

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

DECEMBER 2021

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Bocksbeutel-lined cellar in Franconia, Germany

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GERMANY

The benefits of aging

Consumer studies show that most wine purchased in the United States is consumed within weeks after purchase, and that less than 10% of wines purchased are squirreled away for aging. Indeed, most wines are intended to be consumed young, but with a little bit of patience, maturation opens a whole new dimension of enjoyment for wine lovers. Among the best candidates for cellaring are quality German wines.

The best examples of German wine—particularly varieties like Riesling, Silvaner and Pinot Noir, but also Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc and Scheurebe, too—tend to age better than most due to their low pH and high levels of acidity. A broad mix of flavor compounds and phenolics as well as fermentation and maturation in traditional oak casks all contribute to ageworthiness.

Opened young, German wines are often exuberantly perfumed and concentrated—a glorious explosion of fresh fruit and flowers. With age, these primary characteristics start

to recede, often exposing a textural richness, smokiness or yeastiness attributed to fermentation or maturation in oak. With extended bottle aging, fresh fruit gives way to preserved, baked or dried fruit and hints of earth, minerality, leather or mushroom.

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Riesling, whether sweet or dry, is singular in its ability to show well at each stage of its maturation. When young, it is thrilling and electric, a show-stopping blast of peach, apple and grapefruit flavors bolstered by sprays of orange blossom and spine tingling acidity. With age, its fruit profile seems to caramelize and honey, shifting its center of gravity from feather-light to something richer and unctuous.

While acidity levels remain constant, the perception of it softens in time. For wines with residual sugar, the perception of sweetness also lessens as the sugar molecules polymerize.

Across the varietal spread, there's magic to be found in mature, high-quality German wines.

—Anna Lee C. Iijima

RIESLING GROSSES GEWÄCHS

98 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2019 Ganz Horn Riesling GG (Pfalz). Sun-kissed ripeness and scintillating mineral purity are juxtaposed in this benchmark Riesling from one of Germany's greatest contemporary winemakers. White grapefruit and gooseberry flavors are pure, fragrant and precise here, held upright by steely, spine tingling acidity and a crush of crystalline, salty minerality. Dry and supple in texture yet linear and cooling in sensation, it's a wine that's already delicious but likely to improve for decades. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$128

95 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2019 Goldtröpfchen Riesling GG (Mosel). Buoyant, intensely sunny apricot and yellow peach abound in this ripe, almost tropical, dry Riesling sourced from the famed Piesporter Goldtröpfchen. Full bodied and supple in

texture, it's gorgeously fruity but bold in minerality and earth tones too. Balanced by bright lemon acidity and grips of struck flint and saffron, it's delicious young but should improve through 2030. American B.D. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$51

95 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2019 Graach Josephshöfer Trocken Riesling GG (Mosel). This is a powerfully ripe, spicy expression of Riesling from Devonian-slate soils in the producer's monopole Josephshöfer vineyard. It's a dry, svelte wine richly concentrated in white pear, quince and grapefruit flavors. Deeply textural yet steely and scintillating, it's an elegant reflection of the Mosel in a hot vintage. Approachable young but should improve through 2030 and hold further. American B.D. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

95 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2019 Kaseler Nies'chen Riesling GG Trocken (Mosel). The Kaseler Nies'chen vineyard is a benchmark site alongside the Ruwer, a tributary of the Mosel. Dry, piercing and remarkably linear, it's a mineral-focused white offering delicate pear and grapefruit flavors struck by steel, salt and cooling river rocks. Light footed but supple in texture, it's a quiet yet powerful Riesling that needs a bit more time to open. At peak from 2023–2030. American B.D. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$51

95 Schnaitmann 2017 Lämmli Riesling GG (Württemberg). Seductive notes of smoke, dried sage and mint introduce this svelte, steely dry Riesling. While delicate in footprint, it's a powerful, richly textured wine packed with concentrated lemon and lime flavors and an earthen undertow that's penetrating and compelling. It's still tight and nervous in youth but should reach peak from 2024–2034 and hold much further still. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Karthäuserhof 2018 Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Trocken Riesling Grosses Gewächs (Mosel). Yellow plum and tangerine flirt with tropical inflections of mango and pineapple in this powerfully concentrated dry Riesling. Spiced with hints of ginger and caramelized sugar yet braced by spine tingling lemon acidity, it's a solidly built expression of the Mosel in a hot vintage. It's approaching peak from 2023–2030 but should hold much longer and develop fascinating earthen, mineral complexities with time. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$96

94 Pffeffingen 2019 Weilberg Ungstein Riesling GG Trocken Grosse Lage Gold Cap (Pfalz). Pffeffingen's Weilberg GG is a boldly fruity, almost tropical, dry Riesling accented by fiery strikes of spice and smoke. Sourced from clay-rich terra rossa soils, its peach and mango flavors are rich and ripe but freshly balanced by zesty lemon acidity and an ashen, earthen undertow. Approachable now but should improve through 2030 and hold much further. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

93 Kloster Eberbach 2018 Marcobrunn Riesling GG (Rheingau). Streaks of tart pineapple, yellow pear and tangerine mingle in this ripe and intensely fruity Riesling sourced from one of the Rheingau's most historic vineyards. Matured 12 months in German oak, it's a dry, delightfully curvaceous wine dusted with sweet spice and pastry yet elegantly balanced by a spine tingling acidic edge. The finish is marked by a lingering twist of candied orange peel. At peak now–2030 but will hold further. Boutinot USA, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

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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 Tasting Director Alexander Peartree, Managing Editor Lauren Buzzeo, Associate Managing Editor of Print Layla Schlack, Assistant Tasting Director Fiona Adams, Contributing Editors Michael Schachner, Anna Lee C. Iijima, Christina Pickard, Mike DeSimone, Jeff Jenssen and Spirits Editor Kara Newman in New York; European Editor Roger Voss in France; Italian Editor Kerin O'Keefe in Switzerland; Contributing Editors Virginia Boone, Jim Gordon and Matt Kettmann in California; Contributing Editors Paul Gregutt and Sean P. Sullivan in Washington; and Beer Editor John Holl in New Jersey.

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 John Holl.

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.

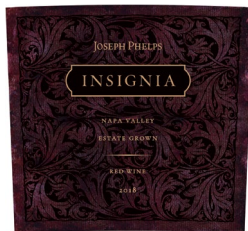
SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

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 website.

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



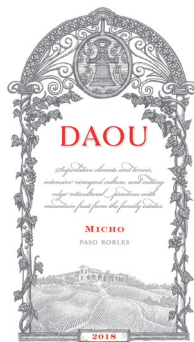
98 Joseph Phelps 2018 Insignia Estate Grown Red Wine (Napa Valley).

This impressive blend combines 87% Cabernet Sauvignon with 8% Petit Verdot, 3% Malbec and 2% Cabernet Franc, aging the whole for 24 months in 100% new French oak. Elements of cedar, sage, dried herb and underbrush meet rich red fruit and chalky tannins, with a dusting of cocoa throughout. Enjoy from 2028–2038.

Cellar Selection. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$315

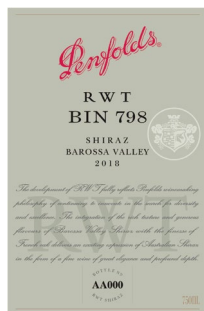


96 Daou 2018 Micho (Paso Robles).

This blend of 67% Merlot and 33% Cabernet Sauvignon booms with aromas of dark blackberry, fudge and mint. The complexity carries into the palate, where more cocoa and dark berry flavors are wrapped in refined yet structuring tannins, with acidity driving down the middle. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$85



96 Penfolds 2018 RWT Bin 798 Shiraz (Barossa Valley).

This wine offers layers of appealing aromas straight off the bat, from black cherry and currant to cedar, mocha, graphite, herbs and black olive. Concentrated yet impeccably balanced, the palate is smudged by savory tannins while spice and dark berry flavors weave seamlessly together. This delivers power and polish. Drink now–2040. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$150



95 Cossart Gordon 1978 Bual Madeira.

Sitting on an island in two 650-liter wood casks for 43 years was good for this wine. It offers intense richness and layers of fine toastiness. The wood shows alongside mature hints of fruit and nut flavors. Its medium sweetness is well balanced by the typically concentrated acidity. It's now time to enjoy it, although the bottle will also stay in great condition for many years. Vineyard Brands. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$350

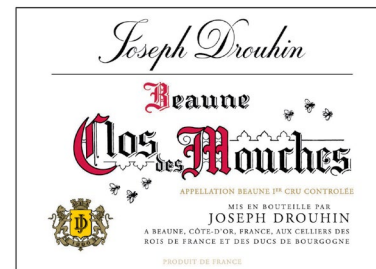


95 FEL 2019 Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).

Handsome black-fruit flavors give a wonderful focus to this concentrated, well-balanced and moderately tannic wine. It's a baritone of deep black cherries that can also hit higher notes of toasted oak, spice and sage. Best from 2025. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$75



95 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Clos des Mouches Premier Cru (Beaune).

This powerful, ripe Pinot Noir is a bold expression of the famed vineyard. Rich in extraction, the fleshy, velveteen sip is packed with black cherry and blueberry flavors accented by charred earth, crushed peppercorn and anise. Fine-grained but furry tannins are approachable young, but this solidly built wine should hit peak from 2024 through 2035 and hold much longer still. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.

abv: 14%

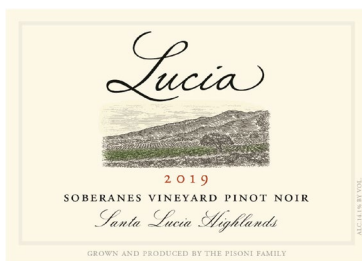
Price: \$150



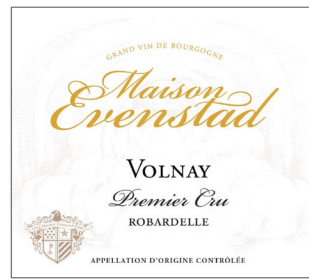
95 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Drouhin Vaudon Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis). While subtle on the nose, this steely yet textural Chardonnay exemplifies Chablis in a ripe vintage. Flavors of pear and lemon flirt with tropical notes of pineapple and mango but are anchored by a firm undertow of briny, salty minerality. Full and powerful in concentration, it's best to hold until 2025 and should reward well through 2040. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115



95 Lucia 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). A fascinating aroma of lemon rind meets with wet stone, lightly toasted nuts and a hint of coconut on the nose of this bottling. The palate blasts with energetic acidity and clings to a sticky tension, delivering flavors of salt, stone fruit and the lightest brush of macadamia nut toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65



95 Lucia 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Rich aromas of boysenberry pie, lilac and violet make for a lively and floral nose to kick off this bottling. The palate is also opulent, lush and juicy but well focused, with chalky tannins and brilliant acidity framing those warm berry-pie flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70



95 Maison Evenstad 2018 Robardelle Premier Cru (Volnay). This wine highlights ripe, rich black cherry and cassis flavors accented by hints of licorice and graphite. Lush and penetrating yet pure in fruit, this powerfully concentrated but balanced wine finishes with bristling cranberry acidity. Silky tannins make it welcoming now, but it should gain complexity through 2035. Domaine Serene. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125



95 Perrier Jouët 2012 Belle Epoque Rosé Brut (Champagne). This is an iconic rosé, clean and pure with its light color and textured, structured fruits. It has plenty of the perfumed character and the mineral acidity to balance hints of fresh-baked bread and spice. Drink from 2025. Pernod Ricard. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$300



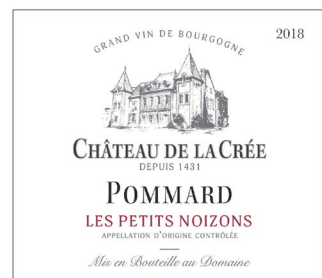
94 Amor Fati 2019 Murmur Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Loads of lavender, blooming thyme, damp sagebrush and blistered black plum make for a simultaneously floral and dark nose in this bottling. It's very dry on the palate, where the herbal tones run from sage to pine, and the fruit and flowers stick to the black plum and dried violet range. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60



94 Audeant 2018 Luminous Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This vineyard in the Yamhill-Carlton AVA delivers a well-rounded, approachable wine. The inclusion of two-thirds whole clusters and aging in 45% new French oak have a strong impact. Toasted hazelnut, blackberry, peppery herbs and a savory foundation keep it entertainingly complex while lengthening the textured finish. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60



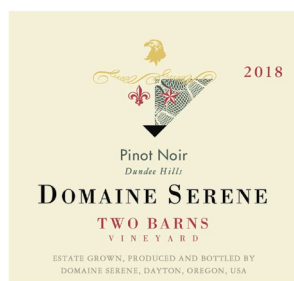
94 Bergström 2019 Winery Block Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This wine is packed with dense layers of blueberry, blackberry, plum and cherry, wrapped in a saline gauze. As it winds down through the palate, threads of licorice and sassafras chime in. It gains strength as it breathes, a good sign for long-term aging potential. Drink through 2035. **Cellar Selection.** —P.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$85



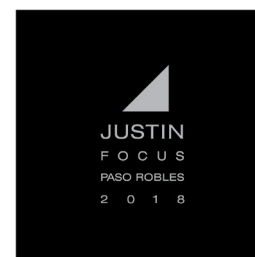
94 Château de la Créée 2018 Les Petits Noizons (Pommard). Piercing blackberry and raspberry flavors abound in this fresh-fruited wine. Sourced from biodynamic vines planted at the top of the slope and facing south, this ripe, sun-drenched wine still maintains mineral freshness and vital acidity. Soft, silky tannins augment its hedonistic style yet there's enough stuffing here to continue to evolve through 2030. Domaine Serene. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95



94 Clos du Val 2018 Hirondele Vineyard Estate Cabernet Franc (Stags Leap District). Showing a wealth of oak on the nose, this full-bodied wine is dense and concentrated in cassis and dark cherry, with a burst of violet accenting it all. The tannins are well-managed and integrated, helping to boost the structure and underlying elegance. Enjoy through 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



94 Domaine Serene 2018 Two Barns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This lovely wine opens with appealing mixed berry flavors that are spiced up by French oak aging, more than half in new barrels. Clearly still pulling everything into balance, it has the fruit power to more than hold its own against the wood. The tannins are supple and there are already highlights of pipe tobacco and coffee grounds. Drink from 2023 onward. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95



94 Justin 2018 Focus Syrah (Paso Robles). This is a powerful wine, starting with aromas of black cherry, baked boysenberry, caramel and smoked meat. It lands with a viscous texture yet is acid-driven on the palate, delivering familiar flavors of violet and lilac but also more unique hints of squid ink and kelp. —M.K.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$110



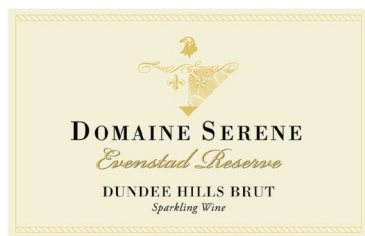
94 Domaine Serene NV M.V.2 Fleur de Vie Demi-Sec Sparkling Wine (Dundee Hills). You'll find the M.V.2 designation on the neck label, front and center. A blend of estate-grown 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay, it doesn't show as much sweetness as many demi-secs, which makes it more resilient and flexible as a first course or appetizer wine. The lush fruits run from orange to pineapple and papaya, backed by generous acidity. It's broadly open and even fleshy, with excellent length. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$75



94 FEL 2019 Savoy Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This richly spiced but vibrant and balanced wine beautifully weaves together subtle oak, rich vanilla, butter, pear and peach flavors, adding toasted almond and baked coconut on the finish. Grown in a noted single vineyard, it is delicious, layered and long on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$52



94 Maidenstoen 2020 Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). Meyer lemon pith, spring-time flowers and sliced lime show on the fresh and engaging nose of this bottling from vines planted in 1964. There is tremendous tension to the palate, where flavors of struck stone, grapefruit peel and a hint of white-fleshed melon align. —M.K.
abv: 12.16% **Price:** \$22



94 Domaine Serene NV M.V.3 Evenstad Reserve Brut Sparkling Wine (Dundee Hills). A blend of two-thirds Pinot Noir and one-third Chardonnay, this spent 38 months on the yeast prior to disgorgement in mid-2020. Tart and lemony, with both lemon flesh and rind in the mix, it's almost irresistible now, but given its striking acidity, it could hold through 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$80



94 Herdade do Esporão 2016 Private Selection (Alentejo). Big, rich and dense, this is a powerful wine. The concentration and solid, smoky fruits show most strongly. With its blend including Alicante Bouschet, the wine has firm tannins and a dark color. It is just mature, so drink now or wait until 2022. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



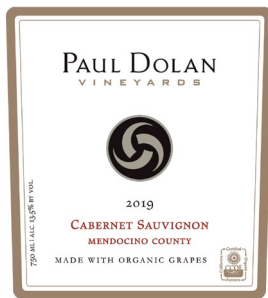
94 Massican 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Made from fruit grown in Pope Valley and Carneros, this is a lifted, elegant and persistently fresh white. It was whole-cluster pressed then barrel fermented with indigenous yeast and aged for six months. A flinty palate presents flavors of wet stone, cucumber and ocean spray. —V.B.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$32



94 Miles 1999 Rich Tinta Negra Madeira. The workhorse grape of Madeira has been transformed into a deliciously mature wood-aged wine. Spice and dried fruits are lifted by Madeira's typical acidity in this wine that is ready to drink. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$154

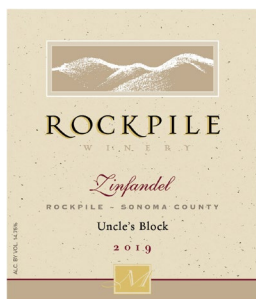


94 Paul Dolan 2019 Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County).

This reasonably priced wine is arguably one of Mendocino County's best Cabernets, year in and year out. Aromatic, complex, nicely ripe and full in body, it starts with enticing aromas of toasted oak, pencil shavings and cigar box followed by deep layers of black cherry, blueberry, anise and cocoa. Moderate, well-integrated tannins beef up the texture nicely and bode well for mid-term aging. Best from 2026. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 13.5%

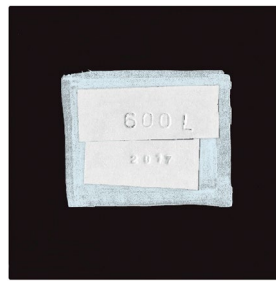
Price: \$30



94 Rockpile Winery 2019 Uncle's Block Zinfandel (Rockpile). Brawny in berry and cherry, with a bright lift of acidity and ongoing freshness, this wine is made from a dry-farmed site. Earthy and herbal, it has a plush mouthfeel and a velvety texture accented by clove. —V.B.

abv: 14.75%

Price: \$50



94 Rowen Wine Co. 2017 600L Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).

This wine shows the warmth of the vintage alongside the high-elevation conditions of Cooley Ranch, whence this blend of 92% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Petit Verdot originate. Ripe and rich in blackberry and currant, it is densely constructed in tannins and oak, with accents of dried herb, cedar and bay leaf. —V.B.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$150

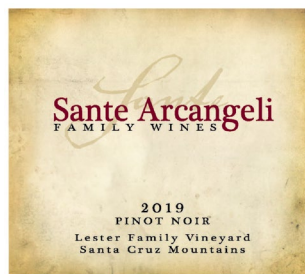


94 Sandeman 2019 Quinta do Seixo Vintage Porto.

The large Quinta do Seixo on the south bank of the Douro has produced a perfumed wine. Rich in ripe berry flavors and showing poise between structure and dense fruit, it is sure to age well. Drink from 2030. Evaton, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 19.5%

Price: \$90

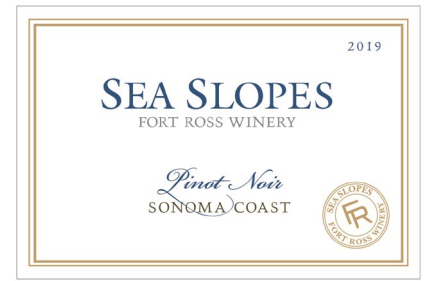


94 Sante Arcangeli 2019 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).

Quite light in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of toasted sage, light smoke and brisk pomegranate. Roasted cherry and more sage tones make for a dry, savory palate that remains superfresh into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$49

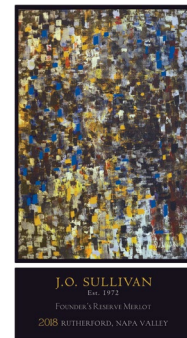


94 Sea Slopes-Fort Ross Winery 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).

Opening in a burst of berry with tannic energy, this wine shows impressive length, grace and complexity. Forest, black tea and clove accent a core of raspberry, pomegranate and cranberry, with a pretty rose petal accent throughout. —V.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

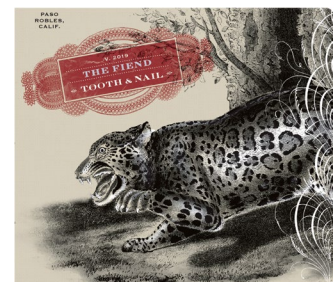


94 Sullivan 2018 J.O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Merlot (Rutherford).

This estate-grown wine is blended with 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Petit Verdot, then aged in 100% new French oak for 21 months. Silky dark fruit meets layers of baking spice, black pepper and tobacco on the cohesive, structured palate. Enjoy from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$250



94 Tooth & Nail 2019 The Fiend (Paso Robles).

Rich aromas of black cherry, cola, milk chocolate and purple flowers show on the nose of this blend of 83% Malbec, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petite Sirah. The tannic tension is quite firm on the sip, where fresh boysenberry, baking spice and cracked pepper deliver a lengthy experience. Drink 2022–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$30



94 Torbreck 2019 The Struie Shiraz (Barossa). This vintage of The Struie is almost entirely from the Barossa, with 8% Eden Valley fruit. The hot, dry growing year has resulted in a concentrated but sleek bottling with good cellaring potential. Vivid aromas of freshly crushed bramble berries mingle with violets, scrubby herbs, spices and chocolate. The mouthfeel is supple and fruit driven, supported by fine yet muscular tannins. Drink now–2037. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55



94 Tornatore 2020 Pietrarizzo Bianco (Etna). Aromas of white spring flower, orchard fruit and sun-warmed flint form the delicate, alluring nose. Made with 97% Carricante and 3% Catarratto, the elegantly structured, savory palate features yellow apple, pear and Meyer lemon before a salty, mineral finish. Bright acidity keeps it vibrant and balanced. Drink through 2028. LUX Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55



94 Westwood 2018 Legend (Sonoma County). This combines 45% Syrah, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Mourvèdre, 6% Cabernet Franc and handfuls of Tannat and Petit Verdot. It shows bursts of lavender, game and violet, with traces of white pepper. Altogether the wine is velvety, smooth, softly tannic and robust. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60



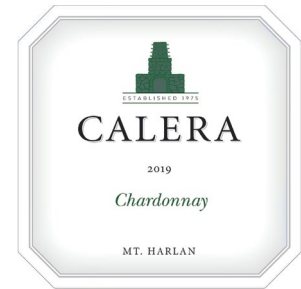
93 Amor Fati 2019 Murmur Vineyard Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). Boysenberry, violet and anise aromas make for a dense nose in this bottling from a cool-climate vineyard. It's full in feel on the hefty sip, where baked berry flavors are surrounded by hints of charcoal and violet. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60



93 Bergström 2019 Bergström Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The original estate vineyard is now 20 years old and the vines should be entering full maturity. The resulting wine blends brambly blackberry fruit with savory flavors of mixed herbs. In this vintage, the alcohol is rather low and the wine is not as powerful as usual. Nonetheless, it's complete, balanced, textural and lengthy, with trailing flavors of iron, anise and chamomile tea. —P.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$110



93 Bergström 2019 Le Pré du Col Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Lush aromas of orange blossoms and rose petals lead to a full palate with baking spices and sweet chocolate highlights. Black cherry fruit anchors it all, and the mix of cherries and chocolate will be a welcoming beacon to lovers of high-end cacao. That's not to call it candied or sweet, just detailed, textural and absolutely delicious. —P.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$80



93 Calera 2019 Chardonnay (Mt. Harlan). From vines that shed a miniscule 1.77 tons per acre, this bottling pushes floral aromas of honeysuckle and gardenia atop the buttery brioche, seared apple and macadamia nut elements. The palate is salty and citrus-washed, with a core of savory, pan-toasted nut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



93 Cambria 2019 Katherine's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Winemaker Jill Russell does wonders with this widely available wine. Aromas of Meyer lemon and sea salt ride over roasted peach on the nose, leading into pan-seared apple, more salt and a touch of warm butter on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22



93 Edna Valley Vineyard 2017 Winemaker Series Meritage (Paso Robles). Aromas of dark chocolate-covered cherry and açai alongside warm toast carry the nose of this bottling. There's a graham cracker flavor on the sip, giving toasty depth to the penetrating elderberry and black-currant flavors, with purple flowers popping toward the complex finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



93 Elk Cove 2019 Five Mountain Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Cranberry, blackberry and black cherry ring loud and clear, with appealing wet-stone minerality in the background. The fruit flavors are so front loaded and intense that it's easy to miss the inherent angularity and overall finesse of the wine. It's structured and fine-tuned for aging. Drink through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$60



93 Fallet Dart NV Quercus Brut (Champagne). This barrel-fermented Champagne has been aged for 13 years, giving it a smooth texture and ripe bite of acidity. Dominated by Chardonnay, the wine forms part of the producer's limited-production Private Collection. Drink now. K&L Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

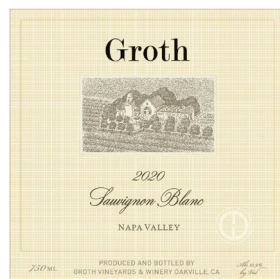
Price: \$67



93 Future Perfect 2019 Portico Hills Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). A light ruby color in the glass, this bottling leaps onto the nose with sharp and punchy aromas of hibiscus and red plum. It's tart and fresh on the palate, where ample acidity powers fruit punch, red apple and white pepper flavors, proving to be a refreshing style but with all the hallmarks of the grape. —M.K.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$45



93 Groth 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Made with 17% Sémillon and fermented mainly in neutral oak barrels, this is a cohesive and succulent Sauvignon Blanc. It shows expressive layers of peach and pear alongside well-integrated acidity and a savory touch of brioche. —V.B.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$24



93 Guarachi 2019 Sun Chase Vineyard Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). From high atop the Petaluma Gap, this red is bright and juicy, with soft, unctuous layers of dark cherry and blood orange flavors. Integrated in tannin and oak, it is generous and dense yet enduring. —V.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$75



93 Herdade do Esporão 2019 Private Selection Sémillon (Alentejano). It is rare to find a 100% Sémillon wine in Portugal. The result in this wine is wood-aged creaminess, allied to white fruits and touched by acidity. It is a rich statement that needs more time and will be best from 2022. Now Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 14%

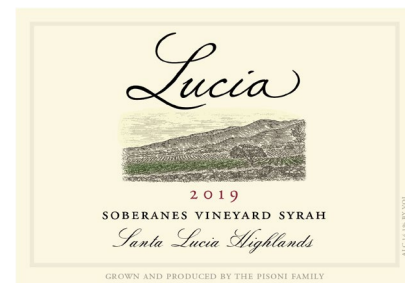
Price: \$30



93 Klipsun 2018 Klipsun Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Fruit for this wine comes from one of the appellation's oldest and most venerated vineyards. The aromas of dark roasted coffee bean, black cherry, licorice and dried herbs draw you in. Velvety, juicy cherry flavors follow. It's a hammer in a velvet glove, a wine that wins on nuance and grace but with plenty of power behind it. Undeniable in appeal now, this is really meant for the cellar. Best after 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$150



93 Lucia 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). Cracked pepper, blueberry sorbet, charred meat and charcoal meet with a pinch of lavender on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tarry and dense, with violet, lavender and elderberry flavors. It's very young and will blossom with time. Drink 2022–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$60



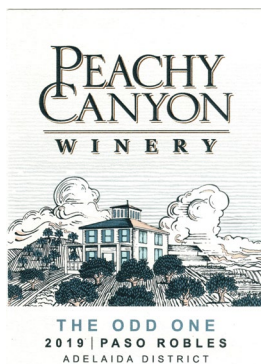
93 Lytle-Barnett 2015 Brut (Willamette Valley). The second release of the winery's Brut is again 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay. It's a bright gold color and loaded with scents and flavors of orange blossoms, tropical fruits, chanterelle mushrooms and toasted nuts. The riot of flavors is balanced beautifully and sharpened by firm acidity. It was disgorged in spring 2019. —P.G.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$75



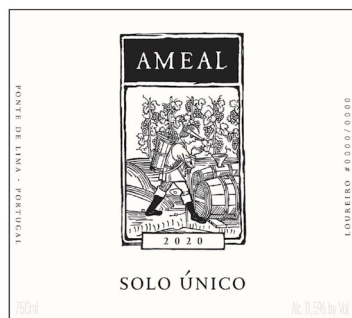
93 Merry Edwards 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). The producer's perennially favorite white shines again in stone fruit flavors—a mix of apricot and sweet peach. Tropical companions in the form of pineapple and banana add weight and richness, contributing to a creamy, lush palate of goodness and grace. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



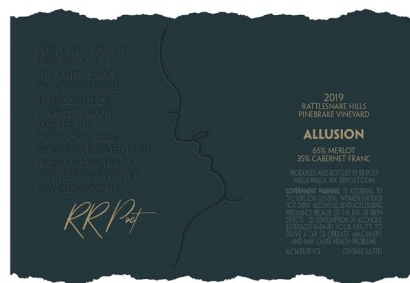
93 Peachy Canyon 2019 The Odd One (Adelaida District). Fresh and likable aromas of blackberry and blueberry meet with licorice and hibiscus on the nose of this blend of 61% Zinfandel, 16% Syrah, 16% Carignan, 5% Mourvèdre and 2% Petite Sirah. It's full in feel on the rich palate, with hearty berry flavors joining floral accents. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42



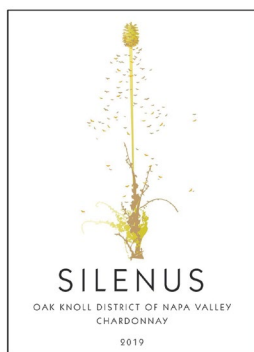
93 Pike Road 2019 Shear Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This is among the earliest releases of vineyard designates from this iconic site, giving a heads-up preview of what's to come. Spicy, sharp and tightly wound, with a dense mix of blackberry, earth, compost, coffee and high-cacao chocolate, it will take some serious decanting to unpack this wine. The balance is spot-on and the flavors meld beautifully. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50



93 Quinta do Ameal 2020 Solo Único Loureiro (Vinho Verde). A selection from different parcels, this wine is rich, packed with fruit and openly textured. It has depth and layers of ripeness. Hints of apricots come through the green-fruit flavors. Drink from 2022. Now Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30



93 R.R. Poet 2019 Allusion Pinebrake Vineyard Merlot-Cabernet Franc (Rattlesnake Hills). This blend of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc is an attention-getter. The aromas announce themselves with notes of nori, coffee, struck flint, chocolate and cherry. The palate is plump and polished, with the fruit front and center. Lightly sandy tannins back it up. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85



93 Silenus 2019 Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District). The grapes for this wine are sourced from Red Hen Vineyard near the winery. It is inviting in layers of crème brûlée and rich stone fruit as well as spicy oak. Length and breadth present on the full-bodied palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



93 St. Amant 2019 The Road Less Traveled Tempranillo (Amador County). Wonderful concentration and supple black-fruit and dark-chocolate flavors do a great job of complementing this variety's famous tannins. The result is a delicious, layered, polished wine that's luxurious in texture. Best through 2026. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$18



