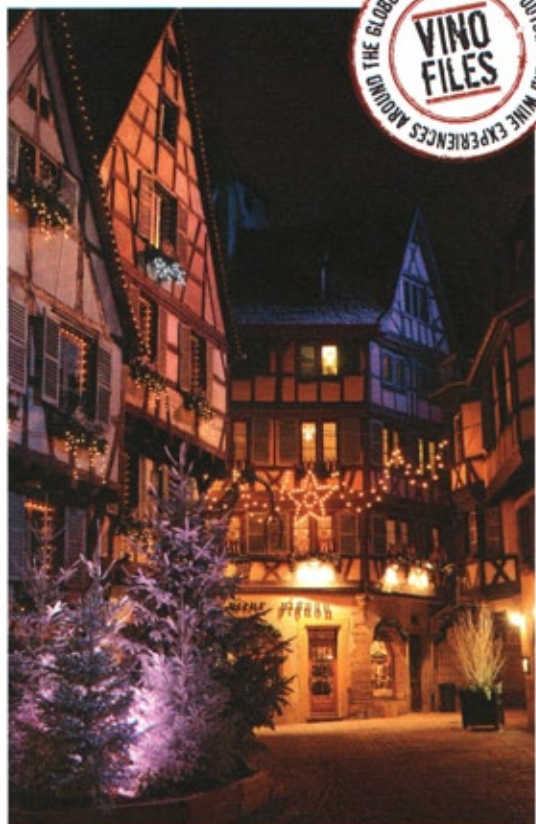
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PERFECT DRINK
**PERFECT
MANHATTAN**

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Where To Go In December: Alsace, France

Holiday shopping is actually fun at Marchés de Noël à Colmar, one of France's oldest and largest Christmas markets. Charming wooden chalets offering handicrafts and artisanal foods are set up around the Place des Dominicains, the Petite Venise Children's Market and the Koifhus. Strolling down the magically illuminated streets is like stepping back in time to a gingerbread village straight out of a fairy tale. There are musical concerts, storytelling performances and even an impromptu ice-skating rink. Over 30 winegrowers open the doors of their magnificently decorated cellars to visitors. Colmar is one of the largest villages in Alsace, the region known for high-quality Rieslings and Gewürztraminers, such as those made by Trimbach, Hugel and Deiss. After an evening of shopping, you may want to sit down over a cup of warm mulled wine and toast the start of the holiday season.

—MIKE DESIMONE AND JEFF JENSSEN

SNAPshot



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSALIE KNOX

Flapper Fête, New York City

A bevy of beauties dressed up in vintage 1920s fashions sipped signature St-Germain cocktails and danced to the swinging sounds of Michael Arenella & His Dreamland Orchestra at the Jazz Age Lawn Party, held on New York's Governors Island in August, 2011. —A.K.

LUXElife

Quintessence. Rare, opulent and imbued with a taste from a different era, Quintessence is a blend of over 20 different vintage Cognacs, all sourced from the Grande Champagne cru and includes special Marrier-Lapostolle family reserves that have been aged up to 60 years in French oak casks. For this newest release and Grand Marrier reinterpretation, the distiller used the classic bitter oranges that are the hallmark of the liqueur but added a second round of distillation to the process. Not only does this give Quintessence a "double parfum" that's richer than your traditional Grand Marrier, but the flavor is also noticeably refined and delicate, with a sweet orange essence and complex finish. All that history and uniqueness in the bottle doesn't come cheap: At \$800 a bottle, Quintessence is one of the most expensive liqueurs on the market.

grand-marnier.com

—MICHELLE WON PARK

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