

WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYING GUIDE**

FEBRUARY 2018

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Gently rolling vineyards
in Oregon.

FOR ADDITIONAL RATINGS AND REVIEWS, VISIT WINEMAG.COM/RATINGS

OREGON

Spotlight on Chardonnay

Sometimes dissed as white wine with training wheels, Chardonnay still remains a favorite among consumers due to its wide availability on the market and generally good quality. But beyond just good, truly great Chardonnay is elusive. Historically, there are two main camps: the New World, heavily oaked, buttery and rich Chardonnays; and the elegant, detailed, mineral-driven Old World styles.

Oregon's vintners can emulate the best of both worlds, while producing distinctive, place-specific wines. Look to pioneering wineries such as Adelsheim, Eyrie and Ponzi for an overview of techniques.

Jason Lett at Eyrie favors old-vine wines from Draper and Wente clones that were brought up from University of California-Davis in the mid-1960s. These wines are lean, subtle and especially ageworthy. Luisa Ponzi is incorporating some new oak into her vineyard designates, and exploring the impact of new clones and wild yeasts. Adelsheim, a leader in the introduction of the French Dijon clones,

marries them to traditional Burgundian techniques such as barrel fermentation and stirring of the lees.

For those seeking rich bottlings—think high-end California wines but with distinct and fresh acidity—look to Domaine Serene. The winery produces a half dozen single-vineyard and reserve bottlings, notable for their concentrated, sappy fruit and generous, yet judicious, application of new French oak.

Top quality from any region comes down to the usual triumvirate: the age of the vines, location of the vineyard and skill of the winemaker. When they are all in harmony, brilliant wines emerge, and in Oregon, they're

typically at prices well below the iconic Chardonnays of California and Burgundy.

Oregon's best Chardonnays are complex—at times delicate—yet always balanced by natural, fresh acidity. Wines from cooler sites and vintages display green and yellow fruits, while warmer years bring ripe tree fruits and even tropical flavors. Drink up! —Paul Gregutt

Oregon's vintners can emulate the best of both worlds, while producing distinctive, place-specific wines.

CHARDONNAY

96 **Domaine Serene 2015 Clos de Lune Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$75**

94 **Lingua Franca 2015 Avni Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Lingua Franca, a Larry Stone/Dominique Lafon project, offers a challenging, absorbing lineup of Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. The Avni bottling is tangy and tight, with white peach and melon fruit and hints of toasted nuts and butter. The finish extends gracefully, keeping you riveted. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price: \$40**

94 **Lingua Franca 2015 Sisters Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Lingua Franca's Sisters bottling is tight and firm, with buttery apple flavors that suggest partial but not full malolactic fermenta-

tation. It was whole cluster pressed and barrel fermented in puncheons, 20% new. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price: \$90**

93 **Domaine Serene 2015 Côte Sud Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Bright, tart and very tasty, this ultraripe cuvée brings lush apple sauce, peach cobbler and Meyer lemon flavors. It's vivid, detailed and framed with toasty new oak. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$80**

93 **Winderlea 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.7% **Price: \$38**

92 **Shea 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Smooth and rich, this young wine has exceptional texture and mouthfeel. It's a seamless mix of ripe stone fruit, with a touch of vanilla and a hint of butter. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$35**

91 **Carabella 2015 Eve's Garden Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** This is the winery's reserve-level Chardonnay, and just three barrels were produced. It offers extra concentration and a silky mix of apple and pear fruit, with a touch of minerality. The finish, which is long and balanced, is enwrapped in almond flavor. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price: \$45**

91 **Lenné Estate 2016 Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton).** This creamy and smooth wine tastes of mashed apple, papaya and pear. Almost half was aged in new oak, which contributes to that silky mouthfeel and to its butterscotch-laced finish. A hint of minerality infuses the acidity. Though young, this first-time effort is delicious and ready for immediate enjoyment. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price: \$40**

91 **Saffron Fields Vineyard 2015 Estate Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton).** Not much Chardonnay is produced at this winery, which is a shame. This spicy, toasty, well-rounded effort is clean and fresh. It mixes grapefruit, green apple and white peach flavors with zippy acidity. Drink now through 2025. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$44**

90 **Carabella 2015 Dijon 76 Estate Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** Supple, buttery and forward, this is full of lovely caramel-dipped apple flavors. Around that tasty core are hints of crisp herbs and citrus fruits. It's well-built, well-balanced and fine for immediate consumption. It was barrel fermented in 100% French oak, one eighth new. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price: \$32**

90 **Keeler 2015 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This wine's well-ripened yellow and green fruit flavors come with fruit skin and herb notes. It's a sleek, stylish and medium bodied, showing a light touch of toast from aging in a mix of new and one-year-old French oak. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price: \$28**

90 **Marshall Davis 2016 Marshall Davis Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton).** This is a chewy, nutty, punchy wine with a solid core of apple and melon fruit. Its acidity lends a generous citrus tang, and the flavors smooth out nicely through the finish, with a burst of caramel. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$36**

90 **Saffron Fields Vineyard 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Sourced from a number of non-estate vineyards, this is sleek and precise, marrying toasty oak to crisp tree fruit flavors. The ample acids add a touch of grapefruit and the 16 months aging in 20% new French oak rounds out the fruit perfectly. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$40**

Continued on page 18

The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by *Wine Enthusiast Magazine's* editors and other qualified tasters. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Managing Editor/Tasting Director Lauren Buzzeo, Executive Editor Susan Kostorzewa, Tasting Coordinators Carrie Dykes and Fiona Adams, Contributing Editors Michael Schachner, Anna Lee C. Iijima, Christina Pickard, Mike DeSimone, Jeff Jensen and Spirits Editor Kara Newman in New York; European Editor Roger Voss in France; Italian Editor Kerin O'Keefe in Switzerland; Contributing Editor Anne Kriebel in England; Contributing Editors Virginia Boone, Jim Gordon and Matt Kettmann in California; and Contributing Editors Paul Gregutt and Sean Sullivan in Washington.

If a wine was evaluated by a single reviewer, that taster's initials appear following the note. When no initials appear following a wine review, the wine was evaluated by two or more reviewers and the score and tasting note reflect the input of all tasters. Unless otherwise stated, all spirit reviews are by Kara Newman and all beer reviews are by Lauren Buzzeo.

Each review contains a score, the full name of the product, its suggested national retail price, its alcohol (abv) as reported to us by the submitter and a tasting note. If price or alcohol content cannot be confirmed, NA (not available) will be printed. Prices are for 750-ml bottles unless otherwise indicated.

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

All tastings reported in the Buying Guide are performed blind. Typically, products are tasted in peer-group flights of from 5–8 samples. Reviewers may know general information about a flight to provide context—vintage, variety or appellation—but never the producer or retail price of any given selection. When possible, products considered flawed or uncustomary are retasted.

ABOUT THE SCORES

Ratings reflect what our editors felt about a particular product. Beyond the rating, we encourage you to read the accompanying tasting note to learn about a product's special characteristics.

- Classic 98–100:** The pinnacle of quality.
- Superb 94–97:** A great achievement.
- Excellent 90–93:** Highly recommended.
- Very Good 87–89:** Often good value; well recommended.
- Good 83–86:** Suitable for everyday consumption; often good value.
- Acceptable 80–82:** Can be employed in casual, less-critical circumstances.

Products deemed Unacceptable (receiving a rating below 80 points) are not reviewed.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Editors' Choice products are those that offer excellent quality at a price above our Best Buy range, or a product at any price with unique qualities that merit special attention.

Cellar Selections are products deemed highly collectible and/or requiring time in a temperature-controlled wine cellar to reach their maximum potential. A Cellar Selection designation does not mean that a product must be stored to be enjoyed, but that cellaring will probably result in a more enjoyable bottle. In general, an optimum time for cellaring will be indicated.

Best Buys are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$15 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online via winemag.com/contact-us. Inquiries should be addressed to the Tasting & Review Department at 914.345.9463 or email tastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting products.** We make every effort to taste all products submitted for review, but there is no guarantee that all products submitted will be tasted, or that reviews will appear in the magazine. All samples must be accompanied by the appropriate submission forms, which may be downloaded from our Web site.

LABELS

Labels are paid promotions. Producers and importers are given the opportunity to submit labels only after the reviews have been finalized and assigned to a specific issue. Labels are reproduced and printed along with tasting notes and scores. For information on label purchases, contact Denise Valenza at 813.571.1122; fax 866.896.8786; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net.

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at winemag.com/ratings



98 Hall 2014 Rainin Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).

From the iconic site atop the mighty mountain appellation, Rainin is exotic in forest, soy and sage notes, with a powerful and densely layered tannin structure. Black pepper, plum and leather are made all the more complex by a tease of rocky ash that gives the wine a distinct mineral character and earthiness. This is one for cellaring. Enjoy 2024–2034.

Cellar Selection. —V.B.

abv: 15.6%

Price: \$325

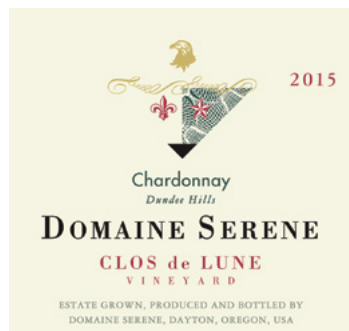


97 Patz & Hall 2015 Chenoweth Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

A bright wave of spicy sarsaparilla rides alongside crunchy, vibrant tones of crisp red cherry, pomegranate and dried herbs in this impressive, well-balanced wine from a tremendous site. Medium bodied, it shows grace and strength in equal measure for superb overall balance. —V.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$60



96 Domaine Serene 2015 Clos de Lune Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).

This wine's lip-smacking peach and apricot flavors are slathered with buttery toast notes, yet kept lively by vibrant acidity. Despite the almost decadent flavors, it maintains its precision through a stunningly long finish and gets even better with aeration. Drink now through 2028. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$75



96 Hall 2014 Bergfeld Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).

Smoke and oak commingle on the nose of this bright, crisply underwritten red, with 7% Merlot. Vibrant in red cherry, red licorice and cassis, the flavors are highlighted along a carpet of velvety texture and serious power. Enjoyable now, this should also be lovely and in full grasp of its grace from 2024–2034. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$175



96 J. Lohr 2014 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).

The second vintage release of J. Lohr's Signature wine, first produced to commemorate founder Jerry Lohr's 80th birthday. Rich aromas of stewed black plum, blackberry pie, vanilla, clove and prune cake show on the nose. The mouthfeel is rich overall, but with firm tannins in the background that lend structure to the strawberry and blackberry flavors, graced by hints of wood smoke, peppercorn and licorice. Drink now–2029. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$100



96 Lynmar 2015 Old Vines Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

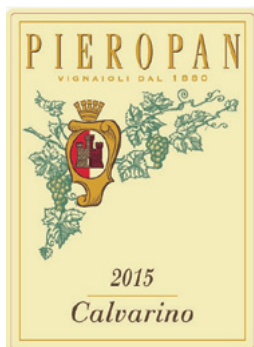
This wine delivers exactly what old vines should: complexity and intrigue. Delicious sparks of tea and wild strawberry are framed by tightly woven tannins across the broad midpalate, resulting in a velvety texture. The long finish boasts excellent evolution, with underpinnings of cardamom at the end. —V.B.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$80



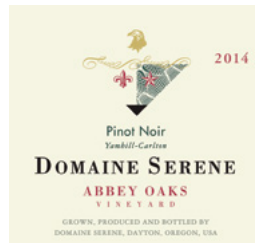
96 **Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Corton.** Vineyards on the hill of Corton are the source for this concentrated wine. The 30-year-old vines give density while also providing great fruit and juiciness. It is an impressive wine, richly endowed with black fruits and layers of dark tannins. Drink from 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$124



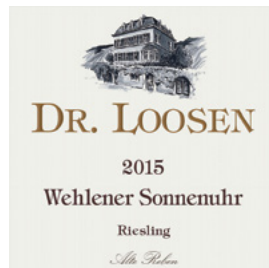
96 **Pieropan 2015 Calvarino (Soave Classico).** Always one of Italy's premier white wines, Pieropan's gorgeous 2015 Calvarino sets a new benchmark. Opening with heady aromas of white spring wildflower, citrus blossom, aromatic herb and crushed rock, the savory palate delivers layers of lemon drop, ripe apple, juicy pear and tangy mineral notes. It's concentrated yet elegant and thoroughly delicious. Drink through 2025. LUX Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$31



95 **Domaine de Bellene 2015 Cuvée du Cinquantenaire Vieilles Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune).** This is a blend from five different premier crus in Beaune to celebrate 50 years of winemaking in Burgundy by the Potel family. Its structure is firm, although the wine itself is succulent and juicy, with a good balance between the acidity and red fruit flavors. Solid tannins back up the dense fruit to give a rich, impressive wine that needs time. Drink from 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100



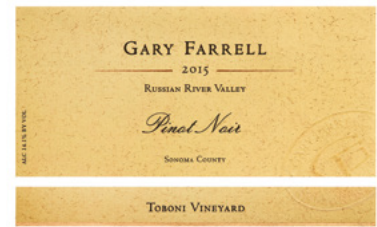
95 **Domaine Serene 2014 Abbey Oaks Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This is the winery's only non-Dundee Hills bottling, and it brings aromatic notes of earthy stem, leaf and barrel. It's richly layered in red and black fruit, with plum, cherry, pipe tobacco and black tea notes accenting the complex, dark and deep palate. Even in the extraordinary Domaine Serene lineup, this wine overdelivers. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G. **abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$90



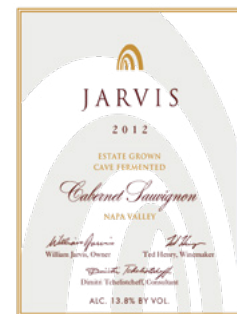
95 **Dr. Loosen 2015 Wehlener Sonnenuhr GG Alte Reben Dry Riesling (Mosel).** While subdued on the nose, there's intensity and persistence to be found in this deeply concentrated dry Riesling. White grapefruit and peach flavors are cutting and fresh, edged by layers of slate and crushed mineral. Electric acidity reverberates through a long finish. Hold until 2020, though it's bound to keep improving for years beyond. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$54



95 **Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese Goldkap Grosse Lage (Mosel).** Profound mineral notes of crushed slate and river rocks differentiate this goldkap bottling from the producer's regular labels. Fleishy white peach and yellow cherry flavors are sweet and plump, but cast in breathtaking layers of shimmering minerality. Electric acidity pierces through a long finish. Although it's a stunner already, it will improve well through 2030 and likely beyond. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I. **abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$50



95 **Gary Farrell 2015 Toboni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** From a vineyard site in what is known as the reasonably cool Santa Rosa Plain, this is a spicy, oaky and richly concentrated wine. Pomegranate, bay leaf and cardamom flavors are focused, grounded by abundant notes of tart cranberry and strawberry. The mouthfeel is silky, while an herbal underbelly and lingering clove flavor persists through the finish. —V.B. **abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55



95 **Jarvis 2012 Estate Grown Cave Fermented Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This is a beautifully integrated, layered and soft wine, completely fulfilling in its grasp of smoky char, cherry, berry, currant and black licorice. It remains supple and succulent on the palate from start to finish, offering complex acidity and earthiness. —V.B. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$160



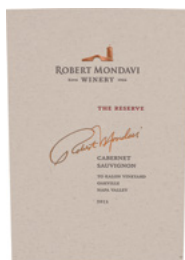
95 **Jarvis 2008 Estate Grown Cave Fermented Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This aged wine shows the worth of waiting—an Old-World expression of balance and grace with plenty of California power. Spicy and exotic on the nose in floral, mushroomy complexity, it has secondary characteristics of cedar and pencil shavings that ride along a gripping yet velvety carpet of texture. —V.B. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$315



95 Ovum 2016 Memorista Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). This new take on Ovum's Memorista cuvée—the winery's flagship—is its ripest Riesling. It was fermented in a thousand-liter Austrian cask, with a small percentage of botrytized fruit. It's almost liquorous, with botanical elements that accents its lime, candied citrus and dried papaya flavors. It's potent and packed with flavor yet impeccably balanced. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 13.9%

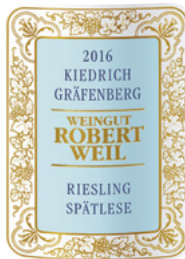
Price: \$45



95 Robert Mondavi 2014 To Kalon Vineyard The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is made from a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon from the famous historic site, with 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It startles in beauty and grace, with plenty of power and concentration. It's a charismatic wine, bright in red currant and black cherry and a soft, supple texture that holds an underlying grip and toasty oak spice. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$173



95 Robert Weil 2016 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Rheingau). Unctuous, sun-drenched peach and apricot are glazed with honey, earth and spice in this luminous medium-sweet wine. A silken texture on the midpalate is accented by hits of lime and crushed minerals. Its fruity, forward flavors are stunning already, but there's too much complexity here that's yet to develop. Hold till at least 2021 and it will continue to reward for years to come. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$86



95 Tornatore 2015 Pietrarizzo Rosso (Etna). Red berry, crushed violet, dried herb and dark spice aromas take center stage along with whiffs of balsamic and menthol. The elegantly structured, juicy palate delivers crushed raspberry, ripe Marasca cherry, licorice and white pepper alongside smooth, polished tannins. A mineral note energizes the finish. LUX Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 14%

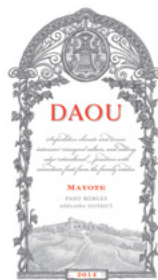
Price: \$50



94 Brewer-Clifton 2015 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is Greg Brewer's appellation blend rather than his single-vineyard expressions, but it's still incredibly dynamic and delicious. A fresh and fruity strawberry-slushe aroma is met with notes of crushed slate and star anise-spiced cookies on the nose. The palate is bright in flavors of slightly tart cherries and ripe cranberries, but then come juniper and pine needle on the midpalate. Acidity pumps into the pomegranate and menthol finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45



94 Daou 2014 Mayote (Adelaida District). This always highly anticipated, nontraditional blend of 56% Syrah, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Petit Verdot really shows off Daniel Daou's deft hand in the cellar. Bountiful yet taut aromas of black currant, vanilla, licorice, espresso, black rocks and smoke lead into a firmly structured palate full of black and purple fruit, tar and black olive, with a hint of dank herbs. Extremely complex, it is built to last, though can be enjoyed today. Drink now through 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

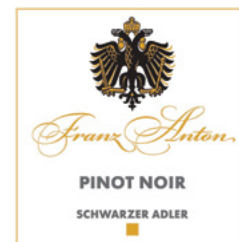
Price: \$100



94 Eleven Eleven 2015 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Dark gold in color, this is a textured wine with complexity to spare. It's beautifully evolved and integrated, with tantalizing flavors of baked pear, crème brûlée and fennel. A floral bouquet of spring blossoms leads the nose. —V.B.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$48



94 Franz Keller 2015 Franz Anton Schwarzer Adler Pinot Noir (Baden). Lavish strokes of vanilla, spice and toast lend a slightly aspirational feel to this Pinot Noir, but its undoubtedly a concentrated, solidly structured wine in need of some time to harmonize. Sumptuous red cherry and raspberry flavors are fleshy and deep, invigorated by a crush of cranberry acidity and a cool mineral undertone. Bold, chunky tannins should meld nicely from 2025. Schmitt-Söhne USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 13%

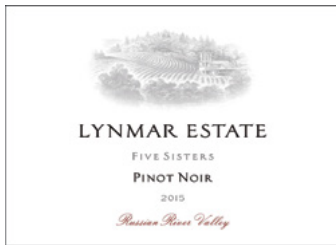
Price: \$42



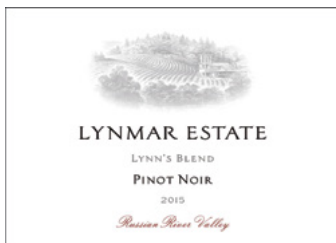
94 Hall 2014 Terra Secca Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a 100% varietal wine from a range of vineyards along the eastern hillsides of the valley. It is hugely concentrated in mocha, chocolate, sage and tar. Toasted oak supports powerful, firm tannins and a plush texture, all beautifully spiced with clove. —V.B.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$65



94 Lynmar 2015 Five Sisters Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A perennial knockout, this wine is juicy and fresh yet somewhat brooding in structured flavors of red cherry, strawberry and plum. With intriguing layers of earth and forest floor framed by tight-grained tannins, it's a sophisticated and complex experience. A deep boysenberry note adds richness on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$100



94 Lynmar 2015 Lynn's Blend Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Earthy forest and twig support a medium build of integrated acidity and balanced fruit in this blend named for the proprietor. Aged in 55% new oak, blackberry and black licorice dominate the profile against a fine-grained texture of toasty wood and depth. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85



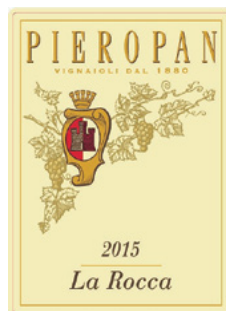
94 MacPhail 2015 Toulouse Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This impressive wine has power combined with complexity, as expansive aromas of black cherry, cedar and rose petal lead to a full body, firm tannins and concentrated black-fruit flavors that linger on the finish. Aged in only 25% new oak, it will drink best after 2020. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55



94 Maxim Grünhäuser 2016 Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Mosel). Vibrant acidity shines a spotlight over pristine yellow peach, pineapple and tangerine flavors in this ethereal spätlese. It's lusciously fruity yet spine tingling and spry. The finish is seemingly endless, silky and sweet. This is irresistible already, but it should continue to improve through 2027. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$46



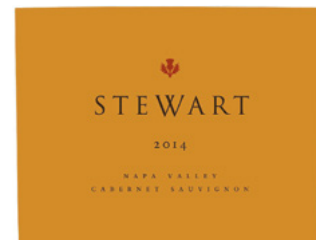
94 Pestoni Family 2013 Domingos Brothers Red (Howell Mountain). Given time to come together, this blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot is deliciously robust and complex. Expansive and richly layered, its flavors lean in to bolder elements of coconut and vanilla as simultaneous wisps of dried currant and cranberry soften the ripeness. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$150



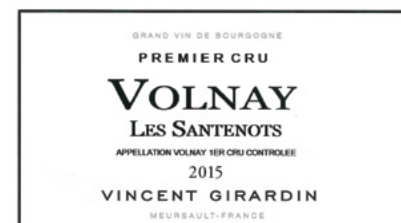
94 Pieropan 2015 La Rocca (Soave Classico). Aromas of ripe stone fruit, hazelnut and tropical fruit emerge on this savory, structured white. Refined and full of flavor, the palate doles out juicy yellow peach, apricot and a hint of ginger, while almond lingers on the long finish. LUX Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31



94 Ruca Malen 2012 Kinien de Don Raúl (Mendoza). All it takes is one sniff to know that this is in fine shape, because the mix of woody spice, toast and dark fruit aromas is ideal. Its lush palate is full but balanced, with black fruit and chocolate flavors that end with mild oak. Tough but yielding tannins ensure that this will last for another 10 years or more. Opici Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75



94 Stewart 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A 100% varietal wine, this is an impressive effort, mingling together rich and forward flavors of blackberry cobbler and chocolate around a softly layered yet richly woven core of concentration and power. Decadent, it finishes with a welcoming smoky hint. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



94 Vincent Girardin 2015 Les Santenots Premier Cru (Volnay). All the voluptuousness of Volnay awaits in this ripe, full wine. The tannins are richly cushioned by the red-berry fruits and lifted by acidity. It is a beautiful wine, focused on fruit and with just the right amount of structure for it to age. Drink from 2020. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$82



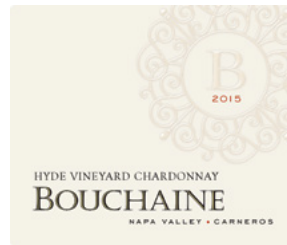
94 Walt 2015 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Oregon). Based in the Napa Valley, this brand from Kathryn Hall focuses on Pinot Noir. This release features grapes from one of Oregon's best sites—the Shea Vineyard, located in the Yamhill-Carlton AVA. It's jam-packed with black cherry and cassis fruit, nuanced by firm streaks of tobacco, espresso and sweet spice. Its density and balance are superb. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



94 Walt 2015 Sierra Mar Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Rich and exuberant aromas of black cherry, vanilla and brown sugar meet with a more floral depth as well as crushed gravel on the nose of this bottling by Winemaker Megan Gundersen. Buoyant acidity pops right away on the sip, allowing the silky tannins to present flavors of black plum, dark cherry, loamy earth and dark spices, from sandalwood to allspice. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75



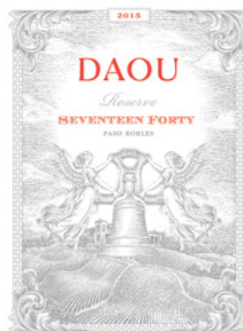
93 Bookmark Wines 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). This 100% varietal wine is dusty and gritty, a showcase of rich full flavor and balanced ripeness. Clove, cedar and red and black currant are prominent and well-integrated within a framework of tight-grained tannins and supportive oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75



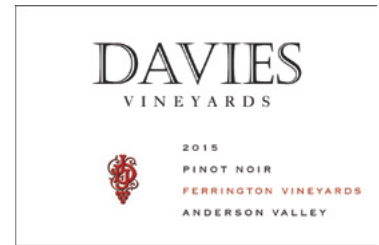
93 Bouchaine 2015 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). From the highly sought-after site a stone's throw from the producer's own estate, this white is lovely and invitingly floral—its aromatics undeniable. Unctuous and boldly ripe, it offers intertwined flavors of baked pear and pineapple with a persistent lift of fresh stony acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$55



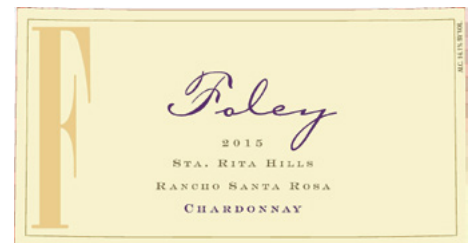
93 Carlos Serres 2010 Gran Reserva (Rioja). The 2010 harvest will go down as one of Rioja's greats, and that means wines like this \$25 Gran Reserva can be excellent and affordable. It has a nose of mocha, smoke and earthy berry fruits. The palate is layered and texturally complex, while flavors of root beer, baking spice, dried cherry and plum spread out on a smooth finish that is just right in terms of residual tannins and acid. Drink through 2030. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25



93 Daou 2015 Seventeen Forty Reserve (Paso Robles). This elegant blend of 65% Cabernet Franc and 35% Merlot is still very wound up on the nose, and yet already amazing in aromas of crushed gravel, tar, condensed black currant, black pepper and earthy bay leaf. On the palate, the acidity and tightly woven tannins are pitch perfect for long-term aging, which will allow the black fruit and dark spice flavors to mature. Sit on it until 2019, and drink through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$75



93 Davies 2015 Ferrington Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Smooth and fruity, this wine is easy to enjoy from the first classic whiff of red cherries and tea to more substantial black cherry and clove flavors. It's medium in body and has light, velvety tannins. Great balance and liveliness thanks to good acidity help lift this wine above the pack. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65



93 Foley 2015 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lemon cream, beeswax, sea salt and chamomile tea aromas combine for a very compelling and complex nose on this bottling. The palate is creamy at first and then sizzles with sea salt and lemony acidity, finishing with more ocean spray flavors. It's savory, yet fresh. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30



93 Jean-Marc Boillot 2016 Champ-Canet Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). This ripe, wood-aged wine is beautifully structured, with vibrant acidity that cuts through the richness of fruit and oak. A taut edge provides an ageworthy build. It comes from a vineyard at the northern end of the village, next to Meursault. Drink from 2019. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125



93 John Duval Wines 2014 Eligo Shiraz (Barossa Valley). John Duval's wines are rarely timid and rarely simple, although they do require some time for brooding. The 2014 Eligo offers plenty of attractive blue fruit, dark cherry, florals and cedar to ponder over. The palate is full bodied but elegant, with savory, tight-grained tannins. This should cellar beautifully. Drink 2019–2037. Old Bridge Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



93 MaidenStoen 2016 Lafond Vineyard Riesling (Sta. Rita Hills). Lime pith, scratched pomelo skin, crushed chalk, a hint of flour and tons of rocky minerality show on the nose of this tightly wound bottling—the best of this winery's current vintage. There is extreme raciness to the textured and slightly grippy sip, with flavors of lime, chalk and a hint of pluot flesh. It's all about texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.52% **Price:** \$22



93 Pali 2015 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lovely black raspberry, hints of sage, sandalwood, soil, sweet dill, tarragon and fennel make for a very expressive nose on this single-vineyard selection. The palate deftly combines dark but tart plum, pluot and black raspberry fruit with notes of baking spices. The texture is pitch perfect, with judicious acidity and structural tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$69



93 Pali 2015 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Very intriguing aromas of cinnamon, cedar, garden herbs and tight raspberry show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard on the eastern side of the appellation. The palate is extremely elegant and tightly wound, with bay leaf, Earl Grey tea and potpourri elements flavoring the pomegranate background. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



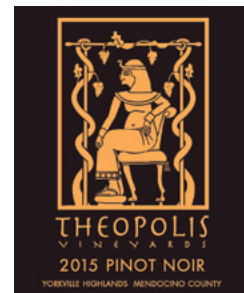
93 Puleta 2013 Gran X Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Dark, tarry chocolate and blackberry aromas lead to a full-bodied and fresh palate in this wine. Its toasty black-fruit flavors are nicely spiced, finishing with peppery and toasty notes of coconut and chocolate. Drink through 2028. Paul Hobbs Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



93 Round Pond 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This is a well-integrated reserve wine, enjoyable in its complex plushness and characteristics of clove, cassis and red cherry. Leather, tobacco and soy come in midway, adding to a robust, softly spoken finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$110



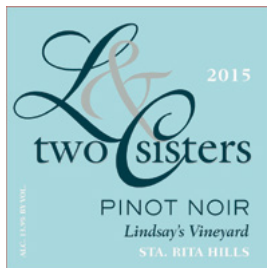
93 Talent 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oregon). From a 1982 single vineyard planting, this thick, meaty and substantial wine includes 5% Syrah. Its plush fruit tones of black cherry and plum are compact and full bodied, with notes of black olive, sweet earth and toast that also factor in. The color is blood-black and the tannins are ripe and polished. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$44



93 Theopolis 2015 Pinot Noir (Yorkville Highlands). Layered and intricate, this plush and complex wine is a beauty. It starts with enticing aromas of black cherry and clove, while more cherry and spice character unfolds on the palate and a broad, rich texture coats the mouth. Everything is smooth, well integrated and tasty. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42



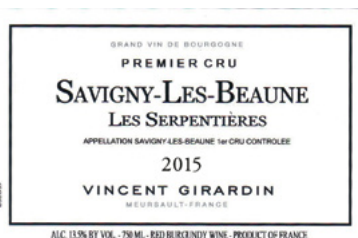
93 Thierry et Pascale Matrot 2016 Blagny Premier Cru (Meursault). This rich, oak-aged wine is impressive and concentrated. With a spicy wood character and ripe apple, green plum and citrus fruit tones, it is intense and dense. The mineral texture, tight and tangy, and fresh finish marks the wine as one ready to age. Drink from 2020. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$91



93 Two Sisters 2015 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Plump red cherry, rust, dried sage, wild thyme and baking spices show on the nose of this top-end regional wine from Bill Foley. The palate shows cohesive well-woven flavors of strong red fruits, turned earth, brown spice, cracked pepper and a menthol-like finish. The acidity is perfect, the tannins soft but structural. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50



93 Valentin Bianchi 2013 Enzo Bianchi (San Rafael). This Cabernet-Malbec-Petit Verdot blend smells smoky and rich, with lemony oak notes. But in the mouth, it's tight as a drum, with an unbreakable structure. Dark spice and clove notes accent ripe berry fruit that's not jammy and which has absorbed its oak well. Its firm, tannic finish will stand guard as it ages for a decade or more. Drink 2020–2030. Quintessential Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



93 Vincent Girardin 2015 Les Serpentières Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). Showcasing the richness and velvety texture often associated with wines from Savigny, this also highlights the ripeness of the vintage. The result is a wine in which ripe red fruits and a smooth texture overtake the tannins that lend a subtle structure and will help it age. It is a delicious wine that will be ready to drink from 2022. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$53



93 Walt 2015 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For fans of rich and lavish Pinot Noir, this appellation blend gives a taste of what Winemaker Megan Gunderson is all about, without the soaring price tag. Black cherry, chocolate chip cookie dough, crushed slate and light mint show on the nose while the soft, lush palate is creamy in black-plum pudding and coffee cream flavors as well as hints of bay leaf, black tea and juniper. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75



93 Winderlea 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The grapes for this excellent wine were sourced from the Carabella, Hyland and Thistle Vineyards. It's supple and tangy, with orange, grapefruit, lemon pith, apple and gooseberry flavors, all framed by a gentle touch of oak. This is a classy, sophisticated and impressive wine. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38



93 Winderlea 2015 Winderlea Legacy Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Winderlea Legacy is a limited selection from the site's original vines, planted in the mid-1970s. Unusually low in alcohol, it surprises with subtle rose, wild berry, wet stone and tanned leather flavors, all twisted into a marvelous tapestry. It demands your full attention and a bit of breathing time, and should age beautifully. Drink now through the mid-2030s. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$85



92 Allegrini 2014 La Grola (Veronese). This savory wine bursts with plum, cassis and chocolate aromas that follow through to the taut, elegant palate alongside hints of bell pepper and black pepper. It's fresh and still tightly wound, with firm, velvety tannins. Drink through 2024. LUX Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35



92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Rich, ripe passion fruit, berry and guava tones resound from nose to finish in this unabashedly tropical Riesling. While medium-sweet in style, it's refreshingly composed, marked by spine-tingling acidity. A sugary lace meanders long on the finish. It's approachable already, but structured enough to cellar through 2028. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$23



92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). A veil of crushed slate permeates through layers of honey, stone fruit and citrus in this ripe, intensely concentrated kabinett. It's delicately textured, spine-tingling and fresh, finishing on meandering notes of caramel and saffron. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$23



92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett (Mosel).

Pretty pink grapefruit and red berries extend from nose to finish in this kabinett. Equal parts sweet and tart, this is a delightfully juicy sip, emboldened by crystalline strikes of minerality and acidity. The finish is honeyed and seemingly neverending. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$23

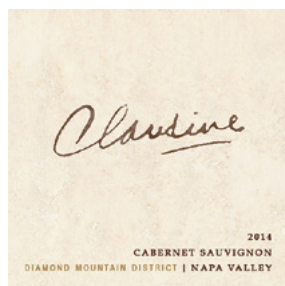


92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2015 Kanzeimer Altenberg Pinot Noir (Mosel).

Violet and bramble tones perfume this lavishly floral red. Brisker and brighter than Germany's warmer-climate Pinots, this Mosel Pinot Noir offers concentrated but crisp black cherry and berry flavors rimmed by a fine edge of bitter tannins. It's silky in texture, with a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2025 to enjoy its freshness. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28



92 Claudine 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).

This Cabernet Sauvignon has small percentages of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Spicy clove rides atop full-figured waves of black cherry and blackberry fruit. It's balanced and well-integrated within its ripe fruit frame, with structured tannins and a deep, rich concentration. —V.B.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$58



92 Colomé 2013 Altura Maxima Malbec (Salta).

This wine's dark, opaque color and jammy, sun-baked aromas are typical of Salta's best Malbecs. It's a saturated, hefty and intense red from some of the highest vineyards in the world, yet it's neither fiery nor aggressive. Its lush, fully developed flavor profile includes cassis, blackberry and chocolate notes that persist into the finish. Drink through 2024. Hess Family Wine Estates. —M.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$125

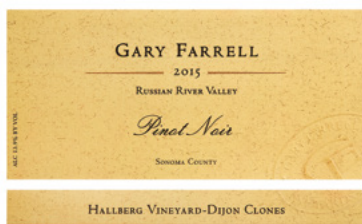


92 Franz Keller 2015 Pinot Noir (Baden).

Luscious raspberry and red-cherry flavors abound in this lavish, full-bodied Pinot Noir. Framed by soft, pliant tannins and bright acidity, it's fruity and forward in style but nuanced by hints of crushed granite and river rocks. The finish is marked by wisps of smoke and nuts. Drink now—2022. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25



92 Gary Farrell 2015 Hallberg Vineyard Dijon Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

Undeniably spicy, this wine is tart and tangy in acidity, too—focused and full of tension. Notes of dried herb, black tea and cardamom punch first, before allowing room for the fruit, which presents itself as an irresistible combination of cherry and pomegranate. —V.B.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$60



92 MaidenStoen 2016 Coast View Vineyard Riesling (Monterey County).

Freshly cut melon and white lily flowers meet with pear skins and wet clay on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard in the mountains east of Salinas. The palate is rounded at first, with ripe nectarine flavors, but then a powerful acidity slices down the center, carrying tart lime skins, lemon rind and yellow grapefruit elements. —M.K.

abv: 13.83%

Price: \$22

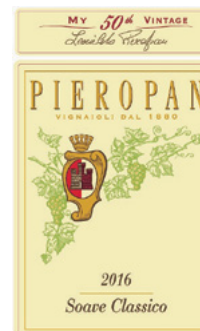


92 Miro 2015 Ponzio Vineyard Old Vines Reserve Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).

With 12% Petite Sirah, this old-vine wine is dominated by candied plum on the nose and mouth, with additional notes of ripe black fruits on the palate. The palate is bold yet well-integrated, with a velvety texture and graceful structure. —V.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$36



92 Pieropan 2016 Soave Classico.

Savory and fresh, this opens on alluring aromas of white flower, orchard fruit, citrus and a whiff of crushed rock while the palate offers creamy white peach, apple and lemon drop. A saline mineral note lingers on the finish. LUX Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17



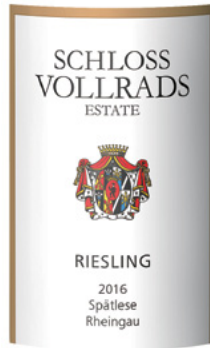
92 Planeta 2016 Bianco (Etna). Radiant and refined, this white opens on aromas of Spanish broom, white flowers and Mediterranean brush. It's savory and racy, offering apple, pear and orange flavors alongside bright acidity. A salty mineral note lingers on the finish. Palm Bay International. —K.O. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27



92 Planeta 2016 Cometa (Sicilia). Alluring scents of white and yellow flower, stone fruit and a whiff of Mediterranean herb take center stage on this silky, savory wine. The luminous palate mirrors the nose, offering ripe apricot, crushed herbs and lemon drop flavors accompanied by a mineral vein and fresh acidity. Palm Bay International. —K.O. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$64



92 Portlandia 2016 Pinot Gris (Oregon). This excellent wine leads with aromas and flavors of citrus, melon and green pineapple. It's vividly tangy and refreshing, with a saline quality and impressive focus and length. You'll want a case of this one. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



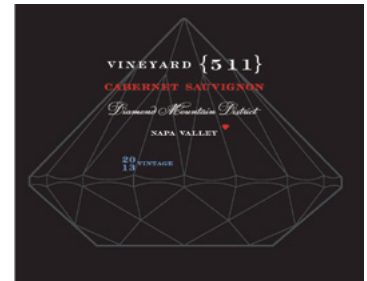
92 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Lavish plumes of jasmine, white peach and grapefruit perfume this light-as-a-feather spätlese. Despite its diminutive frame, the palate is piercing and expansive. Racy lime acidity and a waxy sheen of honeycomb elongate the finish. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I. **abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$31



92 Tinto Rey 2016 Verdejo (Dunnigan Hills). Intriguing and complex, this full-bodied wine combines bright elements of orange zest and pineapple with richer flavors of toasted almond, salted peanuts and dried figs. It is ripe in feel, but good acidity lifts it up and keeps the taste refreshing through a long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G. **abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$18



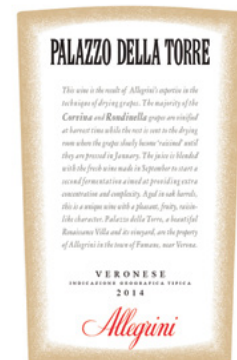
92 Treana 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a great buy for those that crave creamy, ripe wines. Aromas of black-cherry syrup, pie crust, salted caramel, snickerdoodle, brown sugar and maple syrup prove intoxicating. The palate is soft, thick and saucy, with more dark fruit flavors alongside vanilla, star anise and roasted cocoa. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



92 Vineyard 511 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). Rounded strawberry and blackberry flavors show on the luxuriously soft palate, giving a sense of richness and power. Accented in cedar and leather, it has an herbal underbelly that balances well against the ripe fruit. —V.B. **abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$149



92 Winderlea 2015 Dundee Hills Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This is an especially good vintage of this blend from the Winderlea, Weber, Maresh and Murto vineyards. Beautifully fragrant, it's a delicate potpourri of rhubarb and wild berry, with a streak of barrel toast. Darker notes of espresso and cocoa emerge on the extended finish. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38



91 Allegrini 2014 Palazzo della Torre (Veronese). Aromas of ripe black-skinned fruit and exotic spice are front and center on this delicious red. On the fresh palate, tightly knit, polished tannins carry mouthwatering black cherry, blackberry compote, mocha and cinnamon. Enjoy through 2024. LUX Wines. —K.O. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23



91 Bear Flag 2015 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). This wine pays homage to a historic revolt in Sonoma in 1846. Waves of dark cherry and vanilla surround a strong core of integrated oak and supple texture in this well-made wine. Ripe, full-bodied and well-balanced, this wine will please many a palate with ease. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$30



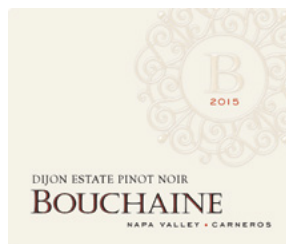
91 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Aylar Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Salt, slate and lime accent pristine grapefruit and green plum notes in this bracing off-dry Riesling. Strikes of acid and minerality reverberate long and lean on the finish. It's a thrilling kabinett to enjoy now–2028. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23



91 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Bernkasteler Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Delicate whiffs of exotic spice accent luscious tangerine and peach flavors in this off-dry Riesling. While ripe and lip smackingly honeyed, it's a briskly textured wine, with cutting lemon-lime acidity. Lime zest lingers through a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2025. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$23



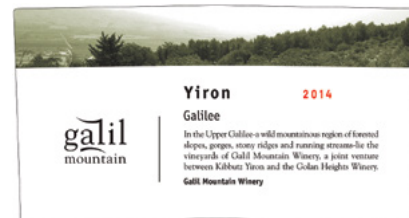
91 Bonny Doon 2015 A Proper Claret (California). Fresh-pressed boysenberry meets with jammier plum-sauce aromas on the nose of this blend of 40% Merlot, 24% Petit Verdot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 4% Malbec. This wine offers light herbal, spice and wood aromas while the palate proves very versatile and lively, with bright, tart pomegranate flavors and a touch of purple flowers. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$16



91 Bouchaine 2015 Dijon Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). Smoky and big-boned, this is a robust, complex and enticing wine, aged in French oak (28% new). Strawberry and balsamic notes are joined by black tea, cardamom and cola on the medium-bodied palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50



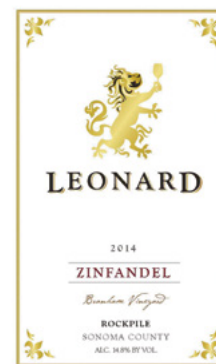
91 Franciscan 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is an impressively made wine, offering a tart red currant around savory notes of fresh tobacco, clove, cedar and graphite. Robustly built up front, it shows balance through the midpalate and a firm control of its ripeness, dotted in baking spice and pepper. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29



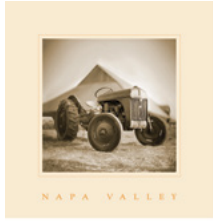
91 Galil Mountain 2014 Yiron (Galilee). Dark violet in color, this wine has aromas of black cherry and fennel bulb. A network of silky tannins supports well-integrated flavors of blackberry, plum and anise that culminate in a surprisingly bright cherry finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32



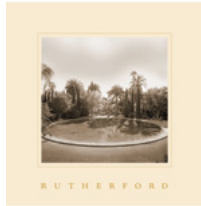
91 Keeler 2016 Pinot Gris (Eola-Amity Hills). Fermented in a concrete egg, this fascinating wine stands apart from any standard Oregon Pinot Gris. Its texture and subtle details speak to why winemakers are fascinated by these particular fermentation vessels, which are neither cheap nor easy to master. Its solid pear fruit is dappled with bread, pollen and powdered lemon notes. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24



91 Leonard 2014 Branham Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). This wine is predominately Zinfandel, with 10% Carignane, 6% Petite Sirah and 3% Alicante Bouschet. Smoky bacon, cherry, citrus and watermelon all meld in this broadly structured, full-bodied red. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50



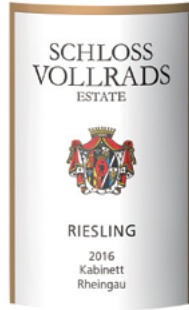
91 Round Pond 2015 Kith and Kin Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is earthy in tobacco and forest tones, with a bright thread of acidity within its more robust tendencies. Graphite, sage, leather and pepper meet firm, supportive tannins and a toasted oak tone. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35



91 Round Pond 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Blended with 12% Petit Verdot, this is a thick, extracted young wine, full of black cherry, chalky tannins and a gritty, grippy texture. Hugely present in power and oak, it will do well in the cellar. Enjoy best 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60



91 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Riesling Kabinett Medium Dry (Rheingau). While sun-kissed peach perfumes the nose, just a trace of sweetness rims the palate of this taut, mineral-driven kabinett. Sweet-tart tangerine and lime flavors are spine tingling and persistent, leading a long, salt-and-lime finish. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$25



91 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). Fleshy and plump compared to this producer's more mineral medium-sweet kabinett, this bottling is a glorious fountain of lusciously sweet yellow peach, apple and tangerine flavors. It's still zesty and spry in texture, with riveting pin points of acidity that linger on the finish. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$25



91 Trombetta 2016 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). There is an intensity of oak that greets the nose of this wine, leading to baked-fruit flavors of apple and pineapple, with and nutmeg offering nuance. Bright, persistent acidity cuts through the rich palate and complements its creaminess. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60



91 Valentin Bianchi 2013 Particular Cabernet Sauvignon (San Rafael). Oak notes are prominent on the nose, with aromas of shoe polish and ash. This is a big Cabernet Sauvignon that still need time to settle. Its dark, oaky flavors are bolstered by a core of berry fruit. A loud finish suggests this is best for those who favor bold New World reds. Drink 2019–2028. Quintessential Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$31



90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Dom Dry Riesling (Mosel). Earthy whiffs of crushed mineral and toast belie the fruity core of tangerine and grapefruit that await on the palate of this wine. While dry in style, this is fresh and forward from the bright acidity. Touches of spice and herb linger on the finish. Drink now through 2021. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18



90 Chateau Rongzi 2013 Black Label (China). Aromas of cherry and baking spices pave the way for flavors of black fruit, pomegranate, anise and thyme. This inky, garnet-colored wine is soft at first sip, with tannins that intensify as fruit and spice flavors fill the mouth and continue into a spicy, dry finish. Royal Comfort. —M.D.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$139



90 Eola Hills 2015 Pinot Noir Rosé Methode Champenoise (Willamette Valley). Vintage dated and made in the classic Champagne method, this tasty brut is a pretty shade of copper-hued rose. It has lovely cherry fruit and ample length. Overall, a very tasty effort. —P.G.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$30



90 Experience 2013 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). With small amounts of Syrah and Zinfandel, this Pinot swings for the fences in spicy raspberry, cherry and cardamom, with just a touch of mint nipping at its nose. Robust oak and a ripe body give it power and weight. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25



90 Franz Keller 2016 vom Löss Rosé (Baden). Buoyant red cherry and raspberry flavors burst from the glass of this vibrant, crisply structured rosé. It's forward and juicy but elegant and spry, finishing with a kiss of blossoms. Drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25



90 Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium 2016 Schiefer Riesling Feinherb (Mosel). Juicy pink grapefruit, honeydew and blossoms shine brightly in this perky, off-dry Riesling. It's vibrantly fruity but anchored by lines of fresh green herb and lime acidity. The finish is crisp and clean. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

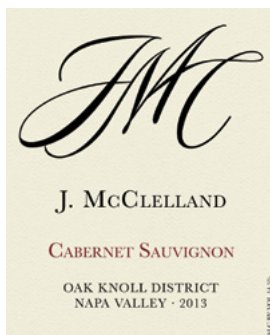


90 Golan Heights Winery 2009 Yarden Blanc de Blancs Brut (Galilee). This wine is light straw in color, with soft yet surprisingly persistent perlage. A nose of grapefruit and clementine leads the way for flavors of lemon, pineapple and grapefruit that fade into a soft brioche-flavored finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35



2014 The Ripper Shiraz
 Geographe Western Australia

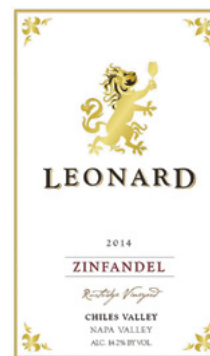
90 Hope Estate 2014 The Ripper Shiraz (Western Australia). There's a barnyard funk to this that some will love and some might squirm at, but there's also plenty of ripe strawberry fruit, chocolate, earth and smoke. The palate shows plenty of drying, savory tannins balanced by fresh acidity. Everything wraps up with an earthy, savory finish. Drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18



90 J. McClelland 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). This wine is fermented in stainless steel and French oak. It's a big, brawny red, with plenty of black fruit, tobacco and leathery tannin around an intensely powerful core. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



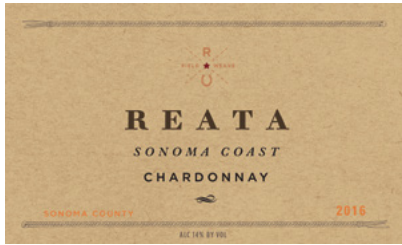
90 Leeuwin Estate 2013 Prelude Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Leeuwin's Prelude combines some of the region's characteristic Cabernet traits: currants and graphite, with floral and savory notes and a tangy, elegant mouthfeel. The tannins are silky smooth and the finish is long and fruity. Drink now—2025. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29



90 Leonard 2014 Rustridge Vineyard Zinfandel (Chiles Valley). From the eastern edges of the Napa Valley, this is a bright and effusive wine, balanced in red fruit. Small percentages of Petite Sirah, Petit Verdot and Grenache Blanc are included. It was barrel-aged for 18 months in French oak, 25% of it new. The wood is integrated and the texture softly layered. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50



90 Miro 2015 Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). This big bold wine is highlighted in raspberry, vanilla and smoky oak. Its texture is velvety smooth and rounded, while the flavors boast black licorice, black juicy fruit and a foundation of graham cracker crust. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$26



90 Reata 2016 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This is a juicy, full-figured white, with a core of minerality that persists effortlessly on the palate. Wet stone, anise and green apple combine for maximum flavor within tones of well-integrated oak. —V.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20



90 Ruca Malen 2015 Reserva Petit Verdot (Mendoza). This Petit Verdot carries aromas of dark berries and baking spices. The saturated, chewy palate offers equal parts thickness, acidity and tannins. Spicy blackberry, cassis and chocolate flavors finish solid. Drink through 2019. Opici Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14%

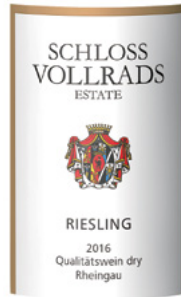
Price: \$19



90 Scheid Vineyards 2014 Doctor's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Light in the glass, this bottling is a decent example of a more restrained Santa Lucia Highlands wine, with aromas of crisp raspberry, hibiscus and cranberry notes alongside warming hints of vanilla and thyme. Fresh and lively flavors of tart red fruits are dusted by herbs and spice cake on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 15%

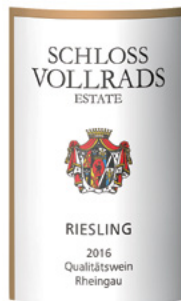
Price: \$75



90 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Qualitätswein Dry Riesling (Rheingau). Racy acidity sends jolts of electricity through delicate white blossom, lemon and lime in this refreshing dry Riesling. While moderate in fruit concentration, it's sheer, cutting mouthfeel is invigorating. Drink now through 2019. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20



90 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Qualitätswein Riesling (Rheingau). Waxy white blossom, grapefruit and lime are delicate in concentration but juicy and fresh in this off-dry Riesling. Light-bodied and thirst quenching, it's a sweet-tart sip that's ready to drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.

abv: 10%

Price: \$20



90 Signaterra Benziger 2014 Three Blocks (Sonoma Valley). Made a Demeter-certified blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine offers a tight-grained tannic structure, with notes of dusty clove, cassis and violet. A rocky mineral quality lurks beneath the full-bodied richness. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$49



90 Talent 2014 Nuf Sed Red (Oregon). This proprietary and undisclosed blend is tart, astringent and aromatic. Notes of raspberry jam, squeezed lemon and coffee syrup take center stage here. It spent 22 months in half new French oak, and it's ready to go. —P.G.

abv: 14.2%

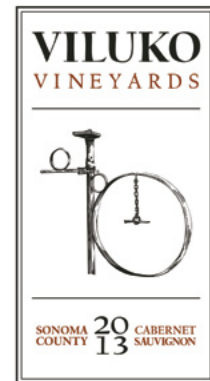
Price: \$24



90 Trombetta 2015 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a juicy exploration of the coast—a well-made effort that showcases notes of forest floor, black tea and savory pine. The black cherry and currant fruit leans dark and brooding, with an impressively balanced, medium-bodied hold on the palate. —V.B.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$45



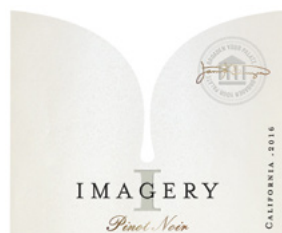
90 Viluko 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Mountain-like tannins make for a robust, powerful and concentrated palate that shows a leathery texture. Sage, black pepper and black currant spice up richer elements of dark chocolate and caramelized oak. —V.B.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$50



90 Viluko 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This is a smoky, spicy and robust red, full of oaky brawn and ripe bluster. Cedar, graphite and wild sage play into bold notes of black cherry, blackberry and cassis, as wisps of tobacco and chocolate wander by. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85



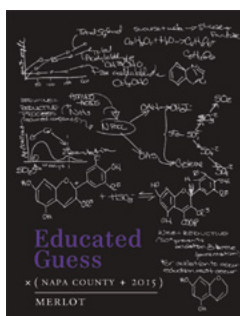
89 Imagery 2016 Pinot Noir (California). This California appellation Pinot is a debut from Imagery. A natural at the dinner table, this shows a firm structure of fine tannins, bright acidity and ripe black cherry and tea flavors that round out the structure. Good concentration meets a medium body as it gets more complex with each sip. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



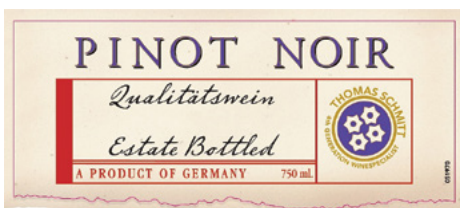
89 Martín Códax 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Lemon and apple aromas are fresh and zippy on the nose. An alert, agile palate is citrusy but not sharp. Flavors of apple, nectarine and apricot finish with length, clarity and brightness. Drink now. E & J Gallo. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17



89 Thomas Schmitt 2016 Private Collection Estate Bottled Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Traces of apple blossom and lemon are subdued on the nose but turn riper and richer on the palate, melding into lush yellow peach and tangerine. Off dry and spry, it's a zesty, fruity wine with wide appeal. Drink now through 2019. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$15



88 Educated Guess 2015 Merlot (Napa County). With small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, this is a reduced and juicy wine, showy in notes of oak and cinnamon. Juicy plum and black cherry provide concentrated fruit flavors alongside a richness of milk chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



88 Thomas Schmitt 2015 Private Collection Estate Bottled Qualitätswein Pinot Noir (Mosel). Pert, sunny red cherry and strawberry on the nose turn to bolder shades of black cherry and berry on the palate. It's a ripe, concentrated Pinot Noir, with a slightly earthen, savory character and strident, slightly bitter tannins on the finish. Drink now through 2019. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14



88 Thomas Schmitt 2016 Private Collection Estate Bottled Qualitätswein Riesling (Mosel). Zesty lemon-lime acidity and succulent peach and pineapple flavors collide in this easy-sipping, off-dry Riesling. Light-footed and fruity, it's not a complex wine but widely appealing. Drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$14

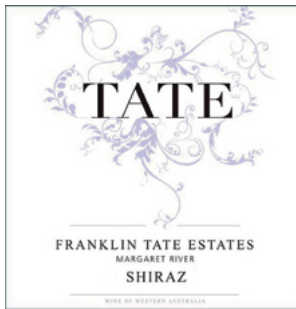


89 Patriarche Père et Fils 2016 Les Cailles Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Prominent in its wood aging, this tannic wine also shows plenty of juicy red-currant and red-berry fruits. It is spicy and toasty at the moment. Give it time, and drink from 2026. Barton & Guestier USA. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100



86 Schmitt-Söhne NV Relax Bubbles (Germany). Soft, delicate perlage and plush tropical fruit tones lend a sunny, easy feel to this sparkling blend. It's brut in style, with zesty acidity lending balance to more dulcet flavors of banana and apricot preserve. Drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

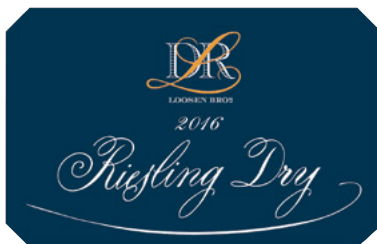
BEST BUYS



90 Franklin Tate 2015 Tate Shiraz (Margaret River). There's plenty of complexity in this bargain wine. The nose leads with ripe blueberries, florals, mocha, wet earth, dates and sumac. It's plush and juicy on the palate, with silky tannins, a medium body and a long, tangy finish. Drink now. Indigo Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$15



90 Hess 2016 Shirtail Ranches Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This wine strikes a great balance between freshness and concentration. It smells clean and mineral, tastes crisp at first like lemon and jicama but also concentrated and layered in notes of rich pear and fig. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

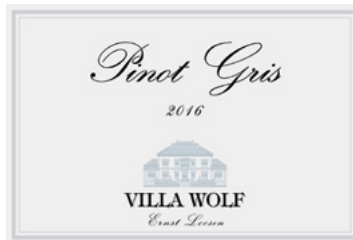


90 Loosen Bros. 2016 Dr. L Dry Riesling (Mosel). More mineral than fruit, this dry white is a fantastic value, expressing Riesling's most crystalline character. Tangerine and green apple flavors are crisp and concentrated, showered in streams of lime acidity and cool mineral sensations. Drink now through 2020. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

BEST BUYS



90 Old Soul 2015 Pinot Noir (Lodi). Quite rich in texture and generous in flavor, this medium-bodied wine has notes of black cherry, toasted baguette and pomegranate. These flavors mingle with the broad mouthfeel, offering depth and layering that leads to a lingering finish. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14



90 Villa Wolf 2016 Pinot Gris (Pfalz). gorgeously peachy from nose to finish, this vibrant, fruity Pinot Gris offers wide appeal along with a gentle price tag. Dry on the palate and refreshingly zesty, it's an elegantly balanced sip. A touch of stony minerality lends complexity to the finish. Drink now through 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12



90 Vionta 2016 Limited Release Albariño (Rias Baixas). Aromas of fresh-cut grass, wet stone and apple are mild on the nose. A round palate with zesty acidity is in full health, while flavors of apple, melon and pineapple last on the finish. Drink now. Freixenet USA. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



89 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Müller-Burggraef) 2016 Dr. Thanisch Riesling Feinherb (Mosel). Sweet-savory traces of caramel and salt lend interest to this fresh, citrusy Riesling. Juicy lime and lemon flavors are a shade off dry but refreshing and precise. Enjoy now through 2019. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$14

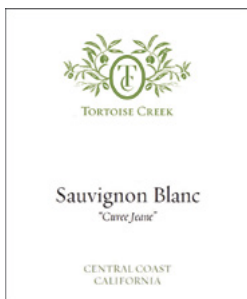


88 Argento 2015 Bonarda (Mendoza). This Bonarda is carried by grapey and jammy blackberry aromas. It's a bit high-toned on the palate, but food will calm things down. Prune and baked blackberry flavors carry into the finish, along with a green note. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

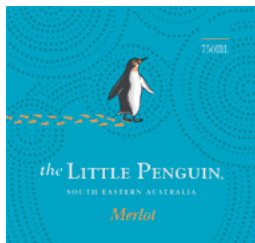


88 Heinz Eifel 2016 Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Pink grapefruit and passion fruit are plush and ripe in this fruity quaffer. Balanced sweetness and sunny acidity amplify its easy drinking appeal. Drink now through 2019. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$12

BEST BUYS



88 Tortoise Creek 2016 Cuvee Jeane Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast). A light touch of cut grass leads to lemon rinds, citrus spray, Gala apples and a touch of guava on the nose of this widely available wine. It's clean and crisp on the palate, where stone fruit and apple flavors reign, set against a chalky texture. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$12



87 Little Penguin 2015 Merlot (South Eastern Australia). Shy at first, several swirls in the glass reveal notes of sour cherry, florals, cocoa nibs and some oak spice. The palate follows with more ripe, tangy fruit and florals. It's medium bodied with balanced acidity. Drink now. Bronco Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8



87 Schmitt Söhne 2016 Relax Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen). Fresh black cherry and plum are ripe and forward in this easy drinking Pinot Noir. It's a soft, sunny wine, with delicate acidity and plush tannins but refreshingly fruity. Drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



86 Schmitt Söhne NV Relax Cool Red Blend (Rheinhessen). Soft red cherry and plum flavors are smooth in this ripe, fruity red. While a touch reedy and woody, it boasts pleasant licorice and spice notes, along with feather-light tannins. Drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$10

SPIRITS



94 Råvo Vodka (Sweden; Boca Raton, FL). Look for faint citrus at first, opening up to marshmallow sweetness on the midpalate and finishing with more bracing citrus and white pepper sparks. Mix into a Vesper or other martini-style drinks. Distilled from grain.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$20



90 Black Vulture Vodka (USA; Milk Street Distillery, Branchfield, NJ). Distilled from local corn, this vodka opens with a moderate amount of almond and vanilla and rolls into a toasty finish. Play up that sweetness in a White Russian or other dessert-like drinks.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

90 Stave & Stone 2016 Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). Creamy and textured, this lively wine shows a tasty mix of lime, peach and tropical fruit highlights, along with a light touch of vanilla. It was aged on the lees for seven months in 17% new French oak. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

89 David Hill 2015 Estate Reserve Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This toasty, tasty wine balances its apple, peach and banana fruit with barrel flavors and sweet toast scents. It was barrel aged for 15 months in 20% new oak. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$24

89 Iris Vineyards 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). There's a steely tightness to this wine, which keeps it focused on bright apple and white peach fruit. It spent 10 months in just 15% new oak, mostly French. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22

89 Iris Vineyards 2015 Chalice Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This reserve level Iris Vineyards wine gets a special name and faux wax capsule, along with time in new oak. It's then blended and aged in a neutral puncheon, making it soft and easy-drinking, its spicy pear and peach fruit swathed in a light mix of butter, caramel and toast. Give it a slight chill and drink now through 2021. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Pike Road 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This wine's strong mint scent catches your attention immediately, and that quality carries into the palate. Quince, pineapple and lemon flavors keep it interesting and on the light side of ripe. There's a nice touch of spice on the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Weisinger 2016 Gold Vineyard Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). This is a bright and lively wine, with fresh, lightly spicy Asian pear flavors. The citrusy acidity brings a touch of pineapple, too. It was aged in 10% new French oak, which seems just right. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Wine by Joe 2016 Chardonnay (Oregon). This wine's easygoing juicy green apple fruit is highlighted with cilantro and a generous squeeze of lime. Crisp, fresh and widely available, it's a fine, all-purpose quaffing white. **Best Buy.** —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Goodfellow 2015 Richard's Cuvée Whistling Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Ribbon Ridge). This reserve-level cuvée spent 21 months in 50% new French oak, but it's the acids that dominate the palate. Lemony tart, it has enough concentration to pair well with light seafoods. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$45

88 Keeler 2014 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). The fruit tones in this wine—a mix of green apple, citrus and pear skin—seem to be thinning out, but a pleasant herbal component keeps it fresh. It's drinking nicely now but may peak in the next year. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Sokol Blosser 2016 Evolution Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). It would be hard to beat this wine at this price. Its sharp lime skin, lemon, apple and green melon flavors put the fruit front and center, with a barely perceptible touch of residual sugar. Though made entirely in stainless steel, it feels nicely rounded out, finishing with a hint of caramel. *Best Buy.* —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

88 Vincent Wine Company 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This barrel-fermented wine shows its youth through its edgy texture and just-ripe peach and apricot flavors. Aged on the lees for 18 months, it finishes clean, with light streaks of butterscotch. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$29

88 Youngberg Hill Vineyards 2015 Aspen Block Chardonnay (McMinnville). This full-bodied, rather blocky wine delivers generic tree fruit flavors of the sort often found in Chardonnay. Brief aging in once-used barrels has added a touch of vanilla and toasted hazelnut. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

87 David Hill 2016 Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This unoaked version of the variety, released quite young, is tightly wound and unyielding. Its jicama, apple and green melon fruit flavors are concentrated, belying the listed alcohol, which is evidenced only by some heat on the finish. Give it ample aeration or decanting. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

87 Eola Hills 2015 Barrel Select Reserve Chardonnay (Oregon). This spent 17 months in barrel, which has substantially softened the mouthfeel, with suggestions of early oxidation. Its lightly spicy apple pie flavors seem a bit faded, heading past their prime. Drink soon. —P.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

87 Goodfellow 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Minty wintergreen scents lead the nose of this wine and carry into the flavors. Other fresh herbal notes are also in play, with a tight core of crisp apple flesh and skin. It's a rather austere style that might pair well with shellfish. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$24

87 Goodfellow 2015 Durant Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Tart, tight and unyielding, this wine's apple flavors aren't exactly thin, but they seem charmless. Acidity lends a lemon

juice flavor, and time in 50% new oak has had little impact. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

87 Spindrift Cellars 2015 OSU Woodhall III Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Sourced from an experimental block planted in 1978, this is a compact wine with clean apple fruit and toasted hazelnut scents. It's not yet showing all its complexity, so decant or tuck it away for a couple more years. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Wetzel Estate 2015 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Toasty and tart, this is a straightforward Chardonnay with clean varietal character. There's nothing to distinguish it, but for the price it offers fair value and decent flavor. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Eola Hills 2015 Chardonnay (Oregon). This is a simple, fruity, quaffable wine with light baked apple and cinnamon flavors. It's balanced and soundly made, though insubstantial. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Oak Knoll 2016 Unoaked Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Vinified in stainless steel, this is a fresh-tasting though rather generic white wine. Its delicate flavors conjure up cucumber, gooseberry and white melon. It's a simple sipper that might best accompany a no-frills poultry dish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

84 R. Stuart & Co. 2015 Love, Oregon Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This wine's plain apple fruit comes with an off-putting leathery flavor, which is odd given it's sealed with screwcap. The finish is short and bitter. —P.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$25

PINOT GRIS

92 Portlandia 2016 Pinot Gris (Oregon). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Benton-Lane 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This wine's potent grass and grapefruit scents greet you, and similar flavors follow. It would be easy to mistake this for New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, given its intensity and aroma. In the mouth, it's immaculately fresh and crisp, with steely acidity. Citrus rind flavors continue through its long finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Keeler 2016 Pinot Gris (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

91 Vista Hills 2016 Treehouse Estate Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Pinot Gris continues to

be at the top of this winery's releases, as this vintage bursts with exceptionally ripe, fleshy fruit. Tangerine, Meyer lemon and sweet orange notes combine in a juicy mix that leaves a sweet and tangy impression as it unwinds on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

91 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Rich and ripe to the point of tropical, this bursts with lush citrus, peach, banana and papaya notes—a fruit salad of fresh flavors. It offers more than just ebullient fruit, though; excellent structure, balancing acidity and a nice long finish complete the picture. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

90 Carabella 2016 Pinot Gris (Chehalem Mountains). Tart and spicy, this sports vivid acidity and spicy pear fruit. It's subtle and almost electric, with abundant green berry, lemon and grapefruit flavors. Enjoy this while it's fresh and racy. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

90 Pike Road 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). From Elk Cove's sister label, this incorporates a fair amount of estate fruit, and it's very well made for its everyday price. Deliciously fruity and vibrant, it's packed with apple, pear, nectarine and snappy grapefruit flavors. Drink over the next year or two, while it's at its freshest. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 R. Stuart & Co. 2015 Big Fire Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Deep tawny gold in color, this full-bodied, fruit-powered beauty bursts with ripe peach and papaya flavors. Blended with 4% Pinot Blanc, it's fresh and delicious now, so don't wait. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$18

90 Spindrift Cellars 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This tasty wine is full bodied and powered by fruit. Varietal purity is on display, as it offers rich apple, pear, peach and apricot flavors. A lovely hint of lemon oil accents both scent and flavor. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Stave & Stone 2016 Annala Vineyard Pinot Gris (Columbia Gorge). Veteran winemaker Rich Cushman made this wine, and his extensive knowledge of Columbia Gorge vineyards and styles shows through. It's fresh and juicy, with crisp apple and tangy gooseberry fruit, ample acidity and a pleasingly crunchy mouthfeel. It rolls on through a clean and bracing finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$24

90 William Rose 2016 Pinot Gris (Oregon). Fresh and creamy, this palate-cleansing wine offers a well-integrated mix of lightly spiced pear and citrus rind flavors. Green herb, wet rock

BUYINGGUIDE

and sea salt details come into play, adding further length and interest. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Firesteed 2015 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is fresh and lively, with apple and pear fruit flavors. It's simple, clean and enjoyable, with a light dusting of cinnamon spice. The vineyard sources included Rickreall Estate and Erratic Oaks. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 La Chouette 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). You'll find varietally appropriate apple, pear and peach flavors cut with mineral acidity in this wine. Fermented principally in stainless steel and 23% in neutral oak, it's a solid effort which should be consumed over the next two to three years. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Silvan Ridge 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Not your typical Oregon Pinot Gris, this has enough leaf and grass scents and flavors to appeal to the Sauvignon Blanc drinker. Citrus peel, apple skin and spice touches add up to a textural wine with refreshing acidity. Pair it with fresh fish or prawns. —P.G.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$16

88 Wine by Joe 2016 Pinot Gris (Oregon). This blends forward, fleshy peach and pear flavors. It's lightly spicy, with generous acidity and an overall crisp impression that calls for near-term consumption. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Château Bianca 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This coppery gold-hued wine is soft, round and dry and suggests early oxidation. Its simple tree fruit flavors bear a touch of lemon and honeycomb, though the finish is completely dry. —P.G.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Goodfellow 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). From vines a quarter century old, this distinctive offering features fresh Mediterranean herb, apple and pear skin notes and a core of white peach, apple and jicama. Don't look for ripe fruit; the style here emphasizes subtle texture and herbal characteristics. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 Oregon Territory 2016 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This clean and simple wine is a textbook example of Oregon Pinot Gris. Its lightly spiced pear and apple fruit is fresh and varietally correct, making for a pleasant sipper. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Eola Hills 2016 Pinot Gris (Oregon). This Oregon winery consistently makes solid, affordable Pinot Gris. The new vintage seems a bit subdued and perhaps needs more bottle age to fully

open up. Thin apple fruit and a hint of celery come through, with yeasty accents on the finish. —P.G.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Oak Knoll 2015 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This wine's lightly ripened fruit flavors suggest pear flesh and pear skin. There's not much to it, other than a touch of orange candy as it fades away. —P.G.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$14

86 Redgate 2015 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Pear skin scents and flavor highlights accompany the straight-ahead pear fruit in this wine. There's some residual sugar, which rounds out the mouthfeel and keeps the alcohol low. Drink up. —P.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

85 Henry Estate 2016 Pinot Gris (Umpqua Valley). This tastes off-dry, yet that sweet fruit doesn't quite mask a bitterness that lingers through the finish. The light pear and pear skin flavors seem like an afterthought. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

PINOT BLANC

91 Winderlea 2016 Meredith Mitchell Vineyard Pinot Blanc (McMinnville). It seems trite to call an Oregon wine *Burgundian*, but in this instance it fits perfectly. Elegant from start to finish, it combines lemon and grapefruit flavors with mineral acidity, driving the palate forward with sleek, racy freshness that calls a particularly excellent Mâcon to mind. Roughly one third was aged in clay amphora, the rest in neutral oak. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Wine by Joe 2016 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). All the white wines from this budget-friendly label managed by Joe Dobbes are simply excellent values. In this new vintage, the Pinot Blanc stands out for its tart, racy mix of citrus, apple and white peach fruit. It's exactly the sort of white to drink on a weeknight with a simple pasta or chicken dish. *Best Buy.* —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Carlton Cellars 2015 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). The best of the winery's current release white wines, this offers fresh and well-defined apple and tart melon flavors. It seems to have spent some time in barrel, but the acidity balances the oak flavors well. —P.G.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