93 Tooth & Nail 2018 The Stand (Paso Robles). Deep blueberry and black-current aromas meet with touches of tar and licorice on the nose of this bottling of Petite Sirah, Syrah and Viognier. Chalky, sticky tannins frame the bold sip, where wild herbs and fennel pollen spice up the cassis core. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30



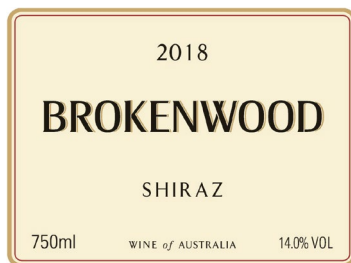
93 Tornatore 2020 Bianco (Etna). This radiant, savory white proves why Etna is so hot right now. It opens with heady aromas of spring blossom, Mediterranean brush and wild herb while the bright, delicious palate delivers Meyer lemon, yellow pear and apple alongside a tangy, saline note. It's supremely elegant and energized thanks to bright acidity. LUX Wines. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35



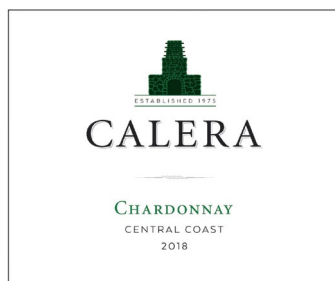
92 Aubaine 2019 Joie Anahata Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This Pinot is ripe, rich and substantial, with cranberry and raspberry fruit in abundance. Having been given a six-day cold soak, the wine gains a bit of chewy texture without turning too herbal. It wraps up with savory high-lights and a long, toasty, balanced finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$60



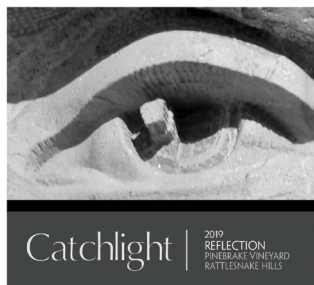
92 Beronia 2012 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of vanilla, licorice and ripe berry fruits introduce this warm-year gran reserva. The palate is full on first take, then popping acidity pushes the flavors towards currant, tomato and red plum. The acidity drives a dry finish with plenty of oak spice. Give this lots of air and time if drinking now but it's good through 2032. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



92 Brokenwood 2018 Shiraz (Hunter Valley). The warm 2018 vintage brings plenty of fruit concentration to this wine—think cassia, plum and blueberry—along with a peppery, black olive, mocha and polished oak spine. There's freshness and nuance to the palate, with oak tones prominent, but overall this is an excellent wine that will hold through 2030 at least. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36



92 Calera 2018 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Aromas of baked peach, nectarine and butternut squash in lemon-butter sauce make for a warm and approachable nose in this bottling. There's a firm, lemony grip when the wine hits the palate, and then it broadens to pome fruit, with zesty citrus flavors popping into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25



92 Catchlight 2019 Reflection Pinebrake Vineyard (Rattlesnake Hills). The Rattlesnake Hills is a distinctive appellation, and this wine immediately announces its identity. A blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc, the aromas offer notes of nori, fresh tobacco, green pepper, cherry, raspberry and bittersweet chocolate. The palate is all about the delicacy, purity and restraint of the plump fruit flavors. It's bright and fresh, polished to a fine sheen. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50



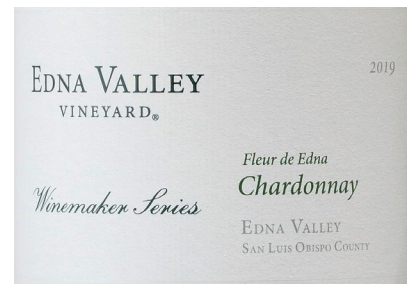
92 Center of Effort 2018 Effort Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Warm brioche, white peach and toasted almond aromas are complemented by crushed seashell and mint on the nose of this bottling. The mineral aspects reach full speed on the palate, where rocky flavors are lifted by zingy lemon-peel and macadamia-nut elements. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$26



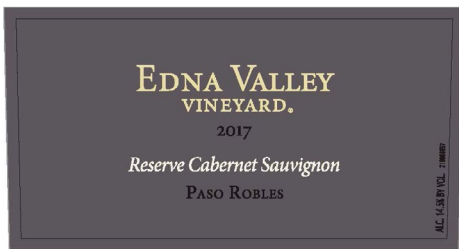
92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Heritage Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Offering tremendous value for the quality, this wine is blended with 19% Petite Sirah. Tart, tangy red fruit, from plum to cherry, layers over undertones of baking spice, cigar box and crushed herb. It's a full-bodied and richly textured red. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26



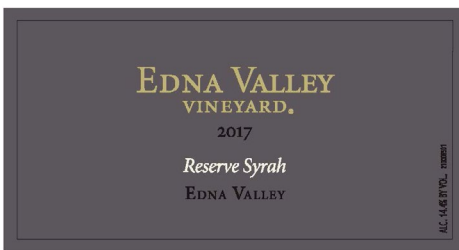
92 Dundee Wine Library 2018 Pugilist Chapter One Pinot Noir (McMinnville). This open, broadly displayed wine is already starting to express maturing secondary fruit flavors. They're accented by tanned leather, leafy tobacco, baking spices and composted earth. This is immediately accessible and gently balanced, with a long and elegant finish adding savory highlights of tomato leaf and tarragon. It's sourced from the old vine Coury clone plantings at Hyland Vineyard. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60



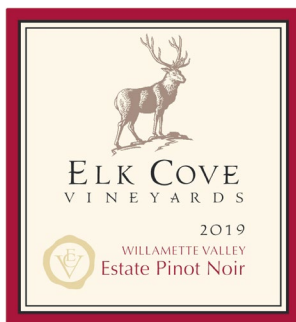
92 Edna Valley Vineyard 2019 Fleur de Edna Winemaker Series Chardonnay (Edna Valley). The sharp nose delivers aromas of nectarine and white flowers. Energetic tightness slices through the brisk sip, where lemon leads into slightly more rounded flavors of macadamia nut by the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



92 Edna Valley Vineyard 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Roasted black plum and pleasant smoke aromas grow into complex iodine and black olive on the nose of this bottling. Firm and ample tannins frame black tea and black plum flavors on the intense palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



92 Edna Valley Vineyard 2017 Reserve Syrah (Edna Valley). A charred meat aroma makes for a savory start to the nose of this bottling, but other familiar aspects also come through, including blistered black plum, black pepper and purple flowers. The palate is hefty in mouthfeel, with blackberry jam and lavender leading into black olive, thyme and more herbs on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55



92 Elk Cove 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Production has doubled on this estate-grown wine, and the overall quality is excellent. Fresh and fragrant in blueberry and blackberry fruit, it's nicely layered and balanced across the palate. Along with the fresh berries are touches of savory Italian herbs and even a hint of dill. The tannins, though earthy and firm, are ripe and proportionate. This wine is sure to please immediately. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32



92 Europa Village 2017 Vienza Reserve Estate Barbera (Temecula Valley). This Italian grape seems to thrive in the warmer region of Temecula. This bottling begins with aromas of violet, lilac, jasmine and underripe plum on the nose. There's a rustic and gritty quality to the tannins, which lends charm to the bold wild plum, berry and licorice flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$70



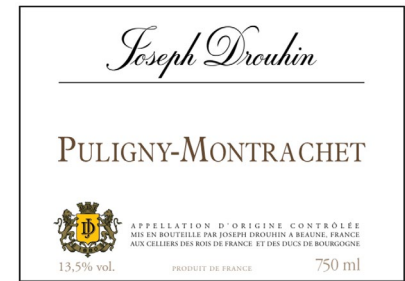
92 FEL 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This sleek, well-balanced wine pairs ample, juicy cherry and red-currant flavors with enticing oak accents of vanilla, toasted baguette and cinnamon. It's smooth, supple and delicious. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40



92 Herdade do Esporão 2020 Reserva (Alentejo). A blend of Antão Vaz, Arinto and Roupeiro, this wood-aged wine is spicy and ripe in toast and yellow-fruit flavors. It is still young and needs some aging. Wait to drink this rich wine from 2022. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



92 J. Lohr 2017 Cuvée St. E (Paso Robles). Quite dark in the glass, this ode to Saint-Émilion is redolent with bourbon-soaked black currant, roasted fig and coffee cream on the nose. It's thick and viscous on the palate, with dark wood, espresso bean and elderberry flavors as well as black-pepper spice and black olive flourishes on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50



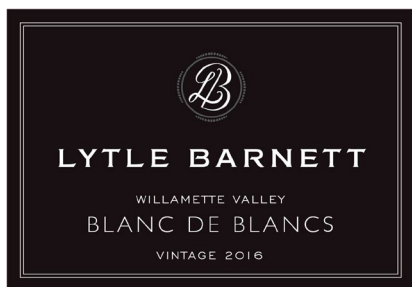
92 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Puligny-Montrachet. Ripe but cutting white-peach, lemon and yellow-apple flavors are struck by delicate hints of smoke, crushed stone and charred vanilla bean in this opulent village-level Burgundy. Matured 12 months in 25% new French oak, this rich, densely structured wine is brightened by streaks of zesty acidity. It's at peak now—2029. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70



92 Land of Promise 2017 Karren Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Mountain). Given two years of aging in neutral barrels, this wine is leathery and savory in character, with cigar, cocoa powder and pulverized tannins providing a foundation for dense pomegranate and cassis flavors. The full-bodied palate holds its power well, showing elegance and length on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



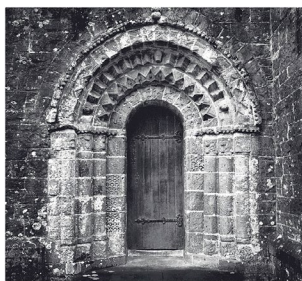
92 Land of Promise 2017 Patriae Fidelitas Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Rich Bing cherry meets black tea and clove in this tension-filled and energetic wine. The acidity is woven throughout a firm grip of tannin and oak, finishing with forest floor undertones. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65



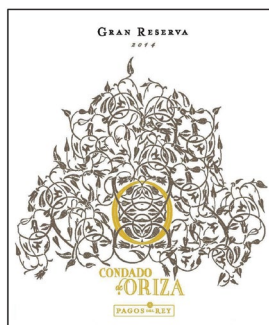
92 Lytle-Barnett 2016 Blanc de Blancs (Willamette Valley). This is an elegant wine in every respect, from the fine head to the complex, lightly flinty aromas and the tangy palate. It offers a captivating mix of apple, grapefruit, chanterelle mushroom and brioche, trailing out gracefully on a touch of sea salt. Drink through 2029. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75



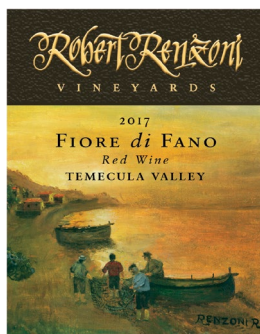
92 Michael David 2019 Freakshow Red (Lodi). Superdark fruit flavors, moderate tannins and a velvety texture add up to an indulgent experience in this full-bodied wine. It delivers deliciousness with good balance, from its inky color to saturated black-cherry and blueberry flavors to a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20



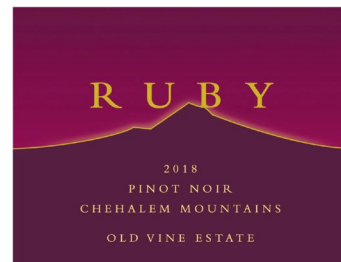
92 Owen Roe 2018 The Kilmore Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This all-Pommard clone Pinot was sourced from the Lenné Vineyard. It has a potent streak of coffee along with tart berry fruit. It's got some bite to the midpalate, and a long textural evolution in the back that brings in a sandalwood highlight. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42



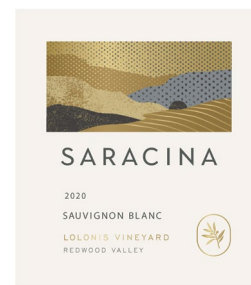
92 Pagos del Rey 2014 Condado de Oriza Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of balsam wood and cedar sit atop mulled berry scents, while this feels round yet intense for a wine with seven years under its belt. Oak, plum and black-berry flavors are supported by a smooth mouthfeel on the finish. Drink through 2027. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



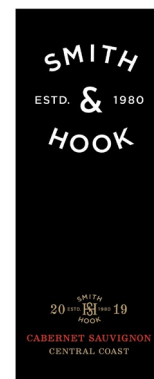
92 Robert Renzoni 2017 Fiore di Fano Red Wine (Temecula Valley). This blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot is an ode to the owner's Italian roots. There are zippy aromas of strawberry and wet cement on the fresh nose, while the palate shows boysenberry, leather and old book flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60



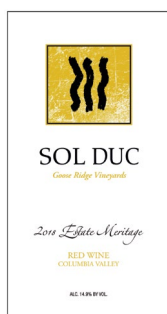
92 Ruby 2018 Old Vine Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This wine is sourced from part of the vineyard that dates to the 1970s. Scents of sandalwood, balsam and black cherry open a detailed and deep palate, with the elegance and power typical of old vines. Accents of iron, anise, espresso and earth will tickle your fancy if you give it a good long look. Drink now—2029. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$55



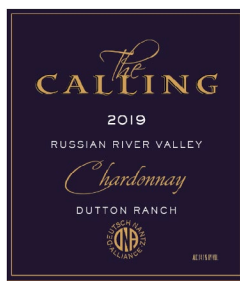
92 Saracina 2020 Lolonis Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Redwood Valley). This medium- to full-bodied wine sports flavors of cantaloupe, Pippin apple and butter tinted by cedar and toast nuances. The non-irrigated Lolonis Vineyard is one of the oldest Sauvignon Blanc sources in the state, having been planted during World War II. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



92 Smith & Hook 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). This bottling starts with approachable aromas of boysenberry, elderberry, purple flowers and a hint of thyme. The palate is polished and smoothly textured, yet complex in flavors, with savory smoked spice, roasted red-fruit and fennel-pollen elements working together. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25



92 Sol Duc 2018 Estate Meritage (Columbia Valley). Aged 22 months in French and American oak, this is a blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 5% Malbec and 5% Cabernet Franc. The aromas are beguiling in notes of blackberry, dark cherry, earth and baking spice. The flavors are full but fresh. There's a lot of tannic heft behind it all. Time in the cellar will serve it well. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55



92 The Calling 2019 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Stone fruit, fennel and salt combine for a powerful and lengthy experience. An underlying rich texture contrasts well against the lurking acidity, offering a cohesive, seamless whole. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32



92 Tyrrell's 2018 Shiraz (Hunter Valley). This Shiraz was open-top fermented and matured in older, large-format French oak casks, resulting in a wine focused on fruit purity. With some air, the plump blueberries and currants are underpinned by flowers, spice, hoisin and warm stone nuances. The palate is unexpectedly powerful, with chiseled, slightly drying tannins, although it still resides in medium-bodied territory. It shows off the distinctive style of the region as well as the winery. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24



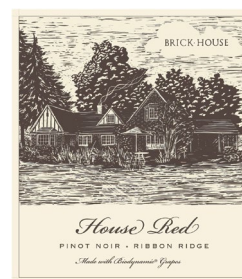
92 Valo 2018 Intemporal Lawrence Vineyards (Columbia Valley). This is one of the inaugural offerings from this winery, and it captures attention. Half is Solaksen Cabernet Sauvignon, with the rest Scarline Merlot (25%) and Bacchus Cabernet Franc. The aromas aren't ready to reveal themselves, with brooding notes of cedar, dried herbs, black cherry and tobacco. The palate shows sophistication and polish, with plenty of structure behind it all. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70



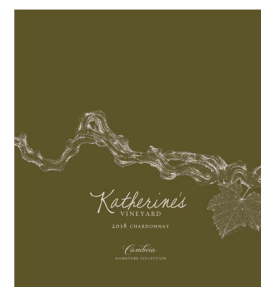
91 Aubaine 2019 Anahata Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This fresh and fragrant wine is one of three in the debut vintage of Aubaine. The expressive bouquet brings lavender, baking spices, raspberry and a touch of rosemary. The wine gathers itself in a compact midpalate with tangy flavors of mixed berries. Such forward fruit is not uncommon in a new vineyard (this was planted in 2015), but rarely is it so nicely textured. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$50



91 Banshee 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). This stainless-steel fermented white is perfumed and floral, with impressive length, weight and balanced acidity. Flavors of green apple and lemon persist around hints of lemongrass and wet stone. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22



91 Brick House NV House Red Made with Biodynamic Grapes Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). The fire-impacted 2020 vintage led founder Doug Tunnell to declassify all the fruit and create this blend, which includes a significant portion of 2019 juice. The winner here is you, the consumer. Delicious blackberry fruit, hints of coffee and chocolate, smooth tannins and a lush mouthfeel make this immediately enjoyable. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29



91 Cambria 2018 Katherine's Vineyard Signature Collection Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). There's a rich nose to this bottling, starting with aromas of pecan, hazelnut and baked apple. The palate conveys a viscous texture in line with that nutty nose, but then a Meyer lemon flavor provides acidity as a peach tone slides into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60



91 De Bortoli 2019 17 Trees Shiraz (Heathcote). After a bit of time to open in glass, this reveals notes of sour cherry, ground nutmeg, graphite and iron. The medium-weight palate is fresh and restrained, but harnesses the natural power of Shiraz, with neatly wound, textural tannins. Oak spice shows but not obtrusively. It's a modern bottling at an affordable price. PH Importing. —C.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$20



91 Dundee Wine Library 2018 The Protagonist Chapter Two Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

This drinks like a wine with a few more years under its cork, which brings in some secondary fruit flavors and lovely aromatics. Pie cherries, pie crust and light hints of green tea and tobacco are in play, with supporting acidity. This multi-vineyard blend spent 15 months in neutral French oak. Drink now–2026. —P.G.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35



91 Europa Village 2020 Bolero Albariño (Temecula Valley).

This bottling is a good argument for the viability of this grape in warmer climates. Aromas of ripe lime, lemonade and a twist of orange are reminiscent of a day at the pool. The bright, tense and mineral-driven palate offers citrus, seashell and crisp apple flavors. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$34

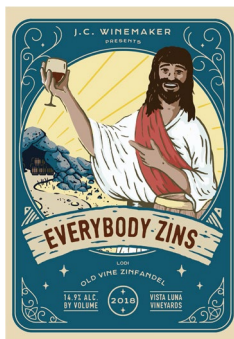


91 Herdade do Esporão 2018 Reserva (Alentejo).

This blend of six grapes is softly textured and rich. Black fruits and spice from wood aging are given a boost by layers of tannin and acidity that support the generosity. This wine could age further and will be best from 2022. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

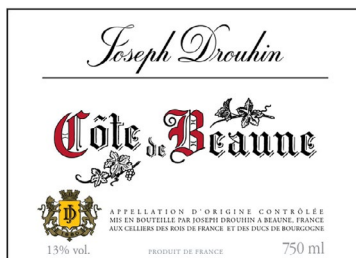


91 J.C. Winemaker 2018 Everybody Zins Vista Luna Vineyards Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).

This full-bodied wine with a cheeky label is full to bursting with funky, jammy, wild berry and bramble flavors that are hard to resist. There are salt-and-pepper tones as well as hints of tobacco and ripe blackberry in this exuberant wine. —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$25



91 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Côte de Beaune. Bold

hits of licorice and black pepper accent violet and black cherry in this supple, black-fruited Pinot Noir. Etched by soft, dusty tannins and a freshly concentrated, juicy palate, this immediately enjoyable, elegant wine should reward through 2030 at least. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.I.

abv: 14%

Price: \$58



91 Justin 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).

This is a smoky, meaty, heavy style of Cabernet Sauvignon. Iodine, black plum and lavender aromas kick off the nose, leading into a thick palate where lilac, black currant, cracked pepper and smoked meat flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 16.1%

Price: \$60



91 Justin 2016 Platinum Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).

This powerful wine starts with roasted fruit aromas that are both brisk and herbaceous. It sizzles with acidity on the palate, offering bright purple fruit and violet flavors, growing riper as it breathes. —M.K.

abv: 16.2%

Price: \$170



91 King Estate 2017 Carpenter Hill Vineyard Petite Sirah (Rogue Valley).

This is a grape that can be bitterly tannic, but it's been smoothed out and polished in this debut bottling from King Estate. Rich in blueberry and blackberry fruit, it sails into a lovely finish of soft, silky tannins, a streak of coffee and a thin trail of savory herbs. —P.G.

abv: 14%

Price: \$55



91 King Estate 2017 Crater View Vineyard & Seven Hills Vineyard Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre (Oregon).

This is a blend of Syrah from Walla Walla's Seven Hills and Grenache and Mourvèdre from the Crater View Vineyard in the Rogue Valley. It's smooth and supple, with a lush mix of berries. The tannins are tamed but provide some depth and detail to the long finish, with a strawberry pastry flavor trailing on the finish. —P.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$50



91 King Estate 2017 Quintessence Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Quintessence is a vineyard on the rise in Washington. What this wine lacks in generosity of its cassis and otherwise red fruit-driven aromas it makes up for in elegance and sophistication of the fruit flavors. It's impeccably crafted. —S.S.
abv: 14.66% **Price:** \$60



91 Le Vigne 2018 Cuore Della Vigna Red Wine (Paso Robles). Baked strawberry, red plum skin, citrus rind and a pinch of nutmeg show on the nose of this blend of 57% Sangiovese, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Petit Verdot and 7% Merlot. Stewed strawberry and bacon flavors meet with smoked wood flavors on the palate, and time will let the brighter red-cherry and cranberry elements find their place. Drink through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48



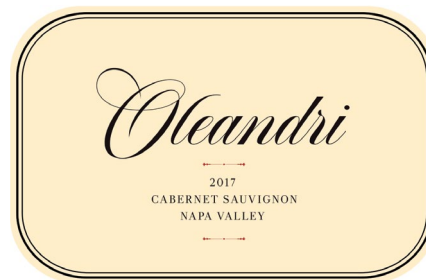
91 Midnight 2018 Capriccio Italien Reserve Red Wine (Paso Robles). Dark cherry, vanilla and prominent wood-spice aromas show on the nose of this blend of 50% Sangiovese, 16% Malbec, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot, 8% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Ripe red-cherry and cedar flavors are wrapped in decent tension on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60



91 Nera 2016 Sforzato di Valtellina. Made with dried grapes, this has aromas suggesting underbrush, marinated prune, new leather and dark spice. Full-bodied yet almost weightless, the palate features Christmas cake, fig, menthol and licorice alongside velvety tannins. Drink through 2027. Masciarelli Wine Co. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50



91 Neyers 2019 Sage Canyon Red Wine (California). Ripe, full and also handsomely nuanced, this bold and fruity blend of Carignan, Mourvèdre, Grenache and Syrah boasts black cherry, red cherry and black currant fruits, with fairly subtle vanilla and toast accents from aging in oak barrels. It matches the outstanding quality of the 2018 vintage. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30



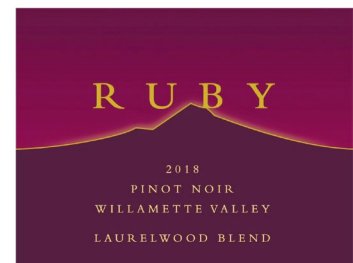
91 Oleandri 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a slatey and earthy wine built by substantial tannins. Lengths of black currant and blackberry are peppered in cigar box and clove on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90



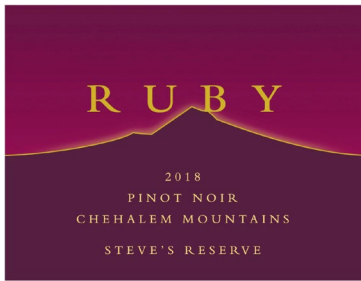
91 Pagos del Rey 2012 Castillo de Albai Gran Reserva (Rioja). The nose carries aromas of tobacco, cedar and ripe berries in front of a flush and layered palate. Befitting a warm year that yielded mostly bold core fruit throughout Rioja, this tastes of cherry, blackberry and cocoa. A round and chewy finish seals the deal. Drink through 2027. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40



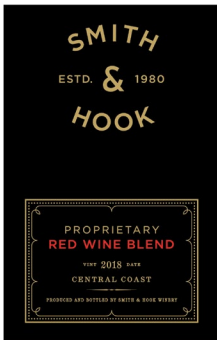
91 Rowen Wine Co. 2017 600R (Sonoma County). This wine is led by 51% Merlot blended with 25% Cabernet Franc and 24% Cabernet Sauvignon, all grown at high elevation on the Cooley Ranch. This is the first vintage of this wine. Dried herb, cedar and currant play around a substantial core of tannin and oak. It is ripe and mineral-laden, with a lasting hint of cocoa nib. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$150



91 Ruby 2018 Laurelwood Blend Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Fresh black cherry jumps up immediately, buttressed by brambly thistle and peppery herbs. The tannins are ripe and chewy, while the acidity is sappy and tart. It is lively in the mouth and interesting all the way through the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40



91 Ruby 2018 Steve's Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This reserve sees time in 66% new oak, so for the moment, this pleasantly toasty wine is dominated by the barrel aging. Beyond that, there's rich blackberry and black cherry fruit backed by earth. It's young enough to have some bite to the tannins. Drink from 2022. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$65



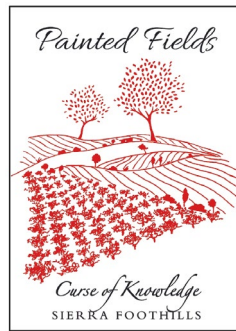
91 Smith & Hook 2018 Proprietary Red Wine Blend (Central Coast). Dried cherry, kirsch and cedar aromas show on the nose of this reliable blend. There's a woody flavor to the sip, which is savory yet loaded with ripe berry flavors enhanced by a pinch of oregano. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25



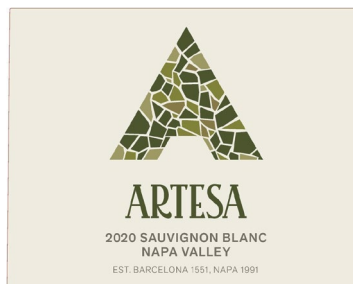
91 Vite Colte 2015 Essenze del Comune di Monforte d'Alba (Barolo). Aromas of camphor, leather and black-skinned berry emerge from the glass. The savory, full-bodied palate offers ripe blackberry, star anise and mocha alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



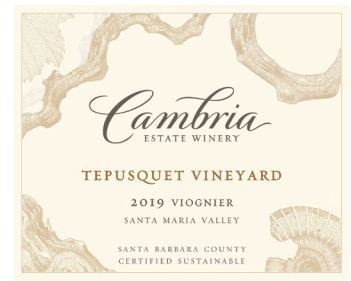
90 Acrobat 2019 Pinot Noir (Oregon). This Pinot is fragrant and spicy, with ripe berry fruit. There's an earthy stiffness that comes up with the tannins. That said, the balance overall works and the wine, though chewy, will knock it out of the park with salmon. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19



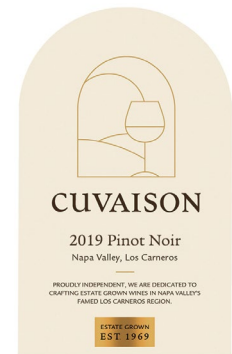
90 Andis 2019 Painted Fields Curse Of Knowledge (Sierra Foothills). Smooth, rich and chocolaty, this generous wine wraps soft tannins around deliciously ripe black plums, black cherries and blackberries. It matches an almost irresistible jammy character with light vanilla, milk chocolate and cinnamon notes. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25



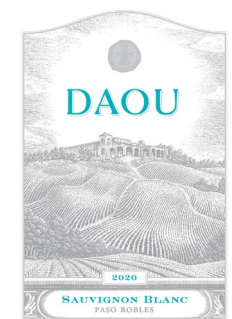
90 Artesa 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). A rich, tropical nose of guava starts this off on the nose. The lifted palate builds in richness, bringing forth flavors of pear and peach. Balanced by brisk acidity, it finishes with hint of ripe fruit. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18



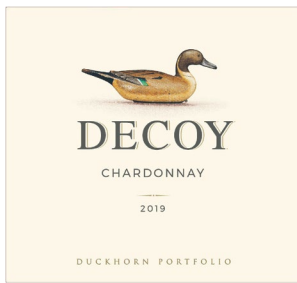
90 Cambria 2019 Tepusquet Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley). Dried lemon-peel, mango and persimmon aromas emerge on the nose of this bottling. There's a tart Meyer lemon edge to the palate, where cantaloupe and lychee flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$27



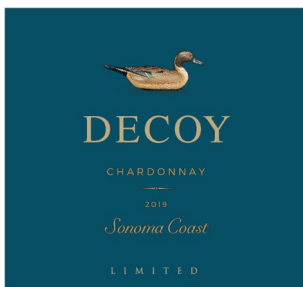
90 Cuvaison 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). This is an expansive and richly layered red, dense in black cherry and plum with seasonings of baking spice, molasses and cola. Approachable in style, it will appeal to a wide swath of palates and settings. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42



90 Daou 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Earthy aromas of dried lime peel, wet cement and muddy clay show on the nose of this bottling. The earthy element is strong on the palate, running from rainy cement to dried lawn clippings, with more hints of lime peel as well. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$17



90 **Decoy 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** This value-minded wine impresses in its freshness and balance. Bright, juicy apple, pear and banana blend with rich oak and baking spice. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



90 **Decoy 2019 Limited Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** A soft, approachable white with a succulence on the palate, this offers notes of Meyer lemon, apple, peach and melon. It is fruity at its core, with rich underlying elements of butterscotch, baking spice and oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30



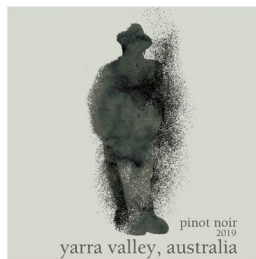
90 **Destinata 2020 Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** This is a juicy, chillable style of Syrah that starts with aromas of baked berry, fresh strawberry and plum. The palate picks up herbal tones of anise and mace, as jammy berry flavors sing toward the fun finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29



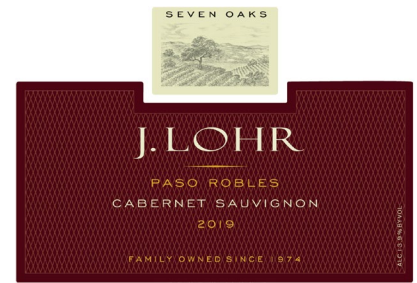
90 **Future Perfect 2020 Breakfast Wine Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** There are rich tones of baked apple and peach on the opulent and inviting nose of this bottling. The palate begins with a cement-like grip that yields to yellow pear and honey suckle flavors, and grows a tad more rich, bordering on sweet as it sits in the glass. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30



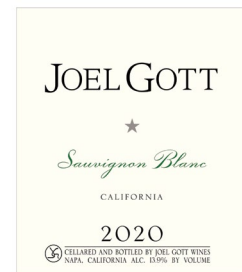
90 **G. H. Mumm NV Grand Cordon Brut (Champagne).** This Champagne is showing well. Touches of toast suggest bottle aging while the white fruits and flashes of citrus give freshness. This nonvintage cuvée is ready to drink. Pernod Ricard. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50



90 **Innocent Bystander 2019 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley).** Quiet at first, this wine needs plenty of swirling before it unfolds aromas of cherry, plum, crushed stone and whiffs of roasting herbs, spice and black olive. The palate is more powerful than the nose lets on, thanks to tightly wound, talc-like tannins. Brambly fruit is laced with spice. Drink now with decanter and a meal at the ready or wait until 2025. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



