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Country California's Best of 2011 Lists

January 5, 2012 by [C.M. Wilcox](#) [2 Comments](#)

Sick of lists yet? We'll make this quick and dirty.



Best Country Albums of 2011

1. Pistol Annies – *Hell on Heels*
2. Hellbound Glory – *Damaged Goods*
3. Various Artists – *This One's for Him: A Tribute to Guy Clark*
4. Matraca Berg – *The Dreaming Fields*
5. Reckless Kelly – *Good Luck and True Love*
6. LeAnn Rimes – *Lady and Gentlemen*
7. Justin Haigh – *People Like Me*
8. Hayes Carll – *KMAG YOYO*
9. Miranda Lambert – *Four the Record*
10. Dirt Drifters – *This Is My Blood*

[\(Complete list with comments only at Engine 145.\)](#)

Best Country Songs of 2011

1. Ronnie Dunn – “Cost of Livin’”
2. Matraca Berg – “Your Husband’s Cheating on Us”
3. Hellbound Glory – “Better Hope You Die Young”
4. Miranda Lambert – “Same Old You”
5. Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit – “Codeine”
6. Randy Travis w/ Jamey Johnson – “A Few Ole Country Boys”
7. Pistol Annies – “Trailer for Rent”
8. Sunny Sweeney – “Staying’s Worse Than Leaving”
9. Justin Haigh – “In Jail”
10. Pistol Annies – “Lemon Drop”

Best Country Singles of 2011

1. Ronnie Dunn – “Cost of Livin’”
2. Kenny Chesney w/ Grace Potter – “You and Tequila”
3. Sunny Sweeney – “Staying’s Worse Than Leaving”
4. Dirt Drifters – “Always a Reason”
5. Billy Currington – “Love Done Gone”
6. Pistol Annies – “Hell on Heels”
7. George Strait – “Here for a Good Time”
8. Jacob Lyda – “I’m Doing Alright”
9. Taylor Swift – “Mean”
10. Bradley Gaskin – “Mr. Bartender”

Best Bluegrass Albums of 2011

1. Chris Thile & Michael Daves – *Sleep with One Eye Open*
2. Dale Ann Bradley – *Somewhere South of Crazy*
3. Jimmie Dale Gilmore & the Wranglers – *Heirloom Music*
4. Various Artists – *I’ll Take Love (from the Pen of Louisa Branscomb)*
5. Charlie Sizemore – *Heartache Looking for a Home*
6. Gibson Brothers – *Help My Brother*
7. Alison Krauss & Union Station – *Paper Airplane*
8. Del McCoury Band – *Old Memories: Songs of Bill Monroe*
9. Sierra Hull – *Daybreak*
10. Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice – *The Heart of a Song*

Best Live Albums of 2011

1. Todd Snider – *The Storyteller*

2. Byron Hill – *Radio Songs*
3. Slaid Cleaves – *Sorrow and Smoke: Live at the Horseshoe Lounge*
4. Newfound Road – *Live at the Down Home*
5. The Steel Wheels – *Live at Goose Creek*

Best Covers/Tribute Albums of 2011

1. Various Artists – *This One's for Him: A Tribute to Guy Clark*
2. LeAnn Rimes – *Lady & Gentlemen*
3. Chris Thile & Michael Daves – *Sleep With One Eye Open*
4. Chris Isaak – *Beyond the Sun*
5. Suzy Bogguss – *American Folk Songbook*
6. Jimmie Dale Gilmore & The Wranglers – *Heirloom Music*
7. Various Artists – *I Love: Tom T. Hall's Songs of Fox Hollow*
8. Carrie Rodriguez & Ben Kyle – *We Still Love Our Country*
9. Willie Nelson – *Remember Me, Volume 1*
10. Del McCoury Band – *Old Memories: Songs of Bill Monroe*

(Hybrid covers or tribute albums containing a fair amount of new material, including those by Randy Travis and Nell Robinson, have been ruled out.)

Best Debut Albums of 2011

1. Pistol Annies – *Hell on Heels*
2. The Dirt Drifters – *This Is My Blood*
3. Erin Enderlin – *Erin Enderlin (EP)*
4. Andy Vaughan & the Driveline – *Long Gone*
5. Randy Montana – *Randy Montana*

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