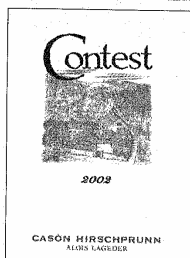


SPECTATOR SELECTIONS

Highly Recommended

The issue's most impressive wines. Includes top-scorers and wines that represent optimal purchases based on their combination of score, price and availability.



92 Casòn Hirschprunn Vigneti delle Dolomiti Contest 2002 \$28 This is really bright and exciting, with apple, honey and melon aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, with lively acidity and loads of mineral, lemon, lime and fresh pear character. Lasts minutes on the palate. Pinot Grigio and Chardonnay. Best after 2005. 1,250 cases made.—J.S.

ITALY Other Red

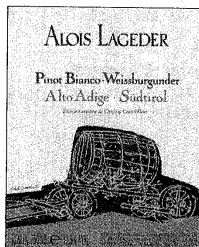
92 Casòn Hirschprunn Vigneti delle Dolomiti Contest 2002 \$28 See Highly Recommended, page 213.

88 Alois Lageder Lagrein Vigneti delle Dolomiti Lindenburg 2002 \$27 Aromas of plums, berries and grilled meat follow through to a full-bodied palate, with velvety tannins and a medium finish. Nicely done. Best after 2007. 500 cases made.—J.S.

84 Alois Lageder Vigneti delle Dolomiti Portico del Leoni 2002 \$15 —J.S.

Best Values

Wines with solid scores, modest prices and wide distribution.



89 Alois Lageder Pinot Bianco Alto Adige 2004 \$12 Lemony and minerally with lots of good fruit character on the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, with bright, lively acidity and loads of flavor on the finish. Lasts for minutes on the palate. Drink now. 9,000 cases made.—J.S.

ITALY Other White

85 Alois Lageder Vigneti delle Dolomiti Portico del Leoni 2004 \$14 Aromas of lemon, melons and beeswax follow through to a full-bodied palate, with medium acidity and a light finish. Pleasant and simple. Pinot Grigio and Pinot Bianco. Drink now.—J.S.

83 Alois Lageder Pinot Grigio Delle Venezie Riff 2004 \$10 —J.S.

ITALY

Northeast / Alto Adige White

92 Alois Lageder Chardonnay Alto Adige Löwengang 2003 \$30 This is really exotic with apple tart and passion fruit on the nose. Creamy. Full-bodied, with masses of ripe fruit and a long, long finish. Lively. Drink now. 2,700 cases made.—J.S.

90 Alois Lageder Moscato Giallo Alto Adige Vogelmeier 2004 \$18 Orange peel and spice with hints of lemon rind. Full-bodied, with loads of fruit and spices. Long rich finish. Why drink Chardonnay? Great with rich food. Drink now. 1,400 cases made.—J.S.

90 Alois Lageder Pinot Bianco Alto Adige Haberlehof 2003 \$18 Aromas of pineapple, honey and peaches follow through to a full-bodied palate with lots of fruit, yet it's subtle and refined on the finish. Drink now. 1,100 cases made.—J.S.

89 Alois Lageder Pinot Bianco Alto Adige 2004 \$12 See Best Values, page 215.

88 Alois Lageder Gewürztraminer Alto Adige 2004 \$19 Clean and spicy with a light, interesting bitter edge. Medium-bodied, with good acidity and a tangy aftertaste. Drink now. 5,800 cases made.—J.S.

86 Alois Lageder Pinot Grigio Alto Adige Benefizium Porer 2003 \$20 A wine with pleasing lemon rind and orange character and a hint of melons. Medium-bodied, with good acidity and a bright finish. Drink now. 3,750 cases made.—J.S.

85 Alois Lageder Chardonnay Alto Adige 2004 \$11 Apples and cream aromas follow through to a medium-bodied palate, with a round mouthfeel and a lemony aftertaste. Drink now. 15,500 cases made.—J.S.

85 Alois Lageder Cabernet Sauvignon Alto Adige Cor Römigberg 2000 \$35 Jammy currant and vanilla up front. Full-bodied, with tight, fine tannins and a chocolate powder finish. Slightly hollow. Drink now. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 1,000 cases made.—J.S.

85 Alois Lageder Merlot Alto Adige MM 2000 \$45 A rather decadent Merlot, with blackberry bush, mineral and light *sous bois* character. Medium-bodied, with light tannins and a fresh finish. Drink now. 925 cases made.

84 Alois Lageder Lagrein Rosé Alto Adige 2004 \$15 —J.S.