90 **J. Lohr 2019 Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Aromas of shaved cocoa and red cherry jam meet with a bit of smoke on the nose of this widely available yet reliable bottling. There is ample tension on the sip, giving the big-boned flavors of black cherry, incense and smoke the tannic edges to cling to. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17



90 **Joel Gott 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This fruity, sunny, exuberant wine is medium in weight and bursting with flavors of lime, golden apple and fresh thyme. It is poised between ripeness and crispness, which is a good place to be. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16



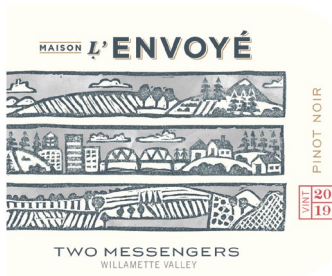
90 **Keush NV Origins Méthode Traditionnelle Brut (Vayots Dzor).** Pale straw in the glass, this wine features a persistent column of tiny bubbles. It has aromas of white peach and lemon curd and flavors of Granny Smith apple, Sevilla orange, nectarine, nutmeg and roasted fennel bulb. It is creamy on the palate and offers a surprisingly spicy finish. Storica Wines. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23



90 King Palm 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Clean aromas of Eureka lemon pith and yellow apple are sharp on the nose of this bottling. There's just enough lemon-peel-driven tension to the sip to hold up the poached pear, apple and sea salt flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25



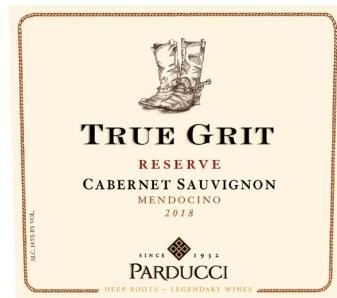
90 Landmark 2018 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). This wine is made in a voluptuously rich, hearty style, with dense layers of baked pear, apple and cinnamon. A touch of matchstick gives it earthiness and complexity. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45



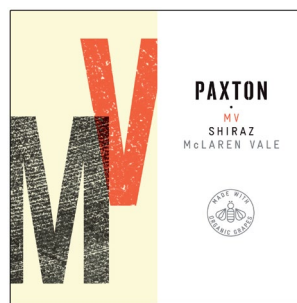
90 Maison L'Envoyé 2019 Two Messengers Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This Napa-based négociant makes a wide portfolio of Pinot, including several from the Willamette Valley. This is sharp and focused, framing moderately ripe cherry fruit with slightly bitter tannins. There is a touch of hard rubber and it finishes with a slightly burnt note; give it extra aeration to open up. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30



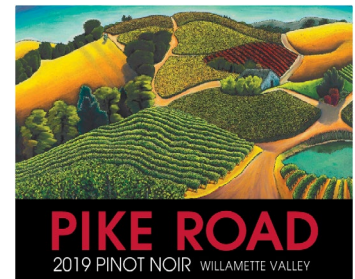
90 Montoya 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). This wine shows a mossy, wet cement aroma that's intriguing and adds to the more familiar apple scent. The palate turns those aspects into green peppercorn and nori wrap flavors, which are pleasantly unique. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Parducci 2018 True Grit Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). Complex oak spice dresses up this full-bodied, focused and nicely fruit-driven wine. Flashes of vanilla, cinnamon and a hint of char mesh well with the ripe black-cherry flavor. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



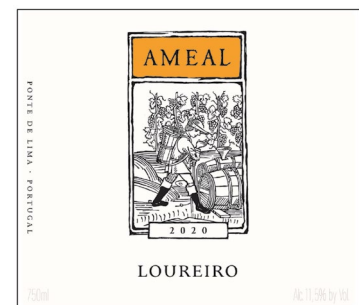
90 Paxton 2020 MV Made with Organic Grapes Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Typical of McLaren Vale, this isn't a timid Shiraz. It opens with plush brambly fruit backed by gentle notes of baking spice, savory herbs and sappy nuances. On the palate, the plump fruit and spice sit comfortably amid taut, woody tannins and lifted acidity. Cabernet Corporation. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22



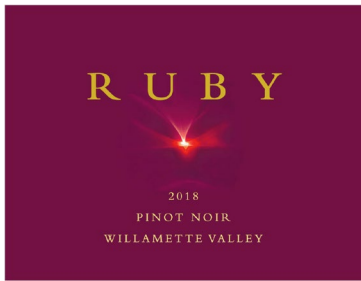
90 Pike Road 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The latest edition of this affordable Willamette Valley Pinot offers flavors that are solidly varietal and capture the vivid berry fruit and sappy acidity of the region. The tannins are just strong enough to frame it, with a trailing flavor of black tea. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



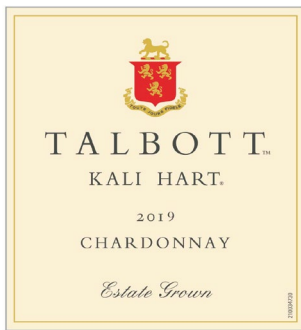
90 Pindar 2019 Reserve Barrel Select Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). Ripe red plum and blackberry aromas are in full force on the nose, grounded by accents of crushed herbs and cracked pepper. There's a generous feel to the medium-bodied palate, with plush berry flavors framed by polished tannins and integrated acidity. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35



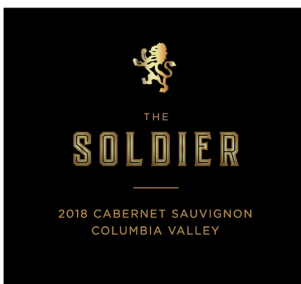
90 Quinta do Ameal 2020 Loureiro (Vinho Verde). Loureiro is the grape par excellence of the Lima Valley, home to this producer. With ripe lemon and pure green-fruit flavors, the wine is both textured and bright. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18



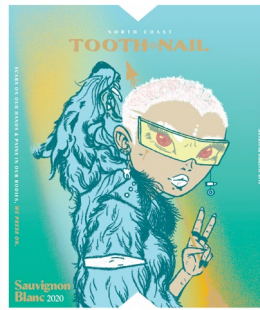
90 Ruby 2018 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Sharp and spicy, this has a generous mix of brambly berry, forest floor and peppery spice. It's showing a lightly chewy, tannic foundation and some gentle hints of chocolate trailing on the finish. It's balanced and enjoyable, and represents a good value in a Willamette Valley Pinot Noir from an excellent vintage. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29



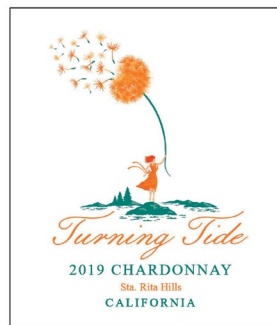
90 Talbott 2019 Kali Hart Estate Grown Chardonnay (Monterey). Toasted hazelnuts, coconut flake, walnut oil and fresh melon aromas kick off the nose in this bottling. The palate offers Marcona almond, dried lemon and light butter flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$23



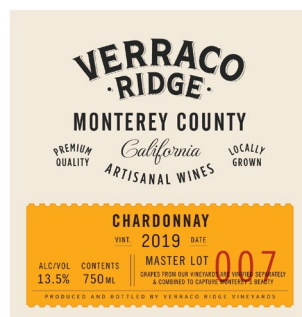
90 The Soldier 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The variety is unmistakable, with notes of fresh black currant, tar and herbs. There's delicacy but richness to the fruit flavors. It's a terrific value. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.04% **Price:** \$23



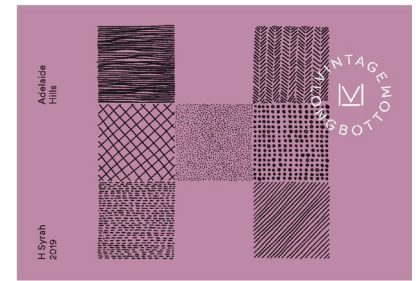
90 Tooth & Nail 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This crisp and concentrated wine offers lively, fresh citrus and thyme aromas, tangy lemon and green-apple flavors and a lip-smacking, appetizing texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20



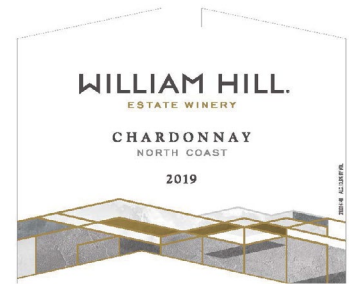
90 Turning Tide 2019 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Tightly woven aromas of citrus peel, blossom and citrus balm run from lime to orange on the nose of this bottling, which also shows some white-flower touches. The palate offers honeysuckle and pear flavors atop a smooth texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



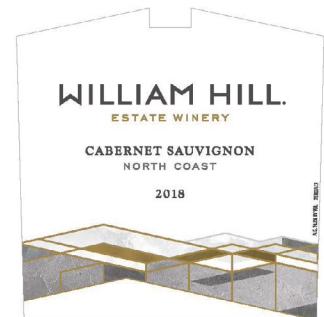
90 Verraco Ridge 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Opulent aromas of white peach, butter-fried apple and sea salt show on the nose of this bottling. It's more streamlined on the palate, with an acidic cut that runs through the plumeria, white peach and coconut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Vintage Longbottom 2019 H Syrah (Adelaide Hills). This modern Shiraz opens with a burst of grape jelly, although it steers clear of confection. Bass notes recall graphite, dried herb and spice. The bombastic fruit appears on the palate, but it feels fresh and juicy, with plenty of acidity. The tannins are chiseled, savory and chalky in texture. It's full in feel but not overly dense. Quintessential Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30



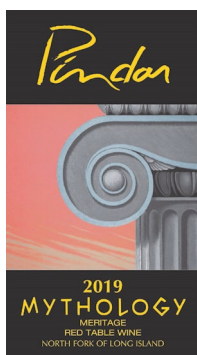
90 William Hill Estate 2019 Chardonnay (North Coast). A full body and plenty of toasted oak flavors give this wine a bold, expressive personality. It offers buttery aromas and pastry flavors alongside a lingering vanilla finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$17



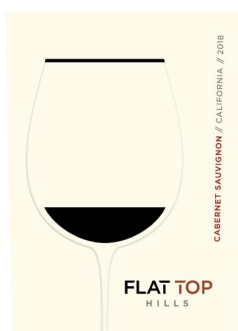
90 William Hill Estate 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). A nose of violets and black cherries leads to focused black-fruit flavors on a full body braced by moderate tannins. The wine is bold but also polished, showing a sleek texture and good length on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18



90 Zulal 2018 Areni (Vayots Dzor). Aromas of pomegranate and chocolate set the scene for flavors of strawberry, raspberry, white chocolate and anisette. Medium-weight tannins and a good mouthfeel lead into a licorice-tinged finish. Storica Wines. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20



89 Pindar 2019 Mythology Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). This blend of Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec offers a mix of bramble berry, blackberry and dark cherry perked up by clove and anise accents. The fruit, tannins and acidity are all integrated, leading to a glossy-textured outcome that will please many. —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

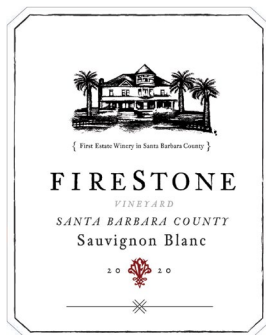


87 Flat Top Hills 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Aromas of vanilla and cherry cream lead to almost-sweet cherry and strawberry flavors in this relatively light and quite fruity wine. It will be good for casual occasions. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

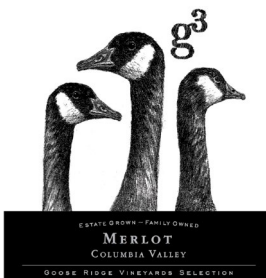
BEST BUYS



92 Bogle 2018 Phantom (California). Rich, layered and smooth, this opulent wine oozes blackberries, milk chocolate, vanilla and cinnamon as soft tannins give it a mouthfilling, velvety texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

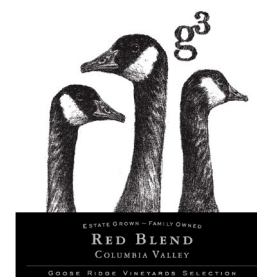


91 Firestone 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Tightly wound lime pith and grapefruit peel aromas meet with cut lawn and crushed cement on the nose of this bottling. It's tight and textural on the palate, where a grippy frame holds up lime, ash and grapefruit flavors, with a light white flower note coming through on the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$14

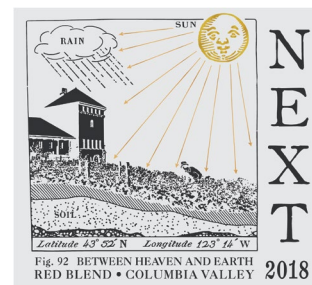


91 g3 2019 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Merlot (Columbia Valley). The aromas pop with fruit-filled notes of raspberry, red currant and plum, along with hints of fresh herbs. Delectable red-fruit flavors follow, bringing a surprising amount of heft and seriousness to find at this price. The tannins give a light squeeze. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



91 g3 2019 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Aromas of raspberry, peppery spice, dried orange peel and dark berry emerge. The black currant and plum flavors are rich and tasty, with the tannins giving a gentle squeeze. Give it a short decant. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15



91 Next 2018 Fig. 92 Between Heaven and Earth Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This is a blend of 40% Syrah, 40% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas offer appealing notes of plum, blueberry, cherry and graphite. Plush, palate-coating blue fruit flavors follow. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 13.82% **Price:** \$13



90 Acrobat 2019 Pinot Gris (Oregon). This wine is sappy and ripe, with tart and tangy flavors of citrus, white melon and apple. Fermented entirely in stainless steel, it gives you fruit all the way through the finish—it's clean, fresh and lively. **Best Buy.** —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

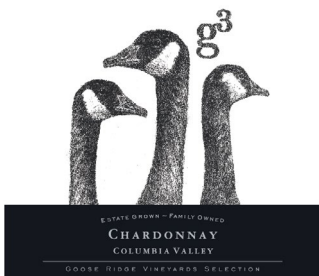
BEST BUYS



90 Bulgarianiana 2020 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). This straw-colored unoaked Chardonnay has aromas of white flowers, lemon curd and apple. It is well-balanced, with a good mouthfeel and flavors of lemon zest, white peach and apple. The finish is bright with ample acidity. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

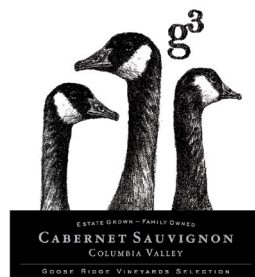


90 Bulgarianiana 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). This red offers aromas of black berry, black cherry and cinnamon. The palate shows flavors of black plum, cherry vanilla and baking spice. It is well balanced by velvety tannins and a soft yet persistent finish. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15



90 g3 2020 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). With grapes coming from the newly approved Goose Gap appellation, the aromas offer notes of toast, pear, papaya and butterscotch. The palate is creamy and full, with the variety unmistakable. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15

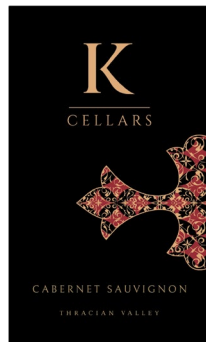
BEST BUYS



90 g3 2019 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine draws you into the glass with its pungent aromas of plum, black currant, licorice and soil along with a whiff of orange rind. Plump blue and black fruit flavors follow. There's plenty of structure behind it all. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$15

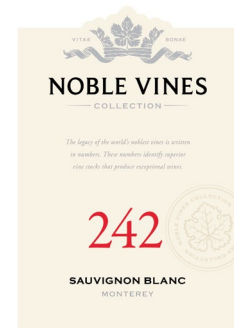


90 K Cellars 2020 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). This white offers aromas of apple, white flowers and lemon curd. It has flavors of white peach, lemon zest and apple and a good mouthfeel in the midpalate. The finish is bright and pleasantly acidic. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15



90 K Cellars 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). This ruby garnet-colored red offers aromas of baking spice, black berry and black cherry. The palate brings flavors of cherry vanilla, black plum and cinnamon. It has velvety tannins and is well balanced. The finish is soft and persistent. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

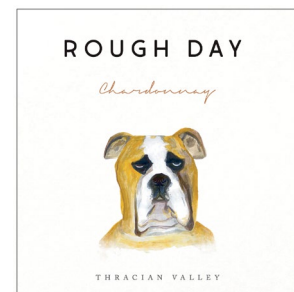
BEST BUYS



90 Noble Vines 2020 242 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). Light, fresh and easy on the nose, this bottling offers guava and grass aromas. There's sharp acidity and light grip on the palate, where brisk citrus and underripe mango flavors connect. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12



90 Parducci 2020 Small Lot Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino County). Flavorful elements of clay, green apple and light, fresh herbs combine well in this lively, medium- to full-bodied wine. A good sense of weight in the texture, along with fresh acidity, will help it pair nicely with richer foods. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15



90 Rough Day 2020 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). This unoaked Chardonnay has aromas of lemon curd, white flowers and apple. It is well balanced on the palate, with flavors of apple, lemon zest and white peach. The finish is pleasantly bright. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

BEST BUYS



89 Angove 2020 Naturalis Made with Organic Grapes Chardonnay (South Australia). This is a straightforward but well made Aussie Chard. Appealing aromas of lemon oil, lychee and tropical fruit are backed by subtle, toasty oak spice. In the mouth, the acidity is lifted but nicely balanced by the creamy texture. Trinchero Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

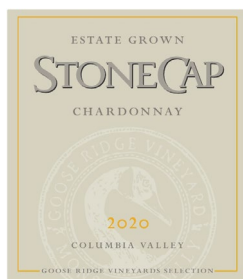


88 Dark Horse NV Sauvignon Blanc (California). With the savory appeal of freshly picked greens, this medium-bodied canned wine blends good, almost-sweet melony flavors with abundant snap-pea, celery and thyme accents. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$5/375 ml



88 Dark Horse 2020 Pinot Grigio (California). This medium-bodied wine combines the ripeness of honeydew melon with the crispness of Pippin apples for a refreshing and satisfying expression. Good acidity nicely balances the smooth texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

BEST BUYS



88 StoneCap 2020 Estate Grown Goose Ridge Vineyards Selection Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The aromas pop with notes of fresh apple, poached pear and a kiss of butterscotch. It's fresh and clean but also brings some weight and depth. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$10



87 Paringa 2018 Sparkling Shiraz (South Australia). This sparkling Shiraz opens with a prominent lift of herbs and flower stalks along with a sweet red-berry aroma. Chocolate and savory spice notes show as it opens. The palate is gently fizzy and the fruit is tangy, with a fuzzy texture. There's some residual sugar and a grip of grainy tannins, with sourness on the finish. Quintessential Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12



86 Barefoot NV Pinot Grigio (California). Straightforward and nicely fruity, this light-bodied wine offers mild apple and white peach flavors on a mostly soft texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$6

BEST BUYS



86 Los Monteros NV Brut Método Tradicional (Cava). This brut Cava offers a standard mouthfeel and solid overall balance. Yeast, apple and green melon flavors finish with a creamy note of cultured butter. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

SPIRITS

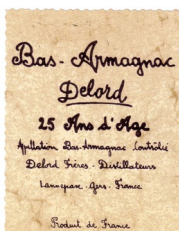


98 Gaspard de M. Single Estate Distillers Cut Bas Armagnac (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). The rich, bold, buttery aroma suggests brown sugar and cookie dough. The palate opens with oak, walnut, roasted nuts, ginger and a savory hint of mesquite, then leads into lush crème brûlée, dark chocolate and salted butterscotch.
abv: 45.3% **Price:** \$56



97 Dartigalongue Grande Eau-de-Vie Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Look for a deep amber hue and vanilla and toffee aromas in this 25-year-old bottling. Cocoa powder and crushed walnut lead into rich toffee, burnt caramel and roasted nuts, finishing with a lip-smacking hint of candied ginger heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$125

SPIRITS



Bas Armagnac Delord
Appellation Bas Armagnac Contrôlée
25 ans d'age
Aged minimum 25 years in oak barrels
PRODUCT OF FRANCE ALC.# % BY VOL. 750 ML

97 Delord 25 Ans d'Age Bas Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Vanilla bean and allspice aromas entice on the nose. The bold, complex palate opens with oak and caramel brushed with toffee and espresso, finishing with a grip of tannins and plum skin dryness. Walnut and clove frame the exit.

abv: 40%

Price: \$83



93 Chateau de Laubade 21 Years Old Bas Armagnac (France; Baron Francois, New York, NY). Maple and caramel aromas lead the nose. The first spicy sips smolder with cayenne and cinnamon, smoothed by vanilla and orange peel tones. The long finish offers mouthwatering hints of plum, ripe peach and a final echo of spice.

abv: 45.3%

Price: \$100

93 Pfeffingen 2019 Herrenberg Riesling GG Trocken Grosse Lage Gold kap (Pfalz). The limestone-rich Herrenberg vineyards are reflected well in this decadently ripe but luminous expression of dry Riesling. It's a powerful, hefty wine for sure in both body and alcohol, yet its fresh white peach and pear flavors are pristine, accented by hints of chalk and salt as well as a bright spine of lime acidity. Welcoming young but should improve through 2030 and hold further. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

RIESLING KABINETT

93 Karthäuserhof 2019 Eitelbacher Karthäuserhofberg Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage (Mosel). While feather light on the palate, this piercing kabinett offers layers of pure, pulsing Mirabelle and gooseberry flavors anchored by a steely, electric spine. Perfumed by green florals and laced with a kiss of sweetness, it's a thirst quenching, lip smacking Riesling that's ideal young as an aperitif but capable of gaining more earthen complexities for a decade or longer. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$44

93 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2019 Saar Scharzhofberger Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Consistently delightful and classically expressive, the Saar Scharzhofberger never fails to encapsulate those smoky, salty, gloriously slate-struck complexities that scream Mosel kabinett. Its unabashedly ripe in grapefruit and lemon this vintage but dazzling in acidity and edged by just a frill of sweetness that lingers on the finish. Light bodied yet piercing, it's a favorite young but improves for at least a decade and holds longer still. American B.D. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$28

92 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2019 Graach Josephshöfer Grosse Lage Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Tropical notes of guava and pineapple are struck by crushes of salt and smoke in this intensely fruity, juicy Riesling kabinett. Just a shade sweet and profoundly ripe in fruit, it's an opulent expression of the Mosel but maintains a zingy, steely edge and fine, filigreed finish. Ready now but should maintain peak through 2030 and hold further. American B.D. —A.I.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$29

92 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2019 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage (Mosel). White- peach and pink-grapefruit flavors are profoundly ripe in this nectar-like, remarkably fleshy kabinett. A deeply concentrated product of a hot vintage, it's a hedonistic, delicately sweet expression of the Mosel that somehow still retains characteristic stony, smoky nuances and a pert acidic frame. It's delicious now but should

improve through 2030 and hold further. American B.D. —A.I.

abv: 10%

Price: \$28

92 Ulrich Langguth 2019 Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Gunflint and crushed slate introduce this spicy, smoky feinherb kabinett. Despite an intensely hot vintage, it balances ripe yellow-plum and gooseberry flavors with a zippy, spine tingling frame of acidity and a delicacy of texture that's refreshing. It's just a hint off dry but delightfully lip smacking on the finish. Hard to resist drinking this one young but it will gain unique complexities through 2030 as well. Miller Squared Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$20

92 Willems-Willems 2019 Saar Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Crushed graphite and tangs of steel announce this spine tingling, saber-edged Riesling. It's a riper expression of the Mosel with juicy yellow-plum and gooseberry flavors but cut by shards of slate and racy, exhilarating acidity. Most won't perceive sweetness on the palate here but there's just enough there to make the finish mouthwatering. Delicious young yet likely to hold well through 2026. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 10%

Price: \$23

92 Willi Haag 2020 Juffer Brauneberg Riesling Kabinett Grosse Lage (Mosel). Swathes of orange blossom and gardenia notes perfume this exuberant, perfumed kabinett. While off-dry in style, it's a richly extracted, intensely ripe Riesling packed with honeyed white-peach and grapefruit flavors. Textural and mouthclinging but held upright by a steely mineral core and lip smacking acidity, it's a hedonistic wine that's irresistible young but likely to improve through 2030 and hold further as well. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 9%

Price: \$22

91 Karthäuserhof 2020 Bruno Slate Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Notes of gun flint, smoke and chalk lend a spine tingling mineral edge to this zippy, salt-struck Riesling. Feinherb, or just a whisper sweet in style, it's a lip smacking, addictively quaffable sip juxtaposing pert grapefruit and lime against a steely frame of acidity. Irresistible young but should hold through 2025. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$22

91 Kloster Eberbach 2019 Crescentia Steinberger Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). Spicy, earthen notes of honeycomb and struck slate mingle into lavish pineapple and peach on the palate of this delectably juicy Riesling kabinett. It's sumptuously off-dry in style, balancing zippy, sun-kissed tangerine acidity with hints of honey and a lip smacking grapefruit finish. A youthful delight now but should maintain peak through 2025 at least. Boutinot USA, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 8%

Price: \$30

90 Lucashof 2020 Forster Riesling Kabinett (Pfalz). Sun-drenched apricot, mango and yellow peach flavors abound in this ripe, almost tropical, off-dry Riesling. Intensely fruity yet edged by smoky mineral tones and a zingy acidic edge, it's a delightfully spry, fruit-focused kabinett with a lingering, honeyed finish. A fantastic bargain for such fun, quaffable sip. Best enjoyed through 2025. HB Wine Merchants. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

90 Mönchhof 2019 Ürzig Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Sweet-tart Mirabelle and grapefruit flavors are dusted with crushed white peppercorns and struck slate here. Laced by hints of caramelized honey, it's delectably ripe in fruit but maintains a thrilling acidic balance and a chalky, lip smacking mineral finish. A shade off dry and sprightly on the palate, it's an easy drinking Riesling that's ideal young. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$28

89 Heinz Eifel 2020 Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Hints of smoky, spicy Mosel minerality accent juicy grapefruit and yellow-cherry flavors in this ripe and lusciously textured but zippy kabinett. Just a hint off-dry in style, it's a refreshing, satisfyingly fruity sip best enjoyed young. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$12

89 Karl Erbes 2019 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Profoundly ripe, almost fleshy honeydew and grapefruit flavors coat the palate in this bold, fruity kabinett. Drenched in honey and nectar yet balanced by crisp lemon-lime acidity and a sheen of crushed stone and smoke, it's a wine that begs to be enjoyed young. Artisans & Vines. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Studert-Prüm 2020 Maximinhof Wehler Sonnenuhr Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Apricot and yellow peach notes are intensely ripe, almost candied, in this nectar-like off-dry Riesling. While light in body, it's deeply honeyed and luscious in texture. With a lingering finish marked by slightly earthen nuances of burnt saffron and crushed stone, it's a robust expression of Mosel Riesling that's ideal for youthful drinking. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$22

89 Villa Huesgen 2019 Enkircher Steffensberg Riesling Kabinett Feinherb (Mosel). Rich and lavishly textural, this concentrated feinherb, or slightly off-dry, Riesling offers the density and heft of an exceptionally hot vintage but maintains a steely, stone spine that's refreshing. Yellow cherry and pink-grapefruit flavors are fleshy and ripe, fringed by a twist of tea tannins and soft, sunny acidity. A wine that's welcoming young but likely to hold well through 2025. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$22

87 Carl Ehrhard 2019 Rüdeshheim Berg Roseneck Riesling Kabinett (Rheingau). Lifted aromas of pressed apples and banana peels accent this off-dry Riesling kabinett. Light bodied but ripe and round in fruit profile, its apple and tangerine flavors have a delicately spicy, coppery tinge. Pertly balanced, it's a refreshing wine best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$19

87 Karl Josef 2020 Piesporter Michelsberg Riesling Kabinett (Mosel). Juicy lime and gooseberry notes abound in this very fruity, easy drinking kabinett. Off dry and blossomy in style, it's a bold, primary sip with just a hint of slaty minerality on the finish for elegance. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$11

RIESLING AUSLESE

98 Dr. Loosen 2018 Erdener Prälat Riesling Auslese Gold Capsule (Mosel). Luscious notes of apricot preserve, honey and marmalade combine in this powerfully concentrated auslese. Sourced from red-slate soils of the Erdener Prälat vineyard, it's intensely fruity and lusciously sweet but spicy and earthen too, accented by hints of ash, saffron and struck slate. Supple and dainty yet nervous with an electric tension, it's a fantastic wine to enjoy young or to mature for decades to come. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$114/375 ml

98 Robert Weil 2019 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Trockenbeeren Riesling Auslese (Rheingau). Dustings of stone, salt and saffron lend freshness to powerfully ripe, concentrated flavors of mango, pineapple preserve and marmalade here. It's lusciously and honeyed, filling the palate with pools of rich, sweet yellow fruit juxtaposed by a nervous, spine tingling frame of acidity. While irresistible young as an accompaniment to foie gras or cheese, it should gain more earthen, mineral complexities as it improves for decades to come. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$700/375 ml

97 Dr. Loosen 2018 Ürziger Würzgarten Riesling Auslese (Mosel). While demure and intently mineral on the nose, yellow cherry, mango and apricot flavors are explosively ripe on the palate of this feather-light powerhouse. Sourced from the blazing red, iron-rich soils of the Ürziger Würzgarten vineyard, it's a classically tropical, spicy-sweet wine that juxtaposes lipsmacking nectar against a spine tingling acidic frame. A wine that's hedonistic young but capable of improving for decades upon decades to come. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$64/375 ml

RIESLING BEERENAUSLESE

99 Schloss Johannisberger 2018 Purpurtack Riesling Beerenauslese (Rheingau). Seductive notes of rose petal, violet and saffron perfume this intoxicating, delicately spicy Riesling. Lusciously sweet and decadently concentrated, it's packed with succulent flavors of pineapple, golden raisin and yellow peach. It's remarkable how much power and penetration such a light-footed wine can have but this wine's a stunner now and sure to improve for decades upon decades to come. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$300/375 ml

98 Robert Weil 2019 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Riesling Beerenauslese (Rheingau). Notes of preserved apricot and yellow peach are pure and profoundly concentrated from nose to finish in this honeyed, caramel-kissed beerenauslese. It's a gloriously ripe, lusciously sweet wine with a creamy, mouthfilling demeanor struck by an electric shock of acidity and lingering hints of saffron and struck slate. Complex and decadent, it's ready to drink now but will improve for decades to come. Loosen Bros. USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$340/375 ml

93 Weingut Karp-Schreiber 2018 Brauneberger Juffer- Sonnenuhr Riesling Beerenauslese (Mosel). Delicate hints of tea leaf and saffron lend complexity to succulent, sweet flavors of preserved peach and apricot marmalade here. It's a delicate, darting wine that packs a deeply concentrated punch of sweetness balanced by spine tingling acidity and a subtly earthen, spicy undertone. At peak now—2035 but will hold much further. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$47/375 ml

OTHER RIESLING

95 Weingut Karp-Schreiber 2018 Brauneberger Juffer- Sonnenuhr Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese (Mosel). Honey and saffron meld into unctuous streaks of apricot confiture and golden raisin in this light-footed but intensely concentrated Riesling. A trockenbeerenauslese concentrated in sweetness on the vine for months, it coats the palate in swirls of sun-drenched yellow fruit and a lingering, delicately spicy finish. At peak now—2035 but will hold for decades. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$102/375 ml