WHITE PINOT NOIR

92 Patton Valley 2015 Fu-Mei Blanc Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Though the name may strike some as a bad pun (recalling *fumé*), the win-

ery explains it's Chinese for "rich and beautiful," honoring the mother of one of the owners. This white version of Pinot Noir has a chunky mouthfeel, but it's nuanced with delicate citrus rind, flower and honeycomb details. It continues to develop as it opens, offering a layered mix of citrus and stone fruit balanced with hints of fresh-picked herbs. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$40

88 Oak Knoll 2016 Reserve White Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A very pleasant example of this red grape made as a white wine, this is lightly fruity, with apple, green berry and lime flavors. Balanced and medium bodied, it should be enjoyed over the next two years. —P.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

86 Redgate 2015 Char-Noir White Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's odd name would seem to indicate there's Chardonnay in the blend, but in fact it's only Pinot Noir. Although technically a white, the color and flavor say rosé. Light rhubarb and strawberry fruit comes forward, with a round, pleasant mouthfeel. Drink up. —P.G.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

RIESLING

95 Ovum 2016 Memorista Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

95 Styring 2014 Whimsy Estate Riesling (Ribbon Ridge). The tiny Ribbon Ridge AVA is becoming well known for Oregon Riesling. This succulent, fruit-packed young wine displays impeccably clean apple, peach, pear, apricot and melon flavors. Mineral acidity keeps it lively and fresh, and its intensity and balance suggest it will age for decades. Drink now through 2035 and beyond. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$20

94 Ovum 2016 Toro y Scorpio Riesling (Ribbon Ridge). This wine's initial baby powder scents give way to a bone dry palate of astonishing intensity. Fermented with native yeast in neutral wood, it has almost feral complexity. Lemon and citrus flavors abound, with grapefruit and orange liqueur accents. The length and detail are outstanding; and what a bargain! Drink now through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Love & Squalor 2015 Riesling (Willamette Valley). This utterly delicious dry Riesling has just enough roundness to cut through the acidity. Its lush mix of citrus and stone fruit gathers strength and focus as it roars across the palate. It's instantly accessible yet built for enjoyment over the next decade. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

93 Ovum 2016 Off the Grid Riesling (Rogue Valley). Each of John House's Rieslings is differentiated by AVA and fermentation vessel; this may be the most unique of his stellar lineup. Sourced from the Cedar Ranch vineyard in the Illinois Valley, this is fermented with native yeasts in a concrete egg. Its complexity and detail is astonishing, with baby powder, orange peel, pink grapefruit and Meyer lemon. Long, dry and truly off the grid, if not over the moon. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$25

93 Stave & Stone 2016 Van Horn Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Gorge). This outstanding effort offers intense lemon tea and citrus blossom aromas. Citrus and melon fruit flavors follow, showing lovely balance while keeping the aromas in play. Despite its 20 g/L of residual sugar, it has plenty of underlying acidity to keep it poised and refreshing through its graceful finish. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$24

92 Love & Squalor 2013 Antsy Pants Riesling (Willamette Valley). This 2013 is the current release. Its lovely floral highlights distinguish the aroma and carry into the flavors. Sourced from 40-year-old vines from the Brooks and Sunnyside vineyards, it was fermented entirely with native yeasts to almost complete dryness. —P.G.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$28

92 Ovum 2016 Base Line Riesling (Elkton Oregon). Winemaker John House is exploring several different AVAs for his Rieslings; Elkton is a tiny, out-of-the-way spot with a cool climate. Hence, this bone-dry, elegant wine boasts crystalline acidity that tastes like liquid rock. Celery, grapefruit, lemon peel and orange flavors combine on its complex and compelling finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Iris Vineyards 2015 Dunn Forest Riesling (Willamette Valley). This opens with a pretty nose that mixes floral scents with baby powder notes. A flavorful melding of bergamot tea, lemon and honey keeps it interesting on the palate, with enough acidity to keep it tasting dry. —P.G.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$18

91 Love & Squalor 2015 Sunnyside Vineyard Riesling (Willamette Valley). The first-ever vineyard-designated Riesling from Love & Squalor, this is bone dry and as tart as lemon juice. Its green apple fruit shows excellent concentration. For acid lovers, this will be a revelation. If acid isn't your thing, look to the winery's regular Riesling instead. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

90 William Rose 2016 Dry Riesling (Oregon). Dry as indicated, with substantial alcohol for a Riesling, this is a tart and juicy explosion of Meyer lemon, grapefruit and pineapple fruit. There's a succulent snap to the finish, which ties in

just a hint of residual sugar to round it off a touch. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Oak Knoll 2016 Riesling (Willamette Valley). This tasty, medium-sweet wine mixes citrus, melon and tropical fruit flavors in a burst of lush fruit. It's a tasting room classic that's made for immediate enjoyment and priced for everyday consumption. *Best Buy.* —P.G.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$12

88 Sokol Blosser 2016 Evolution Riesling (Columbia Valley). Here's an affordable, off-dry (18 g/L residual sugar) wine with a friendly mix of citrus and lemon tea notes. The sweetness lends a sugary, rock candy-like mouthfeel, and the dominant fruit flavor is orange. *Best Buy.* —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 Firesteed 2014 Riesling (Willamette Valley). This wine, which includes a small amount of Gewürztraminer, is off dry, with powdered sugar, lime, Meyer lemon and orange creamsicle flavors. —P.G.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$15

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 Andrew Rich 2016 Croft Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). This is pure Sauvignon Blanc from one of the few wineries in Oregon that produces it. It's fragrant and compelling, with grassy gooseberry aromas, and rounds out nicely in the mouth. The lip-smacking lushness of its ripe citrus fruit comes with terrific concentration and texture. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

90 J. Scott Cellars 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Southern Oregon). This bright and spicy wine tones down the grape's propensity toward grassiness, showing instead peppery white melon fruit and a phenolic bite. Production has increased in recent years, making this rare Oregon example of this classic Loire Valley grape more widely available. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Reustle 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Umpqua Valley). Fresh and lively, this tangy wine offers seaspray, cucumber and gooseberry flavors, set against a backdrop of bright acidity. There may be a hint of residual sugar—just enough to round out the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$23

86 Carlton Cellars 2015 Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). This wine's scents and flavors suggest cracker and dried grain, while its tangy, herbal fruit suggests peashoot and grapefruit. It shows varietal character, but it's almost like drinking it through gauze; it's already fading. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18

VIIGNIER

90 Dobbes Family Estate 2016 Sundown Vineyard Viognier (Rogue Valley). Deftly handled, this wine sidesteps the variety's characteristic heat and bitterness. Instead, it's loaded with spicy, gin-like botanical highlights and juicy, fresh lime and citrus fruit. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Iris Vineyards 2016 Steelhead Run Vineyard Viognier (Applegate Valley). This cool, aromatic, low-alcohol Viognier shows citrus rind and botanical scents. Lime flesh and skin flavors come through, with a core of green apple fruit. It's just underripe but well made and drinking nicely. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

88 Weisinger 2015 Viognier (Rogue Valley). Viognier has a real chance to shine in southern Oregon, and this is proof positive. Citrus zest and lemon oil notes accent its lush orange fruit, with a hint of baby aspirin. The finish keeps the grape's propensity to turn hot and bitter in check. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

87 Reustle 2016 Viognier (Umpqua Valley). This was harvested at low brix and fermented principally in French oak. It's a soft, floral take on Viognier, with scents and flavors that suggest baby powder. Because of its Meyer lemon and other candied citrus notes, odds are either a small amount of Gewürztraminer was blended in or some residual sugar remains, though neither is indicated. Drink now and over the next two to three years. —P.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$27

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Ovum 2016 Big Salt (Elkton Oregon). In this blend, Gewürztraminer owns the aromatics and Riesling fleshes out the palate with rich citrus and stone fruit. In spite of the relatively low alcohol, the flavors are fully ripe, densely packed, intense and compelling. It's hard to imagine a better Oregon white at this price. *Best Buy.* —P.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$15

92 Ovum 2016 Since I Fell For You Gewürztraminer (Rogue Valley). Sourced from the Gerber vineyard's 40-year-old vines, this bone dry and aromatic wine is perfumed and styled with Old World elegance. It avoids the sometimes off-putting, cloying perfume of the grape, proposing instead more tangy fruit and dry extract. It was fermented in neutral wood with native yeasts and left on the lees for nine months. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

92 Treos 2016 Albariño (Willamette Valley). Once again Treos nails this wine, and in 2016 the alcohol is down and the acids up. Bracing,

lemony, and drenched in lip-smacking minerality, this wine overdelivers. It's definitely for acid lovers, but with its extraordinary detail and length, it goes well beyond just tart. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

89 Dobbes Family Estate 2016 Crater View Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Rogue Valley). An interesting and unusual win from the Dobbes Family lineup, this boasts yellow and green fruit, with pineapple and lemon curd accents. There's a streak of orange marmalade also, and plenty of tart acid. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Troon 2016 Cuvée Rolle Vermentino (Applegate Valley). Co-fermentation with 10% Marsanne has added flesh and white peach flavors to the green fruit of this Vermentino. Despite its youth, it's smooth and well-integrated, with a touch of vanilla cream on the finish. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 South Stage 2015 Early Muscat (Rogue Valley). As aromatic as expected of the variety, this has orange blossom, tangerine and orange pulp scents and flavors. With 21 g/L residual sugar, it's definitely off dry yet balanced with moderate acidity and low alcohol. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Carlton Cellars 2016 Auxerrois (Willamette Valley). Young and still showing a yeasty aroma, this crisp white wine mixes green apple and green melon flavors with a touch of jicama. It's ready to go and should be consumed over the next year. There's a light hint of cracker on the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$18

87 Troon 2016 Vermentino (Applegate Valley). Troon makes a pair of Vermentinos; this is the one with the red label. It's a spicy, peppery white with a funky kick to the finish. A mix of cucumber, lime and apple fruit, it carries a rather surprising leathery scent and flavor. Some tasters will consider that a plus. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Carlton Cellars 2016 Reserve Auxerrois (Willamette Valley). Made from an unusual white grape rarely seen in Oregon, this was partially fermented in new French oak. That's counterintuitive for such a generally crisp, high acid white wine with cucumber notes. More bottle age may smooth it out a bit. —P.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

85 Oak Knoll 2016 Müller-Thurgau (Willamette Valley). This is scented with an odd mix of mint and bubblegum, and those flavors continue onto the palate. It's a candy-like wine with a sugary finish. —P.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

85 Troon 2016 White Family Vineyard Kubli Blench Blanc (Applegate Valley). This Viognier/Marsanne blend from southern Oregon is perfumed almost to a fault. Its light citrus fruit is overpowered by floral baby powder scents and flavors. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

SPARKLING WINES

94 Roco 2014 RMS Brut (Willamette Valley). The second release of this tête de cuvée offering from Roco is two thirds Pinot Noir and one third Chardonnay, and winemaker Rollin Soles (Argyle) seems to have saved his best for it. Matching intense fruit to classic Champagne-style finesse, it's brightly layered with apple, pear and Mandarin orange flavors. It has a fine bead and finishes clean, with citrus and toast highlights. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Eola Hills 2015 Pinot Noir Rosé Methode Champenoise (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$30

88 Silvan Ridge 2016 Early Muscat Semi-Sparkling (Willamette Valley). Long a staple of the Silvan Ridge lineup, this lightly fizzy Muscat is off-dry, fresh and aromatic, with orange candy scents and flavors. Serve it as an apéritif with soft cheeses or use it to spiff up your Sunday mimosas or Bellinis. —P.G.
abv: 6.5% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

91 Antiquum Farm 2016 Aurosa Rosé of Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This unique wine, labeled rosé, is a lovely rose-toned copper. But is it really a rosé, or just a rich, phenolic white? However you label it, call it delicious; its rose petal, bee pollen and strawberry scents and flavors are concentrated and creamy. It spent six months on the lees—half in stainless steel and half in neutral oak. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Benton-Lane 2016 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). A lovely sunset rose shade, this delightful wine is spicy and loaded with orange peel and clove highlights. Its pretty watermelon and strawberry fruit carries into a lush finish, with a full-flavored, highly satisfying mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Portlandia 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Portlandia made a pair of rosés in 2016, this one entirely from Shepherd's Valley Vineyard Pinot Noir. It's tight and focused, with lovely citrus blossom and rose petal scents.

Flavors follow, adding strawberry, watermelon and mineral acids to the mix. They persist through a long, fresh finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 La Chouette 2016 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). A very pretty russet shade, this offers tart rhubarb and crabapple fruit, along with wild strawberry. There's a peppery note also, and it should be enjoyed while young and at peak freshness. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Oak Knoll 2016 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a fruit bomb of a rosé, packed with rhubarb, strawberry and cherry flavors. Though made in stainless steel tanks, it has a whiff of white chocolate also. It finishes dry, though rounded off with enough sweetness to smooth out the acids. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

86 Portlandia 2016 Oregon Rosé (Oregon). This blended rosé is comprised of 56% Pinot Gris, 25% Pinot Noir and 19% Grenache (from the Rogue Valley). Watermelon and tart strawberry fruit flavors combine, with a sour tang to the finish. Drink this chilled or try it in a sangria. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

PINOT NOIR

95 Brick House 2015 Les Dijonnais Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). It's difficult to pick a favorite out of the marvelous Brick House 2015s, but this is it. Native yeasts, biodynamic farming and minimal handling all contribute to an old-school method, though it's a cutting edge wine. From the opening aroma, the complexities compound, offering pepper, spice, cranberry, candied rose petal, red berry and cherry notes. Simply a stunning value. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$52

95 Domaine Serene 2014 Abbey Oaks Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$90

95 Kelley Fox 2015 Maresh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). In this vintage, Kelley Fox produced three different Pinots sourced from the Maresh Vineyard. This one is graceful and elegant, showing both old vine gravitas and delicate sensibility. It leads with a complex, smooth and penetrating mix of strawberry, raspberry and cherry flavors and follows with grapefruit, orange peel and cumin hints, which round out its lovely tannins. It even drinks beautifully two days after being opened and should age well. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

95 Shea 2015 Block 23 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Like the North Block designate, this

too is made from 100% Pommard clone. Here, the fruit expression is more lush and full bodied, the blackberry, black cherry, mocha, char and espresso flavors carving deeply into the palate. It's a dense, powerful wine that's beautiful now but structured to age. Enjoy it through the next decade. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$66

94 Antiquum Farm 2015 Passiflora Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This stands apart for its complex melding of citrus and berry fruit. Its raspberry and blueberry flavors are accented with floral highlights. At first, it seems almost delicate, yet it gathers strength as it breathes. Ten months in 50% new French oak has pumped up the tannins significantly. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

94 Brick House 2015 Evelyn's Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This barrel selection is a 50/50 blend of Pommard and Dijon clones, all biodynamically farmed. It's spicy and complex, with cranberry, orange peel and lemon aromas. Those flavors are in the mix, along with black cherry, clean earth, and a dash of cola and saffras. A glorious wine, it should be enjoyed now through the late 2020s. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$58

94 Rex Hill 2015 Jacob-Hart Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Not quite as ripe as the 2014 but just as delicious, this biodynamically farmed estate wine is Rex Hill's top reserve. Its old vine complexity shows in its substantial, full-bodied berry, plum and cherry flavors, a beet root note running down the center. At this time, the barrel aging flavors are a bit hidden, but experience suggests it will continue to improve over the next decade or longer. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$65

94 Shea 2015 Block 5 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Ripe blackberry fruit shines brightly here, backed by bracing minerality. Lighter hints of black olive, dusty earth and espresso add depth and detail as it carries into a long, balanced and textured finish. Good as it is, it should continue to improve with further cellaring. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

94 Shea 2015 Homer Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Homer is the winery's top barrel selection reserve, aged in 71% new French oak. Sturdy, tight and compact, it's packed with black fruit and barrel flavors. Its polished tannins are threaded with cinnamon spice, pepper and coffee ground notes. Drink 2020–2028. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$92

94 Walt 2015 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Oregon). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Winderlea 2015 Bryan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Just as Winderlea gets these grapes from Adelsheim, Adelsheim gets some Winderlea grapes. Both wineries do quite well with each others' fruit; this 1989 planting is dedicated to Pommard clone, and it has made the ripest of Winderlea's 2015 Pinots. Rich and loaded with black cherry fruit, it's sexy and streaked with cola and clean earth, a sneaky minerality driving the finish. —P.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$85

93 Andrew Rich 2014 Marine Sedimentary Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is one of the latest releases of soil-designated wines from Andrew Rich, which aim to express the impact of soil type on the finished wine. It shows a penetrating minerality, driving its black currant and black cherry fruit deep into the finish. Hints of smoke and earth add further depth. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

93 Antiquum Farm 2015 Luxuria Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This limited-production top-tier cuvée is high-toned, with bright raspberry fruit set against ample, mineral acids. Aging in 50% new French oak has given it subtlety and balance, though there's a slight suggestion of heat on the finish. It will unquestionably benefit from a few more years of bottle age, so drink from 2020 to 2025. —P.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

93 Brick House 2015 Cuvée du Tonnelier Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Sourced from the original (1990) planting of Pommard clone vines, this shows thick black cherry fruit, scattered with multi-seed bread and wet hay notes. The flavors are persistent and full, with streaks of coffee and chocolate from having aged in 30% new oak. It's astonishing that Doug Tunnell can offer such glorious wines at such mild prices. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$48

93 Domaine Serene 2014 Triple S Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This new offering from purchased grapes is a doozy. Loaded with dried cherry, orange peel, almond paste and sea salt chocolate notes, it offers nonstop pleasure, with a toasty finish. —P.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$90

93 Kelley Fox 2015 Maresh Vineyard Red Barn Blocks Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A block selection from vines planted in the early 1970s, this shows the herbal side of Pinot Noir, with stem flavors that suggest some whole-cluster fermentation. It's young and still a bit stiff, with sour cherry and saffras flavors. It has excellent concentration, and

more bottle age should lighten up the still-chewy tannins. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

93 Lingua Franca 2015 Mimi's Mind Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Mimi Casteel is the grower, hence the cuvée name. A full 70% included whole clusters, foot-stomped and barrique-aged. That new oak shows minimally, and the fruit, at least for now, is somewhat subsumed by stem and leaf flavors. It's a demanding style that will reward long-term aging. The texture and complexity begin to emerge after many hours of aeration. Drink 2022–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Patton Valley 2014 Lorna Marie Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Lorna Marie is the winery's reserve-level offering—a barrel selection that mixes lively cranberry, raspberry and cherry flavors with tart suggestions of orange and orange peel. There's a touch of chocolate on the finish from aging 16 months in 30% new oak. —P.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Rex Hill 2015 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's concentrated fruit is perfectly ripe, with berry flavors and a deep black cherry core. Everything is in proportion and well integrated, a gentle touch of new oak and clean earth underpinning all the gorgeous fruit. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$58

93 Roco 2015 Private Stash #13 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The best Private Stash to date, this pumps up its strawberry and raspberry jam flavors with apricot highlights. It's concentrated and boldly fruity but balanced and long, buttressed with well-matched acids and tannins. —P.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Shea 2015 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A blend from numerous blocks on the estate, this is a lovely and classic expression Oregon Pinot Noir. From the rose-inflected aroma to the brambly blue fruit and polished tannins, it's a knockout bottle. Barrel aging adds a sexy touch of mocha to the long, delicious finish. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Sineann 2016 Yates Conwill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This outstanding effort opens with concentrated raspberry, plum and cherry fruit. There's a thick vein of coffee liqueur in both the scent and flavor, and the mouthfeel is sappy and slick, dominated by that luscious, liquorous character. Think ripe fruit dappled with Christmas spices, and you've got this nailed. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$42

93 Winderlea 2015 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This classy wine is

sourced from one of the finest vineyards in Oregon, with a proven track record of ageability. Bright raspberry fruit flavors extend into the mineral-driven finish, which opens to reveal more subtle textures and layers as it breathes. Aged in 35% new oak, it has a touch of coconut on the nose and finish also. Drink from 2020 to the early 2030s. *Cellar Selection*. —P.G.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$60

93 Winderlea 2015 Winderlea Legacy Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection*.

abv: 12.8% Price: \$85

92 Andrew Rich 2014 Eola Amity Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This robust young wine is slightly smoky, with concentrated black cherry and juicy purple and black fruit flavors. A streak of clean earth underscores the tannins, and there's a residual grape soda flavor that accentuates its youth. —P.G.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

92 Antiquum Farm 2015 Juel Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Juel fits comfortably in an emerging era for Oregon Pinot Noir. Native yeast fermentation adds texture and depth, and the wine's alcohol and oak aging reflect a deft hand at the controls. Its ripe fruit suggests jammy strawberry, and the acidity and tannins are perfectly balanced. The lovely mouthfeel brings tobacco, herb and grain details, completing the sophisticated picture. *Editors' Choice*. —P.G.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$38

92 Big Table Farm 2015 Sunnyside Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A lovely, lush melding of berry, citrus and cherry fruit flavors, this appeals from the moment the cork is pulled through the second day. The fruit is nicely framed with light herb and stem highlights and touches of brown sugar and saffras. *Editors' Choice*. —P.G.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$48

92 Carabella 2015 Inchinnan Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This wine can be deceptive, as it doesn't burst forth with glorious fruit. What it does have is texture and detail, and the start-to-finish experience rewards your full attention. Layered with forest floor, earth, rock and wild berry notes, it's underscored by ample acidity. The finish goes on and on. —P.G.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

92 Compton Family 2015 Alpine Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This excellent bottle pulls Bing cherry, kirsch and orange peel flavors into a full-bodied whole. Aged in French oak for 18 months, it adds a layer of dark chocolate to the finish. *Editors' Choice*. —P.G.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$38

92 Iris Vineyards 2014 Chalice Estate Pinot Noir (Oregon). This very pretty wine is scented

with rose petals and powdered fruit. It has a lovely cherry core with distinctive and unusual cumin and saffron accents. It seems to gain intensity in the glass, continuing through an elegant, extended finish. —P.G.

abv: 14% Price: \$60

92 Kelley Fox 2015 Maresh Vineyard Star of Bethlehem Flower Block Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This is named for the white flowers that grow between the the vineyard's rows. It opens with soft cumin and fivespice scents, building toward clean raspberry and lollipop-like cherry fruit. A wet rock minerality adds a zing of freshness. The word *charming* comes to mind, from the first zippy sniff on through the light, pretty finish. —P.G.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$75

92 Lingua Franca 2015 Tongue 'n Cheek Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). From a low-yielding, rocky site, this is a well-structured wine with compelling minerality. Its immaculate raspberry fruit is etched with well-modulated streaks of stem and leaf. It was aged in one fifth new barriques. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

92 Love & Squalor 2015 Sunny Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This well-balanced wine pushes cherry fruit front and center, underscored by refreshing minerality. The tannins are polished and firmly set on the finish, with a cinnamon kick that resonates long after the last swallow. —P.G.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$52

92 Love & Squalor 2015 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This well-known and widely-admired vineyard doesn't disappoint in this wine, delivering lovely cherry fruit touched with a citrusy edge. The concentration builds gracefully, with tasty highlights of chocolate-covered orange peel and roasted coffee. —P.G.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$52

92 NagyBrown 2015 Argument Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This vintage blends Pommard and 777 clones, and the black cherry fruit is a bit more forward than in 2014. Cola, mineral, tar and char notes come into play, with an energetic feel. Subtle suggestions of pine needles emerge as the flavors slowly fade. It drinks beautifully on the second day. —P.G.

abv: 14% Price: \$49

92 NagyBrown 2014 Argument Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A careful hand is clearly at work here. A blend of Coury and 777 clones, it spent 18 months in half new oak, but it's the minerality and overall austerity that impress the most. Precise veins of stem, mineral and caramel flavors inflect its mysterious palate, which is marked by stiff, tight red berry fruit. Though labeled Willamette Valley, it would be surprising if this were not McMinnville AVA fruit. —P.G.

abv: 14% Price: \$49

92 Patton Valley 2014 The Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Ripe strawberry, raspberry, cranberry and red plum flavors, all bright and balanced, impress in this snappy, vibrant wine. The impact of mineral acids outweighs the 25% new oak, at least for now. —P.G.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$40

92 Portlandia 2014 Momtazi Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville). The fruit from this biodynamic vineyard has a grippy, earthy character that underscores the complexity in this wine. It's tannic and muscular, with black cherry fruit and subtle tanned leather, licorice, black pepper, coffee grounds and dark chocolate highlights that persist through its long, captivating finish. —P.G.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$40

92 Rex Hill 2015 Antiquum Farm Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Outstanding fruit shines brightly here, with a beguiling mix of Northwest berry flavors—boysenberry, loganberry and blueberry. It's juicy and tart, with polished tannins that carry a pleasing touch of clean earth. Drink 2020–2030. *Cellar Selection*. —P.G.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

92 Rex Hill 2015 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Brambly fruit flavors show prominently in this vintage, including purple berry, underbrush, clean earth and a hint of stem. It's complex, per usual, and built for cellaring. Drink now through 2030. *Cellar Selection*. —P.G.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$58

92 Roco 2015 Knudsen Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This wine's complex fruit flavors run the gamut from orange marmalade to cherry pie and are bolstered by underlying minerality. It's still very young and will benefit from another year or two of bottle age, after which the tannins will soften and the fruit flavors will unpack themselves. —P.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

92 Sineann 2016 Wy'east Vineyard Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge). Aromatic, textured and quite tasty right out of the bottle, this Columbia Gorge vineyard designate has appealing lightness without sacrificing complexity. It's a deft mix of brambly berry fruit with cola and mocha highlights. —P.G.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$36

92 Trathen Hall 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Past releases of this wine were sourced solely from Antiquum vineyard; here, there is an additional source. The quality remains quite high despite the substantially larger production and lower price. Win, win, win! Raspberry, cherry, saffras, cola and mocha flavors are in play. The inclusion of 20% whole clusters and aging in neutral barrels have added light touches of flavor. *Editors' Choice*. —P.G.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$30

92 Van Duzer 2014 Saffron Fields Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). More delicate than many of the winery's 2014 Pinots, this displays subtle tobacco notes around fragrant strawberry and red fruit flavors. Dried straw and chocolate highlights add welcome complexity. This cellar-worthy effort may be consumed immediately or tucked away for up to a decade. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Winderlea 2015 Dundee Hills Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

92 Winderlea 2015 Meredith Mitchell Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville). This 100% Pomard clone wine delivers sweet and tangy cherry fruit in abundance. It's bedecked with grapefruit, orange rind and almond highlights, and the finish comes with a burst of refreshing minerality. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Winderlea 2015 Winderlea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This flagship wine showcases the estate vineyard's complex, biodynamically farmed, old vine grapes. It's a well-matched mix of red fruit and citrus flavors, with palate-cleansing minerality. A light suggestion of toast from 11 months aging in 20% new French oak highlights the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Aberrant Cellars 2015 Chehalem Mountain Vineyard Block B3 Old Vines Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). A true old-vine bottling, this comes off the original block of a vineyard planted in 1968 by Oregon pioneer Dick Erath. It's a complex, spicy and balanced amalgam of berry, cherry and plum fruit. As is often the case, it rewards aeration and attention. The acid/tannin balance is just about perfect. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Andrew Rich 2014 Volcanic Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). One in a pair of soil-designated wines from Andrew Rich, this is the more fruity and forward of the two. Its tangy orange and raspberry fruit is aromatic and fresh. There's a touch of cherry lollipop on the finish, along with clean tannins. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

91 Angela Estate 2014 Angela Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Ken Wright oversees production for Angela Estate, bringing his 30-plus years of Oregon experience to the task. This lovely bottle is smooth and supple, the fruit a mix of ripe raspberry, red plum and cherry jam, with a gentle touch of chocolate. It's seamless and delicious now but should age nicely through 2026. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48

91 Battle Creek 2014 Roe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). A bit dark in color for the

variety, this wine brings fruit-forward aromas of cherry, forest floor and assorted spices. The fruit flavors are ripe and bold yet show a delicious sense of purity. There's no mistaking the warmth of the vintage with its 13.8% alcohol, but there's still a lot to enjoy here. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Big Table Farm 2015 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This aromatic wine is the ripest of the winery's fine lineup of 2015 Pinots, with a sweet, soft, round and smooth entry. Its pretty strawberry and cherry fruit is swathed in mocha, proving supple and immediately appealing. The still slightly stiff tannins suggest further improvement awaits over the next five years. —P.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48

91 Big Table Farm 2015 Wirtz Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Maybe it's the fir tree branch and cone on the label, but there seems to be a hint of pine needle in this wine's aroma. That scent sneaks into its rhubarb and black cherry flavors, along with a touch of root beer and beet root. Those components may sound disparate, but they blend nicely, with a pleasantly chocolaty finish. Give it a couple more years of bottle age for optimal drinking. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

91 Compton Family 2015 Llewellyn Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The second release under this new label from Spindrift Cellars is a sharp, focused expression of crushed raspberries, the flavors ripe and jammy. That lovely fruit is framed by skin and stem phenolics. The tannins are solid, suggesting it will benefit from another year or two of bottle age. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

91 Compton Family 2014 Llewellyn Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A new project from the owners of Spindrift Cellars, this features old vines and French oak-aging. It's lightly musky, with animal hints and plenty of ripe raspberry fruit. The full-flavored midpalate glides into a pretty, chocolaty finish. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Cristom 2015 Jessie Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An excellent vintage of this east-facing block-sourced wine, it seems to have ripened gracefully. It's flavorful and concentrated, with raspberry and cherry fruit. There's a hint of chicken stock on both the nose and palate and firm, astringent tannins that balance out the finish. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

91 Cristom 2015 Mount Jefferson Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is Cristom's entry-level Pinot, and it over-delivers in every regard. The texture, depth and detail of higher-priced vineyard designates are all here, matching brambly berry fruit and streaks of char and coffee

grounds. Drink now through the early 2020s. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Cristom 2014 Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Half of this wine was fermented with whole clusters and native yeasts then aged for 18 months in 41% new French oak. Its dusty raspberry aromas lead to a midpalate rich with crushed red fruit flavors. It finishes with a savory suggestion of chicken stock, along with well-modulated, drying tannins. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Élevée Winegrowers 2015 Élevée Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Here's a solid, polished effort from winemaker Tom Fitzpatrick. It neatly weaves together blue plum and black cherry flavors, highlighted with pipe tobacco and a hint of caramel. Its smooth tannins are framed with light composted earth notes. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48

91 Et Fille 2014 Heredity Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This complex wine neatly weaves blue and purple fruit flavors, with soft leather, dried herb, cannabis and smoke accents. It's drinking quite well and should remain in peak condition for another half decade. Drink now through 2025. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$38

91 Furioso 2015 La Linea Furioso Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's brambly raspberry fruit has a distinctive, sharp edge. It's tightly framed with peppery tannins. Extended aeration reveals some barrel toast and warms up the finish. It was sourced from select barrels and should age nicely for up to a decade. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

91 Lingua Franca 2015 Avni Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Young and showing primary fruit flavors of cranberry and raspberry, this wine isn't shy about incorporating stem and grape skin flavors. It's a style that favors longterm aging over immediate accessibility and will reward decanting and/or cellaring. Drink 2020–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Love & Squalor 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Lovely cherry lollipop flavors introduce this smooth and tasty effort. Its juicy and irresistible sweet fruit is highlighted with sliced orange and lemon peel notes. A streak of coffee runs through the finish, and the wine is substantial enough to cellar for another half decade or longer. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Rex Hill 2015 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Aged 11 months in one third new French oak, this bright and spicy bottle is priced a bit lower than the single vineyard offerings from

Rex Hill. Its raspberry, blackberry and cola flavors combine with a dash of peppery herb. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Shea 2015 Block 7 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This 100% Wadenswil selection from Block 7 delivers ripe strawberry and cherry fruit flavors. The fruit has a pleasing brambly quality that shows on both the nose and palate, with lightly lemony acids that carry a hint of minerality. —P.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$66

91 Shea 2015 North Block Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). From a north-facing, late-ripening section of the estate planted to 100% Pommard clone, this brings a juicy mix of spicy berry and cherry fruit. There's a suggestion of chocolate malt as well, and a mineral touch in the underlying acidity. Among the winery's sensational 2015 releases, this might be the lightest. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$66

91 Sineann 2016 Pinot Noir (Oregon). A blend of barrels sourced from Sineann's impressive single vineyard program, this offers ripe plum and black cherry fruit in a smooth, supple package. Its polished tannins fill out the finish, adding a light hint of chocolate. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

91 Sineann 2016 Zenith Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This is a clear, fresh, downright pretty wine, though not as powerful as the 2015. Its lovely cherry fruit comes with a hint of underbrush, and the finish carries a streak of cola. This is a wine to enjoy young, so drink now through the early 2020s. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

91 Van Duzer 2014 Bieze Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Dark and toasty barrel flavors frame tight black cherry fruit in this wine. It has herbal highlights that bring cannabis to mind and dark chocolate notes that wrap up the finish. It's a blocky, substantial wine best consumed now through 2022. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Van Duzer 2014 Dijon Blocks Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Toasty and supple, this melds ripe strawberry fruit with ample streaks of mocha and sea salt chocolate. The barrel flavors are big and forward but undeniably delicious, making for a thick, full-bodied and appealing wine. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Vidon Vineyard 2015 Mélange Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This juicy four clone blend bursts with tart raspberry and strawberry fruit. Excellent concentration, a lively mouthfeel and textural details all contribute to its fine value. It spent 11 months in 30% new French oak; hints of pepper dot the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

91 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2015 AVA Series Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). The AVA Series comprises small-production, single vineyard wines that showcase particular Willamette Valley terroirs. This one—sourced from the Lichtenwalter vineyard—captures the complex opulence of Ribbon Ridge. At this young age, its toast and caramel flavors from aging in 30% new French oak are front-and-center. Other highlights include whiffs of cherry tobacco and coffee. It's smooth and appealing and may be cellared for up to a decade. —P.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

91 William Rose 2015 777 Clone Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This limited production, single-vineyard clonal selection is balanced and surprisingly moderate in body, given its high alcohol. Its firm raspberry jam flavors suggest very ripe fruit, and its tarry tannins come with ground coffee notes. —P.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$38

91 William Rose 2015 La Chouette Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's compact black cherry fruit carries some stemmy hints due to the inclusion of 30% whole clusters. It has substantial grip and is hard and tight at this young stage. Give it ample breathing and/or some extra years of bottle age. —P.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

91 Winderlea 2015 Crawford Beck Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This wine leads with roasted cashew scents and follows with tart raspberry and cherry fruit and a light dusting of cocoa. Although aged 10 months in 20% new French oak, it emphasizes minerality and minimizes the influence of the barrels. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$48

91 Winderlea 2015 Murto Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A vibrant, youthful garnet hue imbues this wine, which is fragrant with rose petal scents and lush with tart cranberry and red currant fruit. At this stage, it remains tight and astringent, but it should improve further with bottle age. The Murto vineyard dates back to 1978, though some replanting has been done since. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

91 Winderlea 2015 Weber Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This wine, made from old Pommard clone vines, hails from a site previously known as the Ana vineyard. It showcases the clean, crisp style that typifies all Winderlea Pinots: pomegranate and raspberry fruit and a juicy, acid-driven mouthfeel that amplifies its refreshing minerality. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

90 Bells Up 2015 Titan Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This aromatic, elegant 2015 is better balanced than its predecessor, while adhering to a similar style. Cherry blossom and rose petal aromas mark the nose, and lean, tart red fruit defines

the palate. Short aging in 30% new French oak has brought in a light dusting of cocoa. Drink 2018–2025. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

90 Big Table Farm 2015 Cattrall Brothers Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This is the lightest of the winery's single vineyard cuvées. Its strawberry and pale cherry fruit has hints of barrel toast and pepper, and there's a cleansing minerality to the mouthfeel. It thins out a bit on the finish and should be consumed now through 2022. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$48

90 Brick House 2015 Select Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This bottling is the perfect introduction to the biodynamic wines of Brick House. It has generous herbal scents and flavors, which may account for its entry-level pricing. But its pretty cherry fruit, complex aromas, cola-like touches and textured tannins all reflect the same care and substance as the rest of the portfolio. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$34

90 Carabella 2015 Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Threads of citrus, cherry, cola and chocolate weave through this tasty wine. It's medium bodied, focused and immediately accessible. The blend includes seven different clones of estate-grown fruit, and it was aged in French oak for 16 months. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Carabella 2015 Plowbuster Pinot Noir (Oregon). This exceptional vintage of Plowbuster is solidly built and packed with blackberry and cherry fruit. It has a sea salt chocolate component also, which adds both texture and flavor. This is not a keeper, but with its quality to price ratio, it's certainly a drinker. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

90 Cristom 2015 Eileen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Like all the Cristom Pinot Noirs, this was made with native yeasts and a significant amount of whole clusters. Although three fifths new oak was used, it has had little affect on the aroma, with no noticeable toast or caramel accents. It's tight and mineral, with wild raspberry fruit and a steely frame. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

90 Deer Creek 2015 Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). Don't let the label mislead you; this is a well-made, well-ripened wine that deserves a classier package. Its mix of sweet blueberry and black cherry fruit is set against polished tannins. Those flavors carry seamlessly through a smooth, lightly toasty finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

90 Et Fille 2014 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Tart, sappy raspberry fruit defines this focused, young-tasting wine that's structured for medium term aging. There's a touch of truffle in its

phenolic notes of stem and herb. Well-modulated, it lingers through a graceful, balanced finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Furioso 2015 L'Altra Linea Furioso Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The second vintage of this Dundee Hills-grown cuvée from winemaker Jared Etzel is sharp and spicy on entry. That sharpness yields to tart cranberry, raspberry and cherry pie flavors, with streaks of stem and herb. Native yeast fermentation seems to have contributed extra texture. Tuck this away for another year or two before drinking. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

90 Goodfellow 2015 Heritage No. 5 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Part of a new reserve-level series from Goodfellow, this was made from 100% Durant Vineyard fruit, half fermented using whole clusters. It shows more fruit flavor than the winery's other 2015s, offering plum and cherry notes supported by refreshing acids. Orange peel, pink grapefruit and Meyer lemon accents keep the palate lively. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

90 Keeler 2014 Reserve Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A mix of clones is at work here, giving a dark, smoky wine with brambly berry fruit. Its tobacco, burnt toast, stem and slate scents and flavors are textured and detailed. It's a solid Oregon Pinot that can stand up to blackened salmon, roast pork or lamb. —P.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48

90 Lingua Franca 2015 Ryan's Plow Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Pinot Noirs from this new project from Evening Land founders Larry Stone and Dominique Lafon are intellectually challenging and palate-stretching in their austerity. Evoking rhubarb and citrus on the nose, this wine emphasizes citrus on the palate, particularly grapefruit, along with refreshing minerality. Like all the winery's Pinots, it rewards extended aeration and your full attention. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Marshall Davis 2015 Beacon Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). The fruit flavors in this young wine are fresh and forward, suggesting raspberry and cherry over a mineral base. The nicely textured palate carries wet stone flavors along with the fruit, and a streak of cola adorns the finish. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

90 Portlandia 2015 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Though unabashedly earthy, this is packed with red plum, cherry, citrus rind and cut tobacco components. Such complexity is rare in a budget-priced Oregon Pinot. It glides gracefully into a mineral-drenched finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 R. Stuart & Co. 2015 Daffodil Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Well defined and medium bodied, this offers strawberry lollipop and cherry fruit flavors. Pretty upon first taste, it gains substance as it breathes and will reward decanting and some additional cellaring. Drink now through 2022. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

90 Saffron Fields Vineyard 2014 Expressionism Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). After 18 months in barrel (75% new), this was the last of the winery's 2014 Pinot Noirs to be released. The color is dark and vibrant, and it opens with orange peel, berry, spiced cherry and smoke notes. The expected barrel flavors are hiding, and the wine seems to dissipate rather quickly. It warrants another couple of years in bottle before drinking. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$99

90 Sokol Blosser 2015 Blackberry Block Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This fruit-forward wine offers pretty blue fruit flavors, such as blueberry and plum, along with a touch of blackberry. Aged for 17 months in French oak, it finishes with mocha and sweet spice highlights and astringent tannins. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Stave & Stone 2016 Annala Vineyard Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge). Though pushing 14% alcohol, this retains lovely aromas reminiscent of flowers, fruit and barrels. Its cherry candy flavors, lightly dusted with dried herb notes, set it down a delicious path. It's perfectly balanced and has the clarity and acidity to age another half decade or longer. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

90 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2015 AVA Series Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The AVA Series comprises small-production, single vineyard wines that showcase specific Willamette Valley terroirs. This one, sourced from the outstanding Alloro vineyard, is a delicious mix of red fruit, charred wood, caramel and sea salt. The 30% new oak is right up front—toasty and quite tasty. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2015 Hannah Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Hannah is a block selection from the upper portion of the Tualatin estate vineyard. Rich and rounded, it shows preserved strawberry, cherry compote and chocolate flavors. A full degree higher in alcohol than the 2014, it's just on the edge of showing some heat. But with its big, forward fruit, it's spot on for immediate enjoyment. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 William Rose 2015 Pinot Noir (Oregon). This tightly-focused, stylish wine offers raspberry and pomegranate fruit as it opens. The acids are generous and natural tasting, with a fresh snap

that brings orange juice to mind. Thirty percent whole clusters were used. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

90 Winderlea 2015 Winderlea Imprint Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This cuvée underwent 100% whole cluster fermentation using natural yeast and spent 16 months in French oak, just 10% new. It's compact and a bit subdued, as though the flavors are in hiding. Tart raspberry fruit shows through, with a suggestion of wet cement. Give it ample aeration or tuck it away for a couple more years. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 A to Z 2015 Pinot Noir (Oregon). This firm, chewy wine seems to have a spine of steel. It also has ample cherry fruit and some astringent, grippy tannins. Sealed with a screwcap, it will benefit from aggressive decanting or prolonged aeration before drinking. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Aberrant Cellars 2015 Carpe Noctum Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is designated as a reserve-level cuvée, and its dark fruit and overall ripeness confirm that ambition. A smoky, earthy component adds depth, and the tannins remain quite astringent. Blood orange and black raspberry flavors stand out at first but fade quickly on the palate. A subtler wine than the previous vintage. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

89 Battle Creek 2014 Yamhela Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This wine's aromas aren't quite ready to reveal their charms, its spice, red fruit and tangerine peel notes locked up for now. It's full and weighty, with flavors that seem muddy on the midpalate but come together on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

89 Bells Up 2014 Titan Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This pleasant wine is aging rather quickly, already a light rose hue with early bricking. It's in its prime drinking window, with sour cherry and plum flavors and hints of stem and bitter herb, all in proportion. Drink now through 2022. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Cristom 2015 Louise Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This hails from the original block of the estate vineyard—a densely planted plot that delivers slightly leafy rhubarb and raspberry flavors year after year. The wine's green, herbal touches—perhaps the result of 43% whole cluster fermentation—gently fade out on the finish. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

89 Cristom 2015 Marjorie Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). From the oldest section of the estate vineyard, this offers rounded strawberry and Bing cherry flavors. It's appealing, though not quite as interesting as some of the other 2015s,

and should be enjoyed within five years of the vintage. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

89 Goodfellow 2015 Durant Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Made from Pommard clone vines planted in 1973 and 114 clone vines planted in 1993, this pumps some blueberry juiciness into the palate. No new oak was used, and it turns stiff and acidic on the finish. Give it another couple of years in bottle before opening. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

89 Goodfellow 2015 Heritage No. 4 Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Part of a new reserve-level series from single vineyard blocks, this wine contains 100% Whistling Ridge Vineyard fruit, fermented with 65% whole clusters. It's tart and citrusy, with brambly berry and cola touches. There are plenty of stem and skin flavors, but the texture and length somewhat compensate. Tuck it away to revisit in the early 2020s. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70

89 L'Angolo 2015 Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A difficult wine to analyze, this at first seems dilute. With ample breathing, it fills in and spreads out, showing mineral notes and raspberry and pomegranate fruit. The astringent, tongue-drying finish calls for pairing with a hearty, meaty entrée. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$71

89 Penner-Ash 2015 Pas de Nom Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This reserve-level wine was assembled from barrels representing six different vineyards. It's aromatic, with berry and cherry scents that carry into the midpalate. It was aged for 10 months in 40% new oak. Cellaring for another year would certainly be advised. —P.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$125

89 Pike Road 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's inviting cherry pie aromas come with chicory, burnt sugar and smoke overtones. The tannins are drying, but the flavor and power are greater than the price tag would suggest. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 R. Stuart & Co. 2015 Autograph Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's cherry fruit is framed by aggressive phenolic notes. They bring a definite bite to the flavors, and the tannins remain stiff and rather hard. Additional bottle age and/or aggressive aeration are recommended, as the wine improved significantly after being open for a full day. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

89 Raylee 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This affordable Oregon Pinot Noir has won multiple accolades, and for good reason. It's flavorful and well-balanced, with tart raspberry and black

cherry flavors. It's backed by ample acidity and enough tannic weight to firm up the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Sokol Blosser 2015 Dundee Hills Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This opens with black cherry fruit that carries a hint of dill. It's tart and somewhat thin, with an astringent finish marked by strawberry and citrus flavors. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Spindrift Cellars 2015 OSU Woodhall III Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This was sourced from vines planted in 1978—a rarity at this price. It's floral on the nose, with light baby powder scents. Pretty plum fruit, sweet spice and a streak of cola add texture and complexity. It's drinking nicely, so don't wait. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26/375 ml

89 Youngberg Hill Vineyards 2014 Natasha Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Smoky, toasty aromas introduce this wine before progressing into an interesting mix of flavors based around raspberry jam. Streaks of bitter herb, tarragon and citrus wind through, with a butterscotch hint that brightens the finish. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

88 Battle Creek 2014 Battle Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's stem, ash and herb aromas are at the fore, needing more time in bottle to settle. The palate is light on its feet, with interesting grapefruit accents. It comes up a bit short on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

88 Carlton Cellars 2015 Seven Devils Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a tasty, good value effort with fresh strawberry and cherry fruit flavors. Its light suggestions of toast and cocoa point to some time in barrel, as does its pleasant whiff of east Asian spice. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

88 Dobbes Family Estate 2015 Grand Assemblage Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Young and showing tart cranberry and raspberry flavors, this softens on the midpalate then leans into a chocolate marshmallow finish. It's a bit muddled but offers a lot of interesting flavors. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

88 Dobbes Family Estate 2014 Griffin's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Juicy black cherry fruit is set against dark mocha, licorice and smoke notes in this wine. There's a slight burn to the finish, as well as a hint of cracker. Despite its alcoholic ripeness, it feels thin through the midpalate and should be consumed over the next couple of years. —P.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48

88 Domaine Loubajac 2016 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Though the name and label

suggest a French take on Oregon Pinot Noir, this wine's flavors have more in common with inexpensive California versions. Its jammy, forward and ripe strawberry fruit is hard to resist at this price. Drink it up while it remains young and fresh. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$19

88 Ermisch 2015 Erendira's Rise Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine made from a mix of clones is front-loaded with cinnamon and other baking spice accents. There's a broad streak of root beer followed by suggestions of pepper and green herbs. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

88 Goodfellow 2015 Fir Crest Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). A recent addition to the winery's single vineyard offerings, this has a strongly acidic profile, but the fruit suggests cherry rather than leaner berry flavors. The tannins are stiff and astringent—a result of 50% whole cluster fermentation. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

88 Goodfellow 2015 Heritage No. 6 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Part of a new reserve-level series from single vineyard blocks, this wine was made from 100% Fir Crest Vineyard fruit that was fermented using 75% whole clusters and aged in 50% new oak. Despite all the care and attention, it shows little besides very tart raspberry fruit and a high-acid finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$70

88 L'Angolo 2015 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This wine's toasty aromas seem slightly burnt, and that smoky note carries onto the palate. Its strawberry flavors seem to quickly hit a wall, suggesting it may still be a bit shocked. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

88 La Chouette 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine captures the freshness that La Chouette's Pinot Noirs are known for. Its wild strawberry and tart cherry fruit comes with an ample dose of fresh herb notes. Drink now through 2020. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Left Coast Cellars 2015 Latitude 45 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a reserve-level barrel selection from the estate's oldest vineyard. Animal scents mark the nose, and stiff, earthy tannins mark the finish. It's a wine in which the fruit is masked by dark, bitter flavors like cacao and espresso, along with suggestions of dried herbs. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

88 Penner-Ash 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Production of this cuvée has increased dramatically under the winery's new ownership, making it widely available. It's smooth and balanced, with mixed red fruit flavors cut with

an herbal edge. The finish is tart and tight, calling for a hearty decant before serving. —P.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

88 Penner-Ash 2015 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This wine's rather light wild berry flavors come with sour plum and green herb notes. The acids have a citrusy note and contribute a bit of chalk to the finish. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

88 Penner-Ash 2015 Zena Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). One of several single vineyard offerings, this does not live up to the previous vintage. Here, the blackberry fruit feels a bit thin, with citrus and dried leaf notes and a chalky finish. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

88 Roco 2015 Ancient Waters Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This blend was made to showcase grapes from a variety of ancient soils. The new vintage lacks the concentration of the 2014 but still expresses mild hints of rock, slate and shell under soft plum, cocoa and toasted grain flavors. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Spindrift Cellars 2015 Bovine Vineyards Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's light strawberry and raspberry flavors show even lighter touches of new oak and skin contact. The aromas are quite pretty and suggest it will improve over the next five or six years. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

88 Spindrift Cellars 2015 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Though designated a reserve, nothing really sets this apart from other Spindrift Pinot Noirs, other than a slight increase in price. Black cherry fruit, a streak of cola, and a suggestion of cold coffee come through. It's drinking well and should be consumed over the near term. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

88 Torii Mor 2015 Deux Verres Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Offering a bit more concentration than the regular Willamette Valley bottling, this carries the winery's citrus-tinged acids, along with light raspberry and Bing cherry fruit. There's a hint that it's spent some time in new oak also. Aerate aggressively for optimum drinking. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38

88 Torii Mor 2015 Olson Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This combines old vine plantings of Pommard, Coury and 667 clones, showing some extra refinement among its mixed fruit flavors. You'll pick out lemon, orange, berry and cherry, but as with the winery's other Pinots, the acids are jagged and chalky and detract from the finish. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

88 Torii Mor 2015 Yamhill Carlton Select Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This AVA designate brings a sharp focus to its brambly raspberry and other red fruit flavors. A touch of pepper and lemon zest factor in, too, leading to a tart, astringent, acid-dominated finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 Wetzel Estate 2015 Puncheon Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Presumably fermented in a single puncheon, this is soft and supple, with plum and cherry cola flavors and a touch of mocha. Overall, it's smooth and ready to drink. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

87 Et Fille 2014 Kalita Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This wine seems anxious, with an unfocused, nervous energy. Acidity, berry flavors, chalk and other mineral elements collide rather than combine. It may or may not improve with more bottle age. Two bottles were tasted, with comparable results. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

87 Goodfellow 2015 Whistling Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This wine's extremely tart berry fruit seems barely ripe, hinting at wild raspberries. It's a high-acid, stiff and herbal style, which seems to be intentional, as it was made with 50% whole clusters. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

87 La Chouette 2015 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A bit disappointing, this tannic wine spent 17 months in half new oak. Its light rhubarb and berry flavors are overtaken by astringent tannins that leave a bitter aftertaste. More bottle age may help smooth them out. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

87 La Chouette 2014 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Peppery and herbal, this is a lightly spicy mix of rhubarb and strawberry fruit. It does not express the general ripeness and fruitiness of the vintage but will drink well over the next few years. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Silvan Ridge 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is stiffly tannic, with red plum and spicy cherry fruit. It's a hard, chewy wine that could use some time to soften, but its rusticity is undeniably flavorful. Pair it with hearty winter stews or *coq au vin*. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

87 Smith & Perry 2015 Pinot Noir (Oregon). This new entry in the budget Pinot Noir market is perfectly fine, if ordinary. It offers tart berry, pomegranate and light herbal highlights. The tannins are proportionate, and everything is in balance. A fair wine at a fair price. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Torii Mor 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a pretty sunset rose color and offers gentle, somewhat muted flavors of rhubarb and bramble berry. Meyer lemon and orange peel highlights accent the midpalate, which opens up with a flash of cherry pie flavor. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

87 Torii Mor 2015 Alloro Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This excellent vineyard designate usually shows better, but here, the awkward, chalky acids overtake the cherry fruit. It may need more time in bottle, or may simply have required a different approach to acid adjustment during the winemaking process. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

87 Torii Mor 2015 Dundee Hills Select Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Six barrels—one each from six vineyards—comprise this cuvée. This vintage is on the earthy side, with soil, skin and bark flavors alongside light plum and berry fruit. The acids, as in most of the winery's Pinots, leave a chalky aftertaste. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

87 Vincent Wine Company 2015 Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Vincent's Pinot Noirs are fermented with native yeasts in a mix of once-used and older barrels. This bottling opens with fresh strawberry and raspberry flavors, lemony acids, and an underpinning of wet stone. It's on the lighter side and was made (and priced) for everyday enjoyment. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$27

87 Vincent Wine Company 2015 Zenith Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The best of Vincent's vineyard designates, this shows riper fruit than the others, with red plum, cocoa and dried herb notes in the mix. An impression of Red Hots candy comes across on the nose and adds a hint of spice to the palate. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$39

87 Vista Hills 2015 Heritage Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This reserve-level Pinot Noir spent 17 months in neutral oak yet carries strong scents and flavors of vanilla and toast. Those elements accent a core of preserved strawberry fruit. If that hits the mark for your palate, you'll want to drink this while it's young and fresh. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$56

87 Vista Hills 2015 Rollins Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Two bottles of this wine were tasted, with vast differences. The first was dominated by a leathery, tack room aroma, which carried into the palate and obliterated the fruit. Some tasters attribute this to terroir, but it's in fact a flaw. The second bottle was much improved, showing black cherry fruit and proportionate tannins. The score is for that bottle, but beware the possibility of extreme variation. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$44

87 Vista Hills 2015 Treehouse Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Though 18 months in neutral oak is indicated in this wine's technical notes, it has an arrestingly toasty scent and flavor, which may indicate some other form of oak addition. It shows pretty, though simple, red fruit and is pleasantly appealing. Drink over the next year or two. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$28

87 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2015 Bernau Block Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Consider 2015 an off year for this estate wine. Its thin red berry fruit comes with citrus flavors, high acidity and dry, astringent tannins. Some appealing cherry candy flavors emerge as the wine breathes, but it doesn't seem to have the depth to age. Drink now and over the next two to three years. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

87 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2015 Tualatin Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's cherry-like fruit is plenty ripe, and the acidity has fresh-squeezed orange juice appeal. The only off note is a hint of plastic on the nose that carries into the palate. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

87 Youngberg Hill Vineyards 2014 Jordan Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville). The immediate and lasting impression is that this is a mighty peppery wine. Tart pomegranate fruit eventually kicks in, until it thins out into an astringent, and yes, peppery finish. It was aged in 35% new oak for 13 months. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

86 Carlton Cellars 2013 Roads End Pinot Noir (Oregon). From a challenging vintage, this wine is quite light, with barely ripe strawberry fruit. It spent 18 months in French oak, and the barrel character dominates. It tastes mostly of mocha and caramel and should be consumed over the next year. —P.G.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$45

86 Goodfellow 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Stiff, herbal and tannic, this wine seems reluctant to offer much fruit. What it has in abundance are stem and skin flavors, which may be intentional but offer little pleasure. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

86 Henry Estate 2015 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Umpqua Valley). Though this cuvée is far more limited (and expensive) than the winery's regular release, it's imbued with strong coffee and vanilla flavors that overwhelm the fruit. Its tannins are hard and the fruit rather generic. Another year or two in bottle may bring it into better balance. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

86 Vincent Wine Company 2015 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This wine's light cranberry fruit suggests that the grapes were barely ripe

or perhaps sourced from young vines. The flavors are pretty but quickly dissipate, leaving residual tastes of stem and bitter herb. Give this another year or two of bottle age. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$27

86 Vincent Wine Company 2015 Silvershot Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). With the alcohol barely topping 12%, this might have made a better rosé than full-fledged Pinot Noir. Its strawberry and citrus flavors are dilute, though clean and fresh. High, citrusy acidity is the prominent characteristic. —P.G.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$39

86 Vista Hills 2015 Piedmont Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This wine is slightly spritzy, with forward flavors of strawberry soda pop. It drinks like a much less expensive bottle and should be consumed chilled—now through 2019. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

86 Wetzel Estate 2014 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This simple wine shows strawberry cotton candy, candy corn, chocolate malt and herbal notes, all very light. Drink up. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

85 Carlton Cellars 2013 Estate Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Still tight, this offers pomegranate and not quite ripe raspberry fruit. It's a thin, acidic wine, which may have been overcropped or picked too early. It might have made a nice rosé. —P.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$35

85 Oak Knoll 2016 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Rough and grainy, this is a tannic, earthy wine with a bit of rustic charm. It's not typical of the grape variety but could stand up to a burger and fries. Drink soon. —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

85 Redgate 2016 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Tart berry flavors bordering on sour show in this wine, with unripe cherry notes mixed in. Aged a year in neutral barrels, it offers a faint suggestion of mocha as it fades. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

85 Vincent Wine Company 2015 Bjornson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This vineyard designate must have stood out during the winemaking process, but at the moment its better qualities seem to be hiding. Neither place nor variety show with any particularity; it's just a light, generic red wine. —P.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$39

85 Vista Hills 2015 Skyraider Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). It's difficult to review wines that show significant bottle variation, like this one from Vista Hills. Here, the first example had a leathery dryness that killed any impression of fresh fruit, with a final glue-like note. The second bottle was

better, with raspberry fruit and none of the tack room scents and flavors of the first. But bitter phenolics and drying tannins suggest it should be consumed soon. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

85 Wetzel Estate 2015 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Mulberry and blackberry fruit combine nicely in this wine, but it doesn't quite come together. There are disparate threads of tannin and acid, a hint of plastic and some residual bitterness on the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

84 R. Stuart & Co. 2014 Big Fire Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This has a funky edge to the aroma, which carries over into the somewhat leathery flavor. The fruit seems to reflect a mix of under-ripe and overripe grapes. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

84 Vino Vasai 2014 Dario Estate Pinot Noir (Chalem Mountains). This thin, weedy wine offers hints of rhubarb but nothing else in the way of fruit. Its tannins are stiff and earthy. —P.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$25

84 Wine by Joe 2015 Pinot Noir (Oregon). The white wines in the Wine by Joe portfolio are fresh and well-made and offer exceptional value. This budget Pinot Noir tries hard but offers in-your-face vanilla and cola flavors, suggesting some sort of oak chip treatment. There's plenty of flavor here, but not much Pinot Noir character. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

83 Vino Vasai NV Dario Estate Pinot Noir (Chalem Mountains). This nonvintage cuvée incorporates grapes from 2013 and 2014. It's dull tasting, flat and herbal, with a whiff of sweat. The tannins are potent and earthy. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$20

SYRAH

89 Vidon Vineyard 2015 Saturn Syrah (Chalem Mountains). In classic Rhône fashion, this was co-fermented with 3% Viognier. It's slightly thin for Syrah, which enjoys considerable success in both Southern Oregon and Rocks District AVAs. Black cherry fruit and a streak of coffee capture the varietal stamp, and moderate alcohol makes this a good choice for mealtime. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$50

87 Bells Up 2015 Summit View Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). From an up-and-coming part of the Walla Walla Valley, this has barrel spice, raspberry and dried cherry aromas followed by somewhat elegant red fruit flavors that taper toward the finish. It doesn't all quite come together. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

87 Penner-Ash 2015 Syrah (Oregon). This is a wide open, fruity wine, with upfront berry and citrus notes backed by chalky acids. It's a good, quaffable red but lacks the complex meat and compost notes often found in Northwest Syrahs. —P.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

86 Cathedral Ridge 2014 Syrah (Columbia Valley). Sweet spice and raspberry flavors get this wine up and running, but the winery's propensity for leathery reds once again mutes the fruit. It finishes with a bitter and astringent aftertaste. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

85 Redgate 2016 Syrah (Umpqua Valley). Scented with spice and built on thick, grainy tannins, this wine offers little varietal character. The dilute red fruit could be almost anything from anywhere. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Talent 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oregon). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$44

88 Weisinger 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rogue Valley). This wine's blackberry and black cherry fruit is concentrated enough to match the barrel aging in one third new American oak. Light hints of charcoal accent its medium concentration and modest ripeness. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

86 William Rose 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oregon). This wine, from unspecified sources, drinks like a less expensive Cabernet. It's chewy and rustic, dominated by vanilla scents and flavors and finishes with hints of black tea. —P.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$38

TEMPRANILLO

88 Eola Hills 2015 Tempranillo (Oregon). Sourced from the Umpqua Valley, where the Oregon Tempranillo renaissance is headquartered, this plum- and cherry-flavored red has the forward, light fruit flavors of grapes from young vines. The tannins are ripe and balanced and the finish just a bit astringent. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

87 Iris Vineyards 2015 Aroha Vineyard Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley). You may find tasters divided on this wine; for some it will be delicious, for others overripe and alcoholic. It's definitely big in style, with quite ripe, almost raisiny fruit flavors, a hint of plastic on the nose and astringent tannins. —P.G.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$28

87 Vidon Vineyard 2015 Explorer Tempranillo (Chehalem Mountains). This is the first vintage of this estate-grown Tempranillo—a rare grape in the Willamette Valley. It's a bit high-toned and right on the edge of vinegary. Roasted flavors of charred red fruit and a hint of smoke come through on the finish. This is a love-it-or-leave-it wine with no middle ground. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$50

86 Weisinger 2014 Estate Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). Dusty, dried black fruit aromas lead the way in this astringent, oaky wine. Its barrel flavors, from aging in 30% new American oak, suggest raw lumber rather than pretty toast. More bottle age may help smooth it out. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$32

83 Redgate 2016 Tempranillo (Eola-Amity Hills). This is beyond light; it's almost invisible. Some hints of cola, bark and tannin come through on the palate, with plenty of astringency. But where's the fruit? —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

RED BLENDS

91 Sineann 2016 Red (Oregon). This barrel blend combines all the different red wines in Sineann's expansive portfolio—predominantly Pinot Noir, Merlot and Zinfandel, with smaller amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Blueberry flavors abound, along with cherry pie fruit. It's concentrated, fruit-driven and absolutely delicious. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$16

90 Talent 2014 Nuf Sed Red (Oregon). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$24

88 Stave & Stone 2014 Quiver (Columbia Valley). Five disparate red grapes combine here, muting any and all varietal character. It adds up to a fruity, pleasant, though generic red, with a balanced mix of berry, spice and toast. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

87 Cathedral Ridge 2015 Rhett's Red (Columbia Valley). Half Barbera, half four other red grapes, this features a handsome black dog on the label. It's blood-black in the glass also, with plum, chocolate and leather flavors in equal proportion. Depending upon your tolerance for leathery reds, it may surprise or disappoint. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$44

87 Cathedral Ridge 2015 The Daughter's Rhône (Columbia Valley). This blend of Mourvèdre, Grenache and Malbec is dark and slightly minty, with sweet cherry fruit at the core. The acidity is moderate but firm enough to keep it upright, and a light touch of leather runs throughout. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58

87 Day 2016 Vicis Momtazi Vineyard (McMinnville). This unusual blend is two thirds Pinot Noir, the rest split between Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc. The white varieties seem to dilute the red, without contributing much else, leaving heavy tannins intact. Along with black fruit, there are thick, chewy tannins. —P.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$40

87 Troon 2015 G-S-M (Rogue Valley). The label displays asterisks between G, S and M, perhaps because the blend also includes 13% Sangiovese. It hasn't yet come together, with various components sticking out. Baking spice, leather, blackberry, dust and vanilla notes are some of the puzzle pieces that don't find a seamless fit. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

92 Sineann 2016 Old Vine Zinfandel (Columbia Valley). This potent red begins with rich blueberry and cherry fruit paired with ample barrel flavors evoking caramel, coffee and dark chocolate. Young, tight and focused, it may be enjoyed immediately (if decanted), or cellared for up to a decade. Drink 2020–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$39

90 Reustle 2016 Malbec (Umpqua Valley). This deep purple-hued wine is fragrant with crushed blackberry notes. The fruit is outstanding, and the tannins are ripe and smooth. Drink now for its exuberant youth or cellar for a few years and drink closer to maturity. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

89 Troon 2016 Grenache (Rogue Valley). Despite its potent alcohol, this is an elegant wine with pretty raspberry and strawberry fruit. It's lightly dusted with cinnamon notes and is fresh and lively in the mouth. Enjoy over the next couple of years. —P.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Cathedral Ridge 2014 Bolton Vineyard Reserve Barbera (Columbia Valley). This is an interesting wine due to the rarity of Barbera in Oregon, but also because it has real varietal character. Dried leaves, tobacco and tanned leather notes highlight its soft plum and cherry flavors. There's a sweet, lightly chocolaty kick to the finish. —P.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$48

88 J. Scott Cellars 2015 Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley). This wine's aromas are upfront, with green pepper, jalapeño and herb notes. The palate is full of dark cherry and herb flavors that show pleasing balance. It's not for all tastes but is sure to please those who enjoy this variety's greener side. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

87 Love That Red 2015 Fillies & Mares Riviere Galets Vineyard Grenache (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). The aromas in this wine aren't entirely harmonious, with high-toned herb, spice and mineral notes. The palate, however, brings plenty of intrigue, with velvety-soft, mouth-coating red fruit flavors and savory herbal hints that linger on the finish. Unfortunately, the two don't sync up. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

86 Cathedral Ridge 2015 Echo Vineyard Petit Verdot (Columbia Valley). This has plenty of ripe, tart raspberry fruit, accented with pretty spice. A strong leathery scent and flavor mutes it somewhat, and the tannins dry out the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$48

85 South Stage 2014 Pleasant View Vineyard Pinotage (Rogue Valley). Don't look for any familiar Pinotage character in this wine. It's a thin, nondescript, lightly peppery red with a whiff of chocolate. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

85 Weisinger 2014 Gold Vineyard Malbec (Rogue Valley). Thin blueberry and other blue fruit flavors are in evidence here, but they're quickly overshadowed by drying, tea leaf flavors. The aggressive tannins may be due in large part to aging in 30% new American oak. —P.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

85 Weisinger 2014 Touriga Nacional (Rogue Valley). A few wineries in the Pacific Northwest are experimenting with this Portuguese grape. Here, it just tastes like a thin, generic red, and the fruit is buried in aggressive just-sawn wood flavors from aging in 30% new American oak. —P.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$28

SWEET WINES

92 Spindrift Cellars 2014 Late Harvest Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Breakfast tea, grapefruit and orange peel scents and a hint of spiced pumpkin come out of this well-priced sweet wine. With 67 g/L residual sugar and 12% alcohol, it's not shy by any standard. The acid is sufficient to balance out all that sugar, and it's rich enough that one half bottle can provide a dessert sip for a party of four. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17/375 ml

91 Antiquum Farm 2016 Late Harvest Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This sweet (88 g/L residual sugar) wine is a pretty shade of copper, and its unctuous flavors are somewhat mitigated by prominent acidity. Its flavors suggest grainy rock candy, maple syrup and honeycomb. Drink now through 2020. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30/375 ml

WASHINGTON CHARDONNAY

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2016 Mimi Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine is named after former Canoe Ridge Estate vineyard manager Mimi Nye. Its high toned, pretty pear, yellow apple and barrel spice aromas lead to crisp, focused, well-balanced fruit flavors that linger on the finish. It's a spot on example of this variety and style. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 14 Hands 2016 The Reserve Unoaked Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). Apple, cream and straw aromas are followed by straightforward stone fruit flavors in this wine. It's a quite enjoyable example of this variety and style. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2016 Indian Wells Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine's baking spice, vanilla, white flower and peach aromas are followed by sweet, full-feeling stone fruit and spice flavors that pull up short on the finish. It's a straightforward crowd-pleaser. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Goose Ridge 2015 Cellar Select Artist Series Estate Bottled Reserve Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine's aroma brings notes of vanilla, woodspice and baking spice in addition to its bright tangerine scents. The palate is elegant yet creamy in feel, with stone fruit and barrel flavors throughout. It pulls up a bit short on the finish but is otherwise a lovely wine. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Owen Roe 2015 DuBrul Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). From one of the state's top sites, this shows lees, biscuit and apple aromas at the fore. The palate brings light, lemony flavors, with a red apple-filled finish. There are some interesting things going on here, but they don't quite all come together, though the acidity is notable considering the warm vintage. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

88 Seven Falls 2016 GPS Shaw Vineyard Chardonnay (Wahluke Slope). It's rare to see a vineyard-designated Chardonnay come out of this appellation. This one brings light baking spice and apple aromas that lead to creamy-feeling stone fruit flavors. It's equal parts intrigue and delivery. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Seven Falls 2015 Chardonnay (Wahluke Slope). This blend of grapes from Shaw and Jones vineyards has vanilla, papaya, banana and baking spice aromas that lead to broad fruit flavors with a lightly creamy feel. With caramel notes on

the finish, it's a delightful interpretation of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Ste Michelle Vineyards 2016 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine has a throw-back label celebrating Chateau Ste Michelle's 50th anniversary. Upfront aromas of clarified butter, peach and spice are followed by medium-bodied stone fruit flavors. It's a varietal crowd-pleaser. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

87 14 Hands 2015 The Reserve Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). Out of the gate, this wine's oak is far out front, with vanilla and baking spice notes that obscure the fruit. The palate shows more of the same, though it settles down a bit with significant time open. It's a style, albeit over the top. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Tall Sage 2015 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine's aromas are light, with herb and spice notes. The palate is on the lighter side of medium bodied, with lemony fruit flavors and no apparent new oak influence. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$13

84 Hard Row To Hoe 2016 Chardonnay (Lake Chelan). The color of this wine—an almost golden yellow—seems to suggest some oxygen exposure given its youth. The aromas bring corn on the cob and spice notes, leading to a lightly creamy palate that falls flat on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

82 Castle Rock 2016 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine has a distinct metallic note, which distracts from its already light spice and apple aromas. The palate has an untoward gardenia note. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 14 Hands 2016 The Reserve Dry Gewürztraminer (Horse Heaven Hills). There's no mistaking the variety in this wine, with its lychee and white flower aromas. The palate is dry and broad in feel, with bitter notes on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2016 Riesling (Columbia Valley). This wine bursts with ripe peach, honeysuckle and jasmine aromas. It drinks off-dry, the palate redolent of juicy stone fruit and mouthwatering acidity. The balance is exquisite. More, please! *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

89 Columbia Crest 2016 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley). This wine was fermented in concrete and neutral barrels and aged on

lees for 20 months. Its light herb and citrus aromas lead to a medium-bodied palate that's tart, bracing and white grapefruit-like. With acidity like this, it absolutely needs food. Oysters would make an excellent pairing. —S.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

88 **14 Hands 2016 Reserve Chenin Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills).** This wine's aromas are bright and focused, with honeycrisp apple, passion fruit and pear notes. The apple and stone fruit flavors are off dry, showing no obvious oak influence. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$22

88 **Amavi 2016 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine includes 15% Sauvignon Blanc and hails from Les Collines, Goff and Seven Hills vineyards. Aged in neutral French oak, it shows gooseberry, anise, straw, fig and lees aromas, which lead to broad, creamy-feeling fruit flavors. Give it some time to open up. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$24

88 **Chateau Ste. Michelle 2016 Cold Creek Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Valley).** This wine's aromas are a bit reticent, which is unusual for this variety, with slate, lime and white peach notes. The palate is more generous, with off-dry, lightly spritzed stone fruit flavors. There are some good things going on, but they don't quite come together. Some additional time in bottle may help. —S.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$16

88 **Goose Ridge 2015 GRV (Columbia Valley).** This wine is a blend of 55% Viognier, 23% Grenache Blanc and 22% Roussanne. Its light apple, vanilla, citrus and spice aromas are followed by creamy, thick-feeling fruit flavors that persist on the spice-filled finish. It comes off quite heavy. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

88 **Seven Falls 2016 GPS Jones Vineyard Roussanne-Marsanne-Viognier (Wahluke Slope).** Roussanne makes up half of this wine, the balance in Marsanne and just 10% Viognier. Its light peach, straw, almond butter and lees aromas are followed by bone-dry flavors. It has pleasing acidity and balance and is a unique interpretation of these three varieties. —S.S.

abv: 11%

Price: \$30

87 **14 Hands 2016 The Reserve Pinot Gris (Horse Heaven Hills).** This wine's cantaloupe, apple, grapenut and pear aromas pop. The palate is upfront, dropping off considerably on the back end. Yet, it still provides enjoyment. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

84 **Maryhill 2016 Viognier (Columbia Valley).** This wine's peach Jolly Rancher and white flower aromas lead to lightly spritzed, off-dry stone fruit flavors. It shows a good bit of heat on the finish, throwing the balance out of whack. —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$16

ROSÉ

85 **14 Hands 2016 The Reserve Rosé of Malbec (Horse Heaven Hills).** Light orange in color, this wine brings sweet cherry and herb aromas. It drinks dry, with broad, fat-feeling but lightly concentrated fruit flavors. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

90 **Kiona 2013 Estate Old Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Fruit for this wine comes from the oldest vines in this appellation, planted in 1975. The aromas are reserved, recalling baking and barrel spices, along with herbal and medicinal notes. The black fruit flavors are deep and rich, seeming ever so slightly dried out. Tightly wound tannins provide support. Give it a couple years in bottle. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

88 **Kiona 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Kiona Estate, Emory, Vista and Heart of the Hill vineyard grapes make up this wine. Its dried herb, cigar, burnt coffee, jammy black fruit, tar, vanilla and spice aromas lead to fresh black fruit flavors. It's supported by grainy, slightly dry tannins. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

88 **Long 2014 Walla Faces Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine's aromas are quite reticent, making one strain to perceive what's in the glass. The palate provides a stark contrast, with bold, lush dark fruit flavors backed by firm tannins. It's a full-bore interpretation of the variety that could move up a notch if the aromas open up. —S.S.

abv: 15.4%

Price: \$28

88 **Mercer 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** This wine's plum, red apple, vanilla and spice aromas lead to a plump, fruit-forward palate. The tannins bring a lightly gritty feel, but there's still much to enjoy. —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$20

88 **Owen Roe 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley).** This wine's brooding aromas are not entirely settled, with fresh herb, dark cherry and anise notes. The cranberry-like fruit flavors are at once broad and tart, with lightly grainy tannins providing support. Herb notes linger on the finish. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$42

87 **Bergevin Lane 2013 Moonspell Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This wine's birthday cake, baking spice, herb and licorice aromas lead to plentiful dark fruit flavors backed by slightly

green tannins. It doesn't quite seem to have fully ripened. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$28

87 **J. Scott Cellars 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Cocoa, woodspice, licorice and cherry aromas are out in front in this wine, accenting light-bodied dark fruit flavors. The tannins seem a bit gritty, but it otherwise provides appeal. —S.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$40

85 **Castle Rock 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This wine pops with notes of ripe strawberry, cherry, herb and melon aromas. These notes carry to the palate, yet are restrained, and the tannins bring grittiness. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$11

84 **Goose Ridge 2015 g3 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This wine shows prominent volatile acidity, which overpowers its red apple, cherry and baking spice aromas. The palate has lightly styled, smooth-feeling plum flavors backed by astringent tannins. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$15

MERLOT

90 **Owen Roe 2015 DuBrul Vineyard Merlot (Yakima Valley).** Red fruit aromas are at the fore in this wine, with pleasing raspberry and Red Vines notes, along with spice accents. The palate shows remarkable restraint, refinement and balance considering the warmth of the vintage, and its firm tannic core should allow it to evolve nicely for a few years in the cellar. —S.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$55

88 **Bergevin Lane 2013 Wild Child Merlot (Wahluke Slope).** Barrel aromas are at the fore in this wine, with vanilla and baking spice notes in front of plum. The palate mixes fruit and barrel flavors, and drying tannins provide the frame. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$26

88 **Goose Ridge 2013 Estate Bottled Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Despite being a full four years old, this wine's aromas aren't yet fully revealing their charms, with high-toned vanilla, spice, cedar and cherry notes. The flavors are tightly wound as well, with a light gamy streak throughout. It's not clear if it will open with additional time or if what you see is what you get. —S.S.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$34

86 **14 Hands 2015 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Wood, sweet spice and plum aromas are out front in this wine. The palate is broad, with abundant plum flavors and astringent tannins. Baking spice notes linger on the finish. It's not obviously Merlot, but there's enjoyment to be had. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$12

86 **Goose Ridge 2015 g3 Estate Bottled Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Plum, baking spice and licorice aromas lead to lightly styled fruit flavors in this wine. The wood influence seems quite intense, distracting from the fruit. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

CABERNET FRANC

90 **Owen Roe 2015 Rosa Mystica Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley).** This wine's soil, black cherry, herb and spice aromas are followed by elegantly styled fruit flavors that show pretty balance. Despite the warmth of the vintage, this one is all about elegance. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

89 **Andrew Rich 2014 Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** From one of the state's premier vineyards, this shows high-toned dried herb, plum and spice aromas followed by palate-coating fruit flavors. It has a lovely feel and balance that carries through the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

88 **Animale 2014 Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley).** This wine's aromas are light but intriguing, with peat, cigar box, herb, flower and game notes. Its cherry and raspberry flavors are fresh and transparent, showing little apparent new oak influence. Put it on the dinner table to see it at its best. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

87 **Long 2014 Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley).** This wine's aromas aren't entirely settled, with dried cherry, spice, herb and game notes. Its cherry flavors are ripe, full and dry but dip in the middle. It has pleasing components, but they don't all come together. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$28

86 **Maryhill 2014 Elephant Mountain Vineyards Cabernet Franc (Rattlesnake Hills).** This wine's lightly volatile black fruit and baking spice aromas lead to dark fruit flavors backed by firm, grippy tannins. It doesn't all come together, and the variety seems lost. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

SYRAH

89 **Plumb Cellars 2013 Estate JK Vineyard IV Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Co-fermented with Viognier, this shows high-toned raspberry, cherry and spice aromas and full-bodied red fruit flavors, with meaty notes on the finish. It has a pleasant balance. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

88 **Marshall Davis 2015 Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This shows exuberant boysenberry, violet, herb, smoked meat and peppery spice aro-

mas, along with a slightly distracting tire rubber note. The palate is packed tightly with rich flavors that carry through the fruit-filled finish. If the tire rubber aromas resolve, it will greatly improve. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$29

88 **Owen Roe 2014 Union Gap Syrah (Yakima Valley).** This wine's red fruit and herb aromas are light and overly subtle. Fresh raspberry and dark berry flavors show on the palate but come up a bit short on the finish. It doesn't all come together. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

87 **Bergevin Lane 2013 She-Devil Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This wine's aromas lack clarity, with wood spice and butterscotch notes at the fore. The palate is full of lip-smacking, medium-bodied dark fruit flavors. Baking spice and coffee notes linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

87 **Helioterra 2014 Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This wine all comes from Oasis Vineyard in the Yakima Valley. Its red fruit, baking spice and medicine cabinet aromas are a bit difficult to tease out. The flavors, meanwhile, are at once lightly styled and jammy, finishing short with cranberry notes. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

87 **Maryhill 2014 Proprietor's Reserve Syrah (Columbia Valley).** With fruit from Les Colines, McKinley Springs and Elephant Mountain vineyards, this offers coconut, vanilla and baking spice aromas and full-bodied fruit and barrel flavors. The oak influence is pretty intense. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

86 **Snoqualmie 2015 Syrah (Yakima Valley).** This wine's bright blueberry syrup, boysenberry and vanilla aromas lead to soft, plump, easy-drinking blue fruit flavors that persist on the finish. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$10

84 **Armstrong Family 2014 The Scotsman Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills).** This wine's wood spice, Mounds bar and coconut aromas also include notes of acetone. Woody flavors dominate the palate and persist on the finish. The oak obscures the fruit. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$36

RED BLENDS

91 **Chateau Ste. Michelle 2014 Impetus (Columbia Valley).** The inaugural release of this wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (57%), Syrah (34%) and Malbec. The aromas pop with plum, cherry, herb and barrel spice notes. The palate is broad and incredibly pleasing. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125

90 **Owen Roe 2014 Red (Yakima Valley).** Merlot makes up just over half this wine, with the balance in Cabernet Franc (34%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (15%). The aromas are high toned out of the gate, leading with cigar box, cedar and herb notes. They're followed by plum and piercingly pure cherry scents that becomes more prominent over time. The palate has elegantly styled fruit flavors surrounded by tightly coiled tannins. It needs a couple years in bottle to come into its own but is a very pretty wine. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

90 **Pepper Bridge 2014 Trine (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine is a blend of Cabernet Franc (37%), Cabernet Sauvignon (34%), Merlot (15%), Malbec (9%) and Petit Verdot. Its aromas are still locked up, including its cinnamon, cedar and nutmeg notes and its brooding dark fruit. The palate packs a mouthful of black fruit flavors that show the ripeness of the vintage yet retain a sense of balance. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

89 **Plumb Cellars 2013 Damn Straight (Columbia Valley).** This wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (60%), Cabernet Franc (20%), Merlot (12%) and Syrah. Black cherry, raspberry, cedar, vanilla and barrel spice aromas lead to full-bodied dark fruit flavors that coat the palate from end to end, with barrel notes that linger on the finish. Firm tannins provide support. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

88 **Airfield Estates 2014 Mustang (Yakima Valley).** This wine is a blend of Syrah (65%), Grenache (20%) and Mourvèdre. While the aromas are locked up on first pour, it shows light raspberry, herb and spice notes as it opens. The flavors are soft and supple, with a pleasing mouthfeel. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

88 **Gamache 2014 188° SW Ciel du Cheval Vineyard (Red Mountain).** This wine is made from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Cabernet Franc, and all of the fruit comes from the famed Ciel du Cheval Vineyard. Vanilla, coconut, ripe plum, clove, cinnamon, barrel spice and herb aromas lead to even-keeled red and black fruit flavors that are surprisingly elegant for the appellation and vintage. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

88 **Goose Ridge 2014 Cellar Select Artist Series Estate Bottled (Columbia Valley).** This wine is 73% Mourvèdre, 11% Grenache, 7% Syrah, 6% Petite Sirah and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Barrel notes are upfront, with vanilla, dill and baking spice aromas accenting cherry and white pepper scents. The palate mixes fruit and barrel characteristics but comes up a bit short on the finish. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 **Hard Row To Hoe 2014 S&M (Lake Chelan).** This wine is a blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Malbec. The aromas seem a bit unsettled, with herb, dill and wood spice notes that don't come together.

