

IMPORTERS OF THE YEAR

NEXT TIME YOU'RE FACED WITH a sea of wines you don't recognize, check the back of the bottle. That's what we do, looking for importers we recognize and trust, like our six Importers of the Year. They've earned the most awards this year, with multiple brands in our lists of the Top 100 Wineries, Top 100 Wines and Best Buys. If you find importers whose tastes and interests align with your own, you'll have guideposts you can trust to lead you to new bottles.

Skurnik Wines & Spirits

NY
 Founded in 1987
 by Michael Skurnik
 178 wineries in 12 countries

STRENGTHS: Austria, Burgundy, Champagne, Germany, Italy

This year's standouts include Bründlmayer, Vincent Dampf, Pierre Gimmonet & Fils, Schloss Gobelsburg, Hirsch, Mullineux, Pedro Parra, Filipa Pato, Bodegas y Viñedos Raúl Pérez, Raventós i Blanc, La Rioja Alta, Paolo Scavino

Winebow Imports

NY
 Founded in 1980
 by Leonardo LoCascio
 199 wineries in 14 countries

STRENGTHS: Burgundy, Bordeaux, Italy

This year's standouts include Estate Argyros, Catena Zapata, Grattamacco, Poggio di Sotto, Prager, Weingut Stadt Krams, Tablas Creek, Vasse Felix

Winesellers

NILES, IL
 Founded in 1978 by Yale Sager
 70 wineries in 12 countries

STRENGTH: Affordably priced wines

This year's standouts include Clos de Nit, Mont Gravet, Dr. Pauly-Bergweiler, Santa Julia, Zuccardi

Maison Marques & Domains

OAKLAND, CA
 Founded in 1987
 by Champagne Louis Roederer

30 wineries in six countries
 STRENGTHS: Alsace, Barolo, Bordeaux, Champagne, Loire Valley, Napa Valley, Provence, Rhône Valley, Rioja, Port

This year's standouts include Carpe Diem, Délas Freres, Marqués de Murrieta, Roederer Estate, Champagne Louis Roederer, Domains Ott

North Berkeley Imports

BERKELEY, CA
 Founded in 1979 by Allen Connolly; Billy Weiss, owner
 110 wineries in two countries

STRENGTHS: Burgundy, Loire, Champagne, Piedmont, Tuscany

This year's standouts include Fratelli Alessandria, Murgio, Rocca di Montegrossi, Vadiaperti, Jean Vesselle

Vintus

PLEASANTVILLE, NY
 Founded in 2004
 by Michael Quintus
 41 wineries in 10 countries

STRENGTHS: France, Italy

This year's standouts include Champagne Bollinger, E. Guigal, Quinta do Noval, Paternoster, Petrolo