93 Karthäuserhof 2019 Schieferkristall Trocken Riesling (Mosel). This feather-light dry Riesling announces itself with peels of white flower, tea leaf and honeydew perfume. Delightfully fragrant and transcendent in fruit quality, it's a sleek, zippy sip with a dazzling mineral finish. It's such a youthful, pretty wine now, it's hard not to drink immediately but should maintain peak well

through 2026. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$39

92 Kloster Eberbach 2019 Crescentia Rauenthaler Baiken Riesling Spätlese (Rheingau). Bold in fruit and almost tropical in ripeness, this light-footed but sun-drenched, semidry Riesling highlights fleshy white peach and guava flavors. It's a richly textured wine with a lingering veil of sweetness on the finish but maintains a delicately earthen, mineral undertow that lends complexity. A hedonistic delight young but should hold well through 2030. Boutinot USA, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8% Price: \$30

92 Willems-Willems 2019 Auf der Lauer Riesling Feinherb (Mosel). Delicate kisses of mango and guava lend tropical twists to this gorgeously salty, mineral wine. It's a touch softer and riper in fruit than the producer's Saar kabinet feinherb, but still maintains that piercing acidic edge and smoky, gun-flint finish that's undeniably Mosel. With just a glimpse of sweetness on the palate, it's an effortlessly refreshing yet complex wine that's at peak now–2026. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$23

92 Willi Haag 2019 Halbtrocken Riesling (Mosel). Crisp yellow pear and fragrant orange blossom introduce this irresistibly juicy, thirst quenching Riesling. Feather light and piercing in style, there's just a glimpse of sweetness here, likely unperceived by most tasters. Zippy lime and lemon flavors are rimmed with salt and a kiss of bitter grapefruit pith. A gorgeous, elegant quaffer that's ideal for youthful consumption. Artisans & Vines. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$24

91 Villa Huesgen 2019 Schiefer Riesling Trocken Trabener Würzgarten (Mosel). Crisp honeydew melon and lime flavors are etched with salt, slate and smoky mineral tones in this sprightly dry Riesling. It's a sunny, fresh-fruited wine but electric in profile, finishing on zippy streaks of lemony acidity and a lip smacking spicy, earthen finish. Delicious young but should hold through 2026. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12% Price: \$32

90 Karthäuserhof 2019 Bruno Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel). Intensely fruity notes of yellow cherry and tart tangerine are juxtaposed with salty, slaty minerality in this zesty, light-bodied dry Riesling. It's fresh-fruited appeal makes it an easy drinking sip but there's plenty of smoky, earthen complexities throughout. At peak now–2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$22

90 Mönchhof 2019 Riesling (Mosel). Bold dashes of white pepper, ash and crushed stone go toe-to-toe with scintillating nectarine and grapefruit flavors here. Semi dry and richly extracted, it's a powerfully ripe yet light-bodied

Riesling balanced neatly by a brisk undertow of acidity. Best now–2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$28

89 Villa Huesgen 2019 Alte Reben Enkircher Steffensberg Wurzelecht Dry Riesling (Mosel). Subtle and earthen from nose to finish, this fruity, briskly balanced dry Riesling highlights plump yellow plum, lemon and tangerine flavors edged by hints of saffron. Light bodied and spry, it's a wine best enjoyed now–2026. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

88 Schnaitmann 2019 Schnait Riesling (Württemberg). Freshly pressed apples, tangerines and lemons are dusted with cinnamon and allspice in this light-bodied but juicy dry Riesling. Honeyed in tone and accented by hints of earth and stone, it's a ripe, thirst quenching wine best enjoyed young. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 12% Price: \$26

88 Von Schleinitz 2019 VS Dry Riesling (Mosel). While demure on the nose, there's plenty of juicy melon, lime and lemon flavors on the palate of this dry but fruit-forward Riesling. Light bodied but plush and ripe, it's an easy drinking wine ideal as an aperitif or summer quaffer. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$16

SCHEUREBE

95 Pfeffingen 2019 O Gold Cap Scheurebe (Pfalz). Whispers of smoked hazelnut and biscotti mingle into plump lychee and white peach in this glorious, textured wine. Matured in oak but fragrant and illuminating in fruit, it's a penetrating, seductively spicy wine with an endlessly cream finish. Named "O" because it's likely to incite a chorus of "ohhhhhh's" upon tasting, it's a fantastic treat young with enough stuffing to mature well through 2027 at least. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

93 Pfeffingen 2019 Dry Scheurebe (Pfalz). Scheurebe isn't a well-known grape, but especially if you're trying it for the first time, there's no better producer to seek than Pfeffingen. This approachably priced dry bottling offers bright, zippy gooseberry and lychee flavors bathed in a spry, blossomy perfume. A penetrating, freshly balanced wine that's delightful young. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

92 Hans Wirsching 2019 Trocken Scheurebe (Franken). Initial whiffs of smoke and crushed stone open to rose petal and pink grapefruit on the palate of this bright, floral dry white. Light in body yet piercing with lychee and lemon flavors, it's a fresher, zippier alternative to Gewürztraminer with a thirst quenching mineral finish. Best enjoyed

now–2025. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

92 SJ Montigny 2017 Kreuznacher St Martin Spätlese Gewürztraminer (Nahe). Rose petals, white peach and lychees extend from nose to finish in this exceptionally light-footed, perfumed Gewürztraminer. Medium-sweet in style, it's exhilarating and fresh with a pert spine of lemon-lime acidity and a lingering veil of sweetness on the finish. Drinks gorgeously young but should maintain peak through 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 9% Price: \$20

87 Sun Garden 2019 Gewürztraminer (Pfalz). Aromas of rose petals, candied ginger and cardamom waft from this rich, creamy Gewürztraminer. It's an opulent wine bursting with classic lychee, mandarin orange and melon flavors and just a touch of tea tannins on the finish. Uncomplicated and juicy, it's best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. *Best Buy*. —A.I.
abv: 12% Price: \$11

86 Leonard Kreusch 2020 Estate Label Gewürztraminer (Rheinhessen). Bold dashes of white pepper, ginger and anise mark this juicy, intensely fruity white. Robust in body and luscious in texture, it highlights fleshy yellow peach and mango flavors rimmed by a delicate grip of tannins. Best enjoyed young. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$16

WEISSER BURGUNDER

96 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2019 Im Sonnenschein GG Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz). Powerfully concentrated yet svelte and steely, this full-bodied dry Weisburgunder, or Pinot Blanc, is an expression of Rebholz's flagship GG, or grand-cru Im Sonnenschein vineyard. It's richly concentrated in pear and Meyer-lemon flavors but brilliantly stony on the palate. Creamy in texture yet vibrantly balanced in acidity, it's a wine that's just approaching peak but likely to improve through 2035 and hold further. Sourced from biodynamic grapes. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$119

95 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2019 Vom Muschelkalk Trocken Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz). Crisp green plums and white grapefruit are accented by sprays of salty, chalky minerality in this full-bodied but svelte Weissburgunder, or Pinot Blanc. Sourced from biodynamically farmed grapes and vinified entirely in stainless steel, it's a dry, opulent wine that's firmly focused on fruit and the estate's limestone soils. Approachable now but should hit peak from 2023–2030 and hold further. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$67

92 Friedrich Becker 2019 Trocken Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz). A swathe of orange blossom perfume introduces this pert, juicy Pinot Blanc, known as Weissburgunder in Germany. It's a succulent dry white packed with ripe, sun-kissed white peach and lemon flavors that seem to pool in swirls of silk on the palate. Crisp in acidity and chalky on the finish, it's lovely young but likely to hold through 2025. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Willems-Willems 2019 Dry Pinot Blanc (Mosel). A rare example of Mosel Pinot Blanc, this zippy, fresh-fruited white puts ripe but pristine Mirabelle and grapefruit flavors on center stage. It's rich in concentration yet exceptionally light on its feet, anchored by a zesty streak of lime acidity and just a touch of smoky minerality on the finish. Irresistible young but should hold through 2025. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2019 Trocken Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz). A bright, charming introduction to this producer's majestic Weissburgunder, or Pinot Blanc, offerings, this dry, full-bodied white highlights juicy, mouthwatering Asian pear and lemon flavors. Sprightly in texture and effortlessly thirst quenching, it's a crowd pleaser with a zesty mineral spine and delicately spicy finish best enjoyed now—2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Salwey 2019 Kabinett Dry Pinot Blanc (Baden). Delicate whiffs of toast and sweet spice introduce this juicy, bright-fruited Pinot Blanc. Dry on the palate yet packed with ripe, fleshy pear, lemon and grapefruit flavors, it's a mouthwatering, crisply balanced wine with an elegantly smoky finish. At peak now—2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

WHITE BLENDS

85 Leonard Kreusch 2020 Liebfraumilch (Rheinhausen). Soapy green-floral aromas and ripe white peach and lemon flavors mark this blend of Müller-Thurgau, Silvaner, Riesling, Scheurebe and Ortega grapes. It's an uncomplicated, fleshy wine that unabashedly fruity and primary but balanced by bright tangerine acidity and a touch of nuttiness on the finish. Best enjoyed young. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$10

85 Leonard Kreusch 2020 Piesporter Michelsberg (Mosel). This blend of Müller-Thurgau and Riesling grapes offers slightly candied apple flavors marked by lemon and smoky nut tones. Light in body and medium sweet in style, it's an uncom-

plicated, fruity sip best enjoyed young. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Leonard Kreusch 2020 Weinkellerei Kreusch Spätlese (Rheinhausen). This medium-sweet blend incorporates unusual white grapes like Faberrebe and Bacchus as well as Riesling and Silvaner. While earthen and smoky upon opening, it's quite candied on the palate, highlighting notes of melon, mango and tangerine. A soft, mouthclinging wine best enjoyed young. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

85 Leonard Kreusch 2020 Zeller Schwartz Katz (Mosel). Soapy floral notes and intensely ripe, candied yellow cherry and guava notes abound in this easy drinking, semisweet blend of Müller-Thurgau and Riesling. While soft and a bit confectionery in fruit tones, it's balanced by sunny lemon acidity. Best enjoyed young. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$11

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2018 Hansjörg Rebholz R Chardonnay (Pfalz). Seductive notes of charred vanilla bean, smoke and caramel adorn this lavish yet smartly poised Chardonnay. Unctuously creamy but pertly balanced in acidity, it highlights pure, pristine red apple and lemon flavors as well as a dazzling mineral streak. It's drinking beautifully already but likely to improve through 2035 and hold further. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$88

96 Hans Wirsching 2018 Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg Silvaner Beerenauslese Gold Cap (Franken). Pure, pristine grapefruit and white pear amass power and richness from nose to finish in this dazzling beerenauslese Silvaner. It's feather-light in footprint but unctuous in texture, filling the palate with waves of sweet white peach and honey flavors. Etched by a finely filigreed sheen of cut stone and salt, it's a stunning sweet wine in youth that will improve for decades. The German Wine Collection. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$NA

92 Friedrich Becker 2019 Becker Family Pinot Gris (Pfalz). While universally recognized as a white wine, Pinot Gris is actually a pink grape and this delicate, pale-pink sip is a delightful reminder of this grape variety's spicy, berry-scented demeanor. While zesty and spry, it's a lusciously textured wine packed with juicy grapefruit and pear flavors as well as a lingering grip of tea tannins. Ready to drink now but should maintain peak through 2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Salwey 2019 Kabinett Dry Pinot Gris (Baden). Penetrating grapefruit and lemon

flavors are spiced with hints of caramelized ginger and white pepper in this zingy, silk-textured Pinot Gris. Harvested ripe yet vinified fully dry, it's a richly extracted, stately white fringed by a pleasant grip of grape-skin tannins on the finish. Delicious young but structured enough to maintain peak through 2026. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2019 Muskateller Trocken (Pfalz). Muskateller is Germany's Muscat and it's a rarity in the United States but this floral, musky white is worth seeking out. Dry and quite zippy in style, it's a lean, steely expression of Muscat marked by piercing lychee and tangerine flavors and a spicy, peppery finish. Best enjoyed now—2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$42

88 Ulrich Langguth 2019 Madeleine vom Grauschiefer Reichensteiner (Mosel). Reichensteiner is a rare white grape, rarely found in the Mosel (let alone anywhere else), produced by crossing Müller-Thurgau with another cross of Madeleine Angevine and Early Calabrese. This dry, medium-bodied bottling introduces has that classically smoky, slaty Mosel nose, but follows with a plush palate of rich yellow plum and grapefruit flavors. Rounder and sunnier in acidity than Riesling, it's an unusual wine with a delicately earthen undertone best enjoyed young. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

86 Leonard Kreusch 2018 Estate Label Huxelrebe Beerenauslese (Rheinhausen). Bright white peach and grapefruit flavors are shaded by hints of earth and smoke in this juicy but slightly savory dessert wine. It's light in body but lusciously textured, a honeyed sip best enjoyed now—2025. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$25/375 ml

LOMBARDY

VALTELLINA SUPERIORE

98 Arpepe 2013 Sassella Rocce Rosse Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). Made in high-altitude mountain vineyards, this classy, fragrant Nebbiolo combines structure, depth, elegance and personality. It features enticing scents of pressed rose, Alpine herb, new leather, camphor and wild red berry while the lithe, delicious palate delivers raspberry compote, cinammon, tobacco and star anise alongside firm but extremely refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it impeccably balanced and energized while a flinty mineral note lingers on the close. Just gorgeous. Drink through 2043. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$110

96 Arpepe 2013 Inferno Sesto Canto (Valtellina Superiore). Made in high-altitude mountain vineyards, this classy, fragrant Nebbiolo combines structure, depth, elegance and personality. It fea-

tures enticing scents of pressed rose, Alpine herb, new leather, camphor and wild red red berry while the lithe, delicious palate delivers raspberry compote, cinammon, tobacco and star anise alongside firm but extremely refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it impeccably balanced and energized while a flinty mineral note lingers on the close. Just gorgeous. Drink through 2043. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$110

95 La Perla Marco Triacca 2015 Elisa Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). Showing its Valtellina and Nebbiolo pedigree, this stunner opens with heady scents of smoky flint, Alpine herb, dried rose petal and camphor. The linear palate has tension and finesse, featuring dried cherry, blood orange, oak-driven spice and saline mineral notes set against a backbone of fine-grained tannins. Drink 2022–2030. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

94 Arpepe 2017 Sassella Stella Retica (Valtellina Superiore). Fragrant and loaded with finesse, this lovely red opens with heady aromas of woodland berry, wild rose and camphor. Lithe and delicious, the elegant palate offers juicy red cherry, crushed strawberry, baking spice and a tangy mineral note suggesting granite. It's well balanced, with polished tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2032. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

94 Arpepe 2013 Grumello Sant'Antonio (Valtellina Superiore). All about finesse and depth, this opens with enticing scents recalling underbrush, dried rose petal, camphor and perfumed berry. Structured and linear, the elegant palate features dried cherry, spiced cranberry and star anise set against a saline mineral note. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity keep it vibrant. Already enjoyable, it also offers very good aging potential. Drink through 2033. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Arpepe 2017 Il Pettiroso (Valtellina Superiore). Pressed rose, wild berry, smoke and dried Alpine herb aromas emerge from the glass. The graceful palate offers red cherry, cranberry and star anise alongside a salty mineral note while deft tannins provide lithe support. Fans of concentrated, muscular wines may find it too ethereal but lovers of finesse will be smitten. Drink through 2026. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

93 La Perla Marco Triacca 2016 La Mossa (Valtellina Superiore). Aromas of camphor, wild herb and dark spice are front and center while a whiff of dried rose fills in the background. Structured and all about finesse, the savory palate has racy tension, offering red cherry, crushed raspberry and star anise alongside a mineral vein of granite. Taut, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity keep it balanced and energized. Drink 2022–2031. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 Cantina Menegola 2013 Sassella Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). Camphor, underbrush, smoky flint and oak-driven spice aromas waft out of the glass along with a whiff of prune. Polished and medium-bodied, the elegant palate offers dried cherry, licorice, carob and salty mineral notes alongside smooth, velvety tannins. Drink through 2028. Gioia Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

92 Nera 2015 Sassella Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). Aromas of camphor, Christmas cake and baked plum shape the nose. Made with late-harvested grapes, the enveloping palate is also rather light on its feet and already enjoyable, delivering ripe black cherry, star anise, vanilla and almond liqueur notes alongside velvety tannins. It's already accessible but also offers several more years of pleasure. Drink through 2027. Masciarelli Wine Co. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 Nino Negri 2017 Grumello Sassorosso (Valtellina Superiore). This opens with aromas of wild berry, baking spice and camphor. Packaged in an extremely heavy bottle, the wine itself is lithe and elegantly structured, featuring juicy Marasca cherry, star anise and crushed mint flavors framed in firm but refined tannins. Drink through 2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

92 Nino Negri 2017 Mazèr (Valtellina Superiore). Underbrush, dark-skinned berry and a whiff of menthol make their way to the forefront along with a whiff of blue flower. On the structured, elegant palate, taut, fine-grained tannins frame dried cherry, baking spice and a hint of licorice. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

92 Scerscé 2018 Sassella Incanto (Valtellina Superiore). Camphor, wild rose, forest berry and hints of graphite and vanilla lead the way on this fragrant red. Linear and elegantly structured, the firm palate features red cherry, pomegranate and licorice alongside firm, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it energized. Drink 2024–2033. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

91 Caven 2015 Giupa Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). Made with late-harvested grapes, this has subtle aromas evoking camphor, fruitcake, violet and marzipan. The round, mid-weight palate offers rich flavors of fig, prune, licorice and espresso alongside polished, enveloping tannins. Drink through 2025. Girasole Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

91 Nera 2015 Grumello Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). Made with partially withered, late-harvested grapes, this has aromas of scorched earth, dried aromatic herb, new leather and a whiff of prune. On the medium-bodied palate, polished tannins accompany fig, baked plum and a note of black

tea before an almond finish. Drink through 2027. Masciarelli Wine Co. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 Nera 2017 Valgella Belviso 1380 Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). Bright and savory, this mountain Nebbiolo has pretty aromas of blue flower, Alpine herb, red berry and a whiff of sun-warmed hay. On the polished palate, refined tannins accompany juicy Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, a hint of coffee bean and star anise. Drink through 2027. Wide Roots. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 Nino Negri 2016 Valgella Vigneto Fracia (Valtellina Superiore). Aromas of underbrush, menthol and French oak form the nose. Mirroring the aromas, the palate offers vanilla, coconut and black currant jam alongside fine-grained tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$47

91 Scerscé 2018 Inferno Fiammante (Valtellina Superiore). Rose, Alpine herb and camphor aromas form the alluring nose. Lithe and austere, the tightly wound but elegant palate offers sour cherry, blood orange and star anise alongside taut tannins. Bright acidity keeps it fresh. Drink 2024–2030. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

90 Arpepe 2017 Inferno Fiamme Antiche (Valtellina Superiore). Subtle aromas recalling new leather, sun-warmed flint and dried Alpine herb mingle together in the glass along with a whiff of forest floor. Firm and linear, the elegantly structured palate offers dried cherry, star anise and a mineral note of wet stone alongside taut, refined tannins. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$67

89 Scerscé 2017 Valgella Cristina Scarpellini Riserva (Valtellina Superiore). The nose is rather shy but eventually reveals whiffs of wet stone, forest floor and crushed mint. The austere palate is lean and restrained, recalling unripe cherry, black tea and a note of coffee bean framed in tightly wound tannins that leave a firm, mouth-drying close. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

88 Nino Negri 2017 Inferno (Valtellina Superiore). Aromas of Alpine herb, orange zest and the barest whiff of star anise emerge from the glass. Lean and linear, the rather austere palate recalls tart cherry, coffee bean and a hint of nut alongside firm tannins that leave a tight finish. It cries out for food. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

OTHER RED WINES

93 Arpepe 2019 Rosso (Valtellina). Showing the youthful side of Nebbiolo, this fantastic red from the mountains opens with heady scents of

BUYINGGUIDE

fragrant blue flower, ripe wild berry and camphor. Lithe and bright, the vibrant, delicious palate offers pristine fruit sensations of juicy red cherry, ripe strawberry and baking spice alongside glossy tannins and fresh acidity. A salty mineral note lingers on the close. Enjoy through 2024. USA Wine West. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Nera 2016 Sforzato di Valtellina. For full review see page 15.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

WHITE WINE

86 Tommasi 2020 Le Fornaci (Lugana). Aromas of honeysuckle and tropical fruit lead the nose on this simple white. Reflecting the aromas, the easygoing palate recalls pineapple packed in syrup and green melon alongside rather tangy acidity. Vintus LLC. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

ROSATO

88 Cà Maiol 2020 Chiaretto Valtènesi (Riviera del Garda Classico). Delicate aromas of hay, red berry and chamomile form the nose. Bright and tangy, the fresh palate offers sour cherry and pomegranate alongside a dash of white pepper. Santa Margherita USA. —K.O.

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

PIEDMONT

BAROLO

96 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2017 Cannubi (Barolo). Intensely fragrant, this boasts enticing floral scents of rose and iris that mingle with red berry and camphor. Featuring a heady combination of finesse, structure and accessibility, the smooth, delicious palate delivers crushed raspberry, strawberry compote and star anise alongside a backbone of polished tannins. Drink 2024–2032. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$138

95 Damilano 2013 Cannubi Riserva (Barolo). Underbrush, new leather and iris aromas form the expressive nose along with a whiff of woodland berry. Full-bodied and enveloping, the taut, elegantly structured palate offers dried black cherry, licorice, mocha and tobacco framed in firm, fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced and energized. Drink through 2033. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$350

94 Bric Cenciurio 2016 Barolo. Enticing aromas of violet, underbrush and new leather lead the way. The full bodied, savory palate offers juicy black cherry, raspberry jam, star anise and clove alongside fine-grained tannins and firm acidity.

Drink 2023–2036. Tavolo Vigneto. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.

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

94 Bric Cenciurio 2016 Coste di Rose (Barolo). Enticing aromas of rose petal, eucalyptus and new leather take shape in the glass. The juicy, balanced palate offers red cherry, tobacco and clove alongside firm, refined tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2024–2036. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.

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

93 Cascina Ballarin 2017 Bricco Rocca (Barolo). This opens with enticing aromas of dark-skinned berry, blood orange, camphor and forest floor. The savory, balanced palate offers fruitcake, vanilla, raspberry compote and licorice alongside fine-grained, almost velvety tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Vitis Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Ciabot Berton 2016 Rocchettevino (Barolo). Lovely Nebbiolo aromas of violet, black-skinned berry and leather emerge from the glass. The juicy, full-bodied palate offers Marasca cherry, clove and star anise alongside fine-grained tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2024–2036. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.

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

93 Pietro Rinaldi 2017 Monvigliero (Barolo). Camphor, cedar and prune aromas mingle with crushed herb. On the firm, full-bodied palate, enveloping, fine-grained tannins support spiced cranberry, dried cherry and tobacco. Drink 2024–2030. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$78

93 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2017 Ludo (Barolo). Enticing aromas of black-skinned berry, forest floor and leather emerge from the glass. The juicy, balanced palate offers black cherry, star anise and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2032. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2017 Terlo Vigna Costa Grimaldi (Barolo). Ripe black-skinned berry, underbrush and new leather aromas take shape in the glass. The ripe, savory palate features dried black cherry, white pepper and star anise alongside a backbone of fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2032. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$123

92 Anna Maria Abbona 2017 Bricco San Pietro (Barolo). Dark-skinned fruit, forest floor and tobacco aromas emerge from the glass. The full bodied, youthfully tannic palate offers ripe blackberry, licorice and clove alongside tight but polished tannins. Drink 2024–2032. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 Anna Maria Abbona 2017 del Comune di Castiglione Falletto (Barolo). Aromas of new leather, underbrush and black-skinned berry lead

the way. The savory, balanced palate offers dried Morello cherry, star anise and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Azelia 2017 Cerretta (Barolo). Camphor, cedar and leather aromas come to the fore-front along with whiffs of underbrush and blue flower. Firmly structured, the palate is quite austere, offering tart cherry, orange zest and tobacco alongside assertive, close-grained tannins that leave a grippy finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$135

92 Batasiolo 2017 Boscareto (Barolo). Aromas of black-skinned berry, new leather and culinary spice emerge from the glass. The savory, structured palate offers ripe blackberry, cinnamon and tobacco alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2032. Palm Bay International. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

92 Boroli 2017 Villero (Barolo). Aromas of dark spice, pressed rose and coconut form the nose along with a whiff of camphor. The tightly-knit, full-bodied palate also has elegance and tension, featuring ripe Marasca cherry, blood orange and intense licorice notes alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. After making significant changes in the vineyard and the cellars over the years, this shows the firm's a commitment to making more terroir-driven wines with respect to previous vintages. Drink 2025–2032. Winebow Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Camerano 2015 Terlo (Barolo). Alluring aromas of ripe black-skinned berry, eucalyptus and leather take shape in the glass. The savory, balanced palate offers mature blackberry, nutmeg and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2032. Wine Icons. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

92 Damilano 2017 Lecinquevigne (Barolo). Aromas of ripe wild berry, blue flower and forest floor mingle with a balsamic whiff of camphor. Full-bodied and firmly structured, the palate offers ripe black-skinned berry, raspberry compote, licorice and menthol alongside tightly knit, fine-grained tannins. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

92 Damilano 2017 Raviole (Barolo). Black-skinned berry, new leather and camphor aromas emerge from the glass. The full-bodied, already accessible palate offers ripe blackberry, star anise and tobacco alongside a backbone of fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Gigi Rosso 2016 Bricco San Pietro (Barolo). Iris, underbrush and new leather aromas mingle with a whiff of crushed mint. The full-bodied palate offers ripe cherry, raspberry compote

and tobacco alongside firm, velvety tannins. Drink through 2028. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Gregorio Gitti 2017 Castello di Perno (Barolo). This opens with aromas of blue flower, underbrush and baking spice. The full-bodied palate features dried black cherry, licorice and toasted almond alongside firm tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Verity Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Lodali 2017 Lorens (Barolo). Camphor, blue flower, mature plum and sandalwood aromas emerge on this full-bodied red. Ripe and enveloping, the palate features dried cherry, prune marinated in spirits, sage and licorice framed in tightly-knit, close-grained tannins that sneak up and clench the finish. Drink after 2025. Vino Veritas. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$72

92 Palladino 2017 del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Fragrant purple flower, sandalwood and new leather aromas shape the nose along with a whiff of camphor. Full-bodied and concentrated, the enveloping palate also shows finesse, featuring dried cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside a backbone of close-grained, crushed velvet tannins. Drink 2025–2030. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

92 Pietro Rinaldi 2017 Barolo. Aromas of French oak, cedar and toasted hazelnut mingle with a whiff of menthol. Linear and elegantly structured, the palate features red currant, pomegranate and star anise alongside tightly wound, close-grained tannins. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$56

92 Pietro Rinaldi 2016 Monvigliero (Barolo). This opens with aromas of underbrush, menthol, tobacco and toasted hazelnut. Full-bodied and tightly knit, the palate offers dried cherry, truffle and licorice alongside firm, close-grained tannins that grip the close. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$78

92 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2017 Bussia (Barolo). Camphor, blue flower and French oak form the nose along with a whiff of graphite. The firmly structured palate is on the austere side, offering pomegranate, raspberry, blood orange and licorice alongside tightly wound, close-grained tannins that leave an assertive, astringent close. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$138

92 Reverdito 2017 Bricco Cogni (Barolo). This opens with alluring aromas of dark-skinned berry, leather and underbrush. The savory, full-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2032. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Azelia 2017 Barolo. Aromas of wild berry, eucalyptus and fennel seed mingle with blue flower. On the austere palate, tightly wound tannins accompany sour cherry, blood orange and licorice before a firm, rather lean finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Batasiolo 2017 Bussia Vigneto Bofani (Barolo). Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, underbrush and leather lead the way. The full-bodied, already accessible palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and toasted hazelnut alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Batasiolo 2017 Cerequio (Barolo). Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth and leather lead the way. The full-bodied, already rather accessible palate offers black plum, clove and tobacco alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Boroli 2017 Brunella (Barolo). Aromas recalling iris, woodland berry and camphor shape the nose along with dark spice notes. On the austere, elegant palate, tightly wound, fine-grained tannins support spiced cranberry, pomegranate and licorice before closing on hints of blood orange. Winebow Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

91 Bovio 2017 Barolo. This opens with spicy aromas of incense and star anise that mingle with cedar and eucalyptus. The chewy palate offers dried cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside solid, somewhat grainy tannins. Drink through 2027. Soil-air Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Ca' Brusà 2016 Menico (Barolo). Red-skinned berry, underbrush and baking spice aromas lead the nose. The juicy, balanced palate offers red cherry, tobacco and cinnamon alongside firm tannins. Drink 2023–2031. Vision Wine Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

91 Cagliero 2017 Terlo (Barolo). Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth and saddle leather lead the way. The savory, approachable palate offers dried black cherry, clove and star anise alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2029. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Cascina Adelaide 2017 Bussia (Barolo). This full-bodied red opens with aromas recalling graphite, scorched earth and dried aromatic herb. The firmly structured, austere palate offers sour cherry, orange zest, star anise and tobacco alongside tightly-wound, close-grained tannins that grip the close. Give the tannins several years to unclench then drink sooner rather later to capture the remaining fruit richness. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Cascina Adelaide 2017 Preda (Barolo). Graphite, dried botanical herb and blue flower aromas come together in the glass along with a whiff of meat juice. The full-bodied palate offers dried cherry, orange zest, licorice and tobacco alongside solid, rather grainy tannins. Showing the heat of the vintage, it's already rather accessible but will offer several more years of pleasure. Drink through 2027. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

91 Cascina Ballarin 2015 Tistot Riserva (Barolo). This opens with aromas of ripe black-skinned berry, cedar and hazelnut. It's full-bodied and tightly knit, featuring flavors of Marasca cherry, star anise and tobacco alongside firm, polished tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Vitis Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Damilano 2017 Cannubi (Barolo). Aromas of camphor, underbrush, crushed herb and iris come together in the glass. The brawny, concentrated palate shows the heat of the vintage, offering cherry marinated in spirits, prune, licorice and baking spice framed in assertive, close-grained tannins that grip the finish. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol on the close. LLS-Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

91 Damilano 2016 Liste (Barolo). Aromas of violet, underbush and pipe tobacco emerge from the glass. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, clove and toasted hazelnut alongside polished tannins and the warmth of alcohol. Drink 2023–2029. LLS-Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

91 Gagliasso 2017 Tre Utin (Barolo). Dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth and cooking spice aromas shape the nose. On the concentrated, already rather accessible palate, polished tannins support blackberry jam, licorice and tobacco. Drink 2023–2029. Kysela Père et Fils. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Gregorio Gitti 2017 Castelletto Castello di Perno (Barolo). Dark-skinned berry, forest floor and tobacco aromas lead the way. The concentrated palate offers dried black cherry, star anise and clove alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Verity Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Marrone 2017 Bussia (Barolo). Aromas of black-skinned berry, underbrush and baking spice lead the nose. The savory palate offers blackberry jam, star anise and orange zest alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. The Sorting Table. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Palladino 2015 San Bernardo Riserva (Barolo). This opens with aromas of dark-skinned fruit, cedar and baking spice. On the dense, full-bodied palate, polished tannins accompany

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ripe blackberry, star anise and ground clove. Drink 2022–2030. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$92

91 Pecchenino 2016 San Giuseppe (Barolo). Coconut, camphor, violet and sandalwood aromas mingle with an earthy whiff of truffle. On the full-bodied, no-frills palate, firm rather grainy tannins accompany dried cherry, licorice and tobacco before an assertive, clenching finish. Drink after 2026. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Vite Colte 2015 Essenze del Comune di Monforte d'Alba (Barolo). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Vite Colte 2015 Essenze del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Violet, underbrush and cedar aromas shape the nose. Elegantly structured, the juicy palate offers cranberry jam, crushed mint and licorice alongside firm, polished tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Abrigo Fratelli 2016 Ravera (Barolo). Aromas of violet, scorched earth and leather lead the way. The savory palate offers dried black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside firm, polished tannins. Drink 2023–2028. WineCraft.US. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Borioli 2017 Cerequio (Barolo). This opens with aromas of forest floor, menthol and French oak. The palate is rather austere, offering cranberry, vanilla, coconut and coffee bean alongside tight, fine-grained tannins that leave a drying finish. Winebow Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