The palate packs a mouthful of smooth cherry and plum flavors—they're downright delicious but seem a bit disconnected to the aromas. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

88 L'Ecole No. 41 2015 Frenchtown (Columbia Valley). Principally Merlot (45%), Cabernet Sauvignon (25%) and Syrah (19%), along with other red varieties, this brings apple, cherry and barrel spice aromas. The flavors are full bodied and liquorous, providing some appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Vital 2015 The Given (Walla Walla Valley). Vibrant candied cherry, herb and baking spice aromas are followed by medium-bodied fruit flavors in this wine. The tannins bring a bit of grit to an otherwise enjoyable palate. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

87 Airfield Estates 2015 Dauntless (Yakima Valley). Merlot makes up over two-thirds of this blend, with the balance in Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Baking spice, vanilla and plum aromas are at the fore. The tannins seem bunched up, however, and it lacks the generous fruit associated with the warm vintage. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$18

87 Bergevin Lane 2014 Calico Red (Columbia Valley). This wine is a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 17% Syrah and 5% Petit Verdot. The aromas are fruit-forward, with blackberry jam and other black fruit notes. The palate is more reserved than the aromas suggest, with drying tannins. It has a bit of a hole in the middle, but there's still enjoyment to be had. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

87 Columbia Crest 2014 H3 Les Chevaux (Horse Heaven Hills). Brooding aromas of dark plum, vanilla and spice lead to easy-drinking blue and black fruit flavors in this blend of 63% Syrah, 33% Merlot and 4% Viognier. It's a bit generic but delivers enjoyment all the same. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Gamache 2012 Nicolas Vineyard Select (Columbia Valley). This wine is predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (70%), with equal parts Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Merlot. Despite the even growing season, it doesn't seem to have fully ripened, with jalapeño pepper, baking spice and plum aromas. The flavors are light to medium bodied and drop off on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Seven Falls 2015 Rapids Red (Wahluke Slope). This wine is principally Merlot and Syrah, along with a dash of Cinsault. The aromas are high toned out of the gate, with red fruit, vanilla, plum and spice notes. The palate is soft and elegant in style, with a spice-filled finish. It's a straightforward, easy drinker. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Claar 2013 Winemaker's Bloc White Bluffs (Columbia Valley). This wine is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The barrel influence is way up front, recalling vanilla, wood spice, baking spice and green herbs. The palate comes off as quite woody as well, with blocky tannins and a vanilla-filled finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

86 Liberty Lake 2012 Legacy Reserve (Red Mountain). This wine is an unusual blend of 30% Petit Verdot, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Tempranillo, 17% Syrah and 12% Merlot. Aged in 50% new American oak for 40 months, it offers baking spice, garden herb and red cherry aromas, followed by a somewhat green and gritty palate. A tart, bitter note distracts on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

85 Armstrong Family 2014 Four Birds (Columbia Valley). Merlot makes up half of this wine, and Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Petit Verdot make up the balance. The aromas are unique, with high-toned black tea, green herb and vanilla notes that aren't entirely settled. The palate brings blackberry and plum flavors that are a bit disjointed. It drops off on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

OTHER RED WINES

90 Maryhill 2014 Art de Hoed Vineyard Petite Sirah (Yakima Valley). Dark purple in color, this has brooding vanilla, barrel spice, flower and purple fruit aromas. The flavors are light, tart and focused, with tightly coiled tannins providing support. The acid shines through, calling for food to show at its best. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Animale 2014 Reserve Petite Sirah (Yakima Valley). This wine's black pepper, Band Aid, flower and herb aromas are followed by full-bodied but soft and pure fruit flavors. There are good things going on here, but they don't quite come together. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$28

88 Hard Row To Hoe 2014 Pinot Noir (Lake Chelan). This wine was sourced from Clos CheValle Vineyard. It shows primary fruit aromas that bring a lightly candied quality and herbal accents. The palate is a bit clunky, losing some of the variety's delicacy but still delivering enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Hard Row To Hoe 2014 Tempranillo (Lake Chelan). Blended with 20% Syrah, this brooding wine shows butterscotch, red fruit and spice aromas and tart, high-acid fruit flavors. It's a mix of fruit and barrel characteristics, even though

the oak used was neutral. The tannins bring a lightly chalky feel. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Longship 2015 Invader Tempranillo (Horse Heaven Hills). This wine's vanilla and herb aromas are high toned. The palate brings abundant fruit and barrel flavors, with lively acidity providing the frame. The tannins seem a little coarse at present. Give them some time to settle. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

88 Maryhill 2014 Elephant Mountain Vineyards Mourvèdre (Rattlesnake Hills). This 100% varietal wine shows high-toned baking spice and red fruit aromas that lead to ripe but well-proportioned cherry and meat flavors. Fruit and barrel notes interweave on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$38

87 Goose Ridge 2014 Reserve Estate Bottled Malbec (Columbia Valley). This wine was aged in half French and half American oak, 60% new. Wood spice, vanilla, plum and herb aromas lead to a broad palate that mixes fruit and barrel in equal parts, the two persisting on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

87 Helio Terra 2014 Mourvèdre (Columbia Valley). From Heart of the Hill Vineyard on Red Mountain, this leads with vanilla, clove and baking spice aromas and follows with tart, tangy fruit and barrel flavors. Cranberry notes linger on the finish, along with interesting acidity. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

87 Long 2015 Scootney Flats Vineyard Petit Verdot (Red Mountain). From an up-and-coming vineyard, this exudes light green herb, macerated cherry, violet, citrus and barrel spice aromas. On the palate, full, slightly green dark fruit flavors are backed by tart acidity. The tannins are a touch dry, but there's promise here. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

87 Maryhill 2014 Proprietor's Reserve Grenache (Columbia Valley). Sourced from Art Den Hoed and Gunkel vineyards, this wine has high-toned red apple and barrel spice aromas and ripe, sweet red raspberry flavors. It's interesting, albeit cloying. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

84 Castle Rock 2016 Pinot Noir (Columbia Valley). The aromas don't seem entirely harmonious in this young wine, bringing herb, glue and light volatile notes. The red fruit and floral flavors are light, simple and not fully integrated. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

SWEET WINES

89 Goose Ridge 2016 Estate Bottled Ice Wine Riesling (Columbia Valley). This ice wine—

a rarity in the state—has dried pineapple, mango and honey aromas that haven't entirely melded. The palate, however, brings plenty of sugar-rich, honeyed papaya flavors backed by pleasant acidity. It may integrate with more time in bottle. —S.S.
abv: 10.2% **Price:** \$50/375 ml

88 **14 Hands 2016 The Reserve Late Harvest Viognier (Horse Heaven Hills).** This wine's aroma brings light notes of honey, brown sugar and herb. The flavors are sweet and elegant. It's a light, pleasing affair. —S.S.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$22

88 **Owen Roe 2015 The Parting Glass Late Harvest Riesling (Yakima Valley).** Petrol, brown sugar, dried orange peel and light oxidative aromas lead to elegant but sweet stone and tropical fruit flavors in this wine. It's enjoyable on the palate, but the aromas don't come together. —S.S.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$24/375 ml

88 **Owen Roe 2015 The Parting Glass Outlook Vineyard Cordon Cut Viognier (Yakima Valley).** Brown sugar, flower, pineapple and sugared peach aromas lead to sweet, elegant fruit flavors in this wine. There's some intrigue, but it doesn't all come together. —S.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$24/375 ml

87 **Owen Roe 2015 The Parting Glass Outlook Vineyard Cordon Cut Gewürztraminer (Yakima Valley).** This wine's aromas are a bit disjointed, its rose petal and spice notes seeming dried out. The palate is quite sweet, without the acidity to back it up. —S.S.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$24/375 ml

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

96 **Talley 2015 Monte Sereno Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Unfortunately, this very tiny vineyard only makes three barrels of Chardonnay, because this bottling is fantastic in every way. The lively nose shows lemon-lime soda, honeydew, gardenia and sea shells, while the palate is framed by a stunning chalky tension and sizzling acidity. Flavors of honeysuckle and green melon meet with salty ocean spray toward the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$36

95 **Black Kite 2015 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Beautifully oaky and unctuously voluptuous, this is from a tremendously farmed site in the throes of the Petaluma Gap. Richly layered in deep interwoven layers of butterscotch and brioche, its length and breadth are punctuated by sharp teases of wild fennel and nutmeg. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$58

94 **Brewer-Clifton 2015 Hapgood Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lemon spray with hints of flint, light smoke, chalk and toasted oak show on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling by Greg Brewer. It's really tightly wound on the sip, with expressive grapefruit pith and squeezed citrus as well as a distinctive Brie-rind note. A light flash of roasted marshmallow pops on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

94 **De Loach 2015 Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley).** From a site situated at 900-feet in elevation and located blissfully close to the coast, this vineyard-designate is intensely salty and briny, in firm grasp of stony mineral characteristics. With a depth and breadth of full-bodied concentration, it's complex and layered in Gravenstein apple and pear, the aromas a mix of honeysuckle and apple blossom. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 **De Loach 2015 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This is an expansive, vibrantly alive and buzzy white that's floral in apple and orange blossom aromas. Its freshness is complemented by richer deeper undertones of baked quince and tangerine, with a gravelly stony quality to the texture that makes it hard to resist. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 **Eleven Eleven 2015 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48

94 **Flanagan 2015 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A lovely appellation wine, this has a quiet, floral entry and twisted characteristics of anise, baked apple and vanilla crème brûlée. Medium-bodied, complex and buoyant in acidity, it offers a wealth of flavor and elegance. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$49

94 **Flanagan 2015 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A richness of graham cracker crust and baked pineapple greets the nose of this memorably delicious wine, a tremendous testament to the site. With a backbone of toasted oak and grippy youthfulness, it finishes in bright complex bites of green olive and fennel. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$68

94 **Heitz 2015 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Dry and sublime, with undeniable elegance, this is textured, gravelly and integrated with subtle power. Fennel, white peach and lemon rind highlight the toasty oak, making for a complex balanced whole. It would be difficult to find a wine of this quality for this price. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

94 **The Vineyard House 2015 Chardonnay (Oakville).** This is a fully realized, expertly made wine, robust in apricot and peach on the nose. Balanced in richness and concentration, it's gritty

and textured, beguiling all around, with additional highlights of vanilla bean, anise and lemon rind. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

94 **Walt 2015 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** From the winery's Bob's Ranch vineyard primarily, this is a beautiful white wine, and an inaugural release, that is floral and voluptuously creamy in texture. Despite its fulsome nature, it retains balance via a thread of persistently bright acidity amidst rich tones of candied pear, peach, anise and vanilla crème brûlée. It has length for days. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

93 **Bouchaine 2015 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$55

93 **Eric Kent 2015 Luke's Grove Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Resplendent in youthful reduction, this is an ultimately bright, lemony and beautifully integrated white, complementary in creamy vanilla and baked pear. A thread of honeysuckle adds aromatic intrigue that persists through the lengthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

93 **Flanagan 2015 Bacigalupi Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This wine has the rich oaky exuberance of the famous vineyard site—a mix of butter, lemon curd and apple pie. Creamy and layered, it has seasonings of nutmeg and cinnamon, integrated oak and persistent acidity that makes it delicious experience. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

93 **Flanagan 2015 Platt Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Lush, concentrated and richly put together, this coastal, estate white offers a mix of inviting flavors from Bosc pear to pineapple and fennel. Integrated in oak and balanced in ripeness, it'll pair well with a range of foods and be wholly satisfying on its own. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$78

93 **Foley 2015 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

93 **Peake Ranch 2015 Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Clean aromas of flint and smoke meet with Meyer lemon pith, a touch of tangerine and white flowers on the nose of this bottling by the new estate of John and Gill Wagner. There's bountiful texture to the sip, where slightly sour lemon and lime flavors are balanced by honeysuckle, wood chip, pecan and rosemary-laced roasted-chicken flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

93 **Raymond 2015 LVE Legend Vineyard Exclusive Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Heady aromatics pierce through a full-figured sensibility of

oak and body in this well-made wine—a partnership between the winery and musician John Legend. A gritty texture makes way for a length of baked pineapple and pear decadence that lingers effortlessly on the palate. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$45

93 Sanguis 2014 Loner Favonius Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).

There are strong hints of smoke and flint at first on the nose of this bottling, but then comes a tighter mandarin orange pith character and a warming sandalwood spice. It's very fresh, tightly wound and bright on the palate, with pink grapefruit, squeezed lemon and lime skin toward the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$60

93 Whitcraft 2016 Pence Ranch Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).

Very chalky on the nose in a Chablis-like style, this bottling, which is made in a warehouse just blocks from the beach in Santa Barbara, shows aromas of lemon blossom and Gravenstein apple. It's extremely tightly wound on the sip, with a savory salt character as well as lemon balm flavors. It's texturally intriguing and compelling. —M.K.

abv: 12.53%

Price: \$50

92 Black Kite 2015 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).

Smoky aromas of roasted chicken, sandalwood and oak are cut by strong Meyer lemon rinds on this bottling, which appeals to those with a fondness for rich toasty flavors. It's super zippy on the palate, with orange oil and lemon skin flavors cutting through the toasted pecan nuttiness and hickory smoke. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$48

92 De Loach 2015 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Reduced oak settles in the glass to unleash juicy flavors of Gravenstein apple, lemon, grapefruit and white flower. Gravelly texture gives it context and complexity that buoys the full-bodied frame and allows for persistent acidity. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$23

92 Grow Wines 2015 Ruhl Vineyard Chardonnay (Mount Veeder).

This is an elegant, austere wine, balanced, crisp and clean. Lemon, quince and fig ride along a grainy integrated texture of supportive subtle oak. This is a fine companion for the table, vibrant and versatile with food. —V.B.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$38

92 Pali 2015 Pali Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).

Clean aromatic lines of squeezed lime, seared orange rind, white flowers and plaster show on the nose of this bottling from the winery's first estate vineyard. The oak flavors are present but restrained on the sip, where Meyer lemon cream and ocean spray ride a steady acidity deep into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$57

92 Wait Cellars 2016 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Austere in elegant restraint, this wine is floral and focused, in brightly effusive layers of tart apple and pear. A thread of toasty oak and anise contributing beguiling side notes. —V.B.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$26

92 Whitcraft 2016 The Mind Behind's Vineyard Le Bon Climat Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).

Broad aromas of Asian pear, yellow flowers, Stargazer lily and wet stone show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers nectarine and Pink Lady apple, and it remains very tightly wound long after opening, which indicates a long life ahead. —M.K.

abv: 12.53%

Price: \$55

91 B Cellars 2015 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

A hearty, generously full-bodied and concentrated wine, this has an intensity of oak that works against the ripe fruit. Gravenstein apple speaks loudest, accented in wild fennel, salty air and nutmeg. —V.B.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$49

91 Black Kite 2015 Sierra Mar Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).

Broad aromas of melon, warm nectarine, light lime and melted butter make for a creamy nose on this single-vineyard expression. There is a compelling tightness to the sip, where the acidic zing cuts through richer flavors of campfire-roasted lemon and prominent oak smoke. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$48

91 Cambria 2015 Fog Tide Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).

Extremely pleasant aromas of caramel-laced honeydew cream and light cashew show on the nose of this bottling that's focused on a specific block of this historic vineyard. The palate zings with freshness and acidity right out of the gates, and then allows fatter notes of melted butter, orange peels, mandarin slices and clotted cream to consume the midpalate. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$38

91 Napa Cellars 2015 V Collection Chardonnay (Carneros).

Dark gold in color, this is a creamy, full-figured wine made with supportive oak. Lively acidity provides fresh contrast to its richer tendencies, as a length of apple spice and fennel pique interest on the thick palate. —V.B.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$45

91 Pali 2015 Huber Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).

Wet clay, squeezed lemon and lightly toasted pecan show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard located just south of Highway 246. There's ripeness to the lemon-juice-driven palate as well as a rounded cashew cream character. The acidity is striking, nearly piercing by the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$45

91 Roberts & Rogers 2014 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).

Creamy and luxurious in

nature, this wine tastes of caramel apple, baked pear and pineapple. With a depth of vanilla oak, it offers body and weight, with a bright hit of freshness on the lengthy finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$50

91 Santa Barbara Winery 2015 Reserve Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).

There is plenty of toasty oak on the nose of this reserve bottling, but it's judiciously applied and cut by lemon balm, Asian pear, hot croissant and pecan oil aromas. The sip also shows a savory oak-smoke character, but the mid-palate is all about lemon cream and butter-basted apple pie, with a touches of vanilla, cinnamon and cashew riding into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$26

91 Talley 2015 Chardonnay (Edna Valley).

This appellation blend allows a more affordable taste of the Talley family's Chardonnay excellence. This bottling shows aromas of Meyer lemon skins, warm nectarine, sea salt, tangerine pith and wet sidewalk. Rounded salt and stone fruit flavors show on the sip, but the citrusy acidity is persistent, cutting through the slight butter warmth. Caramel pops on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$24

91 Trombetta 2016 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

For full review see

page 13.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$60

90 Bailarin 2016 Black Knight Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

This is an exotic, elegant and restrained coastal wine, that is tart with lemon and lemongrass. Light and bright, its texture is fluffy and creamy, with a lingering hint of biscotti. —V.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$36

90 Bennett Lane 2015 Sangiacomo Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Los Carneros).

Buttery, rich and creamily lush, this wine is robust and in tropical and stone fruit flavor, with a side note of green olive that makes it intriguing and memorable. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$53

90 Buena Vista 2015 Chardonnay (Carneros).

Big oak and a touch of reduction show through on the nose of this appellation wine, as full-figured flavors of crème brûlée, pineapple and Gravenstein applesauce play along a gravelly texture. Highlights of nutmeg and ginger spice the fruit well. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

90 Buena Vista 2015 Jovita's Selection Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

With a breath of matchstick on entry, this wine is ultimately juicy and gritty in texture, with a persistent backbeat of toasty oak. Ripe apple and papaya mix well to offer a tropical creaminess. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$42

90 Buena Vista 2015 Natalia's Selection Chardonnay (Green Valley). This is a juicy and full-bodied white, tightly woven in oak and butterscotch. Expansive on the palate, with a depth of apple pie and nutmeg, it offers a balance of fresh acidity that complements well. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

90 De Loach 2015 OFS Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). An approachable, accessible and high quality wine, this offers flavors of crème brûlée seasoned in anise. It is a rich round expression of the variety that has an additional depth of baked apple and toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Ferrari-Carano 2015 Dominique Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Deep hay in color, this wine is full bodied and creamy, with well-integrated layers of pineapple, papaya and green olive. Toasted oak supports the fruitiness and floral aromas. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

90 Ferrari-Carano 2015 Fiorella Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Textured in baked apple and pear flavors, this wine is ultimately creamy and lush, with a rounded approach to oak. A tautness in structure helps keep it fresh, with a lovely floral undertone on the bouquet. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

90 Glenwood Cellars 2014 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Dark in color and consisting of considerable oak, this wine is sublime in texture, with aromas of matchstick and floral apple blossom. Savory in apple pie and cinnamon, it has elegance and impressive length. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$18

90 Reata 2016 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Stolo 2015 Estate Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County). Candied lemon peel, walnut, cashew and balsam aromas show on the rich nose of this bottling from a vineyard just east of the Pacific Ocean behind Cambria. The palate is viscous with flavors of lemon syrup and orange rind. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$32

90 Talley 2015 Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley). Butterscotch candies, lime spritz, concentrated honeysuckle and strong praline aromas show on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate combines salted butter, orange rind and white peach, with hints of white pepper, chamomile and smoke. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$27

90 Thirty-Seven Wines 2015 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Well-balanced, this coastal wine is deftly integrated in acidity and floral aromas of apple blossom. Its exotic flavor profile

leans into quince, fig and classic Gravenstein apple. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24

89 Castoro Cellars 2016 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Broad aromas of white peach and nectarine are lifted with hints of Key lime zest on the pleasant nose of this bottling. There is impressive zip to the well-structured and grippy sip, where fresh citrus juice keeps the tropical passion fruit and guava flavors in check. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

89 Pali 2015 Highlands Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Fairly showy white flower aromas meet with melted butter, lemon rind candy and match smoke on the nose of this appellation blend. There are a good amount of smoky oak and roasted marshmallow flavors to the sip, but they are cut deftly by fresh citrusy acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Peake Ranch 2015 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). The nose on this bottling is extremely subtle, with hints of stone fruit and citrus. The palate is extremely crisp and clean, with Asian pear, lime peel and hints of oak smoke. The focus is tightly wound texture more than overt flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

89 Seagrape 2015 Zotovich Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Bright lemon and orange rind aromas meet with sea salt, nectarine and a yellow grapefruit pith on the nose of this bottling by Karen Steinwachs. Tightly wound on the palate, this single-vineyard expression shows fresh and lively flavors of citrus pith, yogurt and Brie rind. Could use a bit more time in bottle to fully shine. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

88 Alyris 2015 The Audition Chardonnay (Carneros). This is an intensely thick and concentrated wine, richly ripe in caramelized apple, tropical mango and hugely grippy toasted oak. There's a thread of jasmine that pierces through beautifully on the nose. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

88 Annabella 2014 Special Selection Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This is a hearty, full-bodied wine with some age on it. It is robust in a popular style that offers bold layers of anise, baked peach and pineapple. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Castoro Cellars 2016 Reserve Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Melon aromas of honeydew and cantaloupe meet with crisp stone fruit and Key lime pie on the nose of this bottling. There is a chalky grip to the sip, with mellow flavors of Meyer lemon juice and Asian pear. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$22

88 Ferrari-Carano 2015 Emilia's Cuvée Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Perfumed in apple and orange blossom aromas, this is a robust, fleshy wine that leans into an intensity of apple, melon and pineapple flavor, finishing focused and steeped in oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

88 Ferrari-Carano 2015 Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros). Thick and moderate in structure, this wine is fleshy, lush and tropical in nature. Swirled in butterscotch, vanilla and caramel, the oak is toasty and supportive. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

88 Kopriva 2016 Ricci Vineyard Unoaked Chardonnay (Carneros). This no-oak white is well-integrated in acidity and offers layers of flavor and texture. Highlights of white peach, lemon curd and vanilla bean give it a fruity substance within a refreshingly crisp, clean context. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Napa Cellars 2015 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). A confectionery nose of cotton candy and honey-baked apple permeates through the rich palate and nose of this wine. Firm in oak, it's fleshy and round with moderate acidity and a finishing touch of coconut shavings. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

88 Press Run 2014 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Herbal fennel meets a steely nose of tart, taut acidity and well-defined flavors of apple and melon in this straightforward, enjoyable white. Firm and fleshy on the midpalate, it finishes with that same steeliness with which it began. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Sanctuary 2015 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Sourced from Dutton Ranches and Heintz Vineyard, this wine employs a hearty helping of oak, which supports a core of juicy pear and pineapple. With additional richness from secondary elements of crème brûlée and coconut flakes, it finishes boldly ripe and full bodied. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

88 Santa Barbara Winery 2016 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Properly restrained on the nose, this bottling offers aromas of chalk, honeysuckle and sliced tangerine. There is good zip and freshness to the sip, where lemon rinds and squeezed grapefruit flavors ride an energetic structure. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$17

87 Decoy 2016 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This wine pulls from across the wider appellation to combine cool-climate grapes with warmer regions. Round and easygoing, it offers fleshy fine flavors of pineapple and peach, its oak integrated and unobtrusive. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 District 7 Wines 2015 Chardonnay (Monterey). Fresh lemon and lime zest aromas are sharp in the nose of this bottling, cutting into the oak smoke character. The mouthfeel is round and creamy, with more oak as well as melted butter, apple and lemon flavors. It is a solid midweek Chard. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Ferrari-Carano 2015 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This is a voluptuously lush white wine awash in pineapple, honeyed pear, vanilla and toasty oak. Moderate acidity supports its rich ripe fruit-forward nature. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$23

87 Hess 2016 Select Chardonnay (Monterey County). Fresh Key lime aromas meet with touches of guava, plumeria and lemongrass on the steely nose of this bottling. There's a great sizzle of acidity to the sip, leaning a bit more toward Sauvignon Blanc than Chardonnay, with flavors of guava gum, green papaya, lime and grass. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Hungry Hawk 2016 Chardonnay (San Diego County). This is a promising wine for SoCal Chardonnay, starting with aromas of lemon peels, sea salt, cream and honeysuckle. The palate is a tad sweet, with apple syrup and candied lemon flavors, but the mouthfeel is creamy and the acidity is good. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28

87 La Honda Winery 2016 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). The nose on this bottling is quite shy at first, and then slowly arise aromas of citrus pith, sliced Gravenstein apple and a mushroomy, woody component. The palate's citrus rinds, pomelo pith and hints of tangerine are presented on a well-wound frame. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$26

87 Markham 2015 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Florally perfumed in orange blossom, this plush, medium-bodied white is awash in pineapple and a strong taste of cinnamon stick, its oak pronounced and supportive. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22

87 Scott Family 2015 Chardonnay (Carneros). Cured meat and oak add richness to an otherwise light-bodied expression of the grape. Floral in apple blossom aromas, it follows through with additional flavors of Gravenstein apple, pear and a lemony hit of freshness on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Angeline 2016 Reserve Chardonnay (Monterey County). The nose on this bottling is very showy with aromas of apple blossom, cut Anjou pear and guava. The palate skews tropical, with green papaya and underripe banana flavors, and a decently fresh acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$16

86 Séamus Wines 2015 Buena Tierra Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This is a full-bodied white rich in buttery oak and baked apple, with a tang of lemon and a yeasty nose of baked biscuit. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$46

86 Sean Minor 2016 Four Bears Chardonnay (Central Coast). White peach, caramel and browned butter aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft and easy with flavors of roasted apple and cinnamon, though it could use a more acidic boost. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

84 Girard 2015 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Plush and round, this is a simple wine, offering ripe flavors of melon, sweet pear and green olive. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

SAUVIGNON BLANC

93 Grassini 2015 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). This richer, Bordelaise-like take on Sauvignon Blanc is a compelling change of pace for a region that leans more toward fresh and racy. Aromas of ripe nectarine, lemon oil, yellow flowers and marzipan are set against a steely core on the nose. The palate offers oak smoke, creamy pear flesh and distinctive butterscotch on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

92 Grassini 2016 Block 14 Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). This block-designated bottling is tightly wound and a bit restrained at first on the nose, but then aromas of flint, peach, ash and white lily begin to elegantly arise. The palate is tart, tense and taut with flavors of lime skin, orange rind and an ashy Brie cheese rind element that makes it very distinctive. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

90 Gainey 2016 Limited Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Crisp and fresh on the nose, this bottling offers lime skin, lemon juice, crushed flint and graphite aromas. It's tightly wound and zippy on the palate, but with ample flavors of Asian pear flesh, grippy chalk and a Key lime twist. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Hess 2016 Shirttail Ranches Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). For full review see page 17.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Santa Barbara Winery 2016 McGinley Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Clean and slightly restrained on the fresh and vibrant nose, this single vineyard expression shows lime syrup, citrus zest, wet stone and chalk aromas. There is great lime skin tension to the

sip, where bright, lemony flavors meet with hints of guava and crushed slate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$19

89 Margerum 2016 Sybarite Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). The nose on this sleek bottling by Doug Margerum manages to combine both the grape's telltale grassy tones and tightly reductive qualities with fresh passion fruit and kiwi flavors. There is a great sizzle of acidity to the sip, where lime skin and white rock flavors shine. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$21

89 Peltier 2016 Black Diamond Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi). Crisp and steely, this wine tastes absolutely fresh from the light herb and green-apple aroma to the lemon-lime flavors, lively acidity and clean snappy finish. It's light to medium in body, has good balance and an especially appetizing character. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$16

89 Scheid Vineyards 2016 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). Sugar-cured grapefruit rinds, sour Granny Smith apple slices and wet concrete show on the nose of this bottling from one of the larger growers in Monterey. Green apple skins mix with guava, passion fruit and green grass flavors on the palate, which is lifted by white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Avensole 2016 Susan Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley). Loads of fresh passion fruit kick off the nose of this exuberant bottling, although there are telltale touches of cut grass and green grapefruit pith in the background. There's a pleasing and round freshness to the sip, where ripe stone fruit meets with more sour edges of lime skin and grass. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$24

88 Barton 2015 Forever Young Vogelzang Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Aromas of lemon rind, pink grapefruit skins and apple flesh are somewhat reserved on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows apple rinds, seared nectarine, guava skins, lemongrass and a strong cut-grass flavor. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

88 Bonterra 2016 Made with Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (California). This light-bodied wine made from organic grapes seems earthy at first whiff but settles down to crisp citrus flavors, good cleansing acidity and very fresh herb and melon flavors. It's just the thing to pair with light appetizers and seafood. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$14

88 Imagery 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Very fresh and very herbal in flavor, this wine smells like fresh-plucked snap peas, and tastes

BUYINGGUIDE

crisp and citrusy thanks to bright tangy acidity. It is light bodied and feels cleansing on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

88 Santa Barbara Winery 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Preserved lemons, lime pith, cold cement and a hint of honeydew show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very rounded with yellow apples and cut-grass flavors, upheld by a chalky texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$17

88 Tortoise Creek 2016 Cuvee Jeane Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.3% Price: \$12

87 District 7 Wines 2016 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). Extreme lawn clipping and green bell pepper aromas show on the nose of this bottling, with slightly rounder hints of guava, passion fruit and struck flint also arising. It's a bit riper on the sip, with yellow pear, Key lime, rainy cement and wet hay flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

87 Europa Village 2016 C'est La Vie Wien Chateau Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley). An abundance of white flowers and sweet grassiness (along with some ripe pear) shows on the nose of this bottling from a newer property in Temecula. Apples and nectarine flavors reveal themselves at first on the sip, which then grows more sour with cut grass and apple rind elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$28

87 Gainey 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Very clean aromas of Pink Lady apple, ripe Asian pear, squeezed Meyer lemon and a touch of wet stone prove refreshing on the nose of this bottling. There's a hint of peach and Key lime pie ripeness to the sip, yet the wet cement minerality also shows through. It could use a touch more zippy acid. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$15

87 Pegasus Estate 2016 Vogelzang Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Mellow aromas of pear, rainy sidewalk and nectarine show on the nose of this bottling. There is bountiful acidity on the sip, with cut grass and apple skin flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$26

86 Falkner 2016 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley). Light aromas of mowed lawn, ripe peach and wet concrete show on the mellow nose of this bottling. It's fairly simple on the palate, with ripe pear and seared lime flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

86 Hess Select 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). Frankly herbal in flavor, this wine smells reduced at first, like garlic and onions, but

mellows to celery, cucumber and lemon on the palate. It's medium to full in body, has a rich texture and lingering veggie finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

86 Rock Wall 2016 Sandy Bend Vineyard Fumé Blanc (Lake County). This wine reaches the extreme end of the buttery scale, showing toasty, oak aromas, butter and vanilla flavors, a very creamy, rich texture and very full body. It has little overt fruit expression but plenty of complexity and savory character. —J.G.
abv: 15.28% Price: \$24

86 Sean Minor 2016 4 B Sauvignon Blanc (California). Vivid celery aromas and flavors ride a moderately crisp texture in this medium-bodied wine before a hint of sweetness completes the picture. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

84 Iron Hub 2015 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Shenandoah Valley). This thick-textured wine has light melon aromas and muted fig flavors. It feels full bodied and emphasizes an oily mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$22

84 Oak Mountain 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley). Wet concrete and Anjou pear rinds show on the nose of this bottling. Ripe apple flavors and cut green grass show on the sip, where the flavors are a bit wild and sporadic. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$24

GRENACHE BLANC

92 Jaffurs 2016 Thompon Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Very light in color, this tightly wound bottling shows aromas of crisp Asian pear, chilled Pink Lady apples, sharp green melon rind, wet stone and a definite grassy quality. The palate is a study in wound-up freshness that's on the verge of bursting, with more Asian pear and hints of pluot riding an extremely pithy texture. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$50

91 Kaena 2016 Tierra Alta Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Ballard Canyon). A slight hint of hay yellow in the glass, this bottling shows a clean line of cantaloupe, plumeria, daffodil and vanilla-spiced pear sauce on the nose. The palate is grippy with lemon skin tension, offering richer yellow-peach-cream flavors against that pithy texture. Great combo of ripeness with restraint. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

90 Clementine Carter 2016 Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Very light in color in the glass, this bottling shows fragrant touches of clean tropicality, including creamy cherimoya, light tuberose, refreshing apple blossoms and sliced Gala apples on the nose. There's a bountiful sizzle of

acidity to the sip, where crisp pear and apple flavors meet with honeysuckle and Key lime spray. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

88 Chesebro 2015 Cedar Lane Grenache Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Very light in color, there's a yeasty quality to this bottling, with aromas of sour-dough showing alongside green banana, wet sand and muddy clay. The palate picks up a brioche touch and rides a compelling chalky texture, making for a very interesting take on the grape. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

VIIGNIER

92 Jaffurs 2016 Bien Nacido Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley). Very chalky, tightly wound and mineral-driven on the nose, this expertly restrained bottling also shows Key lime, slight white peach and a whiff of daffodil on the nose. Zippy as can be on the sip, flavors of lime and pink lemon are overshadowed by chalky tensions and limestone flavors, much like licking a white rock. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

89 Pomar Junction 2016 Viognier (El Pomar District). Fairly reserved on the nose, this bottling offers Condrieu-esque aromas of honeydew candy and creamy tropical fruits without going overripe. There's a citrusy, Key lime freshness at the tip of the sip, and then come more plush flavors of nectarine in the midpalate, finishing with a creamy texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$28

88 Falkner 2016 Viognier (Temecula Valley). Clean if rather ripe aromas of peach, bubblegum and banana show on the nose of this bottling, which displays expert restraint from a warm region for an often blousy variety. There's a rich custardy touch at first on the sip, with plumeria and guava flavors, but then the chalky texture reins it back. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$29

88 LXV 2016 Summer Satine Viognier (Paso Robles). Relatively light and delicate on the nose, this bottling shows chalk, ripe pear and the unmistakable aroma of banana-flavored Now & Laters candy. The palate is tightly wound yet tropical, with papaya, mango and ripe peach flavors, each more expressive as the wine warms. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$35

ALBARIÑO

91 Croma Vera 2016 Albariño (San Luis Obispo County). Pear and grapefruit aromas are prominent on the clean and easy nose of this bottling from Spanish Springs Vineyard, as is a sweet floral touch of Stargazer lily. The flavors are crisp and strong with more white flowers, and the grippy

chalky texture and solid acidity make for a lovely wine altogether. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$26

91 Monochrome 2016 Barrel Distortion Albariño (California). Full bodied and full flavored, this substantial wine combines intense fruit flavors with bold, buttery and spicy accents. It feels mouthfilling and rich but has enough good acidity for liveliness and balance. Fine print on the label says this is made from Albariño, and it's a most unusual and enjoyable example of the Spanish varietal. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

88 Barton 2016 Holiday See Canyon Vineyard Albariño (San Luis Obispo). Lemon-lime soda concentrate, grapefruit, honey and chamomile make for a broad, somewhat rich nose on this bottling. The sip shows lots of freshness and acidic zip, with waxy, almost bitter flavors of lemon skin, sour pink grapefruit and the lightest hints of wood. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

88 Bokisch 2016 Terra Alta Vineyard Albariño (Lodi). Light body, fresh and tangy fruit flavors and crisp acidity make this a lively, refreshing wine to sip before or during a meal. It resembles honeydew melon and green apples in the aroma, and stays fruity but not heavy on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Scheid Vineyards 2016 Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Vibrant lime blossom and grapefruit-spray aromas meet with warmer pear and nectarine scents on the attention-grabbing fruit-forward nose of this bottling. There is a good zing to the palate, where the Key lime, crisp pear and kiwi flavors converge against a compelling texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

87 Chesebro 2016 Cedar Lane Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Sour grapefruit pith, wet clay, cut grass and a hint of white flowers show on the slightly reductive nose of this bottling, which opens up with a bit of patience. The acidity gives zip to the sip, where wet concrete and lime skin flavors shine. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

RIESLING

93 MaidenStoen 2016 Lafond Vineyard Riesling (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.52% **Price:** \$22

92 MaidenStoen 2016 Coast View Vineyard Riesling (Monterey County). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.83% **Price:** \$22

88 Cutruzzola 2015 Riven Rock Vineyard Riesling (San Luis Obispo County). Light in color,

this bottling shows lemon rinds, orange blossoms, lime zest, wet concrete and the slightest hint of petrol on the nose. The flavors are very rounded and botanical in nature, with gin-like touches of lime skin, apple blossom and a sweet juniper touch. It offers great tension and acid. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

WHITE BLENDS

92 Sanguis 2014 The Eighth Veil (Central Coast). This atypical blend of Chardonnay and Marsanne presents a very smoky nose reminiscent of roasted poultry but cut by rosemary, yuzu, green tea, pomelo pith and fortune cookie aromas. Sandalwood, pluot, yellow melon and saffron flavors show on the exotic palate, which is tense with acidity and tannins and utterly distinctive. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

90 Central Coast Group Project 2013 Blood Orange (Santa Barbara County). A numeric score on this wine is almost silly, as it's about as bizarre as wine gets. A shade of yellowish orange in the glass, this bottling shows aromas of vermouth, wood varnish, cherry and, yes, blood orange on the nose. The palate combines iron, sour peach, walnut oil and pine much like a Sherry. Fascinating, though not for the mainstream. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

90 Concannon 2016 Reserve Assemblage Blanc (Livermore Valley). Gorgeous ripe fruit flavors blend with baking spices in this high-toned but full-bodied and opulent wine. Nuances of peach, honeydew melon, honey and flowers are carried by a mouthfilling, nicely viscous texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$26

90 Peltier 2016 Prémience (Lodi). Dry, tangy and appetizing, this wine has lightly floral, appley aromas and flavors, great acidity to cleanse the palate and a sense of brightness and clarity that's refreshing to taste. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

88 It Is What It Is! NV White (Lodi). This wine tastes like a late-harvest dessert wine, and a very good one. A deep gold color and assertive nutty aromas start it off with a bang, while flavors of honey, toasted almond and caramel follow on the palate. Its texture is plush and mouthfilling and the finish lingers nicely. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$14

87 Ca' Momi 2016 Bianco (California). Savory earthy accents complement ripe melon flavors and a generous texture in this pale-colored, medium-bodied wine. It has good heft on the palate, and is rich enough to keep the flavors lingering. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Church & State 2014 Lost Inhibitions White (California). Pleasant fig and pear flavors fill

out this medium-bodied and rather subtly flavored wine. It tastes ripe enough, but not overly rich, has good concentration and an earthy component —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$19

86 Pomar Junction 2016 Cotes de Pomar Blanc (El Pomar District). Very light in the glass, there is a subtle but growing tropicality on the nose of this blend of 40% Roussanne, 40% Grenache Blanc and 20% Viognier, with papaya, banana flower sap, candied honeysuckle and a bit of tuberose. The palate is clean with decent acidity, but those candied tropical flavors are overpowering, with mango, guava and banana syrup. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$32

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Tinto Rey 2016 Verdejo (Dunnigan Hills). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$18

91 Barton 2015 Landslide Jurassic Park Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). The nose on this bottling dials in strongly to a crushed chalk aroma, which is peppered over the lemon pith and rainy sidewalk scents. It's very fresh and tightly wound on the palate, with lime spray, beeswax, a touch of petrol and a slight botanical element. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

91 Jaffurs 2016 Stolpman Vineyard Roussanne (Santa Barbara County). A strong shade of yellow in the glass, this bottling shows aromas of whipped cream, preserved lemon peels and a hint of smoked white meat, all honed in by a citrusy sharpness. The palate proves fresh, bright and tense, making the mouth water with a hint of sea salt along with creamy cherimoya and a touch more smoke. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Birichino 2015 Old Vines Jurassic Park Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Very light on the nose, this bottling from 37-year-old vines shows squeezed lemon wedge, chilled Asian pear, hints of jicama and white rose petals on the nose. The citrusy palate is driven by a grapefruit pith flavor and enhanced with a touch of chalk. The texture is compellingly grippy. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Fenestra 2015 Semillon (Livermore Valley). This is a fascinating wine in a non-fruity fashion that smells like almonds and golden olive oil, tastes figgy and feels mouthfilling. From a veteran, consistent producer, the wine is medium to full-bodied and has a smooth and rich texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$18

89 Birichino 2015 Malvasia Bianca (Monterey). Extremely light in the glass, this bottling

explodes with orange blossom, lemon oil and beeswax on the nose. It's very dry and tight on the palate, where jasmine and apple blossoms dominate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Bonny Doon 2016 Beeswax Vineyard Picpoul (Arroyo Seco). Very light in the glass, this wine's dainty and delicate nose allows Asian pear, pear blossom and yellow rose petal aromas to show. It's even tighter on the sip, with hints of Pink Lady apple and a slightly sour pear-skin element. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$18

87 La Crema 2016 Pinot Gris (Monterey). There's a touch of fizz to the glass in this twist-top bottling, which shows light peach, yellow melon, sliced apple and orange-cake aromas. The flavors are subtle but the texture is decent with acidity and grip, allowing ripe pear and a touch of lime bitterness to arise slowly. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Europa Village 2016 Vienza Pinot Grigio (Temecula). Very light in the glass, this wine shows fresh honeydew aromas along with sweet peach, honeysuckle and slightly tart orange rinds. The easy simple flavors include peach and ripe apple. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

86 Temecula Hills 2016 Estate Roussanne (Temecula). There's a slight effervescence to this bottling, which shows fresh banana, mango, wet stone and a subtle yeast on the nose. There is decent energy to the palate, where the tightly wound flavors of lemon juice and chalk arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$24

SPARKLING WINES

89 Birichino 2016 Pétulant Naturel Malvasia Bianca (Monterey). Cloudy in the glass, Pétulant is redolent with yellow grapefruit aromas, as well as some cut pear. The foam is very aggressive upon sipping, with lots of creamy qualities that are soft rather than sharp. Flavors of sour grapefruit and lemon rind are fun rather than funky. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Sofia 2016 Brut Rosé (Monterey County). Extremely vigorous bubbles want to explode with the slightest swirl of the glass on this bottling, which is pretty solid for the price. Aromas of candied strawberry, yeast and cherry Starburst candy show on the nose, while the palate carries flavors of stewed strawberry and a hint of yeast. It's slightly sweet but not overbearing and will please a diverse crowd. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

ROSÉS

91 Kaena 2016 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). A deeper shade of pink, this bottling shows raspberry, rose petal, crushed gravel and wet slate on the impressively mineral nose. There is a complex texture to the palate, which is loaded with crushed rock and chalk, and also shows candied raspberry and cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

88 Pegasus Estate 2016 Rosé of Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). This pink wine shows plump white peach, watermelon, wet cement and a twist of lime on the nose. There's a flash of sweetness on the sip, with ripe melons, but then it dries up, highlighting rosewater and soft pink-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29

89 Sanguis 2015 Sprezzatura No. 5 Rosé (Central Coast). A dark shade of rusty pink, this bottling shows red cherry, wet stone, muddy loam and baking spice on the unique and dynamic nose. Cherries shine on the sip as do clove, fennel and baked good flavors. Rather complex for a pink wine. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$45

88 Bonny Doon 2013 Vin Gris Tuilé (Central Coast). This is a very cerebral wine that will be too bizarre for many. The blend of 55% Grenache, 23% Mourvèdre, 10% Roussanne, 7% Cinsaut, 3% Carignane and 2% Grenache Blanc was allowed to sit in glass tanks in front of the sun for nine months, which gives the resulting wine a Sherry-like qualities: yellow-orange in color, with aromas and flavors of smoked walnuts, sour oranges, beeswax, honey and wood oil. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

87 Birichino 2016 Vin Gris Rosé (California). Light strawberry aromas meet with pink lemon and tangerine rinds on the simple nose of this bottling. The palate shows pleasant touches of strawberry and lemon as well as a touch of peat and pine smoke, but is missing some acidic boost. —M.K.
abv: NA **Price:** \$17

PINOT NOIR

97 Patz & Hall 2015 Chenoweth Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

96 Lynmar 2015 Monastery Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Exotic and wild, this wine has a funky, floral and herbal core accented in rose garden and whole-cluster crunch. Decadent, the black cherry, blueberry and Asian spice components accentuate a voluptuously velvety texture and miles

of black tea and persistent spice. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

96 Lynmar 2015 Old Vines Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

95 Brewer-Clifton 2015 Acin Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Explosive floral and fruit aromas leap from the glass in this brilliant bottling, which is bursting with plump red cherry, bundles of rose petals and just a touch of green peppercorn to keep it herbally intriguing. Lively and fresh on the palate, that deep pomegranate and Montmorency cherry picks up an herbally laced line of thyme, oregano, white sage, green cardamom and white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

95 Brewer-Clifton 2015 Hapgood Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). More like a focused fruit missile than an indiscriminate fruit bomb, this bottling shows flashy, vibrant waves of pure strawberry, red cherry and black raspberry that are edged by hints of dark earth, light spearmint and sweet bay leaf. The sip offers tart and exotic plums wrapped up in an herbal cape of thyme and potpourri. This will please many palates. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$95

95 Brewer-Clifton 2015 Machado Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). The stunning aromatic profile on this bottling compellingly combines candied fruit with the lift of crushed herbs, while blending cherry and grenadine with mint, bay leaf, a hint of green olive and a touch of crushed gravel on the nose. That lovable core of plush red fruits rides tight tannins on the palate, where bay leaf, thyme and green peppercorn flavors complete the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

95 Gary Farrell 2015 Toboni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

95 Lynmar 2015 Summit Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). From a spectacular block within the estate Quail Hill Vineyard in the heart of Russian River Valley's Laguna Ridge, this wine is taut and tightly wound, youthfully exuberant in cherry and blueberry compote. Bright and fresh in lifted acidity, it offers length and balance within a velvety complex texture. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

95 Patz & Hall 2015 Goldrock Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a concentrated and robustly ripe wine, spicy and velvety with a powerful punch of toasted oak. Forest floor elements and a depth of earth provide varietal character as rich interwoven flavors of baked cherry and

rhubarb give it a warmth that's expansive across the finish. —V.B.

abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$75

95 Westwood 2015 Wendling Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This first effort by Westwood from an Anderson Valley vineyard favored by Copain and Littorai is a stunner. A deft touch of spicy oak lifts the aroma, and meets compelling, intricate notes of red and black cherry, rhubarb and mushroom on the palate. This elegant, memorable wine has great structure due to firm acidity and lightly gripping tannins, which surround and support the wonderful, exotic and complex flavors. Best after 2020. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$72

94 Brewer-Clifton 2015 3-D Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lush red cherry and rosewater aromas meet with muddled sage, pepper dust and wild herbs on the nose of this excellent bottling, where rich fruit and herbal intrigue collide. Thyme, dried sage and even broadleaf parsley flavors show on the sip, set against a background of piquant cranberry and tart red currant, with bountiful energy that carries through the entire palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

94 Brewer-Clifton 2015 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 Brewer-Clifton 2015 Drum Canyon Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's an intriguingly earthy character to the nose of this bottling by Greg Brewer, with snapped sagebrush, dill, green olive and tart pluot aromas leaning into the herbal side of the grape. There's great tension to the sip, which is fresh and flavorful with underripe fig and strawberry, orange rind and a hint of green peppercorn. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Bruliam 2015 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Tart in cassis, cranberry and pomegranate on the entry, this wine develops a depth of richer rewarding flavor as it goes, leaning more into dark cherry and blueberry. Juicy, layered and delicious, it's well integrated and voluptuously silky on the palate, offering impressive length and breadth. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$58

94 Davies 2015 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Bold ripe fruit flavors find impressive support from firm tannins and refreshing acidity in this natural-tasting and well-structured wine. The black cherry, raspberry and cranberry flavors are vivid and mouthfilling, while a lip-smacking texture keeps them alive on the palate and through a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

94 Flanagan 2015 Sun Chase Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From the site high

atop the Petaluma Gap part of the coast, above Gap's Crown, this is inviting in every way. Black raspberry is seasoned in cardamom and forest pine as a tannic backbone provides structure and strength. A hit of citrus highlights the fresh persistent acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$78

94 Kokomo 2015 Winemaker's Reserve Peter's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a well-integrated and composed reserve-tier wine that lives up to its billing. A rich nose of blueberry and baked strawberry-rhubarb give it an edgy, savory quality that's also succulent and velvety on the palate, with long-lasting cardamom spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$52

94 La Follette 2015 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This appellation wine exudes beauty and grace, offering strongly etched characteristics of bacon meat, black cherry, blueberry and spicy cardamom. Succulent and silky, it has a thickness on entry that settles to reveal bright, integrated acidity. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$34

94 La Follette 2015 Hawk's Roost Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wine has a strong element of rusticity that's entirely welcoming in its mix of truffled earth and fresh compost. The flavors are lean and sinewy: a tart lingering measure of cranberry and pomegranate perfectly spiked in black tea and cardamom. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

94 Lutum 2015 Durell Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Entirely destemmed, this is a cool coastal wine, gracefully restrained and excitingly bright. Tart rhubarb and strawberry join exotic citrus tones and notes of rose petal as spicy acidity lurks within a construct of robust integrated tannin. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$68

94 Lynmar 2015 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Full bodied, fresh and fragrant, this is a successful celebration of the appellation, bringing together the best of several sites. Dark brooding fruit and forested earth complement one another beautifully as a fleshy rounded texture takes hold. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Lynmar 2015 Five Sisters Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$100

94 Lynmar 2015 Lynn's Blend Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Lynmar 2015 Susanna's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine opens with incredibly floral aromatics—a perfume of rose and lavender that shines along a delicately layered and textured wine. Cherry pie flavors provide juicy suc-

culence and delight. The freshness lasts and lingers, dotted in cardamom and black tea. —V.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 MacPhail 2015 Toulouse Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

94 Patz & Hall 2015 Bootlegger's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wine opens with a rustic forest element of *garrigue*, before unleashing its full embrace of crisp red fruit. Rhubarb, strawberry and cherry combine within an oaky, tannic framework of power that falls away slowly in the glass, refreshed in acidity. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$80

94 Summerland 2013 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Lavish aromas of black cherry pie, clove, vanilla, warm brioché, almond croissant and loamy earth show on the nose of this bottling by Etienne Terlinden from the historic vineyard. Hearty and wild blackberry flavors mix with thyme, tarragon, juniper and black tea on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

94 Walt 2015 La Brisa Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is an impressive appellation blend, sourcing from the proprietor's Bob's Ranch as well as Gap's Crown Vineyard and others. Earthy compost and forested tea gird a full-bodied concentrated experience highlighted in dried cranberry, raspberry and rhubarb, a leathery hint of sarsaparilla adding creaminess. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$44

94 Walt 2015 Sierra Mar Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 7.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Whitcraft 2016 Pence Ranch Mt. Eden Clone Monopole Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Second-generation vintner Drake Whitcraft is diligently honing a delicate, fresh style of Pinot Noir, which shows expertly in this bottling. Aromas of crushed violet, under-ripe cherry, tarragon and spearmint decorate the nose. The palate combines raspberry with crushed mint, proving extremely soft and feminine. It would be easy to drink the whole bottle. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.56% **Price:** \$72

93 Bruliam 2015 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This robust medium-bodied vineyard-designate is complex and lengthy, a showcase of reduced oak, black cherry and berry and well-defined aspects of white pepper, Asian five-spice and black tea. The finish brings some heat that settles on the palate to show power and grace. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$46

93 Davies 2015 Ferrington Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

93 Davies 2015 Hyde Vineyards Pinot Noir (Carneros). The producer's second release from this famous site, this wine is beautifully balanced and bright, with nuanced layers of depth. Cherry, cola spice and forest floor mingle effortlessly in the glass, as the palate remains silky soft. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

93 En Garde 2014 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Deliciously well-integrated, this is a rich, vibrant and intense wine that is lengthy and broadly expansive in baked strawberry, rhubarb and dark cherry. Cardamom and black tea make appearances within the fruit and brawny oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

93 Furthermore 2014 Eden Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). An expansively juicy and soft velvety wine, this delivers coastal influence in droves, balancing earthy cardamom, cola and forest floor with tastes of tea leaf and bright cherry. Light-bodied and silky, it rewards in flavor, texture and complexity. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$55

93 Lumen 2015 Presqu'île Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This bottling by Lane Tanner, who used solely clone 667 and employed 50% new Hungarian oak, offers intense cherry on the nose alongside rose petals, carnations, preserved oranges and North African spice. There's bountiful energy to the sip, where bay leaf, thyme and green sage meet with dark red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.52% **Price:** \$62

93 Lutum 2015 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From the lovely Petaluma Gap site, this wine is a mix of menthol, forest floor and noble reduction—totally savory in style. Moderately concentrated and ultimately fresh in bright acidity, it has a thickness of wild strawberry and cherry and a length of cardamom spice. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 MacRostie 2014 Klopp Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Bold and ripe, this wine traffics in earthy wild raspberry, strawberry, mushroom and nutmeg. Ethereal despite its weight and breadth, it's made in a classic style and is deliciously varietal, a showcase of a great site in a great vintage. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$56

93 MacRostie 2014 Thale's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). From a vineyard in the Middle Reach area of the appellation, which is relatively warm, this shows an intensity of earthy forest and black tea as well as cardamom. Velvety thick, it has a freshness of acidity that buzzes along

on the palate, prompted by flavors of cranberry, cherry and tangerine. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$56

93 Pali 2015 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$69

93 Pali 2015 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Patz & Hall 2015 Alder Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This wine, from a unique single-vineyard on steep slopes, has power along with complexity, combining aromas like sun-baked earth and dry leaves with layered cherry, tea and rhubarb flavors and a firm, nicely tannic texture. This will stand up to rich entrées very well, and should improve through at least 2021. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

93 Patz & Hall 2015 Burnside Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). From a site expertly farmed by the Martinelli family, Burnside is leathery and earthy, a deep dive into mint, cedar and pine as well as pungent rose garden. Spicy cardamom and black tea are supported by a grip of oak and tannin that tastes bold and big, yet finishes in balance. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

93 Sanguis 2013 Loner R13-C Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Quite dark in the glass, this appellation blend combines dense layer of mulberry and black plum on the nose with aromas of wet loam, packed rose petals and a hint of mint. Layers of rose petals and purple hibiscus show on the earthy sip, where a soft texture presents dark fruits and slight hints of caramel and vanilla toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

93 Seagrape 2015 Mermaid's Pearl Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Appealing aromas of mint, charred pine and forest floor decorate a core of mulberry and dried cherry fruit on the nose of this wine by Karen Steinwachs. Similar flavors show on the sip, where pine needles and moss meet with minty black raspberry, presented on a lighter fresher body. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70

93 Stolo 2015 Creekside Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Rustic red cherry, baked earth, pretty rose petals, candied currants and a bit of sweet oak show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard just east of Cambria. The herbally tinged palate places fresh thyme and dill against a backdrop of light cranberry and pomegranate, proving lightly bodied but extremely energetic with acidity. Vanilla pops on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Theopolis 2015 Pinot Noir (Yorkville Highlands). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42

93 Two Sisters 2015 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

93 Walt 2015 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Walt 2015 Brown Ranch Pinot Noir (Carneros). Brown sugar and Asian spice components make this wine warm and inviting—a strong, powerful expression of the variety that's concentrated in flavor and body weight. Tart cranberry and raspberry are seasoned in elements of dried herb, adding complexity. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

93 Walt 2015 Clos Pepe Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark as night in the glass, this lavish take on Pinot Noir, which would work great in a steak house, shows black cherry, licorice, black sage and crushed asphalt on the nose. Lush tones of black cherry and creamy caramel also show on the sip, but there is earthy minerality, roasted meat umami tones and vibrant spearmint touches as well. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Walt 2015 The Corners Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Very ripe and very lush, this wine oozes opulent black cherry and blueberry from the aroma through the lingering finish. The fruit flavors are concentrated and deep, and a touch of baking spices adds complexity as the wine spreads across the palate and seems to coat the tongue. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Whitcraft 2016 Pence Ranch Clone 115 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Mulberry, forest floor, moss, thyme, incense and rainbow peppercorns show on the dynamic nose of this bottling by second-generation vintner Drake Whitcraft. Rounded boysenberry fruit meets with herbal freshness on the palate, which is slightly richer than many of his bottlings but still very much in the lighter house style. The tannins are sturdy. —M.K.
abv: 13.32% **Price:** \$65

92 Bailarin 2015 Suacci Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Forest-floor mushroom and pine add spark to a rustic framework of restrained ripeness and savory spice, most definitely cardamom. Medium in body and oak, its fruit is satisfyingly elusive, a mix of rhubarb and pomegranate. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48

92 Benovia 2015 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Vibrant on the nose and expertly put together, this is a well-made appellation wine,

expansive in dark cherry, pomegranate and plum. Generous in oak and tannin in its youth, it shows a full-bodied finish that settles smoothly into velvety waves of cardamom and rose. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

92 Brewer-Clifton 2015 459 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Very woody and herbal aromas of wild thyme, sagebrush and bay leaf meet with rust, orange rinds, blistered tomato and crushed hibiscus on the spicy nose of this clonal selection. Wild red currants and cranberry-orange compote make for a sour tangy sip, with minty herbs in the background. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$95

92 Briceland 2014 Phelps Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). This substantive, well-structured wine has a classy, light French oak aroma and plenty of Bing cherry on the palate as well as firm tannins and good fruit acidity to make it feel lively. Its concentration and grip bode well for pairing with roast birds or beef. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

92 Cambria 2015 Element Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Candied black cherry, smoked pork, cola and crushed asphalt show on the complex, inviting nose of this smaller-block bottling from the estate's large vineyard. The flavors are deep and dark yet not rich or heavy, with hints of tar, black pepper, wild blackberries and black plum, all hung from a firm zippy structure. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$45

92 Davies 2015 Georgian Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Beautiful seductive fruit aromas and flavors make this wine practically irresistible, and a soft silky texture reinforces its luxuriousness. Red and black cherry notes mingle with mild vanilla and cinnamon on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

92 Gary Farrell 2015 Hallberg Vineyard Dijon Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

92 Lynmar 2015 Quail Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Earthy wisps of rose garden and wild strawberry invite one into this estate wine, that's brawny and strong in imprint. Concentrated and extracted fruit dominates with highlights of cranberry, raspberry and tan bark with a nod of cola and cardamom adding spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

92 MacPhail 2015 Wightman House Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Full body and very ripe fruit flavors give a lot of impact to this deeply colored and concentrated wine made from the heritage Martini clone and aged in 50% new oak. It packs in the black cherry, blackberry and clove flavors, wrapping them in a firm blanket of

fine-grained tannins and good acidity, so that it should improve with age. Best after 2019. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

92 Pali 2016 Huntington Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). This bottling is one of the most reliably delicious Pinot Noirs for less than \$30 each vintage, and this year is one of the best. Warm, even buttery aromas of brioche, strawberry jam and baking spice prove immensely inviting, leading into an approachable yet complex palate where fruit-punch flavors are lifted by clove, tart plum skins and vanilla on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Pali 2015 Rio Vista Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There are prominent hints of pine needle and menthol that ride atop the core of bright red cherries and rusty alpine strawberries on this single-vineyard bottling. The palate seamlessly integrates those juniper, dill and mint notes into the cranberry, raspberry and pomegranate juice flavors, all presented on a soft texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$58

92 Papapietro Perry 2014 Nunes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wine is vibrantly bright and coiled in acidity. Leather, cola spice and dark cherry mingle effortlessly on a light, smooth and silky palate, ending in balanced nuance. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$58

92 Patz & Hall 2015 Moses-Hall Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros). Smoky char meets noble reduction in this medium-bodied tightly wound wine. Youthfully grippy, it unravels slowly to show aromas and flavors of dark cherry, chocolate mint and forest floor, finding a balance between power and grace. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

92 Peake Ranch 2015 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a strong smoky character to this bottling, with pork roast and hickory smoke rising above the cranberry compote and orange rind aromas on the nose. The smoke extends to the sip as well, but there's also a strong and tangy pomegranate and sour cherry-flavor profile. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

92 Shane Wines 2014 La Reine Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Rich fruit flavors are accented by brown sugar and vanilla in this seductive and easy-drinking wine. It has a smooth soft texture, lots of ripeness and low acidity for a melting mouthfeel and sweet-seeming finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

92 Summerland 2014 Theresa Noelle Estate Producers Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Intriguing aromas of rust, kirsch, dusty leather, crushed star anise, white pepper and li hing mui spice make for an earthy spicy nose on this reserve

bottling. It's light in body and delicate in structure on the sip, combining baked earth, red fruit and a strong oregano touch on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

92 Terrigena 2014 Wiley Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). A classic light color and complex aromas like rhubarb, forest floor and raspberry precede lively red cherry, pomegranate and mushroom flavors on a lean and appetizing texture. This outstanding wine makes a great change of pace from the ponderous fruit-and-oak bombs. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

92 Walt 2015 Blue Jay Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This suave and complex wine has all the classic flavor characteristics like red cherry, black tea and cinnamon along with light oakiness and a luscious texture, a full body and a lingering finish. It feels on the soft side in terms of low acidity and light tannins, but its concentration is impressive. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

92 Zina Hyde Cunningham 2014 Julia's Estate Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is well structured and nicely balanced. It feels elegant on the palate and has an enticing array of complex aromas and flavors. Raspberry, wood smoke and tea scents are followed by nuances of plum, cedar and cinnamon, while fine-grained tannins and good acidity keep the mouthfeel fresh. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$68

91 Bouchaine 2015 Dijon Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

91 Bouchaine 2015 Estate Swan Pinot Noir (Carneros). This is an earthy wine interwoven in blueberry and tangy cranberry and pomegranate fruitiness. Light in texture and approach, it's as earthy as it is fruity, with subtle offerings of rose petal, cedar and sage. A citrus-like squeeze of acidity hits on the finish, a welcome goodbye. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

91 Cambria 2015 Mesa Terrace Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Rich and hearty black cherry, clove, star anise and vanilla team with a bit of crushed slate minerality on the nose of this block-designated bottling. Dark berries, cola, chaparral herbs and white pepper show on the sip, where squeaky tannins arise toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

91 Davies 2015 Hudson Vineyards Pinot Noir (Carneros). The second release from this site from this producer, Hudson provides bold, rich flavors of cherry coulis and blackberry, and a hint of chocolate-covered orange giving it both a decadent feel and a hit of freshness. Rose petal aromas add a pretty profile to the length and balance of acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

91 Flanagan 2016 Gap's View Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine is youthfully coiled and shy, a full-bodied expansion of brawny root, tar and bark flavors. Mild in tannin and structure, it offers aromas of rose garden and lavender, with a tangerine-like lift of acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$78

91 Furthermore 2014 Graton Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Tightly wound in its youth, this is a spicy integrated wine that offers black tea and baked strawberry-rhubarb flavors alongside bold aromas of rose petal and forest floor. Moderate structure supports the moderate ripeness and expansiveness on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

91 Furthermore 2014 Nevina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Savory cardamom and cola ride along a bright fresh core of fruity cherry in this well-made and balanced wine. Forest floor and a dash of white pepper contribute additional complexity and spice. This is a lighter take on coastal fruit. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Halcon 2015 Openlander Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This stand-out wine is not showy, and has nice fresh fruit flavors shaded by baking spices, a good, lightly gripping texture due to moderate tannins and supportive acidity, and a lingering finish. It's well balanced and not at all tiring to keep sipping. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35

91 Husch 2015 Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). A great example of a beautiful, focused wine, this medium-bodied offering from one of Anderson Valley's stalwarts has wonderful pure fruity aromas, a rich texture that's well supported by moderate tannins, and expressive red and black cherry flavors accented by cinnamon and allspice. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

91 Kokomo 2015 Gopher Hill Peters Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a soft, smooth and decadent wine, gritty in texture and firm in structure. Candied cherry pie is seasoned in cinnamon and clove with dried herb adding a savory twinge between the medium-bodied layers. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

91 La Montagne 2013 Kessler-Haak Clone 115 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Stewed cherry, sarsaparilla, shoe leather and incense aromas show on the nose of this clonal selection from a vineyard in the middle of the appellation. The palate is dominated by eucalyptus oil, pine needle and dewy juniper flavors, set against dark cranberry and black raspberry fruit. The finish is redolent with menthol and cedar. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$68

91 Longboard 2015 Mystos Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Generous in oak and quiet tannin, this is a ripely bold and fruity wine that manages to also be balanced and savory—the texture grainy and gritty. Cardamom, dried herb and cola play well against black cherry and rhubarb. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

91 Lumen 2014 Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). There is a strong floral character to the nose of this single vineyard bottling, with pungent carnation and violet as well as red currant, black raspberry and incense. The sip is energetic with tart acidity, yet the mouthfeel is soft, creamy and nearly chalky, showing cranberry and cherry tomato flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$52

91 Pali 2015 Rancho la Vina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fresh aromas of licorice-laced plum, chaparral herbs and pristine alpine strawberry show on the nose of this single vineyard expression. The clean palate balances tart and ripe flavors, with firm tannins veiling the fruit and spice, and a flash of thyme showing on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Papapietro Perry 2014 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This blends together the grapes of several vineyards within the appellation, including single-vineyard sites like Leras, Peters and Nunes. Brightly layered, it shines in strawberry and pomegranate tanginess, complemented by fresh acidity and a persistence of rose. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$53

91 Papapietro Perry 2014 777 Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wine has a fresh carbonic liveliness on the palate—a burst of bubbly cherry and pomegranate flavor that is supported by sturdy tannins. Toasted oak is complemented by Asian five-spice and pretty aromas of rose. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$74

91 Papapietro Perry 2014 Campbell Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine is juicy and broad in tannin, with a gritty layered texture of black cherry, blackberry and minty menthol. Cola spice rides along the palate with ease, providing a savory touch within a light-bodied weight. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$58

91 Seagrape 2015 Jump Up Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Light in color, this bottling shows suave pomegranate and piquant cranberry on the nose alongside subtle potpourri, bay leaf and juniper. The palate packs in wild forest flavors of sage, thyme and more bay leaf, with a slight hint of green olive giving complexity to the tart red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Shane Wines 2014 The Charm Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A wonderful combination of spices, fruits and good structure make this an outstanding wine. It has a spicy, lightly smoky

aroma that also includes black cherries, leading to deep cherry and berry flavors accented by cinnamon and clove. The texture is silky, supported by mild fine-grained tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

90 Dowdell 2014 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a blend of two well-regarded vineyards, Lucky Well and Silver Eagle, both farmed by Ulises Valdez. It casts a considerable shadow of brawn and beauty, balancing strawberry-puree flavors with an earthy undertone of forest pine. Big-boned, it alternates between richness and freshness. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$95

90 Experience 2013 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25

90 Old Soul 2015 Pinot Noir (Lodi). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

90 Pali 2015 Cargasacchi Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Very light aromas of pomegranate, vanilla dust and sweet pastry show on the nose of this bottling. The flavors are also quite subtle, with red currants, a touch of bitter cranberry and dried garden herbs. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$75

90 Pali 2015 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's bountiful red cherry on the fruit-driven nose of this bottling, alongside loamy soil, dried sage and mint. The flavors are fresh and bright, with red fruit and lifting herb tones that are completely integrated so that no component stands out above the others. The tannic structure arises on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Papapietro Perry 2014 Leras Family Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is an extracted, lightly woven together wine that's ethereal in style. Candied orange peel and strawberry-rhubarb mingle softly on the palate, as seasonings of Asian five spice and cola wander by. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$58

90 Papapietro Perry 2014 Pommard Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Brawny red fruit savory in pomegranate and cranberry highlight an earthy core of light-bodied ripeness and quiet richness in this clone-specific wine. The texture is crisp and velvety on the palate. The vineyards involved include Bucher, Peters and Leras. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$74

90 Peake Ranch 2015 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a strong amount of newer wood aroma to these early releases from this new project. This bottling shows ample charred oak as well as roasted cherries, damp earth and crushed

slate on the nose. Dark berries reveal themselves on the sip alongside oak smoke. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

90 Scheid Vineyards 2014 Doctor's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 15.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

90 Scheid Vineyards 2014 Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey). Thyme-laced pomegranate juice aromas, enhanced with baked earth, white pepper and tarragon, makes for an intriguing entry to this bottling. The texture is light and delicate, combining dried garden herbs and buoyant red-fruit flavors, and finishing on clove. This is an easy afternoon sipper. —M.K.
abv: 90% **Price:** \$50

90 Trombetta 2015 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

89 BriceLand 2014 Alderpoint Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). Firm acidity and a sour cherry flavor make this medium-bodied wine very palate-cleansing. It emphasizes liveliness and a light tannic grip over pure fruitiness, but it still delivers complex and attractive cherry and rhubarb flavors. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$35

89 BriceLand 2014 Ronda's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). This lively, rather lean wine has enticing spicy aromas and exotic fruit flavors on a frame of good acidity and firm tannins. Light touches of spicy oak add some complexity, and the texture is robust enough to pair with very rich proteins. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$35

89 Imagery 2016 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Bouchaine 2014 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). This is a light tart wine, cradled in herbaceousness and well-defined flavors of strawberry, cranberry and rhubarb. High in acidity and subtle in oak, it has a grainy texture piquant in cardamom spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

88 Brassfield 2014 Pinot Noir (High Valley). This is a good, well-made wine with an appetizing texture, modest but tasty cherry and raspberry flavors and full body. A little cedar and cinnamon help to spice up the aroma, and firm tannins give the mouthfeel good weight. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$24

88 Conclusion 2015 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). Oaky and reduced, this wine offers ripe black cherry, cola and subtle spice, with a streak of watermelon-fresh acidity.