90 Bovio 2017 Arborina (Barolo). Truffle, new leather and blackberry brandy aromas mingle with a whiff of blue flower on this solid red. Reflecting the heat of the vintage, the monolithic palate is dense and brawny, offering dried cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside the heat of evident alcohol. Enveloping, grainy tannins grip the finish. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$62

90 Bric Cenciurio 2016 Monrobiolo di Bussia (Barolo). This opens with aromas of cedar, ripe dark-skinned fruit and scorched earth. The linear palate offers blackberry jam, mocha and sage alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Cavalier Bartolomeo 2017 San Lorenzo (Barolo). Aromas of black-skinned berry, baking spice and cedar shape the nose. The solid, savory palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and mocha alongside firm tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Lyra Wine. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

90 Demarie 2016 Barolo. Aromas of cocoa, baked plum and blue flower lead the nose. Full-bodied and enveloping, the rather dense, already rather accessible palate offers mocha, licorice and ripe black cherry alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2026. Uva Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2017 Bricco San Pietro (Barolo). Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, tilled soil and culinary spice form the nose. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, star anise and black pepper alongside dusty tannins and the warmth of evident alcohol. Drink 2023–2029. Passionné de Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

90 Guasti Clemente 2015 Barolo. Rose petal, camphor and leather aromas are front and center. The juicy palate offers black cherry, cranberry compote and star anise alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2022–2030. Palladion Signature Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Marrone 2017 Pichemej (Barolo). This opens with aromas of leather, forest floor and a whiff of rose petal. On the full-bodied palate, polished tannins accompany cranberry jam, star anise and tobacco. Drink 2024–2032. The Sorting Table. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Palazzo Schiavino 2016 Massara (Barolo). Aromas recalling dark-skinned fruit, cooking spice and tilled soil emerge from the glass. The chewy palate offers ripe black plum, tobacco and star anise alongside velvety tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2023–2028. Fass Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Palazzo Schiavino 2016 Monvigliero (Barolo). This opens with aromas of violet, pipe tobacco and culinary spice. The full-bodied, already accessible palate offers baked plum, clove and star anise alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Fass Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Piero Benevelli 2017 Ravera di Monforte (Barolo). Aromas of violet, cedar and scorched earth emerge from the glass. The solid palate offers baked plum, sage and mocha alongside dusty, rather drying tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

90 Rattalino 2017 Monvigliero Novantadue92 (Barolo). Aromas of scorched earth, tobacco and violet shape the nose. On the solid palate, firm tannins frame Marasca cherry, star anise and ground clove. Drink 2023–2029. The Harvest Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Reverdito 2017 Badarina (Barolo). Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth

and cooking spice emerge from the glass. The forward, full-bodied palate offers blackberry jam, star anise and vanilla alongside polished tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Rivetti Massimo 2017 Barolo. Made with organically farmed grapes, this opens with aromas of violet, orange zest and scorched earth. The chewy, rather forward palate offers raspberry jam, star anise and cinnamon alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Private Reserve Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Rivetti Massimo 2016 Terre di Carlin (Barolo). Aromas of camphor, baked plum and cooking spice emerge from the glass. The savory, accessible palate offers blackberry jam, clove and star anise alongside velvety tannins. Drink 2022–2028. Private Reserve Fine Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Sara Veza 2017 Ravera (Barolo). This opens with aromas of violet, scorched earth and cooking spice. The tangy palate offers black plum, clove and star anise alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Peter Warren Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

90 Tenuta Cucco 2017 del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Earthy aromas of leather, violet and leafy underbrush emerge from the glass. The chewy palate offers dried black cherry, star anise and clove alongside firm tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Arnaldo Rivera 2017 Vignarionda (Barolo). Aromas of tilled soil, mocha and ripe dark-skinned fruit come together on this. The firm palate offers dried black cherry, cooking spice and tobacco alongside tight, close-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2032. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Ca' Brusà 2008 Vigna D'vai 10 Anni Riserva (Barolo). This opens with aromas of mocha, ripe dark-skinned fruit and cooking spice. The mature palate offers blackberry jam, roasted coffee bean and vanilla alongside close-grained tannins that leave a rather astringent finish. Drink through 2026. Vision Wine Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

89 Cagliero 2017 Ravera (Barolo). This opens with aromas of violet, cedar and cooking spice. The linear palate is already rather accessible, offering black plum, mocha and star anise alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2029. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Cantine Povero 2016 Priore (Barolo). Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, tilled soil and cooking spice lead the nose. The solid palate offers blackberry jam, star anise and white pepper along-

side chewy tannins. Drink through 2026. Volio Vino. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$51

89 Diego Pressenda La Torricella 2017 Barbadelchi (Barolo). Subdued aromas of scorched earth, cooking spice and tobacco mingle together in the glass. The dense palate offers baked plum, licorice and toasted hazelnut alongside close-grained tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Drink 2023–2027. Passionné de Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

89 E. Molino 2016 Bricco Rocca (Barolo). Clove, dark-skinned fruit and tilled soil aromas form the subtle nose. The solid palate offers Marasca cherry, licorice and vanilla alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2028. VDLT Community. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

89 Fortemasso 2015 Castelletto Riserva (Barolo). Aromas of mocha, violet and toasted oak emerge from the glass. The ripe, chewy palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and cocoa alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2022–2028. Panebianco. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$170

89 Gianfranco Alessandria 2017 En Plasi (Barolo). This opens with aromas of mature dark-skinned fruit, mocha and scorched earth. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, espresso and vanilla alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150/1.5 L

89 Moscone 2015 Barolo. This has aromas of dried rose petal, underbrush and baking spice. The linear, straightforward palate is already approachable, offering black cherry, star anise and tangerine zest alongside velvety tannins. Drink through 2027. Davigna Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Rattalino 2017 Trentaquattro34 (Barolo). Subdued aromas of scorched soil, tobacco and cedar slowly emerge from the glass. The linear palate offers cherry marinated in spirits, orange zest and clove alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2027. The Harvest Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Rattalino 2014 Trentasette37 Riserva (Barolo). Green peppercorn, hay and star anise aromas emerge from the glass. The no-frills rather evolved palate offers black plum, white pepper and powdered sage alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2026. The Harvest Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Tenuta Cucco 2017 Bricco Voghera (Barolo). Aromas of tilled soil and ripe dark-skinned fruit and lead the way. The dense palate offers baked plum, licorice and black tea alongside drying tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

89 Tenuta Duecorti 2015 Barolo. Delicate aromas of mocha, ripe dark-skinned fruit and vanilla emerge from the glass. The concentrated palate offers mature black plum, espresso and star anise alongside dusty, drying tannins. Drink 2024–2030. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Carlo Revello & Figli 2017 Giachini (Barolo). Delicate aromas of scorched earth, eucalyptus and tobacco emerge from the glass. The concentrated palate offers baked plum, toasted almond and cocoa alongside assertive tannins. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$67

88 Cascina Bongiovanni 2017 Pernanno (Barolo). Aromas of espresso, toasted oak and vanilla form the nose. The dense palate offers prune, roasted coffee bean and mocha alongside close-grained tannins that grip the finish. Drink 2024–2029. Donaldson Trading. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Cascina del Monastero 2016 Bricco Luciani (Barolo). Subdued aromas of cedar, scorched earth and baking spice emerge from the glass. The robust, straightforward palate offers baked plum, cocoa and toasted hazelnut alongside grainy tannins. Drink after 2024. Uva Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

88 Cavalier Bartolomeo 2017 Altenasso (Barolo). Ripe dark-skinned fruit, espresso and toasted oak aromas emerge from the glass. The solid palate offers baked plum, vanilla and cocoa alongside grainy tannins. Drink after 2024. Lyra Wine. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Claudio Alario 2017 Sorano (Barolo). This opens with aromas of toasted oak, mocha and vanilla. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and cocoa alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2027. Southport Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 Gagliasso 2017 Rocche dell'Annunziata (Barolo). Aromas of toasted oak, espresso and baking spice lead the nose. The concentrated palate offers baked plum, dark chocolate and clove alongside assertive tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Kysela Père et Fils. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

88 Icardi 2016 Fossati (Barolo). Subdued aromas recalling cedar, mocha and tobacco form the subtle nose. The linear palate offers cherry marinated in spirits, toasted almond and vanilla alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Marrone 2017 Barolo. This opens with aromas of baked plum, vanilla and toasted

hazelnut. Showing the heat of the scorching vintage, the palate is already evolved, offering prune, coconut and star anise alongside solid tannins. Drink through 2027. The Sorting Table. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Michele Taliano 2016 Barolo. This has aromas of tilled soil, porcini mushroom and tobacco. The solid, no-frills palate shows sour cherry, toasted nut and clove alongside close-grained tannins. Drink after 2024. Bravo Wine Cellar. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Monchiero Carbone 2017 Barolo. Aromas of cedar, baking spice and scorched earth lead the way. The solid palate offers blackberry jam, tobacco and toasted hazelnut alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Tita Italian Import & Export. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Olivero Mario 2017 Vigne Unite (Barolo). Subtle aromas of leather, scorched earth and tobacco emerge from the glass. The solid, no-frills palate is already rather accessible, offering ripe plum, star anise and toasted hazelnut alongside tightly-wound tannins. Drink after 2023. Cellier Wine Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Paola Sordo 2017 Monvigliero (Barolo). This has rather subdued aromas of underbrush, menthol and pressed rose. The brawny palate offers dried cherry, mocha and orange zest alongside grainy tannins that leave an abrupt, drying finish. Drink sooner rather than later before the remaining fruit dries out. Grapes and Greens. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Paola Sordo 2017 Rocche di Castiglione (Barolo). Menthol, forest floor, blue flower and leather aromas form the nose. On the rather austere palate, grainy tannins accompany tart cherry, licorice and Porcini mushroom before leaving a mouthdrying close. Grapes and Greens. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Pico Maccario 2017 Barolo. Aromas of scorched earth, cooking spice and cedar lead the way. The solid palate offers baked plum, sage and toasted hazelnut alongside assertive tannins. Drink 2023–2027. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Podere Ruggeri Corsini 2017 Bussia Corsini (Barolo). Aromas of cedar, mocha and cooking spice shape the nose. The solid palate offers espresso, toasted hazelnut and baked plum alongside rather grainy tannins. Drink 2024–2029. Casa Bruno. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Silvio Grasso 2017 Barolo. Subdued aromas of cedar, mocha and cooking spice slowly emerge from the glass. The tightly knit palate offers ripe black plum, espresso and toasted hazelnut

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alongside grainy tannins. Drink after 2024. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

88 Tenuta Duecorti 2014 Castelletto (Barolo). Leafy underbrush, espresso and tobacco lead the way. The tight palate offers roasted coffee bean, cocoa and blackberry jam alongside assertive tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Wine 4 All. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

87 Batasiolo 2017 Briccolina (Barolo). Underbrush, mocha and toasted oak aromas emerge from the glass. The tight palate is lean in terms of fruit richness, offering prune, sage and roasted coffee bean alongside assertive, astringent tannins that clench the finish. Palm Bay International. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

87 Boasso 2015 Margheria Riserva (Barolo). Leather, cedar and underbrush aromas lead the nose. The evolved, dense palate offers stewed plum, powdered sage and clove alongside grainy tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Drink soon to capture the remaining fruit. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

87 Bovio 2017 Parussi (Barolo). Underbrush, scorched earth, used leather and toasted hazelnut aromas lead the way. The brawny, one-dimensional palate isn't very expressive and lacks fruit richness, recalling prune, dark spice and tobacco leaf alongside the heat of evident alcohol. Grainy tannins clench lean, grippy close. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$73

87 Cascina Bongiovanni 2017 Barolo. This has aromas of French oak, espresso and baking spice. The linear, one-dimensional palate offers dark chocolate, licorice and coconut alongside assertive, drying tannins. Donaldson Trading. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Federico Ferrero 2016 Barolo. This offers aromas of baked plum, French oak, camphor and violet. The palate lacks fruit richness, powered instead by vanilla, coconut, raw oak and bitter notes of powdered sage before an almond finish. Close-grained tannins leave an astringent finish. PSP Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Fortemasso 2017 Castelletto (Barolo). Mocha, cedar and cooking spice aromas lead the way. The densely concentrated palate offers prune, roasted coffee bean and star anise alongside assertive, rather astringent tannins that clench the close. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol. Panebianco. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

87 Franco Amoroso 2017 Barolo. This opens with aromas suggesting sun baked earth, culinary spice and leather. The easygoing palate offers black

cherry jam, toasted nut and star anise alongside pliant tannins. Drink through 2027. MHW, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

87 Gagliasso 2017 Torriglione (Barolo). Subtle aromas of mocha, toasted oak and scorched earth emerge from the glass. The ripe palate offers prune, espresso and coconut alongside grainy tannins. Drink after 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

87 Monte degli Angeli 2017 Barolo. Aromas of underbrush and tobacco waft out of the glass. The no-frills palate recalls raspberry jam, hazelnut and a hint of fennel seed alongside loosely knit tannins. Drink through 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

87 Neirano 2017 Barolo. This straightforward red has aromas of tilled earth and hints of cooking spice. On the rather simple palate, flexible tannins accompany crushed black cherry and a hint of star anise. Drink through 2027. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Neirano 2017 Franco Serra (Barolo). Aromas of scorched earth, baking spice and aromatic herb form the subtle nose. The straightforward palate offers ripe dark fruit, toasted almond and clove alongside rounded tannins. Drink through 2027. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

87 Neirano 2017 Terzetto (Barolo). This offers aromas recalling tilled soil and culinary spice. The straightforward palate offers star anise, toasted hazelnut and tobacco alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2027. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 Olivero Mario 2017 Bricco Ambrogio (Barolo). This has subdued aromas of mocha, tilled soil and cooking spice. On the tight palate, assertive, rather astringent tannins accompany prune, raw almond and espresso before a grippy close. Cellier Wine Distribution. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

87 Paola Sordo 2017 Barolo. Aromas of blue flower, eucalyptus and sun baked earth lead the way. The straightforward, rather lean palate offers powdered botanical herb, dried berry and ground dark spice alongside astringent, drying tannins. Grapes and Greens. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

87 Paola Sordo 2017 Ravera (Barolo). This opens with aromas recalling used leather, camphor, truffle and a whiff of cellar floor. On the rather lean palate, astringent, close-grained tannins accompany sour cherry, orange zest and fennel seed before an abrupt, astringent close. Grapes and Greens. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

87 Piazzo 2017 Barolo. Scorched earth, coffee bean and cooking spice aromas emerge from the glass. The linear palate offers prune, espresso and cocoa alongside grainy, astringent tannins that leave a mouthpuckering finish. Angelini Wine. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Pico Maccario 2017 Cannubi (Barolo). The shy nose eventually reveals suggestions of toasted oak, espresso and vanilla. The dense palate is shy on fruit richness, recalling prune, sage and roasted coffee bean alongside grainy tannins and the warmth of alcohol. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

87 Pico Maccario 2017 del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Aromas of cedar, espresso and coconut take shape in the glass. The firm palate is rather shy on fruit richness, offering roasted coffee bean, prune and vanilla alongside assertive tannins. Drink after 2023. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Piero Benevelli 2017 Mosconi (Barolo). Aromas of toasted oak, mocha and scorched soil lead the nose. The tight palate offers prune, espresso and cocoa alongside assertive, astringent tannins. Drink after 2024. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

87 Sordo 2017 Barolo. Violet, leather, coconut and scorched earth aromas form the nose. The no-frills palate shows dried cherry, powdered sage and clove before dusty, drying tannins create an extremely astringent, lean close. LNJ Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

87 Tenuta Cucco 2017 Cerrati (Barolo). The shy nose eventually reveals sawdust, coconut and cooking spice. On the densely concentrated palate, assertive tannins and the heat of evident alcohol frame prune, mocha and powdered sage. Despite the tannic structure, drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Drink after 2024. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$74

86 CarlindaPaolo 2017 Barolo. Subdued aromas suggesting tilled soil, ground clove and camphor slowly emerge from the glass. The simple, approachable palate recalls sour cherry, sage and a hint of orange zest alongside tightly wound tannins. Drink after 2024. Alluvial Wine. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Carlo Revello & Figli 2017 Barolo. This has a shy nose that eventually reveals subdued aromas of toasted oak, mocha and tilled soil. The dense, one-dimensional palate recalls prune, roasted coffee bean and sage alongside grainy tannins that clench the finish. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$46

86 Francone 2017 Barolo. Subdued aromas recalling espresso, scorched earth and toasted hazelnut slowly emerge from the glass. The one-dimensional palate offers sour cherry, roasted coffee bean and sage alongside assertive tannins that clench the finish. Cherio Holding & Trading. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

86 Silvio Grasso 2017 Bricco Luciani (Barolo). The shy nose eventually reveals suggestions of roasted coffee bean, toasted oak and coconut. The dense palate lacks fruit richness, recalling prune, espresso and sage alongside bracing, rather astringent tannins that clench the finish. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

86 Silvio Grasso 2017 Bricco Manzoni (Barolo). Subdued aromas of vanilla, French oak and roasted coffee bean slowly emerge from the glass. On the assertive palate, grainy, astringent tannins accompany prune, mocha and toasted almond. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

86 Tenuta Cucco 2015 Cerrati Vigna Cucco Riserva (Barolo). Subdued aromas of toasted oak, espresso and baking spice slowly emerge from the glass. The brawny palate is dominated by alcohol while suggestions of prune, roasted coffee bean and bitter cocoa lurk in the background. Grainy tannins clench the abrupt, astringent close. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$102

85 Ceste 2016 Barolo. This has a shy nose suggesting scorched earth, wet hay and ground clove. The no-frills, unbalanced palate is already evolved and lean in terms of fruit richness, offering prune, toasted nut and a green note of powdered sage alongside assertive, astringent tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

85 La Contrada di Sorano 2017 Barolo. This has aromas of toasted oak, roasted coffee bean and vanilla. Dominated by alcohol, the dense, unbalanced palate suggests prune, espresso and coconut alongside assertive, astringent tannins that clench the raspy finish. Road Cru. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

SICILY

ETNA BIANCO

94 Tornatore 2020 Pietrarizzo Bianco (Etna). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2020 Santo Spirito Bianco (Etna). Mediterranean scrub, wet stone and hazelnut aromas emerge from the glass along with a whiff of white stone fruit. On the linear, savory palate, fresh acidity and saline mineral

notes lend tension to mature golden apple, toasted almond and a just a dollop of vanilla. It has an understated elegance and aging potential. Drink through 2030. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

93 Tornatore 2020 Bianco (Etna). For full review see page 9.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2020 Calderara Sottana Bianco (Etna). Subtle aromas of toasted nut, crushed stone and chamomile form the delicate nose. The linear, mineral-driven palate is about finesse and complexity, offering mature yellow apple, Meyer lemon and hazelnut alongside a vein of savory, almost salty saline mineral that adds depth. Drink through 2028. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

92 Tornatore 2019 Zottorinotto Bianco (Etna). Vinified in acacia and barrique, this has aromas of eucalyptus, pressed Spanish broom, ripe orchard fruit and hazelnut. Elegantly structured and understated, the rather austere palate recalls mature yellow apple and toasted nut before a salty mineral close. LUX Wines. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

90 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2020 Bianco (Etna). Made with organically farmed grapes, mostly Caricante and small amounts of Catarratto, Grecanico and Minnella, this opens with delicate scents recalling yellow spring flower, white stone fruit and a flinty note. Reflecting the nose, the vibrant, elegant palate offers ripe yellow apple, almond, a dollop of honey before a savory saline note signals the close. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

SICILIA WHITE WINES

92 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Buonsenso Catarratto (Sicilia). Savory and polished, this opens with heady aromas of white spring wildflower, citrus and stone fruit. The elegant, refreshing palate features pink grapefruit, ripe yellow pear and rosemary alongside bright acidity. A hint of almond lingers on the finish and lends depth. Trincherio Family Estates. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Donnafugata 2020 Sur Sur Grillo (Sicilia). This bright, savory white shows why Grillo is so popular right now. It opens with heady scents of white spring blossom, white stone fruit and wild Mediterranean herb. Crisp and tangy, the incredibly enjoyable palate doles out juicy white peach, cantaloupe and saline mineral notes. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Donnafugata 2020 Lighea (Sicilia). On of the rare dry wines made with native grape

Zibibbo, this has exuberant aromas of white rose, yellow peach and intense citrus. The aromas follow through to the racy palate along with ripe apricot, grapefruit and hints of saline. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Feudo Arancio 2020 Costa Rura Superiore Grillo (Sicilia). This has a delicate nose offering subtle aromas of white spring blossom, Mediterranean brush and citrus. The medium-bodied palate offers ripe white peach, honeydew melon and grapefruit before a saline and lemon drop close. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Caruso & Minini 2020 Naturalmente Bio Catarratto (Sicilia). Aromas of spring blossom, Mediterranean herb and green melon form the nose. On the medium-bodied palate, tangy acidity accompanies mature Bartlett pear and Meyer lemon alongside a hint of saline. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Cusumano 2020 Lucido Catarratto (Sicilia). Aromas of charcuterie, Mediterranean scrub and stone fruit waft out of the glass. The savory, light-bodied palate offers ripe yellow apple, saline and grapefruit alongside bright acidity. Terlato Wines International. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Lombardo 2020 d'Altura Grillo (Sicilia). Restrained aromas of toasted almond, chamomile, mature yellow apple skin and hay form the nose. The aromas carry over to the palate along with saline and ripe lemon peel. Eagle Eye Brands. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Stemmari 2020 Pinot Grigio (Sicilia). Aromas of white spring blossom and ripe pear follow over to the round, medium-bodied palate along with yellow apple and tangy acidity. It closes on hints of saline and almond. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. *Best Buy.* —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

88 Zisola 2020 Azisa (Sicilia). A blend of 85% Grillo and 15% Catarratto, this has delicate aromas recalling field flower and white stone fruit. The medium-bodied palate offers yellow apple, pear and bitter almond alongside tangy acidity. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

86 Baglio Oro 2020 Dei Respiri Grillo (Sicilia). Aromas recalling Bergamot, white rose and bitter almond form the nose. The palate has an unusual combination of sweet and sour, offering tropical fruit, candied notes, nut and sweet and sour sauce alongside brisk acidity. Passionné de Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 La Mura 2020 Bio Grillo (Sicilia). Delicate aromas of tropical fruit form the nose on

BUYINGGUIDE

this light-bodied white. The aromas carry over to the simple but enjoyable palate along with hints of spearmint, a touch of saline and crisp acidity. Ethica Wines. —K.O.

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

86 Tola 2020 Chimaera (Sicilia). A fifty-fifty blend of Catarratto and Grillo, this has aromas recalling spring blossom, sea brine and nut. Reflecting the nose, the simple palate offers saline, bitter almond and yellow apple skin alongside tangy acidity. Impero Wine Dist. —K.O.

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

86 Valle dell'Acate 2020 Zagra Grillo (Sicilia). The subdued nose eventually recalls honeydew melon and citrus. On the simple palate, crisp acidity accompanies green melon, grapefruit and saline. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

85 Antura 2020 Grillo (Sicilia). This tangy white has flavors recalling ripe white stone fruit, bitter almond and grapefruit. It's extremely simple and bright, with brisk acidity. Wine Affairs. —K.O.

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

85 Barone Montalto 2020 Collezione di Famiglia Grillo (Sicilia). This simple white has a subdued nose that doesn't give much away. The palate also isn't very expressive, suggesting grapefruit, candied notes and the barest hint of white peach alongside brisk acidity. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Viccia 2020 Insolita (Sicilia). This simple white has citrus aromas that carry over to the fleeting palate along with a hint of mature yellow apple. Crisp acidity keeps it brisk. Wine Affairs. *Best Buy.* —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

84 Lagovuveri 2020 1967 Grillo (Sicilia). This has a shy nose that doesn't give much away. It's extremely simple, barely suggesting flavors of bitter yellow apple skin, grapefruit rind and bitter almond set against brisk acidity. Lanval Wine Imports. —K.O.

abv: NA **Price:** \$12

ROSATOS

90 Tornatore 2020 Rosato (Etna). Made with Nerello Mascalese, this charming rosato has delicate scents of wild flower, Mediterranean brush and wet stone. On the tangy palate, bright acidity lifts juicy red cherry, pomegranate and a hint of star anise before closing on a savory saline note. LUX Wines. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Regaleali Le Rose (Sicilia). Savory and refreshing, this lovely rosato has aromas of rose and wild berry. Showing its Sicilian roots, the bright palate features crushed

raspberry, tart cherry, Mediterranean herb and star anise before a saline finish. Tangy acidity gives it a clean, quenching finish. Trincherio Family Estates. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Planeta 2020 Rosato (Sicilia). Made with 50% Nero d'Avola and 50% Syrah, this refreshing rosato opens with aromas of spring wildflower and ripe red berry. Bright and tangy, the enjoyable palate offers wild strawberry and tart cherry before a saline close. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

ETNA ROSSO

97 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Dagala di Bocca d'Orzo Rosso (Etna). Made in extremely limited quantities, this gorgeous wine boasts supreme finesse, opening with enticing scents of wild berry, rose, flint and Mediterranean brush. The sole surviving vineyard of a 1981 lava flow that submerged Bocca d'Orzo, one of Etna's most celebrated crus, the palate boasts ethereal elegance and structure, delivering red cherry, pomegranate, star anise and an almost salty mineral finish. Lithe, polished tannins and fresh acidity lend impeccable balance. Drink through 2034. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$133

96 Pietradolce 2018 Barbagalli Rosso (Etna). Enticingly fragrant, this gorgeous red offers tantalizing aromas of blue flower, crushed mint, wild berry and wet stone. The elegant, vibrant palate boasts finesse and racy tension, featuring ripe Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, star anise and tangy flinty notes set against lithe, polished tannins. Bright acidity keeps it balanced and along with the mineral notes keeps it energized. Drink through 2028. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

95 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Calderara Sottana Prephyloxera La Vigna di Don Peppino Rosso (Etna). Heady aromas of blue flower, menthol, black spice and ripe dark-skinned fruit fill the glass. Made with vines that are over 130 years old, the palate is both plush and elegant, offering juicy Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice and blood orange alongside a backbone of velvety tannins. A salty mineral note signals the close. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$133

95 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Guardiola Rosso (Etna). Red berry, new leather, camphor and Mediterranean scrub aromas take shape in the glass. Elegantly structured and enveloping, the savory, rather austere palate delivers Marasca cherry, tangy blood orange and licorice alongside flinty mineral notes. Taut, fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Drink 2024–2034. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

95 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 San Lorenzo Rosso (Etna). Dark-skinned berry, camphor and dried rose petal aromas form the enticing nose along with whiffs of cake spice. On the almost velvety palate, polished, enveloping tannins accompany raspberry jam, vanilla, licorice and a hint of espresso before a saline close. Drink through 2029. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

94 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Feudo di Mezzo Il Quadro delle Rose Rosso (Etna). Dark spice, new leather, wild berry and eucalyptus are some of the aromas you'll find on this lovely red. Sleek and sultry, the elegant palate offers Marasca cherry, raspberry, cedar and star anise alongside lithe, fine-grained tannins. Enjoy through 2029. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

94 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Santo Spirito Rosso (Etna). Aromas of menthol, wild berry and a whiff of scorched earth form the captivating nose. Firm and full-bodied, the midpalate also has the weightlessness of a classical dancer, featuring ripe Marasca cherry, raspberry and dark spice alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2029. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

93 Giovanni Rosso 2018 Rosso (Etna). Made predominantly with Nerello Mascalese and a small percentage of other native grapes, this lithe, lovely red has alluring aromas of Mediterranean scrub, wild berry, hay and eucalyptus. Linear and all about finesse, the savory palate features crushed strawberry, pomegranate and star anise while a vein of saline mineral notes adds depth. Polished tannins provide elegant support while bright acidity keeps it balanced. Vias Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Idda 2019 Rosso (Etna). The result of a joint venture between Etna pioneer Graci and Piedmont icon Gaja, this has aromas of camphor, Mediterranean scrub and blue flower. Vibrant and savory, the elegantly structured, palate offers ripe raspberry, licorice and a hint of coffee bean before a flinty close. Polished tannins offer smooth support. Drink through 2027. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.