Medium-bodied, it reveals an underlying earthiness under the toasty oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

88 District 7 Wines 2015 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Monterey). Light berry aromas meet with wet gravel and dank forest-floor elements of pine needle and juniper on the nose of this bottling. The earthy forest-moss flavor is prevalent on the sip, leveled by cranberry, pomegranate and smoke elements. It is a decent everyday Pinot. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 La Follette 2015 Pinot Noir (North Coast). This attractive wine smells fruity and spicy, almost liked mulled wine, and has a broad warm texture that makes it easy to sip. A deep color and soft finish complete the picture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 La Montagne 2013 Clone 4A Kessler-Haak Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a balsamic fig sauce touch to the nose of this clonal study, along with earthy soil, wild mint, iron and cherry. The flavors are very earthy and somewhat rustic as well, with touches of olive, sandalwood and dark red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Line 39 2015 Pinot Noir (California). Good balance and moderate concentration help make this medium-bodied wine easy to enjoy. It has pleasant and complex aromas and flavors like red cherry, black tea and a hint of sweet oak that combine very nicely and are supported by good acidity and fine tannins in the texture. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

88 Parducci 2015 Small Lot Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This powerful dry wine smells lightly earthy with lots of black cherry. It tastes rather taut and reserved due to very firm tannins and acidity, and has deep blackberry fruit underneath it all. It's very enjoyable in a dry style and will be great with food. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Sketchbook 2015 Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). Well structured due to firm tannins and acidity, this full-bodied wine is also a good value. It will pair well with the richest proteins and has lightly earthy and spicy aromas, vivid and taut flavors like fresh blackberries and a nicely gripping mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Truchard 2014 Pinot Noir (Carneros). This is a tart lively wine complex in forest floor, black tea and tangy flavors of cranberry, rhubarb and strawberry. It retains a medium-bodied weight that gives it breadth. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

88 Zoetic Wines 2015 Block 21 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). From a block within the

Hop Kiln Vineyard, this is made from 100% Pomard Clone grapes. Earthy in compost-like rusticity, it's intense in whole cluster-like spiciness, with a soft nose of rose petal and pomegranate. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$65

87 Barra of Mendocino 2015 Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This wine is full bodied, very ripe tasting and has a soft expansive mouthfeel. Touches of earth and barnyard join stewed plum flavors for a rustic but enjoyable taste profile. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Beringer 2016 Founders' Estate Pinot Noir (California). Plummy flavors and a broad, soft texture make this wine taste ripe and plush. It blends lightly smoky and oaky nuances with butter and jam that accentuate an almost sweet character. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$10

87 Castle Rock 2016 Kristy Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Light although sweet red-cherry-syrup aromas meet with iron and crushed sage on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling. The sip is simple yet tangy with tart red fruit, proving very easy to enjoy. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 En Garde 2014 Starkey Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Spicy mint and tobacco leaf linger around a lightly structured wall of tart earth and cola in this site-designate wine. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$55

87 Truchard 2015 Pinot Noir (Carneros). Medium in body and high in acidity, this herbal wine shows a tartness of sour cherry and baked rhubarb flavor, held tight within a subtle casing of oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

87 Zoetic Wines 2015 Hop Kiln Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wine is spicy and earthy, with brawny, rustic and ripe waves of cherry and vanilla at its core. Simple in structure it's robust in tannin and oak, aspects that persist on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$45

86 Kirkland Signature 2015 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Earthy in rose petal and forest floor, this wine is medium bodied and somewhat tannic, with a finesse of raspberry and strawberry flavor. It shows well and is made in volumes that provide affordability and accessibility. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$13

86 Lucky Rock Wine Co. 2016 County Cuvée Pinot Noir (San Benito County-Sonoma County-Monterey County). A heavy obvious oak component meets good ripe fruit flavors in this full-bodied mouth-filling wine. The aromas are charred and smoky, leading to almost jammy blackberry flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

85 Grayson 2016 Lot 5 Pinot Noir (California). This smooth wine has a soft texture, candylike fruit flavors and an earthy element that stretches from the first whiff to the lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Nine North Wine Company 2015 Chasing Lions Pinot Noir (California). An assertive butter and spice overlay makes this otherwise lean wine a little off-balance, but it's not hard to enjoy the vanilla and cedar aromas and crisp spare fruit flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Sean Minor 2016 Four Bears Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Subtle aromas of baked earth and pomegranate are very shy on the nose of this bottling. A slightly tart red-currant flavors pops on the sip, along with a touch of cinnamon. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

85 Terragena 2014 Seppa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a lightly ripe wine, possessed of pungent compost, black tea, sandalwood and mushroom aromas that follow through on the palate. The end is simple and tannic. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

84 Austerity 2016 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Baked red cherry, brown spice, wet gravel and sweet vanilla show on the nose of this bottling. The flavors trend toward muddy clay, bay leaf and light red currant. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

83 Block Nine 2016 Caiden's Vineyard Pinot Noir (California). This wine tilts heavily toward extremely oaky aromas and flavors that have a smoky, concocted flavor and nearly overpower any fruit components that might be underneath. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

99 Alpha Omega 2013 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). Dark and vibrant in color, this is a stellar, jaw-dropping wine, beautiful and powerful, in addition to velvety and complex. It captures a mountain appellation seamlessly, all brawny tannin and lengthy weight. Cranberry, cassis, pencil shavings and wild sage form around a grip of grit and stony mineral. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$225

98 Alpha Omega 2013 Beckstoffer Las Piedras Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This is a bright concentrated wine that's velvety in texture and tone. Dried red cherry and cassis complement an undeniably present flirtation of dusty gravel and rock, a taste of terroir that persists and pleases, as medium-bodied weight gives in to a breadth of spicy complexity. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$225

98 Alpha Omega 2013 Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Luxurious in brick, clove and a wealth of black-cherry pie, this is a beautiful succulent wine from the well-farmed site, silky in texture and integrated seamlessly with desirable oak. Saddle leather and black pepper dot the midpalate as a tangle of acidity weaves through, adding freshness and vibrancy. Cellar through 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$225

98 Hall 2014 Rainin Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$325

97 Alpha Omega 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a wow wine, half barrel-fermented and half fermented in stainless steel, that impresses from start to finish. Candied cassis and emphatic aromas of violet ride along a soft, delicately layered embrace of pillow tannin and an expansive finish of pepper and clove. It hints at complexities that are still developing in the bottle. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$98

96 Alpha Omega 2013 Sunshine Valley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). This is a firm wine, bombastic in tannin structure and oak, with a nuanced hint of noble reduction. Youthfully grippy in a thicket of tar, it bristles in black currant, black cherry and sage, dusted in mountain rock, black pepper and a delightful sniff of violet. Entirely barrel-fermented, it should do well in time, enjoyed best from 2023 through 2033 and quite possibly beyond. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$225

96 Calluna 2014 The Colonel's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Chalk Hill). This is from a small block of the proprietor's vineyard and made entirely from one variety. It's gorgeous and perfumed, grippy and hugely structured, with a bright exuberantly complex midpalate of intriguing plum and peppery clove. Gentle and balanced, it's enjoyable now, but will also age. Enjoy best 2024 through 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

96 Hall 2014 Bergfeld Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$175

96 J. Lohr 2014 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

95 Alpha Omega 2013 Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This is a powerfully tannic and oaky wine from a warm site and a warm vintage that doesn't deny its ripeness and concentration of flavor. Clove, red currant and

pencil shavings wrap around a gravelly core of mid-palate weight and power, as specks of dust and pepper reveal themselves on the lengthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$225

95 Alpha Omega 2013 Beckstoffer Georges III Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This is a beautifully understated and refined wine, savory in character with complex layers of black olive, lavender and black tea. Secondary characteristics come into play on the silky smooth palate, a mix of old-world cedar, pencil shavings, graphite and gun smoke. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$225

95 Alpha Omega 2013 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Entirely barrel-fermented, this deliciously crafted wine is a powerful embrace of grace and beauty, smooth and velvety thick, with a depth of complex layering. Blackberry and black cherry shine brightest amidst a dusty, rocky underbrush of sage and mineral. Built to age with its elegant structure, it will be hard to resist enjoying this wine now. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$225

95 Alpha Omega 2013 Era (Napa Valley). A conservative 4% Cabernet Franc adds floral aroma and subtle herbaceousness to this Cabernet Sauvignon, which bristles on the nose in sandalwood and hibiscus. The rounded rich flavors tend toward red cherry and cassis—big bold layers of concentration supported by well-integrated tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$275

95 Davies Vineyard 2014 Red Cap Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). This is an expansively rich, generous vineyard-designate from the high-elevation appellation. A wealth of plum, cherry, cassis and cola spice mingle effortlessly around a core of integrated tannin and oak, with handfuls of welcome floral aromas and spicy black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Jarvis 2012 Estate Grown Cave Fermented Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$160

95 Jarvis 2008 Estate Grown Cave Fermented Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$315

95 Robert Mondavi 2014 To Kalon Vineyard The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$173

95 Star Lane Vineyard 2013 Astral Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). The deft hand of winemaker Tyler Thomas, who was hired in 2014 but blended this vintage, already shows in this bottling, which shows aromas of black

currant, asphalt, spice cake, lava rocks, loam and a touch of tart black plum skin. The palate is peppery and herbally laced with bay, oregano and crushed pencil flavors, with tense but approachable tannins. Drink now through 2023. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$120

94 Hall 2014 Terra Secca Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$65

94 Stewart 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

93 Bookmark Wines 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$75

93 Davies Vineyard 2014 Winfield Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Spicy and wooded, this is a balanced wine, exotic in tart, tangy cranberry and dialed-high in firm acidity. Supportive supple tannins give it finesse and medium-bodied power. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$90

93 Justin 2013 Isosceles Reserve (Paso Robles). There's an impressive fresh quality to the nose of this blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc and 5% Merlot, with aromas of blackberry, juicy black plum, dill, lilacs and a dusting of vanilla. The fruit-forward palate grabs the attention immediately with black currant, pepper dust, roast beef crust and more purple flowers, with tannins and acidity rising strong on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 16.5% Price: \$105

93 Mira 2013 Schweizer Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dusty and chalky tannins and oak grasp robust black fruit and licorice in this full-bodied well-made wine, aged for two years in 100% new French oak. Leather, tobacco and clove contribute complexity to the lengthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$185

93 Round Pond 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$110

92 Claudine 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). For full review see page 10. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$58

92 Ehret 2012 Hillside Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Winemaker Nick Goldschmidt is behind this thick tannic wine, blended with nearly 17% Cabernet Franc. With big shoulders and a depth of extraction, it shines in forest pine, dark plum and dark chocolate—the oak toasty and robust. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

92 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Perfumed in cherry, vanilla and cassis, this wine offers dusty brawny tannins that surround a silky supple palate of pronounced texture. Sticky on the finish, it has room to age. It is enjoyable now in its firm grasp of ripe fruit and layered depth. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

92 The Farm Winery 2014 LPF (Adelaida District). Dense aromas of woody blackberry, hints of bay leaf and thyme and a dusting of crushed graphite show on this elegant blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Petit Verdot. It's a very regal wine on the palate, with firm upright tannins conveying flavors of black plum, leather, tobacco and black pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$65

92 Treana 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

92 Vineyard 511 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$149

91 Abbot's Passage 2014 Due West Nun's Canyon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). A 100% varietal wine from a high-elevation site, this dark wine is herbal and soft, supple in texture despite considerable ripeness and power. Violet aromas mellow a fistful of dark chocolate and baked plum, as smoky oak wanders by. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$85

91 Archimedes 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). With 21% Malbec, this is a robustly impressive wine, smoky in oak, with teases of brick, cola and baked plum. Softly plush, it offers lasting acidity and freshness within a context of ripe power. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

91 Bennett Lane 2013 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Given nearly two years in 30% new French oak, this aged wine is thickly wrapped in blackberry bramble and solidly built tannins, with a baked quality to the fruit. Robust oak leans into full-bodied concentrated flavors of tobacco, clove and mocha. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$105

91 En Garde 2013 Touché Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a reserve-tier wine that blends in Cabernet Sauvignon from both Diamond Mountain and Mount Veeder, in addition to 8% Cabernet Franc (Mount Veeder) and 3% Merlot (Diamond Mountain). Made in a tiny amount, it speaks in rich rapturous tones of chocolate-

raspberry truffle wrapped in coconut, oak and soft rounded tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$180

91 Franciscan 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

91 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2013 Beatty Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). A dense luxurious nose introduces plummy chocolate mocha flavors in this soft well-integrated wine from the producer's estate vineyard. High-elevation grippiness defines the serious tannin profile, suggesting further time in bottle or time to develop in the glass. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$125

91 Luna 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Made from 100% varietal grapes, the wine aged 22 months in 65% new French oak. This is a robustly crafted, powerfully concentrated experience, thick and hugely extracted in black fruit and black pepper. Leathery in texture, it has a fistful of oak that should settle down with cellaring. Enjoy best 2024 through 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$150

91 Pech Merle 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Sourced from the Blue Rock Vineyard, this contains 8% Cabernet Franc, an addition that contributes violet aromatics. Crayon wax, plum and juicy cherry-blackberry are wrapped within integrated tannin and plenty of lasting power seasoned in black pepper and clove. —V.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$53

91 Round Pond 2015 Kith and Kin Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$35

91 Round Pond 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 13. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.7% Price: \$60

91 Sodaro 2014 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Reduced, this wine is supple and succulent in raspberry, plum and cherry-like cassis. Firm, integrated tannins give it structure to spare and a place to hang its ripeness. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$100

90 Croma Vera 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Hearty and rather complex aromas show on the nose of this bottling, including black cherry, vanilla, cocoa dust, hickory smoke and coconut. The palate is dominated by baking spice and gingerbread flavors, set against a blackberry and caramel backbone, but the impressive part is the chalky firm tannins that hold up the flavors quite nicely. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

90 Gundlach Bundschu 2014 Vintage Reserve (Sonoma Valley). A blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec and 1% Merlot, this is a hearty sanguine red wine, with highlights of eucalyptus, peppercorn and billowy tobacco-laden tannin. Well integrated, it shows plenty of oak and inky concentration. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

90 J. McClelland 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Paratus 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). This wine offers a significance of herbal undertones and wild exotic brush, a nod to its mountain growing location and this particular appellation. Pencil shavings, flowers and leathery texture bookend strong firm tannins and smoky oak, the core braced in black currant and cassis. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Rolling Plains 2013 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This is an impressive wine at the price point, sanguine and meaty, with medium-bodied density and highlights of cassis. Bright and well integrated, it's food friendly and ready to please a crowd. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Viluko 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

90 Viluko 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

89 Hawley 2013 Hawley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). With 13% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc, all the grapes organically grown, this red is hugely concentrated in flavors of chocolate and graham cracker. Red currant comes to the fore of a grippy chewy texture of tight-grained tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$49

89 La Honda Winery 2015 Salinian Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Heavy cedar and incense aromas meet with blackberry and dark chocolate on the nose of this block-designated Cab. The palate is dominated by savory wood flavors of charred oak along with bay leaf, oregano, cocoa dust, black olive and a red-fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

89 Leto 2013 The Hidden One Old Vine Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Thick and dusty in cedar and a touch of smoke, this robustly ripe wine leans into thickets of brambly black currant and blackberry dipped in chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$85

88 Arbor Bench Vineyards 2012 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). This is an extracted, softly layered wine, generous on the palate in dark brooding cherry, blackberry and cassis. Additional elements lean richer and more concentrated, highlighted by chocolate, leather and tobacco. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Avensole 2014 South Slope Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley). There are strong aromas of spearmint and licorice on the nose of this bottling, set against a background of black cherry and tangy strawberry. The sip is very energetic and chalky in structure, with flavors of tangy red fruit, licorice, bay leaf, milk chocolate and vanilla on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

88 Coniglio 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dusty red currant combines with toasty oak in this structured integrated wine that holds its ripeness with grace. Bright acidity supports the overall weight and concentration. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$60

88 District 7 Wines 2015 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey). Still tight on the nose, this well-priced bottling shows tar, black pepper, dried cherries, leather and crushed pencil aromas. The sip starts with sweetish black currant before cedary spice, black olive and wood smoke take hold. The tannins are soft and polished. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Napa Cellars 2014 V Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This is a 100% varietal wine, leathery and earthy in approach and style. Full bodied and extracted in bold brawny black fruit, it offers accents of pencil and wax. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 Paskett 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). An element of spicy oak helps give this medium-bodied wine some extra complexity, and blends well with the moderately ripe black-cherry flavors. The mouthfeel is smooth, making it easy to sip and enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$27

88 Pegasus Estate 2014 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Light and pleasant aromas of red cherry and cedar are lifted by peppercorn, dried herbs and the slightest hint of dried chile on the nose of this bottling. It's a lighter bodied and easy to enjoy wine on the palate, with red cherry, dried herbs, roasted cocoa, a touch of pine needle and a bit of wood smoke. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

88 Sanctuary 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This is a testament to oak, having aged in 80% new French barrels for 15 months. Ripe and intense, it melds tart black olive and clove with plush rounded layers of caramel and coffee. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$40

88 Summit Lake 2013 Emily Kestrel Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Muted in leathery tobacco, this is a thick wine sticky in woody tannin and dusty stoniness. Decadent and concentrated, it offers layers and layers of blackberry and chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

88 Uphill Vineyards 2013 Jimmy's Dream Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Amador County). This wine has good natural-tasting fruit flavors and the appropriate firm tannins, plus medium to full body and a mouth-filling texture. It's a solid well-made choice in a non-oaky style wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

87 AuburnJames 2009 Bella Vista Vineyard Block 2 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Hugely oaky, this wine also features a dustiness on the nose and palate, alongside woody tannin. Black olive and dried herb give it an herbaceous quality that belies its full-bodied richness and ripe core. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$75

87 Austerity 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Relatively elegant aromas of black currant, blueberry, loam, oregano and thyme show on the nose of this widely available bottling. The palate is simpler, with cocoa dust, black cherry, pepper and tannins that tighten into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 La Honda Winery 2013 Lonehawk Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Rich blackberry and candied black-cherry aromas meet with strong cedar, roast beef, smoke, olive, soy and a tarry quality on the nose of this bottling. It's very dry and sticky with tannins on the sip, which relegate the flavors of red cherry and roasting herbs to the background. The 100% American oak treatment remains prominent, so this may evolve more favorably with time. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

87 Midnight 2014 Nebula Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Light black cherry aromas meet with a bit of rose petal, vanilla and pie crust on the rustic nose of this bottling. It's easy sipping on the palate, where roasted red berries meet with hot earth and a touch of charred beef. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$44

86 Caricature 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Clarksburg). Very ripe fruit flavors and a sweet brown-sugar impression make this medium-bodied wine showy in the vein of a red blend. It feels rather soft on the palate and a hint of sweetness carries through on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

86 Castle Rock 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Light and fresh on the nose, this bottling has aromas of black olive, chile pepper, red cherry, cranberry and crushed pencils. The herbal

character shows loudly on the palate, alongside cocoa, tart red cherry and cooked olives. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Kelly Family Vineyards 2014 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Bob Pepi is listed as the winemaker for this tightly woven, understated effort, which shines in red and black currant as well as blackberry succulence. Smoky, it finishes in warmer richer tones of bacon and leather. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$85

86 Lorenzi Estate 2013 The Neighbor's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley). Lush and accessible aromas of ripe cherries, strawberries, lilacs and cigar box show on the boisterous nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit more simple, with dark red fruit, sandalwood, a hint of star anise and a purple-flower flavor that's a bit over the top. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

86 Luna 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This combines grapes from St. Helena and Yountville appellations, as well as 15% Petite Sirah. Dull on the nose, it has an herbal persistence of cedar and sage backed by plenty of tannin and planks of oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

86 Mountain Terraces 2014 Taylor's Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). From a site high atop Glen Ellen's eastern edge, this estate-grown wine is brawny in leather, with a touch of sweetness to the oak. Robust wood flavor and tannin combine to emphasize the force and concentration of this wine, which has a puckering sensation of cedar and violet. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

86 Murphy-Goode 2013 Alden Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). From a high-elevation site, this wine opens mildly before a fierce grip of tannin and power take hold. Sticky black fruit, cedar and somewhat harsh tannins give it a brawny rustic quality. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

86 Sand Point 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). Sweet-seeming shadings of oak complement substantial fruit flavors like black cherry and blackberry in this fresh concentrated wine. It has good acidity and mild tannins for that welcome grip on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$12

86 Save Me San Francisco 2014 California 37 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This aromatic wine exudes smoky spicy oaky aromas that continue on the palate, joining good cherry and blackberry flavors and mingling on a smooth texture. It's overtly oaky but has enough fruit to provide counterbalance. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Treasure 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This wine has a distinctly strong element of cured meat and salami on the nose, before it lunges wholeheartedly into chocolate, cedar and tobacco tones. Soft significant tannins wrap around the flavors in an impenetrable way. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

85 Ben Ish 2016 Ben's Select Santiago Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Mokelumne River). Sweet-seeming oak aromas and cherry-jam flavors dress up this bright, pleasant and rather light-bodied wine. Kosher. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Geyser Peak 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This medium-bodied wine could pass for a cherry cola, with its fruity aroma, rather tart balance and flavors like cinnamon and cola. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

85 Grayson 2016 Lot 10 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Quite oaky in style, this wine starts with menthol and charred-wood aromas followed by flavors like smoked meat and marinated black cherries. It has full body and a thick texture that helps it cling to the palate. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Old Soul 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). Syrupy oak flavors dominate modest fruit notes in this medium-bodied, ripe and almost sweet wine. Tart cherry and raspberry flavors underneath give some fruity support. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

85 Peter Cellars 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Softly tannic, this is a simple juicy wine, lightly ripe in blackberry and black currant. Secondary flavors come to the fore in the mid-palate, dipped in milk chocolate and soy. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$58

85 Santo Stefano 2013 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a fairly green and astringent wine, with full-bodied concentration and thick tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

85 SomeWine 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This light to medium-bodied wine has a piney aroma, light cherry and blueberry flavors and very soft tannins. It's a pleasant, pop style of wine with a suggestion of sweetness. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$13

85 Treasure 2012 Joseph Proprietary Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a blend of two barrels and it contains a strong lingering notion of cured meat and Italian delicatessen. Thick green tannins spark ongoing flavors of cedar and tobacco within a full-bodied concentrated package. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

85 Truth & Valor 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Smoke, red cherry and a hint of rubber show on the nose of this bottling. There is a tangy black-plum flavor on the palate, with hints of dried chile pepper and beef jerky. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

84 Criss Cross 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Clarksburg). Beefy in body and also in flavor, this full-bodied wine brings aromas like singed rosemary and flavors like maraschino cherries and barbecue sauce. It has moderate tannins for a grippy mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$17

84 Frelander 2016 District One Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Candied cherry and charred oak flavors tumble through this jazzed up medium-bodied wine along with cherry-syrup flavors and a candied impression on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Iron Side 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A smoky dried-meat aroma and rich fruit flavors make a bit of an unusual combination in this medium-bodied smooth-textured wine. It has an element of oak spice and a hint of sweetness too. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$15

84 Member's Mark 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Charred cedar, peppercorn and hints of pasilla and ancho chiles show on the nose of this bottling. The pyrazine-powered chile-pepper flavor is very strong on the sip, ranging from crushed green peppercorns to mole sauce, set against a background of plum, boysenberry and coffee. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

83 Bel Vino 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a mature, ready-to-drink wine with a brownish tinge in the color, and an aged aroma like cola and cedar with a touch of barnyard. The flavors are earthy and rather lean. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

82 Crane Family 2014 Don Raffaele Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is steeped in eucalyptus and bay leaf, with a floral aroma that's hard to pin down. Its structure somewhat flat. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

CABERNET FRANC

89 Dracaena 2015 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Plenty of pepper and dark red cherry aromas meet with crushed asphalt, beef char and a touch of tar on the nose of this bottling. There is decent energy to the sip, where roasted black cherry, pepper-crust beef and hints of rosewater

BUYINGGUIDE

and oregano make for a very quaffable wine, perfect for backyard barbecues. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$32

88 Lorenzi Estate 2013 Estate Grown Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Freshly pressed raspberries and boysenberries meet with cherry syrup, baking spice and distilled rosewater on the nose of this bottling, which is interesting if not particularly Cab Franc-like. Though framed by somewhat wobbly tannins, the palate is lighter than expected, with licorice, lavender and boysenberry flavors, plus a touch of pepper in the background. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

86 Gershon Bachus 2013 Erato Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Quite dark in the glass, this bottling is a good stab at lesser ripe fruit from Temecula, although the aromas are still very primary, with Concord grape and grape seed most prominent. Black-fruit flavors meet with black licorice and clove on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$49

MALBEC

92 Thirty-Seven Wines 2014 Reserve Malbec (Sonoma Coast). This is a luscious, oaky and smoky red wine, with firm integrated tannins. Spicy acidity provides a freshness against the ripe fruit, leaning floral on the nose and offering plenty of length. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$46

91 Hess 2014 Small Block Series Malbec (Mount Veeder). A broadly defined, soft round red wine made with the utmost attention and time in French oak, this estate-driven effort is impressive in strawberry, cherry and blueberry cobbler goodness, rich flavors that wrap around substantial tannins. The persistent sensibility on the nose is floral in violet and mountain sage. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58

90 Viluko 2013 Malbec (Sonoma County). Brushy in forest floor, this is a soft, velvety and bright red wine, with well-integrated oak that never takes over. A taste of cherry, blueberry and graham cracker combine nicely. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

89 Kokomo 2015 Timber Crest Vineyard Malbec (Dry Creek Valley). Juicy red fruit is powerfully wound around a core of toasted oak and blueberry cobbler richness in this vineyard-designate, which finishes ripe and round. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$38

88 Arbor Bench Vineyards 2013 Estate Malbec (Dry Creek Valley). This is a bright and expansive wine, brick in color, with aromas and flavors of bread, black cherry and leather. Grippy and

powerful, it has a whiff of violet and plenty of length on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

86 Arbor Bench Vineyards 2012 Estate Malbec (Dry Creek Valley). Gritty, with explosive power midpalate, this has a tartness of acidity that stands up to a softness of texture and tangy red fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

85 Arbor Bench Vineyards 2014 Estate Malbec (Dry Creek Valley). This wine has a grip to it that hits hard on the palate—a somewhat astringent turn to the tannins. Red fruit and violet work hard to integrate within a full-bodied concentration. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

84 AuburnJames 2013 La Cerezas Vineyard Malbec (Napa Valley). This is a leathery wine, a bit thick yet soft in texture, with a full-bodied ripeness of cherry and oaky vanilla. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

84 Imagery 2015 Upper Ridge Vineyard Malbec (Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak). This wine is a bit flat in black fruit and moderate structure. It is soft and round but lacking somewhat in varietal character. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

MERLOT

91 Hall 2014 Merlot (Napa Valley). Hugely concentrated, this wine has power to spare, within its full-bodied richness and fruity succulence. Blackberry, black cherry and milk chocolate combine effortlessly to provide a pleasurable experience of complexity met by supportive acidity and exotic spice. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$40

91 LXV 2015 X Reserve Cira Vineyard Merlot (Paso Robles). Concentrated aromas of black cherry, earthy rust, cedar and warm vanilla make for a very pleasing and standard nose on this bottling. There is a lot of baking spice on the palate as well as plums, black cherries, sandalwood and a hint of cocoa, making for a complex sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65

91 Stewart Cellars 2013 Brokenrock Ranch Merlot (Napa Valley). This is a highly impressive wine that's 100% varietal and blissfully well-priced. Dusty blackberry cobbler comes first to mind, held in check by robust tannin and powerful structure. A wine that will appeal to Cabernet Sauvignon fans, it balances that power with a soft side embedded in peppery clove. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Flanagan 2014 Merlot (Bennett Valley). This is a sanguine Old World-style wine, rounded in tannin and generously soft. Coconut, bay

leaf, cherry and vanilla give it a yin and yang quality that flirts with both savory and rich flavors, finding balance despite its full-bodied concentration. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

88 Educated Guess 2015 Merlot (Napa County). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Oak Mountain 2014 Estate Merlot (Temecula Valley). Subtle dark-berry aromas meet with hearty spices, including pepper dust, cigar box and wood varnish. The oak is prominent throughout, with flavors of pine, bay leaf, eucalyptus oil and dried cherries on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$30

85 Y Rousseau 2014 Pèpè Cavedale Vineyard Merlot (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This is from a site 2,000-feet high in elevation, and made in tiny amounts. It opens with a massive concentration of plum and up-front tannin, imparting heady oak aromas and power. The finish is simple and bright in cassis. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

84 City Winery Chicago 2015 Reserve Merlot (Napa Valley). This wine offers an herbaceous nose of dusty gravel, bell pepper and thick black cherry, the body somewhat thin and simple in structure. The tannins pierce through on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

84 Kings' Range 2014 Merlot (Paso Robles). Really flat on the nose, this shows aromas of black cherry and cedar. The palate offers bland cherry and blackberry fruit with a hint of pepper and leather. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$12

GRENACHE

94 Chesebro 2013 CM Ranch Grenache (Carmel Valley). Brawny aromas of wild boysenberries, bay leaf, black cardamom, wet soil and black tobacco recall a tumble through the rugged chaparral on the nose of this bottling. The palate's black fruit and violet flavors mingle with lavender, chai spice, clove, black pepper and more tobacco, framed by firm tannins. This represents a tremendously complete sensory experience. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

94 Clementine Carter 2015 Grenache Gris (Ballard Canyon). There's a very Gamay-like quality to this bottling, with loads of crushed gravel and schist-like minerality sprinkled atop light cranberry, crushed carnations and slightly ripe raspberry. It hits the palate softly then comes a sharp acidity and then that mellows to allow soil-driven flavors and candied red fruit to combine seamlessly. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Jaffurs 2015 Grenache (Santa Barbara County). The nose on this countywide blend is extremely elegant and lovely, with light rose petals, pressed black plums and crushed violets. There's a tremendously grippy texture to the sip, providing a pure tension that delivers flavors of purple fruit and rosewater. It's a testament to the versatility of the variety. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

94 Kaena 2015 Ali'i Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Bountiful boysenberry fruit shows alongside a muddy loamy clay minerality on the nose of bottling, which is lifted further by crushed lavender aromas. The palate's rounded berry fruit is complemented by cherry wood smoke, grippy tannins and strong acidity. The slate and clay character provides a compelling backbone. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$50

94 Kaena 2015 Larner Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon). Mikael Sigouin extracts the rich side of Grenache in most of his bottlings, and this is an excellent example. Deep and stunning aromas of lilac, cola, red cherries, strawberry-balsamic glaze, black cardamom and sharp sandalwood lead into a palate that's lavish with chai spice, dried ginger and cherry-cordial flavors. Tannins pile up toward the finish and the acidity sings through it all. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$52

93 Casa Dumetz 2015 Thompson Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Light in color, this wine's beautiful nose shows freshly pressed raspberry, dewy tarragon, fennel and lavender aromas—a showcase of aromatic elegance. Immensely fresh and inviting flavors pop on the palate, from tart strawberry and green fennel to rose petals and rosewater, all framed by a long-simmering acidity. It would work well with either white fish or roasted pork. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Central Coast Group Project 2013 Faces Grenache (Ballard Canyon). Very light in color, this unique wine shows peppery figs, plum paste, rust and star anise spice on the fascinating nose. It's light in body with a great textural grip, offering up a distinct stew of flavors, including macerated orange, plum, Christmas spice, sarsaparilla, coffee candies and a white-pepper-dust finish. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$75

92 Birichino 2015 Besson Vineyard Old Vines Grenache (Central Coast). Strawberry, red plum and dried rose petals float atop a very rocky core on the nose of this old vine expression, where wet gravel and crushed river stones serve as a backdrop. The palate is bouncy and fresh with wild raspberry set against crushed-concrete minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

91 Bolero Cellars 2014 Garnacha (Temecula Valley). Aromas of dried cherry, iron and smoke

are set against a mineral-driven backdrop of volcanic soil, wet gravel and slate on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit like sucking on gravel at first: very schist-driven and flint-like. Then come waves of pomegranate, carnation and, on the finish, vanilla. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Casa Dumetz 2015 Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Sonja Magdevski is exploring what Grenache can do across Santa Barbara County, and this appellation blend is a bit more simple than her single-vineyard expressions, but gives a great sense of what she is up to. Purple hibiscus, light mulberry, rooibos tea and exotic cherries show on the fresh nose, while the palate is delicate with hints of plum, black raspberry, star anise and vanilla dust. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Central Coast Group Project 2013 Twilight Idol Thompson Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Quite light, cloudy and blood-orange colored in the glass, this oxidative bottling from Thompson Vineyard, which spent 140 days on skins, is unlike any Grenache on the market. Aromas of plum, fig, pepper, strawberry wine and balsamic vinegar lead into a palate of sour red plum and white pepper. Fascinating for wine geeks, though perhaps too weird for most. —M.K.
abv: 16.4% **Price:** \$75

91 Kaena 2015 Tierra Alta Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon). Plump, dark strawberry, lavish kirsch, along with cola, cinnamon and all-spice show on the nose of this rich bottling from a vineyard on the small appellation's northern end. Vanilla, caramel and cherry-jubilee flavors show on the ripe sip, where a solid tannic tension arises on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$48

91 Pomar Junction 2014 Grenache (El Pomar District). Cherry compote, warm cinnamon bread, plump raspberry and a hint of star anise make for a rich and spicy nose on this bottling. The palate shows similar character, with plush, soft and warm tones of red cherry and light clove spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

90 Birichino 2014 Besson Vineyard Old Vines Grenache (Central Coast). There's a rather extreme minerality in play on this old-vine bottling, with wet gravel, scree and crushed slate leading the nose alongside crushed carnations, rose petals and touch of dark-plum fruit. Muddy chalky clay tones carry that vibe into the sip, only allowing a slight berry flavor to rise above. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

90 Kaena 2015 La Presa Vineyard Grenache (Los Olivos District). Swarthy aromas of cooked black cherry, root beer, vanilla, cinnamon, clove and shaved eucalyptus show on the nose of

this bottling. The flavors are very minty with sweet bay leaf, juniper and more eucalyptus, proving quite a mouthful. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$40

88 Croma Vera 2015 Grenache (Paso Robles). Dense black plums, crushed black rocks and a dollop of vanilla, star anise and licorice show on the rather rich nose of this bottling. The flavors are a tad woody, with cigar box quite prominent, as well as roasted game and dark minty cherries. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$42

88 Kaena 2014 Tierra Alta Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon). Concentrated fruit aromas of red plum, reduced strawberry and gingerbread are a bit much on the nose of this bottling. The cooked flavors are very kirsch-like, with concentrated cherry and plum, yet there is still a compelling tannic structure and a strong acidity. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$46

SYRAH

96 Sanguis 2014 1/1 Syrah (Central Coast). Interesting and intense aromas of baked bread and coffee syrup combine with deep plum fruit, shaved chocolate, toasted wood and hints of caramel and white pepper on the nose of this excellent Syrah. The palate is framed by suave, chalky tannins, carrying dynamic and delicious flavors of black currant, blackberry, black pepper and roasted espresso beans. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Bonny Doon 2014 X Block Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). This is a tremendous example of a cool-climate Syrah, enhanced by 12% Viognier, with cracked black peppercorn, gamy lamb meat, tarragon, rosemary, soy sauce, mint and black currant all present on the nose. The pepper-crusting meat flavor with blackberry jam shows strongly on the sip, finishing with hints of butterscotch and vanilla. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

95 Sanguis 2014 Bossman Syrah (Central Coast). Extreme amounts of roasted beef and grilled lamb aromas meet with rosemary, bay leaf and crushed rainbow peppercorns for a deliciously savory and spicy nose on this bottling, which uses a touch of Viognier but doesn't offer any overt fruit. Those meaty qualities ride into the palate, where burnt bacon flavors meet with tar, black pepper and a hint of black currant. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

94 Peake Ranch 2015 John Sebastiano Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). The attention-grabbing nose of this dark and brooding bottling shows plenty of ethereal aromas of hickory smoke, violet oil, cola, pepper dust, teriyaki and burnt bacon, all surrounded by the essence of purple fruit. The sip is

super savory with loads of crushed pepper, roasted boar, duck fat and charred beef, with lilac on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Saint K 2016 Old Potrero Vineyard Syrah (Arroyo Grande Valley). Thick and dark in the glass, this is a very roasty wine on the nose, with aromas of toasted chocolate, smoked beef, hearty blackberry and a bit of purple-flower freshness. Charred meat flavors make for a savory palate, which is balanced by tart black plum and blueberry flavors and cut by a hint of lavender. —M.K.

abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$33

93 Central Coast Group Project 2013 Captain Kierk AKA The Knightwalker Lerner Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Extra-long macerations by winemaker Scott Sampler add intriguing complexity to his wines, including this bottling from Lerner Vineyard. The nose combines a wide array of herbs with white pepper dust, gamy meat, condensed purple flowers and dark fruit. There's a touch of balsamic to the sip, where coffee, black currant and blackberry flavors meet with leather and roasted beef. —M.K.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Central Coast Group Project 2012 Names White Hawk Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Scott Sampler sources from White Hawk Vineyard for this bottling, which offers hearty aromas of cooked red cherry, smoked meats, sweet tar, stewed figs and condensed coffee. The palate is fresh with pressed blackberry and violet flavors, but it's the velvety texture that's most compelling. The finish shows spice cake, black pepper and soy. —M.K.

abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$75

93 Foxen 2015 Tinaquaic Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Hearty black plum and blackberry sauce show on the nose of this excellent bottling along with black pepper, lilacs, black cardamom, lamb and rosemary. It's soft and polished on the palate, with a creamy texture that tightens toward the finish, showing black currant, plum skin acidity and leathery game flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

93 Jaffurs 2014 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Lush, rich and lovely on the nose, this bottling shows vanilla, black currant, chocolate cake, cola and teriyaki aromas. The texture and flavors are much softer and mellower than expected from the bombastic nose, with smooth black plum, sweetened espresso and purple flowers. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Jaffurs 2014 Thompson Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). There's a compelling amount of freshness and vivacity for a Syrah in this bottling, starting with aromas of boysenberry juice, wild thyme, wisteria and sweet peppercorn sauce. Crushed lilacs and lavender meet with

black-currant jam and black pepper on the palate, which deftly combines ripe fruit with a savory side.

Editors' Choice. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Stolpman 2015 Angeli Syrah (Ballard Canyon). For the winery's more serious bottling, this is a very fresh and lively wine rather than austere and regal, with boisterous lilacs, violets, smashed plums and boysenberries on the nose. Candied blackberry shows on the sip, which is relatively lighter in texture and body, with hints of hickory smoke as well. These flavors will stay vibrant for years, and merge with time. Drink 2019–2030. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

93 Stolpman 2015 Estate Grown Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Very rich and lush aromas of black currant that are zesty rather than overripe meet with hints of chaparral, cherry wood smoke and sweet lavender on the nose of this wine. There's a strong sagebrush quality to the sip, with blackberry sauce and peppercorn husks in the midpalate. The acidity is prime, the tannins are just sticky enough. Drink now through 2030. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

92 Heath Vineyards 2014 Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Freshly pressed blueberries, tar, violets and baked blackberry cake show on the dense nose of this bottling by a winery in Texas. The sip is surprisingly delicate at first, with extreme floral flavors that are cut by black-currant cookies, char, black pepper and tar. The acidity rises into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75

92 Jaffurs 2014 Kimsey Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Purple flowers, blueberry cream and a caramel richness live on the nose of this single-vineyard expression from one of the newer properties in the region. The mouthfeel is dense, the tannins are stiff and the acidity is bright, carrying flavors of charred meat, purple flowers, black pepper and extremely dark berries. It's still young, so drink 2019–2029. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

92 Jaffurs 2014 Upslope Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Pencil shaving aromas kick off this winery's top-shelf bottling, and then come hints of char, delicate but strong purple flowers and a core of blueberry on the nose. There is a tarry grip to the palate, where flavors of charred boysenberry, lilac and burnt caramel are very clean and elegant. —M.K.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

92 Santa Barbara Winery 2014 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). The humble veteran Bruce McGuire has been making Syrah for decades, and this bottling offers stunning value. Lively aromas of tart black plum skins, white pepper, tar and rainy asphalt lead into a refreshingly acidic though complex sip with flavors of lavender, potpourri and blackberry

juice that float across the palate. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$20

92 Zenaida Cellars 2014 Syrah (Templeton Gap District). Cola, baked black cherry, crushed gravel, spice cake and root beer aromas make for a very inviting nose on this bottling from one of Paso Robles' cooler regions. A baked-goods flavor starts the sip before crisp, tangy fruit, penetrating acidity and chalky tannins take hold. —M.K.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

91 Azios 2013 Paradise Road Syrah (Santa Barbara County). There are ample amounts of cola, stewed black cherry, star anise and sarsaparilla spice on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard deep up the Santa Ynez River. Black currant and violet flavors kick off the sip, which is framed by firm, sticky tannins and lifted by crushed Tellicherry peppercorns. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Jaffurs 2015 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Boysenberry compote, wet asphalt, black peppercorns and dried thyme make for a classic and compelling nose on this countywide blend. Rustic sagebrush and wild thyme flavors show on the sip, set against dark red plums and a gravelly minerality. —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

91 Stolpman 2015 Originals Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Smashed blackberry and mulberry mingle with black pepper and beef char on the nose of this bottling. It's still extremely young on the palate, not quite ready to release its bounty, but flavors of seared beef, tar, crushed marjoram, white pepper and forest floor indicate a compelling future. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42

89 Grey Wolf Cellars 2015 Predator Syrah (Paso Robles). Dried blueberries and plums, leather, tobacco, tar and baked goods show on the nose of this bottling, which is enhanced by 15% Petite Sirah and 10% Monastrell. The palate also shows a somewhat dried character of blueberry and Concord grape, with a touch of tar, framed by decent structure and fine acidity. —M.K.

abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$40

ZINFANDEL

93 Carlisle 2015 Montafi Ranch Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Brawny and expansive in dusty minerality, this dry wine is velvety thick and floral in violet aromas. Blackberry, cherry and an herbal undercurrent of menthol work together seamlessly to provide complexity and bold swathes of persistent flavor. —V.B.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$47

93 Hendry 2014 Blocks 7 and 22 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). This is a delicate spicy wine

despite its robust ripeness and brawny underside. Compost and brambly brush combine with blackberry and an undeniably delicious streak of white pepper, making for a complex, complete wine that's enjoyable from start to finish. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$36

92 Miro 2015 Ponzo Vineyard Old Vines Reserve Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

92 Ousterhout 2012 Bradford Mountain Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This is a brawny leathery red with voluptuous black fruit and a taste of black pepper. Grippy, it offers plenty of structure and complexity to suggest long-term enjoyment, and is a good versatile call for the table. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Zenaida Cellars 2015 Zinfandel (Templeton Gap District). Quite lovely aromas of rose petals, raspberry framboise, gravel, baked earth, vanilla and caramel show on the inviting nose of this bottling. There is an intriguing peppery spice and herbal character of thyme, bay leaf and oregano on the sip, all set against a backdrop of exotic cherry. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Bear Flag 2015 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$30

91 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2014 Beatty Ranch Zinfandel (Howell Mountain). This comes from the producer's own estate and from its top blocks of old vines. Spiced, it's also herbal in cedar and sandalwood, in addition to black licorice. Thick and spicy, it has enough acidity to brighten denser pockets of blackberry and black cherry. It shows plenty of structure for long-term enjoyment. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Kokomo 2015 Winemaker's Reserve Timber Crest Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Brawny and fully ripe in knock-down layers of tobacco, leather and baked dark fruit, this wine succeeds in its embrace of thick concentration and velvety luxuriousness. Richly robust, it finishes dusted in black pepper and cinnamon toast. —V.B.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$38

91 Leonard 2014 Branham Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

90 Birichino 2015 Saint Georges Old Vines Zinfandel (Central Coast). Fresh and broad aromas of strawberry and red currant meet with peppercorns and crushed oregano on the nose of this bottling of old-vine Zin from southern Santa Clara County. It's a lighter style on the palate, with

bright red plums, crushed river rock and a good helping of herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Bodkin 2014 Peaceland Vineyards Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Red-fruit-driven, this is a light, elegant version of the variety, unexpected in tight tannin and with a grainy dry carpet of texture. Cranberry and currant dominate and maintain a fresh tangy quality to the taste. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

90 David Clinton 2014 Teldeschi Vineyard Ancient Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This wine is quiet on the nose, but comes to life in its fistful of brawny, thick black fruit and gritty, leathery texture. A touch of black pepper and cinnamon play off each other on the long, resolved finish. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$29

90 La Storia 2015 Block 303 Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Leather, cedar and juicy blackberry fruit combine with force in this expansive, concentrated wine. Chocolate toffee layers provide additional richness and complexity, as the finish ends smooth. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$34

90 Leonard 2014 Rustringer Vineyard Zinfandel (Chiles Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

90 Ravenswood 2014 Belloni Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This is a peppery, plummy wine with plenty of grip on the palate. Structured and meaty, it rides its ripeness with ease, showing a taste of vanilla soda on the finish. Mixed black grapes account for 25% of the whole and originate from vines planted around 1900. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$39

90 Ravenswood 2014 Big River Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). From vines planted around 1893 on a high bench on the south-eastern edge of the appellation, this 100% varietal wine shows plenty of power and concentration, teasing bold cherry, cinnamon and pepper out of its substantial core. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$39

90 Ravenswood 2014 Old Vine Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Blended from several appellations across the county and adding in 14% Petite Sirah, 6% Carignane and 3% other black grapes, this wine succeeds in combining brambly black fruit ripeness with black pepper spiciness, expanding across the palate with grace and power. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Ravenswood 2014 Teldeschi Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). From the historic site on the eastern edges of the valley, this wine is juicy, soft and layered in cranberry, cherry and vanilla. Expan-

sive and robustly concentrated, it benefits from the addition of 19% Petite Sirah and 5% Carignane, seasoned in cinnamon and black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$39

90 Sbragia 2014 Gino's Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Dusty and peppery, this big-boned wine leans into tart red-fruit flavors like cranberry and strawberry, with a thickness of tannin at its core. Leather, coffee and cinnamon swirl around adding seasoning to its overall length and breadth on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$34

89 Renwood 2014 Zinfandel (Fiddletown). Big but balanced, this wine from one of Amador's higher elevation districts. It has a nice deep color, spicy sweet oak aromatics and generous juicy fruit flavors backed by moderate tannins and full body. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Frank Family 2014 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Brambly blackberry, black cherry and black coffee intermingle in this full-bodied richly ripe and robust red. Thick in tannin and oak, the fruit finds its balance and has its day. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$37

88 Grey Wolf Cellars 2015 Territory Zinfandel (Paso Robles). This bottling, which includes some Petite Sirah and Monastrell, is still quite wound up on the nose, with aromas of slate, wet mud, berries and a bit of baking spice showing shyly. Rounded red-fruit flavors show on the sip as does that muddy clay-driven minerality, all framed by decent acid and tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Midnight 2013 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Concentrated aromas of plum, spice cake, dried ginger, loam and purple flowers make for a dense entry to this heavy-duty bottling. Ripe flavors of dark strawberry meet with star anise and clove on the sip, where a chalky tannic structure almost hides the slight sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 16.9% **Price:** \$39

88 Mill Creek 2013 Hillside Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This is aged entirely in French oak, 75% of it new. Grippy structure surrounds a softened sensibility of dark cherry and chocolate, the oak smoky and tinged in vanilla. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

88 Miro 2015 Gaddis Vineyard Old Vines Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This has a dried-fruit component of plum and cherry—akin to a fruitcake in richness and flavor. Supple on the palate, it finishes in a cloud of brown sugar. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Puccioni 2014 Puccioni Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). With the addition of 14% Petite Sirah, this delightful old-vine wine is

lightly spiced with a taste of black licorice. Vanilla, blackberry and white chocolate add layers of complex, welcomed flavor and succulence to the full-bodied whole. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$32

87 Carol Shelton 2014 Florence Vineyard Rocky Reserve Zinfandel (Rockpile). This comes from a vineyard 1,400-feet elevation, and it is blended with 14% Petite Sirah. Thick tannins surround a core of extracted red cherry and blueberry fruit; the texture is mild and fleshy. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

87 The Federalist 2015 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). A dash of Carignane contributes to the whole of this easygoing likable wine. Softly layered baked plum and prune flavors are given additional heft and roundness from a richer undertone of caramel and brown sugar. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

86 XYZin 2013 Reserve Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Fermented in stainless steel and barrel aged, this hearty wine is soft and simple with a juiciness of Kool-Aid-like flavors and dusty leather. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

85 Portalupi 2015 Marcucci Farms Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Sweet berry-cherry flavors meet a fleshy rounded midpalate in this simple and easygoing red that has a substantial taste of dried fruit and leather. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$34

84 Mill Creek 2013 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This is 100% varietal. It was given time in oak for two years in a combination of French and American barrels. A sweetness from the oak is noticeable, as a taste of root beer combines with juicy blackberry, the fruit ripe and round. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

84 Ousterhout 2013 Nance's Vineyard Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). This wine has an oxidized sensibility that makes it feel flat somewhat on the palate. Flavors of tobacco leaf are the strongest —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$NA

PETITE SIRAH

93 Hawley 2015 Reserve Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). This well-made wine tastes of berry crumble, lifted by a persistent freshness of acidity that's welcomed and welcoming. Dusty tannin adds to elements of black pepper, leather and cigar, finding a balance between fruit and undeniable power. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$40

92 Robert Biale 2015 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). Featuring a juicy backbone of

blackberry and dark cherry (highlights of a seamless structure), this wine shines in additional flavors of vanilla and leather. Full bodied, it holds its weight and breadth in check, delivering voluptuous within a classic framework of style and complexity. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

92 Wonderment Wines 2014 Bacigalupi Vineyard Petite Sirah (Russian River Valley). Aged in Burgundy oak barrels, this refined, balanced and ultimately delicious wine features strawberry-preserve flavors wrapped in toasty oak. Leather, cigar box and a bite of cedar add to its complex whole, its texture soft, fulsome and richly layered. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

90 Foppiano 2013 Gianna's Block Petite Sirah (Russian River Valley). This tastes of savory bitterroot, cedar and pencil. The wild exotic flavors are met by fruity black cherry and black licorice. Generous in tannin, the wine is soft and layered—a charming block-designate that shows complexity and length. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

90 Joseph Cellars 2015 Ramazzotti Vineyard Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). Dusty tannins are at the center of this boldly ripe, brawny wine, which offers soft plush texture and a depth of rich plum. Dark chocolate waves are complemented by a savory twist of cigar box and pepper. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Miro 2015 Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$26

87 Clif Family 2015 Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). Tannic and rustic, this is a straightforward presentation of ripe rich plum and oak, along with sizable seasonings of pepper and leather. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

SANGIOVESE

93 Pride Mountain 2014 Sangiovese (Sonoma County). A lovely wine, this is soft and layered with complex notions of raisin cake, cranberry and dried cherry. Soft and supple in texture, it has a lasting grip of leather and coffee. Full bodied, it holds its ripeness well, showing complexity and balance. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60/500 ml

92 Pestoni Family 2015 Estate Sangiovese (Rutherford). Sophisticated and hearty, this is a well-made 100% varietal wine, juicy in black cherry, with a nice waft of wood-fired-oven smoke. Thick, it finds a smoothness of velvety texture as it opens, offering a length of leather, tobacco and black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

89 Muscardini 2014 Unti Vineyard Sangiovese (Dry Creek Valley). From the well-known vineyard in the appellation, this is made entirely from the variety, and it has a texture and flavor of fruit leather, plum and dried cherry, as well as an herbal earthy note of tomato leaf. The tannins are a tad harsh, but mellow in the glass. —V.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$44

87 Luna 2014 Riserva Sangiovese (Napa Valley). This is a 100% varietal wine, aged for 20 months in French and Hungarian oak. Tart and plushy, it has a level of rusticity that serves it well. Thick tannins meet a smoky oaky core of wood and dried herb. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$62

86 Muscardini 2014 Alice Vineyard Sangiovese (Sonoma Valley). This is a plush, rustic and somewhat impenetrable wine in terms of tannins and ripeness. It offers a strong taste of tobacco, leather, earth and dried fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

83 Benessere 2015 Estate St. Helena Vineyard Sangiovese (St. Helena). This is a hugely extracted wine that traffics in earthy mushroom and a streak of greenness that comes off as somewhat disjointed and harsh. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

RED BLENDS

98 Alpha Omega 2013 Proprietary Red (Napa Valley). This blends 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc into a seamless expression of black pepper, garrigue, clove and pencil. Old world in style and in full command of its power, it offers generously layered, intensely robust tannin and concentration that flirts with richness. Half barrel-fermented and half stainless-steel, it shows promise for cellaring; enjoy best 2023 through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$98

95 Calluna 2014 Estate Red (Chalk Hill). This expertly blends a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon with smaller amounts of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec, in that order. Grippy, it's quite savory, highlighted in cedar and pencil shavings that dot a sublime, supple core of tannin, seasoned in dried herb. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Calluna 2013 Estate Red (Chalk Hill). Made from a majority 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, this blends 27% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot and 2% Malbec as well. It showcases the site and vintage well, in a ripe powerful mix of tobacco, cedar and plum, finishing savory and cool. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Daou 2014 Mayote (Adelaida District). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$100

94 Pestoni Family 2013 Domingos Brothers Red (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$150

94 Sanguis 2014 French Books (Central Coast). Tons of crushed rock and baked earth show at first on the nose of this blend of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, and then comes the exotic cola, black cherry and tarragon aromas. There's gravel on the sip as well, where firm squeaky tannins also carry blueberry and green-peppercorn flavors. Altogether, it's a complex yet very quaffable wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$90

94 Sanguis 2014 Verve (Central Coast). This blend of Grenache, Syrah and Roussanne by Matthias Pippig makes for a unique, amazingly integrated aromatic profile, much like a cake made of roses, black plum, muddy clay and salumi. The loamy and rose-laced quality extends to the sip, where spice cake, game and hearty purple fruits make for a cohesive quaff. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

94 Stewart Cellars 2014 Tartan (Napa Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon comprises 60% of this wine to Merlot's 40%, the grapes coming from three different vineyard sites, including Brokenrock. A sanguine thread of cranberry and red currant give the firm structure life and vibrancy, as dusty leather, fig and cocoa powder provide restrained richness. This is a tremendous value for the quality. *Editors' Choice*. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

93 Daou 2015 Seventeen Forty Reserve (Paso Robles). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$75

93 Sanguis 2013 Verve (Central Coast). A slightly tradition-bucking blend of Grenache, Syrah, Cabernet Franc and Viognier by Matthias Pippig, this wine shows black cherry, vanilla, dark loam, crushed rocks and dried thyme on the mineral-laced nose. Strong tannins and acidity frame the sip, where berries, anise and vanilla converge. The tannins need a bit more time to integrate. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$75

92 Calluna 2014 Calluna Vineyards Cuvée (Chalk Hill). Lean and strong, with a well-hewn balance of pungent compost, pencil shavings and dried herb, this Merlot-driven blend contains all five red Bordeaux varieties. Graceful and elegant, it's ready for the table, finishing in a twinge of tobacco and fennel. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$33

92 Carlisle 2015 The Integral (Sonoma County). This is a coferment of 56% Syrah and 44% Mourvèdre, the grapes grown in Bennett Valley. It possesses grace and style within a brawny shell of spice and leather. Violet aromas dance around the entry, as complex earth tones tease in black olive, cured meat and berry pie. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$47

92 LXV 2015 Lover's Spell (Paso Robles). The nose on this bottling is extremely ripe and rich with black cherry syrup, milk chocolate and butterscotch aromas, proving very inviting, if slightly dessert-like. Those elements extend to the sip, where blackberry pie, candied blueberries, caramel and vanilla prove very tasty and perfect for those seeking a whopper wine. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$55

92 Paraduxx 2014 Rector Creek Vineyard Block 5 (Napa Valley). Peppery, soft and supple, this blend of Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon is brawny and full bodied. It is a strongly concentrated wine with highlights of dried cherry, baked plum and dried herb. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80

92 Sanguis 2014 Pilgrim (Central Coast). Tight aromas of blackberry, lilac and tar meet with burnt toast on this blend of Syrah, Grenache and Roussanne. There is a solid grip to the sip, where blackened blackberry flavors combine with tar, juniper, soy, pepper and caramel on the finish. Savory, this also has a strong acidic energy. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$80

92 Webster Cellars 2013 Arriere (Napa Valley). This blends 60% Merlot with 40% Syrah—a successful marriage that is well structured and modest in ripeness. Cedar, wooded tannin and pencil shavings provide an Old-World character set against a backdrop of juicy tart red fruit and black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$NA

91 Addendum 2014 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Atlas Peak). Soft, round and approachable in its fruit-forward succulence and full-bodied richness, this is a well-made complex wine. Red cherry and vanilla dominate secondary elements of cedar, leather and cola, finishing with a length of clove. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80

91 Bonny Doon 2015 A Proper Claret (California). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$16

91 Foxen 2015 Cuvée Jeanne Marie Williamson-Dore Vineyard (Los Olivos District). There's a touch of gamy meat alongside purple flowers and candied rosemary on the nose of this blend of 60% Grenache, 23% Syrah and 17% Mourvèdre. It would be the perfect wine for any weekend table, with

versatile and food-friendly flavors of violet, lilac, charred beef and tart purple fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$48

91 Mira 2014 Jimmy D's (Napa Valley). This is made from half Syrah and smaller parts Petit Verdot (35%) and Cabernet Franc (15%). Barnyard rusticity overwhelms at first before allowing other savory elements to speak. Leather, mushroom and cigar ride atop black currant and plum as generous tannins struggle successfully to soften by the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

91 Paraduxx 2014 Rector Creek Vineyard Block 4 (Napa Valley). Petit Verdot makes up the majority of this blend at 58%, joining 38% Zinfandel and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon. Powerfully ripe and rich, it offers integrated oak and tannin around a juicy core of raspberry, blueberry and blackberry, the mouthfeel luxurious and soft. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

91 PreVail 2013 West Face Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Alexander Valley). Perfumed, this 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Syrah blend showcases both varieties well, allowing a generously succulent, fleshy mouthfeel to impart flavors of cherry, vanilla and smoky oak. Made in a rounded approachable style, it retains acidity and complexity, nods to its mountainous beginnings. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$70

91 Robert Biale 2014 Basic Black (Sonoma County). Meant to be brawny explosive wine, this blends 25% Syrah, 22% Grenache, 20% Petite Sirah, 17% Carignane and smaller drops of Zinfandel, Alicante Bouschet and Tempranillo in a classic field-blend style. Juicy and expansive on the palate, it has meaty tannin and leather as well as licorice, violet and pepper. A lengthy streak of black pepper finishing things out. —V.B.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$50

91 Robert Biale 2014 Like Father Like Son (Napa Valley). This blend of Petite Sirah and Syrah is beautifully structured and complex, robust in black cherry, blackberry and a bite of lasting tannin. Succulent secondary characteristics linger into black leather, pepper and earthy root. *Editors' Choice*. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$48

91 Tower 15 2015 The Swell (Santa Ynez Valley). Lush aromas of coffee cake, cappuccino and caramel meet with both bright red fruit and a hint of kirsch on this twist-top ready-to-drink blend of 43% Cabernet Franc, 28% Petit Verdot, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot. Juicy black plums and cherries show on the palate, which is relatively light on its feet with a firm enough structure, finishing on more cocoa, mocha and latte flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$25

90 Luna 2014 Canto Super Tuscan (Napa Valley). This blends 55% Sangiovese, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the grapes sourced from both Atlas Peak and Howell Mountain. Smoky barbecue char wraps around tart tangy red fruit and powerfully soft and supple tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$76

90 LXV 2014 Secret Craving (Paso Robles). This is a rich unctuous blend of 38% Syrah, 31% Cabernet Franc and 31% Merlot, with aromas of baked plums in a buttery crust and hints of scarlet roses. The flavors are presented elegantly with a soft mouthfeel that shows violets, blueberry, oregano and pepper, with a long-lasting acidic backbone. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Signaterra Benziger 2014 Three Blocks (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Technique 2016 Proprietary Red (Stags Leap District). This blend is made from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Petite Sirah and 15% Merlot. It works in its dusty bramble of succulent black cherry and licorice, ultimately presenting a satisfying, likable wine that's full bodied and richly round. —V.B.
abv: 14.75% **Price:** \$35

89 Ty Caton 2014 Tytanium Caton Vineyard (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This multi-variety blend is made largely of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Sirah, with smaller amounts of Syrah, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Merlot. Boldly ripe, dry and tannic, its dense flavors are wrapped up in black currant, tree bark and cinnamon. —V.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$80

89 Webster Cellars 2013 Left Bank (Napa Valley). This is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 15% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Heavy on the palate, it has elements of black cherry, black licorice and sage that ride a velvety texture of rounded richness. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

89 Webster Cellars 2013 Right Bank (Napa Valley). A proprietary blend of 40% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Petit Verdot and 15% Cabernet Franc, this wine is juicy in cassis and red currant with a quiet embrace of toasted oak. Seamless in structure and tannin, it finishes with focus. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

88 29 & Oak Wines 2016 Reserve (Napa Valley). Light bodied, this charming combination of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot has an entry of cherry, vanilla and subtle char. Consistent

and juicy on the midpalate, it has a taste of bark that provides a bite of bitterness on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Anonymous 2013 Red (Napa Valley). This blends Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Merlot and Zinfandel into a brawny, decadent whole. Juicy in blackberry, it is softly approachable and robust in brown sugar and chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Croma Vera 2015 Revelacion (Paso Robles). Dried rose petals, concentrated red cherry, anise, thyme and caramel show on the nose of this blend of Tempranillo, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Sirah. The palate is dominated by a rustic sagebrush quality, with earthy red berry and crushed slate adding pleasant complexity. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

88 Salvestrin 2014 Cavaso (Napa Valley). This full-bodied blend combines a majority of Merlot with Syrah, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Tannic and tight-grained, it's rustic in leather, black cherry and tart soy. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

88 Terragena 2013 Father and Son Blend Holden-Mapley Vineyard (Alexander Valley). Cabernet Franc edges out its companion Cabernet Sauvignon 54% to 46% in this light-bodied quietly ripe wine. Sage, cedar and fresh herb provide a vegetal underbelly that will appeal to fans of those flavors and style, with a juicy underbelly that's marked by a tartness of cranberry. —V.B.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$39

88 Trunk Up Wines 2014 Red (Napa Valley). From grapes grown in Carneros and Oak Knoll, this wine combines nearly equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc, with smaller amounts of Malbec and Petit Verdot. Tart and tannic, it offers structure and a lightness of oak around old-school elements of red currant and cedar. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$39

87 Titus 2013 Andronicus (Napa Valley). Largely tannic and generous in oak, this is a blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel. Plum, currant, bread dough and leather are among the more powerful components, with a rich rounded mouthfeel providing approachability. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

87 Trenza 2013 Tinto (San Luis Obispo County). Rather reserved on the nose, this 50-50 blend of Syrah and Tempranillo shows light aromas of black cherry, vanilla, purple flowers and cola. The palate starts soft and mellow, with more cherry, vanilla and slight clove flavors that ride a steadily rising acidity, and finish on vanilla. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Zenaida Cellars 2015 ZC Red (Paso Robles). This blend of 50% Syrah, 30% Petite Sirah and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon offers a very rich nose of licorice, black currant leather, tobacco and potpourri. The palate is a tad sour and dried out, with black plum skins, purple flowers and peppery spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

86 Everhart Cellars 2014 Proprietor's Reserve (El Dorado). This wine is packed with fruit flavors and has a lightly tannic texture to carry them along. Focused raspberry and sour-cherry notes are accented by dashes of wood smoke and pepper. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

86 Ty Caton 2015 Ty's Red Caton Vineyard (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Syrah comprises 55% of this blend, followed by 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Merlot. Smoky oak encases compressed, meaty blackberry and big notions of tannin and oak. The finish flirts with overripe heat. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$36

85 Jon Nathaniel 2014 Skull Ring (Napa Valley). A blend of 67% Syrah and 33% Petit Verdot, this wine is robust and brawny in tobacco leaf, bitterroot and an intensity of tannin. The majority grape contributes savory bites of cigar and leather. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

85 Pope Valley Winery 2013 Tre Uve (Napa Valley). A blend of 63% Sangiovese, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, this wine tastes slightly overripe, with a candied nose of rustic fruit and thick heated tannins. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

84 Geyser Peak 2015 Uncensored (California). Soft and semi sweet, this wine has jammy, cherry-candy flavors and a smooth texture accompanied by moderate tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

OTHER RED WINES

94 Whitcraft 2016 Pence Ranch Gamay (Sta. Rita Hills). This wine, which sold out via Instagram before it was even released, is a fascinating conveyer of soil flavors. Extremely herbal on the nose, it smells like a freshly dug, muddy hole surrounded by towering pines and mossy ground, with exotic berries in the background. The palate is woody, full of dank mushrooms, wild berries and green peppercorns. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.51% **Price:** \$36

93 Barton 2014 Danger Zone Tannat (Adelaida District). It's a shame only one barrel was made of this wine from Glenrose Vineyard, for it's a lavish and delicious wine. Aromas of coffee, espresso and dark chocolate meet with black cherry, lilacs and caramel on the nose. Deep yet bright

black-currant fruit shows on the sip, along with zesty blood orange before finishing on the richer coffee-cream notes. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 Central Coast Group Project 2013 Happy Birthday! Larner Vineyard Mourvèdre (Ballard Canyon). Concentrated red cherry and grenadine aromas meet with essence of red rose and carnations on the nose of this bottling by Scott Sampler. Soft and polished tannins carry flavors of tart yet dark cherry, black plum skins, thyme and rosemary, making for a palate that's full of perfectly dried fruits and herbs. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75

91 Barton 2014 Hot Blooded Counoise (Adelaida District). So named because Counoise takes to long to ripen that it makes winemakers' collective blood boils, this bottling from Glenrose Vineyard is a great example of a lighter red wine from Paso Robles. Red cherry, rust, crushed gravel and dried herbs show on the nose, while the palate carries oregano, marjoram and a touch of cardamom against light red cherry and cranberry flavors. It's lively and fresh. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Bouchaine 2015 Estate Pinot Meunier (Carneros). Among the few wineries to make a varietal wine of this grape, better known for blending, this is a smoky robust effort that's velvety and luxurious in texture. Full bodied and confident in oak, its flavors lean into strawberry, mint and bay leaf. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

SWEET WINES

90 Asuncion Ridge 2013 Voluptuous Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Beeswax, paraffin, petrol and orange pith show on the light but resilient nose of this dessert wine. There's an intriguing ashy and Brie cheese rind quality to the smoky sip, where the honey and peach syrup sweetness is obvious but plays more to the background. This is quite dynamic. —M.K.
abv: 17.4% **Price:** \$25/375 ml

88 Birichino 2015 Muscat Canelli (Monterey). Ripe aromas of Gravenstein apple, nectarine, Meyer lemon, red pears and orange blossoms show on the very approachable and pleasant nose of this dessert wine. It's quite sweet right away on the sip, full of apple, pear and viscous orange-blossom flavors, with just enough acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22/375 ml

86 Castoro Cellars 2016 Late Harvest Muscat Canelli (Paso Robles). Honey, lemon blossoms, orange oil and the slightest hint of petrol show on the nose of this dessert wine, which smells a bit syrupy. That viscosity is evident on the sip, which is extremely sweet and rich, though there

is a background of lime zest and lemon-verbena-powered acid to give depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22/375 ml

ARGENTINA CHARDONNAY

92 Viña Cobos 2016 Bramare Marchiori Estate Chardonnay (Luján de Cuyo). This warm-climate Chardonnay smells smoky, creamy and smooth, showing hints of seashell and mineral through its oaky veil. Its full-bodied palate is rich and modern—a mix of overt oak flavor with apple, pear and salty melon notes. There is a smooth, oaky essence on the finish. Drink through 2019. Paul Hobbs Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Viña Cobos 2016 Bramare Los Arbolitos Vineyard Chardonnay (Uco Valley). This wine's resinous oak and lemon aromas require some time and air to settle. It's full and round in feel, even a bit pulpy. Salted apple and wood spice flavors last on the finish, with good acidity and a buttered popcorn note that's not overwhelming. Drink through 2020. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$46

90 Luca 2016 Luca G Lot Chardonnay (Tupungato). At first, this high-altitude Chardonnay comes across as massively oaked, as if extracted from a wood pile. With time, it sheds its heavy oak blanket and shows secondary notes of spiced apple and melon. It's dominated by wood throughout, and if that's not your thing, this might not be for you. Full and generous, yet balanced; drink through 2020. Vine Connections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Luigi Bosca 2015 Finca Los Nobles Chardonnay (Luján de Cuyo). Barrel aromas are out front on the nose of this wine, with wood spice and apple notes. It's sturdy on the palate and resinous in flavor, with apple and pear notes lurking below. It remains oaky through the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

87 Luigi Bosca 2017 Chardonnay (Mendoza). This wine's melon and stone fruit aromas are a touch briny. It's linear on the palate, lacking depth and volume. With salty, oaky apple flavors, it leaves a lasting briny impression on a finish led by oak. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

83 Marcelo Mira 2014 Chardonnay (Patagonia). A mulchy nose with stalky aromas gets this off to a shaky start. It's light on the palate, with a mix of woody and bitter flavors. Overall, it has a decent mouthfeel but lacks substantial aromas and flavors. Vinology USA. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

PINOT NOIR

89 Montesco 2014 Punta Negra Pinot Noir (Tupungato). A light color and equally light cinnamon and spiced raspberry aromas set this wine up for a racy, acid-driven palate. Its spicy, juicy plum and currant flavors finish tight and fresh, for an elegant, food-friendly package. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

88 Familia Schroeder 2015 Alto Limay Pinot Noir (Patagonia). Dry red berry aromas and spicy oak notes make for a good opening in this wine. It's a bit creamy in texture, with commendable overall balance. It offers ripe raspberry and cassis flavors, with a touch of milk chocolate on the smooth finish. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

86 Alfredo Roca 2014 Reserva de Familia Pinot Noir (Argentina). This wine's dark, blood-like color and oaky, resinous aromas don't scream Pinot Noir. In the mouth, it's full but drying. Resinous oak flavors are more prominent than fruit, and a final note of raisin marks the heavy finish. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$31

85 Domaine Bousquet 2016 Reserve Made With Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Tupungato). This wine's stewy, medicinal plum aromas are chunky. In the mouth, it's plump and bouncy, lacking spine. It concludes with tea and stewed berry flavors on a drawing, hefty finish. WISD LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Lamadrid 2013 Single Vineyard Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Agrego). Lamadrid has upped its game with this Gran Reserva Cabernet. The smoky nose carries to a dense, chewy palate, layered with red plum and cassis flavors and massive tannins. Drink through 2026. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

92 Pascual Toso 2013 Alta Barrancas Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's initial cola and menthol aromas transition to ripe plum and berry notes with extended airing. Its full, chewy, tannic palate is a bit rough. Ripe, jammy cassis and spiced berry flavors are the story, with massive tannins and a ton of spice. Drink through 2025. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Valentin Bianchi 2013 Particular Cabernet Sauvignon (San Rafael). For full review see page 13. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$31

90 Marchiori & Barraud 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Perdriel). This wine's blackberry, maple and creamy oak aromas introduce a tough but deep palate that's loaded with fruit and tannins. Its wild berry and plum flavors are raw, finishing with cheek-drying astringency. Give it lots of air upon opening and serve with meat or pasta. Drink through 2021. The Artisan Collection. —M.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$22

90 Trapiche 2014 Medalla Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's blackened berry aromas are roasty and smoky. Despite drying tannins and overall roughness, it's a lush Cabernet with deep black cherry, dark plum and blackberry flavors. On the finish, it emphasizes even darker toast and coffee flavors. Drink through 2020. The Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Trivento 2014 Golden Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). This wine's dark, roasty black fruit aromas are more cool and earthy than bright. In the mouth, it's dense and sort of flat. That theme is echoed in its flavors, which recall prune, chocolate and mocha. It finishes with heavy berry notes and not many subtleties. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Bodega Calle 2014 La Mano Derecha Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This leads with maple and burnt oak aromas and follows with crushed fruit scents that turn earthy and herbal with air. It's a big but plodding Cabernet with spicy baked blackberry flavors that end with power and rough tannins. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

87 Bodega Toneles 2016 Tonel 14 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This basic, medium-bodied wine has straightforward plum and berry aromas. Its cherry, currant and mild chocolate flavors hum along, with little to no change on the finish. This may be simple, but it works. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

87 Casir Dos Santos 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's saucy wild berry aromas are accompanied by herb, spice and meat notes. Its choppy, tannic palate is grippy to the extreme, tasting of herbal berry fruits, savory spice and peppercorn. On the finish, a dark foresty note enters the picture. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$19

87 Durigutti 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Basic wood smoke, plum and berry aromas are solid enough to mask some of this Cabernet's greener components. Its dense palate is pillowy, tasting of herbal blackberry and spice cake. Leafy berry notes and a touch of chocolate mark the finish. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 Kaiken 2016 Ultra Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Heavy oak and related char, chocolate and mocha aromas make up the nose of this dark, grippy Cabernet Sauvignon. There's plenty of oak flavor, along with herbal berry notes, but it finishes raw, tannic and scratchy, with a hard texture. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Mil Piedras 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Vista Flores). This leads with minty herbal aromas like juniper and eucalyptus. Upon airing, dark fruit notes emerge, along with some oak. On the palate, it's more rough than smooth, holding herbal black currant and chocolate flavors. By the time it finishes, its berry flavors are on par with its strong herbal notes. Cannon Wines Limited. —M.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$13

87 Trivento 2016 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's berry and plum aromas are standard and don't offend in any way. It feels a bit lean yet is fresh and crisp. Its spicy plum and currant flavors are mildly reedy, while spice notes and dryness drive the finish. Excelsior Wines. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

86 Andeluna 2014 Altitud Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato). Dry herbal aromas of oregano and thyme dominate the nose of this minty, spicy Cabernet. The palate has a raw exterior, without much stuffing, tasting of coffee grounds, fennel, cured meats and spiced cherry. Dryness is the overriding theme here. San Francisco Wine Exchange. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Antis 2014 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's spicy plum and berry aromas lose freshness quickly with air and turn mulchy. It's chunky and acidic, with saturated plum and berry flavors and a loud-ringing finish. Universal Beverage Importer. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

86 Domaine Bousquet 2016 Finca Lalande Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's rubbery, leafy berry aromas are forced and strained. Its raw, choppy palate tastes of peppery currant and plum, while its tight and narrow finish tastes a touch green. WISD LLC. —M.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$16

86 Domaine Bousquet 2016 Reserve Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato). This Cabernet's woody red fruit aromas lead to a soupy palate with tomato-like acidity. Tomato, herb and plum flavors carry into a steady but unexciting finish with residual oak. WISD LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Pulenta 2013 Gran IV Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). Call this a confounding Cabernet Sauvignon, which is proving not to be

Pulenta's best grape. It's tomatoey and earthy on the nose and heavy and cloying on the palate, tasting at once overripe and weedy. Compelling one moment and off putting the next, this is no easy wine to process. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

85 Andeluna 2016 1300 Cabernet Sauvignon (Valle de Uco). Green, leafy aromas accent this wine's generic berry notes. Its raw, pinched palate is dry and tannic, tasting of minty green herbs and berry fruit. Acidity and leafy flavors are at the forefront of its herbal finish. San Francisco Wine Exchange. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Black Cabra 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's grassy aromas include a note of green tobacco. Its full, chewy palate turns rubbery and jammy the longer it sits. Generic black-fruit and oak-based flavors dominate, while its chocolate-tinged finish is thick with tannins. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

85 Ruca Malen 2016 Yauquen Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Spicy, peppery, herbal berry and plum aromas lead the way in this wine. It's dry as a bone and tannic, with woody plum and tomato flavors, finishing oaky and a bit salad-like. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$12

85 Viñalba 2015 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Valle de Uco). Fans of old-school Cabernet Franc might also like this leafy, grilled-smelling Cabernet Sauvignon. Its tannic, abrasive palate holds spicy plum flavors that finish mildly green. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 Viniterra 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's black color and concentrated currant and blackberry aromas lead to a palate with a modest volatility issue. Its stewy, herbal berry flavors are clunky and finish with a latent note of bacon. Arcadia Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

84 Alfredo Roca 2016 Fincas Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). A soapy scent of cleanser combines with this wine's basic berry and mint aromas. In the mouth, it's raw, choppy and tannic, with herbal berry flavors that finish peppery and a touch green. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$15

84 Lazos 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine's stinky berry aromas bring its ripeness into question. Fairly hard on the palate, it offers creamy oak and salty berry fruit, finishing flat due to low acidity. Vine Ventures. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

83 Casa de Campo 2015 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Argentina). Not much from this label has been encouraging, this raw, raspy Cabernet included. It leads with underripe aromas and follows with reedy, lightly green plum flavors. Indigo Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

MALBEC

93 Pulenta 2013 Gran X Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 SoloContigo 2015 Colección Malbec (Mendoza). If you like cassis and blackberry aromas, this Malbec offers no shortage of that. Its lush, seamless palate offers toasty blackberry and chocolate flavors that carry into a finish that's as steady as a freighter on a calm sea. Drink through 2021. Solo Contigo SA. —M.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

92 Bodega Catena Zapata 2013 Argentino Malbec (Mendoza). With its licorice root, cassis and plum aromas, this juicy, tight Malbec shows a firm grip and racy acidity. Its raspberry and red plum flavors are fully oaked and spicy. On the finish, it's intense, prickly and acid driven. Drink through 2032. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$140

92 Colomé 2013 Altura Maxima Malbec (Salta). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

92 Luca 2015 Old Vine Malbec (Uco Valley). Despite humid conditions in Mendoza in 2015, this old vine Malbec shows a fine combination of blackberry, smoke and mocha aromas. It's in tip-top shape on the palate, although the acidity is a bit wiry. Oaky flavors of vanilla and mocha work well with its black cherry and blackberry fruit, which is unwavering on the finish. Drink through 2022. Vine Connections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Bodega Catena Zapata 2013 Adrianna Vineyard Fortuna Terrae Malbec (Tupungato). This wine smells toasty and creamy. Like all of Catena's 2013 Malbecs, it's wiry in feel, with screaming acidity. That electric feel carries into its plum and currant flavors, which have oaky, wood spice accents. Drink through 2035. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$140

91 Bodega Catena Zapata 2013 Adrianna Vineyard River Stones Malbec (Tupungato). This wine's dark, smoky berry aromas include a reedy note. A selection from the rockiest part of the Adrianna Vineyard in Tupungato, it's so racy and bright that it's sharp and tangy on the palate. Its toasty red

berry, plum and spice flavors finish with unusually high acidity. Drink through 2035. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

90 A16 2015 Reflective Malbec (Mendoza). This earthy Malbec offers savory, roasted berry aromas, with a hint of horse hide. Its tight, compact palate feels clipped, with salty plum and currant flavors. The finish is tight, oaky and a bit condensed. Williamsburg Winery. —M.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

90 Bodega Catena Zapata 2013 Adrianna Vineyard Mundus Bacillus Terrae Malbec (Tupungato). This richly oaked selection from the high-elevation Adrianna Vineyard in Tupungato smells of berries, red currants and maple. It's angular on the palate, with acidity so high it's downright citric. Red berry, red plum and wood grain are the dominant flavors, and they're tarter than they are lush. Tannin is a noticeable element on its otherwise racy, high-acid finish. Drink through 2035. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$350

90 Viña Cobos 2014 Cobos Chañares Vineyard Malbec (Uco Valley). When Cobos gets its heavyweight Malbecs right, they're some of the best in Argentina. But in a year like 2014, when the end of the vintage was cold and rain-plagued, many of the big wines seem stunted. With its fully oaked mint, smoke and spice aromas, this delivers nothing but power. Toasted flavors of blackberry, cassis and raisin mark the hard palate, finishing short and with some heat. Age this until 2020 for best results. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$300

89 Altocedro 2015 Gran Reserva Malbec (La Consulta). Altocedro likes to pile on the creamy oak, and this Malbec has that in spades. Wood spice and lacquer aromas weigh down its blueberry, blackberry and green scents. Chunky weight and creamy oak define the palate, as do burnt wood, resin and grassy berry flavors. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65

89 Salentein 2014 Single Vineyard San Pablo Estate Malbec (Mendoza). Wood smoke and clove aromas are the main features in this wine's barrel-driven nose. Combine a high-elevation vineyard like San Pablo with 2014's cold conditions, and the result is a massive Malbec with hard edges. Its dark fruit flavors are muscular and downright abrasive on the finish. Drink or hold indefinitely. Palm Bay International. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

89 Viña Cobos 2014 Bramare Rebon Vineyard Malbec (Uco Valley). This wine's grapey aromas are compact, and toasty oak fills in the rest of the nose. The palate is abrupt, almost vertical,

and firm to the extreme, with chewy black plum and black cherry flavors. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$105

89 Viñalba 2014 Gran Reserva Malbec (Valle de Uco). Desiccated dark fruit aromas recalling prune, raisin and cassis open this lush and chewy Malbec. Heady flavors of smoky blackberry and cassis lead into a raisiny finish with chocolate cake notes. This falls just short due to weight and balance issues. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 A16 2013 Apogeo Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). This wine's oaky nose includes a stand-out scent of maple. Its full, saturated palate feels a bit overdone, with toasty, chocolaty black fruit flavors. Mocha and coffee notes dominate the finish. Williamsburg Winery. —M.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$26

88 Altocedro 2016 Año Cero Malbec (La Consulta). This wine's saucy plum and berry aromas are oaky but not overripe. It offers a round, resinous palate, with earthy, oak-laden berry flavors. Its fresh but saucy finish is a continuation of what came before. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$19

88 Bodega Catena Zapata 2014 Alta Historico Rows Malbec (Mendoza). This wine's brambly wild berry aromas are more feral and funky than Alta usually delivers, more than likely a result of the cold 2014 vintage. On the palate, it's wiry, with raw tannins and plum and berry flavors that finish with juicy acidity and tension. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Finca Flichman 2015 Misterio Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). This leads with jumbled plum and raspberry aromas. Its tight, intense palate is brightened by acidity and made rubbery by firm tannins. With its ripe plum and berry flavors were made for grilled steaks and chops. Just watch out for its toasty, tannic afterburn. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Finca la Celia 2014 Elite Malbec (Uco Valley). This wine's ripe, baked berry aromas suggest cigar box, pipe tobacco and raisins. It's heavy, stewed and choppy on the palate, saturated with prune, raisin and chocolate flavors. The finish is short and hints at overripeness. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$20

87 Andeluna 2014 Pasionado Malbec (Mendoza). Like many austere, power-packed 2014 Malbecs, this offers an intense attack. Its cool cola and blackberry aromas include a note of fennel. And its berry flavors are fiery and aggressive, with

a long, drying, tannic finish. San Francisco Wine Exchange. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

87 **Domaine Bousquet 2017 Made With Organic Grapes Malbec (Tupungato).** This wine's grapey berry aromas are clean but basic. It has a focused, sinewy mouthfeel and lightly salty plum and berry flavors. Touches of herbs, spice and salt are present on the finish. WISD LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **Rutini 2014 Encuentro Malbec (Mendoza).** This leads with flat, earthy raisin and prune aromas. The palate is bulky, thick and syrupy, with stewy cassis and berry flavors laced with coconut oak. It's dense and slightly overdone on the finish. Graziano Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **Valentin Bianchi 2015 Malbec (Mendoza).** This has generic berry aromas, with a strawberry candy note. Its saturated palate hits with drying tannins, while clove and bitter chocolate flavors accent stewed berry notes. Oak and toast dominate the finish. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$16

87 **Viña Cobos 2016 Felino Malbec (Mendoza).** This wine's plum and currant aromas are raw and wild, with a hint of animal and not a lot of overt ripeness. It's medium bodied and rubbery in mouthfeel, with a mix of salty and woody flavors and moderately ripe plum notes. On the finish, it tastes mostly of spicy oak and mint. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

86 **Domaine Bousquet 2017 Cameleon Made With Organic Grapes Malbec (Tupungato).** This wine's spicy blueberry and plum aromas are scattershot and unfocused. It's a wiry, high-acid Malbec with plum, currant and herb flavors. A high-toned and front-loaded, it fades quickly on the finish. WISD LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 **Domaine Bousquet 2017 Finca Lalande Malbec (Mendoza).** This Malbec is wide and full, lacking in cut and structure. Its chunky plum and berry aromas are a bit spicy, and its plum and herbal berry flavors finish round, with spice notes and dry tannins. WISD LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

86 **Laureano Gomez 2014 Malbec (Uco Valley).** This wine's stewy, herbal berry aromas are not very ripe or compelling. Its rough palate offers minty, herbal berry and carob flavors, finishing slightly hot and abrasive, with green notes. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

86 **Zorzal 2015 Terroir Único Malbec (Tupungato).** This wine's herbal berry and tomato

aromas are as wild as the high desert it hails from. In the mouth, it's loud, with currant and plum flavors that finish with a note of fiery heat and residual acidity. Brazos Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

85 **Bodega Calle 2013 Alberti 154 Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).** Soy sauce, grilled meat, red plum and currant aromas give an impression of underripeness in this wine. It feels linear, with no give to the palate, and its savory, herbal berry flavors dry out on the finish. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

85 **Cuma 2015 Made with Organic Grapes Malbec (Cafayate).** This wine's sugar beet and raspberry aromas are reedy like sweet grass. It dries out quickly on the palate due to rubbery tannins. Herbal berry flavors fill it out, feeling slightly astringent and begging for food. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$13

85 **P15 2017 Malbec (Patagonia).** This wine's dark fruit aromas are neither complex nor serious. It's a basic Malbec, soft and a bit overweight, with generic black fruit flavors and a hint of blackened toast on an otherwise innocuous finish. G&B Importers. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$10

85 **Valentin Bianchi 2014 L10 Premium Malbec (San Rafael).** Roasted campfire and herbal blueberry aromas lead the nose of this wine. The palate lacks substance and structure. Its herbal, oaky berry flavors are green and stewy, finishing with unabsorbed oak and mint notes. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

84 **Casarena 2013 Reservado Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).** Casarena's wines are always unique, for better or worse. This Malbec's earthy aromas of stewed berries and Hoison sauce are funky. It's narrow and raw, with herbal flavors of juniper, eucalyptus and overripe blueberry. On the finish, it lacks structure. Southern Starz, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

84 **Lost Valley 2015 Reserva Malbec (Valle de Uco).** Red-berry aromas control the nose of this hard-pounding Malbec. Its oversized palate is built on high acidity and hard tannins, with loud berry and plum flavors. Dry on the finish, its fruit disappears quickly. Mazza Chautauqua Cellars. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

84 **Mariposa 2016 Malbec (San Juan).** This offers raw, lean earthy red berry aromas. It's a light-bodied and fresh Malbec, with herbal red fruit flavors. Its drawing finish tastes of herbal red fruits and plum skins. Black Sea Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$7

84 **Quara 2015 Estate Malbec (Cafayate).** Funky aromas of bath soap, sugar beets and spiced berry fruits lead the nose of this wine. Although the palate is grating, it delivers interesting spiced fruit and rhubarb flavors. Burnt notes rise up on the finish, recalling the texture of grape skins. Pampa Beverages LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

83 **Bodegas Caro 2016 Aruma Domains Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) and Nicolas Catena Malbec (Mendoza).** Medicinal aromas of latex blend with creamy, candied berry notes in this wine. The palate feels jammy and wide, lacking focus. Cheesy oak and berry fruit flavors are herbal and tomatoey through the finish. Esprit du Vin. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

82 **Valentin Bianchi 2016 L10 Malbec (San Rafael).** This wine's grassy red fruit aromas border on weedy and show a streak of oak. It's far from ripe on the palate, with dilute red fruit flavors and oaky notes of clove and mint. Its hollow finish tastes more of clove than fruit. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

RED BLENDS

94 **Ruca Malen 2012 Kinien de Don Raúl (Mendoza).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 **Valentin Bianchi 2013 Enzo Bianchi (San Rafael).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 **Famiglia Meschini 2012 Pacifico Gran Reserva (Mendoza).** Earthy, spicy, leafy aromas accent gritty berry scents in this dense, full-bodied wine. Its minty, herbal berry flavors are peppery and drying on the finish. Drink through 2024. VINO Andes LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Pulenta 2013 Gran Corte VII (Luján de Cuyo).** Despite showing a touch of damp earth and desiccation on the nose, this mystery red blend gets off to a good start. In the mouth, it's plush and fleshy, with more than enough body. Deep berry, plum and coconut flavors finish with forceful acidity, creating length but also texture. Drink through 2025. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Bressia 2012 Profundo (Mendoza).** The blueberry and boysenberry aromas in this blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah include tea and cardamom notes. Its jammy, pulpy palate is thick and chewy, tasting of herbal blue fruits, blueberry in particular. Minty on the finish, it deals dashes of nutmeg and cardamom for a hint

of the exotic. Drink through 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Durigutti 2013 Reserva (Mendoza). Dark tar and asphalt aromas are more than an accent to this wine's bold berry and coffee scents. Its plump, chunky palate is more static than lively, with baked plum and spiced cherry flavors. The finish is tannic and a touch heavy, with low acidity. Drink through 2019. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Famiglia Meschini 2012 Grandioso Cabernet Franc-Malbec (Mendoza). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec is plush, deep and chewy. Its earthy, spicy plum and berry aromas show a hint of eucalyptus and mint. Matching the nose, it tastes of roasted blackberry touched up with leafy spice notes. An herbal tea- and pepper-inflected finish offers a nice conclusion. Drink through 2025. Vino Andes LLC. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Filus 2014 MCC Limited Edition Blend (Mendoza). Dark licorice, anise, blackberry and prune aromas set this up a for rough palate with sandpaper tannins. A blend of Malbec and Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc, it tastes of dark, toasty black fruits with herbal shadings. Its chewy finish fades slowly. Drink through 2026. Bronco Wine Company. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Finca Decero 2014 Amano (Agrelo). This opaque blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Tannat smells deep and dense, like prune and black currant. Like with many high-end 2014s, its saturated palate is tough and tannic, needing air. Blackberry, cassis, toasty oak and chocolate flavors lasting on its intense finish. Drink through 2024. Vintus LLC. —M.S.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$69

91 Viña Cobos 2015 Cocodrilo Corte (Mendoza). Chunky, slightly raisiny aromas mark the nose of this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. On the palate, it's saturated and a touch heavy, with oaky, chocolaty black fruit flavors. The medium-length finish is mellow and dense. Drink through 2020. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Clos de los Siete 2014 Red (Valle de Uco). This wine's bold black fruit aromas are a touch clipped. Its saturated palate offers a massive mouthful of berry fruit and tannins and chocolate notes. On the finish, it's peppery, toasty and stout. Serve this always reliable Malbec blend with grilled beef in the Argentino style. Thiénot USA. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 El Enemigo 2014 Gran Enemigo (Mendoza). This offers oak and mocha aromas, recalling

char, leather, blackberry and green herbs. It's a five-grape blend that includes 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, and in a cold year like 2014, that translates to angular acidity and heavily herbal plum and berry flavors. Decanting or long airing can only help this rugged amalgam. Drink through 2025. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Finca Decero 2015 The Owl & The Dust Devil (Agrelo). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Tannat is rich yet it well balanced. Its jammy berry aromas are creamy but also a touch reedy. On the palate, dark black fruit flavors show their herbal, peppery side. It finishes plush. Drink through 2021. Vintus LLC. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Mendel 2014 Unus (Mendoza). Rugged licorice and black fruit aromas include a note of barnyard animal in this wine. How tolerable the palate is depends on your ability to process rock-hard tannins. Its blackened berry and toast flavors are compact, feeling rough and heavily toasted through the finish. Drink through 2025. Vine Connections. —M.S.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

90 Santa Julia 2015 Magna Malbec-Cabernet (Uco Valley). This wine's ripe blackberry and cassis aromas come with mild game and toast notes that lend a wild edge. Its grapey, saturated palate is a touch choppy and acidic, but the depth of fruit more than compensates. With its meaty, toasty black fruit flavors, it seems to grow even darker as it finishes. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 El Esteco 2014 Chañar Punco Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Calchaquí Valley). This wine's reduced, rubbery aromas take a long time to come around. It's tight as nails and hard as a rock. Its narrow flavor profile includes toast and herbal plum and cassis notes that never fully unwind. Drink this Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon blend through 2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

89 Viñalba 2015 Reserva Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Valle de Uco). As this Malbec-Cabernet blend unfolds, its bright, fruity aromas grow darker and toastier. Although the palate feels pointy and tartaric, it tastes of bold, lemony berry fruits and shows some heat on the finish. Try it with everyday pastas, grilled meats and pizza. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Zorzal 2015 2KM Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). Floral aromas and asphalt and berry scents introduce this Malbec-Cabernet Franc blend from Juan Pablo Michelini. Its plush and overt palate is a bit shallow, tasting of blackberry and plum and chocolate. The finish is solid but nei-

ther long nor powerful. Drink through 2022. Brazos Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

88 Aymara 2015 Reserva Barrel Selection (Mendoza). Lightly herbal, earthy aromas of rubber and black fruits set this up for a lively palate. It's a blend of Malbec and Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc that tastes of dark berry fruits, spice and a vague earthiness that reflects the nose. On the finish, it's the dry tannins that last. Universal Beverage Importer. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Bodegas Caro 2014 Amancaya Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Root beer and berry aromas announce a wine that's less than fresh. A Cabernet-Malbec blend, it's ripe and heavy, with concentrated, raisiny cassis flavors. Additional notes of coffee and toast are most prominent on the finish. Esprit du Vin. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Durigutti 2015 Red (Mendoza). Full-blast mocha, blackberry and cassis aromas announce a fruity, extracted red. Its pulpy palate has bold, candied black fruit flavors that end rather quickly. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

88 Finca Las Moras 2013 Mora Negra (Pedernal Valley). A smooth nose with ripe berry aromas is a nice opening to this Malbec-Bonarda blend. In the mouth, it's austere, with high acidity and grating tannins. It has nice plum and blackberry flavors, but textural choppiness dominates its dry finish. Prestige Beverage Group. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Gen Del Alma 2014 Gene Fuerza Tranquila (Tupungato). Grapey black fruit aromas come with notes of clay and violets in this Malbec blend. On the palate, strong acid and tannins form a barrier wall. Its high-toned plum, currant and wild berry flavors come with gritty tannins that persist on the finish. With food, especially Argentinian *asado*, this won't go wrong. Brazos Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Pascual Toso 2015 Finca Pedregal Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Maipú). This blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon and 32% Malbec has ripe, raisiny aromas, with some greenness on the nose. It's rough, acidic and tartaric in feel, with plum and prune flavors that grow oaky and peppery as it unwinds, with light grassy hints on the finish. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

87 Antis 2015 Reserva Barrel Selection (Mendoza). This blend of Malbec and Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc has generic ripe berry and cassis aromas. On the palate, it's medium bodied,

with tomatoey acidity. Its herbal berry fruit and oak flavors persist on a steady finish. Universal Beverage Importer. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

87 Finca Las Moras 2015 Barrel Select Cabernet-Syrah (Argentina). Dry, earthy aromas suggest brick dust, red fruit, cardamom and cinnamon in this Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah blend. It's raw and wide, with edgy tannins, exotic spice, berry and minty oak flavors, and a scratchy finish. Prestige Beverage Group. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Funckenhausen 2016 Red (Mendoza). This blend of Malbec, Bonarda and Syrah offers earth, leather, latex and berry fruit aromas that are mildly aggressive. In the mouth, generic berry flavors come with a hint of herbal green on the finish. Global Vineyard Importers. —M.S.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18/1L

87 Las Vertientes 2016 Benchmark (Mendoza). This Malbec-led blend has black fruit aromas with hints of Band-Aid and licorice root. It's chewy and dense but also a bit flat. Its plum and berry flavors are moderately oaky, showing rubbery tannins and an herbal aftertaste on the finish. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

87 Nieto Senetiner 2014 Blend Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec-Merlot (Mendoza). This wine's cool, earthy aromas are low on fruit and heavy on oak, recalling resin and maple. The palate is laden with blocky tannins, showing spiced plum, mince-meat pie and dry oak flavors that lead into a raw finish. Foley Family Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Santa Julia 2016 Reserva Mountain Blend Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). This wine's cherry and blackberry aromas are basic. It's firm and tannic on the palate, with minimal depth. Dry, salty plum and berry flavors show a touch of oak. A blend of 70% Malbec and 30% Cabernet Franc, it's rough on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Santa Julia 2016 Tintillo Malbec-Bonarda (Uco Valley). Freshness is the story in this lightly herbal Malbec-Bonarda blend. In the mouth, it's snappy and tight, with generic but racy berry flavors that stay juicy through the finish. Consider chilling this prior to pouring. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: NA **Price:** \$11

87 Valentin Bianchi 2015 Famiglia Bianchi Nebbiolo-Malbec (Mendoza). This unusual blend of Nebbiolo and Malbec feels compact but hard. Its reedy, stinky berry aromas are fiery, earthy and herbal. On the palate, spicy, herbal plum and berry

flavors finish with peppery, minty notes. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

86 Aymara 2016 Estate Cabernet Franc-Petit Verdot (Mendoza). Generic berry and plum aromas come with notes of rubber and latex in this Cabernet Franc-Petit Verdot blend. On the palate, it's blocky, with minty, spicy berry flavors and drying tannins. Universal Beverage Importer. —M.S.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$13

86 Bodega Calle 2013 Ca'de Calle Gran Reserva (Mendoza). This wine's roasted aromas are more rooty and reedy than ripe, with a leathery note. Its firm palate contains stalky berry flavors that hint at smoked meat and herbs, especially on the finish. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

86 Domaine Bousquet 2016 Gaia Made With Organic Grapes (Tupungato). Roasted plum and berry fruit aromas along with a touch of oaky latex open this blend of Malbec and Syrah. The palate is fresh and choppy but also tannic. Plum, raspberry, rubber and salt flavors carry into the finish. WISD LLC. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Famiglia Meschini 2015 Premium Blend Malbec-Syrah (Mendoza). Oak, charred notes cover most of the dull black fruit aromas in this Malbec-Syrah blend. The palate feels ripe in the middle but raw around the edges, with raisin, prune and baking spice flavors that seem heavy and stewed but not entirely lost to overripeness. Vino Andes LLC. —M.S.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$14

86 SoloContigo 2015 Colección (Uco Valley). On the nose, this Malbec blend is heavily oaked and smells like latex and plastic. On the chewy, tannic palate, it tastes largely of burnt oak and gummy berry fruits. Heat and chocolate flavors drive the finish. Solo Contigo SA. —M.S.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

86 Vicentin 2014 Blend de Malbecs (Mendoza). Cooked aromas of raisin and prune make this feel heavy and off balance. Its dark, minty raisin and prune flavors lack clarity and focus, even on the stewed finish. Dangerous Import Group. —M.S.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$20

86 Viterra 2014 Select Malbec-Carménère Malbec-Carménère (Mendoza). Oak-derived aromas of clove and charred berry fruits are the first act in this unusual Malbec-Carmenère blend. Its weighty palate delivers high acidity and rough tannins. Short, choppy plum and leafy flavors feel pointy on the finish. Arcadia Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

85 Alfredo Roca 2016 Roca Malbec-Merlot (Mendoza). As this blend of 60% Malbec

and 40% Merlot opens, its floral raspberry aromas seem soapy and artificial. Its lean palate is acidic, with salty raspberry and red plum flavors that carry into the lightweight finish. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

85 Antis 2016 Estate Blend Selection (Mendoza). This wine's scratchy plum and tomato aromas lead to a slightly creamy palate. Its salty plum and berry flavors are raw and a touch green, finishing short and flat. Universal Beverage Importer. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

85 Casarena 2015 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This is yet another unconventional and unsuccessful wine from Casarena. Its wild, oaky aromas are harsh, chemical and herbal. Its tight, drawing palate is framed by green, oaky flavors. Vine Connections. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Trivento 2016 Reserve Cabernet-Malbec (Mendoza). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec has raw berry aromas. It's generic on the palate, with berry and tomato flavors and little depth or breadth. It has a lightly herbal, inoffensive finish. Excelsior Wines. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

84 Finca la Celia 2014 Reserva Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). A light rusty color and herbal red fruit, tomato and spice aromas announce this rough and tumble Malbec-Cabernet blend. Especially tannic at the edges, it tastes peppery, dry and heavily spiced. Its short finish stifles any ripe fruit. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

84 Notro 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (San Juan). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec has raw, herbal licorice root and red plum aromas that fall short of ripe. In the mouth, it's grippy and rough, with minty roasted plum flavors that plod into the finish. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

82 Finca Las Moras 2016 Alma Mora Chic and Wild Cabernet-Malbec-Petit Verdot (San Juan). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Petit Verdot is not entirely in balance. Its mix of oak, residual sugar and roasted plum flavors barely make it drinkable. Prestige Beverage Group. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

OTHER RED WINES

90 Ruca Malen 2015 Reserva Petit Verdot (Mendoza). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 El Enemigo 2015 Bonarda (Mendoza). Earthy, baked aromas of dark berry fruits and wood spice lead to a wide but slightly flimsy palate in this wine. Its herbal plum, leather and toast aromas contain a desiccated note of prune. Yet, it finishes full and fleshy. Drink through 2020. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Alfredo Roca 2014 Dedicación Personal Bonarda (Mendoza). This wine's edgy, feral berry aromas are accented with clove and mint. Its tight, choppy palate is saturated with plum and baked berry flavors and a mild green note of mint. It holds onto that herbal quality on the finish. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Argento 2015 Bonarda (Mendoza). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

AUSTRALIA

CHARDONNAY

93 Vasse Felix 2015 Chardonnay (Margaret River). Hard to believe this isn't Vasse Felix's top Chardonnay, but instead lies in its middle tier. It's complex, rich and age worthy. Notes of melon, stone fruit, butter and toast march straight into a tangy, toasty palate that is both opulent and elegant. And the salty, briny finish is seemingly endless. Drink now—2025. Negotiants USA, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

92 Clairault 2014 Estate Chardonnay (Margaret River). Pale gold, almost green tinged, this is an excellent example of why Margaret River excels at Chardonnay. It's complex, with notes of lemon zest, orange peel, butter and exotic spices that last all the way through to the finish. It's rich with a chalky texture and is age worthy, with enough acidity to take it long into the future. Drink now—2027. Margaret River Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Leeuwin Estate 2015 Prelude Vineyards Chardonnay (Margaret River). From one of Margaret River's leading Chardonnay producers, the 2015 Prelude doesn't disappoint. It's a nutty, smokey, toasty, melony beauty. Perfectly in balance, with a chalky texture and medium to light body, it wears its heart on its sleeve and is drinking perfectly now, but will gain more even more complexity with a few years in bottle. Drink now—2022. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

92 Woodlands 2015 Chardonnay (Margaret River). A premium Chardonnay at an affordable price from one of Margaret River's leading producers. Unmistakably Western Australian and

reflecting proximity to the ocean, Woodlands's Chardonnay smells of sea breeze and brine. It's smokey, nutty and lemony on the palate, with a hint of wild mint and a lean, tight feel of flinty minerality. Drink now—2025. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Cullen 2014 Kevin John Chardonnay (Margaret River). One of the top wines from one of Margaret River's leading producers, Cullen's 2014 Kevin John is certainly opulent, but the full malolactic fermentation and eight months in new oak seem to be masking the beautiful, biodynamically farmed fruit. Notes of butterscotch, pineapple and melon rind lead into a rich, toasty, nutty palate, with balanced acidity to keep things fresh. Drink now—2024. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$109

90 Franklin Tate 2015 Tate Alexanders Vineyard Chardonnay (Margaret River). Subtle yet complex characters of lemon, stone fruit, flint, and wet stone minerality are woven into a creamy textured palate. Bright acidity keeps everything in balance, with a savory, toasty note on the finish. Drink now—2022. Indigo Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Kooyong 2015 Farrago Chardonnay Chardonnay (Mornington Peninsula). This single vineyard wine is complex and ageworthy, with a fair bit of wet stone, copper penny, and salty minerality along with lemon, melon and some toasty oak characters. The acidity dominates on the palate at the moment—the oak is apparent too—but this wine is really just starting its life. Drink 2018–2027. Negotiants USA, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$63

90 Streicker 2012 Ironstone Block Chardonnay (Margaret River). On first taste, this wine shows mouth-puckering acidity. But after some time in glass it chills out and the flinty, toasty, mineral notes start to creep in. Flavors of white pepper, bruised apple and wet stone meld with a bit of textural weight to slightly balance all that acidity. Still very youthful, this wine is clearly in it for the long haul. Drink 2019–2027. Margaret River Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Voyager Estate 2012 Chardonnay (Margaret River). This is a delicate, light Chardonnay with age is on its side. Ripe red apples, melon, vanilla and some toasty oak aromas lead into a more floral and citrus palate. There's a good lick of acidity but it's relatively in balance with some textural weight. Still tightly wound, there're plenty more years left. Drink now—2027. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Mad Fish 2016 Chardonnay (Western Australia). This is an aromatic, fruity, easygoing

Chardonnay sourced from three main Western Australian wine regions: Margaret River, Geopraphe, and Great Southern. Waxy lemon and florals follow from the nose to the palate which finishes on notes of toast and white pepper spice. Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Moorooduc 2015 Chardonnay (Mornington Peninsula). Cashew, buttered toast, lemon and smoke abound on this estate wine. The slippery textured palate still indicates this Chardonnay's youth, with the oak a little bitter and prominent, but all elements are in place for this to come into its own soon. Drink now—2025. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Voyager Estate 2014 Chardonnay (Margaret River). On the quiet side, this wine is light and lean, with delicate notes of stone fruit, blossoms and vanilla. The palate is more citrusy and slightly chalky in texture, with plenty of acidity and a floral finish. Drink now—2024. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 Kooyong 2016 Clonale Chardonnay (Mornington Peninsula). An interesting mix on the nose of charred greens, Band-Aid, tropical fruit and a good dollop of funk. The palate is creamy and slippery textured, with a charred oak finish. Drink now. Negotiants USA, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Xanadu 2015 Chardonnay (Margaret River). This is a toasty, smokey, nutty and slightly peachy Chardonnay from Margaret River. The palate is rich, with a viscous texture and balanced acidity, but the oak is a little prominent on the finish. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

88 Xanadu 2015 Exmoor Chardonnay (Margaret River). Lemon, warm butter and an overripe vegetal nose lead into a toasty palate that seems overtly rich. Nevertheless, this will satisfy many a Chardonnay lover. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Xanadu 2016 DJL Chardonnay (Margaret River). Pungent lemony notes are followed by vanilla, butter and some vegetal character in the background. The buttery texture on the palate is classic oak-aged Chardonnay, with fleeting fruit flavors that race along the mouth-puckering acidity. Try this again in a few years' time when the acidity will hopefully have calmed down. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

RIESLING

92 Pewsey Vale 2012 The Contours Museum Reserve Riesling (Eden Valley). This is a classic example of an aged Eden Valley Riesling. Pale gold in color, aromas of lemon curd, kerosene, crème brûlée and dried herbs carry the nose. The palate is rich but balanced by mouthwatering acidity and a herbal finish. There's plenty of life left. Drink now–2027. *Negociants USA, Inc.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Château Tanunda 2016 Grand Barossa Dry Riesling (Barossa). This is a pretty yet serious Riesling from a historic Barossa winery. Melon, peach, lime, wild mint, flowers and a hint of kerosene all flow onto a light, delicate palate, with well balanced acidity and an attractive, spicy finish. *AUSA Pacific.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Frankland Estate 2016 Isolation Ridge Riesling (Frankland River). Isolation Ridge has long been the darling single-vineyard wine of the Frankland River subregion of Great Southern, and the 2016 succeeds in upholding this reputation. Lemon curd, apple and delicate florals are wreathed in a prickly palate that comes with a lick of creamy weightiness and plenty of acidity. A highly mineral, wet-stone finish is the cherry on top. Drink now–2032. *Quintessential Wines.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Hentley Farm 2016 Riesling (Eden Valley). Apples, wet stone and a little honey lead into a refreshing palate, with plenty of acidity and a hint of richness to tip the scales into balance. A pleasing apple finish makes you want to keep going back for more. *Hentley Farm (US).* —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$21

90 Wicks 2015 Estate Riesling (Adelaide Hills). This wine needs a bit of swirling in the glass to open up, but when it does it carries aromas of apple blossoms, wild strawberry and melon, with some stoney minerality and a lovely prickly texture. It's light and refreshing, with a long, mouthwatering finish. *Great Australian Wine Company.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 Thorn Clarke 2016 Eden Trail Riesling (Eden Valley). Aromas of flowers, peaches, blossoms and a hint of honey lead into a palate that's more about apples and limes. This is straightforward and precise in its appeal. Drink now–2028. *Kysela Père et Fils.* —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

88 Frankland Estate 2017 Riesling (Frankland River). Intensely perfumed, this wine is full of peachy soap and potpourri, along with passion-fruit notes and a hint of spice. The bombastic fruit and floral notes continue on the palate which is bal-

anced and light bodied. Drink now. *Quintessential Wines.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

88 Frankland Estate 2016 Poison Hill Riesling (Frankland River). More steely than the Isolation Ridge, the nose offers plenty of floral notes combined with pineapple, stone fruit, apple and yeast. This leads into a tightly wound yet fruity palate, with crushed stone and a poise and structure that sets this up for plenty of years of cellaring. Drink 2019–2032. *Quintessential Wines.* —C.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$40

88 Jacob's Creek 2015 Steingarten Riesling (Barossa). Ripe stone fruit, lemon-lime popsicle and blossoms lead into a palate of crisp acidity. Acid hounds will dig this fairly simple but likable drop. *Pernod Ricard.* —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

87 Alkoomi 2016 Black Label Riesling (Frankland River). White blossoms, yeast, apple, and peach and something a little sweaty proceed towards a palate that is almost gritty in texture, with more floral and apple notes and the region's characteristic searing acidity. *Little Peacock Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Alkoomi 2016 White Label Riesling (Western Australia). Subtle apple, lime and a sulphuric vegetal note combine in a refreshing wine that is restrained in nature. A slippery texture carries along these quiet notes to a stone-fruit and apple finish. Needs time to emerge from its shell. Drink 2019–2022. *Little Peacock Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Robert Oatley 2014 Finisterre Riesling (Porongurup). This shows that classic aged Riesling petroleum character along with lemon-lime citrus. While the fruit is absent on the palate, texturally it's still lean and laser sharp, indicating it's still an infant. The low alcohol is a bonus too. Drink 2019–2027. *Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.* —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Bird in Hand 2016 Two in the Bush Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide Hills). This is a complex and delicious drop from the cool climes of the Adelaide Hills, offering up notes of pineapple, ground ginger, grapefruit and lime blossoms. The mouthfeel is lovely and long, with a slippery texture, balanced acidity and a zingy, white-pepper finish. *HP Selections. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Point Ormond 2017 Sauvignon Blanc (Frankland River). This wine is a pretty, delicate time capsule of the cool climes of the Frankland River subregion of Western Australia's Great South-

ern. White blossoms, peach, pineapple, green apple and lime popsicle abound. The palate is feather light and not lacking in this region's trademark levels of acidity. *Little Peacock Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Wirra Wirra 2016 Scrubby Rise Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Adelaide). Delicate aromas of apple skin, spring blossoms and lime zest carry the nose of this wine. The palate is a different beast all together, with far less fruitiness and far more minerality—tightly wound and chalky in texture. It's drinking well now, but would also be interesting to see it in a few years' time. Drink now–2020. *Negociants USA, Inc.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

88 Xanadu 2017 DJL Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Margaret River). This wine bursts with mango, peach and passionfruit, with a touch of cut grass. There's plenty of tongue-tingling acidity on the palate and some textural weight, likely from the Sémillon. *Rathbone Wine Group.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Mad Fish 2016 Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Western Australia). The Sémillon really takes the fore in this SBS blend. Wet wool, bruised citrus fruit and white pepper lead into a restrained, almost austere palate. The acidity is in check but the fruit is lacking. It all ends with an intriguing salty, copper-penny finish. *Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

PINOT NOIR

93 Moorooduc 2015 Pinot Noir (Mornington Peninsula). From one of Mornington Peninsula's top artisan producers, the 2015 Pinot Noir is beautiful for sipping now while also being age worthy. Like a warm autumn day, it smells of drying red fruit, dried flowers, earth and a touch of cinnamon and smoke. The palate is juicy and elegant, with silky tannins and lively acidity. An elegant, serious yet utterly gluggable drop. Drink now–2024. *Little Peacock Imports. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Yering Station 2015 Village Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). There's a lot going on in this complex yet approachable Yarra Pinot. It's herbal and medicinal in tangy cranberry and cherry notes, with cumin and a stalky, earthy core. The palate is balanced and finesse. Drink now–2024. *Rathbone Wine Group.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Robert Oatley 2015 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). This is an attractive Pinot, bright in cherry and strawberry fruit, with vanilla and a hint of orange tang on the nose. The flavors are more in the dried red fruit and leaves spectrum but there's

lightness and bounce to keep things ever so gulpa-ble. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Giant Steps 2015 Applejack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). Lots of whole bunch stalkiness happening here, showing notes of Big Red gum blended with cherry cola. The intense cinnamon and red fruit characters continue on the palate where there's a tannic grip and good amount of acidity. While winemaking technique overpowers *terroir* here, this is nevertheless a fashionable style plenty of people will enjoy. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

87 Rob Dolan 2015 True Colours Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). This wine offers plenty of funk notes: raw meat and barnyard with cherry notes far in the background. The palate, however, is another beast all together in its red fruit and searing acidity. Great Australian Wine Company. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Clairault 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Both pretty and complex, Clairault's Cab is a heady mix of cranberry and tart cherry, florals, peppery herbs, pencil lead and some raw meat in the background. The palate is medium bodied and rustic yet elegant. Tannins are big but they seem a product of the skins rather than the oak, and there's a lovely savory, peppery finish. Drink now–2025. Margaret River Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Clairault 2012 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Clean fruit, dried autumn leaves, balsamic vinegar, black olives and cola notes all lead into a full-bodied palate that's chewy with savory, earthy tones and big, well-structured tannins. There's a fair lick of oak here but it should soften with time in cellar. Drink 2019–2032. Margaret River Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Snake and Herring 2013 Dirty Boots Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). The red fruit on this Margaret River red takes a back seat to secondary characters like earth, meat, black olives, coffee and herbs. The palate is medium bodied, with well-structured tannins and more earthy, meaty, and herbal goodness. Drink now–2024. Great Australian Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Vasse Felix 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Currant, clove, cinnamon, cola, and sun-baked earth form this attractive nose, which leads into a medium-bodied palate that has mineral and medicinal herb characters along with more cinnamon and currant. The tannins are tightly grained yet silky. A wintery Cab that could be cracked open

now with food or cellared through 2027. Negotiants USA, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

90 Howard Park 2014 Scotsdale Cabernet Sauvignon (Great Southern). Give this Great Southern Cab some time in glass or decanter to open up, but once it does it reveals notes of cherry cola, cranberry, florals, black pepper and an earthy core. The palate is rich and riding a line between full and medium bodied. It's currently tightly wound, with savory oak tannins that should mellow out with time. Drink now–2027. Craft + Estate–The Winebow Group. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Howard Park 2013 Abercrombie Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Australia). Still in its infancy, Howard Park's blend of Cab from Mt. Barker in the cool climes of the Great Southern and the slightly warmer Margaret River region, has a generous nose of dark cherry, mocha, pencil lead, mint and oak spice. There's plush fruit and herbs on the palate but it's still very tightly wound and the oaky tannins are big and drying. Give this a few years to even begin to show its true colors. Drink 2020–2032. Craft + Estate–The Winebow Group. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

90 Leeuwin Estate 2013 Prelude Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Streicker 2012 Ironstone Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There're a few years of age on this wine but it's still very much in its infancy. The nose is a heady mix of cherry cola, ripe blackberry, black olive, balsamic reduction and graphite, while the palate is plush and full bodied but well balanced, with savory, oaky tannins. Drink now–2027. Margaret River Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

89 Robert Oatley 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Vigorous swirling and time in glass eventually eked out bramble fruit characters with florals, baking spices and vanilla oak notes. The palate is shy and tightly wound at the moment but everything is in balance. Drink 2019–2032. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Stella Bella 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Shy at first, this Margaret River Cab reveals a lot after some swirling in glass: plush cherry and raspberry fruit, mint, dark chocolate and a slightly herbal, earthy core. Tart cherry notes continue on the medium-bodied palate, with tannins that are tightly wound but elegant. This is drinkable now with some time in decanter but will best express itself with over the next few years. Stella Bella Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Xanadu 2015 DJL Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). With plenty of swirling in glass this broody wine reveals its character: Ripe blackberries and red currant, chocolate, tar, mint and other herbs mingle with toasty oak notes on the nose. The tannins on the palate are dusty and tightly wound and woven into more tar and savory herbal characters. The oak is fairly prominent now but there's an elegance to this medium-bodied wine that will take it to nice heights in the future. Drink now–2027. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

MERLOT

90 Hardys 2013 Stamp of Australia Merlot (South Eastern Australia). All the secondary characters that come into play as a wine matures are really working for this Merlot. The fruit is heading into raisin territory; there're earthy, vineyard floor and horse saddle notes; The palate is silky and savory, although the oak is still a little obvious. Drink now with autumnal cuisine. Accolade Wines NA. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

89 Banrock Station 2015 Merlot (South Eastern Australia). Pretty red fruit and herbs are backed by a little earthy, stalky notes. The palate is a little on the tart side, but it's also juicy and easy-going, with soft tannins and a light to medium body. Accolade Wines NA. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

89 Yellow Tail 2016 Merlot (South Eastern Australia). This is a dark fruited, dense Merlot, with notes of cola, cabbage leaf, fig and raisiny dark fruit. The palate has richness but it's balanced by lifted acidity, keeping it firmly in a medium-bodied bracket. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

87 Little Penguin 2015 Merlot (South Eastern Australia). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

86 Oxford Landing 2016 Merlot (South Australia). A simple but appealing Merlot. Ripe red and black fruit, chocolate and some herbal oak notes are followed by a plush, fruity palate. The alcohol is a little hot but this is nevertheless an easygoing weeknight red. Negotiants USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$10

SHIRAZ

96 Henschke 2012 Hill of Grace Shiraz (Eden Valley). From the relatively cooler climes of Eden Valley, Henschke's most famous wine focuses on expressing the unique *terroir* of its 10 acres of

150 plus year old vineyards rather than on power, oak and extraction. This translates to savory and earthy secondary characters at the fore, highlighting herbal notes with licorice, currants and cocoa powder. The palate is silky and savory, and while the toasty oak notes are apparent, they're kept in check with wonderfully balanced acidity. Approachable now, it will morph into a thing of stunning beauty with time. Drink now–2037. *Negociants USA, Inc. Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$817

95 Penfolds 2013 Grange Shiraz (South Australia). Penfold's latest Grange release delivers all of the power, rich fruit and toasty oak Australia's most famous wine is noted for. It is incredibly beguiling though, even in its infancy. Autumnal notes of dried leaves, flowers, sap and dark berries abound, with a raw meat and miso savoriness. The power on the palate is balanced by ultrafine tannins and a finesse that makes this drinkable now with plenty of time in decanter and paired alongside roast lamb, beef, or something equally hearty. Still, it'd be a shame not to cellar for at least the next five years. Revisit in 7, 15, or 30 years. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$897

94 Glaetzer 2015 Amon-Ra Shiraz (Barossa Valley). From Barossa's newest generation of superstar winemakers, Ben Glaetzer's Amon-Ra—his top wine—is the label that's gained him the most glory, and for good reason. It's hugely cellar worthy, with a pretty nose of dark cherry fruit, cola, licorice, cocoa powder and a little meatiness in the background. The medium-bodied palate is juicy and restrained, with muscular but silky tannins and a long juicy, savory finish; The perfect example of the elegant style the latest generation of Barossa producers excel at. While approachable now, it would drink best between 2022–2032. *Wine Trees. Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$120

93 Frankland Estate 2014 Isolation Ridge Shiraz (Frankland River). This wine, from Frankland Estate's renowned Isolation Ridge, is a wonderful example of the greatness that cool-climate Great Southern Shiraz can achieve. Medium bodied and elegant, this enchanting shows red cherry, raspberry, florals, cracked pepper and herbs, with an orange peel tang and a hint of meat and earth in the background. The palate is full of crunchy red fruit, florals and dusty, fine-grained tannins that lead to a long, pepper finish. Drink now–2027. *Quintessential Wines. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

93 Hewitson 2013 Private Cellar Falkenberg Shiraz (Barossa Valley). There is enough going on in this complex, age-worthy Shiraz to keep a wine geek waxing poetic for days about its savory, meaty and vegetal profile: Grilled green peppers, Dr. Pepper, bramble fruit, violets and a tangy note of sumac. The palate is full bodied and powerful, with

plush, juicy fruit, big drying tannins and a fantastic acidity to freshen things up. Drink now–2032. *Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$82

93 John Duval Wines 2014 Eligo Shiraz (Barossa Valley). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Turkey Flat 2015 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Guardians of some of Barossa's oldest vines, the next generation of Shultzes are now at the helm and are steering Turkey Flat in a promising direction, focusing on organic practices in the vineyards and a lighter touch in the winery. The 2015 Shiraz is a great example of this, utilizing partial whole-bunch fermentation for lifted blue and black fruits, stalks, cinnamon and an earthy core. The palate is medium bodied, plush and juicy, with elegance, not richness, and a wonderfully savory finish. Drink now–2032. *American Estates Wines, Inc. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Frankland Estate 2015 Shiraz (Frankland River). Shiraz from the cool climes of the Great Southern region of Western Australia is a far cry from their rich, sunshine-infused South Aussie counterparts. Frankland Estate is one of the leaders of this more restrained, medium-bodied style. Their estate Shiraz is bursting with ripe blue fruit, vanilla, smoky cedar and baking spices. The palate is silky and elegant, with juicy fruit and savory tannins. *Quintessential Wines.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Hentley Farm 2014 The Beast Shiraz (Barossa Valley). As the name suggests, this wine is indeed big and powerful, but it's elegant and classy too. Heady notes of violets, red berries, smoked meat, white pepper and licorice are entwined with tightly wound, fine-grained tannins. One for the cellar. Drink 2019–2032. *Hentley Farm (US). Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

92 Howard Park 2014 Leston Shiraz (Margaret River). This is an aromatic, pretty Shiraz from Margaret River. Dive into ripe strawberry, rhubarb, pepper, toasty spice and a little meatiness on the nose. Then wade in juicy fruit and a silky smooth texture on the medium-bodied palate which finishes on a grip of savory tannins. *Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

92 Penfolds 2014 St. Henri Shiraz (Australia). Impenetrable in color and very nearly in style too, this wine is a deep, dark well of cherry chocolate cake, cola, raspberry, and French oak spice. Juicy plush fruit on the palate is balanced by powerful yet silky tannins and a savory, oak-spiced finish. This full-bodied wine is in it for the long

haul. Drink now–2042. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

92 Tim Smith 2015 Shiraz (Barossa). This is a medium-bodied Barossa Shiraz that shows restraint and finesse. Plummy, raisiny fruit, charred meat and a herbal, earthy backbone are supported by soft, sandy-textured tannins, lively acidity and a savory finish. Yum. Drink now–2025. *Little Peacock Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Glaetzer 2015 Bishop Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This wine starts shy but after some time in glass reveals bramble berries, cooked meat and wild herbs. More bramble fruit bursts onto the palate morphing into big, drying tannins that are balanced by a good lick of acidity and a long, herbal and cherry-cola finish. Drink now–2027. *Wine Trees.* —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

91 Hentley Farm 2014 Clos Otto Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Powerful in nature, this wine is full of raspberry, red cherry, earth and floral notes, with some charred wood in the background. There's some heat on the palate alongside overt oak and chewy tannins, but the acidity is there, as is the fruit. This just needs time in the cellar. Drink 2020–2037. *Hentley Farm (US). Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$165

91 Leeuwin Estate 2014 Siblings Shiraz (Margaret River). Unlike the rich, powerful Shirazes of South Australia, Western Australia's cooler climes produce wines more reminiscent of the Northern Rhône. Leeuwin's version swirls and twirls with notes of tanga orange rind, bright cherry, meat, cola and cumin spice. Light to medium bodied, it's silky and elegant but with some power too. Juicy fruit and savory tannins complete the package. Drink now. *Old Bridge Cellars. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Penfolds 2015 Magill Estate Shiraz (Adelaide). This Shiraz from Penfolds's original Magill Vineyard, located just outside of Adelaide, is ever so slightly less rich and muscular than its single-vineyard counterpart, RWT. Notes of raspberry, black cherry, dust, earth and slight meatiness are very nearly overwhelmed by powerful oak tannins at the moment, but they're fine grained and balanced by crisp acidity. Needs time in the bottle. Drink 2019–2037. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

91 Peter Lehmann 2012 Stonewell Shiraz (Barossa). This is a broody, dense and muscular wine. Ripe dark fruit, chocolate, dried oregano and vanillin oak lead into a rich, powerful palate laced with high-end French oak notes. The tannins are fine grained and tightly wound. Throw this in the cellar and forget about it for several years at

least. Drink 2020–2032. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Xanadu 2015 DJL Shiraz (Margaret River). There's a lot to like in this wine: raspberry, cherry, baking spices, mocha, violets and milky coffee lead into a medium-bodied palate complete with raisiny fruit and satiny tannins. A warming wintery red perfect with a roast. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Elderton 2012 Command Single Vineyard Shiraz (Barossa). This wine shows ripe red raspberry and currant fruit, with an orange tang, a hint of florals and herbal oak. The body lies somewhere between medium and full, while the ripe, almost sweet fruit reminds you that you're still in big Barossa territory. Drink 2019–2027. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

90 Franklin Tate 2015 Tate Shiraz (Margaret River). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy*.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$15

90 Hentley Farm 2015 The Beauty Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Still a baby and therefore rather shy in the glass, a few good swirls eek out aromas of cherry cola, sweet spice and dusty oak. The tannins are big but integrated, with vibrant acidity and herbal, medicinal flavors. This is a rich, powerful style, but give it time and watch it shine. Drink 2019–2032. Hentley Farm (US). —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$58

90 Hope Estate 2014 The Ripper Shiraz (Western Australia). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Mad Fish 2014 Shiraz (Western Australia). Bramble fruit, charred meat, earth and dusty oak lead into a medium-bodied palate that's got plenty of chewy, drying tannins but also a good deal of acidity to back things up. Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group. —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$17

90 Penfolds 2015 RWT Bin 798 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This will take a few years to start to show its potential. At the moment, it's shy. This shows cherry, blackberry, vanilla, cocoa powder, cedar and floral tones. It's tightly wound on the palate, with dusty tannins and balanced acidity. Drink 2020–2037. Treasury Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

90 Schild Estate 2014 Prämie Liebich Vineyard Shiraz (Barossa). This wine takes some vigorous swirling to open up, eventually offering notes of dark and red berries, tang, earth, and a herbal component. The palate is raisiny and chocolatey, with plush fruit and a juicy tang amidst a medium

to full body and plenty of crisp acidity to indicate a long life ahead. Drink 2019–2037. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$80

90 Tim Smith 2015 Bugalugs Shiraz (Barossa Valley). By Barossa standards, this Shiraz is on the elegant, lighter side. There's juicy cherry, blue fruit, beef jerky, BBQ smoke and a hint of herbal oak spice on the nose. The first sip bursts in your mouth like a firecracker, with more juicy fruit and a silky, plush texture. Fine tannins are smokey and savory. Drink now–2025. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Howard Park 2014 Flint Rock Shiraz (Great Southern). Richer in style, this shows ripe blackberry, mocha, black pepper, warm stones and vanilla oak on the nose. The palate is plush in fruit and savory tannins, while the oak is a little apparent but not overpowering. Drink now–2022. Craft + Estate—The Winebow Group. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Leeuwin Estate 2013 Art Series Shiraz (Margaret River). The nose of this wine brings forth characters of soap, slightly sweet oak, red and black cherries and potpourri. The medium-bodied palate is more promising: The fruit is brambly and there's an earthy core that comes into play. Tightly wound tannins meld with plentiful acidity, indicating that there's more life left in this wine yet. Drink now–2027. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Streicker 2012 Bridgeland Block Syrah (Margaret River). Bigger and richer than some of its Western Australian counterparts, this Shiraz has some age on it and is showing it with notes of raw meat, Dr. Pepper, red currant and earthy funk. There's still plenty of big, oaky tannins but the acidity is well balanced. There's still several more years of life here. Drink now–2023. Margaret River Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

89 Torbreck 2013 RunRig (Barossa). Opaque in color, this wine is dense in blackberry, dark chocolate, cola and vanillin oak aromas. A hot, full-bodied palate is full of plush dark fruit and more oak. This is a powerful, ultra rich red that's seen a lot of sunshine. Drink 2019–2037. Wine Creek. —C.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$225

88 Hentley Farm 2014 The Beauty Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Very shy at first, this wine eventually shows dark raisiny fruit, vanilla and toasty oak. There's plenty of richness and heat, that meld with grainy, tightly wound tannins and plush fruit. Hentley Farm (US). —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

RED BLENDS

91 Frankland Estate 2014 Olmo's Reward (Frankland River). The organically farmed Frankland Estate in the Great Southern region once again delivers in spades when it comes to the complexities of *terroir* expression combined with drinkability. This red blend offers attractive blue fruit notes, Dr. Pepper, coffee beans and cedar. The medium-bodied palate is herbal and stinky, with drying but beautifully structured tannins and a tangy, savory finish. Drink now–2027. Quintessential Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

90 Snake and Herring 2013 Cannonball Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Petit Verdot (Margaret River). You can taste a bit of all of the varieties in this Bordeaux-style red blend. This shows red currant and raspberry notes, smoked meat, coffee, cigar box and some dusty oak. The palate is medium to full bodied, with more tangy red fruit and cigar box spice. Tight yet silky tannins wrap up this powerful yet easygoing red. Great Australian Wine Company. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Woodlands 2014 Cabernet Franc-Merlot (Margaret River). Cherry chocolate cake, mint, and beef jerky make up the primary aromas on this red blend from one of Margaret River's top producers. The palate is medium bodied, with dusty, drying yet elegant tannins and a salt and cherry finish. Drink now. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Clairault 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Margaret River). Open and attractive, Clairault's red blend is a medley of bright raspberry fruit, flowers and herbs, all tied together by an elegant, medium body, juicy red fruit and savory notes on the palate. Margaret River Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 D'Arenberg 2014 d'Arry's Original Shiraz-Grenache (McLaren Vale). A little reductive at first, this Shiraz and Grenache blend opens to reveal the character of both grape varieties: dark cherry, strawberry, smoked meat and herbs lead into a powerful, full-bodied palate that's oaky but balanced by plush fruit and fine grained tannins. Drink now–2025. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Mr. Riggs 2015 Three Corner Jack Cabernet-Shiraz-Merlot (McLaren Vale). Plush red and dark fruit, licorice, florals, olives and dusty oak make up this powerful blend of Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The palate feels a little on the hot, oaky side, but then finishes on a pleasing savory, olive note. One for the big red lovers. Drink now–2025. Wine Trees. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

86 D'Arenberg 2011 The Galvo Garage (Adelaide). This Bordeaux blend is from a notoriously wet and cold South Aussie vintage. The result is a vegetal wine, with notes of cooked green beans, charred meat, and dark raisiny fruit. While the nose appeals, the palate is on the oaky side, with angular, muscular tannins and a rather funky-filled finish. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29

86 D'Arenberg 2011 The Sticks & Stones (McLaren Vale). Like a sampler box of chocolates, this label of D'Arenberg blends four Spanish and Portuguese varieties: Tempranillo, Grenache, Tinta Cão and Souzao. Unfortunately 2011 was one of South Australia's toughest vintages on record and this wine doesn't quite make the grade. It's dense and oaky, with barely ripe plum, raspberry and vegetal notes. The palate offers some juicy fruit and the tannins are powerful and drying. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$29

86 Wirra Wirra 2015 Church Block Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This is a rich, toasty wine showing notes of chocolate, blackberry, vanilla and pea shoots. The palate is a little hot and dense in dark berries, auspicious oak and a savory finish. Drink now with food until 2025. Negociants USA, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

SPAIN

WHITE WINES

RÍAS BAIXAS

91 Val do Sosego 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Tight citrus peel and peach aromas show a leesy side on the nose. This excellent rendition of Albariño feels round and juicy, but not sharp. Pleasing peach and melon flavors dry out and suggest white pepper on the finish. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Mar de Frades 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). In this vintage, the wine itself is as catchy as Mar de Frades's signature blue bottle. Aromas of green melon, apple and lees are spot on for the variety. Flavors of pineapple and citrus finish with modest complexity carried by the presence of lees. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Vionta 2016 Limited Release Albariño (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 17. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Bodegas Eidosela 2016 Ethereo Albariño (Rías Baixas). Apple and leesy aromas are largely fresh and textbook for the variety. A plump,

slightly oily palate features just enough acidity, while peachy flavors of nectarine flatten out on the finish. Drink now. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Martín Códax 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 Ramón Bilbao 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). A clover aromas leads on the nose, with white flower accents in the background. A round, healthy palate is mildly citric, with an orange note running strong. A steady finish helps this conclude well. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Gotas de Mar 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Briny white-fruit aromas are lean, with a pyrazinic note of jalapeño. Stone fruit flavors show on the palate, but with a mild bitterness. Nectarine is the lead on a short-run finish. Drink now. Hammeken Cellars USA. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Morgadío 2016 Legado del Conde Albariño (Rías Baixas). Stone fruit and floral aromas are friendly on the nose but not complex. This second-label bottling from Morgadío is round and nicely textured, while nectarine flavors lead to a healthy finish that stays the course. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Adega dos Eidos 2016 Eidos de Padriñán Albariño (Rías Baixas). Aromas of lime and dried mango are quiet on the nose. This Albariño has the feel of pulpy citrus fruits, while a mix of briny tropical fruit flavors turns a bit green and peppery on the finish. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Altos de Cristimil 2016 Albariño (Rías Baixas). A peach aroma mixes with notes of lees and crushed stone on the nose. The palate is citric and streamlined, with lean tangerine flavors that turn a touch oily and fleshy on the midpalate, but ultimately racy on the finish. Hand Picked Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Bodegas Bilbainas 2015 Viña Zaco Albariño (Rías Baixas). Apple and citrus aromas are starting to show some age-based corn and wheat notes on the nose. A solid palate is compact and narrow, while apple and stone-fruit flavors exhibit mild bitterness. The finish is tangy, with a modest burn. Drink now. Aveniü Brands, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Fillboa 2015 Selección Finca Monte Alto Albariño (Rías Baixas). Yeasty aromas of Animal Cracker cookies and vanilla mask fruit tones on the nose. This vineyard-designated Albariño

shows flavors of briny apple and stone fruits, with a slightly bitter, monotone finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

85 Mar de Enero 2015 Albariño (Rías Baixas). Apricot and carrot aromas show on the nose. This aging Albariño is pulpy and round in feel, with prickly flavors of melon, bell pepper and bitter pyrazines. Sacred Thirst Selections. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

RIBEIRO

89 Gotas de Mar 2016 Godello (Ribeiro). This chiseled Godello shows the fresh and pure side of this increasingly popular white grape. Aromas of citrus fruits and skins lead to a juicy, medium-bodied palate with good intensity. Light flavors of melon and citrus are steady on the finish. Hammeken Cellars USA. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Bodegas Campante 2016 Viña Reboreda Godello (Ribeiro). Fresh mineral and white-fruit aromas are clean as a whistle. This Godello from Galicia is crisp in feel, with dry, melony flavors and a hint of green. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

85 Bodegas Alanís 2015 Las Híades (Ribeiro). Aromas of stone fruit, apple and pumpkin announce a palate that's dilute but holding onto some punch. Briny citrus flavors suggest orange peel, while this blend of Palomino and Torrontés tastes slightly bitter on the finish. Torgar Group. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

84 Bodegas Alanís 2015 Elara Treixadura-Godello (Ribeiro). A neutral nose shows a briny streak, while this feels acidic on the palate. This blend of Treixadura and Godello shows white-fruit flavors, with a wheaty tasting finish. Torgar Group. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

BIERZO

87 Abad Dom Bueno 2016 Godello (Bierzo). Yeasty white-fruit aromas carry the nose. In the mouth, this basic Godello is fleshy and pulpy. A mix of citrus and nectarine flavors holds steady on a fresh but simple finish. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

86 Abad Dom Bueno 2015 Fermentado Barrica Godello (Bierzo). Resiny oak is the dominant aroma on this barrel-fermented Godello. That heavy oak character carries straight to the palate, which tastes severely resiny. Oak and hidden white-

fruit flavors are about all that's present on the finish. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

84 **Dominio de Tares 2016 La Sonrisa de Tares Godello (Bierzo).** Creamy aromas of apple and candy corn show on the nose. Flavors of citrus fruit carry the streamlined palate. Multiple U.S. importers. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

GETARIAKO TXAKOLINA

88 **Lasalde Elkarte 2016 Aitzalde (Getariako Txakolina).** Punchy aromas of citrus and cactus are not outright green but do show pyranize scents. A palate with honest body, grip and lemony acidity tastes of tangy lemon-lime and tangerine, while this is angular but not scouring on the finish. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —M.S.
abv: 11% Price: \$18

86 **Alleme 2016 Getariako Txakolina.** Fresh pear and apple aromas are light, simple and clean. Like almost all Txakoli, this is acidic and highly citric in feel, with flavors of lemon and underripe pineapple. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

85 **K5 Argiñano 2016 K Pilota Hondarrabi Zuri (Getariako Txakolina).** White-fruit aromas are quiet on the nose. Despite a shearing mouthfeel that's typical for Txakoli, the palate leans sour and citric in feel. Classic Wines. —M.S.
abv: 11% Price: \$19

84 **Inazio Urruzola 2016 Ernio (Getariako Txakolina).** This wine feels alive due to typical Txakoli acidity, but there isn't much body or structure to it. Tart green-apple flavors are waxy and inexact. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —M.S.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$17

83 **Baskoli 2016 Getariako Txakolina.** This is a simplistic wine driven by citrus and green, stalky flavors. The palate lacks precision and finishes on a slightly bitter note. Americal Beverage Group Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

RUEDA

88 **Blanco Nieva 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda).** Lime and lemon aromas are clean and direct on the nose. This well-cut Sauvignon Blanc is crisp and light weight, with salty green-apple and citrus flavors that linger on the finish. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

87 **Mocén 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda).** Varietally familiar aromas of snappy citrus fruits are feline in nature. This is light in body, refreshing

and citric. Flavors of lime and tangerine are stony and show a hint of green herbs, while this is lasting on a fresh finish. Columbus Wine and Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$17

86 **Jorge Ordóñez & Co. 2016 Nisia Old Vines Verdejo (Rueda).** Mineral-driven on the nose, the palate of this Verdejo is citrusy in feel, with a grippy texture. Flavors of nectarine and peach are mild on a fresh finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

85 **Bodegas Copaboca 2016 Finca Feroes Verdejo (Rueda).** Apple and apricot aromas lead to a simple but healthy palate. Stone fruit and citrus flavors are ample but flatten out on a low-acid finish. Magical Spirits. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$6

85 **Botas de Barro 2016 Verdejo (Rueda).** Mild stone-fruit aromas are quiet on the nose. This feels plump on the palate, with dry citrus flavors that are a touch green and bitter. Dangerous Import Group. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

83 **Los Navales de Martúe 2015 Verdejo (Rueda).** Yeasty aromas of corn and saline water lead to a briny palate of white-fruit flavors. This is low in intensity and wobbly in stature. Drink now. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$11

82 **François Lurton 2016 Campo Alegre Verdejo (Rueda).** At first, the palate on this Verdejo is spritz, but then it goes flat. Chunky but dull white-fruit flavors give way to bitterness on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