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

93 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Rosso (Etna). Loaded with finesse, this lovely red has aromas of sun-warmed flint, camphor, Mediterranean herb and woodland berry. Savory and mineral-driven, the elegant is both lithely structured, featuring strawberry compote, pomegranate, star anise and savory saline notes alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Calderara Sottana Rosso (Etna). Aromas of French oak, camphor and Mediterranean brush lead the nose. Reflecting the aromas, the linear palate features

coconut, vanilla, raw oak and cranberry before a saline finish. Taut, fine-grained tannins provide support. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

92 **Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2019 Moganazzi Rosso (Etna).** Mediterranean brush, menthol and ripe dark fruit aromas waft out of the glass. Lithe and linear, the taut palate offers tart cherry, blood orange and licorice alongside fine-grained tannins. It closes on a hint of flint. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

CHABLIS

97 **Domaine Louis Moreau 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** Notes of crushed limestone and sea salt lend freshness to powerfully ripe yellow apple, pineapple and pear flavors in this wine. Matured entirely in stainless steel, it's a classic Chablis focused squarely on the sun-drenched richness and invigorating mineral sheen of the Grand Cru Les Clos vineyard. Just approaching peak now, the wine should improve through 2040. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$100

96 **Louis Jadot 2019 Blanchot Grand Cru (Chablis).** Profoundly ripe yet anchored by steel and salt, this powerful wine offers a core of apricot and yellow-cherry flavors lifted by streaks of nervy lemon-lime acidity. It's kissed by hints of smoke and vanilla yet pure in fruit profile. Quite a stunner young, the wine should develop grace as it approaches peak from 2025 to 2035 and hold further still. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$95

95 **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Struck flint and salty mineral tones accent this ripe yet gorgeously smoky white. Fermented via indigenous yeast and matured entirely in stainless steel, the translucent wine is bolstered by voluminous richness. Held upright by tangs of lemon and steel, this chalk-edged wine is approachable young but will likely hit peak from 2023 to 2028 and hold further. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$46

95 **Joseph Drouhin 2019 Drouhin Vaudon Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$115

95 **Louis Jadot 2019 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** Decadent notes of vanilla cream, hazelnut and smoke introduce this intensely concentrated Chardonnay sourced from the iconic Grand Cru Les Clos. Intensely ripe in yellow apple, lemon and tangerine flavors, the weighty sip is

framed by zippy acidity and a lingering spicy finish. It needs time to mature but should approach peak from 2025 and improve through 2040. Kobrand. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$104

94 **Domaine Chanson 2019 Fourchaumes Premier Cru (Chablis).** Ripe, almost tropical, notes of pineapple and melon introduce this opulently textured Chardonnay. Creamy on the palate but edged by shards of graphite and a bright lemony spine, it's a rich Chablis that's welcoming young but likely to improve through 2030 and hold further. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

94 **Domaine Chanson 2019 Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis).** Notes of toasted biscotti and orange blossom accent this opulently textured Chardonnay. The full-bodied, fleshy wine overflows with pear and yellow-apple flavors. Strikes of steel and chalky minerality lend freshness to the finish. This hedonistic Chablis is at peak now through 2030. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$103

94 **Domaine Chanson 2019 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Whiffs of smoke and charred vanilla bean mingle into zingy lemon curd and yellow apple in this ripe but sprightly Chardonnay. Vinified and matured 9 to 12 months in oak casks, it's a lavish expression of Montmains balanced by ripe lemon flavor and a lingering crush of salt and chalk. At peak through 2029, the wine should hold longer still. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$55

94 **Domaine Louis Moreau 2019 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** White-peach and green-apple flavors are kissed by honeysuckle and almond pit in this fruit-focused expression of Vaillons. Full bodied but vibrant and finessed, the perfumed, steely wine drinks well already but should improve through 2030. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

94 **Domaine Louis Moreau 2019 Vau Ligneau Premier Cru (Chablis).** Opulent in yellow plum, apple and lemon flavors yet sharply focused, this richly textured Chablis balances ripeness with a steely, racy edge of acidity. Matured entirely in stainless steel, the fruit-focused, penetrating wine should improve through 2035 and hold a bit longer still. It's a fantastic value for premier cru Chablis of this quality. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$44

94 **Joseph Drouhin 2019 Drouhin Vaudon Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** White blossom and honeydew melon perfume this powerfully ripe yet steely, elegantly lifted Chardonnay. Leesy and richly textured on the palate, it balances concentrated, juicy pear flavor against accents of smoke, vanilla and toast. This floral, fresh-fruited sip is

lovely young yet likely to hold through 2030. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$55

94 **Lamblin & Fils 2020 Vaillon Premier Cru (Chablis).** Fresh in fruit yet invigorating and steely, this ripe but quintessential Chablis highlights zesty, limestone-scented flavors of lemon, lime and green apple. Medium bodied and bracing in style, the wine is delightful young but should improve through 2035. V&N Cellars. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

94 **Louis Jadot 2019 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Notes of white melon and lemon custard are accented by hints of dill and toasted hazelnuts in this ripe yet briskly balanced Chablis. Vinified and matured in a combination of oak and stainless steel vessels, it's richly concentrated in fruit yet smoky and spicy in youth. Although best to hold till 2024, the wine should drink beautifully through at least 2035. Kobrand. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$49

94 **Louis Jadot 2019 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** Pops of hazelnut and cream lend richness to this ripe, lusciously textured Chablis. Bright lemon and yellow-apple flavors on the palate maintain the appellation's characteristic steeliness and nerve but this mouthfilling Chardonnay is welcoming young and likely to drink well through 2035. Kobrand. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$52

93 **Lupé-Cholet 2019 Les Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Bright and blossomy, this is a full-bodied, plump yet zesty, lemon-kissed expression of Les Vaillons. It's accented by hints of smoked nut and toast but that characteristic steely zing of Chablis stays intact. Approachable in youth, it should hit peak from 2024 through 2029 and hold further. Europvin USA. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$55

91 **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2019 Claire (Chablis).** Yellow apple, lemon and grapefruit flavors take center stage in this bright, fruity village-level Chablis. Full bodied with a leesy, mouthclinging richness yet braced by a firm spine of acidity, it's a delightfully translucent Chardonnay at an approachable price point. At peak now through 2025 but likely to hold a bit further. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

89 **Domaine du Colombier 2019 Chablis.** Tart pineapple and white-grapefruit flavors introduce this fresh, easy-drinking Chablis. Ripe and juicy, the fruit-forward sip is anchored by a zesty oyster-shell minerality that points to Chablis. This wine is best enjoyed young. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

89 **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2019 Chablis.** Delicate notes of white blossom and lime zest gain concentration and ripeness on

BUYINGGUIDE

the palate of this approachably fruity, zesty Chardonnay. Matured 18 months on lees in stainless steel, it's supple in texture but cut by zippy flavors of green apple and yellow plum. It's best enjoyed young. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Lupé-Cholet 2019 Domaine de Viviers (Chablis). Zippy streaks of lime and tart white peach extend from nose to finish in this fruit-forward yet elegant Chablis. Ripe yet pristine in fruit profile, it's cut by a firm undertow of acidity and a lingering, refreshing stony finish. It's a bang-for-your-buck Burgundy best enjoyed young. Europvin USA. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

MEURSAULT

94 Xavier Monnot 2019 Le Limozin (Meursault). Wild green herbs and smoky oak tones introduce this plump, silken Meursault. Yellow plum and grapefruit flavors are sunny and bright, enriched by a swirl of cream and elegant tangs of steel on the midpalate. This well-balanced, elegant Chardonnay is at peak now through 2030. Craft+Estate+Winebow. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$87

94 Xavier Monnot 2019 Les Charmes Premier Cru (Meursault). Swirls of smoke and caramelized honey accent white blossom and pear in this fresh-fruited, zesty but opulent white. Tart pineapple and lemon flavors pierce on the midpalate but finish with a delicate kiss of vanilla. Still approaching peak, the wine should soar from 2023 through 2035. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$129

93 Xavier Monnot 2019 Les Chevalières (Meursault). Notes of smoke, toast and dill introduce this broad-shouldered Chardonnay. Matured in 15% to 20% French oak, it has piercing lemon and tangerine flavors layered in smoky, savory oak accents but maintains a vitality and freshness throughout. The wine needs time to meld but should approach peak from 2024 and improve through 2035. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$87

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

97 Philippe Colin 2019 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Despite the intensely ripe vintage, there's plenty of elegance in this sun-drenched yet mineral, lifted Chardonnay. Matured 12 months in lightly toasted oak barrels (one-third new), it's slightly richer and nuttier than this producer's village-level Chassagne-Montrachet but maintains exhilarating yellow-pear and tart tangerine flavors. Approachable young, the wine should soar from 2025 to 2035. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$166

96 Philippe Colin 2019 Clos Saint Jean Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Dustings of smoked nut and resin accent ripe honeydew and Mirabelle plum in this rich, silky white. The creamy, mouthclinging Chardonnay is balanced brilliantly by lemon-lime acidity and a kiss of vanilla that lingers on the finish. Gorgeous and vital now, the wine should drink well through 2030. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$166

96 Philippe Colin 2019 En Remilly Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This pear- and green-apple-scented wine is sourced from a vineyard bordering the Grand Cru Chevalier-Montrachet. Spine-tingling lemon and grapefruit zest flavors are swirled into streaks of cream and silk, held upright by a nervy, steely spine of acidity. Full bodied yet electric, it drinks beautifully young but should hold through 2030. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$200

96 Philippe Colin 2019 Les Chaumées Clos Saint-Abdon Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Green apple and Mirabelle flavors are cutting and pure on the palate of this richly textured, supple wine. While plush in body and undeniably ripe, it has an edge of lemony acidity alongside streaks of crystalline minerality. Voluptuous yet freshly composed, it's delightful young but should fare well through 2030. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$166

95 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 Les Chaumées Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Sweet spice and smoke accent white grapefruit and yellow pear in this juicy, fruit-focused wine. Ripe and luscious in concentration, it also stands firm, bolstered by zippy acidity and a lean, steely finish. It's best to hold till 2024 at least. The wine should improve through 2035 and hold further. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Philippe Colin 2019 La Maltroie Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Lemon and white-grapefruit flavors are fringed by fresh green herbs and spring blossom in this spry yet satisfyingly rich white. Balancing ripeness has been a challenge for many producers in Burgundy in 2019 but there's not an inch of extra fat here, just swirls of silk and sunny fruit held upright by a mineral edge. Delicious young, the wine should improve through 2030 and hold further. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$166

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2019 La Maltroie Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Subtle hints of char and smoke dissipate into crushed stone and steel in this ample, richly textured yet brightly balanced white. It's a touch riper and broader in fruit profile than the 2018 vintage, but this satisfying Chardonnay should begin to approach peak by 2024 and improve well through

2035 and beyond. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$120

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2019 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). A touch softer and plumper than the 2018 vintage, this full-bodied, textured expression of Les Chenevottes highlights creamy layers of yellow-apple flavor accented by a spine of zesty lemon acidity. Lovely already, the wine is likely to intensify well through 2035. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 La Maltroie Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Sharp whiffs of thyme and sage are brightened by lemon and white grapefruit in this full-bodied, juicy Chardonnay. Lavishly oaked, it is herbal yet pristine and piercing in fruit. This powerful, fresh-fruited Chassagne drinks well young but should improve through 2035 and hold further still. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 Les Caillerets Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Whiffs of resin and smoke mingle into orange blossom and tart white grapefruit in this ripe but bright, nervy Chardonnay. While moderately full and silky in body, it balances its curves with a straight spine of acidity and tangy mineral notes that linger on the finish. A bit nervous in youth, it should approach peak from 2024 through 2030 and hold further. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Tangs of struck flint and lime zest introduce this richly concentrated yet zesty Chardonnay sourced from vineyards adjacent to the Grand Cru of Le Montrachet. Flavors of lemon and tangerine are opulent and piercing, softened by hints of vanilla, cream and smoked wood. Moderately full bodied but bold in presence, the wine should improve through 2035. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Domaine Roger Belland 2017 Morgeot-Clos Pitois Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Sourced from a walled monopole in the Morgeot sector along the border of Santenay, this creamy wine juxtaposes delicate smoke and earth tones against swirls of lemon curd and apricot flavors. Matured twelve months in 30% new oak, it's a lavish, rounded wine lifted by a chalky, salty minerality on the finish. Approaching peak now, the wine should drink well through 2030 at least. Ansonia Wines. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Philippe Colin 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet. This is a perfumed, citrusy expression of village-level Chassagne-Montrachet packed with pert, juicy green-apple and Meyer-lemon flavors.

While matured in 25% new oak, the fruit-focused wine balances its smokier, spicier intonations well alongside a bristling salty finish. Lovely young, the wine should maintain peak through 2027. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$116

93 Arnaud Baillet 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Chassagne-Montrachet). Delicate notes of toasted brioche and vanilla accent plump Mirabelle-plum and Meyer-lemon flavors in this luminous Chardonnay. It's ripe but pure in fruit expression, lifted by lemon-lime acidity and lingering on a subtle sugar-cookie finish. Beautiful young, the wine should drink well through 2030. Private Cask Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

93 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 Clos Saint Jean Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Sourced from biodynamically farmed vines located just outside the village of Chassagne-Montrachet, this steely, mineral-edged Chardonnay highlights high-toned lime and green-apple flavors. While supple and moderately full in body, it's an electric expression of this appellation, with a seductively smoky finish. Best held till 2025, it should improve well through 2035 and hold longer still. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 Les Macherelles Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Initially prominent notes of smoke, graphite and resin give way to crisp yellow-cherry and green-plum flavors in this bright-fruited, spicy white. A touch leaner and zestier than many of its peers from this ripe vintage, it highlights piercing yellow-fruit flavors against a backdrop of crushed white peppercorns and chalky minerality. While a bit tight in youth, it should open nicely from 2024 to 2034. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$121

93 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 Les Vergers Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Yellow plum and apple flavors are accented by saline, earthen undertones in this richly textured yet steely wine. Matured 18 months on its lees, it's supple and mouthclinging, finishing on notes of smoke and fresh herbs. Hold till 2025. The wine should improve well through 2035 and maintain further. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Louis Jadot 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet. Toasted almond and toffee notes mingle into ripe lemon and pear in this silky, cream-textured white. Judiciously oaked and luscious yet bright-eyed in fruit character, it's a smart village-level Chassagne-Montrachet with a steely, lingering finish. Ready now, the wine should drink well through 2029. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

93 Philippe Colin 2019 Les Vergers Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Ample and sun

drenched, this full-bodied Chardonnay offers rich, dense apricot and yellow-plum flavors. Powerful and broad, it's a creamy, mouthfilling sip accented by hints of sweet spice and smoke. Lemony acidity lends freshness on the finish. Welcoming young, the wine should drink at peak through 2027. Cape Classics. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$166

92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2019 En Pimont (Chassagne-Montrachet). Broader and riper in profile than the 2018 bottling of En Pimont, this full-bodied Chardonnay highlights flavors of preserved apricot and almond nougat accented by mesquite and crushed white pepper. Luscious in texture yet brightened by pert lemony acidity, the powerful wine is ready to drink now but should hold well through 2029. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2019 Les Macherelles Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Full bodied but crisply concentrated, this is a zestier expression of premier-cru Chassagne compared to its more opulent vintage peers. Green apple and grapefruit notes are ripe but brisk, accented by a vanilla and delicate notes of struck flint and smoke on the finish. Approachable now, the wine will likely improve through 2030 and hold further. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$121

92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 En Pimont (Chassagne-Montrachet). Streaks of green herb and toast introduce this bright, fresh-fruited village Chassagne-Montrachet. White grapefruit and lemon flavors are juicy and mouthwatering, accented by a dash of white pepper and a steely, long finish. Lovely young, the wine is concentrated enough to drink well through 2028. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Domaine Chanson 2019 Chassagne-Montrachet. A blend of three plots just outside Premier Cru vineyards, this ripe, robust expression of Chassagne-Montrachet is packed with juicy pear and lemon flavors, with a saline edge. Matured 12 to 14 months in a combination of new and old oak, it's lavishly toasty, accented by hints of smoke and charred vanilla bean balanced by steely acidity and a lingering, pleasantly creamy finish. At peak now—2030. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Edouard Delaunay 2018 Le Village (Chassagne-Montrachet). Apricot and Mirabelle plums are ripe, almost candied, in this richly concentrated wine. While opulent in fruit and texture, it's braced by a steely line of acidity and toasty, salty finish. Soft, rather fleshy fruit tones suggest younger drinking but the wine should hold through 2026. Total Wine & More. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$115

90 Maison Champy 2019 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). Dill, smoked hazelnut and toast are prominent now in this moderately full-bodied wine matured 12 months in barrel. While concentrated in yellow-plum and apple flavors and balanced in acidity, it's a bit frenetic in youth. Hold till 2025 at least. The wine is likely to improve through 2035. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$83

PULIGNY-MONTRACHET

95 Chapelle de Blagny 2018 Hameau de Blagny Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). Hints of smoked nut skins accent bright, cutting grapefruit and lemon flavors in this mineral-intense Chardonnay. Richly concentrated yet braced by steely tension, it's an invigorating expression of this producer's flagship vineyard. At peak from 2022 through 2032, the wine will hold further. T. Elen-teny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$130

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 La Garenne Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). Tightly held aromas of lemon zest and crushed earth introduce this vibrant, steely wine. Sourced from biodynamically farmed vines, its lemon and green-apple flavors are luminous and ripe yet spine-tingling in freshness and vitality. The full-bodied, silken wine is just approaching peak now and will likely improve through 2028 at least. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

94 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2018 Les Demoiselles Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). Smoky, steely mineral inflections extend from nose to finish in this moderately full but bracingly fresh Chardonnay. Yellow apple and tangerine flavors are ripe yet restrained, edged by that classic stony brininess that makes Puligny unique. A bit nervous in youth, the wine should approach peak by 2022 and improve through 2030. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$240

94 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Folatières Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). Hints of apple blossom and crushed oyster shells lend freshness to this creamy, mineral-laden Chardonnay. Finessed and bracing yet sumptuous in texture, its white grapefruit and pear flavors are rimmed by richer, warmer tones of almond and vanilla. This opulent yet classic expression of Puligny-Montrachet should hit peak from 2023 through 2035. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

94 Louis Jadot 2019 La Garenne Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet). Concentrated flavors of white peach and apricot are swirled into hazelnut and sweet cream in this ripe Chardonnay. Deeper reaching, ephemeral nuances of earth and stone here are a step up from Jadot's village-level Puligny.

BUYINGGUIDE

Fresh and mineral on the finish, the wine should develop beautifully through 2034 and hold further still. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$109

94 **Xavier Monnot 2019 Les Folatières Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** Piercing lemon and green-apple flavors are accented by hints of smoke, hazelnut skins and honeysuckle in this concentrated expression of the Folatières vineyard. It's ample and velvety in texture yet anchored by a nervy tension and bracing acidic edge. Just starting to open, the wine is likely to improve through 2033 at least. Craft+Estate+Winebow. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$135

93 **Château de la Créée 2018 La Rue aux Vaches (Puligny-Montrachet).** Sourced from clay soils of the east-facing La Rue Aux Vaches vineyard, this fresh-fruited Puligny highlights zesty lemon and pear flavors against a backdrop of rich cream. It's elegant and slim in profile, with a stony, steely finish that lingers vibrantly. Approaching peak from 2022, the wine is likely to improve through 2028. Domaine Serene. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

92 **Joseph Drouhin 2019 Puligny-Montrachet.** For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 **Louis Jadot 2019 Puligny-Montrachet.** Veins of smoke and vanilla introduce this solidly built, richly textured village-level Puligny-Montrachet matured in 30% new oak for 16 months. Brisk in Meyer lemon and pear flavors and accented by that classic limestone brininess, it's a solid introduction to the appellation that should approach peak from 2022 through 2029 yet hold further still. Kobrand. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$99

BEAUNE

95 **Joseph Drouhin 2019 Clos des Mouches Premier Cru (Beaune).** Ripe, juicy yellow-plum and pear flavors are calibrated by a fresh mineral undertone in this voluptuous expression of one Burgundy's most celebrated vineyards. Matured 12 to 15 months in 25% new oak, it's a big, powerful wine adorned in layers of sweet spice, smoke and dill undertones, but held upright by a spine of acidity. The wine needs some time to meld but should drink at peak from 2025 to 2035 and hold longer still. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection*. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$185

94 **Louis Jadot 2019 Le Clos Blanc Beaune Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune).** Crisp, cutting notes of Asian pear, lemon and yellow plum introduce this full-bodied but fresh-fruited wine. While fleshy on the palate and accented by hints of smoked nut, dill and hazelnut biscotti, it's a pure-

fruted, richly concentrated wine that should drink at peak through 2030. Kobrand. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

93 **Arnaud Baillot 2019 Les Pertuisots Premier Cru (Beaune).** Smoky, spicy vanilla and toasted brioche notes lend warmth to ripe Meyer lemon and Mirabelle flavors in this wine. While ample in texture and body, it's balanced by a steely spine of acidity. Welcoming already the wine will be at peak from 2023 to 2030 but likely to hold further still. Private Cask Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$49

93 **Domaine Chanson 2019 Clos des Mouches Premier Cru (Beaune).** Whiffs of fresh-churned butter and honey introduce this powerfully ripe, sun-drenched Chardonnay. The fleshy, voluminous wine shows the heat of the 2019 vintage through concentrated flavors of Meyer lemon and Mirabelle plum. Matured in oak casks for 14 to 18 months (with some new oak), the opulent, spicy sip should drink at peak from 2024 to 2035. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$129

BOURGOGNE

91 **Philippe Colin 2019 Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** Orange blossom and lemon notes perfume this youthful, fruit-focused white. A step above most introductory Bourgogne, the satiny, medium-bodied sip is packed with juicy citrus and tart white-peach flavors balanced by zesty acidity and a mineral spine. The finish lingers on hazelnut biscotti and lemon meringue. At peak now, the wine should hold through 2024. Cape Classics. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

90 **Arnaud Baillot 2019 Bourgogne.** Fresh green-apple and lemon flavors are accented by hints of dill, toast and smoke in this full-bodied, juicy Chardonnay. It's ripe and plush in texture but quite zippy, with a lingering, spicy finish. This well-made Bourgogne is best enjoyed now through 2026. Private Cask Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29

90 **Domaine Chanson 2019 Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** Just a hint of sweet-cream butter lends richness to bright pineapple and lemon flavors in this wine. Fresh in fruit yet accented by hints of smoke and toast, it's a solid introductory white Burgundy at an exceptionally smart price. It's best enjoyed young. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 **Famille Carabelle-Baum 2019 Bourgogne.** Whiffs of white blossom and subtle smoke introduce this vanilla-kissed Chardonnay. It's a lavish, creamy sip accented by bold notes of sweet-spice and cream soda but balanced smartly by zesty lemon acidity. At peak now—2025. Vivant Wines Inc. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 **Xavier Monnot 2019 Chardonnay Les Grandes Coutures (Bourgogne).** Sunny lemon and fresh pineapple tones introduce this juicy, fresh-fruited Chardonnay. It's ripe in fruit profile but svelte and a touch steely too. This elegant white Burgundy is ideal for youthful drinking. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

88 **Edouard Delaunay 2019 Septembre Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** Just a hint of sweet mesquite lends spice on the nose of this juicy, bright-fruited Chardonnay. Medium bodied and plump in yellow apple, pear and Mirabelle flavors, it's a fruit-forward, elegant sip best enjoyed young. Total Wine & More. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 **Lupé-Cholet 2019 Comtesse de Lupé Chardonnay (Bourgogne).** Crisp yellow apple and pear abound in this fresh, fruit-forward white. The thirst-quenching, easy sip is marked by sunny acidity and a kiss of vanilla on the finish. It's a smart introduction to white Burgundy with an eye-catching price point. Europvin USA. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

98 **Domaine Roger Belland 2018 Grand Cru (Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet).** Whispers of caramel and char lend smoky accents to white pear and lemon flavors in this rich yet complex, stately wine. Ripe and powerful in demeanor yet streaked with chalk, salt and steel, it's hedonistic yet pure in fruit and minerality. A stunner in youth, the wine is likely to improve over the next two decades. Ansonia Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: NA **Price:** \$395

98 **Philippe Colin 2019 Grand Cru (Chevalier-Montrachet).** From the flagship vineyard of an exceptionally terroir-focused producer, this spicy, smoky sip offers the seduction of French oak alongside piercing lemon, white peach and even pineapple flavors. Creamy and silk-tipped yet vital and translucent, it's everything you could ask of Grand Cru white Burgundy in such a ripe vintage. Irresistible young, the wine should continue to gain complexity through 2035. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Xavier Monnot 2019 Les Dureses (Monthélie).** A youthful, cheekier cousin of Meursault, this plump, lemony white offers juicy, primary citrus and pear flavors offset by steely tangs of acidity and spicy, smoky oak tones. It's a creamy, luscious wine that's lovely in youth but likely to hold through 2027 at least. Craft+Estate+Winebow. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

87 **Bovier et Fils 2020 Petit Chablis.** Chalky, smoky and spry, this easy-drinking wine offers zingy lime and lemon refreshment with a

mineral edge. Delicate in concentration but thirst quenching, it finishes on a slight grip of lime zest and lingering graphite notes. An elegant bargain find, this wine is best enjoyed young. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$19

86 **Domaine du Colombier 2020 Petit Chablis.** This light-bodied, delicately concentrated Petit Chablis offers crisp lemon and green-apple flavors accented by smoky, savory notes of charred nut, earth and toast. It's best enjoyed young. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

BURGUNDY RED WINES

FIXIN

95 **Domaine Pierre Gelin 2018 Clos Napoleon Premier Cru (Fixin).** Sourced from the producer's flagship monopole vineyard, this blackberryed sip spotlights ripe but pristine berry and cherry flavors accented by whispers of smoke and peppery spice. Moderately full in body, it's silken and supple in mouthfeel, with a glossy fringe of tannins that linger on the finish. Lovely already, the wine is likely to improve through 2035 and hold further still. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$93

92 **Domaine Pierre Gelin 2018 Les Hervelets Premier Cru (Fixin).** Lifted by fresh, green thyme and basil notes, Les Hervelets offers a bright, almost crunchy black-fruit expression that's invigorating. A touch more finessed and angular than the producer's rounder, meatier village-level Fixin, the wine has blackberry and plum flavors edged by hints of granite, licorice and rose petals. Fine-grained but firm tannins mark the finish. The wine should drink best from 2023 through 2030 and hold further. Winebow Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$85

90 **Domaine Pierre Gelin 2018 Fixin.** Notes of black-currant liqueur and preserved black plum are accented with violet petal in this rich and rounded yet sharply balanced Pinot Noir. It's a deeply concentrated, almost meaty sip marked by hints of licorice and charred earth. The finish is fringed with fine, silky tannins. Best now–2026. Winebow Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$58

POMMARD

97 **Château de Pommard 2019 Clos Marey-Monge Monopole (Pommard).** Cherry blossom, rose petal and freshly dug beetroot mingle into notes of raspberry preserves and Maraschino cherries in this perfumed blend of grapes from six plots within the walled Clos Marey-Monge monopole vineyard. A powerful but vibrantly cut expres-

sion of Pommard, it's packed with luscious red fruit lifted by streaks of redcurrant acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins. There's a lot of aging potential in this wine but it's also lovely in youth. Vivant Wines Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 14%

Price: \$150

96 **Château de Pommard 2018 Clos Marey-Monge Monopole (Pommard).** Power and freshness collide in this voluptuous, sun-drenched Pinot Noir sourced from a blend of plots in Clos Marey-Monge, a walled monopole located at the base of the Pommard slope. It offers intensely rich, pulsating blackberry and blueberry flavors lifted by streaks of char, smoke and cut stone. With a bristling acidic edge and fine-grained but densely packed tannins, the wine should improve and gain further perfume and nuance from 2024 to 2038. Vivant Wines Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$151

95 **Château de Pommard 2019 Clos Marey-Monge Grands Esprits (Pommard).** The Grands Esprits has the highest limestone content of all the plots of Clos Marey-Monge and this supple, silky Pinot Noir with vibrant acidity and firm, angular tannins is a fantastic representation of this terroir. Red cherry and raspberry flavors are intensely ripe yet zesty, accented by tangs of tart blood orange and a deep granitic undertone. Approachable young, the wine is likely to improve through 2035 and hold further still. Vivant Wines Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 14%

Price: \$83

94 **Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine du Pavillon Clos des Ursulines Monopole (Pommard).** Dustings of crushed stone, ash and violet petals introduce this red-berried, satiny sip sourced from the southern end of Pommard near Volnay. Red-cherry and red-plum flavors on the palate are ripe but youthful and pure, accented by hints of fur and smoke and a lingering frame of fine-grained, sharply lingering tannins. It should approach peak by 2023 and improve through at least 2035. Albert Bichot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$89

94 **Château de la Créée 2018 Les Petits Noizons (Pommard).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13%

Price: \$95

94 **Château de Pommard 2019 Clos Marey-Monge Nicolas Joseph (Pommard).** A unique single-plot expression within the walled Clos-Marey-Monge vineyard, this rich, fleshy red highlights the spice and smoke of Pinot Noir sourced from iron-rich red-clay soils. Black-plum and red-cherry flavors are boldly concentrated, lifted by hints of violet perfume and a firm acidic spine. Anchored by fine-grained but densely packed tannins, the wine should improve through 2030. Vivant Wines Inc. —A.I.

abv: 14%

Price: \$88

94 **Château de Pommard 2018 Clos Marey-Monge 75 Rangs (Pommard).** Sandalwood, rose petals and charred mesquite perfume this bottling sourced from 75 rows of vines situated in the lowest topographic position of the Clos Marey-Monge. A touch softer and richer in fruit ripeness than the producer's "Monopole" bottling, it offers plush roasted-plum and black-cherry flavors lifted by tart blackberry acidity and a chalky, salty limestone finish. Still approaching peak, the wine should drink beautifully from 2024 through 2038. Vivant Wines Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$111

94 **Edouard Delaunay 2018 Les Frémiers Premier Cru (Pommard).** Sourced from vines adjacent to Les Frémiers climat in Volnay, this supple, decadently black-berried Pinot Noir shares the same smoky, truffle nuances and fresh-footed flair that you might expect there. It's ripe but catapulted by a zesty spine of acidity. Soft, delicately chatty tannins linger on the finish. While a bit tightly wound now, the wine should approach peak from 2023 through 2028 and hold further. Total Wine & More. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$120

94 **Maison Evenstad 2018 Les Grands Épenots Premier Cru (Pommard).** Les Grands Épenots vineyard is considered one of the finest expressions of Pommard. Penetrating red cherry and raspberry flavors are ripe but racy, edged by bristling acidity and tangs of salt and cut stone. Framed by silky yet persistent tannins and lingering notes of char and allspice, the wine should continue to gain depth and perfume through 2035 at least. Domaine Serene. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$135

93 **Paul Aegerter 2018 Les Rugiens Réserve Personnelle Premier Cru (Pommard).** Lilac and black plum juxtapose charred earth and crushed anise in this smoky, perfumed Pinot Noir. Sourced from red clay and limestone soils, it's a spicy, powerful wine marked by throbbing black cherry and mulberry flavors, with a cutting streak of acidity. Soft in tannins, it finishes on lingering notes of sandalwood and resin. Not yet at peak, the wine should drink beautifully from 2025 through 2030 at least. Enoclassica Selection. —A.I.

abv: 13%

Price: \$110

92 **Charles Père et Fille 2019 Pommard.** Announcing itself with notes of raspberry pastille, lilac and red-cherry sorbet, this fresh-fruited, perfumed sip offers a forward expression of village-level Pommard. Soft in tannins and brightly balanced in acidity, it's an easy drinking yet elegant Pinot Noir that's irresistible young. T. Elenteny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$70

92 **Domaine A. Machard de Gramont 2019 Clos Blanc Premier Cru (Pommard).** A smoky veil of charred vanilla and sandalwood introduces this rich, spicy Pinot Noir. Ample and plush in demeanor, it highlights fleshy black cherry and

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plum flavors dusted with fine, furry tannins and a sprinkling of crushed licorice candy. The wine is ready to drink now but should improve through 2029. Saranty Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$63

92 Xavier Monnot 2019 Les Vignots (Pommard). Smoke and charred earth accent ripe but restrained blackberry and plum in this elegant, graphite-edged Pinot Noir. Sourced from a high-elevation, south-facing site, it's powerful in fruit but has a racy mineral edge that's invigorating. Fine, silky tannins make the wine ready now but it should hold through 2029. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$85

91 Louis Jadot 2019 Pommard. A hint of incense lends smoky appeal to black cherry and black currant notes in this juicy, fruit-forward wine. Silky tannins and youthful black-fruit flavors make it immediately enjoyable but this elegant, penetrating wine should hold well through 2026. Kobrand. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

SANTENAY

94 Château de la Créée 2018 Clos Faubard Premier Cru (Santenay). Whiffs of charred anise and hazelnut extend from nose to finish in this wine, lending a smoky tone to crisp black cherry and preserved raspberry flavors. Although opulent in mouthfeel and body, it maintains a zippy spine of acidity and soft, smoothing tannins. At peak now through 2030, the wine should hold longer as well. Domaine Serene. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

94 Domaine Julie Belland 2019 Beauregard Premier Cru (Santenay). Toasty notes of hazelnut biscotti and woodfire lend a caramelized touch to ripe flavors of fresh blackberry and blueberry in this wine. Typically vinified with 30% stem inclusion, it's pure in fruit character yet structured and piercing on the palate. Firm, fine-grained tannins hold everything upright on the finish. Lovely in youth, the wine is likely to improve through 2030. Total Wine & More. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$45

93 Château de la Créée 2018 La Confrérie (Santenay). Delicate notes of licorice and fresh blackberries introduce this richly concentrated but spry Pinot Noir sourced from gravelly clay soils. Black plum and berry flavors are muted by hints of earth and sweet spice. Fine, chalky tannins extend the finish. At peak from 2023 through 2030, the wine is likely to hold longer as well. Domaine Serene. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$90

93 Philippe Colin 2019 Santenay. Decadent notes of rum and toasted coconut accent ripe, rich black-cherry and plum flavors in this wine. A blend of Pinot Noir from the En Boichot and Les Prarons Dessus vineyards located in the periph-

ery of Santenay's Premier Cru site, the deeply concentrated red is framed by fine, silky tannins and bright acidity. Ready now, it should maintain peak through 2029. Cape Classics. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$60

92 Albert Bichot 2019 Clos Rousseau Premier Cru (Santenay). Delicate notes of toast and crushed granite accent zippy red cherry and redcurrant flavors in this fresh-fruited, medium-bodied wine. Matured 14 to 16 months in 100% oak (20% to 30% new), it balances crisp red-fruit flavors against hints of charry caramel and black pepper. Fine, silky tannins make it approachable young but the wine is likely to improve through 2030 and hold much longer. Albert Bichot USA. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$59