RIOJA

89 **Rioja Vega 2014 Reserva Producción Limitada Tempranillo Blanco (Rioja).** This barrel-fermented Tempranillo Blanco is low in intensity on the nose. However, in the mouth it is linear and shows strong acidity. Oxidized, old-school flavors of dry white fruits and oak finish long and mellow. Drink this classic white Rioja through 2020. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

88 **Sierra Cantabria 2015 Organza (Rioja).** Oak and spice notes are out front on the nose but not overpowering. This blend of Viura, Malvasia and Garnacha Blanca is medium in body, with a shot of bracing acidity. Wood-dominant flavors of spiced apple and resin carry on the finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

87 **Bodegas Valdemar 2015 Inspiración Alto Cantabria Tempranillo Blanco (Rioja).** Peach, mango and crushed-stone aromas lead to a cidery, streamlined palate. Salty stone-fruit flavors lead in this barrel-aged Tempranillo Blanco, a fairly rare wine even for Rioja. On the finish, this is plump but lacking in structure. Drink now. Terlato Wines International. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

86 **Bodegas Faustino 2016 VII Viura (Rioja).** Fresh aromas of green apple and melon meld with a note of yeast on the nose. A solid palate holds mild citrus and green-herb flavors which lead to the straightforward finish. Palm Bay International. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

86 **Compañía de Vinos del Atlántico 2013 Sierra de la Demanda Viura-Garnacha Blanca (Rioja).** Briny, funky aromas of cured ham, stone fruits and salt water are unique for the area. This blend of Viura and Garnacha Blanca is linear and acidic, with lightly oxidized, barrel-driven flavors of boiled ham and dried apricot. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$37

85 **Bodegas Corral 2016 Don Jacobo Viura (Rioja).** This wine is citrus-driven on the nose, leading to a streamlined palate of apple, green melon and almond skin flavors. Vintage Wines Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

84 **Bodega Classica 2016 Hacienda Lopez de Haro Viura (Rioja).** Slightly pyrazinic aromas are green and gruff. The palate is simple and streamlined, with flavors of melon and peach. A briny tasting finish closes out this standard Viura. Askari O.H. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

84 **El Coto 2016 Viura (Rioja).** Prickly, fairly green aromas suggest cactus and citrus. A punchy, citric mouthfeel is lean, while this Viura tastes of lime and thyme. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$11

84 **Viña Otano 2016 Viura (Rioja).** A yeasty, floral aroma leads the nose. This dilute Viura has little substance on the palate, while bland flavors of white fruits finish yeasty and slightly briny on a hint of melon. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

82 **Bodegas Fos 2016 Viura (Rioja).** Aromas of lees and chemicals are mild on the nose. This Viura has an oily feel and a salty flavor profile that shows mild fruit tones. Tasty Wines Import INC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$9

82 **Bodegas Valdemar 2016 Finca Alto Cantabria Macabeo (Rioja).** This wine shows lively

BUYINGGUIDE

acidity and the sensation of resinous oak, while flavors of salt, barrel spice and baked apple show on the finish. Terlato Wines International. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

81 Covila 2016 Adivino Malvasia (Rioja). This Malvasia shows a narrow palate of salty, oxidized flavors. On the finish, this is bone-dry in feel. Torgar Group. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

TERRA ALTA

87 Edetària 2016 Viatera Garnacha Blanca (Terra Alta). Aromas of orange peel and taragon are spunky and a little green on the nose. This fresh, lean Garnacha Blanca shows moderate acidity and short flavors of green melon and almond skins. A bit of saltiness is present on a dry finish. Ripe Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Edetària 2015 Selecció Old Vines Garnacha Blanca (Terra Alta). A heavy coating of oak dominates over mild fruit tones on the nose. This old-vine Garnacha Blanca is textured, with briny white-fruit and resinous oak flavors. Ripe Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

85 Cellers Unió 2016 Clos Dalian Garnacha Blanca (Terra Alta). Mild fruit tones hide behind yeasty aromas. Plump in feel yet not overly intense, the palate deals briny flavors of almond skin, peach pit and melon. On the finish, this lingers with a hint of salt. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Edetària 2016 Via Edetana (Terra Alta). This blend of Garnacha Blanca and Viognier is round in feel. Briny nectarine and citrus flavors are sharp on the palate and turn green on the finish. Ripe Wine Imports. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

VINO DE LA TIERRA

87 Pablo Claro 2016 Biodynamic Sauvignon Blanc (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Mild white-fruit aromas carry the nose of this Biodynamic Sauvignon Blanc. Angular, tangy flavors of gooseberry and green plum carry the flavors and finish crisp and clean. Terroir Wine Group. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

84 Finca Río Negro 2016 Cogolludo-Guadalajara Gewürztraminer (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Highly aromatic on the nose, notes of flowers and soap carry the lead. In the mouth, this is oily in feel yet with a strong vein of acidity. A quick blast

of lychee flavor finishes short and bitter. Siema LLC. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

83 Valduero 2016 Yunquera Albillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Dusty aromas of tropical fruits and melon are ample on the nose. This varietal Albillo, a grape that's rarely seen, feels round but amorphous. Salty, bitter flavors of pineapple and pyrazines leave nothing but mild bitterness on the finish. Exclusive Selections. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

88 Avancia 2016 Cuveé de O Godello (Valdeorras). Mild but focused aromas of apple and lime are fresh and slightly mineral. This is round and easy on the palate, with controlled citric acidity. A simple flavor of orange finish favorably but without complexity. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Arinzano 2015 Hacienda de Arinzano Chardonnay (Pago de Arinzano). Aromas of creamy oak and corn stalk are oily, rich on the nose. In the mouth, this Chardonnay from Navarra is broad but with ample acidity. Woody, creamy pineapple and orange flavors finish steady and oaky. Stoli Group USA. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Otazu 2014 Pago de Otazu con Crianza Chardonnay (Pago de Otazu). This barrel-fermented Navarran Chardonnay is gold in color, with a matte finish and a resinous mouthfeel. Woody, spicy flavors gleaned from copious oak dominate a flavor profile of creamy melon notes. Lasting oak carries the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

86 Inurrieta 2016 Orchidea Sauvignon Blanc (Navarra). White-fruit and citrus aromas are mild but clean on the nose. This has a light-bodied palate and tart flavors of orange and lime. A juicy finish hangs around for a few moments then dissipates. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 Campos Reales 2016 Sauvignon Blanc-Airen (La Mancha). Aromas of fresh pumpkin and dusty peach are clean but bland on the nose. This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Airen shows briny melon flavors, with notes of spent yeast and wheat on a low-acid finish. Exclusive Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

85 Coto de Hayas 2016 Chardonnay (Campo de Borja). Light aromas of white fruit greet the nose in this Chardonnay from red-wine country. The plump palate is simple and low on acid, while

this tastes of lightly oaked melon and apple. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

85 Pazos del Rey 2015 Pazo de Monterrey Godello (Monterrei). A gold color and round melony aromas are friendly on the nose. Dry apple flavors are lightly oxidized, while this isn't offering much on the finish. Aviva Vino. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

84 Bodegas Cristo de la Vega 2016 Camina Sauvignon Blanc (La Mancha). Aromas of lanolin and citrus peel lead on the nose. The medium-bodied palate holds a bitter flavor of stone-fruit pit that leads to a clean, short finish. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

84 Vega Sindoa 2016 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Navarra). Aromas of white fruits, oak and grape skins are mild on the nose. A resinous, sticky palate leads to ripe white-fruit flavors that are oak-covered. Low acidity and heavy oak on the finish make for a cloying end. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

83 Gooseneck 2014 Chardonnay (Spain). A yellow color with luster announces maturity in this Chardonnay, while flat aromas of spiced pumpkin and melon are mellow. Mature, lightly oxidized flavors of salted corn, apple and squash are preserved on the finish by moderate acidity. Wickford Wine Company. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

83 Vecrima 2015 Godello (Monterrei). A nose of yeast, salami and overripe white fruits leads to a round palate with little vitality or energy. Yeasty stone-fruit flavors become shaky on a low-acid finish. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

82 Monterebo 2016 Blanco (Jumilla). A nose driven by punchy pyrazine-based aromas is sweaty and not encouraging. Other than spunky acidity, the palate on this Sauvignon Blanc is dilute. Briny flavors are raw and green, while the finish is hollow and tangy. Pacific Estates. —M.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

80 Albada 2015 Viñas Viejas Macabeo (Calatayud). Briny aromas lead the nose. This feels tight on the palate, boasting a streamlined texture. Nutty, salty flavors are devoid of fruit, while this Macabeo (Viura) is briny and tastes like almond skins on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

CAVA

89 Alta Alella 2014 Mirgín Laieta Rosé Gran Reserva Brut Nature (Cava). A fresh aroma

of orange takes the lead on the nose. In the mouth, this brut nature is tight, carrying flavors of pink grapefruit and red apple skins that last on the finish. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$37

89 Castellroig 2013 Brut Nature Reserva (Cava). Aromas of pear cider are mild yet focused on the nose. Fresh acidity drives the scrubbing palate, while this brut nature tastes of green apple, white corn and mild citrus fruits. An clean, dry finish makes for a nice ending. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

89 Marqués de Gelida 2014 Brut Reserva Pinot Noir Rosé (Cava). This brut rosé is light in color and equally light on the nose, with mild aromas of creamy orange, powdered sugar and red currant. A flyweight palate with citric acidity deals mild tangerine and nectarine flavors prior to a slight finish with crisp acidity. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

88 Montserrat Canals Torres 2014 Brut (Cava). A fresh nose with a whiff of briny apple sets up a palate of green pear and crushed stone. Lime and apple flavors are lasting and pure across the crisp finish. Beacon Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

88 Naveran 2015 Brut (Cava). Solid apple cider and lime aromas are slightly briny on the nose. This brut shows freshness and tension on the palate, while citrusy flavors include green-herb notes. A slight bitterness rises up on a firm finish. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Naveran 2014 Dama Brut (Cava). A gold luster and a constant flow of beaded bubbles are encouraging signs. This Chardonnay-heavy brut shows apple and light brioche aromas, followed by a round palate. Salty melon and papaya flavors end with little fruit and a note of sourdough bread. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Castellroig NV Brut Nature (Cava). Aromas of white-fruit and yeast is mild on the nose. On the palate, this brut nature is lean and acidic, with a mouthfeel defined by lime juice and wet stone. Green-fruit flavors are slightly oxidized on a quick-fading finish with green-herb notes. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Naveran 2015 Brut Nature (Cava). Briny, bready aromas suggest sourdough on the nose. In the mouth, this is solid but shows mild complexity. Orange and nectarine flavors include

a spot of yeast, leading to a clean, dry finish. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

87 Naveran 2015 Brut Rosé (Cava). Aromas of orange and vanilla turn more burnt and smoky as this Pinot Noir-Parellada brut rosé opens up. The highly foamy mouthfeel carries rustic, spicy citrus flavors. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

86 Castellroig 2014 Vermell Brut Xarel-lo (Cava). Bitter peach pit and burnt orange aromas open this tan-colored Cava. A soft, lightly citric mouthfeel could use more acid, while this tastes of grape skins and stale grapefruit. A short finish introduces green-herb notes. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Naveran 2015 Perles d'Or Brut Xarel-lo (Cava). Made entirely from the Xarello grape, this brut smells is mildly funky on the nose. A solid palate holds briny peach and bready flavors, while this is steady on the moderately complex finish. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Naveran 2013 Perles Blanques Cuvée Antonia (Cava). Heavy bubbles and aromas of apple and pickle juice are intense. Round in mouthfeel, flavors of tart citrus are offset by mealy notes. This tastes mostly of briny, salty orange on the sizable finish. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Rexach Baqués NV Gran Carta Brut Reserva (Cava). Apple cider aromas set up a tight palate with moderate acidity. This tastes briny and mildly bitter, with grassy white-peach flavors. On the finish, this doesn't change much or improve. Cal Vin & Hocks. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Vins El Cep 2015 Kila (Cava). This brut is sound on the palate, but low acidity results in a flat sensation. White-fruit and green melon flavors are lightly oxidized on a yeasty finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Alta Alella 2015 Capsigrany Organic (Cava). This tan-colored brut nature opens with yeasty aromas of brioche and oxidized apple. A foamy palate lacks clarity and smoothness, while this tastes like it smells: briny, yeasty and mildly oxidized. A fruitless finish is simply dry and bready. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$43

85 Casa de la Ermita NV Casa Marta (Cava). This Cava shows a citric palate, with notes of celery and lime. The finish is mild and short on a

crisp mineral note. Arctic Beverage, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

83 Vicente Gandia NV Hoya de Cadenas Organic Brut (Cava). Soapy stone-fruit aromas are yeasty on the nose. This is foamy on the palate, with vinegar-like acidity. Mealy peach and apple flavors are bitter on the finish. Vicente Gandia USA. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

OTHER SPARKLING WINES

87 Heretat Montrubí NV Gaintus Espumoso Tradicional (Penedès). Floral yet flat aromas are leafy and a touch green on the nose. This 100% Sumoll rosé feels peachy and simple, with stone-fruit and berry flavors. Mild raspberry notes lend a red-fruit character to a wide but shapeless finish. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

84 Mocén NV Brut Nature Método Classico (Rueda). Aromas of vanilla, yeast and frosted doughnut are slightly grassy and green. This Verdejo-based sparkler from Rueda is more wine-like than bubbly. Underripe nectarine and white-grape flavors are yeasty, while this tastes of white bread on a finish that lacks fruit and complexity. Columbus Wine and Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

SPAIN

RED WINES

RIBERA DEL DUERO

90 Bodegas la Cepa Alta 2014 La Veuilla Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Grainy oak aromas dominate a nose with black-fruit, spice, balsam wood and barrel notes. This crianza is intense, with strong tannins and blazing acidity. Toasted, blackened berry flavors are under control on a bold finish. Drink through 2022. Misa Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

89 Atalayas de Golbán 2014 Torre de Golbán Crianza (Ribera del Duero). From Dominio de Atauta, this crianza is slightly murky and earthy up front, with aromas of smoky wood, prune and dark grit. A full, saturated palate is packed with power, while this tastes of blackberry, prune and leather. Aviva Vino. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Viña Vilano 2014 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Straightforward berry and cherry aromas control a nose with spice and cocoa notes. A high-toned, tannic palate carries fresh plum and raspberry flavors end, with hard tannins, barrel-based

notes and general dryness. Drink through 2021. Misa Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Marqués de Valparaíso 2014 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of rose petals and raisins carry to a compact palate that is chewy and tannic. Blocky plum and berry flavors are slightly flat on a finish with scraping tannins. Drink through 2021. Winery Direct. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

88 Peñalba Herraiz 2015 Aptus 6 Meses en Barrica (Ribera del Duero). Cherry and dark plum aromas are solid on the nose. A raw, energetic palate is paced by bright acidity, while this tastes of blackened spice and blackberry. On a bold finish, peppery fruit flavors blend with lightly charred oak. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Señorío de Sotillo 2014 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Black-fruit aromas with accents of road tar and spice turn more herbal with airing. A tight, crisp mouthfeel is built around smacking acidity, while plum and berry flavors come with peppery spice notes. An herbal character returns on a ripped, juicy finish. Drink through 2021. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Tamaral 2015 Roble Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Black cherry and cassis aromas are spicy, with a sense of freshness. This Tempranillo feels tight and racy, with tension to the palate. Woody, spicy black-fruit flavors are medium in depth and a touch cooked, while this is full on the finish, with a pronounced oak flavor sticking out. USA Wine West. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Conde de Siruela 2016 Roble (Ribera del Duero). Charred oak and slightly overripe aromas make for a bullish nose. On the palate, this delivers a jolt of acidity along with oversize tannins, while ripe plum and cassis flavors. Holiday Beverage. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 García Figuero 2016 4 Roble (Ribera del Duero). Jammy berry aromas are more gritty than smooth. This feels chunky and on the heavy side, with power but little finesse. Extracted blackberry and cassis flavors finish with overt oak, related chocolate notes and rough tannins. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Quintana de Cue 2015 Roble (Ribera del Duero). Ripe aromas of prune and blackberry come with a hint of green. A dense, tannic palate holds rich flavors of prune and plum. A toasty, oaky finish is spicy but short. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Marqués de Valparaíso 2016 Roble (Ribera del Duero). Green, grassy aromas announce a wine with ripeness issues. In the mouth, this feels raw and tannic, with hard-pumping acidity. Oaky, chocolaty flavors accent plum and berry fruit, while this feels and tastes riper on the finish than it does early on. Winery Direct. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Martín Berdugo 2016 Joven (Ribera del Duero). Jumpy aromas of blackberry Kool-Aid are common for a joven. In the mouth, this feels chunky and grabby, with punchy acidity. Salty berry and plum flavors come with abrasive tannins and an aftertaste of oak. Tradist Corp. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

85 Cantabros 2015 Ribera del Duero. Berry and plum scents suggest powdered drink mix. A narrow palate feels austere, while this tastes of tart black plum with mineral tones. On the finish, this dries out quickly as it leaves grating residual tannins. Condor Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Zumaya 2016 Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Jammy black currant aromas are rooty and medicinal. This young Tempranillo is hard and smacking on the palate. A forced-oak flavor of clove is dominant, while this is drying and raw on the finish. Axial VinosUSA. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

83 Emilio Moro 2016 Finca Resalo (Ribera del Duero). This entry-level wine has green aromas on the nose, while the palate is pinched and tannic. Jammy berry fruit flavors blended with green-herb notes and rough tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

RIOJA

94 Sierra Cantabria 2013 Amancio (Rioja). A blend of smoky oak, earth, blackberry and raisin aromas rule the nose on this full-force Rioja that's showing full ripeness despite coming from a cool vintage. Amancio is typically bruising on the palate, with wall-to-wall power and tannins. Dark, hefty berry and plum flavors finish firm and dry, but with plenty of vanilla and oak flavor. Drink from 2020–2034. Fine Estates From Spain. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$155

93 Carlos Serres 2010 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 7. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Marqués de Murrieta 2013 Dalmau (Rioja). Sturdy aromas of licorice, black pepper and wild berry fruits are highly encouraging. In the mouth, high acidity reflective of a cool year is the dominant component, meaning this has long-term

aging potential. Flavors of dried cheese, vanilla and chocolate come straight from the barrel, while balsamic berry, plum and currant notes carry over to a well-oaked finish. Drink from 2020–2034. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 San Vicente 2013 Rioja. Toasty oak and saddle leather aromas lend complexity to a dark-fruited nose with minerality. This feels snappy, which is what you might expect from a high-end 2013 from Rioja. Oaky black-fruit flavors come with more than enough spice and earth notes, while this is toasty on the finish and also dry and firm in feel. Drink from 2019–2030. Fine Estates From Spain. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$61

92 Bodegas Martinez Lacuesta 2010 Reserva (Rioja). Fine aromas of brandied cherry, spiced plum and cool earth get this reserva from a great vintage off to an impressive start. A layered palate is lively but showing maturity, while this tastes of black currant, brown sugar and myriad spices. A peppery, chocolaty, dry finish is beyond nice; drink this well-priced overachiever through 2025. Spain Wine Collection. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

91 Licenciado 2013 Reserva (Rioja). Initial oak-driven aromas of grilled and smoked meats don't allow for much fruit expression on the nose. A jammy, plush palate is solid but not too hard or tannic. Spicy, toasty flavors of plum, raisin and licorice expire with mild heat and burn on the finish. Drink through 2032. Votto Vines Importing. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Valenciso 2010 Reserva (Rioja). Notes of earthy, clove and all spice carry the nose. This is full, juicy and popping on the palate. Flavors of raspberry, mixed spices and exotic tea finish with red-berry leftovers and even more spice notes. Drink through 2028. Classical Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Viña Otano 2010 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Roasted berry aromas include a leafy note and a hint of grilled meat. This is a muscled-up blend of Tempranillo, Graciano and Mazuelo, and the secondary players add punch. Raw berry flavors are helped by a dash of brown sugar, while this feels plush and bullish on the finish. Drink through 2028. Grapes of Spain. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Castillo Clavijo 2010 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Light, spicy aromas of mature, leafy berry fruits and herbs lead to a juicy and fresh palate. On the flavor side, this is dry and spicy, with tea, pepper and leafy berry notes that stay peppery and spicy on the finish. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 Baron De Ley 2015 Varietales Garnacha (Rioja). Disparate aromas of chocolate, herbal black fruits, stalky field greens and animal fur just barely pull it together. In the mouth, this is highly acidic, with salty, tart plum and berry flavors. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

84 Bodegas Tobía 2015 Daimon (Rioja). Bold berry aromas suggest full ripeness and a certain level of ease. In the mouth, however, this feels heavy. Grapy flavors of blackened berry fruits finish chunky and with little energy. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

83 Burgo Viejo 2015 Garnacha (Rioja). Scratchy, reedy aromas of berry fruits, oak grain and green herbs show on the nose. This Garnacha is pulling and narrow on a rubbery, tart palate. Sour plum and berry flavors fail to come around on a raw finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

NAVARRA

89 Artadi 2013 Pasos de San Martín Garnacha (Navarra). This spicy, fiery smelling Garnacha shows bright plum and berry aromas. In the mouth, this is tough and tannic, with raw acidity and a mild burn. Dark, spicy berry flavors are blackened, while this tastes peppery and feels hot on the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Artadi 2012 Santa Cruz de Artazu Garnacha (Navarra). Pushy oak on the nose results in grainy aromas and cheesy notes. This warm-vintage Garnacha from Navarra feels tight and pulling, with choppy tannins. Oaky flavors of blackberry are raw and bumpy across a hot and scratchy finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Ochoa 2010 Reserva (Navarra). Earthy, lightly baked berry aromas fresh on the nose. A snappy palate with raw acidity leads to mildly herbal plum and berry flavors. A dry, spicy, nicely oaked finish is a bit choppy in feel but tastes right. Similar to past bottlings, this is 55% Tempranillo, 30% Cab Sauvignon and 15% Merlot. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

87 Ochoa 2009 Reserva (Navarra). Reflecting a hot and dry vintage, this blend smells a bit raisiny and overripe. In the mouth, hard tannins make for a rough and rugged palate, while flavors of tomato, green herbs, prune and spice finish similarly baked, herbal and tomatoey. This is a blend of 55% Tempranillo, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot. Frontier Wine Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 Inurrieta 2010 Altos de Inurrieta Reserva Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra). This blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon has a resinous aroma on the nose. The palate boasts lemony acidity, with vanilla, tobacco and currant flavors, while the finish is choppy and tangy. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Pago de Larrainzar 2009 Reserva Especial Estate Bottled (Navarra). Granulated, gritty aromas of cooked black fruits put the nose squarely into the raisiny category. This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo and Garnacha feels heavy and saturated, with grinding tannins. Prune is the stand-out flavor prior to a raisiny finish. Pal-mateer Consulting LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

CAMPO DE BORJA

91 Alto Moncayo 2014 Aquilon Garnacha (Campo de Borja). Alto Moncayo's mega Garnacha is this smoky, roasted smelling monster. Aromas of plum and currant are straight from the smoker, while this feels full and massive but tempered by acidity. Resinous oak flavors of clove and campfire are stronger than the wine's plum and berry notes, while this tastes savory and extremely woody on the finish. Drink through 2022. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$155

90 Alto Moncayo 2014 Garnacha (Campo de Borja). A heavy application of charred oak might be too much for some, but if that's to your liking then you should enjoy this Garnacha's smoky, spicy nose. A stout, full-bodied palate is full of resinous oak with a balance of acid. Saturated, woody flavors of roasted berry fruits finish toasty and resinous. Drink through 2020. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$45

89 Alto Moncayo 2014 Veraton Garnacha (Campo de Borja). Lactic oak is the dominant aroma on this Garnacha, which results in creamy notes of chocolate atop plum and cassis scents. This is woody and resinous in feel, with ample acidity to maintain balance. Savory, smoky plum and blackberry flavors are baked and woody, while this tastes of beef jerky and other cured meats on the finish. Drink through 2020. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Bodegas Aragonesas 2014 Solo Selección Viñas Viejas Garnacha (Campo de Borja). Mealy berry aromas are stewy and topped with a heavy load of oak-based carob and cocoa. In the mouth, this Garnacha feels sticky and dense. Dried dark-fruit flavors finish woody and medicinal,

with heat and excess weight. DC Flynt MW Selections. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

PRIORAT

93 Torres 2014 Salmos (Priorat). Grapy, floral aromas are friendly on the nose. There's all the saturated weight and intensity required of an excellent Priorat, but still Salmos is not demanding or tough. Blackened, toasty berry flavors and a charming finish make this good to enjoy through 2024. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Ferrer Bobet 2014 Priorat. Medicinal cassis and grapy berry aromas give this a fruit-forward outlook. A plush, full palate carries schisty flavors of wild berry and dark plum fruit. A tight finish is both full and exact, with a stone-cut sensation. Drink through 2023. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Cellers Unió 2014 Roureda Llicorella Clàssic (Priorat). Drilling aromas of graphite and balsamic dark fruits open this intense, pulling blend of 50% Carignan, 25% Garnacha and 15% Merlot. Roaring berry, chocolate and pepper flavors get brushed aside by the tannic roughness of the finish. Give this plenty of air before pouring; drink through 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Mas d'en Gil 2014 Bellmunt (Priorat). Rasp-berry aromas are mild on the nose. This hails from Bellmunt, a warm, lower-lying section of the Priorat. In the mouth, it's rough and gritty, with narrow plum and cherry flavors. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

DOMINIO DE VALDEPUSA

92 Marques de Grifón 2013 Svmma Varietalis Estate Bottled (Dominio de Valdepusa). This is a well-balanced offering from Marqués de Grifón's. Forward but controlled cassis and blackberry aromas are earthy and suggest cocoa. A stout palate shows modest flexibility and elegance, while this blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot tastes of spicy cassis and raisin prior to finishing rock steady. Drink through 2024. MundoVino-The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

90 Marques de Grifón 2013 Single Vineyard Estate Bottled Petit Verdot (Dominio de Valdepusa). Baked black plum and cassis aromas are dark and rich on the nose. The palate is bold in baked blackberry and plum flavors, with a chocolate and toast note that lingers through the finish. Drink

through 2025. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Marques de Griñon 2013 AAA (Dominio de Valdepeña). Maximum ripeness is conveyed through concentrated berry aromas. On the palate, that same ripeness includes blazing tartaric acidity that creates a scratchy mouthfeel. Blasting raisin, cassis and berry flavors see screechy acidity take over on the finish, with oaky flavor remnants. This is equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$300

VINO DE LA TIERRA

91 Abadía Retuerta 2014 Petit Verdot (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). A deep purple color and grapy aromas with plenty of oak set up a concentrated, baked palate braced by hard tannins. Toasty, blackened berry fruit flavors are dusted with oak spice, while the palate is charred and toasty on a powerful but brusque finish. Drink through 2030. Europvin USA. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Aljibes 2016 Viña Aljibes (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Meaty blackberry aromas smell of soy sauce and game. A widespread palate comes with grabby tannins. Mint, oak and herbal berry fruit flavors are more *sauvage* than polished, while this blend of Tempranillo, Cabernet and Petit Verdot is tight on the finish, with rugged residual tannins. Drink through 2022. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

83 Aljibes 2015 Petit Verdot (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Aromas of herbs, lemon and blueberry show a bramble and green character on the nose. This is a minty Petit Verdot that's been padded with a lot of oak. The end result is a mix of woody flavors that are bitter and finish like mint-infused coffee. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

OTHER RED WINES

90 Volver 2014 Triga (Alicante). A blast of chocolate and mocha rises up on this heavily oaked Monastrell and Cabernet blend before those aromas change to char and toast. A chewy, heavyweight palate deals flavors of licorice, blackened oak and char along with dark fruit that's more canvas than paint. Drink this modern red with steak or roast lamb and it will show best. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$45

88 Volver 2015 Tarima Hill Estate Bottled Old Vines Monastrell (Alicante). Minty aromas of herbal berry fruits set up a tight, linear palate

with acidity that registers as tartaric and jacked up. Dark plum and spiced blackberry flavors are toasty and a touch hot on the finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$17

87 Alta Alella 2016 Merla Organic (Alella). Alta Alella's entry into the natural wine world comes via this Mataro (Mourvèdre) from Catalonia. Reduced, raisiny aromas push the nose to the outer limits of acceptable ripeness, while this feels saturated. Prune and grapy fruit flavors simmer on the finish. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

86 Finca Bacara 2015 Crazy Grapes Monastrell (Jumilla). A heavy coating of resinous oak sits on top of reedy berry fruit aromas. Reduction and jamminess offset each other on a tight palate, while there's a prickly, slightly herbal quality to the plum and berry flavors in this Monastrell. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

86 Vega Saucó 2015 el Beybi (Toro). Raisiny aromas are obvious but not over the top. This basic Toro is expansive but a touch heavy in fell. Raisin and black plum flavors are more baked than fresh, while this is compact on the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

84 Crápula 2013 Soul (Jumilla). This wine shows an extracted palate with flavors of raisin and toast, while tartaric acidity creates a fiery finish with a grapy aftertaste. Misa Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$41

82 El Escocés Volante 2013 Es Lo Que Hay Viñas Viejas Garnacha (Spain). Stewed, mealy berry fruit aromas are lacking in clarity and quality. This Garnacha from a cool year feels lean and raw, while berry flavors are sour, weedy and devoid of ripeness. A scratchy, earthy tasting finish is not of help. Kyselá Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

82 Pallas 2015 Old Vines Garnacha (Spain). This Garnacha smells like a smoldering campfire. A tannic, heavy, overoaked palate tastes mostly of burnt wood and hamburger, while a hint of bacon arises on an all-wood finish. This is not a well-balanced wine; it's too oaky, too heavy and just not good. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$10

BURGUNDY

WHITE WINES

CHABLIS GRAND CRU

94 Jean-Marc Brocard 2015 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis). A salty nudge in this ripe wine

gives a tangy edge to the rich apricot and spice flavors. Warm and generous, it keeps an edgy acidity that shows its aging potential. Still tight while fruity, the wine that comes from the westernmost of the grand crus will be ready to drink from 2022. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

94 Jean-Marc Brocard 2015 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis). Lively and crisp while still showing the richness of the vintage, this is a subtle, elegant wine. It still has youth on its side, bright with zesty orange and citrus flavors. The minerality that comes from the chalk, flint soil gives a texture that will see the wine through as it ages. Drink from 2022. Verity Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Domaine Besson 2015 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis). This ageworthy wine is full of fruit as well as tense and textured. Coming from this ripe vintage, it offers yellow fruits, ripe acidity, hints of the wood aging and a ripe, rich texture. The minerality is cushioned by opulent fruit that is so enveloping. Drink this fine wine from 2021. BPW Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

CHABLIS PREMIER CRU

93 Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis). This vineyard, planted on rich soil, has produced a ripe wine full of yellow fruits, rich spice and juicy acidity. It is full bodied, concentrated and generous. Drink from 2019. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis). This crisp, steely wine comes from the cooler left bank of the river in Chablis. It is a tight wine, strong on minerality and tangy acidity, with the steely texture that gives the ability to age. Drink this nervy, crisp wine from 2020. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

93 Jean-Marc Brocard 2015 Vaulorent Premier Cru (Chablis). Released a year later than other premier crus, this is a flagship wine for the producer. Close to the magnificent grand cru slope, the vineyard has produced a ripe wine offering yellow and melon fruit accented by vanilla and spice. While rich, it also has great poise with a good streak of acidity and minerality. Drink this wine from 2020. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Domaine Gueguen 2016 Vaucoupin Premier Cru (Chablis). This wine is rich, full in the mouth and with good concentration. Its youthful, mineral character gives it texture as well as good acidity. With its potential and ripe yellow and citrus

fruit, it is likely to age for several years. Drink from 2019. T. Elenteny Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

92 Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis). On the right bank of the river Serein, this premier cru produces a complex, flinty, steely style of wine. This vintage retains much of that texture while adding riper apricot and apple flavors. It is tight and still young. Drink from 2019. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

92 Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Vau de Vey Premier Cru (Chablis). Vanilla and crisp minerality play together in this ripe wine with steely core. It has intense acidity, a lively, bright texture plus a flinty edge that will allow it to age. The wine, still young, will be ready from 2020. Verity Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

91 Domaine Besson 2015 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis). This producer does not believe in much oak aging (in this case 3%), but even that small amount brings out richness while leaving the delicious fruit right in place. From one of the top, ripe premier crus in Chablis, this wine is rich, creamy while never losing the proper tang of citrus and bright acidity. Drink from 2019. BPW Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$42

91 Domaine Gueguen 2016 Vosgros Premier Cru (Chablis). Lightly honeyed, this citrus-flavored wine comes a vineyard southeast of Chablis. It is all fruit although strong mineral texture gives it shape as well as sustaining the lemon acidity. Drink this wine from late 2018. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

CHABLIS

89 Domaine Gueguen 2016 Chablis. This fruity vintage yields crisp-textured wines. Offering citrus and creamed-apple flavors, this wine gains further lift from its acidity and light touch of spice. It's lively, fruity and ready to drink. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

89 Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Vieilles Vignes de Sainte Claire (Chablis). This soft, creamy wine comes from old vines close to the Brocard winery. It has the proper crispness and citrus character of the vintage plus riper yellow fruits and melon. Drink this attractive wine from late 2018. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

89 Louis Michel 2016 Chablis. This is a well-balanced wine with crisp acidity, steely texture and delicious citrus fruits. It has a bright,

lively texture and will be ready to drink from summer 2018. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

88 Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Sainte-Claire (Chablis). This immediately attractive and fruity wine takes its name from the church next to the winery. It is soft with ripe white fruits that are cut by citrus, spice and vanilla flavors. Open and easy, it will be ready to drink from late 2018. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

87 Domaine Besson 2016 Chablis. The 2016 is a crisp vintage in Chablis and this bright, tangy wine reflects it. It has plenty of lemon acidity, orange zest and liveliness that has been partially smoothed out by some wood aging. Drink this wine from late 2018. BPW Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

PETIT CHABLIS

87 Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Petit Chablis. Grown on the plateau above the slopes of the main Chablis vineyards, Petit Chablis is lighter in style. This crisp, fresh and fruity wine fits the bill. With citrus, poised acidity and zesty fruitiness, it is light, bright and ready to drink. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

87 Louis Michel 2016 Petit Chablis. Crisp and creamy, this wine is light, poised and ready to drink. It has a tangy edge with a steely core to balance the smooth fruit. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

CÔTE D'OR GRAND CRU

97 Louis Jadot 2015 Les Demoiselles (Chevalier-Montrachet). This is a sumptuous wine as befits a Chardonnay from one of the great white Grand Crus. Intense acidity is spiced by the new-wood aging. A strongly mineral character also marks this powerful wine with generous white and yellow fruits and a zesty, tangy aftertaste. It has a great future. Drink from 2025. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$475

96 Louis Jadot 2015 Corton-Charlemagne. This is going to be a rich wine. Although it seems tight and closed at this stage, it is possible to imagine the ripe white fruits with citrus tinges that will emerge. Spice and good acidity are part of the mix of this opulent, succulent wine. Drink from 2023. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$190

95 Domaine Maillard 2014 Corton. Intense and ripe, this powerful wine is concentrated and packed with both fruit and texture. The wood aging

has been well judged to give some spice and ginger flavors that will become more integrated over the next few months. Then the wine will develop slowly and majestically, probably being ready to drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$100

94 Domaine Julie Belland 2014 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet. An immense wine, this is bold and rich with powerful yellow and white stone fruits. It comes from one of the Montrachet vineyards that makes the greatest white wines in Burgundy. Under Julie Belland's hand, it shows in the generous, opulent nature of the wine with its balance of fruit and tight texture. Drink this very fine wine from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$250

CÔTE DE NUITS

90 Domaine Chevillon-Chezeaux 2015 Les Bouscelots Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Little Chardonnay grows in Nuits-Saint-Georges but Les Bouscelots has both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. This is a rich wine with a core of tannins as well as rounded, ripe yellow fruits cut with attractive spice and acidity. Drink this wine from 2020. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$70

90 Jean-Claude Boisset 2015 Marsannay. This is a floral wine, ripe and creamy. It has spice and toast from wood aging along with good acidity and impressiver richness. The wine is full-bodied, spicy, full of yellow and pear fruits. Drink from 2019 Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

88 Domaines Devillard 2015 Terres Blanches Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Still closed and tight, this mineral-textured wine has acidity, a crisp texture and citrus flavors. Fruity now, it will show even more in the future. The wine needs to age, drink from 2020. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$100

MEURSAULT

94 Louis Jadot 2015 Genevrières Premier Cru (Meursault). This wine offers a great floral aroma with hints of the spice that comes from the wood aging. Its crisp texture and minerality give a pure, clean and fragrant character to this deliciously balanced wine. The tang and zesty character will stand the wine in great stead as it matures. Drink from 2021. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$100

93 Domaine Julie Belland 2014 Santenots Premier Cru (Meursault). Crisp, textured and tangy, this is a tight, mineral-textured and very terroir-driven wine from a vineyard close to Volnay. It

is an impressive, balanced wine, delicious and likely to be ready to drink soon, from late 2018. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

93 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Charmes Premier Cru (Meursault). This attractively named vineyard has produced an equally attractive wine. With its good mix of ripe fruits, acidity, nutmeg and spice from wood aging and a generous texture, it is an opulent wine although it still needs aging. Drink from 2021. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$136

93 Thierry et Pascale Matrot 2016 Blagny Premier Cru (Meursault). For full review see page 8.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$91

92 Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Santenots Premier Cru (Meursault). Reflecting the vintage, this ripe, smooth wine is sumptuous, full of yellow fruits and ripe pear. Acidity gives everything a lift although it is the richness of the wine that shows most strongly. Drink from 2019. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

92 Louis Jadot 2015 Meursault. Here's a plump, comfortable wine reflecting the warm vintage for whites. It is rich and soft, although with plenty of toast and spice from the barrel fermentation and aging. This generous wine needs a few more months to allow the fruit to speak. Drink from late 2018. Kobrand. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

91 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Meursault). Smooth and rounded, this wine has spice from wood aging as well as rich white and yellow fruits. The wine is concentrated from low-yielding old vines as well as richly endowed with acidity and minerality. Drink from 2020. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$78

90 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Les Forges (Meursault). This is a soft wine, smooth and full with apricots and melons. Toasty wood flavors are balanced by the ripe fruit, the rich texture and light minerality. This opulent wine needs only short aging. Drink from 2020. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

90 Thierry et Pascale Matrot 2016 Meursault. A delicious touch of honey in this otherwise dry wine gives extra richness to the generous texture with its gentle spice from wood aging and juicy acidity. Ripe but crisp, the wine will be ready from 2019. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$66

PULIGNY-MONTRACHET

94 Domaine Julie Belland 2014 Les Champs Gains Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).

Although both from the aroma and from the palate, this wine has obviously had plenty of wood aging, it hasn't taken away from the richness of the fruit and its beautiful balance. Acidity and stylish citrus and pear fruits shine through the mineral texture and the toasty flavors. Drink from 2021. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Louis Jadot 2015 Domaine Duc de Magenta Clos de la Garenne Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). Jadot manages this family-owned vineyard that is situated at the heart of the range of premier crus of Puligny. The wine treads a fine line between elegance and richness, restraint and power. Spice from the wood aging lifts the green and citrus fruits, giving a deliciously balanced wine. Drink from 2021. Kobrand. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Louis Jadot 2015 Les Folatières Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). This is classic Puligny, beautifully poised with a superb balance between fruit and acidity. Throw into a pinch of spice from the wood aging and the wine is very complete, rich because of the vintage and crisply elegant. Drink from 2021. Kobrand. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Château de Santenay 2015 Les Folatières Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). This is a strongly mineral wine, rich in ripe apricot and pear fruits and well balanced. Acidity and generous fruits offset each other well for richness and crispness. From one of the most familiar of the premier crus in Puligny, it has great potential. Drink from 2021. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$130

93 Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Champs Gains Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). This beautifully structured wine comes from one of the highest vineyards in Puligny-Montrachet, adding to the texture and minerality. With its outstanding fruitiness and excellent balance of fruit, spice and acidity, the wine is set for long-term aging. Don't drink before 2021. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Jean-Marc Boillot 2016 Champ-Canet Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). For full review see page 7.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

91 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Puligny-Montrachet). This mineral, crisp wine offers concentrated acidity and lemon flavors. It is rounded, rich with yellow fruits and with a tight texture that will allow the wine to age. Pro-

duced from vines up to 62-years-old, it will be ready to drink from 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$86

90 Domaine Gérard Thomas et Filles 2015 Le Trézin (Puligny-Montrachet). Spicy and rich, this generous, single-vineyard wine is full bodied, creamy and ripe. Yellow fruits are balanced by bright acidity and a tight mineral character. It is still structured, with wood aging flavors and a juicy crisp aftertaste. Drink from 2019. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$53

90 Louis Jadot 2015 Puligny-Montrachet. In a rich vintage like 2015, Puligny-Montrachet gives a wonderful broad, elegant and ripe expression of Chardonnay. In this wine, the balance is just right, both crisp and rounded with great citrus and white fruits. Drink from late 2018. Kobrand. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

94 Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Morgeot Clos Pitois Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet).

Julie Belland, the sixth generation to run the family's 57-acre estate, has produced an impressive wine from this great vineyard first planted in the 15th century. It is packed with ripe apple and quince flavors refreshed by good acidity. It's a wine to age, so don't drink before 2020. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Louis Jadot 2015 Abbaye de Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Planted around an old abbey, the vineyard has rich soil that gives this wine its open, generous nature. Spicy with plenty of rich yellow fruit and apple flavors as well as toast, this wine is still young. It has great potential with its ripe mineral texture and good acidity at the end. Drink from 2022. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

93 Château de Santenay 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet. This succulent wine is packed with ripe, rich white fruits, pears and apples that are given a twist by the spice from wood aging. A touch of honey brings out the creaminess of the texture. At the same time, acidity shoots right through this ageworthy wine. Drink from 2020. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$105

92 Château de Santenay 2015 La Maltroie Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This rich, luscious wine is balanced well between acidity and ripe, generous fruit. The rich citrus and spice flavors are enhanced by the mineral texture, the wood-aging toastiness and by ripe white fruits. The wine is delicious but needs to age. Drink from 2020. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

89 Louis Jadot 2015 Chassagne-Montrachet. This village wine comes from a number of growers who supply Jadot on a regular basis. It is bold and ripe with citrus and white stone fruits as well as plenty of acidity. Its rounded character will show more strongly as it ages. Drink from 2020. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

OTHER CÔTE DE BEAUNE

91 Louis Jadot 2015 Beaune. There are only a few white wines made in Beaune, coming from small parcels dotted across the appellation. This open, rich 18-month wood-aged wine is generous and ripe with creamed apple and spiced pear. It's a toasty wine that retained its fruit. Drink from 2020. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Alain Gras 2015 Saint-Romain. With its aptitude for fine Chardonnay, Saint-Romain has produced this ripe, rounded village wine. It has spice from wood aging while reveling in the rich yellow fruits and acidity to match. Drink this generous wine from 2019. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

89 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Savigny-lès-Beaune. This wine is crisp with great green and citrus fruits. It is structured and mineral, with acidity that gives a bright texture. A touch of spice from wood aging adds complexity. Drink this wine from 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

89 Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Comme Dessus (Santenay). At a high point in the Santenay vineyards, Comme Dessus produces a balanced, cool and collected wine. Yellow fruits are balanced by good acidity and a juicy apple and pear aftertaste. Drink from 2019. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Domaine Changarnier 2015 Monthélie. From young vines, this soft, fruity wine offers a happy mix of citrus and apple fruits giving a crisp texture. A touch of toast comes from wood aging. Drink from late 2018. H Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Quentin Jeannot 2016 Clos des Hâtes (Santenay). This is a rich single-vineyard wine, spiced with wood and marked by yellow and ripe white fruit flavors. A floral character adds to the immediate attractiveness of a wine that is packed with fruit and good acidity. Drink from 2019. Simon N Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Saint-Aubin. A rich, fruity wine, this is rounded and ripe with white fruits. It shows a crisp edge and a touch of spice from oak aging. It will develop quickly to

give an attractive wine from late 2018. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

POUILLY-FUISSÉ

93 Domaine d'Anaïs 2015 Le Clos de Monsieur Noly (Pouilly-Fuissé). This 17-acre walled vineyard divided among six growers has a high reputation in the region. The wine certainly is impressive with its rich fruit as well as the tight mineral texture of a young wine. Ripe yellow fruit and the generous character contrast with the potential of this textured wine. Drink from 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Fabrice Larochette 2015 Le Clos de Monsieur Noly (Pouilly-Fuissé). This bold, rich wine comes from one of the best-reputed vineyards in Pouilly-Fuissé. With a dense texture and rich yellow fruits it is already powerful. The tight mineral texture and firm structure will allow this wine to age. Drink from 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Camille Paquet 2015 Les Crays (Pouilly-Fuissé). From one of the top vineyard sites in Pouilly-Fuissé, this wine is rich and textured, with the tight minerality typical of the appellation. It also has ripe fruit, juicy apricots and acidity. It's rich and crisp at the same time. Drink from late 2018. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Château des Rontets 2014 Les Birbettes (Pouilly-Fuissé). Produced from organic grapes, this textured wine is rich with the potential to be deliciously fruity. It has toast, spice as well as a strong mineral texture. Alongside that the pear and melon fruits are developing, giving the wine great potential and richness. Drink from late 2018. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Domaine des Valanges 2016 Pouilly-Fuissé. From vines in the lee of the dramatic rock of Solutré, this wine has great minerality as well as crisp, clean impressive fruit. It is textured, still a little tight but also full of great citrus, crisp apple and apricot flavors. Drink this refreshing and structured wine from late 2018. The Winebow Group. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Camille Paquet 2015 Pouilly-Fuissé. This is a rich wine from a rich year, giving it density as well as an opulent, ripe character, packed with apricots and white peaches. Acidity gives the wine crispness as well as a bright edge that contrasts with the intensity of the fruit and texture. Drink the wine from late 2018. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Château Vitallis 2016 Les Vignes du Château (Pouilly-Fuissé). A beautifully ripe wine, this is textured and packed with fruit at the same time. It shows a classic mineral character of Pouilly-Fuissé along with generous yellow and citrus fruitiness. Produced by the Dutron family, who have been growers since the 19th century, this wine could age. Drink from 2019. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Domaine du Chalet Pouilly 2015 Pouilly-Fuissé. With richness from wood aging, this ripe, smooth and creamy wine is ready to drink. Citrus and yellow fruits contrast with the strong mineral texture typical of the appellation. It's a ripe wine, ready now and until 2024. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Domaine Sophie Cinier 2016 Collection (Pouilly-Fuissé). This full-bodied, rich wine is open and ripe. Delicious layers of yellow fruits are sustained by the mineral texture and crisp acidity. Although this wine is good to drink now, it will be much better if aged further, so wait until late 2018. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Domaine Trouillet 2016 Pouilly-Fuissé. While this wine is ripe and generous, it also has a strong mineral edge as well as refreshing acidity. The blend of crispness and full yellow fruits give both balance and a delicious character to this attractive wine. Drink from late 2018. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Fabrice Larochette 2015 Les Robées (Pouilly-Fuissé). An impressive, textured wine, tight and mineral in character, this is also rich and has a great future, shown by its tangy acidity, steely edge and potential fruitiness. Dense and full bodied, it's likely to be ready to drink from 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Domaine Sophie Cinier 2016 Classic (Pouilly-Fuissé). A well-structured wine, this is rich and smooth. Under this sheen, the wine offers a tight texture with minerality and zesty orange. These two elements make for a wine with both instant pleasure and richness and potential. Drink from late 2018. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$46

MÂCON-FUISSÉ

91 Fabrice Larochette 2016 La Grande Bruyère (Mâcon-Fuissé). A dense wine that is still young, this is full, textured and with plenty of both fruit and spice. A creamy vanilla character fills out this ripe wine and gives an extra dimension. Drink

BUYINGGUIDE

this rich wine from 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Yves Giroux 2015 Vers Chanes (Mâcon-Fuissé). A tangy wine with an edge of minerality, this is ripe while also having a tight texture. It is concentrated, full of yellow and white stone fruits that are balanced by acidity and a firm texture. That suggests the wine will age, so drink from mid 2018. Jerome Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Château Vitallis 2016 Mâcon-Fuissé. Denis Dutron has made a wine that is bright with acidity as well as warmer tropical-fruit flavors. Soft, easy and fruity, this delicious, crisp wine is ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Domaine des Valanges 2016 Les Bruyères (Mâcon-Fuissé). This is a smooth, ready-to-drink wine with attractive acidity and crisp pear and quince flavors. With bright, orange zest accents and mineral texture, the wine is totally refreshing. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 Vincent Girardin 2016 Les Vieilles Vignes (Mâcon-Fuissé). This lightly vanilla- and spice-flavored wine is deliciously creamy. Flavors of apples and citrus burst out of the glass ripe, full and ready to drink. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$31

86 Denis Dutron 2016 Mâcon-Fuissé. This is a soft wine, smooth and creamy. The simple apricot and ripe pear flavors and easy style make it ready to drink. At the end, a tang of crisper acidity comes through. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

SAINT-VÉРАН

91 Domaine des Valanges 2015 Les Terres Noires (Saint-Véran). This wine comes from a single vineyard site on a south/south-east facing slope. It is rich in everything that a Saint-Véran should have: ripe fruit, balanced acidity and a generous full texture. With acidity to match, this is developing into a fine wine. Drink from late 2018. The Winebow Group. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Domaine de la Denante 2016 Les Maillettes (Saint-Véran). This single-vineyard wine shows considerable potential. It offers a touch of spice as well as open, ripe and full yellow fruits. With just the right amount of acidity and a tangy orange and lemon zest texture, it is maturing well. Drink from 2019. Simon N Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Domaine des Valanges 2016 Les Cras (Saint-Véran). Packed with fruit, this young wine is already delicious. Acidity, crisp texture, zingy orange and lemon-peel flavors all contribute to a ripe, refreshing wine. It has the lift of the vintage, bright and full of fruitiness from start to finish. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Domaine Carrette 2016 Closierie des Alisiers (Saint-Véran). Immediately attractive, this is a ripe wine with good fruitiness. It has a mineral edge along with a creamy white-fruit texture. Layers of acidity, spice and zesty orange complete a delicious wine. Drink now. Winemonger. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Domaine de la Denante 2016 Saint-Véran. Fruity apple aromas also come through strongly in the crisp apple on the palate. This is a tangy, structured wine, bright with acidity and citrus highlights. It comes from the Martin family vineyards and should be ready to drink from late 2018. Simon N Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Domaine des Valanges 2016 Hors Classe En Crèches (Saint-Véran). From a single vineyard, this wine is generous and ripe with red apples and a touch of spice. It is young, with a strong mineral edge that gives a zesty citrus tang. At the same time, the acidity and the fruitiness are developing well. Drink from mid-2018. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

89 Domaine des Valanges 2016 Saint-Véran. This bold, rich wine is full of fruit while also having a tight texture that will allow it to age. It comes from a blend of different parcels that together give a precise and nuanced picture of Saint-Véran. With its edge of minerality, this wine should age, so drink from late 2018. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine Sophie Cinier 2016 A la Côte (Saint-Véran). Based in the village of Fuissé, this estate also has vines in Saint-Véran. This wine is ripe and creamy, with attractive citrus and green apple fruits. It has a light touch, with fruit and acidity easily in balance. Drink the wine now. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Maison Deux-Fleurs 2016 Saint-Véran. A ripe and rounded wine, this is rich and full of warm apricot and peach flavors. With refreshing acidity as a contrast, the wine is generous, hinting at spice and vanilla and ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 Maison Matisco 2016 Saint-Véran. This wine is well balanced, with ripe apricot and peach fruits that contrast with the crisp, tangy

lemon. Together they give a wine that is juicy and bright while also full bodied and rich. Drink from 2018. Cape Classics. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Château de la Greffière 2016 Saint-Véran. This crisp wine has a creamy background, making for a ripe, fruity wine with tangy orange and lemon flavors along with touches of vanilla. It is still young and could do with a few more months, so wait until mid 2018. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Domaine Sangouard 2016 Les Rochettes (Saint-Véran). This is a creamy wine, open and with wood and vanilla flavors as well as ripe fruit. Juicy acidity brings in the necessary freshness. Its broad texture makes it immediately attractive and likely to be ready to drink soon. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

VIRÉ-CLESSÉ

92 Domaine le Viroly 2016 Viré-Clessé. Owner Laurent Godard has made superbly ripe wine, rich in yellow fruits and orange-peel flavors. Generous and full bodied, it is open and ample. Drink this opulent wine from late 2018. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Domaine Sophie Cinier 2016 Viré-Clessé. Bringing out great warmth and soft richness, this is an open wine. A touch of wood aging gives a toasty edge, balancing the ripe apricot, creamed apple and spice flavors. Drink this rich wine from 2018. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2016 Closierie des Alisiers Vieilles Vignes (Viré-Clessé). With a buttered-toast aroma, this rich wine is spicy, creamy and ripe. It is buttery, smooth and generously textured. It comes from the son of a Chablis producer who has set up his own negociant business. Drink this superripe wine now. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

MÂCON-VILLAGES

87 Domaine d'Anais 2016 Mâcon-Villages. Light and fruity, this gently creamy wine is cut with tangy acidity. This balance gives the wine a delicious, crisp present and the possibility of a few more years aging. It is all fruit, with no sign of wood, and will be ready from mid 2018. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Maison Deux-Fleurs 2016 Mâcon-Villages. This floral, aromatic wine is light, bright

and enticingly fruity. Its light acidity and crisp, brisk texture are all attractive parts of a wine that is already very drinkable. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

86 **Domaine Saumaize-Michelin 2015 Mâcon-Villages.** This wine is ripe with full-bodied tropical-fruit flavors that are cut with lime acidity. It is a warm, open wine from a rich vintage, full of fruit and without any wood aging. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

86 **Fabrice Larochette 2016 Mâcon-Villages.** This smooth, ripe and creamy wine offers rich vanilla and apple flavors. It is open, full of fruit and with a tangy texture. The acidity is a good support for a generous wine that's ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

86 **Florent Rouve 2016 Mâcon-Villages.** Among a range of terroir-driven Burgundies from Florent Rouve are his Maçons. This soft, simply fruity wine is ready to drink. With attractive acidity as well as crisp apple fruitiness, it is bright with citrus and zest at the end. Drink now. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

84 **Feraud et Fils 2016 Le Chai des Platanes (Mâcon-Villages).** This soft, crisp wine shows its apple and light spice flavors right up front. It is bright and easy, full of fruit and ready to drink. The Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER MÂCONNAIS

90 **Cave des Grands Crus Blancs 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé).** From a small appellation next to Pouilly-Fuissé, this is a ripe, full wine. It is all white stone fruit, pears and green plums, given structure by the zesty, mineral texture. It is a rich single-vineyard wine from vines up to 70 years old. Drink from late 2018. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 **Fabrice Larochette 2016 Le Château de Chaintré (Mâcon Chaintré).** From the home vineyard of the Larochette family, this wine has some structure as well as great fruit. It is dense, full of rich white stone fruits, touches of vanilla and a terrific juiciness that conveys succulence. Drink the wine from late 2018. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Rijckaert 2016 Les Crays vers Vaux Vieilles Vignes (Mâcon-Lugny).** This deliciously rich and ripe wine is full of generous fruits with great depth of flavor. The concentration and the warm white fruits are intense with acidity and crispness.

This is a wine to age a little longer. Drink from 2019. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 **Camille Paquet 2016 Le Mont (Mâcon Solutré).** Produced in vineyards close to the rock of Solutré in the southern Maconnais, this wine is rich with a strong mineral content and a rounded texture. Its texture is still young and tight although it will open up as it matures over the next few months, until mid-2018. At that time, enjoy the richness and the ripe white stone-fruit flavors. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Domaine des Crets 2015 Climat En Bout (Mâcon-Chardonnay).** This is a toasty wine, full of vanilla and wood flavors. With the richness of the vintage, the fruit also makes itself known, with ripe apricots crisped with citrus acidity. The wine could do with a few more months, so drink from mid 2018. Schatzi Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

88 **Domaine des Crets 2015 Climat L'Echenault de Serre (Mâcon-Chardonnay).** Rich and full of ripe fruit, this is a generous wine. Apricot and peach flavors are right up front, with great fruitiness as well as a tang of minerality. It is an opulent wine, full bodied and ready to drink. Schatzi Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

88 **Rijckaert 2016 Vieilles Vignes (Mâcon-Burgy).** This is a ripe wine, full of tropical fruit as well as a lightly oxidative character from lees aging. It is softly textured, packed with fruit offering juicy acidity. Drink this wine from late 2018. Massanois Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

85 **Chanson Père et Fils 2015 Maçon la Roche-Vineuse.** This wine is spicy, with a bitter edge that hides some of the fruit. It does have a citrus character followed with acidity, giving the wine the potential of a fruity future. Wait until mid 2018. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

85 **Domaine de la Denante 2016 Mâcon-Davayé.** This wine is smooth and soft, with a gently juicy character. Its fruit and attractive acidity make for a generous wine that is ready to drink. Simon N Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

BOURGOGNE

88 **Jean-Marc Boillot 2016 Bourgogne.** The white Burgundy from this Pommard-based producer is classic: soft, fruity and with a crisp edge. It has attractive lemon acidity as well as a layer of ripe, juicy fruitiness. With a touch of spice

at the end, it is balanced and ready to drink. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

87 **Domaine de la Denante 2016 Bourgogne.** Crisp and simple, this is a bright, citrus-flavored wine. Acidity and a clean, clear character give it liveliness. The wine is all fruit with no sign of wood, so drink early from summer 2018. Simon N Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 **Maison Deux-Fleurs 2016 Bourgogne.** From southern Burgundy vineyards, this ripe and creamy wine is soft and packed with fruit. Its acidity and crisp texture contrast with the apple and pear flavors. This forward wine is ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 **Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** Soft, creamy and full of ripe yellow fruits, this smooth, unctuous wine reflects the rich vintage. Its acidity fits well with this juicy fruitiness giving a balanced, easy wine that will be ready to drink from late 2018. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 **Prosper Maufoux 2016 Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** This long-established negociant house, based in Santenay, has made a generous, ripe white Burgundy. It is soft and smooth, with ripe red apple and quince fruit. Drink the wine now. Wine-sellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 **Thierry et Pascale Matrot 2016 Bourgogne.** This wine comes from just outside Meursault, giving both richness and juicy fruitiness. Apricots and ripe melon add to tastes of citrus and crisp apple to offer a wine that is fruity, soft, lightly buttery and ready to drink. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

86 **Jean-Marc Brocard 2016 Kimmeridgien Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** Named for the Jurassic-era Kimmeridgien ridge that runs from northern Burgundy to England, this ripe wine has a touch of minerality as well as spice, rich acidity and juicy white and apricot fruits. Drink now. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Domaine Gueguen 2016 Côtes Salines Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** This crisp, fruity wine by a Chablis-based producer comes from northern Burgundy. Shining acidity and fresh citrus flavors give an easy, ready-to-drink wine. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Vincent Lompp 2015 La Grande Berge Premier Cru (Givry). This white comes from vines in the southern limit of the appellation south of Beaune. It is ripe with citrus fruit and apples that are balanced by spice from wood aging. A zing of acidity gives it a crisp texture and a lively, perfumed aftertaste. Drink from 2019. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Domaine Cheillon-Chezeaux 2015 Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits. Crisp and cool, this attractive wine is bright with creamed-apple flavors. It is all fruit, tangy, bright with citrus and likely to be ready to drink soon, from mid 2018. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Bailly-Lapierre 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Saint-Bris). Saint-Bris is the only appellation in Burgundy where Sauvignon Blanc is grown. The style, as in this wine, hints at herbal while going more for riper fruits. Tangy acidity and attractive rich fruits come together in a crisp wine that is ready to drink now. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

85 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Belenos Cuvée Blanc (Coteaux Bourguignons). Produced from Chardonnay grown in the Beaujolais region, part of a greater Bourgogne appellation launched in 2012, this is a soft and fruity wine. It has a tang of lemon acidity, a creamy texture and a fresh, crisp aftertaste. Drink this easygoing wine now. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

CRÉMANT DE BOURGOGNE

92 Bailly-Lapierre 2010 Vive-la-Joie Rosé (Crémant de Bourgogne). Long aging in the deep cellars of the winery and late disgorgement gives this wine its richness and maturity. A blend of 95% Pinot Noir with some Gamay, it is generous, ripe and full of almond as well as red berry fruits. This is a complex wine, now fully mature. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$33

92 Bailly-Lapierre 2009 Vive-la-Joie Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). This is the top wine from this sparkling-wine specialist based in northern Burgundy, close to Chablis. Fruit and richness come from long aging before disgorgement, adding a full texture to the citrus and apple fruitiness. It is a blend of 50/50 Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, ready to drink now. Ruby Wines Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$33

91 Bailly-Lapierre NV Brut Chardonnay (Crémant de Bourgogne). Although not labelled as such, this Blanc de Blancs comes from similar chalky soil

to neighboring Champagne. Crisp acidity, mineral texture and pointed acidity are given extra life by citrus fruits and a relatively dry aftertaste. Drink this delicious bottling from 2018. MHW, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

91 Bailly-Lapierre 2014 Egarade Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). This ripe while also crisp wine has just over half Chardonnay in the blend with Pinot Noir. It is crisp, tight with citrus and apples as well as a pure line in refreshing acidity. This is a food wine, ready to drink now. Wine Warehouse Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

90 Bailly-Lapierre NV Brut Pinot Noir (Crémant de Bourgogne). Full bodied and rich with red fruits and crisp acidity, this wine, made from 100% Pinot Noir, shows a ripe character and a firm texture. Its bright fruit and tight texture suggest a few more months aging would do it no harm. So, although it is ready drink to now, drink from 2018. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Bailly-Lapierre NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Mainly Pinot Noir with a touch of Gamay, this fruity wine is bright with acidity and crisp red-currant flavors. Its acidity and zesty character are enhanced by the lively mousse. Drink now. Wine Warehouse Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

87 Bailly-Lapierre NV Paul Delane Réserve Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). This soft and creamy wine has a gentle mousse and ripe white-fruit flavors. Its open, rounded character and warm aftertaste make it ideal as an apéritif. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

87 Bailly-Lapierre NV Réserve Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Blending four varieties—Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Gamay and Aligoté—this wine shows both rich fruitiness and a crisp texture. Citrus and apple dominate this tangy wine that finishes with attractive acidity. Wine Warehouse Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

BURGUNDY RED WINES

GRAND CRU

98 Louis Jadot 2015 Clos de la Roche. This grand vineyard is one of the jewels of Morey Saint-Denis. The structure and density behind this vintage of the wine is generously impressive, with a dark, dry core and fine tannins. To balance this, the wine has weight, opulent fruit and acidity. The result, as it matures, will be a major wine that will

age for many years. Drink from 2025. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$330

97 Louis Jadot 2015 Chapelle-Chambertin. Produced from vines owned by Louis Jadot, this wine, like all the grand crus in Gevrey-Chambertin comes from a vineyard halfway up the slope behind the village. It has the proper structure, but such is the richness of this vintage, the fruit is already sumptuous, full of ripe cherry and berry flavors. At the same time, it is elegant and with such as stylish, smart aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$240

97 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Charmes-Chambertin. From one of the series of grand vineyards that line the slope of Gevrey-Chambertin, this powerful and dense wine is packed with tannins as well as beautiful fruit. Its red fruit flavors are supported by a solid structured and concentrated tannins. Despite this power, the wine is stylish, striking a fine balance between structure and fruit. Drink from 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$314

96 Louis Jadot 2015 Clos de Vougeot. This wine is all tannins at this stage, smothering the black fruits. That will change as it matures, revealing dense blackberries and plums as well as keeping its tannins as a base for the exuberant fruitiness. The wine comes from a blend of different parcels that together make up just over four acres of this vineyard owned by Louis Jadot. Drink this wine from 2025. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$200

96 Louis Jadot 2015 Corton-Pougets. Powerful and structured, this opulent wine is succulent with fruit and dense with dark tannins. It has power and structure, a strongly mineral texture still bursting with youthful fruit. This grand cru is one of several that make up over half the vineyards in Aloxe-Corton. Drink this wine from 2025. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

96 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Clos de la Roche. This grand cru in the village of Morey-Saint-Denis is grandiose, packed with tannins and fruit, powered by both acidity and swathes of rich black cherries. Both juicy and densely structured, it will be impressive as it ages. Drink from 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$300

96 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Corton. For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$124

92 Domaine Maillard 2013 Corton Les Renardes. This 47-acre domaine, dating back to the 18th century, is lucky to have a portion of this grand cru vineyard. It has produced a generous,

still-young wine. Packed with red plum and berry fruits, it is densely textured and concentrated. The wine's future is excellent; wait to drink until 2020. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

FIXIN

93 Jaffelin 2015 Hervelets Premier Cru (Fixin). Rich and with plenty of ripe fruit and generous tannins, this is a rich, smoky wine. It is concentrated, full of red-berry flavors that are layered with black cherries. This dense wine will age well. Drink from 2020. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$64

92 Pierre Naigeon 2015 Hervelets Premier Cru (Fixin). This wine is rich with supple tannins and layers of red berry fruits. Its structure and ripeness are immediately attractive even if the wine will need to age. It is concentrated and likely to be ready to drink from 2020. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Albert Bichot 2015 Clos de la Perrière Premier Cru (Fixin). This is a structured, firm wine with a dry core of tannins, which bodes well for the future as the rich fruit comes slowly through the structure. It has weight and juicy potential. The wine comes from a walled vineyard wholly owned by the producer. Drink from 2021. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$76

89 Pierre Naigeon 2015 L'Olivier (Fixin). Ripe, juicy and packed with red-berry fruits, this is an immediately attractive wine. With its rich texture and already well-integrated tannins, it is a generous wine that is ready to drink. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

85 Henri de Villamont 2016 Fixin. This wine is lean, with acidity and red-currant fruits dominant. It has a tight texture, bright red cherry flavors and a core of firm tannins. Drink from 2019. Wegmann. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

95 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix La Perrière Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). Big and rich, this is a juicy wine, ripe with generous tannins and full of berry fruits. It's dense, full in the mouth and impressive in its concentration, richness and crisp texture. Drink from 2025. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

95 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2015 Closierie des Alisiers Les Corbeaux Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This powerful wine is both dense and

rich. Its tannins and acidity bode well for aging, while the red plum and berry fruits add to promise for the future. From a parcel close to the series of Grand Cru vineyards, the wine shows the density of this fine vintage and its potential. Drink from 2024. Wine Universe Corp. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Domaine Faiveley 2015 Lavaut Saint-Jacques Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This intensely perfumed wine has great ripe fruits and delicious acidity. It is richly endowed both with tannins and spicy wood flavors that give extra body and density. This will be a very fine wine as it ages, but wait until 2024. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$162

94 Domaine Henri Magnien 2015 Champeaux Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). Rich, full and packed with juicy black fruits, this is already a delicious wine. However, its tannins, dark structure and concentration promise much for the future. Generous and with plenty of ripeness, the wine is going to age well. Drink from 2024. Williams Corner Wine. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Domaine Henri Magnien 2015 Les Cazetiers Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This rich wine is firm with tannins. It has structure and concentration as well as layers of black plum and cherry fruits. Put these elements together and it will age impressively. Drink this wine with its juicy aftertaste from 2023. Williams Corner Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini 2015 Les Goulots Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This wine is tight, closed and firm, which shows its youth because it also has great richness and a dense fruitiness that will develop well in the future. The wine is concentrated, as is proper for Gevrey-Chambertin, and densely packed. It will be ready to drink from 2024. Esquin Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Hervé Kerlann 2015 Les Corbeaux Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). Ripe and juicy, this rich wine has crisp acidity and generous tannins. With its structure and firm core, it's full of potential. The density gives the wine complexity and ageability. Drink from 2024. Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2015 Closierie des Alisiers Estournelles Saint-Jacques Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This ripe and bold wine is full of fruit, tannins and potential. Its juiciness is still crisp with youthful acidity that needs to open out and encompass the red-cherry fruits. This will take time with the dry core still firm and solid. Drink from 2024. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Nicolas Potel 2015 Aux Combottes Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). Juicy bright acidity comes through the tannins in this bold, rich wine. A fine line in dry tannins comes from the core, making for a wine with great potential and richness. The aftertaste has crisp red currant and berry fruitiness. Drink from 2024. WinesU. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

94 Pierre Naigeon 2015 Lavaut Saint-Jacques Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This full and ripe wine with black cherry and plum flavors is firm and rich. Its tannins promise much for the future, while the fruit is already generous and attractive. The wine has a sumptuous character, ripe and with great fruit. Drink from 2025. AP Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$91

93 Domaine Faiveley 2015 Les Cazetiers Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). The tannins in this wine are firm and still prominent, giving both richness and aging potential. The fruit is full, weighty, packed with dark tannins and with firm concentration. This a dark, firm wine needs to age. Drink from 2024. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$156

93 Domaine Henri Magnien 2015 Lavaut Saint-Jacques Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). Richly juicy, this wine, from one of the finest of the Gevrey Premier Crus, is already attractive. It has great fruit, rich tannins and a spicy character from the wood aging. At the moment, the acidity and crisp texture dominate, although this will change to bring out the richness of the wine. Wait to drink from 2024. Williams Corner Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

93 Domaine René Bouvier 2015 Fonteny Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This wine is dry, packed with tannins and has good weight and structure. Concentrated and dense, it will need many years. The wine does have some bitter extraction although this should go as it matures. At the same time, the acidity and the rich berry fruits have good promise. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

93 Hervé Kerlann 2015 Les Goulots Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). This juicy wine is rich with acidity and red-berry fruits. It is still young, with tannins and a dry core that will allow it to age. The concentration and ripeness suggest power for the future. Drink from 2024. Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Maison Champy 2015 Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin). The firm tannins of this wine show its youth. Black cherry and damson flavors provide a good foil for this structure. It is ripe, richly generous and offers both a crisp texture and

BUYINGGUIDE

a warm, ripe future. Drink from 2024. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

93 **Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Champeaux Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Ripe and juicy, this is a richly fruity and structured wine. With acidity to keep it crisp, the wine has layers of warm cherry flavors and generous tannins. It has an excellent future, so drink from 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$136

93 **Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Gevrey-Chambertin).** The typical firm, tannic structure of a Gevrey-Chambertin is very present in this young wine. The tannins are balanced with the juicy red-berry fruits, crisp acidity and minerality. Together these elements make an impressively dense wine that will age well. Drink from 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$72

93 **Seguin-Manuel 2015 Les Cazetiers Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Both structure and ripe fruits mark out this wine. It has richness, a tannic structure and generous red berry and black-cherry flavors. With these elements, the wine is certain to age well. Drink from 2023. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$112

91 **Domaine Henri Magnien 2016 Vieilles Vignes (Gevrey-Chambertin).** With dense fruits and tannins, this is a warm, rich wine. Its tannins are comfortably ensconced in the generous berry fruits and balanced acidity. It is a juicy wine, plump and likely to age well. Drink from 2022. Williams Corner Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

91 **Jean-Claude Boisset 2015 Les Murots (Gevrey-Chambertin).** This dense and tannic wine, from the lower slope of the village, is firm and solid. It has a powerful core of tannins as well as rich black fruits that are developing behind the structure. Concentration and dryness mean the wine needs to age, so drink from 2021. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85

90 **Henri de Villamont 2015 Petite Chapelle Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin).** This dark and structured wine has a rich, solid character. The wine is concentrated and juicy, with ripe berry flavors and a firm core of tannins. It will certainly age, and it will be worth waiting until 2023. Wegmann. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 **Louis Jadot 2015 Gevrey-Chambertin.** This is a ripe wine with good structure as well as generous fruit. It has acidity, tannins and a smoky aftertaste while emphasizing the rounded red fruits that will make it delicious in a few years. It comes

from vines on the flat lands stretching out into the Saône Valley. Drink from 2019. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

90 **Nuiton-Beaunoy 2015 Clos du Chapitre Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin).** There is plenty of crisp acidity in this wine, with bright red fruits that come through the tannins. That makes for a juicy, firm wine, crisp and with a dry core. It will be ready to drink from 2024. Blue Ventures Wine Marketing. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$99

90 **Seguin-Manuel 2016 Vieilles Vignes (Gevrey-Chambertin).** This wine has density and richness. With ripe berry fruits and generous tannins it conveys the fruitiness and richness of a Gevrey-Chambertin. It is structured as well, allowing plenty of room for aging. Drink this wine from 2022. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$55

89 **Domaine Henri Magnien 2016 Champerrier (Gevrey-Chambertin).** This perfumed wine, solid and structured, is firm with dark tannins and layers of cherry fruit underneath. It has some concentration as well as the crispness of the vintage, giving an attractive wine that will be ready to drink from 2022. Williams Corner Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85

89 **Manuel Olivier 2015 Gevrey-Chambertin.** This smoky, toasty wine is ripe with swathes of bright red fruits. It is also structured, offering rich tannins and juicy acidity in an appealing combination. Melding richness and fruit, the wine will be ready to drink from 2020. USA Wine West. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 **Bouchard Père & Fils 2016 Gevrey-Chambertin.** This young wine offers bright cherry flavors as well as the structure of a proper Gevrey, giving a good combination of fruitiness and tannins. It's juicy, crisp and is likely to age relatively quickly. Drink from 2020. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