91 Louis Jadot 2019 Clos de Malte (Santenay). Fresh blueberries are accented by dried rosepetals and graphite in this youthful, bright-fruited Pinot Noir. Full bodied but crisply balanced by tart redcurrant acidity, it's a mouthwatering, delicately tannic red best enjoyed through 2026. Kobrand. —A.I.

abv: 14% Price: \$47

89 Maison André Goichot 2019 Santenay. Notes of rose petal and plum confit perfume this velvety, textured wine. Matured 11 months in French oak, it offers black cherry and blueberry flavors shaded by hints of toast and smoke. Medium bodied and fringed by fine-grained tannins, this approachable wine should maintain peak through 2026. Bello Wine Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$35

VOLNAY

95 Louis Jadot 2019 Clos de la Barre Monopole Premier Cru (Volnay). Lifted and blossomy on the nose, this full-bodied, powerful Pinot Noir balances rich blackberry and raspberry flavors with an earthen, smoky minerality. Full and rounded on the palate but braced by a zesty peel of acidity, it's a bold yet stately expression of an exceptionally ripe vintage in Volnay. At peak 2024–2035. Kobrand. —A.I.

abv: 14% Price: \$96

95 Maison Evenstad 2018 Robardelle Premier Cru (Volnay). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14% Price: \$125

94 Domaine Roger Belland 2018 Santenots Premier Cru (Volnay). Smoky, spicy notes of sandalwood and candied violets perfume this ripe but sharply balanced red sourced from vineyards south of Volnay in Meursault. It's rich in fruit but nery too, a well-balanced wine from a hot vintage, with a finish edged in very fine, furry tannins. While tight still in 2021, it should open beautifully from 2023 and improve through 2030. Ansonia Wines. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$78

94 Edouard Delaunay 2018 Le Village Vieilles Vignes (Volnay). Intensely ripe blackberry and cassis abound in this velvety yet graphite-etched Pinot Noir. Luxurious in concentration, it's accented by hints of violet and musk and wrapped up in soft, feathery tannins. The juicy, primary fruit and plush texture are welcoming young but the wine should improve through 2026 and hold further. Total Wine & More. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

94 Maison Evenstad 2018 Les Brouillards Premier Cru (Volnay). Smoky black tea and anise lend sultry spice to notes of preserved black plum and cherry in this ripe, ample Pinot Noir. While plump on the palate, it's anchored by sharp edges of black-currant acidity and soft, chalky tannins that linger on the finish. At peak from 2023 through 2030, the wine is likely to hold further. Domaine Serene. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$125

93 Xavier Monnot 2019 Clos des Chênes Premier Cru (Volnay). Hints of smoky lapsang souchong tea leaves and anise accent ripe yet zesty blackberry and cassis in this full-bodied, supple red. It's a rich, rounded Pinot Noir held upright by zesty darts of acidity and finishing in pools of soft, silky tannins. While a bit nervous in youth it should hit peak from 2024 through 2030 and hold further. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$120

91 Charles Père et Fille 2019 Les Premiets Premier Cru (Volnay). Whiffs of preserved black plums and lilac blossoms extend from nose to finish in this sun-drenched, soft-fruited Volnay. It's plush and rounded on the palate but edged by pleasantly bitter tea tannins and a lingering hints of smoke and truffle. The wine is ready now and likely at peak through 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.I.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$85

89 Domaine Poulleau Père et Fils 2019 Le Vertueux (Volnay). Notes of branded cherries and truffle waft from this plush Pinot Noir. Ripe, almost ruddy, in fruit profile, it highlights fleshy black plum and cherry flavors muted by shades of mushroom and clay. Pert acidity lends a bright counterpoint on the finish. It's a soft, delicately tannic wine likely to drink best through 2025. Misa Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13% Price: \$58

89 Edouard Delaunay 2017 Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Gauvain Santenots Premier Cru (Volnay). Heady notes of smoke and incense introduce this ripe but restrained and earthen wine sourced from vineyards south of Volnay in Meursault. Flavors of roasted black plum and cherry on the palate are muted by hints of fresh clay and black-tea leaves. Fine-grained, taut tannins grip the finish but the wine is showing maturity already and will be best enjoyed through 2026. Total Wine & More. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$170

89 **Maison Champy 2019 Volnay.** Truffly, earthen notes and ripe, almost preserved, blackberry and plum collide in this rich but sharply balanced Pinot Noir. Matured 16 months in barrel, it offers black-fruit flavors muted by a delicately smoky, charry undertone. Best enjoyed now–2025. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

BEAUNE

95 **Domaine Chanson 2019 Clos des Fèves Monopole Premier Cru (Beaune).** Hints of bran-died cherries and crushed graphite accent piercing blackberry and raspberry in this full-bodied and ripe yet stately wine. Sourced from one of Chan-son's monopole vineyards, it's pure in black-fruit flavors yet doesn't shy away from savory complexi-ties of minty green herbs and charred earth. Soft in tannins and freshly balanced, it should improve through 2035 and hold further. Vintus LLC. *Edi-tors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$129

95 **Joseph Drouhin 2019 Clos des Mouches Pre-mier Cru (Beaune).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$150

94 **Edouard Delaunay 2018 Hospices de Beaune Cuvée Rousseau-Deslandes Premier Cru (Beaune).** Hints of balsamic and forest floor on the nose lend subtle, savory nuances to bristling red-currant and raspberry on the palate of this wine. A penetrating, richly concentrated red, it's accented by bites of cranberry acidity and ruffles of earth and iodine. Firm in tannins and nervous in youth now, it should hit peak from 2024 through 2036 and hold longer still. Total Wine & More. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$135

94 **Louis Jadot 2019 Clos des Ursules Mono-pole Premier Cru (Beaune).** One of the flag-ship wines of the Beaune, this Pinot Noir sourced from a walled monopole vineyard offers up bright, sun-kissed red-cherry and wild-strawberry flavors accented by hints of fur and earth. It's ripe and robust in body but freshly balanced by a spirited edge of acidity and very fine, persistent tannins. At peak from 2023 through 2032, it's likely to hold further. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$96

93 **Edouard Delaunay 2018 Les Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune).** Black cherry pastilles and violets perfume this juicy, floral wine sourced from Les Grèves, located at the foot of the Beaune slope. It's a bright, charming wine packed with fresh red-cherry and raspberry flavors as well as hints of tobacco, earth and sweet spice. Matured 15 months in oak (30% new), it's piercing and concentrated but rounded and velvety too, finishing on fine, furry tannins. Delicious already, the wine should improve

through 2036 and hold further. Total Wine & More. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 **Jean-Luc and Paul Aegerter 2019 Bélissand Réserve Personnelle Premier Cru (Beaune).** Aromas of crisp blackberry and raspberry introduce this vibrant Pinot Noir sourced from a single vine-yard at the foot of the slope of Beaune. Vinified in stainless steel and matured in oak (30% new bar-rels), it offers piercing and zesty wild-berry flavors anchored by a richer, velvety backdrop of cassis and plum. Edged by graphite and fine, silky tannins, it's approachable young but should improve and meld through 2035 and hold further still. Enoclassica Selection. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$63

93 **Maison Evenstad 2018 Les Épenotes Premier Cru (Beaune).** Smoky, sweet notes of san-dalwood perfume this moderately full-bodied yet bright-eyed Pinot Noir sourced from the clay-rich Les Épenotes vineyard. It's a juicy, elegantly ripened red packed with piercing black-cherry flavor. While soft and soothing in tannins, it has a zesty acidic spice that's refreshing. Ready now, the wine should improve through 2030. Domaine Serene. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$110

93 **Xavier Monnot 2019 Les Cent-Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune).** This vibrant Pinot Noir is sourced from the gently sloping northern reaches of the Beaune amphitheater. While deeply ripe, the wine has delicate raspberry and red-cherry flavors. It's a supple, silk-edged sip with soft, dusty tannins that leave chalky freshness on the finish. Approach-able young, it should improve through 2030. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

92 **Charles Père et Fille 2019 Les Epenottes Pre-mier Cru (Beaune).** Delicate whiffs of cherry blossom and violet extend from nose to finish in this rich, satin-tipped Pinot Noir. Vinified with 25% whole clusters and matured 12 months in oak (25% new), it's pure in blackberry and cassis flavors lifted by hints of graphite, smoke and anise. Soft in tan-nins, the wine is irresistible young but should gain complexity well through 2026 and hold longer still. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2019 En Genêt Premier Cru (Beaune).** Whispers of char and smoked nut accent this rich black-cherry and plum flavored sip. Matured 12 months in barrel prior to bottling, it's etched by subtle veins of sweet spice and vanilla. This plush, softly tannic expression of Beaune is ready now but will likely drink well through at least 2030. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.15% **Price:** \$55

91 **Domaine Poulleau Père et Fils 2019 Les Prévoles (Beaune).** Notes of sandalwood and raspberry preserves introduce this fruity red. Red cherry and wild strawberry flavors are sun drenched but pristine on the palate, accented by

sunny streaks of redcurrant acidity and soft, pil-lowy tannins. The finish lingers on hints of vanilla and smoky tea leaves. Ready now, the wine should maintain peak through 2026 and hold further still. Misa Imports. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

91 **Xavier Monnot 2019 Les Toussaints Premier Cru (Beaune).** This sultry wine offers richer, deeper blackberry and blueberry aromas compared to the zestier red berries of Les Cent Vignes, Mon-net's other premier cru Beaune bottling. Matured 12 to 14 months in 30% to 35% new French oak, it's a ripe, weighty wine but briskly balanced too, etched by tart streaks of red-currant acidity. While a bit nervous now, the wine should meld from 2022 and maintain peak through 2029. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

89 **Maison Champy 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Beaune).** Plump notes of preserved black-ber-ry and blueberry introduce this medium-bodied but zesty wine. Matured 14 months in barrel, it's rich and rounded in mouthfeel but etched by hints of fruit-flavored vitamins that lend a puckering acidic edge. Soft tannins make it approachable young. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

BOURGOGNE

91 **Domaine Tollot-Beaut 2018 Pinot Noir (Bour-gogne).** Spicy whiffs of cinnamon and white pepper accent rich layers of blackberry preserve in this plump, ample Pinot Noir. Opulent and richly concentrated, it is anchored by brisk acidity and an elegant mineral sheen. This satisfying, ele-vated Bourgogne should drink well through 2026. Winebow Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

91 **Philippe Colin 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne).** Whiffs of toasted brioche, hazelnuts and all-spice perfume the nose of this lavish Bourgogne. Blackberry and black-plum flavors are ripe but pristine, held upright by brisk acidity and very fine, chalky tannins. Forward in fruit, it's drinking well young but should maintain peak through 2026. Cape Classics. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

90 **Le Prince des Pierres 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne).** Fresh tobacco and toasted hazelnuts introduce this raspberry and straw-ber-ry-inflected red. Sourced from vineyards in Chassagne-Montrachet and Santenay, the pen-etrating, fruit-focused wine is balanced by elegant accents of earth, smoke and piquant sweet spices. Full bodied but fresh and cutting, the wine is ready now and likely to maintain peak through 2025 at least. Cape Classics. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 **Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne).** Whiffs of granite and smoke

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accent plump, juicy flavors of Morello cherry and dried strawberry in this bold, fruity Pinot Noir. It's an easy-drinking, rather luscious Bourgogne Rouge framed with soft, furry tannins and a hint of char that lingers on the finish. At peak now, the wine should hold well through 2025. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Camille Paquet 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Black cherries and violets perfume this brisk, brightly balanced Pinot Noir. While it is medium bodied and supple in mouthfeel, the red-cherry and raspberry palate is biting and fresh. Soft, silky tannins make the wine immediately enjoyable but it should maintain peak through 2026. Winebow Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Domaine des Perdrix 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Black-plum and mulberry flavors are plump in this full-bodied, ripe Pinot Noir. It's a soft, voluminous wine with easy, pillowy tannins but crisply balanced by a sharp edge of cassis acidity on the finish. Easy drinking yet elegant, it should drink at peak through 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.I.

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

89 Domaine Mia 2019 San Sulfites Ajoutés (Bourgogne). Delightful whiffs of violets and black-cherry candies perfume this cheeky, fresh-fruited Pinot Noir. Made with no added sulfites and soft in tannins, it's a juicy, blackberryed sip with a delightfully glou-glou kind of drinkability. Best enjoyed now–2024. Clos & Monopole Inc. —A.I.

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

89 Famille Carabelle-Baum 2019 Bourgogne. This ripe, powerfully built wine balances rich, forward black-plum and black-cherry flavors with hits of acidity and a smoky, spicy undertow. Its fruit profile is dense, ripe and roasted but freshened by hints of blossom and fresh herb. This lovely entry-level red Burgundy will drink at peak through 2025. Vivant Wines Inc. —A.I.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

89 Thierry et Pascale Matrot 2017 Bourgogne. Bracing red berry and cherry notes are edged by granite and tobacco leaf in this slim, crisp-fruited wine. Bright in fruit and framed by fine, silky tannins, it's an invigorating red that's ideal young and served slightly chilled alongside roast chicken or grilled salmon. Vineyard Brands. —A.I.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$33

88 Arnaud Baillet 2019 Bourgogne. Traces of tobacco, forest floor and leather lend savory nuances to crisp blackberry and boysenberry in this full-bodied but briskly concentrated Pinot Noir. Black-fruit flavors are ripe but restrained on the palate, accented by nervy acidity and charré sandpaper tannins that linger on the finish. It should

ease and meld a bit by 2022 and drink well through 2027. Private Cask Imports. —A.I.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29

88 Domaine des Farondes 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Delicate whiffs of vanilla and anise accent tart black cherry and plum in this moderately full-bodied but zesty Pinot Noir. Accented by savory notes of earth and smoke and very fine, chalky tannins, it's an elegant introductory Burgundy for a bargain price best enjoyed now through 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Clotilde Davenne 2018 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Fresh raspberries and redcurrants introduce this light-footed, freshly concentrated Pinot Noir. The zesty sip highlights tart red-cherry and berry flavors as well as a hint of sandalwood and fine-grained, grippy tannins. At peak now–2025. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.I.

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

87 Edouard Delaunay 2019 Septembre Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). While subtle on the nose, this wine offers elegantly concentrated black-plum and cherry flavors accented by a smoky hint of sandalwood. The fruit profile is a touch roasted, but it's a briskly balanced, approachably priced Pinot Noir at peak through 2024. Total Wine & More. —A.I.

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

87 Le Clos D'Augustin 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Hints of incense and smoke meld into crisp raspberry and red cherry in this brisk, light-bodied red. Although not deeply concentrated, it's appealing for the pristine red-berry flavors and lifted acidic edge. Easygoing in tannin structure, the wine drinks best now through 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Lupé-Cholet 2019 Comte de Lupé Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Raspberry cordials and red-plum preserves introduce this youthful, freshly concentrated Pinot Noir. It's ripe but elegantly restrained on the palate, with notes of strawberry leather and red-cherry candy accented by zesty acidity and lingering tones of sandalwood. Best now–2024. Europvin USA. —A.I.

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

86 Château de Chamilly 2019 Pinot Noir (Bourgogne). Black-cherry pastilles are scratched by hints of fruit-flavored vitamins in this slender, slightly bracing Pinot Noir. Black-plum and berry flavors are ripe but a touch muted on the palate, edged by hints of savory black olive and balsamic. Best enjoyed with food now–2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.I.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

freshly picked violets and crisp black plums gain ripeness and concentration in this mineral Pinot Noir. Vinified via indigenous yeast and matured for 20 to 24 months in used oak, it's penetrating in fruit yet sheer and crystalline, edged by a salty spray of crushed stone and fine-tipped tannins that linger on the finish. Beautiful already, the wine should improve through 2030 and hold further. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

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

94 Philippe Colin 2019 Les Chênes (Chassagne-Montrachet). Black currants and red cherries are succulent and soft in this deeply ripe yet elegant Pinot Noir. It's plush and fleshy, but crisply balanced by raspberry acidity and delicate notes of tea leaf, violet petal and crushed graphite. Soft, feathery tannins make the wine welcoming young but it should improve through 2035 and hold further still. Cape Classics. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Domaine Tollot-Beaut 2018 Chorey-lès-Beaune. Candied black cherries are accented by hints of tar and anise in this smoky, black-fruited Pinot Noir. It's ripe but elegantly muted by shades of earth and rose-petal perfume. Moderately full in body and zesty on the midpalate, it should drink at peak now through 2028 and hold further still. Winebow Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

91 Charles Père et Fille 2019 Cuvée du Menhir (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). Perfumed, pristine blackberry and raspberry flavors abound in this fresh-fruited, juicy Pinot Noir. Vinified in stainless steel and matured in amphora, it's a bright, concentrated wine with translucent fruit. At peak now–2025. T. Elenteny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

91 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Côte de Beaune. For full review see page 14.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

91 Xavier Monnot 2019 Clos de la Fussièrre Premier Cru Monopole (Maranges). Sourced from Maranges, at the southernmost end of the Côte de Beaune, this wine has an ample, fleshy feel. Black-plum and cherry flavors are anchored by a pert spine of acidity. It's soft and supple in fruit profile but elegant too, accented by hints of clove, peppery spice and fine, feathery tannins. The wine is welcoming young but should hold nicely through 2033 at least. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2019 Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune. Earthen notes of crushed granite and char lend a smoky countenance to blackberry and plum flavors in this wine. Sourced from vines in high-elevation slopes beyond the Côtes de Beaune, it offers ripe and concentrated black-fruit flavors cut by a nervy spine of acidity and soft, charré tannins that linger. At peak from

OTHER RED WINES

95 Domaine Pierre Gelin 2018 Clos de Meixville Monopole (Gevrey-Chambertin). Wisps of

2022–2028. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

87 **Domaine Thevenot-le-Brun 2019 Hautes Cotes de Beaune.** Smoky notes of black tea, sandalwood and charred vanilla bean introduce this brisk, red-cherried Pinot Noir. Prominently spiced yet zesty in concentration, it's an approachable wine ideal for youthful drinking. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

CHAMPAGNE BRUT

98 **Bollinger 2007 R.D. Brut (Champagne).** R.D., or Recently Disgorged, is a Bollinger hallmark. This wine has stayed on its lees for many years before release, giving it intensity, maturity and great depth. The wine is powerful, concentrated and elegant. Drink now. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$300

97 **Billecart-Salmon 2007 Cuvée Nicolas François Brut (Champagne).** This beautiful Champagne is amazingly at its peak. Not too mature, not too young, the wine is in fine balance, showing some nervy edge as well as touches of toast. With a small amount of wood vinification, the wine has extra fullness. Drink through 2025. Billecart Salmon USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$150

97 **Krug 2008 Brut (Champagne).** A vintage Champagne from this producer is rare. But 2008 was a great year in Champagne and that shows in this intense, still amazingly young wine. Freshness works with the richness to give concentration, density and the sure-fire possibility of long-term aging. So drink now, but the Champagne will last for many years. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

97 **Louis Roederer 2013 Cristal Rosé Brut (Champagne).** A pale rosé color of this great Champagne leads to a wine that has toast, spice and layers of citrus and red fruits. Its richness is balanced by freshness that will take several years to fully mature. So, even at eight years, the wine has plenty of room to develop. Drink from 2023. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$579

96 **Billecart-Salmon 2008 Elisabeth Salmon Brut Rosé (Champagne).** Although a small part of this Champagne was vinified in wood, it is the rich fruit that shows the wine's quality. Touches of toast indicate the approach of maturity, and the wine is now perfectly poised and ready to drink. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$230

95 **Joseph Perrier 2012 Cuvée Josephine Brut (Champagne).** The traditional luxury cuvée

from this producer, this shows new depth and richness in its latest incarnation. The spice, lingering touches of white fruits and minerality are just right. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$160

95 **Krug NV Rosé 25ème Edition Brut (Champagne).** This Champagne offers a perfect balance between maturity and fruit. It starts with the toasty aroma and moves to the palate that is mature while also having hints of red fruits and spice. The wine shows the advantage of aged rosé Champagne. Drink now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

95 **Perrier Jouët 2012 Belle Epoque Rosé Brut (Champagne).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$300

94 **Michel Forget 2010 Millésime Premier Cru Brut (Champagne).** A half-and-half blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, this Champagne is at a perfect point of maturity. The initial fruit may have gone, but it has been replaced by rich toast, tight acidity and layers of spice and richness. Drink now. Five Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$95

94 **Philipponnat NV Royale Réserve Brut (Champagne).** This is the nonvintage Champagne from this producer. With its richness and high percentage of Pinot Noir, it reflects the house style. Touches of spice and a light structure give shape to the white fruits. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$65

94 **Philipponnat NV Royale Réserve Rosé Brut (Champagne).** Golden pink in color, this Champagne is well balanced. Richness contrasts with the bright apple and touches of red currant that give the wine structure and density. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$85

93 **Devaux 2009 D Millésimé Brut (Champagne).** Now mature, this is rich in secondary flavors while still full of life. It has spice, acidity that has rounded into the toastiness and a fine depth of concentration. Drink now. Seaview Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$99

93 **Fallet Dart NV Quercus Brut (Champagne).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$67

93 **Forget-Brimont 2010 Vintage Brut Premier Cru (Champagne).** Bottled after 10 years on its lees, this Champagne has great richness, with mature flavors mingling with the acidity and kiwi fruit flavors. The wine is in perfect condition, ready to drink now. Private Cask Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$95

93 **Jeeper NV #XXI Silver Brut (Champagne).** A Blanc de Blancs Champagne, this is elegantly textured with white fruits and tight minerality that has softened into the hints of maturity. The wine is poised, balanced and ready to drink. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$99

93 **Joseph Perrier 2012 Cuvée Royale Brut Vintage (Champagne).** With its poise between toasty, warm maturity and fresh white fruits, this Champagne is at its peak. It has good depth and touches of spice that add complexity and richness to a wine that is now ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$95

93 **Mailly Grand Cru 2013 L'Intemporelle Brut (Champagne).** This blend of 60% Pinot Noir with Chardonnay is both rich and fruity, structured and perfumed, summing up the house style of the producer. Ripe with white fruits and tight minerality, this bottling is very ready to drink. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$99

93 **Michel Forget NV Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Brut (Champagne).** Fruit from Chardonnay's spiritual home in Champagne, the Côte des Blancs, gives this wine good balance between richness and tight texture. The wine is bright with apples and citrus that are mitigated by a touch of maturity. It is ready to drink. Five Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

93 **Roger Barnier 2014 Cuvée Exquise Brut Millésimé (Champagne).** With five years' aging before disgorgement, this Champagne, with its high percentage of Chardonnay, is now at its peak. Keeping the nervy edge of zestiness, it has developed concentration and depth from its edge of toast and spice. Drink now. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$75

92 **Charles Mignon 2015 Cuvée Comte de Marne Grand Cru Millésime Brut (Champagne).** This Champagne offers attractive hints of maturity coupled with white fruits that have softened into a creamier texture. It is well balanced, so drink now. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

92 **Devaux NV Cuvée Rosé Brut (Champagne).** This rich, well-textured Champagne has red fruits underlined by orange-zest acidity. Structure comes from the high proportion of Pinot Noir in the blend, giving richness. Drink now. Seaview Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$69

92 **Forget-Brimont NV Brut Rosé Grand Cru (Champagne).** This mature bottling is rich in bread and toast flavors. Acidity and minerality run through the Champagne, keeping freshness to contrast with the secondary flavors. Drink now. Private Cask Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$75

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Jeeper NV #XXI Pink Brut (Champagne). This is effectively a Blanc de Blancs that has been given a dash of Pinot Noir still wine. With hints of the wood aging before bottling, the Champagne is rich, lightly mineral and ripe with structured white fruits. Drink now. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$129

92 Jeeper NV Brut Blanc de Blancs Grande Réserve (Champagne). This Champagne, with its attractive toasty white fruits, is now perfectly mature. With the minerality of Chardonnay still intact, the texture is zesty, nervy and finely poised. Drink the wine now. XXI Wines & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$69

92 Jeeper 2005 La Grande Cuvée Brut (Champagne). This Champagne is very mature, just on the right side of old. It offers richness, layers of spice and toast, and a crisp edge that will appeal to lovers of toasty, old Champagnes. It also means that it is very ready to drink now. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$115

92 Michel Forget NV Rosé Grand Cru Brut Champagne Blend (Champagne). From Grand Cru vineyards, this is a ripe and fruity Champagne. It is textured, promising further development as well as a toasty maturity. Drink now or wait until 2022. Five Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$75

92 Roger Barnier 2016 Cuvée Blanche Brut Chardonnay (Champagne). From a selection of parcels, this Champagne has just moved from its tight minerality to focus on riper apples and a touch of toast. With the freshness just changing into further complexity, now is the time to drink. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$70

92 Roger Barnier 2016 Les Bacons Brut (Champagne). Taken from selected parcels, this Meunier-dominated Champagne also includes three of the region's less-known varieties in its blend. It has richness with a texture that is softening, giving a creamy character to the perfumed acidity. This well-textured wine, is ready to drink. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$110

91 Devaux NV Cuvée D Rosé Brut (Champagne). There is a good age on this attractive, softly textured bottling. That contrasts with taut acidity and crisp red fruits, giving a perfumed aftertaste. Drink now. Seaview Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$80

91 Gosset NV Grand Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). This wine balances a soft texture with its dosage and the apple freshness of Chardonnay. The wine has youth and vigor while also hinting at mineral maturity. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$90

91 Jeeper NV Grand Rosé Brut (Champagne). With just a tiny hint of pink to justify its rosé name, this Champagne is more about white fruits. The texture is tangy, bright with acidity and orange zest. It is ready to drink. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$75

91 Lanson NV Le Rosé Brut (Champagne). Pale in color, this rosé is crisp and fruity, with an edge of red fruits alongside the citrus and light spice. A touch of maturity at the end adds to the wine's attractiveness and balance. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$70

91 Mailly Grand Cru NV Brut Réserve (Champagne). Like all wines from this producer on the Montagne de Reims, this is a Pinot Noir-dominated Champagne. Rich, full in the mouth and with white fruits, it is totally ready to drink. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$45

91 Michel Forget NV Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru Brut (Champagne). This Champagne with toasty aromas has fine bottle age to soften the intensity of the mineral Chardonnay. The fruit, from the Montagne de Reims, has weight and richness, and the wine is ready to drink. Five Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$52

91 Michel Forget NV Brut Premier Cru (Champagne). This producer's nonvintage cuvée holds equal amounts of Pinot Noir and Meunier, topped up by Chardonnay. It is well balanced, full of fruit and lightly textured. The dosage gives it richness, enhancing the wine's balance and white-fruit flavors. Drink now. Five Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$48

91 Régnier-Raffin NV Grand Cru Brut Chardonnay (Champagne). This producer with vines in Grand Cru vineyards on the Côte des Blancs has created a tight, young and mineral-driven Champagne. Its acidity and texture are wrought and nervy, just waiting to uncoil and soften to give an attractive wine. Drink from 2022. Old Rook Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$120

90 Devaux NV Cuvée D Brut (Champagne). This is the nonvintage cuvée from this cooperative based in the Aube region. It is rich, with ripe white fruits and plenty of textured acidity. A core of tightness keeps the Champagne in good shape. Drink now. Seaview Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$70

90 Fallet Dart NV Anthocyane Rosé Brut (Champagne). This freshly vibrant wine has a soft edge that contrasts with bright cherry flavors and acidity. It has a touch of spice, and the Champagne's essential dryness comes through at the end. Drink now. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$36

90 Fallet Dart NV Heres Brut (Champagne). Based in the Marne Valley, this producer

has crafted a Champagne that brings out the richness of Pinot Noir coupled with the fruitiness of Meunier. The wine is packed with white fruits and touches of maturity. Drink now. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$34

90 Fallet Dart 2015 Millesimé Brut (Champagne). This ripe Champagne is approaching maturity. It has balance between smooth creamed-apple and spice flavors that contrast with the edge of minerality. The wine is ready to drink. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

90 Forget-Brimont NV Brut Blanc de Noirs Premier Cru (Champagne). Pinot Noir from the Montagne de Reims gives this Champagne richness and a firm structure. The wine is still a little young, likely to be better in a year as its intense acidity softens. Drink from 2022. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$65

90 G. H. Mumm NV Grand Cordon Brut (Champagne). For full review see page 17.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

90 Jacquart 2014 Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Chardonnays from the Côte des Blancs, including Grand Crus, are blended in this crisp, apple- and citrus-driven wine. Still fresh and with a strong mineral texture, the wine will be better from 2022. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$75

90 Jeeper NV Brut Grand Assemblage (Champagne). Fermented and matured in wood before bottling, this spicy wine combines richness with the more mineral texture of Chardonnay. The wine is ripe and ready to drink. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$56

90 Mailly Grand Cru NV Rosé de Mailly Brut (Champagne). An attractive pale color, this Champagne offers fresh red-currant and citrus-peel flavors. Tanginess lifts the fruit and gives a refreshing aftertaste. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$61

90 Moët & Chandon NV Impérial Brut (Champagne). The lower dosage of this famous brand has produced good balance between the crisply textured white fruits and the light minerality. The Champagne just hints of some bottle age. It is totally ready to drink. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

90 Vazart Coquart NV Brut Réserve Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru (Champagne). The Chardonnay in this Champagne comes from this Grand Cru village on the Côte des Blancs. The attractive bottle age maintains an edge of minerality and citrus acidity. It is ready to drink. Veritas Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$45

90 **Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin NV Brut (Champagne).** Fruit dominates this famous Champagne, with hints of minerality and toastiness indicating some age on this bottling. A soft background adds to the fruitiness. Drink now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$49

89 **Devaux NV Grande Réserve Brut (Champagne).** Dominated by Pinot Noir, this ripe and rich Champagne is poised between freshness and a more mature depth. Crisp apples and citrus contrast with an underlying toast and texture. Drink the wine now. Seaview Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$59

89 **Fallet Dart NV Grande Sélection Brut (Champagne).** Dominated by Pinot Noir, this rich Champagne, mainly from the 2014 harvest, is full of mature fruitiness that is discovering toasty flavors. The bottling is now coming into its own. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

89 **Forget-Brimont NV Brut Blanc de Blancs Premier Cru (Champagne).** With freshness paramount, this bright and fruity Champagne delivers texture, tight minerality and crisp apple fruits in a balanced structure. Drink now. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$52

89 **Forget-Brimont NV Brut Rosé Premier Cru (Champagne).** This Champagne from the producer based on the Montagne de Reims is dominated by red fruits, lively acidity and tight texture. Drink now. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 **G. H. Mumm NV Grand Cordon Rosé Brut (Champagne).** This fresh and fruity wine has spice and red-berry flavors lit by citrus acidity and total freshness. The Champagne is ready to drink. Pernod Ricard. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

89 **Moët & Chandon NV Rosé Impérial Brut (Champagne).** This attractive, fruity rosé Champagne has wild-strawberry flavors that are crisp and packed with acidity, with a bright, lively aftertaste. The wine is ready to drink. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Montaudon 2015 Millesimé Brut (Champagne).** This young vintage Champagne has plenty of aging ahead of it, with a crisp texture and fresh apple flavors. Touches of minerality add to the complexity. Drink from 2022. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

89 **Roger Barnier NV Rosé Brut (Champagne).** An enticing pale-pink color leads into a Champagne full of ripe, soft fruits. Spice and red-berry flavors balance the taut Chardonnay in the

blend, giving a tangy wine, hinting at pepper, that is ready to drink. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