88 **Maison Stéphane Brocard 2016 Closierie des Alisiers Vieilles Vignes (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Tight tannins proclaim the youth of this wine. With those firm tannins and a dry, solid character, the wine is not yet showing its fruit. Just a hint from the weight of the wine suggests red-cherry flavors will develop. Drink from 2023. Louis Glunz Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

88 **Nuiton-Beaunoy 2016 Gevrey-Chambertin.** This wine is juicy and crisp, with bright red-currant and cherry fruitiness. The fruit dominates, with plenty of acidity and a core of tannins

to support it. It should be ready to drink from 2022. Blue Ventures Wine Marketing. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$79

88 **Pierre Naigeon 2015 En Pallud (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Ripe cherry fruits give this wine a soft character. The tannins are there but cushioned by the generous fruit. It is a juicy, fruity wine that is developing quickly. Drink from 2020. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$90

87 **Domaine Antonin Guyon 2016 La Justice (Gevrey-Chambertin).** This crisp, fruity wine is lively, with considerable acidity as well as red berry fruits. The tannins are still young, forming a solid core that will soften. Drink from 2021. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$73

86 **Domaine Belleville 2016 Creux Brouillard (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Tight and crisp, this wine has red-currant fruits and plenty of acidity. It is crunchy, structured and very fresh. It will take time to soften and open up, so drink from 2021. Seaview Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$113

MOREY-SAINT-DENIS

95 **Albert Bichot 2015 Les Sorbets Premier Cru (Morey-Saint-Denis).** This generous wine is still young with its firm tannins, although also rich with black fruits and concentration. It is juicy, ripe with blackberry flavors and packed with spice and a dry core. The vineyard, at mid-slope like all premier crus, is named after the rowan trees that were found around the edge. This is a wine with a great future; drink from 2025. Albert Bichot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$90

94 **Domaine Heresztyn-Mazzini 2015 Les Milandes Premier Cru (Morey-Saint-Denis).** This wine is rounded, rich with jammy black-cherry fruits that are backed up by the still-young structure. Made from vines planted in 1958, it is perfumed with spice and smokiness from the wood aging. The density promises a wine for aging. Drink from 2025. Esquin Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$84

94 **Nuiton-Beaunoy 2015 Les Chaffots Premier Cru (Morey-Saint-Denis).** This wine is rich, with great tannins as well as generous red-berry fruits. With its structure firmly in place, it has the potential to be opulent, ripe and generous. Wood aging adds extra weight to the richness. Drink from 2025. Blue Ventures Wine Marketing. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$79

90 **Nuiton-Beaunoy 2016 Morey-Saint-Denis.** This is a firm, juicy wine, full of dark tannins. Acidity and black-cherry fruits are also part of

the mix although they are still in the background. It's a wine with potential, with the freshness of the year and the weight of the appellation. Drink from 2025. Blue Ventures Wine Marketing. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

CHAMBOLLE-MUSIGNY

95 Hervé Kerlann 2015 Les Borniques Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). This dense wine is full of ripe red fruits. Tannins give structure but the main thrust of this rich wine is the sumptuous fruit. The wine is juicy, cut with bright acidity and will be delicious when it matures. Drink from 2024. Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

95 Louis Jadot 2015 Les Baudes Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). Still solid and firm, this wine has impressive potential. Its tannins are a reminder that the vineyard is close to Morey Saint-Denis. Under those tannins runs a seam of ripe fruits that will develop richly as the wine matures. Drink from 2024. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

95 Roux Père et Fils 2015 Les Noirot's Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). This bold, ripe wine is packed with red fruits and balanced acidity. The density and generous tannins are all part of the concentration and powerful texture. Acidity brings necessary freshness to an impressive wine. Drink from 2025. Opici Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$121

94 Pierre Nageon 2015 Les Feusselottes Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). Ripe strawberry aromas are a fine setting for this rich and generous wine. Its opulent character is reinforced by firm tannins and broadened out with the red-cherry fruit and acidity. This full-bodied wine will not be ready before 2024. AP Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$107

94 Roux Père et Fils 2015 Les Charmes Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). Beautifully perfumed, this wine is also concentrated and dense, with a sumptuous, ripe texture that will propel it to great things. Red berries, cherries and balanced acidity are all there along with a serious backdrop of tannins. Drink from 2025. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$121

94 Seguin-Manuel 2015 Les Charmes Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). This spicy wine is rich and full bodied, with a solid, firm structure. From one of the most attractively named of vineyards, the wine has juicy red fruits that contrast with the tannins, giving a ripe balance. This wine needs to age to give space to its great fruit, dry core and acidity that are still coming together. Drink

from 2025. The Winebow Group. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$118

93 Albert Bichot 2015 Les Chabiots Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). Ripe and full bodied, this wine is also succulent and juicy. Red fruits show strongly in the concentrated texture and the richness. An impressive wine to age, it will not be ready to drink before 2023. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$130

92 Domaine René Bouvier 2015 Les Fuées Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). Generous and ripe, this smooth wine has hidden strengths in the tannic structure that lies underneath the rich fruits. The berry and black-cherry flavors are prominent, giving a juicy character to this rich, full wine. Drink from 2022. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$170

91 Domaine Antonin Guyon 2015 Les Cras (Chambolle-Musigny). Still firm and tight, this structured wine at the moment is about tannins rather than fruit. Don't worry, the fruit is there, giving weight to the wine with its rich berry character. Just allow it time and drink from 2021. Esprit du Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

91 Roux Père et Fils 2015 Les Borniques Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny). This wine is lean and initially austere. With dominant tannins and great concentration, it is firm but has the fruit weight to match with the extracted texture, so the wine will age well. It needs time for that structure to soften. Drink from 2025. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

90 Manuel Olivier 2015 Chambolle-Musigny. This generous wine is ripe with rich berry fruits enhanced by red-cherry flavors. Full in the mouth, the wine is going to deliver great structure and fruit as it matures. Drink from 2020. USA Wine West. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Bouchard Père & Fils 2015 Chambolle-Musigny. This bright, fruity wine has good acidity as well as red-cherry fruitiness. Its crisp texture supports the potential of the ripe fruits. Drink from 2020. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

88 Roux Père et Fils 2016 Les Fremières (Chambolle-Musigny). This perfumed wine is fruity and crisp, offering red-berry flavors bright with acidity. Tannins are light in this charming wine with a spice and fresh fruit character. Drink from 2020. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

86 Domaine Belleville 2016 Les Drazays (Chambolle-Musigny). This wine is crisp and

perhaps too full of acidity, giving it a red-currant character that is juicy and tightly fruity. It needs to soften over the next few years. Try again from 2020. Seaview Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$132

VOSNE-ROMANÉE

95 Bouchard Père & Fils 2015 Les Suchots Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). This wine has the structure that is a part of a fine Vosne-Romanée. Its dense texture is balanced by the great red fruit and good acidity. Of course, the wine is still so young, its fruit still crisp and not yet mellow. Wait until 2026 to drink this impressive wine. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$182

95 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Les Suchots Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). Properly structured and with solid tannins, this is a concentrated wine. Its firm texture is balanced by ripe black fruits, dark and intense. From a vineyard surrounded by some of Burgundy's greatest, this superb wine needs many years. Drink from 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$225

95 Maison Champy 2015 Les Suchots Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). This wine has great fruit, ripe tannins and enormous potential. The density of the wine speaks to that, with full black fruits and layers of solid tannins. Richly endowed, it should age for many years. Drink this powerful wine from 2026. Verity Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Les Beaux Monts Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). This rich, sumptuous wine is both structured and generous. Bold red fruits give it weight, concentration and a good balance between acidity and ripe richness. It comes from a vineyard close to some of the greatest Burgundy grand crus, which explains the wine's structure and potential. Drink from 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$178

94 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Les Quartiers de Nuits (Vosne-Romanée). This comes from a small vineyard that lies between Echézeaux Grand Cru and Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru. It has the structure of both, perhaps without quite the intensity. However, its richness and density is very obvious, giving a wine that is solid, dark, ripe and full of black-cherry fruits and tannins. Drink this wine from 2024. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$124

94 Louis Jadot 2015 Les Suchots Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). With so many grand cru vineyards in this small village, even the premier crus make excellent wines. This is a case in point, a pow-

erful wine packed with tannins, dense black fruit and a solid structure. The future looks good, with opulent fruit about to come through the framework. Drink this wine from 2023. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$150

94 Maison Champy 2015 Les Beaux Monts Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). Ripe and full bodied, this is already an attractive wine. Smoky tannins give a structure to the generous texture and swathes of rich berry fruits. It's impressive, open and, despite its early accessibility, likely to age well. Drink from 2025. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix (Vosne-Romanée). Tannins are firm and concentrated in this richly textured wine. With this good structure, all it needs is for the dark plum and black-cherry fruits to come through. The weight of the wine assures that, giving it both potential richness and a ripe character. Drink from 2023. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

92 Jean-Claude Boisset 2015 Les Jacquins (Vosne-Romanée). Ripe and smoky, this full wine is juicy and packed with both fruit and tannins. It's concentrated, with perfumed red-berry fruits showing strongly along with the tannins and firm structure. Its future looks good. Drink from 2023. Boisset Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$120

91 Manuel Olivier 2015 Vosne-Romanée. This wine is rich with dusty tannins and a dry core that will allow it to age. With its glitter of juicy fruits and red berries, it is both structured and sumptuous. This impressive village wine likely will mature well. Drink from 2024. USA Wine West. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Seguin-Manuel 2016 Aux Communes (Vosne-Romanée). This wine has density and richness. With ripe berry fruits and generous tannins, it strikes a chord between fruitiness and richness. It is structured as well, allowing room for aging. Drink this wine from 2022. The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

89 Bouchard Père & Fils 2016 Vosne-Romanée. The tannins are strong and firm in this wine. Its dense texture and concentration are balanced by crisp red-currant fruit. There is freshness as well from the acidity, giving a crisp aftertaste to this fruity wine. Drink from 2024. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

NUITS-ST.-GEORGES

95 Domaine Chevillon-Chezeaux 2015 Les Saint-Georges Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This vineyard, on the hill above the city of Nuits-

St.-Georges, is widely seen as the top premier cru of the appellation. Certainly this rich, structured wine with its great fruit and firm tannins is serious and ageworthy. Ripe, full and concentrated, it needs to age. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix Aux Perdrix Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Richly dense, this is a well-structured and rich wine. Its tannins are a part of the opulent black fruits, ripe acidity and wonderful juicy fruitiness. A dark core of tannins will allow the wine to age so well. Drink from 2025. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$120

95 Domaine Faiveley 2015 Aux Chaignots Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Dense and full of black-cherry fruits, this is a richly textured wine. Its concentration and firm tannins are there for the long haul, although it is tempting to drink such a delicious wine young. Resist: this wine will be best from 2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$127

95 Domaine Faiveley 2015 Les Pôrets Saint-Georges Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This generous although also complex wine brings in many elements. With lush tannins and concentrated acidity it has a dry, still very young character. The weight of juicy fruit suggests a future that is rich and for the long-term. Drink from 2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$116

95 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix Les Terres Blanches Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This rich, ripe and structured wine is dense with solid tannins. It is also full of generous cherry and berry fruits that make a great counterpoint to the dry core. These two elements promise well for the future. Drink this wine from 2023. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$115

94 Bouchard Père & Fils 2015 Les Cailles Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Ripe and juicy with berries, this structured wine also offers great fruitiness and opulence. The acidity and the tannins promise the future while the ripe fruits show the fine vintage well. This is a wine to age, best enjoyed from 2024. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$145

94 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Aux Boudots Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). A near-neighbor of Vosne-Romanée, this premier cru produces structured wines such as this. The tannins and weight derive from the rich fruit as well as the spicy, smoky wood aging. It has power, black fruits,

serious tannins and great concentration. Drink from 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$118

93 Albert Bichot 2015 Château Gris Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Juicy, firmly structured and with great fruit, this wine will need aging. With black cherries and juicy red currants, it is both ripe and crisp. Drink this wine, with its excellent potential, from 2024. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

93 Domaine Chevillon-Chezeaux 2015 Les Bous-selots Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Firm and structured, this is a dark, concentrated wine. It has a solid character, rich and ripe with black plums and berries that come through the dry core. This wine is certain to age well; drink from 2022. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Domaine Chevillon-Chezeaux 2015 Les Porêts Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). Initially smooth and sophisticated, this wine then reveals a dark core of tannins. It is rich, structured, full of juicy red fruit as well as a fine line of acidity. The vineyard is south of the city of Nuits-St.-Georges. Definitely ageworthy, the wine has density, concentration and a powerful future. Drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix Aux Perdrix Les 8 Ouvrées Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This dry, firm wine is currently all about tannins, with a backdrop of rich berries and spice from wood aging. Produced from a small portion of the Aux Perdrix Premier Cru, it does have the weight to show its potential as it ages. Consider drinking this wine from 2025. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

93 Louis Jadot 2015 Les Boudots Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This premier cru vineyard lies at the northern end of Nuits-St.-Georges, close to Vosne Romanée. That explains the structure and richness of this firm wine. It is dense with tannins that give a dry core to the rich red fruits. With acidity still right up front and with the tannins, the wine needs aging. Drink from 2021. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Nicolas Potel 2015 Les Vaucrains Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). The tannins of this wine are classic Nuits-St.-Georges. Under the weight of this dry, toasty core, rich fruit will allow the wine to mature well. It is concentrated and dense with a rich potential. Drink the wine from 2024. WinesU. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$120

92 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Nuits-St.-Georges). The old vines in this densely planted vineyard date back 67 years. This

wine has great concentration, tannins and juicy red fruits. Its structure emphasizes the straightforward character of Nuits-St.-Georges, so it will take time to mature. Drink from 2023. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$84

92 Labouré-Roi 2015 Les Cailles Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This juicy, fruity wine, perhaps named after the stony soil, is bold, rich and structured. With firm tannins and acidity, it is definitely a wine for aging. The promise is there with the generous acidity and crisp, bright aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$135

91 Domaine Chevillon-Chezeaux 2015 Aux Champs Perdrix Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This rich wine has beautifully integrated tannins and ripe fruit. With a generous character and succulent fruit over a base of firm tannins, it has excellent potential. Its tannins need to soften more for the wine to be ready to drink, so wait until 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Domaines Devillard 2015 Domaine des Perdrix (Nuits-St.-Georges). Still closed and tight, this crisp, mineral-textured wine has acidity and citrus fruits that still need to show their real potential. It needs to age; drink from 2020. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 Louis Jadot 2015 Nuits-St.-Georges. This wine is a good representation of this appellation. It is structured with tight, dry tannins as well as juicy red fruits that shine through in this vintage. Give this wine more time and drink from 2019. Kobrand. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 Nuiton-Beaunoy 2016 Nuits-St.-Georges. This is a rounded wine, a blend of many different parcels from across Nuits St.-Georges. With its tannins and red berry fruits well intact, it has a dry core as well as bright acidity to balance, giving a wine that will become generous as it ages. Drink from 2021. Blue Ventures Wine Marketing. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$79

90 Domaine Chevillon-Chezeaux 2015 Les Crots Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). This solid wine is classic Nuits-St.-Georges, with the addition of sumptuous fruit, making it a ripe wine with a core of dark tannins. The vineyard, just south of the city, sits on a steep slope with great exposure. Drink the wine from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Domaine Chevillon-Chezeaux 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Nuits-St.-Georges). Old vines give concentration to this wine, although its main character is of rich red fruits. The tannins are in the background while right up front are fruit, acid-

ity and an attractive touch of spice. This smooth, rounded wine will be ready to drink quickly, certainly from late 2018. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Nuits-St.-Georges). This concentrated and richly structured wine has good acidity as well as firm, solid tannins that support the red currant and red cherry fruits. It also has a dry core that will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$68

89 Domaine Chopin et Fils 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Nuits-St.-Georges). This wine has a smoky aroma from wood aging. The wood also shows on the palate but does not mask the bright cherry fruit. With its solid core, the wine is rich and likely to age well. Drink from 2020. David Raines Vineyard Research. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

89 Patriarche Père et Fils 2016 Les Cailles Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). For full review see page 16.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

88 Domaine Chopin et Fils 2015 Bas de Combe (Nuits-St.-Georges). This wine has plenty of tannins, although they are embedded in ripe, juicy red fruits. This village wine has a solid core as well as bright acidity, offering the potential for aging. Drink from 2019. David Raines Vineyard Research. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

88 Seguin-Manuel 2016 Vieilles Vignes (Nuits-St.-Georges). This juicy wine is replete with red-berry and crisper red-currant flavors. Along with its bright character, the tannins and dry structure promise aging potential. Drink from 2021. The Winebow Group. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

OTHER CÔTE DE NUITS

94 Roux Père et Fils 2015 Les Petits Vougeot Premier Cru (Vougeot). At this stage, this wine is all about tannins and structure. The weight and black fruits will come later. It has potential richness and a generous, rounded texture along with plenty of juicy acidity. The wine will take time, so consider drinking from 2026. Opici Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$105

89 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Côte de Nuits Villages). From vines that lie behind the main Côte de Nuits, this rich wine shows how even the cooler vineyards have made sumptuous wines in 2015. The wine is soft, gently tannic with plenty of red fruits. It is likely to

develop quickly and will be ready to drink from 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

89 Louis Jadot 2015 Marsannay. From the northernmost village on the Côte de Nuits, on the edge of the city of Dijon, this wine with its perfumed red cherries and ripe red berries is both structured and developing quickly and easily. Light tannins give shape to the generous fruit and good acidity. Drink this ripe, fruity wine from 2019. Kobrand. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Domaine Chopin et Fils 2015 Côtes de Nuits Villages. Attractive red-cherry perfumes give this wine immediate accessibility that is confirmed by the soft palette and sweet tannins. The wine is juicy, with just a light core of dryness and a red-cherry aftertaste. Drink from 2019. David Raines Vineyard Research. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Jean-Claude Boisset 2015 Marsannay. This crisp, cherry-perfumed wine offers attractive acidity as well as bright red-currant and red-berry flavors. The core of tannins will allow it to age well over the next few years. Drink from 2019. Boisset Collection. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

SAVIGNY-LÈS-BEAUNE

93 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Les Hauts Jarons Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). The structure in this wine with its tannins gives a core of dryness to the otherwise ripe, generous fruit. The wine is tight with acidity, smokiness and a firm character that will allow it to age. Juicy acidity at the end promises much. Drink from 2021. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$72

93 Vincent Girardin 2015 Les Serpentières Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$53

92 Domaine de Bellene 2015 Les Peuillets Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). The 2015 vintage in Savigny-lès-Beaune brings out the smooth richness of the appellation. In this wine it is enhanced by a core of tannins and juicy red-berry acidity, making for a ripe, generous wine that will also age well. Drink from 2021. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Savigny-lès-Beaune). While the 50-year-old vines do bring concentration, they also deliver delicious swathes of ripe, juicy fruit. This is a ripe, black-cherry-flavored wine, strengthened by tan-

nins and with a crisp edge of acidity. Drink from 2020. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Domaine de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** The old vines add their concentration to this ripe wine. It is smooth, smoky from wood aging and offers ripe red-berry and black-cherry fruits. It already has a delicious juicy character that will be enhanced as it ages. Drink this rounded wine from 2020. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$72

90 **Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2015 Les Pimentiers (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** This single-vineyard wine is powerful, dense and structured. In contrast, it also has the potential for rich berry and black-cherry fruits. A core of tannins will give it longevity. Drink this rich wine from 2021. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

BEAUNE

95 **Domaine de Bellene 2015 Cuvée du Cinquante-Vieilles Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune).** For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

95 **Louis Jadot 2015 Clos des Ursules Premier Cru (Beaune).** This small vineyard forms part of the Jadot estate. Its rich tannins and black-cherry fruits are sumptuous and already delicious. However there is much more to this structured, tannic and dense wine that will give it a great future. It is broad, rich and likely to be ready to drink from 2024. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

95 **Louis Jadot 2015 Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune).** From the largest and most famous of the Beaune Premier Crus, this wine is classically soft and generous. Of course it has tannins although these are already beautifully cushioned by the ripe red-cherry and blackberry fruits. With spice and smokiness from the wood aging, this is a complete, delicious wine. Drink from 2022. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

94 **Domaine de Bellene 2015 Les Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune).** Dense and dry, this is a richly structured wine. Bold tannins are equaled by the forward red fruits. Together they have produced a dense wine that will need several years aging. The potential is for a concentrated wine that will be sumptuous and generous. Drink from 2023. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

POMMARD

93 **Louis Jadot 2015 Clos de la Commaraine Premier Cru (Pommard).** Situated just to the north of the village of Pommard, this eight-acre vineyard has produced a typically structured wine with firm tannins and a dry core. The wine also has the rich black-cherry fruit of the vintage. Together with the wood aging, the wine will develop richly and powerfully. Drink from 2023. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 **Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Les Cras (Pommard).** This structured single-vineyard wine has plenty of rich red cherry and berry fruits along with a dry core of tannins. Together they make a wine that needs to age to realize the potential for great fruitiness. Drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 **Vincent Girardin 2015 Les Vieilles Vignes (Pommard).** While tannins give a dry core to the wine, it also has ripe red fruits and plenty of them. Along with structure there is a sense of richness and potential opulence. Drink this wine, with its concentrated, juicy aftertaste, from 2021. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$67

91 **Domaine Changarnier 2015 Les Vignots (Pommard).** Although not a premier cru, this village wine has plenty of the firm tannins and sense of structure that give Pommard its reputation. The wood aging shows through in spice and toast while the wine has plenty of black-cherry fruit and acidity to allow it to age well. Drink this wine from 2020. H Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 **Domaine Julie Belland 2014 Les Cras (Pommard).** From the lower slope of Pommard, this richly fruity wine is smooth and generous. It has a layer of tannin as well as full black fruits and a solid character. The wine is still young and needs aging. Drink from 2020. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

88 **Louis Jadot 2015 Pommard.** This is a structured wine, with firm tannins balanced by juicy red fruits. It has a rich underlay of red-cherry flavors, cut with acidity and a dry aftertaste. Drink from 2019. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

87 **Domaine Maillard 2013 La Chanière (Pommard).** This single-vineyard wine is already mature with juicy red fruits now evolving into secondary flavors. An earthy character gives the wine density and weight. The aftertaste has acidity and softness. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

VOLNAY

94 **Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Santenots Premier Cru (Volnay).** This spicy, toasty wine is showing its wood aging as well as plenty of fruit. It is rich and generous, with the natural opulence of Volnay. The red-berry fruits are full of juiciness, backed up by fine tannins. Drink this potentially delicious wine from 2022. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

94 **Louis Jadot 2015 Clos de la Barre Premier Cru (Volnay).** Wholly controlled by the producer, this walled vineyard on the edge of Volnay village has made a beautifully concentrated, balanced wine. Still young, it already has ripe red fruits with shapely tannins and acidity to match. The smoky aftertaste adds to the complexity. Drink from 2022. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

94 **Vincent Girardin 2015 Les Santenots Premier Cru (Volnay).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$82

MONTHÉLIE

92 **Domaine Changarnier 2015 Les Clous Premier Cru (Monthélie).** A steep vineyard with a south-eastern exposure is just right for the ripe fruit that goes into this wine. It is full bodied, rich with red-berry and red-cherry flavors touched by spice from the wood aging. Developing well, this wine will be ready from 2019. H Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

92 **Domaine Changarnier 2015 Meix Bataille Premier Cru (Monthélie).** A small parcel of vines, less than an acre, has produced a rich, structured wine. Its tannins and black-cherry fruit are integrated with the firm wood flavors and acidity. This is a wine for aging, so drink from 2020. H Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

91 **Domaine Changarnier 2015 Champs Fulliot Premier Cru (Monthélie).** Cherry aromas and rich spicy fruits make this an accessible wine. It has delicious rich fruits, a light layer of tannins and an open texture. Drinkable soon, this wine will be ready from 2019. H Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 **Domaine Changarnier 2015 Pierrefitte (Monthélie).** This wine is ripe and smoothly fruity. From a parcel close to Volnay, it is sumptuous, full with layers of red fruits and a generous richness. The acidity is just right to give the wine its shape, aided by the light tannic structure. Drink from 2019. H Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

SANTENAY

92 **Domaine Jacques Girardin 2015 Clos Rousseau Premier Cru (Santenay).** On the slope above Santenay, this vineyard has produced a richly structured wine, firm with tannins and spice from wood aging. Rich red and blackberry fruits, juicy acidity and elegance give this wine a great future. Drink from 2021. Michael Corso Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

92 **Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Beauregard Premier Cru (Santenay).** A rich wine from this 57-acre family estate, this is ripe with black-cherry fruit balanced with juicy acidity. A fine core of tannins gives both structure and aging potential. Drink this generous wine from 2021. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 **Philippe Jeannot 2015 Passetemps Premier Cru (Santenay).** Set at the eastern limit of Santenay next to Chassagne-Montrachet, this vineyard produces structured wines that reflect its neighbor. In this vintage, Valérie and Philippe Jeannot took advantage of rich red-cherry juiciness with a touch of pepper and almost refreshing acidity. Drink this succulent wine from 2021. DHI Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 **Domaine Julie Belland 2014 Beauregard Premier Cru (Santenay).** From one of the most familiar of the Santenay premier crus, this wine still has its structure and a dry core. Around that are red cherry fruits, juicy acidity and a light touch of wood. The wine is developing well and should be ready to drink from 2019. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 **Philippe Jeannot 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Santenay).** Well structured and full of ripe fruit, this is already a very drinkable wine. But there is more to come and this wine will show great swathes of fruit, balanced tannins and acidity, and a rich character as it matures. To enjoy it at its peak, drink from 2020. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 **Domaine Jacques Girardin 2015 Maladière Premier Cru (Santenay).** The Maladière vineyard has given a structured wine full of dark tannins and concentrated black fruit. With acidity to match and a dry core, it is a rich wine with considerable potential. Drink from 2022. Michael Corso Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

89 **Vincent Girardin 2015 Terre d'Enfance (Santenay).** This is a single-vineyard wine, although not a Premier Cru. It is ripe with plenty of strawberry fruit. Still young though, it is also filled with tannins and tight, juicy acidity that need to

soften into the fruits. The wine is potentially warm and ripe. Drink from 2021. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 **Domaine Julie Belland 2015 Charmes (Santenay).** Run by the sixth generation of the Belland family, this estate has vines in Santenay and other Côte de Beaune appellations. This wine, rich with generous red cherry fruits, is lightly tannic with great swathes of acidity and fruitiness. Drink from 2019. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

OTHER CÔTE DE BEAUNE

92 **Louis Jadot 2015 Clos de la Croix de Pierre Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses).** This clos is a walled section of the En Caradeux Premier Cru. It produced a beautifully perfumed wine, juicy with a core of tannins and ripe red-berry fruits. The structure and acidity will allow this cool, poised wine to age well. Drink from 2022. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 **Vincent Girardin 2015 Les Vieilles Vignes (Auxey-Duresses).** The small appellation of Auxey-Duresses, tucked into the hills behind the main Côte de Beaune, often offers good value for a Burgundy. This ripe wine, full of soft red fruits, is a case in point. Its generous texture and soft tannins are attractive already, giving a full, smiling wine. Drink from 2019. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 **Alain Gras 2015 Saint-Romain.** Saint-Romain is one of the villages in the hills behind the main Côte de Beaune vineyards. As such it produces a cooler style of wine with crisp red-berry and red-currant fruitiness. There is a tang to its texture as well as a layer of tannins. Drink this potentially lively, fruity wine from 2019. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$43

88 **Louis Jadot 2015 Côte de Beaune-Villages.** This rarely used appellation comes from outlying vineyards of the Côte de Beaune. The wine is soft and juicy although some firm tannins will allow it to age. It will be attractive and fruity from 2021. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

MERCUREY

92 **Domaine Jeannin-Naltet 2015 Le Clos l'Evêque Premier Cru (Mercurey).** This hillside vineyard with its eastern exposure has produced a rich wine in 2015. Structured with some firm tannins from fruit and wood aging, it also has plenty of blackberry and juicy black-currant flavors. Acidity gives a fresh character to this delicious wine

that will be ready from 2022. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 **Domaine Jeannin-Naltet 2015 Clos des Grands Voyens Premier Cru (Mercurey).** Owner Benoît Eschard is the sixth generation to run the family estate that includes this wholly owned premier-cru vineyard. This wine is soft, ripe, full of spice, black-plum fruits and integrated acidity. Its softness is balanced by the core of tannins that promise some aging. Drink from 2021. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **Domaine Jeannin-Naltet 2015 Les Nauges Premier Cru (Mercurey).** Aged for 12 months in wood, 30% new, this rich, full wine is packed with black fruits, spice and tight tannins. A strong juicy character comes from the acidity and the blackberry fruitiness. From one of the 17 acres of premier cru owned by this producer, the wine will be ready to drink from 2021. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

88 **Château de Santenay 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Mercurey).** This is a juicy wine, initially crisp then broadening out into ripe red fruits and some firm background tannins. It comes from the Côte Chalonnaise region, from an area known for accessible reds like this. Drink this fruity wine from 2019. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

GIVRY

89 **Vincent Lumpp 2015 Clos du Cras Long Premier Cru (Givry).** This small domaine in the Côte Chalonnais has produced a wine that is tough with tannins and with a dry core. There is some potential in the juicy acidity and spice that comes through the firm structure. It will need some time, so drink from 2020. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 **Vincent Lumpp 2015 Clos Saint-Paul Premier Cru (Givry).** This wine is still young but potentially rich and full of ripe fruits. Its tannins are balanced by the generous fruitiness, offering both structure and the chance for the wine to age. Drink this full, juicy wine from 2020. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 **Vincent Lumpp 2014 Clos Saint-Paul Premier Cru (Givry).** Red-cherry aromas lead to a ripe, fruity and spicy wine. With red-berry fruits, juicy acidity and a crisp texture, this wine is almost ready to drink but the acidity needs to soften for a few more months. Drink from late 2018. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

84 Vincent Lupp 2013 Clos Saint-Paul Premier Cru (Givry). This wine is still lean, with more tannins than fruit. Its dry character gives an edge of bitterness that is not quite counterbalanced by the red-currant fruits. The dryness may well remain. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

BOURGOGNE

88 Château de Santenay 2015 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). An attractive, soft, red cherry flavored wine, this is ready to drink. Acidity cuts easily through the ripe fruits and soft texture. The juicy aftertaste keeps it bright and fruity. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

87 Domaine Cheillon-Chezeaux 2015 Les Maladières Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Soft and fruity, this attractive wine reflects the generous 2015 vintage in red wines. It is full of red-cherry and red-currant fruit, cut with just the right acidity and ready to drink from mid 2018. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Domaine Jacques Girardin 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Bourgogne). There is some good concentration in this ripe, structured wine. With its core of tannins and its surrounding red-berry and cherry fruit, it is rich and needs a little more time. Drink from late 2018. Michael Corso Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

87 Louis Jadot 2015 Le Chapitre (Bourgogne). This perfumed wine is ripe and packed with red fruits. Its soft texture, generous fruits and acidity are balanced to give a smooth, rich wine that will be ready to drink in 2018. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

87 Maison Roche de Bellene 2015 Vieilles Vignes (Bourgogne). This soft and fruity wine brings out all the succulent red-fruit flavors of the vintage. Light on tannins, rich in juiciness, it is ready to drink. Loosen Bros. USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Vincent Girardin 2015 Cuvée Saint-Vincent (Bourgogne). Girardin, based in Meursault, has made a ripe, fruity red Burgundy that reflects the generous red fruits of the vintage. It is juicy, soft and rounded, with attractive acidity and light tannins. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

86 Philippe Jeannot 2015 Bourgogne. This soft, rich wine is a delicious reminder of the great fruit in this vintage. It has broad red fruits with balanced acidity and a crisp edge. This wine that comes from vineyards at the southern end

of the Côte de Beaune is ready to drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

85 Domaine Cheillon-Chezeaux 2015 Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits. This is a light wine with red-currant fruitiness and a crisp texture. It has a light tannin edge as well as juicy acidity, bright and fruity at the end. Drink from late 2018. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

85 Quentin Jeannot 2016 Bourgogne. This strawberry-flavored wine offers attractive light fruits and acidity. Forward and fruity, it's a simple Pinot Noir with an easygoing character. Drink from late 2018. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

OTHER RED WINES

89 Louis Jadot 2015 Ladoix. The vines of Ladoix are at the base of the Corton hill but much less well known and therefore better value. Juicy acidity and the core of tannin suggest a wine that is ageworthy, while the black-plum fruits give richness now. Drink from 2019. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Quentin Jeannot 2016 La Fuissière Premier Cru (Maranges). Toasty aromas lead to a wine that has obviously had plenty of wood aging. That shows in this cooler vintage and dominates the red fruits. Of course, the fruit will fill out and there is plenty of weight there. It will be worth waiting at least until 2020 to drink. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Château de la Greffière 2016 Mâcon-Serrières. This structured wine has a dense texture as well as red-cherry fruits. It is crisp, still young, with spice as well as some firm tannins. With this bright, fruity and young character, it will take some aging. Drink from late 2018. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Domaine des Verchères 2016 Mâcon-Mancey. This wine is packed with juicy black-cherry fruitiness. It is softly textured, young and ripe. Drink this attractive wine now. World Wine Consultant. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

85 Maison Deux-Fleurs 2016 Coteaux Bourguignons. With only 5% of Pinot Noir in the blend, this is essentially a ripe, cherry-flavored Gamay. As such it is fruity, soft in the tannins and bright with acidity. Made to be drunk young, it is ready now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

BORDEAUX SAINT-ESTÈPHE

95 Château Lafon Rochet 2015 Saint-Estèphe. A sinuous line of tannins runs through this structured wine. It lifts the dark plum and berry fruits and give shape to the spicy, firm wine. As the estate builds in strength, the style of this perfumed, stylish wine will be seen as a benchmark. Drink from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Château Cos Labory 2015 Saint-Estèphe. Taking its name from the hill or Cos on which the vines are planted, this wine is dense and full of firm tannins. The fruit is there as well, ripe black currants waiting to come through the tannins. Give this wine time and drink from 2026. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Château Ormes de Pez 2015 Saint-Estèphe. This property, owned by the Cazes family of Lynch-Bages in Pauillac, has produced a structured wine. Its tannins show most strongly at the moment. Sustained by black-currant fruit, they will keep the wine firm although with a rich, generous style in the future. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

93 Château Phélan-Ségur 2015 Saint-Estèphe. This spicy wine shows how far the estate has moved from its over-use of new wood. In this bottling, the wood is subtle and doesn't mask the rich fruit and the juicy acidity. It still has the structure of a Saint-Estèphe while keeping everything in good balance. Drink from 2024. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

92 Château de Pez 2015 Saint-Estèphe. Under the same ownership as Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Pauillac, this estate has produced a concentrated wine. Dark and firm, with the tannins up front, the wine will take time to develop. Wait until 2025. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

PAUILLAC

98 Château Pichon Longueville 2015 Pauillac. This is one of the great successes of this vintage. It is generous and rich while also solid and structured. The combination of the essence of black currant and the elegant tannic structure are superb. This is a wine for serious aging and the wine should not be broached before 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$137

96 Château Lynch-Bages 2015 Pauillac. This vintage was ideal for the rich style that this estate has made its own. This wine is full bodied

and ripe with black-currant and dark berry fruits. The tannins fall into the cushioned wine with ease and richness. Of course, the wine should be aged, so wait until 2026. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

96 **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2015 Pauillac.** This is the new taste for this estate: richly endowed while remaining elegant and suave. Certainly, there is great concentration here as well as rich black fruits. But they are given a sense of style and poise that will remain with this wine as it ages. Drink from 2026. *Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$137

94 **Château Grand-Puy Ducasse 2015 Pauillac.** This generous, ripe wine is filled with fine tannins as well as juicy black-currant fruits. It is approachable in the sense that the fruit is so delicious. However, watch for those tannins that are firm and dense and will allow the wine to age. Best to wait until 2024. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

94 **Château Haut Bages Libéral 2015 Pauillac.** This is one of the three biodynamic estates that are owned by Gonzague and Claire Lurton. The wine is generous while also firmly structured in the style of this property. A dense, dry core surrounded by blackberry and black-currant fruit promises great things. It finishes clean, clear and crisp. Drink from 2024. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

94 **Château Lynch-Moussas 2015 Pauillac.** This is a vastly improved estate, making impressively good wines in recent vintages. The wine is structured and tannic but also packed with black-currant fruits, good acidity and spice. It will take time to develop, so drink from 2025 at the earliest. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

93 **Château Batailley 2015 Pauillac.** Ripe and spicy, this wine comes from an estate on the western edge of Pauillac. Young fruit, toast and fine tannins are combining well into a rich wine that is likely to develop relatively quickly, very much in the style of this property. Drink from 2024. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

93 **Château Grand-Puy Lacoste 2015 Pauillac.** The wine from this estate, owned by one of the great Bordeaux families, is already balanced between fruit and tannins. Black currants from the Cabernet Sauvignon comes through strongly, giving a juicy character to the wine's structure. It is rich and will mature well. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

90 **Château Croizet-Bages 2015 Pauillac.** This wine is tough and extracted, with dark-chocolate flavors as well as tannins. Its hard outer shell is rescued by the ripe black-currant fruits of

the Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

SAINT-JULIEN

97 **Château Léoville Barton 2015 Saint-Julien.** Rich, generous and elegant, this is a very dense wine but with great black fruits to balance this structure. The elements are already coming together to create another great wine from this property. Drink from 2026. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

96 **Château Léoville Poyferré 2015 Saint-Julien.** Following the style that this estate has now adopted, this is an ultrarich, concentrated wine. However its acidity and bright black-currant fruits contrast well with this solid base. Drink this impressive wine from 2026. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 **Château Beychevelle 2015 Saint-Julien.** This elegant estate, with its views down to the Gironde estuary, has produced an excellent 2015. It is properly firm with tannins although this structure is well balanced with the ripe, stylish black-currant fruits and acidity. A juicy finish bodes well for the future. Drink this generous wine from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$74

95 **Château Branaire-Ducru 2015 Saint-Julien.** This family-owned estate has produced a structured and dark wine with great concentration balanced by acidity and pure, creamy fruit. It is a wine with a good future. The aftertaste leaves juicy acidity and firm tannins. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

95 **Château Gruaud Larose 2015 Saint-Julien.** The ripe fruit that is a hallmark of this vintage at this estate has been maintained along with solid tannins and richness. This has both tannins and concentration although the fruit is the thing, making a wine that will develop relatively quickly. Drink from 2023. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

95 **Château Lagrange 2015 Saint-Julien.** One of the furthest west of the Saint-Julien estates, this property has been greatly improved with investment from Japanese owner Suntory. The wine from 2015 is dense and impressively concentrated, perfumed black-currant fruits working well with the crisp acidity and solid structure. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

95 **Château Langoa Barton 2015 Saint-Julien.** Sometimes seen as the junior of the two properties owned by the Barton family in Saint-Julien, this is an impressive estate in its own right, especially in this superripe, smoothly rich wine.

Tannins are well wrapped in the generous structure and fruits. Drink from 2025. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

94 **Château Gloria 2015 Saint-Julien.** One of two classed-growth estates in Saint-Julien owned by the descendants of Henri Martin, this estate has been renovated and the results show in this well-crafted wine. Ripe tannins are balanced by smoky blackberry fruits and pure, clean acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

94 **Château Talbot 2015 Saint-Julien.** This wine seems to be all about structure and tannins. The fruit comes through slowly and has a way to go in its development. But black currants are there, ripe and promising well for the future. Just don't drink before 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

92 **Château Saint-Pierre 2015 Saint-Julien.** This wine has a very toasty style, with spice and wood tannins that give an extracted character with some bitterness. That contrasts with the fruit that is developing, and it seems that the wood will integrate over time. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

MARGAUX

97 **Château Durfort-Vivens 2015 Margaux.** Initially firm and dry, this wine blossoms quickly with its delicious fruit and penetrating acidity. Fine tannins sustain this black-currant and berry fruit along with the complex texture and structure. Produced from biodynamic grapes, the wine has great potential. Drink from 2026. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

97 **Château Giscours 2015 Margaux.** This firm wine shows the tannic side of the vintage. Those tannins are dusty, enriched with black-currant fruits and a dense backdrop. The wine is concentrated and elegant, very ageworthy and not likely to be ready before 2025. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

96 **Château Brane-Cantenac 2015 Margaux.** Rich, fruity and with great potential, this ripe wine is also dense with firm tannins. Its juicy fruits are a part of a package with the concentrated tannins and smoky wood flavors that allow for long aging. This is an impressive wine from one of the Margaux properties owned by the Lurton family. Drink from 2025. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

96 **Château du Tertre 2015 Margaux.** This sister property to Château Giscours is firing on all cylinders with this wine. Rich, full of black-currant fruit and dark tannins, it is dense while also supple.

BUYINGGUIDE

It has excellent aging potential and should not be drunk before 2024. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

96 **Château Kirwan 2015 Margaux.** This rich wine is full of fruit and structured with layers of tannin. It's also stylish and elegant, with a suave texture that is already attractive. Black fruits mix with the structure to give a wine that will age well. Drink from 2026. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$41

96 **Château Lascombes 2015 Margaux.** This is a powerful wine, with wood aging that adds richness to the dense tannins. Some tough extraction has not detracted from the ripe fruit or structure and will go as the wine matures. It should be ready to drink from 2026. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$69

96 **Château Rauzan-Ségla 2015 Margaux.** Structure is the watchword for this wine. With dark tannins and concentration, it obviously has long-term potential. At the same time, the black-currant fruits are ripe and full bodied, giving rich contrast to the tannins. These two elements will allow this wine to age. It will be ready to drink from 2025. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$80

95 **Château Labégorce Margaux 2015 Margaux.** There is a tough, tannic core to this otherwise ripe and fruity wine. All to the good, as this will allow the bold, ripe wine to age well. Black-currant fruits are already showing their hand and will intensify, bringing in richness and a dense texture. Drink this wine from 2025. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

95 **Château Prieuré-Lichine 2015 Margaux.** This is a perfumed wine, rich in black currants and acidity as well as firm tannins. It is concentrated and dense while also elegant. The aftertaste boosts the ripe fruit and balanced acidity. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$41

94 **Château Dauzac 2015 Margaux.** From one of the most southerly of the Margaux vineyards, this attractively fruity wine is bright with black-currant flavors. Delicious acidity and layers of spice from wood aging promise a fine, ripe future. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

94 **Château Ferrière 2015 Margaux.** Biodynamic from this vintage, Ferrière is closely associated both through family and vineyard practices with Durfort-Vivens. With dusty tannins and beautiful black-currant fruits, this wine is both rich and juicy, finishing with crisp acidity. Drink from 2024. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

94 **Château Marquis de Terme 2015 Margaux.** This is a ripe, juicy wine, showing the improvements at this potentially fine estate. Dense tannins and succulent fruit come together to give a wine that is both structured and complex. The black-currant and berry flavors are underlined with a ripe structure. Drink from 2024. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$42

94 **Château Rauzan-Gassies 2015 Margaux.** Showing the richness of the vintage behind firm tannins, this wine is tough and solid at the moment although that will change as it matures. The hint of bitter over-extraction is the sole blemish on a wine that otherwise highlights the many improvements at this estate. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$48

93 **Château d'Angludet 2015 Margaux.** This structured wine comes from the Sichel family-owned estate. It has tannins and a dry character although this dry core is balanced with ripe black currants. Structure and fruit make this a good wine for medium-term aging. Drink from 2023. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

93 **Château Monbrison 2015 Margaux.** Dusty tannins and ripe fruit give this wine a fine potential. Its structure is impressive with a good mix of rich black currant fruits and acidity to speed development. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

93 **Château Siran 2015 Margaux.** Soft, ripe and juicy, this is an immediately attractive wine. Its tannins are already well integrated into the black-currant fruits and rich berry flavors. The wine will mature relatively quickly and should be ready to drink from 2021. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

92 **Château Brane-Cantenac 2015 Margaux de Brane (Margaux).** Owned by Henri Lurton, one of several Lurtions to own property in Margaux, this estate is performing in high gear. Its second wine is rich and concentrated with solid tannins as well as generous blackberry fruits. It will be impressive as it ages. Drink from 2020. Maison Barriere USA. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

89 **Château Desmirail 2015 Margaux.** Piled high with new wood, dark-chocolate flavors and dryness, this wine will be a tough call for many years. It will show better, although the over-indulgent use of wood will likely always keep it dry. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$34

88 **Château Marsac Séguineau 2015 Margaux.** Linked by ownership to another Margaux estate, Tour de Mons, this wine reflects the ripe fruit of the vintage. Its tannins are still firm although they are well balanced by the bright black-

currant fruit. This generous wine will be ready to drink from 2019. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

HAUT-MÉDOC

91 **Château Beychevelle 2015 Les Brulière de Beychevelle (Haut-Médoc).** This is one of two wines made by Saint-Julien Château Beychevelle from vines in the Haut-Médoc. It has the rich, generous fruit of this vintage, with ripe plum flavors and concentrated tannins. Perfumed acidity and a dry core will allow the wine to age further. Drink from 2020. Maison Barriere USA. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$31

90 **Château Bel-Orme Tronquoy de Lalande 2015 Haut-Médoc.** Under the same ownership as Château Rauzan-Gassies in Margaux, this estate is in the north of Haut-Médoc region. It is dense with solid tannins and black fruit. A touch of black coffee hints at toasty wood as well as some extraction that needs to soften. The wine has potential; drink from 2021. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

88 **Château Bel-Orme Tronquoy de Lalande 2014 Haut-Médoc.** Associated with Château Rauzan-Gassies in Margaux, this is a surprisingly lean wine. Acidity comes from the red fruits and the wine is light. Red berries are just supported by tannins to suggest potential. Drink from 2020. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

93 **Château Pape Clément 2015 Les Clés de Pape Clément (Pessac-Léognan).** The second wine of Pape Clément, named after the papal crossed keys, this bottling well reflects the top wine. It has the same ripe, dusty tannins and juicy acidity, rich while structured, and likely will age well over the medium term. It will be a delicious, rich wine as it matures. Drink from 2021. Maison Barriere USA. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

91 **Château Pape Clément 2014 Les Clés de Pape Clément (Pessac-Léognan).** This rich and dense wine is maturing well. It has a solid texture, touches of dark chocolate as well as juicy blackberry flavors underlined by wood aging. The tannins need to soften further; drink from 2020. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

POMEROL

91 **Château Gouprie 2015 Pomerol.** This 11-acre, family-owned property has produced a gen-

erous, opulent wine. A blend of 75% Merlot with Cabernet Franc, it shows the ripeness of the fruit in this vintage giving a rich, dark plum-flavored wine. Tannins lie at the core of this cushion of fruit. Still young, it needs time and will be best from 2020. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

90 **Château Gouprie 2014 Pomerol.** This wine is full of crisp fruit, perfumed wood and red-berry acidity. Perfumed Cabernet Franc gives extra complexity to the juicy Merlot to offer a balanced wine that will be ready from 2019 Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

SAINT-ÉMILION

97 **Château Canon 2015 Saint-Émilion.** This estate, now performing on top form, has produced a rich, dense wine. Swathes of black fruits underline the generous structure and intensity. At first taste, the tannins are soft but that turns out to be an illusion. The tannins are just richly cushioned within the beautiful fruit. Drink from 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$190

96 **Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2015 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Saint-Émilion).** This family-owned property at one of the high points in Saint-Émilion has made a rich, opulent wine, full of perfumed Cabernet Franc and generous Merlot. Ripe blackberries and dark plums are permeated with some serious tannins for aging. Drink this powerful wine from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 **Château Canon la Gaffelière 2015 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Saint-Émilion).** This structured wine also offers juicy, elegant fruit. Full of black plums, spice from judicious wood aging and acidity, its core remains to develop. The wine needs to age so drink after 2024. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 **Château Destieux 2014 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Saint-Émilion).** This ripe wine is full of dusty tannins and has a dense structure. These give power to the wine with its concentration and richness. Perfumed acidity cuts through to give a crisp edge to the ripeness. Drink this dense wine from 2022. Maison Barriere USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 **Château Corbin 2015 Divin de Corbin Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Saint-Émilion).** The second wine of Château Corbin, this is ripe and rounded. It's a juicy Merlot, with generous tannins and smooth blackberry fruit. It has a dense texture as well as a dry core that will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2019. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

89 **Château Destieux 2011 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Saint-Émilion).** Although the fruit says this wine is mature, the structure makes it firm and dry. Typical of this always-tough vintage, the wine is packed with firm tannins and concentration. Drink now. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 **Château Montlisse 2014 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Saint-Émilion).** Situated to the east of the village of Saint-Émilion, overlooking the Dordogne Valley, this estate has produced a ripe wine in this fruity vintage. With some solid tannins to back up the generous black fruits, it is still young, so best wait to drink until 2019. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

BORDEAUX

87 **Château Guillebot Plaisance 2015 Bordeaux.** This is a ripe wine, fruity with blackberries and black plums. Juicy acidity and tannins work just right as a core of structure. Belonging to the same family for six generations, the estate is in the Entre-deux-Mers region. Drink from late 2018. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 **Château Guillebot Plaisance 2014 Bordeaux.** With bright red fruits and crisp acidity, this wine sums up the fruitiness of this vintage. A dry edge balances the red-currant fruit and acidity. Attractive now, it will be better from 2018. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 **Grand Bateau 2016 Bordeaux.** This fruity wine, a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, is stinky with light tannins and plenty of black-currant fruits. Crisp and with acidity to balance the fruitiness, it is ready to drink. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

OTHER RED WINES

90 **Château Réaut 2015 Côtes de Bordeaux.** From a vineyard that is on the slope right above the river Garonne, this wine has a good mix of richness and black-currant crispness. Its structure is generous, with fully integrated tannins. Ripe and warm while also having balancing acidity, it will be ready to drink from late 2018. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château Machorre 2012 Bordeaux Supérieur.** This mature wine is ripe with both black fruits and secondary toast and rich mushrooms flavors. It is structured, with a dry core of tannins that gives strength to the generous character of the wine. Drink now. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Saint-Nicolas 2015 Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux.** This wood-laden wine is rich in toast. The fruit is there, blackberry and juicy flavors coming through to balance the enthusiastic wood aging. It will take a while to integrate before becoming a rich, full wine. Drink from 2019. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

BORDEAUX BLANC

86 **Château La Rose Saint Germain 2016 Bordeaux Blanc.** Situated in the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers, this estate, one of several owned by the Ducourt family, has made an easy, crisp blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Acidity and touch of herbal flavors are balanced by the tropical edge that comes from the vintage. Drink the wine now. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 **Grand Bateau 2016 Bordeaux Blanc.** Herbal aromas announce the 100% Sauvignon Blanc in this wine. It is crisp, although touches of tropical fruit and citrus bring out the Bordeaux origins. Drink this fruity wine now. Maison Barriere USA. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

VENETO

VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE RIPASSO

90 **Speri 2015 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso.** Made with organic grapes, this opens with aromas of black-skinned berry, porcini mushroom and a hint of nutmeg. The juicy, mouth-watering palate delivers fleshy black cherry, licorice and white pepper alongside velvety tannins. Enjoy through 2020. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

89 **Monte del Frà 2015 Lena di Mezzo (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso).** Mature blackberry, vanilla and baked-plum aromas take center stage. This wine is concentrated and smooth, with black cherry, white pepper and cinnamon flavors set against velvety tannins. It's also surprisingly fresh for the hot vintage. Enjoy through 2023. Vision Wine & Spirits. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 **Monteci 2013 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso.** Inviting aromas of dark-skinned berry, baked plum and cooking spice come together on this. It's concentrated and smooth, doling out mature blackberry, white pepper and cinnamon alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2020. Wine 4 All. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Tedeschi 2015 Capitel San Rocco (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). Aromas of raisin, porcini mushroom and tobacco leaf are front and center. On the juicy palate, velvety tannins carry ripe black cherry, nutmeg and a hint of candied orange alongside fresh acidity. Enjoy through 2023. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Rubinelli Vajol 2014 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. You'll discover underbrush, tobacco and black-skinned berry aromas on this full-bodied red. The structured palate shows ripe black cherry, cinnamon and a hint of licorice alongside supple tannins. Enjoy through 2021. Golden State Wine Co. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

87 Corte Adami 2015 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. Subdued aromas suggest prune, vanilla and baking spice while the ripe, straightforward palate presents fleshy black plum, toast and a hint of pipe tobacco. Smooth tannins lend easygoing support. Dionysos Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Corte Rugolin 2014 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. Soft and accessible, this opens with aromas of vanilla, mature blackberry and exotic spice. The mellow palate delivers ripe black plum, cinnamon and white pepper alongside lithe tannins. Angelini Wine. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Delibori 2015 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. Aromas of tilled soil and black plum lead into the straightforward palate along with prune, bitter almond and a note of baking spice. Round tannins offer support. Drink through 2019. Arctic Beverage, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Domini Veneti 2015 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. Delicate aromas of baking spice and black-skinned berry emerge in the glass. On the straightforward palate, notes of vanilla and star anise back up black-cherry jam. Round tannins offer easygoing support. Drink soon. Domini Veneti USA. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Domini Veneti 2014 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. Subtle aromas of baked plum and cinnamon set the tone. Mirroring the nose, the straightforward palate offers prune, mocha and clove alongside smooth tannins. Domini Veneti USA. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Nicolis 2015 Seccal (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). This opens with aromas of black cherry, bitter almond and graphite. On the palate, blackberry jam, vanilla and cinnamon

accompany chewy tannins. Drink through 2020. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Santi 2015 Solane (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). This opens with aromas suggesting prune and underbrush while the straightforward palate evokes blackberry jam, raisin and a hint of chocolate. It's already accessible, with supple tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Secondo Marco 2014 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. This opens with aromas of tilled earth, ripe black-skinned fruit and underbrush. The straightforward palate delivers mature black plum, vanilla and nutmeg framed in polished tannins. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Villabella 2015 Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso. Subtle aromas of baking spice, mature black plum and vanilla slowly come together on this. It's quite simple, offering flavors of blackberry jam and nutmeg, with round tannins. Gonzalez Byass USA. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

85 Campopian 2015 Lunante (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). This has evolved aromas of prune and tilled soil. The warm, simple palate shows fleshy black plum, vanilla and a candied almond note alongside pliant tannins. You'll also detect the heat of evident alcohol. Drink soon. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

VALPOLICELLA SUPERIORE RIPASSO

90 Prà 2015 Morandina (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). Made with 35% Corvina, 35% Corvinone, 23% Rondinella and 7% Oseleta, this opens with aromas of blackberry, graphite and a touch of cedar. The concentrated, savory palate delivers red plum, carob, white pepper and a hint of rhubarb alongside polished tannins. Enjoy through 2023. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

89 Cesari 2015 Mara (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). Aromas suggest black-skinned berry, cooking spice and underbrush. The succulent palate delivers black cherry, black pepper and a hint of bitter almond. Enjoy through 2022. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Corte Sant' Alda 2014 Campi Magri (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). Made with organic grapes, this offers aromas of black-skinned berry and baking spice. The medium-bodied, juicy palate

doles out black-currant jam, clove and white pepper alongside velvety tannins. Enjoy through 2021. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Rocca Sveva 2013 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. This opens with aromas of black-skinned berry and cooking spice while the juicy palate delivers red plum, clove and black pepper. Smooth tannins lend polish. Enjoy through 2022. MV Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 San Cassiano 2014 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. Aromas of black-skinned berry, baking spice and white pepper lead the nose while the smooth palate offers cassis, vanilla and sweet almond. It's ready and enjoyable, with supple tannins. Drink through 2022. Eagle Eye Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Zenato 2013 Ripassa (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). Savory and ripe, this has aromas of black currant, underbrush and cooking spice. On the full-bodied palate, white pepper and star anise accent a core of ripe black cherry. Supple tannins lend polish. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Zonin 2015 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. Plum, red-skinned berry and a hint of white-almond aromas take center stage. The refined palate shows black cherry, clove and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Enjoy through 2022. Zonin USA. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Cesari 2014 Bosan (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). This friendly red opens with aromas of blackberry, vanilla and a whiff of bitter almond. On the palate, it doles out black cherry, fig and white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2021. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

88 Tenuta Casaletti 2014 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. Aromas of red plum, baking spice and white pepper set the tone while the savory palate delivers raspberry jam, clove and tobacco. It's already accessible and easygoing, with polished tannins. Enjoy through 2020. International Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Tommasi 2015 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. Aromas of dried black fruit, tobacco and carob lead the nose while the savory palate delivers prune, blackberry jam and a licorice accent. Velvety tannins provide polish. Drink through 2022. Vintus LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Adalia 2015 Balt (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). This offers aromas of black plum

and cooking spice while the firm palate shows blackberry jam, tobacco and black pepper. Closed-grained tannins provide the framework. Enjoy through 2020. Yountville Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Corte Moschina 2015 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. This opens with aromas of black-skinned berry and tilled earth. The straightforward palate offers ripe black cherry, mocha and a hint of cinnamon while round tannins provide easygoing support. Drink through 2020. Vi. Sco., Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Monte Zovo 2015 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. Aromas suggesting black-skinned berry and almond unfold in the glass. The dense palate shows fleshy black cherry, baked plum and a hint of cinnamon alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2020. Monte Zovo USA. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Monteci 2010 Tenazio (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). The shy nose eventually reveals ripe black fruit and raisin aromas. Dense and robust, the palate shows blackberry jam, prune and white pepper alongside supple tannins. Drink soon. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

87 Tenuta Da Mar 2015 Opera Terza (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). Opening aromas suggest black-skinned berry and cooking spice. The firm palate shows ripe black cherry, nutmeg and cocoa alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2020. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 Dal Cero Tenuta di Corte Giacobbe 2014 Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso. Subdued aromas of baking spice and black-skinned fruit guide the nose while the dense palate offers clove, ripe black plum and vanilla. Round, closed-grained tannins provide the framework. Wine Universe Corp. —K.O.
abv: 24% **Price:** \$15

86 Tinazzi 2015 Collezione di Famiglia (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). Aromas of cedar, baking spice and mocha lead the way while the simple palate delivers prune, coffee and a hint of clove. It's already accessible, with pliable tannins. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 Villa Canestrari 2015 I Lasi (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). This offers aromas of green pepper, tobacco and black-skinned fruit. The palate is soft and ripe, with dried black cherry, prune and white-pepper accents. Drink soon. International Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

85 Ca' de' Rocchi 2015 Reguso (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). This opens with light

aromas of ripe black plum, toast and a whiff of baking spice. The extremely simple palate shows prune, cinnamon and a hint of cocoa alongside flexible tannins. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

85 Tenuta Valleselle 2015 Rovertondo (Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso). Restrained aromas recall baking spice and dried dark-skinned fruit. Mirroring the nose, the simple palate offers prune, clove and a hint of tobacco alongside astringent tannins. Orvino Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

VALPOLICELLA RIPASSO

88 Corte Giara 2015 La Groletta (Valpolicella Ripasso). Opening aromas convey raisin, cocoa, a hint of bell pepper and earthy whiff of game. The firm palate shows fig, cassis and dried sage alongside tightly wound tannins. Drink through 2022. Innovino International. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Tenuta Santa Maria 2015 Valpolicella Ripasso. Aromas of ripe black-skinned berry, tilled soil and cooking spice lead the way while the dense palate evokes prune, cocoa and a touch of cinnamon. Supple tannins provide the lithe framework. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Ca' Rugate 2015 Valpolicella Ripasso. Ripe raspberry and black-pepper aromas take center stage here. This wine is straightforward, offering black-cherry jam, licorice and a note of white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Monte Tondo 2015 Campo Grande (Valpolicella Ripasso). Black cherry, tobacco and baking-spice aromas lead the nose while the soft, ripe palate shows prune and white-pepper accents. Pliant tannins give it an easygoing nature. Drink soon. August Wine Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

86 Bellora 2015 Gianni Bellora (Valpolicella Ripasso). This opens with aromas of prune, tobacco and toast. The simple palate offers blackberry jam, vanilla and star anise alongside round tannins. Drink soon. J & M Distributing Co. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE

89 SalvaTerra 2014 Valpolicella Classico Superiore. This lovely wine has structure, finesse and character. It opens with aromas of black-skinned berry, cooking spice and underbrush while the elegantly structured palate boasts black cherry,

white pepper and tobacco. It's balanced, with fresh acidity and supple tannins. Enjoy through 2022. Conexport Italy. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Tedeschi 2013 La Fabriseria (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Made with 35% Corvina, 30% Corvinone, 30% Rondinella and 10% Oseleta, this offers aromas suggesting black plum, raisin and tobacco. The soft, concentrated palate conveys ripe black cherry, cocoa and licorice. Rounded tannins provide polished support. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

89 Valentina Cubi 2014 Ittaborro (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Made with organic grapes, this boasts aromas of red currant, tobacco and cooking spice. The light-bodied, savory palate delivers red cherry, raspberry jam, clove and white pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. Enjoy through 2022. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Brunelli 2015 Valpolicella Classico Superiore. Made with 65% Corvina, 25% Rondinella and 10% Corvinone, this offers aromas of red-skinned berry, cooking spice and chopped herb. The light-bodied, juicy palate delivers red cherry, clove and licorice alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon to capture the fruit and freshness. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Monteci 2016 Valpolicella Classico Superiore. Aromas of vanilla, baking spice and a hint of black-skinned berry lead the nose while the straightforward palate delivers tobacco, black cherry and a touch of fresh mint. Firm tannins provide support. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 Rubinelli Vajol 2014 Valpolicella Classico Superiore. Dark-skinned berry and culinary-spice aromas set the tone on this easygoing red. Reflecting the nose, the straightforward palate shows red plum, clove and black pepper alongside pliant tannins. Enjoy through 2021. Golden State Wine Co. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Speri 2014 Sant'Urbano (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Aromas of baking spice and black-skinned berry lead the way. The straightforward palate offers vanilla, black-cherry jam and tobacco alongside velvety tannins. Enjoy through 2021. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

87 Albino Armani 2014 Egle (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Delicate aromas of black-skinned berry and baking spice introduce this easygoing red. The straightforward palate offers red cherry, cinnamon and a hint of white pepper along-

side round tannins. Drink soon. Saranty Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 Sartori 2013 Valpolicella Classico Superiore. This opens with delicate aromas of baking spice and black-skinned fruit. The simple palate offers blackberry jam and a star-anise note alongside easygoing tannins. Drink now. Banfi Vintners. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

VALPOLICELLA SUPERIORE

89 Trabucchi d'Illassi 2010 San Colombano (Valpolicella Superiore). Made with 40% Corvina, 40% Corvinone, 5% Oseleta and 5% Croatina organic grapes, this opens with aromas of ripe, black-skinned berry and vanilla. The medium-bodied, savory palate offers black-cherry jam, licorice and tobacco alongside polished tannins. Enjoy through 2023. Caroline Debbané Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 San Cassiano 2012 Le Alene (Valpolicella Superiore). Underbrush, game and black-plum aromas lead the way. On the earthy palate, close-grained tannins support prune, vanilla and tobacco. Drink through 2022. Eagle Eye Brands. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

87 Bellora 2015 Il Mastego (Valpolicella Superiore). This opens with aromas of underbrush and black-skinned berry while the straightforward palate offers vanilla, black cherry and a touch of almond. It's easygoing, with round tannins. Drink through 2020. J & M Distributing Co. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Trabucchi d'Illassi 2008 Terra del Cereo (Valpolicella Superiore). Aromas of toast, tobacco and a hint of black-skinned berry meld together on this wine. The dense, robust palate delivers prune, vanilla and star anise alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. Caroline Debbané Selections. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

87 Villa Canestrari 2014 Valpolicella Superiore. This opens with aromas of oak, blackberry and baking spice. The dense, taut palate shows black currant, toast and vanilla alongside tightly wound tannins. Drink through 2020. Nawrocki Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO

88 Corte Rugolin 2016 Valpolicella Classico. This boasts aromas of ripe strawberry, violet and a touch of eucalyptus. The light-bodied, juicy palate offers raspberry jam, cinnamon and red cherry alongside fresh acidity and smooth tan-

nins. Enjoy through 2019. Angelini Wine. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Monteci 2016 Valpolicella Classico. Red-skinned berry, nutmeg and violet aromas waft out of the glass. Light bodied and savory, it offers red currant, clove and a touch of licorice alongside fresh acidity and rounded tannins. Enjoy soon. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Nicolis 2016 Valpolicella Classico. Aromas of red-skinned berry and graphite lift out of the glass. It's savory, doling out raspberry jam, clove and a touch of cinnamon alongside pliant tannins. Enjoy through 2020. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

VALPOLICELLA

90 Corte Sant' Alda 2016 Fiui (Valpolicella). Made following the principles of biodynamic viticulture and with natural yeasts, this savory red opens with aromas of ripe strawberry, violet and chopped herb. The light-bodied, juicy palate doles out raspberry jam, clove and white pepper alongside fresh acidity and velvety tannins. Enjoy through 2019. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

90 Prà 2016 Morandina (Valpolicella). A textbook Valpolicella, this opens with aromas of strawberry, red currant and a whiff of chopped aromatic herb while the bright palate doles out red-skinned berry, cinnamon and white pepper. Fresh acidity and velvety tannins provide the polished framework. Enjoy through 2020. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Tedeschi 2016 Lucchine (Valpolicella). This opens with aromas of cassis, underbrush and white pepper. The light-bodied, savory palate delivers red cherry, raspberry compote and star anise alongside supple tannins. Enjoy through 2019. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Adalia 2016 Laute (Valpolicella). Aromas of red-skinned berry, white pepper and a whiff of mint float out of the glass. Light bodied and fresh, the palate evokes Marasca cherry, white pepper and cinnamon alongside supple tannins. Enjoy through 2019. Yountville Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

87 Brunelli 2015 Pariondo (Valpolicella). This opens with aromas of carob and spirit-soaked cherry. The straightforward palate delivers ripe black cherry, nutmeg and a touch of fig alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2020. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Ca' Rugate 2016 Rio Albo (Valpolicella). This has delicate aromas of baking spice and red-skinned berry. Mirroring the nose, the no-frills, enjoyable palate offers red plum, vanilla and a hint of white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2020. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Cesari 2015 Rajo (Valpolicella). This opens with aromas of red plum, underbrush and cooking spice. The medium-bodied palate delivers ripe black cherry, star anise and a touch of licorice alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Corte Moschina 2015 Valpolicella. Aromas of black-skinned berry and cake spice float out of the glass. The straightforward, medium-bodied palate offers black cherry, white pepper and hint of cinnamon, with firm tannins. Drink through 2019. Vi. Sco., Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Corte Rugolin 2014 San Giorgio (Valpolicella). Aromas of cedar, black-skinned berry and a whiff of tobacco lead the way. The firm palate shows ripe black cherry, vanilla and a hint of star anise alongside mellow tannins. Drink soon. Angelini Wine. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

87 San Cassiano 2015 Valpolicella. This opens with delicate aromas of baking spice and black-skinned fruit. It's easygoing, offering black cherry, red plum and vanilla alongside round tannins. Drink through 2020. Eagle Eye Brands. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Tenuta Da Mar 2016 Valpolicella. This opens with aromas of red plum, cooking spice and a hint of nutmeg. The no-frills palate shows black currant, clove and a black pepper note alongside smooth tannins. Enjoy soon. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Campopian 2015 Reguso (Valpolicella). This opens with subdued aromas of scorched earth, baking spice and black-skinned berry. The simple palate offers dried cherry, vanilla and a hint of clove. It's easygoing, with soft tannins. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

86 Villa San Carlo 2016 Valpolicella. Aromas suggest tilled soil and black-skinned fruit. The easygoing, simple palate presents clove, orange zest and red-skinned berry alongside rounded tannins. Drink soon. Vision Wine Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

BARDOLINO

90 **Giovanna Tantini 2015 Bardolino.** Made with 80% Corvina and 20% Rondinella, this opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, spring blossom and tangerine zest. The juicy, vibrant palate doles out raspberry, red cherry and nutmeg alongside fresh acidity and round tannins. Enjoy soon to catch the fruit richness. Ethica Wines. **Best Buy.** —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Corte Fornello 2012 Bardolino Superiore.** Aromas of red currant, citrus and underbrush take center stage. The medium-bodied, lively palate delivers raspberry jam, orange zest and a touch of cinnamon alongside lithe tannins. Enjoy through 2021. Zanotti Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

88 **Valetti 2016 Bardolino Classico.** Made with 70% Corvina, 20% Rondinella and 10% Sangiovese, this offers aromas of red-skinned berry and dark spice. The soft, bright palate doles out red cherry and black pepper alongside lithe tannins. Drink soon. Bizou Wines. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Valetti 2015 Bardolino Classico Superiore.** A blend of 70% Corvina, 20% Rondinella and 10% Sangiovese, this offers aromas of Marasca cherry and a light balsamic note. The savory palate doles out black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2021. Bizou Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

86 **Benazzoli 2016 Dafne (Bardolino).** Aromas suggest black-skinned berry and clove. The simple palate offers wild cherry and a white-pepper note, with easygoing tannins. Drink soon. Domenico Valentino. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

86 **Faccioli 2015 Bardolino.** This opens with aromas of red-skinned berry and cooking spice while the simple palate offers red cherry and clove. It's easygoing and enjoyable, with soft tannins. Drink soon. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Tenuta Valleselle 2016 Pieve San Vito (Bardolino Classico).** Aromas of baking spice and black-skinned fruit lead the nose while the palate offers clove and black-cherry jam. It's easygoing, with round tannins. Battaglia Distributing. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

VERONESE

92 **Allegrini 2014 La Grola (Veronese).** For full review see page 9.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 **Allegrini 2014 Palazzo della Torre (Veronese).** For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 **Brunelli 2015 Corte Cariano Corvina (Veronese).** Made entirely with dried Corvina grapes, this has aromas of red currant, toast and a touch of eucalyptus. The medium-bodied palate shows black cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2022. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

SOAVE

96 **Pieropan 2015 Calvarino (Soave Classico).** For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$31

94 **Pieropan 2015 La Rocca (Soave Classico).** For full review see page 6. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

92 **Pieropan 2016 Soave Classico.** For full review see page 10. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

92 **Prà 2016 Monte Grande (Soave Classico).** Complex and alluring, this offers aromas of dried apricot, exotic fruit, pressed yellow flower and crushed rock. Mirroring the nose, the elegant, structured palate doles out mature yellow peach, nectarine zest and a note of toasted almond alongside bright acidity. An energizing mineral note accents the finish. Drink through 2026. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Prà 2015 Staforte (Soave Classico).** Creamy, fresh and crisp, this opens with aromas of dried wildflower and ripe orchard fruit. The rounded palate delivers pastry dough, white peach and yellow apple with fresh acidity. A lemon drop closes the lingering finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

85 **Tenuta Casaletti 2016 Soave.** Simple and fresh, this informal white has aromas and flavors suggesting tropical fruit and candied citrus zest. A hint of white almond marks the close. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

SPARKLING WINES

92 **Corte Moschina 2013 Brut (Lessini Durello).** Aromas of citrus zest, yellow stone fruit and crushed rock follow over to the vibrant palate along with Golden Delicious apple, white peach, white cherry and nectarine. A honeyed almond note closes the finish while bright acidity and a refined perlage

provide the vibrant, elegant backdrop. Vi. Sco., Inc. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

92 **Fattori 2011 Roncà 60 Non Dosato Metodo Classico (Lessini Durello).** Bread crust, dried fruit, crushed herb and acacia aromas carry over to the enveloping, savory palate along with creamy yellow peach, nectarine zest and a hint of toasted almond. Vibrant acidity and an elegant perlage provide energy and finesse. A honeyed nut note and a touch of salt wrap up the dry, lingering finish. The Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Corte Moschina NV PuroCaso Sui Lieviti (Veneto).** Made with native grape Durella and re-fermented in the bottle, this slightly sparkling, savory wine opens with yeasty aromas of bread dough, orchard fruit, citrus and a whiff of crushed stone. Bright and savory, the linear, fizzy palate doles out ripe yellow apple, bread crust and nectarine zest alongside tangy acidity. A bitter almond note softens the bone-dry finish. It's incredibly fun and refreshing. Vi. Sco., Inc. —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

SOUTHERN ITALY

FIANO DI AVELLINO

91 **Rocca del Principe 2014 Tognano (Fiano di Avellino).** This white opens with heady aromas of white spring flower, orchard fruit and pastry cream. On the medium-bodied palate, notes of white pepper and ginger underscore apple and citrus while mineral and almond wrap up the close. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Villa Diamante 2015 Vigna della Congregazione (Fiano di Avellino).** Scents of yellow flower, ripe orchard fruit and aromatic herb lead the way on this round, medium-bodied white. On the savory palate, an underlying mineral note reminiscent of oyster shell underscores mature pear, yellow apple, fennel and a hint of honey. A hazelnut note marks the close. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

88 **Manimurci 2016 Nepente (Fiano di Avellino).** Aromas of citrus, pineapple and orchard fruit lead the nose. The aromas follow over to the fresh palate along with green apple, lime and an almond note. It finishes with a hint of acacia honey and a saline note. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Montesole 2015 Fiano di Avellino.** Delicate aromas of apple, nut and a whiff of acacia mingle together while the rather subdued, light-bodied palate shows suggestions of pear and citrus.

An almond note gives it a pleasantly bitter close. Nicola Biscardo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Mastroberardino 2016 Morabianca Falanghina (Irpinia). Made with selected grapes from a single vineyard, this opens with alluring aromas of white stone fruit, tropical fruit, pressed wildflower and a hint of toasted almond. The fresh, tangy palate offers white peach, citrus and green melon alongside crisp acidity. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Mastroberardino 2016 NovaSerra (Greco di Tufo). Aromas of white stone fruit and spring flower lead the nose while the bright palate delivers green apple, Bartlett pear and citrus alongside a steely mineral note. It finishes clean and crisp. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Montesole 2015 Falanghina del Sannio. Delicate scents of spring flower and white stone fruit drift out of the glass. The racy, linear palate offers citrus, pear, Mediterranean herb and a saline note alongside crisp acidity. Nicola Biscardo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Cantine Astroni 2014 Vigna Astroni Falanghina (Campi Flegrei). Aromas of yellow apple, wet stone and baked bread lead the nose and carry over to the bright, light-bodied palate along with hints of dried herb and lemon drop. A saline note fills in the finish. The Vine Collective. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Contrade di Taurasi—Lonardo 2014 Greco Musc' Burlesque (Campania). Made with Roviello Bianco and vinified in both steel and tonneau, this deeply colored white wine has aromas of toasted oak, nut and a whiff of citrus peel that carry over to the palate. It's lean in terms of fruit richness, offering tangy sensations of just-squeezed lemon, saline, and a hint of yellow apple skin alongside firm acidity. An almond note closes the bitter finish. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 La Sibilla 2014 Cruna Delago Falanghina (Campi Flegrei). Deep gold in color, this opens with aromas of beeswax, chamomile, acacia and mature yellow stone fruit. The lean palate offers dried yellow apple, lemon and saline alongside bright acidity. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

ROSATO

90 Mastroberardino 2016 Lacrimarosa Rosato (Irpinia). This lovely rosato has alluring aromas of red cherry, ripe raspberry and cake spice that follow over to the savory palate. Bright acidity provides balance while a hint of mineral adds depth. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINE

89 Montesole 2015 Spumante Brut (Irpinia). This crisp, delightful sparkler offers crunchy McIntosh apple, Bartlett pear and candied citrus-peel flavors. Vibrant acidity gives it a clean, quenching finish while small, continuous bubbles lend finesse. Nicola Biscardo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

RED WINES

92 Feudi di San Gregorio 2013 Patrimo (Campania). Made entirely with Merlot, this elegantly structured wine has enticing aromas of cassis, purple flower, dark spice and Mediterranean scrub. The firm palate offers wild cherry, blackberry and licorice alongside polished tannins and bright acidity. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$105

92 Montesole 2010 Taurasi. This opens with aromas of ripe plum, leather and cooking spice. The savory palate offers black-cherry jam, mature blackberry and a hint of tobacco while fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Enjoy through 2023. Nicola Biscardo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 D'Orta—De Conciliis 2012 Zero (Paestum). This Aglianico opens with aromas of underbrush, black-skinned fruit and baking spice. The dense palate delivers prune, dried black cherry and vanilla, while dusty, fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Drink through 2022. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

SICILY

ETNA ROSSO

95 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2015 Rosso (Etna). Aromas of raspberry jam, Mediterranean scrub, menthol and a whiff of exotic spice lead the nose on this beautiful red. Concentrated but also boasting finesse, the juicy palate delivers black cherry, blackberry, licorice, clove, and crushed herb alongside firm, ultrafine tannins. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

95 Tornatore 2015 Pietrarizzo Rosso (Etna). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Pietradolce 2014 Barbagalli Rosso (Etna). Made from pre-phylloxera Nerello Mascalese vines, this compelling wine boasts enticing scents of blue flower, exotic spice, menthol and wild berry. It's dense and concentrated but also elegant, delivering mouthfuls of black cherry marinated in spirits, raspberry compote, licorice and well-integrated oak. Firm, close-grained tannins provide the tight framework. Drink 2019–2029. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$94

93 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2015 Calderara Sotтана Rosso (Etna). Crushed mint, exotic spice, Mediterranean herb and wild-berry aromas slowly emerge on this wine. It's elegantly linear, taut and still tightly wound, offering oak-driven spice, espresso, grilled herb and dried cherry alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2030. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Planeta 2014 Eruzione 1614 Rosso (Etna). Red berry, licorice and exotic spice aromas follow through to the smooth palate along with raspberry compote and menthol. Polished tannins provide supple support. Drink through 2021. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$35

90 Cusumano 2014 Alta Mora Feudo di Mezzo Rosso (Etna). Baking spice and red-berry aromas follow over to the linear palate along with licorice and other oak-driven spices. Refined tannins provide polished support. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Le Vigne di Eli 2015 Moganazzi Volta Sciarra Rosso (Etna). Smooth and delicious, this opens with inviting scents of red berry, chopped Mediterranean herb and dark culinary spice. It's bright and focused, offering Marasca cherry, strawberry, star anise and white-pepper flavors. Firm, polished tannins and fresh acidity provide effortless support. Drink through 2025. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Passopisciaro 2014 Rosso (Etna). Aromas on this wine suggest underbrush, dried Mediterranean brush and exotic spice, with balsamic notes. The rounded, full-bodied palate shows cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and the warmth of alcohol alongside fine-grained tannins. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$39

90 Terrazze dell'Etna 2011 Cirmeco Rosso (Etna). Made entirely with Nerello Mascalese, this opens with aromas of Mediterranean brush, exotic

spice, game and leather. The aromas carry over to the chewy palate along with dried cherry, licorice and ground clove while taut, fine-grained tannins provide support. Give the tannins another year or two to unwind then drink in 2019–2020 to capture the remaining fruit. *Domaine Select Wine & Spirits*. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

90 Vivera 2012 Martinella Rosso (Etna). Made with 90% Nerello Mascalese and 10% Nerello Cappuccio, this has aromas suggesting scorched earth, brimstone, charcuterie and dried Mediterranean herb. On the linear palate, hints of licorice, clove and a smoky note accent a core of dried black cherry. Fine-grained tannins provide support. Drink through 2022. *Montcalm Wine Importers*. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

89 Le Vigne di Eli 2015 Rosso (Etna). Fresh and refined, this offers aromas of crushed rock, underbrush, dark berry and culinary spice. It's lithely structured, with strawberry, red cherry, crushed herb and star anise. Drink through 2021. *de Grazia Imports LLC*. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$22

TERRE SICILIANE

97 Passopisciaro 2014 Contrada G (Terre Siciliane). Incredibly fragrant, this presents an alluring bouquet of dark-skinned berry, cake spice, blue flower, underbrush, crushed rock, exotic spice, spirit-soaked berry and balsamic notes. A combination of finesse and strength, it doles out juicy raspberry, Marasca cherry, licorice and baking spice alongside rounded, velvety tannins that give a smooth texture. It's a compelling wine. Drink through 2029. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$90

97 Passopisciaro 2014 Contrada R (Terre Siciliane). Aromas of strawberry, Mediterranean brush, blue flower, eucalyptus and a hint of new leather carry over to the radiant, elegantly structured palate along with red cherry and licorice. It's gorgeous, vibrant and almost ethereal, with weightless finesse and ultrafine tannins. Drink through 2026. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

96 Passopisciaro 2014 Contrada S (Terre Siciliane). Compelling scents of ripe berry, rose petal, exotic spice and a balsamic note of eucalyptus fuse together on this fragrant wine. Structured and loaded with finesse, the concentrated, silky palate delivers juicy red cherry, crushed raspberry, cinnamon and licorice while ultrarefined tannins and fresh acidity lend seamless support. Thanks to the smooth texture and mouthwatering fruit, you won't detect the 15% abv. Drink through 2029. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 15%

Price: \$70

94 Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada P (Terre Siciliane). Aromas of wild berry, Mediterranean brush, menthol and dark spice develop in the glass. Elegant and spicy, the structured, focused palate evokes black cherry, crushed strawberry, star anise and clove while a mineral note lingers on the finish. It's well balanced, with bright acidity and firm, polished tannins. Drink 2020–2025. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

94 Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada R (Terre Siciliane). Restrained, subtle aromas of crushed rock, charred earth, Mediterranean scrub and eucalyptus take center stage. The smooth, elegant palate is ethereal and almost weightless, offering succulent strawberry, crushed raspberry, dark baking spice and a hint of anise alongside polished, silky tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2025. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

94 Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada S (Terre Siciliane). Delicate scents of Mediterranean brush, crushed herb, flint, and balsamic notes of menthol and eucalyptus slowly take shape in the glass. The structured palate shows impressive breeding and class, offering dried Marasca cherry, pomegranate, clove and star anise framed in fine-grained tannins. A mineral-driven finish closes it down. Drink 2019–2025. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$75

94 Passopisciaro 2014 Contrada C (Terre Siciliane). An enviable combination of power and finesse, this wine boasts an enticing bouquet of new leather, ripe berry, exotic spice, graphite and a balsamic eucalyptus note. Full bodied but refined, the juicy, enveloping palate doles out raspberry jam, fleshy cherry, pipe tobacco and star anise framed in velvety, fine-grained tannins. A flinty note lifts the finish while the dense fruit masks the elevated alcohol content. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 15%

Price: \$66

94 Passopisciaro 2014 Contrada P (Terre Siciliane). Alluring scents of raspberry compote, crushed herb, wet stone and scorched earth take center stage on this full-bodied red. Firmly structured with impressive elegance, the palate doles out black raspberry, fleshy Marasca cherry and baking spice alongside velvety tannins. The juicy fruit seamlessly supports the warmth of alcohol. Drink 2021–2029. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$90

93 Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada C (Terre Siciliane). Mediterranean scrub, wild berry, dark spice, new leather, dried herb and a whiff of menthol take shape in the glass. The juicy, linear palate shows finesse and great fruit, doling out succulent red cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and

flinty mineral alongside silky tannins. Best through 2023. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

90 Passopisciaro 2015 Contrada G (Terre Siciliane). Aromas of red berry, grilled herb, balsamic notes, sea breeze and a whiff of wet flint lead the nose. The elegantly structured palate delivers crushed raspberry, strawberry, star anise and a saline mineral note alongside refined tannins. *T. Edward Wines Ltd.* —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$80

VITTORIA

88 Planeta 2015 Frappato (Vittoria). Dark berry, white pepper and raspberry jam mingle with a eucalyptus note. It's a bit riper than usual but still boasts enough fresh acidity to support fleshy Marasca cherry and crushed Mediterranean herb. Soft tannins provide the supple framework. Drink soon. *Palm Bay International*. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$22

ETNA BIANCO

93 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2016 Bianco (Etna). Captivating aromas of Mediterranean brush, crushed herb, Spanish broom, orchard fruit and a hint of hazelnut lead the way on this elegant white. The silky, linear palate doles out tangerine, yellow apple and pear balanced by bright acidity. A mineral note energizes the finish. *de Grazia Imports LLC*. *Editors' Choice*. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

92 Planeta 2016 Bianco (Etna). For full review see page 11.

abv: 13%

Price: \$27

92 Tornatore 2016 Pietrarizzo Bianco (Etna). Delicate scents of Spanish broom, citrus blossom and white stone fruit waft out of the glass. The elegant, medium-bodied palate delivers ripe pear, creamy white peach and tangy lemon. Bright acidity provides impeccable balance while a pronounced mineral note graces the lingering finish. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

92 Vivera 2013 Salisire Bianco (Etna). Enticing scents of mature orchard fruit, bread crust and toasted almond take center stage while the linear, focused palate doles out Barlett pear, yellow apple and lemon set against crisp acidity. A mineral note lifts the lingering finish. *Montcalm Wine Importers*. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

89 Al-Cantàra 2014 Luci Luci Bianco (Etna). This golden-hued wine opens with aromas suggesting beeswax, Spanish broom and orchard fruit. The subdued, refined palate offers creamy yel-

low apple, pear, citrus and a hint of paraffin. A mineral note accents the finish. —K.O.

abv: NA Price: \$NA

89 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2015 Calderara Sottana Bianco (Etna). Subdued aromas suggest toasted nut, crushed stone and a whiff of pressed yellow flower. The linear palate offers yellow apple, ripe pear, tangerine zest and mineral, while a note of bitter almond closes the finish. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

88 Le Vigne di Eli 2016 Bianco (Etna). Aromas of toasted nut, brimstone and a whiff of pressed acacia lift out of the glass. The linear palate offers yellow apple, citrus zest and a hint of dried herb alongside vibrant acidity. A light saline note marks the close. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

87 Cusumano 2016 Alta Mora Bianco (Etna). Subdued aromas suggest Spanish broom and chamomile flower. Reflecting the nose, the linear palate is also restrained, offering citrus, lemon zest and a hint of beeswax. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Planeta 2016 Carricante (Sicilia). Alluring scents of yellow peach, apricot and Mediterranean brush continue to the savory, mouthwatering palate along with chopped herb and nectarine drop. Tangy acidity gives it a bright, refreshing finish while a saline note lingers on the close. Palm Bay International. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$32

92 Planeta 2016 Cometa (Sicilia). For full review see page 11.

abv: 14% Price: \$64

90 Planeta 2016 Bianco Moscato (Noto). Aromas of white rose, citrus and yellow stone fruit are front and center on this dry, vibrant white. The tangy palate doles out apricot, grapefruit and a saline note alongside crisp acidity that gives it a quenching close. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —K.O.

abv: NA Price: \$14

87 Planeta 2016 Grillo (Sicilia). Aromas of orchard fruit and white flower lift out of the glass while the tangy palate offers citrus, yellow apple, saline and a hint of bitter almond. It's racy, with vibrant acidity. Palm Bay International. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$15

SPARKLING WINES

90 Firriato 2014 Gaudensius Brut Metodo Classico (Etna). Made with 100% Nerello Mascalese, this lively, polished sparkler opens with heady aromas of apple, citrus and toasted bread crust. The aromas follow over to the crisp palate along with a hint of almond set against zesty acidity and firm, continuous bubbles. Soilair Selection. —K.O.

abv: 12% Price: \$30

88 Patria 2014 Stella di Corleone (Sicilia). Unusual scents of brimstone and smoke combine with Mediterranean brush and ripe citrus zest. The aromas carry over to the palate along with a saline note and bright acidity. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

ROSATO

89 Contini 2016 Nieddera Rosato (Valle del Tirso). Savory and bright, this enticing rosato opens with aromas of red berry, tangerine and peach. The vibrant, enjoyable palate doles out wild cherry, strawberry and baking spice alongside crisp acidity. Vinicontini. —K.O.

abv: 12% Price: \$15

89 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2016 Rosato (Etna). Aromas of Spanish broom, Mediterranean herb, orchard fruit and crushed stone come together on this vibrant rosato made entirely with Nerello Mascalese. The racy palate delivers red cherry, apple, citrus and mineral notes plus tangy acidity. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

88 Cusumano 2016 Alta Mora Rosato (Etna). Delicate scents of Spanish broom, apple and berry mingle with a whiff of Mediterranean brush. The aromas flow over to the vibrant palate along with nectarine zest while tangy acidity and a saline note give it a mouthwatering finish. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

SWEET WINE

90 Colosi 2012 Passito di Salina (Malvasia delle Lipari). Made with dried Malvasia and a touch of Corinto Nero, this dessert wine opens with aromas of dried apricot, crushed almond and jasmine. The savory, structured palate offers chestnut honey, dried fig and a hint of Mediterranean brush. Vias Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13% Price: \$37/500 ml

GERMANY

RIESLING GROSSES GEWÄCHS

95 Dr. Loosen 2015 Erdener Prälat Alte Reben GG Dry Riesling (Mosel). Luscious notes of pink grapefruit and greengage plum are ripe yet keenly balanced in this invigorating dry Riesling. It's buoyantly fruity and forward now, but nuances of candle wax, spice and sun-baked clay predict even greater depth to come. Beautiful already but likely to intensify further from 2020–2025. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$95

95 Dr. Loosen 2015 Graacher Himmelreich GG Alte Reben Dry Riesling (Mosel). Crisp yellow stone fruit and pineapple are brisk and bright on the nose of this vivacious dry wine. Spine tingling and taut, but with unctuously concentrated fruit and mineral complexities, there's still plenty of development to look forward to. Hold till 2020 if you can resist. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$54

95 Dr. Loosen 2015 Wehlener Sonnenuhr GG Alte Reben Dry Riesling (Mosel). For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**

abv: 12.5% Price: \$54

94 Dr. Loosen 2015 Erdener Treppchen GG Alte Reben Dry Riesling (Mosel). Hints of freshly cut grass and crisp stone fruit are a surprising contrast to the rolling, rich white peach and grapefruit flavors that flood the palate of this wine. Dry in style yet voluptuously structured, it's an intensely concentrated, juicy wine that lingers endlessly. Bright acidity and a hint of tannins lend firmness to the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$54

94 Dr. Loosen 2015 Ürziger Würzgarten GG Alte Reben Dry Riesling (Mosel). Hints of exotic spice perfume this single-vineyard Riesling sourced from red-slate soils. While dry and steely in structure, it's a ripe, intensely concentrated wine full of fragrant freesia, peach and honey notes. Rich and unctuous in mouthfeel, it finishes with length and persistence. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$54

RIESLING TROCKEN

92 Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberger J Riesling Trocken (Mosel). Exuberant cherry blossom and grapefruit aromas perfume this sprightly dry wine. Crisp green plum and lime flavors are tart and fresh, catapulted by spine tingling, persistent acidity. It's a breathtaking, vivacious sip to enjoy now through 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 12% Price: \$28

91 Fritz Haag 2016 Riesling Trocken (Mosel). Savory smoke and earth notes blow off with aeration revealing zesty green plum and herb tones. Electric shocks of acidity and a deep slate undertone accentuate its lean, lithe profile. The finish is moderately long but invigorating. Drink now through 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2016 Graacher Riesling Trocken Ortswein (Mosel). Spine tingling acidity juxtaposes juicy, ripe tangerine and stone-fruit nectar in this dry-style Riesling. It's a keenly balanced wine offering loads of concentrated fruit, with a cool, alpine touch that's invigorating on the finish. American B.D. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Dom Dry Riesling (Mosel). For full review see page 13.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Dry-Mineral Riesling (Mosel). Earthy clay and crushed slate permeate throughout this dry, crisply structured Riesling. It's medium bodied and crunchy in texture but plumped by tones of nectarine and tangerine on the midpalate. A hint of pleasant bitters lingers on the finish. Drink now through 2021. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Fritz Allendorf 2016 Save Water Drink Dry Riesling (Rheingau). Cheeky labeling aside, this vivaciously zesty dry Riesling is an easy candidate for an everyday quaffer. Delicate peach and yellow plum contrast bold strikes of lemon and lime on the palate. The finish is long and refreshingly crisp. Drink now through 2019. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Gryphon Crest 2016 Dry Riesling (Rheinhessen). Sourced primarily from calcareous soils in Rheinhessen's Spiegelberg vineyards, this dry Riesling offers surprising elegance for such a reasonably priced wine. There's a mineral richness to the palate that lends an expansive feel to plump white peach and tangerine flavors. The finish wraps up with precision. Drink now through 2020. Rudi Wiest Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

90 Loosen Bros. 2016 Dr. I Dry Riesling (Mosel). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

90 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2016 Schloss Marienlay Riesling Trocken Gutswein (Mosel). Electric acidity lends vitality to this zesty and refreshing dry Riesling. Pristine white grapefruit and tangerine flavors are cutting and spry on the palate, lingering on an edge of salty minerality. Enjoy now for its exuberant freshness, but it should show brightly through 2020. American B.D. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2016 Wiltinger Riesling Trocken Ortswein (Mosel). Whiffs of dusty mineral, orange peel and honey intensify on the palate of this delightfully silky wine. It's dry in style but flavors of tangerine and peach seem glazed with caramel and crystallized honey. Zesty acidity balances out the finish neatly. American B.D. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Qualitätswein Dry Riesling (Rheingau). For full review see page 15.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Dry Riesling (Mosel). Bracing notes of tangerine and lime are peppered with pollen and crushed stones in this dry, invigorating Riesling. It's a spry, zippy wine, with a long, mineral finish. Drink now through 2021. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2016 Dry Riesling (Mosel). Waxy, muted floral tones perfume this glassy, light-footed dry Riesling. The palate is fruity but crisp, suggesting tart yellow plums and limes. The finish is lean and mineral-driven but persistent. Drink now through 2021. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium 2016 Fritz Willi Riesling Trocken (Mosel). Sunny pineapple, mango and tangerine aromas lend a distinctly tropical feel to this fresh and fruity dry Riesling. It's juicy and primary in style but boasts a hint of minerality and a spine tingling lime finish. Drink now through 2021. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

89 Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium 2016 Schiefer Riesling Trocken (Mosel). Honeyed tangerine and yellow peach accent exotic spice throughout this zippy dry Riesling. It's a pleasantly tart, briskly textured wine, highlighted by layers of lime and lemon acidity. Drink now through 2021. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

89 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Volratz Dry Riesling (Rheingau). Ripe yellow peach and tangerine flavors are juicy and thirst quenching in this dry, easygoing wine. A touch of spice and zesty lime acidity keeps the midpalate vibrant, extending into a brisk but pristine finish. Drink now through 2019. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Familie Steffen 2016 Dry Riesling (Mosel). Juicy tangerine, lemon and lime abound on this dry, light-bodied Riesling, but earthy, savory herb and mineral notes are prominent as well. It's a brisk, refreshing wine, with a lean, steely finish.

Drink now through 2019. Blue Springs Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

88 Von Schleinitz 2016 Dry Riesling (Mosel). While dry in style, this light-bodied Riesling offers loads of easy, luscious pink grapefruit and white-peach flavors. It's a fruity, forward sip without a lot of complexity, but finishes brisk and pure. Drink now through 2019. Tony Marchetti Company. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

RIESLING FEINHERB

90 Friedrich-Wilhelm-Gymnasium 2016 Schiefer Riesling Feinherb (Mosel). For full review see page 14.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

89 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Müller-Burggraef) 2016 Dr. Thanisch Riesling Feinherb (Mosel). For full review see page 17. *Best Buy.*
abv: 10% **Price:** \$14

89 Dr. Nögler 2016 Rüdeshheimer Riesling Feinherb (Rheingau). A trace of savory earth tones lend contrast to lively green plum, lime and gooseberry notes in this slightly off-dry Riesling. Light-footed and frisky, it's a refreshing, spry wine to enjoy now through 2019. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

88 Weingut Karp-Schreiber 2016 My Karp Riesling Feinherb (Mosel). Earth and herbal notes fade with aeration, exposing prettier notes of honeydew, grapefruit and peach. Brisk acidity and plump, juicy stone-fruit notes lengthen a fresh, honey-glazed finish. Drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$15

RIESLING KABINETT

92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Kanzemer Altenberg Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Penetrating stone fruit, melon and guava flavors permeate throughout this sprightly, feather-light kabinett. Electric acidity and a sheen of crushed-stone minerality add to its breathless, captivating style. It's delicious already but should hold well through 2028. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). For full review see page 9.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$23

92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). For full review see page 9.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$23

92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). For full review see page 10.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Robert Weil 2016 Riesling Kabinett Gutswein (Rheingau). Robust, ripe stone-fruit and candied berry tones lend unctuousness to this sun-kissed kabinett. It's silken and plush in mouthfeel but calibrated neatly by zesty acidity. The finish lingers on a pleasant bite of lime pith. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Schloss Johannisberger 2015 Rotlack Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Rheingau). Whispers of green florals and lime zest on the nose extend into the palate of this invigorating kabinett. Just a shade off dry, its sweetness is countered by cutting citrus, green herb and mineral refreshment. The finish is pristine and persistent. Mionetto USA. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$40

91 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Ayler Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). For full review see page 12.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

91 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2016 Bernkasteler Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). For full review see page 12.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Müller-Burggraef) 2016 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Earth, smoke and slate contrast sweet, juicy bursts of white peach, raspberry and grapefruit in this spry kabinett. It's unctuously fruity yet zesty, finishing on a long, chalky mineral tone. While integrated and irresistible already, it's likely to maintain fresh appeal till at least 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Fresh green florals, lime zest and yellow plum are tart and invigorating in this wine. Showing a bit of a lime-and-mineral cocktail, it's spry in texture yet penetrating and juicy. The long finish is softly honeyed. Lovely already but should drink well through 2027, likely beyond. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$28

91 Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2016 Bernkasteler alte Badstube am Doctorberg Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Glimmers of dusty mineral on the nose amplify into an anchoring core of salt and stone throughout this delicately sweet kabinett. Light footed yet firmly balanced, it juxtaposes juicy white peach and grapefruit against invigorating hits of lime and salt. It's approachable already but should

maintain its fresh, primary style well through 2022. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$27

91 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Qualitätswein Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). For full review see page 13.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Riesling Kabinett Medium Dry (Rheingau). For full review see page 13.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Orange blossom and raspberry notes shine against zesty lemon-lime acidity in this light-footed kabinett. It's lip smackingly honeyed yet not at all cloying. The finish is pristine and mineral. Drink now through 2021. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$18

90 Dr. Nægler 2016 Rudesheimer Bischofsberg Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). Zesty whiffs of cut grass and greengage plum contrast sunnier notes of apricot, berry and tangerine on the palate of this luminous kabinett. Delicately honeyed and silken in texture, it's a light-footed delight that meanders sweetly on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

90 Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2016 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Traces of chalky mineral and zippy lime acidity highlight sweet pink grapefruit and honeydew in this fruity, fresh wine. It's delicate in texture but vibrant and punchy, finishing long on a tart tangerine note. Drink now through 2021. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$20

90 Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2016 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Loads of lemon and lime acidity offset juicy red berry and pink grapefruit in this easy quaffing kabinett. Balanced sweetness and fresh floral notes linger on the finish. It's an approachable yet elegant wine that's ready now but should hold tight through 2023. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Thomas Schmitt 2016 Private Collection Estate Bottled Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). For full review see page 16.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Bollig-Lehnert 2016 Piesporter Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Initial aromas of smoke and savory dried herb blow off to reveal crisp yellow peach, apple and blossom in this wine. Off-dry in style, it's crunchy and spry, with a spicy, earthen finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$17

88 Familie Steffen 2016 Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Ripe, rich yellow peach and grapefruit flavors hold center stage in this wine, balanced by zesty acidity and subtle earth and nut tones. It's an approachable and quaffable wine to enjoy now through 2019. Blue Springs Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Heinz Eifel 2016 Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). For full review see page 17. **Best Buy.**
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$12

RIESLING SPÄTLESE

95 Robert Weil 2016 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Rheingau). For full review see page 5. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$86

94 Maximin Grünhäuser 2016 Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Mosel). For full review see page 6. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 7% **Price:** \$46

94 Schloss Johannisberger 2015 Grünlack Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Rheingau). Thrilling acidity and honeyed stone fruit nectar are pegged with bolts of sun-baked clay, pastry and spice in this complex spätlese. There's still so much tightly wound fruit and mineral tones yet to develop in this spry little wine. Hold till 2020. Mionetto USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Müller-Burggraef) 2016 Bernkasteler Graben Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). Cherry blossoms, guava and grapefruit abound in this lavishly perfumed spätlese. Fresh and fruity yet deeply penetrating on the palate, it's balanced and zippy, with a subtly green-floral finish. Lovely already but structured enough to show pristinely through 2027. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$30

93 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Graacher Himmelreich Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). Aromas of sweet tangerine and peach are spiced with cardamom on this sun-drenched, semisweet Riesling. It's breathtakingly perfumed, yet deeply concentrated in stone fruit on the palate. Laser-like acidity and a crystalline finish lend upright structure. Gorgeous already but likely to improve through 2025. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberg Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). Dark tones of smoke and slate fade with aeration on the nose of this wine, gradually bringing fresh, greengage plum and green floral notes to the forefront. While its apple and lime flavors are piercing and

persistent, it's dancingly light in texture with a lingering finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$38

93 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2016 Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Mosel). Orange blossoms and lime zest perfume this lively sweet-tart spätlese. It's intensely juicy in rich, ripe yellow peach and tangerine nectar yet sheer in feel. A textbook Mosel spätlese that should maintain its freshness through 2023. American B.D. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$36

93 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2016 Scharzhofberger Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Mosel). The nose is quiet on this sprightly semi-sweet wine but sunny stone fruit and yellow peach flavors are amplified on the palate. Complexities of saffron, pollen and dusty earth tones extend out the midpalate, finishing on a spicy honey tone. Zesty and composed, it drinks well now but should meld beautifully through 2026. American B.D. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$36

93 Robert Weil 2016 Riesling Spätlese Gutswein (Rheingau). Spine tingling acidity lends vitality to this silky, voluptuous spätlese full of white peach, lychee and honeydew flavors. It's concentrated in wet stone and lemon zest notes that linger beautifully on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 8% Price: \$40

92 Dr. Loosen 2016 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). Luxurious guava, grapefruit and red berry aromas perfume this intensely fruity, sun-kissed spätlese. It's wispy and spry on the palate but penetrating acidity guides a long brambly finish. Approachable already but structured enough to stay pristine well through 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 9% Price: \$34

92 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). For full review see page 11.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$31

90 Weingut Karp-Schreiber 2016 Brauneberger Juffer-Sonnenuhr Riesling Spätlese (Mosel). Glazes of honey and caramelized sugar lend sweetness to unctuous guava and white peach throughout this fruity, forward spätlese. Racy lemon-lime acidity lends keen balance on the palate, extending a citrusy freshness to the finish. Drink now through 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 8% Price: \$26

89 Dr. Nögler 2016 Rudesheimer Berg Rottland Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Savory notes of earth and bramble juxtapose prettier blossom, yellow peach and apricot in this crisp, concentrated medium-sweet Riesling. It's a juicy, sweet-tart wine bursting with tangy citrus acidity and a slightly

phenolic finish. Drink now through 2020. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$24

89 Winzer Von Erbach 2016 Erbacher Honigberg Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Bursts of sweet-tart tangerine, yellow peach and grapefruit flavors are juxtaposed by hints of earth tones and vivacious acidity in this wine. Medium sweet in style, this is a well-balanced spätlese offering both easy, juicy fruit and a racy, invigorating edge. Drink now through 2021. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.
abv: 9% Price: \$19

RIESLING AUSLESE

95 Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese Goldkap Grosse Lage (Mosel). Pronounced smoke and earth tones lend savory, shadowy nuances to this luminous, sunny auslese. It's lacy and spry in mouthfeel yet richly concentrated in sweet-tart tangerine, Meyer lemon and red apple flavors. Dazzling acidity pierces through a long, lingering finish and foretells a long, illustrious transformation for this wine as it melds and deepens in complexity. Loosen Bros. USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$40/375 ml

95 Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese Goldkap Grosse Lage (Mosel). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 7.5% Price: \$50

94 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2013 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Auslese #5 Grosse Lage Gold Kap (Mosel). Lavish honey and tropical fruit abound in this light-footed, medium-sweet Riesling. It's a luscious, ripe sip, but deeply complex, shaded by hints of saffron, beeswax and earth. Pinpoint acidity drives a meandering, invigorating finish. Gorgeous already but likely to improve through 2025 and hold years longer. American B.D. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$105

93 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Bernkasteler Badstube Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Bracing whiffs of orange zest and blossom brighten this gorgeously honeyed Riesling. It's light and spry on the palate, yet unctuous and juicy, bursting with sweet white peach and guava flavors. Stark lime acidity and crystalline mineral tones leave the finish fresh and revitalizing. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$33/375 ml

93 Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Auslese Grosse Lage (Mosel). Layers of crushed stone and earth juxtapose honeyed peach and nectarine in this complex, deeply mineral wine. It's sweet and slick on the palate yet dancingly light, catapulted by racy acidity. The fin-

ish is endless and lip smacking. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$50/375 ml

93 Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberger Juffer Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Zesty green lime, herb and plum notes on the nose turn riper and sweeter on the palate of this pristine auslese. It's light and crisp yet undulates with rich tides of sweet pink grapefruit, honey and peach. Spine tingling acidity and a fresh mineral undertone keeps the long finish invigorating. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$40

91 Willi Haag 2016 Juffer Brauneberg Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Zesty lime and lemon notes reverberate from nose to finish in this delightfully spry, sweet wine. Lush white peach and honey notes are lip smacking and juicy but calibrated deftly with acidity and subtle nuances of earth and mineral. A remarkable value for such an elegant wine. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$28

89 Heinz Eifel 2016 Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Subtle nuances of flint, smoke and blossom elevate plush, easy fruit in this surprising bang-for-your-buck auslese. It's irresistibly fruity and forward, chock full of unctuous apricot and peach flavors, but sprightly and sheer too. The finish lingers on sweet honeyed. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 7.5% Price: \$14

89 Leonard Kreuzsch 2016 Piesporter Michelsberg Riesling Auslese (Mosel). Fresh lemon and bramble notes on the nose open to plush white peach and honey in this straightforward yet irresistible auslese. This is both ample in fruit yet briskly balanced. The finish is long and sweet, edged by a hint of caramel. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8% Price: \$16

OTHER RIESLING

92 Maximin Grünhäuser 2016 Monopol Riesling (Mosel). Candle wax, lime zest and honey lend lavish accents to crisp but concentrated tangerine, apricot flavors here. It's just a shade off dry in style, with a vibrant mineral finish. A fantastic value for such an elegantly composed Riesling. Drink now through 2022. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

91 Fritz Haag 2016 Riesling (Mosel). Dusty mineral tones are delicate yet persistent in this invigorating off-dry Riesling. Crisp, tart green plum and apple flavors are racy and spry, accented by tingling lemon-lime acidity and a hint of spice. It's a refreshing wine to enjoy now through 2021. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 11% Price: \$20

90 Gryphon Crest 2016 Riesling (Mosel). A blend of fruit from both the Saar and the

BUYINGGUIDE

middle Mosel (vineyards surrounding Piesport and Bernkastel) this lovely value Riseling darts and dances on the palate with Margarita-like kicks of salt and lime. Just a shade off dry, its delicate sweetness lends balance to zesty acidity and a cool, mineral finish. This cuvée is also labeled under the Hooked brand. Rudi Wiest Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$11

90 Hooked 2016 Riesling (Mosel). A blend of fruit from both the Saar and the middle Mosel (vineyards surrounding Piesport and Bernkastel) this lovely value Riseling darts and dances on the palate with Margarita-like kicks of salt and lime. Just a shade off dry, its delicate sweetness lends balance to zesty acidity and a cool, mineral finish. This cuvée is also labeled under the Gryphon Crest brand. Rudi Wiest Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$11

90 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2016 RK Riesling (Mosel). Invigorating lemon and sage aromas contrast plump pink grapefruit and guava on the palate of this delicately sweet Riesling. It's a rounded yet elegant wine, with soft, sunny acidity and a crystalline mineral finish. Drink now through 2019. American B.D. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$15

90 Schloss Vollrads 2016 Riesling (Rheingau). For full review see page 15.

abv: 10% Price: \$20

88 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Blüt Riesling (Mosel). Peachy and plush, this intensely aromatic, concentrated wine offers loads of juicy, forward stone fruit and citrus flavors. Light-bodied, spry and subtly sweet, it's a widely appealing choice at a remarkable price. Drink now. Miller Squared Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$11

88 Thomas Schmitt 2016 Private Collection Estate Bottled Qualitätswein Riesling (Mosel). For full review see page 16.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$14

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

89 Fitz-Ritter 2016 Dürkheimer Abtsfronhof Gewürztraminer Spätlese (Pfalz). Gorgeous orange blossom, peach and pineapple abound in this classically perfumed Gewürztraminer. Semi-sweet on the palate and delightfully sprightly, it's a straightforward yet elegant apéritif. Drink now through 2020. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 10% Price: \$23

89 Villa Wolf 2016 Gewürztraminer (Pfalz). Spring blossoms and pink grapefruit abound in this feather-light Gewürztraminer. Just a shade off dry, pristine tangerine and peach flavors are juicy and quaffable. It's a zesty, refreshingly spry

wine to enjoy now through 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

88 Leonard Kreuzsch 2016 Gewürztraminer (Rheinhessen). Offering delicate whiffs of blossom and nectarine, this is a soft-spoken Gewürztraminer. Off dry in style, it's an easy-drinking white, with juicy grapefruit and peach flavors. The finish is long, extended by a hint of bitter almond skin. Drink now through 2019. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

87 Heinz Eifel 2016 Shine Gewürztraminer (Rheinhessen). Pops of sweet, juicy yellow cherry, honey and caramel burst on the nose and palate of this robust off-dry Gewürztraminer. It's ripe and clingy on the palate but balanced by sunny tangerine acidity. Drink now through 2019. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 11% Price: \$11

87 St. Christopher 2016 Gewürztraminer (Rheinhessen). Earthy mineral notes are brightened by whiffs of white blossom and grapefruit in this subtly sweet Gewürztraminer. Soft acidity and feather-light texture add to its delicate feel. Drink now through 2019. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 10% Price: \$12

PINOT BLANC

90 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2016 RK Pinot Blanc (Mosel). Pristine and pert, this zippy dry-style Pinot Blanc offers loads of thirst quenching refreshment. Tart tangerine and lemon flavors are fresh and juicy on the palate. The finish is brisk but nuanced by hints of earth and blossom. Drink now through 2019. American B.D. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

90 Wittmann 2016 100 Hills Dry Pinot Blanc (Rheinhessen). Orange blossoms and lime pith perfume this full-bodied Pinot Blanc. Juicy grapefruit and lemon flavors are plush on the palate, but there's also a deep mineral core. The finish is pristine and pure. Drink now through 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$18

90 Wittmann 2016 Weisser Burgunder Trocken (Rheinhessen). Crisp lemon, tangerine and green apple are zippy and thirst quenching in this dry Pinot Blanc. It's an intently mineral wine, boasting deep veins of crushed stone and mineral. The finish is brisk but pristine. Drink now through 2021. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

89 Maximin Grünhäuser 2016 Pinot Blanc (Mosel). Savory hints of pollen and earth juxtapose bright tangerine, lemon and apple in this dry Pinot Blanc. Light bodied and zesty in style,

it's a rejuvenating sip with wide appeal. Drink now through 2019. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$22

88 Franz Keller 2016 vom Löss Pinot Blanc (Baden). Plumes of blossom and stone fruit on the nose turn quieter on the palate of this dry, slightly demure Pinot Blanc. Crisp lime, lemon and apple tones are refreshing. The finish reverberates with bitter lime pith and crushed mineral notes. Drink now through 2019. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

PINOT GRIS

90 Villa Wolf 2016 Pinot Gris (Pfalz). For full review see page 17. **Best Buy.**

abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

89 Binz 2016 Nackenheimer Pinot Gris Kabinett Trocken (Rheinhessen). Sunny tangerine and apricot flavors are pert and fresh in this dry Pinot Gris that offers a rich, rounded body. Moderately concentrated, with fresh citrus acidity, it's a satisfying and approachable white for everyday. Drink now through 2020. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$14

88 Franz Keller 2016 vom Löss Pinot Gris (Baden). Sunny tangerines and lemons abound in this full-bodied dry Pinot Gris. Yielding acidity and plump fruit amplifies its rich, rolling mouthfeel. While moderately concentrated on the palate, it's a pleasant, easygoing sip with wide appeal. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$25

86 Flower Garden 2016 Pinot Grigio (Rheinhessen). Traces of yellow peach mingle into fresh herbs and green plums in this delicately concentrated Pinot Grigio. Medium bodied in style, with soft, yielding acidity, it's a quiet but pleasing wine. Halby Marketing. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

SAUVIGNON BLANC

89 Villa Wolf 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Pfalz). Crisp peach and tangerine tones are thirst quenching in this easygoing Sauvignon Blanc. While not a deeply complex or concentrated wine, it's nuanced by hints of grass and spice. The finish is brisk but clean. Drink now. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

EISWEIN

94 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2016 Bernkasteler Johannisbrunnchen Riesling Eis-

wein (Mosel). A wisp of citrus and flower aromas open this delicate Riesling eiswein, which boasts bold lime and lemon flavors on the palate. Streaks of acidity and crystalline minerality accentuate its piercing, luminous style. It's sumptuous and honed yet impeccably balanced. Beautiful already but concentrated enough to last decades. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$100/375 ml

94 Dr. Pauly Bergweiler 2016 Bernkasteler Johannisbrünchen Riesling Eiswein (Mosel). Traces of lemon, lime and blossom are subdued on the nose but amass ripeness on the palate of this penetrating eiswein. Plush tangerine and yellow peach flavors are glycerin and sweet yet balanced pertly by pin-point threads of acidity. Pristine honey tones linger on the long finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$80/375 ml

93 Fitz-Ritter 2016 Dürkheimer Hochbenn Riesling Eiswein (Pfalz). Flawlessly ripe yellow cherry and peach pulse from the core of this feather-light, perfumed eiswein. Spine tingling lemon-lime acidity jolts the senses, balancing a delicate glaze of glycerol silk on the midpalate. The finish is endless and meandering. Gorgeous already but structured enough to last decades. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$71/375 ml

86 Schmitt Söhne 2016 Icewine (Rheinhessen). Hints of clay and spice lend savoriness to sweet-tart apple and pear in this value icewine made from a blend of Ortega and Optima grapes. It's slightly cloying in sweetness but a straightforward dessert option. Drink now. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$25/500 ml

SPARKLING WINES

93 Maximin Grünhäuser 2014 Sekt Brut Riesling (Mosel). Enticing whiffs of brioche, biscuit, lemon and lime introduce this lovely brut-style sparkling. It's bracingly fresh yet bursting with juicy tangerine and yellow peach flavors. Filigreed in structure and with pin-point, persistent petillance, it's a convincing argument for Champagne lovers to drink more sekt, especially considering its price. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Robert Weil 2015 Brut Riesling (Rheingau). This is a consistent favorite among the increasing number of fine traditional-method sekt available stateside. Laser-edged and deeply mineral, it's enriched by hints of caramel, nut and brioche. Flavors of lime, lemon and tangerine are bold and piercing yet cushioned by a mousse that's fine and delicate. The finish is long and subtly honeyed. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$46

92 Dr. Loosen 2011 Rosé Brut Pinot Noir (Mosel). Blossoms and berries abound in this vibrantly composed Pinot Noir sparkling. It's fresh and fruity while also nuanced by hints of caramel and crushed stones. A lavishly textured mousse and fine, persistent bubbles extend the elegant finish. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Dr. Loosen NV Sekt Extra Dry (Mosel). Zesty green apple and crisp stone fruits are electrified by spine tingling acidity in this invigorating sekt. It's fresh and primary in style, with just a hint of cookie crumbs that linger on the midpalate. Tiny, vigorous bubbles dissipate elegantly on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

86 Schmitt Söhne NV Relax Bubbles (Germany). For full review see page 16.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

ROSÉS

90 Von Schleinitz 2016 Dry Blanc de Noir (Mosel). Vibrant raspberry and white peach aromas introduce this perfumed Pinot Noir rosé. While dry in style, it's juicy and thirst quenching. Subtle hints of herb and spice lend complexity. Drink now. Tony Marchetti Company. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Franz Keller 2016 vom Löss Rosé (Baden). For full review see page 14.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Von Schleinitz 2016 Pinot Noir Rosé (Mosel). Burnt sugar and caramel notes extend from nose to finish here, accenting flavors of dried red cherry and raspberry on the palate. Dry and spry, it's a straightforward yet elegant rosé expressing Pinot Noir's characteristic bramble and violet notes nicely. Drink now. Tony Marchetti Company. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Flower Garden 2016 Pinot Noir Rosé (Rheinhessen). Earthier notes on first whiff dissipate with aeration to expose prettier aromas of strawberry and peach. The palate of this Pinot Noir rosé is distinctly citrusy with unexpected hints of vanilla and cream. Drink now. Halby Marketing. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

PINOT NOIR

94 Franz Keller 2015 Franz Anton Schwarzer Adler Pinot Noir (Baden). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

93 Wittmann 2015 Rotwein Spätburgunder Trocken (Rheinhessen). Lavish yet acutely

balanced, Wittmann's basic-label Spätburgunder offers deep, ripe blackberry and red currant flavors off set by bristling acidity. Layers of bramble, toast and smoke add complexity to nose and palate, along with a reverberating crushed-granite finish. Framed by fine, persistent tannins, its approachable already but should show beautifully for another decade to come. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2015 Kanzemer Altenberg Pinot Noir (Mosel). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

92 Franz Keller 2015 Pinot Noir (Baden). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Dr. Heyden 2015 Oppenheimer Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen). Wisps of licorice, bramble and smoke mingle into ripe black cherry throughout this juicy, fruity Pinot Noir. Fleshy and full on the palate, it's approachable and primary, but fresh in acidity and nuanced by a touch of bitter herb on the finish. Drink now—2020. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Gryphon Crest 2015 Pinot Noir (Baden). Intense black plum and cherry perfume juxtapose savory tones of smoked nuts and wet earth in this fresh and fruity yet composed wine. Plump black fruit flavors are broad and rich but framed by brisk acidity and a trace of mineral complexity. A fantastic introduction to German Pinot that's surprisingly easy on the wallet. Rudi Wiest Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

90 Villa Wolf 2015 Pinot Noir (Pfalz). Luscious, sun-ripened blackberries and cherries are boldly concentrated in this easy drinking but elegantly composed Pinot Noir. Fresh acidity and fine-grained, pleasantly bitter tannins make it an approachable introduction to German Pinot with a gentle price tag. Drink now through 2020. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Dr. Nögler 2015 Estate Bottled Pinot Noir Trocken (Rheingau). Ripe black cherry and berry tones abound in this plump Pinot Noir. It's more juicy than complex but hints of dark toast and hazelnut lend nuance. Fresh cranberry acidity and fine, persistent tannins add firmness to the finish. Drink now through 2019. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Schäfer 2015 Mettenheimer Made with Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen). Juicy and forward, this lavishly ripe Pinot offers loads of luscious blackberry and cherry flavors. Ripe fruit and delicate toast notes accentuate its easy, approachable style. The finish is only moderately

BUYINGGUIDE

long but framed by soft, feathery tannins. Drink now through 2019. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

88 Thomas Schmitt 2015 Private Collection Estate Bottled Qualitätswein Pinot Noir (Mosel). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

87 Schmitt Söhne 2016 Relax Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

RED BLEND

86 Schmitt Söhne NV Relax Cool Red Blend (Rheinhessen). For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*
abv: 10% Price: \$10

HUNGARY

WHITE WINES

89 Árvay 2015 Hárslevelű (Tokaji). Straw yellow in the glass, this dry white wine has aromas of Anjou pear, white flowers and green apple. It is soft on entry and has flavors of apple and white peach with a balanced finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

89 Benedek 2015 Hárslevelű (Mátra). Aromas of vanilla ice cream, white peach and pear juice lead into flavors of peach, pear and Mediterranean herbs on the palate. It is pleasantly astringent with a savory finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

89 Somlói Vándor 2015 Olaszrizling (Nagy-Somló). Aromas of apple and freshly cut Bartlett pear carry the nose, while flavors of white peach and pear juice mark the crisp palate. Bracing minerality and a slightly astringent finish help maintain balance. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

88 Somlói Vándor 2015 Juhfark (Nagy-Somló). Aromas of vanilla and apple lead to flavors of caramelized pineapple on the palate. A strong, mineral-driven backbone helps maintain a crisp, clean finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

87 Benedek 2016 Cserszegi Fuzseres (Mátra). Aromas of lemon rind, pineapple and cantaloupe pave the way for flavors of white flowers and melon. This finish is pleasant but overall a bit

too perfumed. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

ROSÉ

89 Dúzi Tamás NV Kékfrankos Rosé (Szekszárd). This salmon-pink rosé is made from Kékfrankos (Blaufränkisch) and has aromas of raspberry, strawberry and white peach. Red fruit flavors continue on the palate, detailing strawberry and plum, before a light, gentle finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

RED WINES

90 Bukolyi 2015 Családi Birtok Kisfiam Vörös Cuvée (Eger). Aromas of black cherry, raspberry and violet lead you into flavors of fresh cherry juice and black plum. This Hungarian red blend has grippy tannins and a pleasant tart-cherry finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Jackfall 2012 Cabernet Franc (Villány). This Cabernet Franc has aromas of smoked charcuterie and black plum, leading to dark fruit flavors and a touch of freshly ground black pepper. The finish is balanced, with a touch of minerality. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —J.J.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

MOLDOVA

WHITE WINE

88 Milestii Mici 1991 Chardonnay (Moldova). This aged wine has a slight bit of oxidation on the nose, with aromas of toasted hazelnuts and caramelized apple. The palate brings notes of almonds and ripe apple before the soft finish. ASAP Imports. —J.J.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

SPARKLING WINES

86 Milestii Mici NV De Lux Semi-Dry Red (Moldova). This sparkling red wine has aromas of raspberry, cassis and sweet cherry pie. The palate brings flavors of black currant and cherry juice, with a slightly sweet finish. ASAP Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$10

85 Cricova 2009 Grand Vintage Brut (Moldova). Golden yellow in the glass, this sparkling wine has aromas of yeast, apple and freshly baked bread. It is slightly oxidized, with flavors of brioche and apple cider on the palate. Salveto Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

RED WINES

91 Cricova 2012 Vin Rosu Sec Cabernet Sauvignon (Moldova). Garnet in the glass, this Cabernet Sauvignon has aromas of black currants, pepper and plum. A note of vanilla, along with more dark fruit, builds on the palate, with smooth tannins offering support. A bright splash of fresh fruit lingers on the finish. Salveto Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Cricova 2011 Magnific (Moldova). This Moldovan red blend has aromas of underripe cherry, cassis and blueberry. These notes carry to the smooth palate, detailed by a slight grip of tannins, with a note of vanilla adding warmth. Salveto Imports. —J.J.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

89 Cricova 2013 Codru Dry Cabernet Franc-Merlot (Moldova). A blend of 75% Cabernet Franc and 25% Merlot, this garnet-colored red has aromas of black currant, black plum and black berry. In the mouth, there are flavors of tart cherry pie and black raspberry. The tannins are pleasantly grippy on the midpalate and the finish is smooth. Salveto Imports. —J.J.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$NA

89 Milestii Mici 1987 Codru Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Moldova). This blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Merlot has aromas of black plum, graphite and black raspberry. Flavors of brown baking spices, black plum, and black raspberry meld with velvet mouthfeel. The tannins are smooth and the finish is persistent. ASAP Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

88 Milestii Mici 2005 Merlot (Moldova). This Moldovan Merlot carries aromas of black raspberry, vanilla and fresh red cherries. The smooth palate is balanced, with flavors of black raspberry and black cherry. ASAP Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

88 Milestii Mici 2005 Purpuriu de Purcari (Moldova). This Merlot-driven red blend has aromas of black raspberry and cherry. Plenty of ripe fruit marks the palate, with a touch of earth on the finish. ASAP Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

88 Milestii Mici 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon (Moldova). This Moldovan Cabernet Sauvignon has aromas of smoked meats and black fruits. In the mouth it is pleasantly astringent, with flavors of tart cherry and blackberry. ASAP Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

TURKEY

WHITE WINE

88 Kavaklidere 2013 Cotes d'Avanos (Cappadocia). Medium gold in color, this wine has aromas of pear and talc. It is slightly off-dry, offering flavors of pear, gala apple, toffee and apricot, with a soft mouthfeel and a light, floral finish. The House of Burgundy. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

SPARKLING WINE

91 Vinkara 2014 Yasasin Brut Kalecik Karasi (Ankara). Named for a David Bowie song from 1979, this wine has a nose of apple and brioche. Medium straw in the glass, it offers delicate bubbles and flavors of Granny Smith apple, pear, pink grapefruit and freshly baked bread. The finish offers a burst of tangy grapefruit flavor. The Winebow Group. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

RED WINES

91 Camlibag 2012 Merlot (Turkey). This deep ruby wine has a nose of blackberry, strawberry, sage and thyme. It is soft on entry, with a nice balance of fruit and spice flavors, in particular black cherry, dark plum, fennel, sage and mocha. The tannins start off very mild and gradually increase in intensity, lingering through a licorice and cherry finish. House of Burgundy. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Kavaklidere 2013 1929 Cabernet Franc (Turkey). Deep red violet in the glass, this wine features aromas of blackberry, licorice and lavender. The tannins come in strong but recede within moments, revealing flavors of dark plum, blackberry, baking spices and chocolate. A note of bright cranberry near the finish is followed by mouth-drying tannins that linger with a touch of spice. The House of Burgundy. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Kocabag 2015 Okuzgozu (Cappadocia). Dark garnet in color, this wine offers aromas of black cherry, vanilla and violet. It is smooth on the palate, with soft tannins and flavors of blackberry, cherry, vanilla, juniper, lilac and anise. The spicy finish is marked with a touch of tartness. The House of Burgundy. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

90 Ma'adra 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Aegean). A nose of plum, raspberry and toast sets the stage for flavors of strawberry, raspberry, vanilla and tomato leaf. This wine is full in the mouth, with slightly chalky tannins that are off-

set by an overall sense of softness and a refreshing finish. The House of Burgundy. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

OTHER EUROPE

SWITZERLAND

89 Gantenbein 2014 Pinot Noir (Graubunden). This Swiss Pinot Noir has aromas of smoked meats, blueberries and black plums. In the mouth there are flavors of black cherry and plum. It is well balanced on the palate and the finish is smooth with a persistent aftertaste of fresh fruit. Loosen Bros. USA. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

CROATIA

89 Punta Greca 2013 Merlot (Istria). Hailing from Istria, this Croatian Merlot has aromas of blackberry, raspberry and red plum. In the mouth there are flavors of red plum and black cherry with a persistent finish. Sweeney Canyon Company. —J.J.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

ROMANIA

85 Jidvei 2016 Brut Traditional Method (Tarnave). Straw colored in the glass, this sparkling wine has aromas of green apple and yeasty bread. In the mouth it has flavors of apple and white peach with a very bubbly finish. Albus Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$8

BULGARIA

89 Rough Day 2016 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). Aromas of white peach, white flowers and green apple prepare your palate for bright fruit flavors of ripe apple and yellow peach. This wine is well balanced, with a crisp and clean finish. G&B Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

89 Rough Day 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). Garnet in the glass with aromas of blueberry preserves, red raspberries and cherry cola, this Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon has soft tannins and a balanced palate that lingers with flavors of black cherry and plums. G&B Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

88 Bulgariana 2016 Rosé (Thracian Valley). This brilliant pink rosé from Bulgaria has aromas of citrus blossom, strawberry, cherry and red raspberry. It has flavors of pomegranate, tart

cherry and red raspberry before a crisp, fruit filled finish. G&B Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

ISRAEL

RED WINES

91 Galil Mountain 2014 Yiron (Galilee). For full review see page 12. Kosher.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

90 Golan Heights Winery 2013 Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon (Galilee). This deep red violet colored wine features aromas of plum, black cherry and violet. Velvety tannins provide a backdrop for a good mix of fruit and spice flavors that include black cherry, raspberry, vanilla and licorice. The long spicy finish wraps up with a burst of cranberry flavor. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

88 Golan Heights Winery 2014 Yarden Pinot Noir (Galilee). This wine proffers a bouquet of raspberry and plum with a hint of bell pepper. Bright flavors of cranberry and cherry fill the mouth and are then joined by notes of roasted tomato and bell pepper. Tannins that are not immediately apparent slide up on you and coat the gums and tongue. The bright finish is marked with a brief hint of smoke. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

OTHER WINES

90 Golan Heights Winery 2009 Yarden Blanc de Blancs Brut (Galilee). For full review see page 14. Kosher.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

87 Golan Heights Winery 2016 Gilgal Chardonnay (Galilee). A nose of grapefruit and lemon with a hint of thyme sets the stage for flavors of lemon-lime, pineapple, vanilla and white flowers. This wine is bright from first sip until lingering citrus finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

86 Galil Mountain 2016 Rosé (Upper Galilee). This salmon-colored wine offers a bouquet of strawberry and white peach. Flavors of pomegranate, clementine, passion fruit and vanilla are set amid moderate tannins that afford rich mouthfeel before fading into a bright tangerine finish. Kosher. Yarden Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

CHINA

RED WINES

90 **Chateau Rongzi 2013 Black Label (China).** For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$139

88 **Chateau Rongzi 2012 Blue Label (China).** Dark ruby in color, this wine has a nose of cherry and sage. It is soft on entry, offering flavors of tart cherry, cranberry, Mediterranean herbs and bacon. Tannins slowly build on the palate, lasting into a bright finish that is punctuated by a touch of smoke. Royal Comfort. —M.D.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$85

ROSÉ

85 **Chateau Rongzi 2015 Rosé (China).** Deep apricot in the glass, this wine features aromas of grapefruit and guava. Made in an off-dry style, it is refreshingly sweet, with flavors of peach, apricot and honeysuckle and a tangy finish. Royal Comfort. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

SPIRITS

A variety of vodkas

While no one is exactly giving up on beloved whiskey or gin, if you want to know what Americans are drinking, here's the short answer: vodka.

The longer answer is that this isn't a new trend. Vodka claims plenty of space on bar menus and liquor store shelves, and has for some time. This is a continuing trajectory: According to the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. (DISCUS), vodka represented about one-third of all spirit sales volume in 2016, with the high-end "super premium" segment in particular showing rapid growth. The point is, whether you opt for small-batch bottlings, like Pinckney Bend (reviewed below) or well-known brands like Tito's or Smirnoff, vodka sales still are going strong.

One of the hallmarks of vodka is that it can be distilled from pretty much any raw material and in any number of countries. This month's reviews reflect that diversity, with vodkas made from grains (such as wheat, corn and rye),

grapes and even whey. The selections hail from all over the U.S., in addition to locales as far-flung as Sweden, Italy, Ukraine and New Zealand. In addition to unflavored vodkas, a few newer flavored vodkas also are reviewed.

Cocktails remain the primary way vodka is consumed. In addition to the classics, bartenders look to vodka's neutrality to help spotlight other flavors. For example, at the recent opening of the swanky Pool Lounge bar in NYC, the Tomato cocktail has been one of the stars of the menu. Compared to the classic Bloody Mary, which mixes vodka with the robust flavors of tomato juice and spices, the Tomato cocktail infuses heirloom tomatoes into the vodka, for a much more delicate effect.

The point of all this is: The variety of vodka is endless and you should drink whichever one suits your palate, however you like. Just know that you're not alone in the enjoyment of this omnipresent spirit. —Kara Newman

According to the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S. (DISCUS), vodka represented about one-third of all spirit sales volume in 2016.

UNFLAVORED

94 Pinckney Bend Distillery American Vodka (USA; Pinckney Bend Distillery, New Haven, MO). This small-batch vodka, made from a blend of wheat, corn and rye, is neutral overall on the nose and palate, with a notably plush feel and plenty of ginger and white pepper crackle on the finish. Would be ideal chilled and paired with savory bites. **abv:** 41.5% **Price:** \$28

94 Råvo Vodka (Sweden; Palm Bay International, Boca Raton, FL). For full review see page 18. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$20

93 Purus Organic Vodka (Italy; Espiritus Group, Jupiter, FL). Subtle and refreshing, look for mild almond sweetness on the nose and palate, finishing

crisp on a surprising minty note. Distilled from grain. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$20

93 Spirit of Hven Swedish Organic Vodka (Sweden; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Crisp and complex, this silky vodka starts with vanilla sweetness, opening up to a breezy herbaceous and mineral notes on the midpalate, finishing with white pepper on the exhale. Ideal for a dry Martini. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$43

92 Hierarchy Vodka (USA; HS Beverage, Henderson, NV). This corn-based vodka opens with perky lime peel on the nose and palate, expanding into earthy hints of graphite, slate and anise on the midpalate, finishing clean and citrusy. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

91 Gold Star Vodka (USA; Local Choice Spirits, N. Charleston, SC). This grain-based vodka has a neutral scent. The palate hints at coconut-

like sweetness, finishing crisp and clean on a dose of cinnamon heat. For each bottle purchased, \$2 is donated to charities that benefit military veterans and their families.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

91 Nemiroff Vodka (Ukraine, Conecuh Spirits, Manhasset, NY). Bracing and versatile for a wide range of cocktails, this wheat-based vodka is relatively neutral in terms of aroma and flavor, though the palate hints at vanilla and hot cinnamon. It feels very light, almost effervescent. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$18

90 Black Vulture Vodka (USA; Milk Street Distillery, Branchfield, NJ). For full review see page 18. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

90 Eli's StrongArm Vodka (USA; Tom's Town Distilling, Kansas City, MO). Vanilla sweetness leads the nose and palate, which then dries a more neutral finish, laced with a hint of baking spice. Pleasing to sip or mix. Small-batch vodka made from 90% wheat and 10% Missouri rye. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$25

90 O'Brien's Vodka (USA; AstraLuna LLC, Medfield, MA). Distilled from grain and potatoes, the producer describes this as "Irish vodka" made in New England. Overall, it's neutral on nose and palate, with a light, airy feel and citrusy exhale. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$28

90 Swallowtail Vodka (USA; Swallowtail Spirits, Springfield, OR). This small-batch cocktail is scented with hints of grapefruit peel and coconut sweetness. The smooth, silky palate shows hints of charcoal and coconut, finishing with white pepper heat. Made in the Willamette Valley from non-GMO corn. **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$24

89 Score Premium Vodka (Ukraine; ABA International, Hallandale, FL). Distilled from wheat and filtered seven times, including a "milk-based filtration," this vodka has a neutral aroma and smooth, oily palate that hints at citrus, exiting with subtle coconut sweetness and ginger heat. The unusual plastic pop-top closure suggests that this bottle was designed for super-speedy pouring rather than slow savoring. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$12

89 The Walter Collective Vodka (USA; The Walter Collective, Snohomish, WA). This is distinct in tropical fruit and lemongrass aromas. The palate feels slick, showing an additional lemongrass flavor, with a finish of marshmallow, pepper and refreshing mint. Made from blend of spelt and triticale (wheat/rye hybrid). **abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

89 VDKA 6100 (New Zealand; VKDA 6100, Manhasset, NY). Distilled from whey, this

vodka is relatively neutral on the nose and palate, tinged with vanilla and almond sweetness, finishing with ginger and a burst of alcohol heat. Backed by Australian casino mogul James Packer and actor Robert De Niro.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$33

88 Hustler Vodka (USA; HS Beverage, Henderson, NV). This corn-based vodka has a neutral scent and clean palate, finishing with coconut-like sweetness plus a peppery spark. A quote from publisher Larry Flint on the side of the bottle leaves no mistake, yes, this was bottled in affiliation with the notorious publication.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$29

87 Marble Crystal River Vodka 80 (USA; Marble Distilling, Carbondale, CO). No, it's not a flavored vodka, yet the aroma is distinctly fruity, reminiscent of cherry pie filling. The palate reflects that robust fruit alongside hints of cocoa and charcoal on the exhale. Made from wheat and malted barley, and filtered through crushed marble. Small batch.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$32

FLAVORED

93 Cathead Pecan Flavored Vodka (USA; Bottletree Beverage Company, Madison, MS). This shows a honey hue and slightly cloudy appearance. The aroma is honeyed and rich, with a nutty hint, while the velvety palate carries a dry, walnut flavor into the clove-laced finish, showing only a trace of sweetness. Would be welcome at the dessert table or mixed into cocktails.

abv: 35% **Price:** \$20

93 Veil Caramel Flavored Vodka (USA; Veil Brands Company, Princeton, MN). Clear in the glass, this vodka offers a sweet, nutty scent. The slightly viscous palate leads with caramel sweetness and spice, winding into pleasingly a nutty finish reminiscent of pecan pie, plus a warming cinnamon-clove kick. Sip it straight or mix into dessert-style drinks. *Best Buy.*

abv: 35% **Price:** \$12

91 Veil Pineapple Flavored Vodka (USA; Veil Brands Company, Princeton, MN). Look for a fresh pineapple scent and a hint of caramel warmth. The palate mixes sweet and mouthwateringly tart flavors with a caramel undercurrent that suggests pineapple cake. Pour as a head start on lighter piña colada variations and other tropical drinks. *Best Buy.*

abv: 35% **Price:** \$12

90 Dripping Springs Texas Orange Flavored Vodka (USA; San Luis Spirits, Dripping Springs, TX). Clear in the glass, this vodka offers light, pleasant hints of orange peel on the nose and palate. Otherwise, the palate is relatively neutral, finishing on a prickle of alcohol heat. Versatile for

mixing, since it adds aroma but won't fight with other flavors. Distilled from corn.

abv: 35% **Price:** \$20

90 Eight Degrees Grapefruit Flavored Vodka (USA; Fairmont Ltd., Mira Loma, CA). Lime blossom freshness leads the nose, while the palate mixes sweetness with mouthwatering acidity, finishing on hints of ginger and grapefruit peel. Consider this a head-start on Gimlets and other cocktails. Base vodka is made from Dutch wheat. *Best Buy.*

abv: 35% **Price:** \$19

90 Montana Cold Spring Lemon Flavored Vodka (USA; Bozeman Spirits, Bozeman, MT). This easy-sipping, corn-based vodka offers a lemon peel scent and sweetness on the palate that reads as lemon lollipop, finishing with a zingy pop of lime.

abv: 35% **Price:** \$30

89 Absolut Lime Flavored Vodka (Sweden; Absolut Spirits, New York, NY). Clear in the glass, this newcomer has a pleasing lime lollipop scent. The flavor is mild, with a faintly bitter midpalate giving way to a lime-peel finish. Recommended for mixing with tonic or soda water.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$20

89 Belrose Citron Lemon Flavored Vodka (France; Advantage International Distributors, Miami, FL). Look for a lemon-drop scent and a flavor that leans toward candied lemon peel, finishing brisk and dry on a white pepper sting. Mix into Lemon Drops, Cosmos and other lemon-tinged cocktails. Base vodka is made from grapes.

abv: 35% **Price:** \$32

89 Cathead Honeysuckle Flavored Vodka (USA; Bottletree Beverage, Jackson, MS). Neutral in aroma, this shows a light, delicate palate, with hints of honey, vanilla and coconut sweetness. Finishes with charcoal hint, gentle spice and a faint white floral exhale. Base vodka is made from grain.

abv: 35% **Price:** \$20

88 Chase Orange Marmalade Flavored Vodka (England; Palm Bay International, Boca Raton, FL). Look for a golden hue and a juicy, sweet, spiced aroma. The viscous palate is on the sweet side, almost liqueur-like, showing honey and a hint of mandarin orange before winding into a spiced finish. The base vodka is infused with Seville orange marmalade and then distilled again.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$33

87 Claremont Blueberry Flavored Vodka (USA; Claremont Distilled Spirits, Fairfield, NJ). Made with a potato base, this flavored vodka is clear in the glass, and exudes an overripe berry aroma. The palate shows sweetness up front, leading into hints of concord grape and a sugary finish.

abv: 35% **Price:** \$29

87 Veil Green Apple Flavored Vodka (USA; Veil Brands Company, Princeton, MN). Expect a sweet-tart green apple Jolly Rancher scent palate. The concentrated tartness lingers well into the mouthwatering finish. Temper with sweeter ingredients for cocktails.

abv: 35% **Price:** \$12

85 Montana Cold Spring Huckleberry Flavored Vodka (USA; Bozeman Spirits, Bozeman, MT). Clear in the glass, this corn-based vodka has a blueberry aroma and flavor, leading into a drying palate that finishes with a numbing, peppery finish. Producer recommends mixing with lemonade.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

BEER

Pass the American porter

After “what’s the difference between an ale and a lager,” one of the most common questions asked about beer is “what’s the difference between a stout and a porter?” With such strong similarities between their aromas and flavors as well as their structures and balance, it’s difficult to get a grasp on what exactly the difference is between the two, if any.

The answer is, there are no strict differences. Historically and presently, the two styles are similar in overall profile and ingredients used. A stout was considered a stronger version of a porter or, if you prefer, a porter was originally perceived as a lighter stout. Porters can also vary widely, resulting in a bitter roasty beer or a sweeter chocolaty one and everything in between.

But the strange thing is that most people are comfortable with stouts but not with porters. Stouts are more recognizable, more available and, for some reason, more defined. People feel confident in what they can expect from the contents of a bottle of stout; the same isn’t as true with porters.

But porter’s day has come. Now is the perfect time to cozy up to the style, especially with the broad range of exciting bottlings available from American brewers.

Interpretation and personalization are key to finding some stellar selections. While there are traditional offerings, like English or Baltic

porters, the thrill of the category lies in the newer, more adventurous American porter selections being developed by domestic brewers. They often involve the use of additional ingredients (like coffee, chocolate or spices) and techniques (like oak aging in various barrel types).

Some of the more robust bottlings are perfect candidates for your cellar, mellow-

ing and evolving into even more complex, layered selections of pure enjoyment. Deschutes Brewing’s Black Butte Birthday Reserve and Heavy Seas’ vintage-dated Blackbeard’s Breakfast are two excellent examples, sure to bring a smile to your face now and for years to come.

Whether you drink them now or cellar for later, stock up today. —Lauren Buzzeo

Some of the more robust bottlings are perfect candidates for your cellar, mellowing and evolving into even more complex, layered selections of pure enjoyment.

93 Deschutes Black Butte XXIX 29th Birthday Reserve (American Porter; Deschutes Brewery, OR). Deschutes’ 29th Birthday Reserve is an interesting one: A porter brewed with cocoa, Saigon cinnamon and cayenne, with 50% aged in Bourbon and rum barrels. It’s always a rich and robust limited-release selection, with strong profiles and bold flavors that suggest some cellaring may be required for optimal enjoyment, and this one follows in the same vein. It pours an almost black color, with a frothy tan-colored head that shows good retention. The woody, spicy notes from the Bourbon and rum aging are upfront on the nose, but grounded by a core of lush, mouthfilling flavors of caramel malt, roasted nuts, caramel, prune, fig and fresh vanilla ice cream. Hints of tilled earth, cocoa powder and soaked oak lend depth and complexity to the overall experience, as well as a slight astringency that carries through to the close. The mouthfeel is dense

and broad, but lifted on the finish thanks to a spicy hit of cayenne and lingering warmth.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$16/22 oz

91 Avery Brewing Co. Botanicals & Barrels Coconut Porter (American Porter; Avery Brewing Co., CO). Brewed with approximately four pounds of toasted coconut per barrel, then aged for three months in Bourbon barrels, this porter is a bold and flavorful brew, perfect for those seeking liquid decadence. The toasted coconut character leads the profile on the nose and mouth, but is perfectly complemented by additional notes of caramelized brown sugar, roasted malts, vanilla bean and sweet spice. There’s a definite woody presence, with notes of Bourbon-soaked dates, bittersweet cocoa and pepper that unfold on the palate. It’s smooth and velvety in texture, with ample carbonation to keep

it from feeling too unctuous or cloying, and pleasant warmth and spicy lift to the close.

abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$13/22 oz

91 Heavy Seas Uncharted Waters 2017 Blackbeard’s Breakfast (American Porter; Clipper City Brewing Company, MD). This porter is brewed with coffee from Maryland-based Chesapeake Bay Roasting Co., then aged in Bourbon barrels. It might not be ideal for those looking for a mellow drinking experience, but if you’re in the market for powerful, robust and roasty flavors wrapped in a cozy, warm blanket, then this is one to consider. Aromas of freshly roasted coffee beans are front and center on the nose, with additional notes of vanilla bean, woodspice and dark plum rounding it out. Those notes follow through to the smooth and rich palate, which boasts a creamy texture and subtle bittersweet-cocoa-like astringency that continues on the close. Channel your inner pirate and share this strong selection with your mates.

abv: 10% **Price:** \$10/22 oz

90 Anchor Coffee Porter (American Porter; Anchor Brewing, CA). This new release from California icon Anchor Brewing is a nod to the building’s history as a coffee roastery prior to becoming the brewery. A collaboration with local roaster Four Barrel Coffee, it’s made from a base of Anchor’s standard Porter, brewed since 1972, with Four Barrel Flash-Chilled Coffee added during secondary fermentation. The resulting brew is a selection that’s not shy on upfront coffee aroma and flavor, with supporting tones of roasted malt, toasted peanut skin and dark-chocolate caramel. The palate is full and smooth, with ample carbonation to keep the rich, sweet flavors in check.

abv: 6.7% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

88 Left Hand Black Jack Porter (American Porter; Left Hand Brewing Co., CO). A classically styled porter, this pours a deep, dark brown color with a frothy tan head. The nose leads with powerful, attractive notes of coffee, roasted malt and cocoa that follow through to the medium-bodied palate, though with a bit less intensity. It’s surprisingly easy-drinking, with decent carbonation and a pleasant, soft astringency that graces the finish.

abv: 6.8% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

87 Tumwater Brewing Porter (American Porter; Fish Brewing Company, WA). This is a solid, well-made and easy-to-like porter, perfect for entertaining. It pours a dark brown-black color with a medium off-white head, calling you to the glass. Scents of roasted malts and light coffee are at the core of this brew, with a soft charred-husk flavor and mild astringency on the finish.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$8/12 oz 6 pack