88 **Devaux NV Augusta Brut (Champagne).** Made mainly from Pinot Noir, this wine has been blended for softness and open richness, giving plenty of spice as well as a tangy core. It's a new introductory Champagne from this producer. Drink now. Seaview Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$49

88 **Forget-Brimont NV Brut Premier Cru (Champagne).** Wine reserved from previous vintages make up half the blend of this textured, balanced Champagne. It is rich and packed with white fruits that are ripe while also showing a fresher side. Drink now. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

88 **Jacquart NV Mosaïque Brut (Champagne).** Fruity, perfumed and with a softness from the dosage, this wine is very accessible. The fruitiness and texture are well balanced, and the Champagne is ready to drink. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

88 **Jacquart NV Mosaïque Extra Brut (Champagne).** This Champagne is dry, with a crisp edge, citrus flavors and tight, mineral texture. A tang in the fruitiness shows the wine's youth, so waiting until mid-2022 for this bottling would be beneficial. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

88 **Maison Wessman NV One Brut Rosé (Champagne).** This red-fruit-flavored wine has a fresh lilt of raspberries and acidity. The wine is lightly textured and ready to drink. J Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$95

88 **Michel Forget NV Rosé Premier Cru Brut (Champagne).** This lightly colored Champagne comes from fruit on the Montagne de Reims. It is packed with fruit, supported by a creamy texture and crisply textured aftertaste. Drink now. Five Grapes. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$52

88 **Perrier Jouët NV Blason Rosé Brut (Champagne).** The attractive touch of toastiness on this bottling is perhaps a sign perhaps of its relatively high dosage. With soft red fruit and orange-zest flavors, the wine is ready to drink. Pernod Ricard. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

88 **Roger Barnier NV Sélection Brut (Champagne).** This is the nonvintage cuvée from this producer, based near Sézanne. The high proportion of mineral-driven Chardonnay has softened as the bottling has aged. It is ready to drink. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

88 **Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin NV Rosé Brut (Champagne).** With some maturity, this rosé is well balanced. The relatively high dosage gives it an attractive toasty edge that enhances the red fruits. Drink now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

87 **Canard-Duchêne NV Brut (Champagne).** The high dosage of this Champagne gives a toasty edge that masks the fruitiness and acidity. It is a soft wine focusing on richness. Drink now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Chassenay d'Arce NV Comtesse de Neples Brut Rosé (Champagne).** A soft, creamy-textured and fruity Champagne, this is lightly lit by acidity to go with the red fruits. The dosage leaves a gentle aftertaste. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

87 **Montaudon NV Brut (Champagne).** This rounded Champagne is balanced by relatively high dosage. Creamed apple and fresh sliced pear go with perfumed acidity. Drink now. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$41

87 **Montaudon NV Grand Rosé Brut (Champagne).** This soft, red-fruit-flavored Champagne offers a light amount of spice and a rounded texture. The wine is ready to drink. Total Wine & More. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

EXTRA BRUT

98 **Philipponnat 2012 Clos des Goisses Extra Brut (Champagne).** This single vineyard, one of the steepest in Champagne, produces fabulous wines. Richness restrained by the minerality from the terroir is balanced by the structured Pinot Noir fruits that bring touches of toast, spice and white fruits. Drink through 2025 at least. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$380

97 **Philipponnat 2014 Cuvée 1522 Extra Brut (Champagne).** This Champagne produced from Grand Cru grapes is rich, the Pinot Noir shining with its structure and ripe white fruits. Because of the low dosage, the wine's acidity is prominent, so it will be worth giving it more time. Drink from 2022. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$150

95 **Philipponnat 2015 Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut (Champagne).** This producer's location and vineyards on the Montagne de Reims mean it is very much a Pinot Noir house. Full and concentrated, this Champagne sums up the richness possible from the grape. It is dry, textured and ready to age further. Drink from 2023. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$115

95 Philipponnat 2012 Cuvée 1522 Rosé Extra Brut (Champagne). Vineyards around Aÿ form the basis of this dry rosé Champagne. The richness balances the dry style, bringing out the ripe fruits as much as zesty acidity. Drink this wine now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$180

93 Fallet Dart NV Eocène Extra Brut (Champagne). Named after the geological period of the producer's vineyard, this Champagne, based on the 2009 harvest, shows maturity as well as richness. The mineral texture gives the wine a fine bite that holds everything together. Drink now. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Apollonis 2010 Monodie Extra Brut (Champagne). This 100% Meunier from the Marne Valley is crisp while also fruity, with the freshest texture. The acidity is brisk while keeping within a white-fruit spectrum. Drink now. Summit Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

92 Mailly Grand Cru 2014 Extra Brut (Champagne). Although labeled Extra Brut, this wine is as much about ripe fruit as about dryness. It is balanced, the apple flavors and spice showing well with attractive final acidity. Wait until 2022. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

OTHER CHAMPAGNE

95 Billecart-Salmon 2009 Vintage (Champagne). Now perfectly mature, this Champagne still offers minerality as well as touches of freshness. It is structured from the Pinot Noir in the blend, crisp while also toasty. Drink now. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$100

95 Bollinger NV PN VZ16 (Champagne). Bollinger is famed for its Pinot Noir vineyards and this single-vineyard Champagne from the Grand Cru village of Verzenay is proof. It is intense, rich with mature fruits and the typical house style of toast mingled with almond. Drink this wine now. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

95 Mailly Grand Cru 2012 Les Echansons (Champagne). Now mature, this rich, Pinot Noir-dominated Champagne is dense and concentrated, with full apple and ripe pear flavors. It has softened, with touches of toastiness that support the tight structure. This wine is ready to drink. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$169

94 Joseph Perrier 2012 La Côte à Bras Brut Nature Vintage (Champagne). This single-parcel Champagne, rich in mature Pinot fruit, is at its best. Its richness is very much in the house style of Joseph Perrier, giving spice, density and satisfy-

ing concentration. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$115

93 Roger Barnier 2016 Meunier Vintage (Champagne). Pure Meunier, this Champagne brings out white apples and pears that are tightened by a mineral texture. It is still young, still emphasizing structure. Wait to drink until 2023. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$110

92 Mailly Grand Cru NV Blanc de Pinot Noir (Champagne). A Pinot Noir blend from different parcels, this Champagne is rich, structured while also full of mature toasty flavors. Good tension between minerality and ripeness gives the wine balance. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$61

SPAIN SPARKLING WINES

CAVA

92 Perelada 2016 Gran Claustro Reserva But Nature (Cava). Briny apple and yeasty aromas are impressive and attractive. On the palate, this brut nature from a top year is elegant, classy and pure, with a high level of textural complexity. Layers of breadly white-fruit flavors benefit from a smooth mouthfeel anchored by fine bubbles. Drink through 2024. Vinovia Wine Group. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Alta Alella 2017 Laietà Rosé Gran Reserva Brut Nature (Cava). A shiny orange color alongside aromas of yeast and brioche make for a fine opening. This classy brut nature made from Monastrell feels round, rich and yeasty, while toasty flavors of cantaloupe and citrus fruits include bread notes prior to an elegant finish that's more steady than stunning; drink through 2024. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$44

89 Muga 2016 Conde de Haro Metodo Tradicional Brut Rosé (Cava). Yeasty aromas of chalah and brioche stand out on the nose of this somewhat soft and wan rosé Cava from Muga. The flavor profile is breadly much like the nose, with notes of apple cider, cantaloupe and salt. Lastly, the finish is nothing but easy; drink now. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Alta Alella 2018 Mirgin Reserva Brut Nature Rosé (Cava). A dark almost rusty color along with aromas of quince and orange form the opening. On the palate, this brut nature rosé is foamy and a bit flimsy in structure and concentration. Lightly citric flavors include a hint of tart rhu-barb, while this is lasting but simple on the finish;

made entirely from Monastrell. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

88 Totus Tuus NV Brut Método Tradicional (Cava). Applesauce and pear aromas are simple but clean and fresh, while this Chardonnay-led Cava is solid on the palate but uncomplicated. Salty apple and generic white-fruit flavors are lightly mineral, with lime, apple and wet stone notes on the finish. Olé Imports. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Vins El Cep 2017 Gelida Pinot Noir Rosé Brut Reserva (Cava). Peach and cantaloupe aromas are slightly yeasty and moderately complex. This brut rosé of Pinot Noir is citrusy in feel and cut by sharp acidity. Flavors of orange, pithy citrus peel and wet slate finish fresh, which reflects this Cava's core essence. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

87 1+1=3 NV Brut Método Tradicional (Cava). Applesauce, white bread and yeasty aromas create a sweet-sensation nose, while this brut Cava feels good but basic on the palate. Apple, green plum and green herb flavors finish well in a standard sort of way. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Bodegas de Occidente NV Bucho L'Excellence Método Tradicional Brut (Cava). Pulpy apple and pear aromas are simple while leading to a palate with cidery acidity. Said acidity lifts apple and green plum flavors, while this Macabeo-dominated brut is steady on a basic finish. Terroir Connections. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Juvé & Camps NV Brut Rosé (Cava). This rosé of Pinot Noir opens with red-fruit aromas of strawberry and raspberry. The palate feel is lean and tangy, with little heft and almost no yeasty depth. Lean, dry red plum and cherry flavors finish up on a juicy, cleansing finish. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

87 Vilarnau 2017 Brut Nature Reserva (Cava). Bee's wax and haystack aromas are slightly stinky and not pumping out much in the way of fruit. This brut nature is foamy and round on the palate, with bright acidity. Yellow apple flavors are slightly bitter, with scallion and cidery apple notes appearing on the finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Biutiful NV Brut (Cava). Apple, haystack and green-herb aromas are a bit jumbled, while this brut feels fluffy and easy. Briny flavors of apple and stone fruits are yeasty, and overall this qualifies as a good everyday Cava. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

86 Biutiful NV Brut Rosé (Cava). A lightly briny nose comes with notes of citrus fruits, primarily pink grapefruit. This 100% Garnacha Cava from the interior zone of Requena is lively and

braced by citric acidity, while mild orange and nectarine flavors finish with some bitterness before falling off. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

86 Los Monteros NV Brut Método Tradicional (Cava). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Marquis de Sade NV Metodo Traditional Rosado Brut (Cava). Yeasty aromas of citrus fruits and skins are strained, while this Cava shows oversize bubbles that make for a highly foamy palate. Yeasty flavors include citrus notes; overall this is unrefined. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Vilarnau NV Brut Reserva (Cava). This brut is cloudy to the eye, with briny apple aromas mixed with notes of corn and hay. A blocky, foamy palate holds flavors of generic green fruits and green herbs, while notes of tarragon and pyrazines rise up on the finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Viña Palaciega NV Brut Rosé (Cava). A pale pink-meets-rose color along with slightly cheesy aromas of peach set up a lean palate with aggressive foaminess. Distant flavors of generic citrus and papaya finish short. This standard-issue Cava is composed entirely of Garnacha grapes. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Juvé & Camps 2016 Blanc de Noirs Brut Reserva (Cava). A neutral nose is neither here nor there, while this white sparkling wine made from Pinot Noir tastes sort of grassy and unconventional, which isn't a negative in and of itself but also doesn't earn the wine a medal. For a winery that consistently produces good to excellent Cavas, this one is an outlier. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

84 Marques de Monistrol NV Selección Especial Limited Edition Prestige Cuvée Rosé Brut (Cava). Despite all the marketing-driven names on the label (Selección Especial, Prestige Cuvée, etc.), this rusty colored nonvintage rosé Cava is highly basic. A heavy nose smells of vanilla and mealy grape skins, while this tastes of bitter citrus and nectarine. A flat finish neither improves nor collapses. The Haciendas Company. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

81 Los Monteros NV Brut Rosé Método Tradicional (Cava). A pale color and stale aromas that veer towards petrol announce a highly marginal Cava that's unwieldy and foamy on the palate, with cutting citric acid. Bitter orange flavors are stalky in front of a hollow finish. This is all Garnacha from interior Requena. Boutinot USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

80 Mas Pere NV Brut Método Tradicional Rosé (Cava). A pale orange color and dull apricot

and peach aromas barely stir interest. A palate without structure or elegance tastes bitter, while the finish on this Cava made from the Trepát grape is coarse, bitter and pithy. Loubaton Imports LLC. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER SPARKLING WINES

90 Llopart 2017 Rosé Brut Nature Microcosmos Corpinnat (Spain). Mango and cantaloupe aromas anchor a tropical-leaning nose that includes a hint of yeasty richness and a touch of scrambled egg. The palate is pure and balanced, but not complex or deep. Orange and pink grapefruit flavors finish with notes of tangerine and orange peel. Drink this blend of 85% Pinot Noir and 15% Monastrell now. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Raventós I Blanc 2017 De la Finca Conca del Riu Anoia Brut Nature (Spain). Bee's wax, candle wax and malty honey notes comprise the nose on this tight and juicy sparkler that's primed to the hilt with malic acid. Apple cider and background citrus flavors finish long due to aggressive core acidity. As per usual, Raventós got this right. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

88 Albet i Noya 2018 Petit Albet Brut Rosé Reserva Traditional Method Made with Organic Grapes (Penedès). Bready notes sit alongside familiar stone-fruit scents on the nose of this rosé sparkler that's round and easy on a palate with modest acidity. Peach and white pepper are the lead flavors, while this is a touch bitter on a finish that tastes of citrus skins. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Albet i Noya 2019 Efecte Reserva Brut Rosat Método Tradicional Organic (Penedès). Aromas of match stick, spent yeast and peach pit are not what you'd call "fruity," while this rosé of Pinot Noir feels juicy and firm, but also foamy, coarse and acidic. Quick-moving orange flavors evaporate in no time on the finish. Serendipity Wines. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Mont Rubí 2019 L'Ancestral Blanc (Spain). Light white-fruit aromas introduce a lemony palate with underripe pineapple and green apple flavors. This pét nat runs quick and lean, with a limited finish that includes notes of tangerine and lemon. Clarity is a plus; complexity is not. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —M.S.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$24

84 Alta Alella 2020 Celler De Les Aus Pét Nat (Spain). Bland aromas are lightly briny but truth be told, there's not much to nose of this pét nat from Alta Alella. Low acidity makes for a plodding palate, while green notes of grass and summer herbs accent papaya and green melon flavors. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$29

84 Mont Rubí 2019 L'Ancestral Rosé (Spain). A tangerine color and a nose with minimal fruit aromas and a whole lot of burnt rubber lead to a palate with mild bubble activity and plenty of acidity. Lightly burnt orange flavors slip towards bitter on the finish of this pét-nat made entirely from Sumoll, a grape native to Penedès. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

SPAIN RED WINES

RIBERA DEL DUERO

95 Alonso del Yerro 2016 María (Ribera del Duero). Smooth, lightly creamy aromas of blackberry and cassis are softened and sweetened by pastry notes, making this superb Tinto Fino smell mature beyond its years. On the palate, this is focused and acid-driven, with a familiar combination of blackberry, cassis and toasty oak flavors. The finish is slightly dry and tannic, so give this plenty of air if drinking now; or hold through 2032. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Astrales 2016 Christina Colección Familiar (Ribera del Duero). As might be expected from a pedigreed wine such as this in a great vintage, Christina opens with toasty aromas of maple, vanilla and pure black fruits. The palate is punchy but texturally welcoming, with giving tannins. Toasty blackberry and coffee flavors ride a tight line through the finish. Enjoy this focused Ribera del Duero through 2028. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Áster 2016 Finca el Otero (Ribera del Duero). This is an excellent generously oaked Ribera from a benchmark year. The nose leads with vanilla, toast, coconut and blackberry aromas. That's backed by a lively palate with popping acidity. Blackberry, cassis and mocha flavors conclude on a sinewy finish. This is almost ready now; best through 2028. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

93 Bodegas y Viñedos Tábula 2016 Clave de Tábula La Morejana (Ribera del Duero). Inky blackberry aromas are integrated and don't push too hard, while this is a fine example of Ribera del Duero from old vines of 60+ years. A lively palate is anchored by perky acidity and prodding tannins, while this tastes of toasty oak, vanilla and mixed black fruits including cassis and blackberry. A controlled finish means you can drink this now; or hold through 2030. Las Arribes LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

93 Solterra 2014 Alto de los Zorros Autor (Ribera del Duero). Grainy oak aromas of wood spice and vanilla lead to a lush but racy and structured palate. Toasty, peppery blackberry flavors are firm

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and stout, while this finishes with shape, style and smooth tannins. Enjoy this fine Ribera wine through 2032. TABS INC. *Editors' Choice*. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

92 Astrales 2016 Ribera del Duero. Slightly prickly aromas of herbs and wild brush blend with gamy, leathery black-fruit scents. The palate on this Ribera del Duero Tempranillo is wide bodied and grabby, with firm tannins. Oaky notes of wood grain and vanilla lead blackberry and cassis flavors towards a rugged finish with mild heat; drink through 2027. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

92 Pagos del Rey 2014 Condado de Oriza Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

92 Torres 2014 Celeste Reserva (Ribera del Duero). An elegant and composed bouquet anchored by ripe berry fruit, dried plum and barrel spice aromas is sleek, while this reserva from what was a problematic vintage is layered and composed on the palate. Blackberry, cassis, prune and oak spice flavors finish steady and smooth; drink through 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 15% Price: \$40

92 Valduero 2014 Reserva Premium 6 Años (Ribera del Duero). A lively nose is pointed and delivers a potent whiff of lemony oak. On the palate, this is edgy and a touch raw and gravelly. Toasty, spicy berry flavors come with a licorice offset, while the finish is peppery in flavor with fiery heat; drink through 2030. Vinaio Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

91 Altos de Valdoso 2014 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Woodsy aromas of cedar, sandalwood and oak spice control a sound, attractive nose. On the palate, this is juicy and pops with lively acidity, while the tannins are mostly smooth and supple. Peppery blackberry and dark plum flavors are backed by toasty oak on a finish with some heat; drink through 2028. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

RIOJA

92 Beronia 2012 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

91 Pagos del Rey 2012 Castillo de Albai Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

90 Carlos Serres 2012 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Ripe plum and berry aromas befit a warm year like 2012, while this gran reserva is a touch wiry and punchy, with zesty acidity. Plum, cherry and oak spice flavors are integrated, while this deals

modest heat on the finish; drink through 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

89 Bodegas Olarra 2011 Otoñal Gran Reserva (Rioja). Foresty blueberry and lavender aromas include a hint of cardamom before riper notes of prune and baked blackberry take over. This is stout on the palate, but not real deep or elegant. Clipped black plum, currant and oak spice flavors turn more raisiny on an edgy finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

88 Campo Viejo 2013 Gran Reserva (Rioja). A crisp and smoky nose comes across a bit hard and toasty, while this gran reserva from a cold and difficult year features racy acidity, edginess and a creamy oak-driven offset. Red plum and currant flavors are salty and fully oaked, while the finish reverts to acidic. Pernod Ricard. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

TORO

91 Bodegas Torredueiro 2017 Marqués de Peñamonte Colección Privada (Toro). Toasty oak, a hint of black shoe polish and ripe black-fruit scents define the nose on this sleek and juicy Tinta del Toro. Given the aromas, it's fitting that this robust wine tastes of café mocha, blackberry and dark chocolate. A smooth and wholesome finish wraps things up; drink through 2025. Bodegas Riojanas. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

88 Pagos del Rey 2017 Sentero Expresión Viñas Viejas (Toro). Plum and cherry aromas are solid but basic, with little to no complexity or oak character. This Toro feels wiry, with hard-driving and pointed acidity. Raspberry, plum and a shearing mini shot of vinegar fill out the flavor profile, while this remains zesty and ripping on the finish. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

87 Matarromera 2017 Granza (Toro). A strong and distinct wave of oaky vanilla and dill aromas is the driver of an old-school Spanish nose, while this feels bright and tight, with bracing acidity creating an edgy mouthfeel. Toasty oak and chocolate notes accent racy plum and berry flavors, while this veers in the direction of raisiny on a warm finish. Natural Merchants, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 15% Price: \$16

86 Campo Eliseo 2017 Cuvée Alegre (Toro). Right off the bat this high-alcohol Toro smells baked and raisiny. Following the nose, this is chunky and slightly stewy in feel. Baked black-fruit flavors are bulky, while a mouthcoating finish is short on depth and vitality. Pardela USA. —M.S.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$27

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA

90 Finca Río Negro 2015 5º Año Cogolludo-Guadalajara Serie Limitada (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Ripe black-fruit aromas are full, layered and spicy, while this blend of Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon is plump and wide bodied, with dry tannins. Oak-aided wild berry flavors are woody and nicely spiced, with bold acidity creating lift prior to a finish with fruit cake, plum and prune notes. Drink through 2025. Siema LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

89 Finca Río Negro 2016 Cogolludo Guadalajara Tempranillo-Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah-Merlot (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). A closed nose provides mineral notes of dust and hot rocks along with cherry and plum scents. The palate on this Tempranillo blend is high in energy but a touch raw and bumpy. Earthy red plum and berry flavors finish tight and crisp, with tannic bite and a sense of scratchy dryness; drink through 2026. Siema LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$29

87 Aljibes 2016 Selectus (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). A lean, raw nose hints at cherry and oak spice, while this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Cab Franc feels full but gravelly. Bold berry and plum flavors come with spice and clove notes, while this red from Albacete in southcentral Spain tastes even more oaky on a dry finish with heat. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

84 Montalvo Wilmot 2015 Colección Privada Finca Los Cerrillos (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Floral aromas of lavender and violet come with ample oak, while this blend of 75% Tempranillo and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon is very high in acidity and thus feels choppy and sharp. Sour plum and tart red currant flavors finish quick and short, leaving little but scouring latent acidity. Golden Wine. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

OTHER RED WINES

90 Ovidio García 2017 Esencia Crianza (Cigales). A smooth nose sees a note of mint covering blackberry and black-cherry scents. Typical of Cigales, a small region in the Duero Valley of west-central Spain, this feels full and a touch jammy and grabby. Black raspberry, currant and plum flavors are ripe but lack secondary levels of complexity. Expect a jammy finish with some weight; drink through 2024. Misa Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

88 Pago Ayles 2018 A (Spain). Brambly berry aromas, leathery notes, asphalt and smoke scents open this Tempranillo-led blend from a designated pago near Zaragoza in the heart of Aragón. The palate is plump and full, with a shock of acidity.

Ripe berry and plum flavors slide away on a fairly long finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

87 Manzanos 2020 Mendiani Oaks (Spain). Aromas of berry fruits, raspberry flavored gum and herbs lead to a lively palate that's grabby and slightly choppy, with rubbing tannins. This Tempranillo-led red blend tastes of berry jam and herbs, with a minty finish cemented by drying tannins. Manzanos Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$9

86 Esteban Martín 2020 Garnacha-Syrah (Spain). Cherry and plum aromas comes with a floral twist and mild green notes. The palate on this Garnacha-Syrah blend is basic, with no glaring faults. Plum, cherry and green-herb flavors finish dry, spicy and peppery, with a touch of prickly burn. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

85 Ego Bodegas 2020 Don Baffo (Jumilla). Candied red-fruit aromas hint at currant and plum, but overall this blend of Monastrell, Syrah and Petit Verdot comes across as being wiry and stripped back. An edgy, acidic palate houses gamy, slightly fishy tasting berry and spice flavors, while a peppery note emerges on a raw and spunky finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

85 Felix Solís 2014 Viña Albali Gran Reserva (Valdepeñas). Leafy aromas are low on fruit and high in grit. This Tempranillo from central Spain feels racy and rough. Plum, currant, cherry and earthy spice notes fill out the flavor profile, while mulled plum and berry notes ride out on a warm finish. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

84 Felix Solís NV Mucho Más (Spain). Generic berry aromas are candied and minty, while this nonvintage red blend is soft and gummy in feel. Creamy berry and black currant flavors feature a false oak character in front of a thick finish. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$12

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

AÇORES

92 Azores Wine Company 2019 Terrantez de Pico (Açores). This wine is produced from a grape variety that was almost extinct outside a nursery. It has a rich citrus and tight spice character, very intense and concentrated. Textured and with richness combined with acidity, the wine could age for a few more months before drinking. Enjoy from late 2022. Olé & Obrigado Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$80

91 Azores Wine Company 2019 Verdelho o Original (Açores). Produced from a native version of the Verdelho grape, this wine comes from the typical volcanic soil of the islands. It is rich and perfumed, with a great balance of acidity and soft pear and spice. The wine is smoothly textured and ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$52

90 Azores Wine Company 2019 Branco Vulcânico (Açores). This blend of Arinto and Verdelho is rich, hinting now at toastiness while retaining plenty of taut fruitiness. Ripe and full of complex layers of flavors, the wine is ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$37

VINHO VERDE

93 Quinta do Ameal 2020 Solo Único Loureiro (Vinho Verde). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 11.5% Price: \$30

90 J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). From the northern Vinho Verde region of Monção and Melgaço, this is a well-structured and rich wine. Spice and almond flavors are allied to intense minerality to give both great fruit and more complex texture. Drink this wine now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

90 Quinta do Ameal 2020 Loureiro (Vinho Verde). For full review see page 18.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$18

88 Casa Santa Eulália 2020 Alvarinho-Trajadura (Vinho Verde). Tangy and with attractive ripe white fruits, this wine comes from the south of Vinho Verde. With green fruits, total freshness and bright acidity, it is ready to drink. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

87 Casa Santa Eulália 2020 Avesso (Vinho Verde). This dry style of Vinho Verde comes from the southern part of the region. It is full, with ripe apple and crisp pear flavors brightened even further by citrus acidity. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$16

87 Vinos del Atlantico 2020 Vera (Vinho Verde). Along with ripe apple and spice flavors, this has a tang of acidity, lemon zest and fresh, crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

83 Gooseneck NV Wickford White (Vinho Verde). An off dry, lightly spritzy Vinho Verde, this is brightly crisp, with light sweetness to go with the acidity. Drink now. Wickford Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$13

MINHO

90 Casa Santa Eulália 2020 Alvarinho (Minho). This ripe wine with a creamy texture and structured white fruits has a warm edge plus plenty of perfumed acidity. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

88 Casa Santa Eulália 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Minho). While this is a fruity and textured wine, it does seem to be an anomaly to make a Sauvignon Blanc in the Minho region. It is soft, with hints of tropical fruits as well as tangy grapefruit acidity. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$16

88 Vinos del Atlantico 2020 Nortico Alvarinho (Minho). This rich, full-bodied wine offers ripe apple flavors and hints of white peach. Touches of minerality and salinity give the wine a fine bite that will allow it to age a few months. Drink from 2022. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

DOURO

93 Quinta da Rede 2019 Grande Reserva (Douro). Equal quantities of Arinto and Rabigato have been wood aged to give a complex, structured wine that is now ready to drink. Toast and rounded white fruits come together in this ripe, textured and balanced wine. M Imports, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 CARM 2019 CARM CM (Douro). A field blend of old varieties, this rich wine is also elegant, with lemon, spice and toast. It is a ripe wine, the 100-year-old vines giving concentration and intensity. Drink this wine from 2022. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$55

92 Poças 2020 Reserva Numão Vila Nova de Foz Coa (Douro). Produced from selected vines in the Douro Superior region, this wine is ripe, creamily smooth with rich white fruits pointed with apricot flavors. The young wine has spice from wood aging and will benefit from a few more months. Drink from late 2022. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

92 Poças 2018 Fora de Série Mais (Douro). Moving towards maturity, this wine is now smoothly textured. Reminders of initial minerality combine with creamed pear and spice flavors in a ripe wine that is now ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

91 Quinta da Pacheca 2019 Dezoito by Maniche (Douro). This wood-aged blend is ripe, with touches of white peach to give richness. Freshness comes through the spice and texture, adding per-

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fumed lime. It is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

90 Duorum 2020 Colheita (Douro). The wood aging of this wine has opened out the fruit. While the typical minerality has lessened, it has been replaced by richness, tropical fruits and spice. Drink this concentrated wine now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Poças 2020 Fora de Série Cerceal (Douro). This textured, perfumed wine is spicy while also deliciously crisp and fragrant. Shots of lemon highlight the green apple and kiwi fruit flavors. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Poças 2020 Vale de Cavalos (Douro). Freshness and toast come together in this ripe wine. Yellow fruits are lifted by kiwi and lime flavors to give the wine aging potential. It will soften as it ages, opening into a rich wine. Drink from 2022. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Quinta da Rede 2020 Reserva (Douro). Aged for three months in wood, this reserve wine has a rounded, lightly toasty character. The wine combines this texture with good acidity and plenty of fresh lemon fruit. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Poças 2020 Fora de Série Orange Wine (Douro). Ginger and aromatic herbs permeate this wine, which offers a soft texture and acidity. Spice couples with intense freshness. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

89 Quinta do Crasto 2019 Crasto Superior (Douro). Grapes from the Douro Superior give a wine of great style and ripeness. Yellow fruits and green apples are fresh with intensity and a perfumed aftertaste. Drink the wine now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Quevedo 2019 Claudia's (Douro). Claudia Quevedo's name is on this bottle of fruity citrus and spice flavored wine. It has a rich feel to it from the wood aging. That is freshened by the wine's acidity and by the red apple flavors at the end. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Quinta de la Rosa 2020 La Rosa Branco (Douro). This creamy, ripe wine has hints of yellow fruits to fill out the crisp citrus and tangy acidity. The wine is young, bright and ready to drink. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Quinta do Noval 2020 Cedro do Noval Branco (Douro). This apple- and pear-flavored

wine is lightly textured, bringing out minerality and plenty of spice as well as balanced acidity. It is ready to drink. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Poças 2020 Coroa d'Ouro (Douro). This young, fruity wine is packed with apples, kiwis and light spice. The freshness and texture are immediately attractive and it is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Quinta do Crasto 2019 Crasto Douro (Douro). Fresh and mineral textured, with pure citrus and green-apple fruits, this is an immediately attractive wine. Its light touch and final acidity are refreshing. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 Quinta da Rede 2020 Rede (Douro). This fresh and fruity wine offers plenty of lemon acidity and a touch of spice. It is perfumed, tangy and ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

TEJO

91 Fiuzza 2020 Reserva Premium Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo). Some wood aging gives this young wine richness and a touch of toast to go with the grapefruit and yellow fruits. The wine will be ready from 2022. Votto Vines Importing. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Ségur Estates 2019 Scalab Viognier (Tejo). Apple fresh and fruity, this light wine is touched by wood and spice. With its rounded texture, the wine is ready to drink. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Fiuzza 2020 Native (Tejo). A blend of Arinto and Chardonnay, this is a simple, fresh and fruity wine. Apples and citrus are rounded out with peach and apricots, adding to richness. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

ALENTEJANO

93 Herdade do Esporão 2019 Private Selection Sémillon (Alentejano). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 Herdade do Esporão 2020 Colheita (Alentejano). In this wine, brightness is enhanced by the Alvarinho in the blend. The light structure brings out white fruits as well as citrus. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

85 J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Vila Santa (Alentejano). This smooth, ripe and gently textured wine is totally ready to drink. With white peach and lime flavors, the wine is rich and crunchy. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

ALENTEJO

92 Herdade do Esporão 2020 Reserva (Alentejo). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Herdade do Sobroso 2019 Arché (Alentejo). This blend of Arinto and Antão Vaz was fermented and aged in wood. The result is a smoothly textured wine that has almond, apple and spice flavors along with still-young acidity. It needs to age, so drink from 2022. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

89 Herdade do Sobroso 2020 Cellar Selection Antão Vaz & Alvarinho (Alentejo). This ripe, wood-aged wine offers a good mix of yellow and crisp white stone fruits. Acidity and spice come from the wine's freshness and wood aging. It will be ready from 2022. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Azores Wine Company 2019 Arinto dos Açores (Pico). The Arinto dos Açores is a local clone of the grape, giving a textured, crisp and mineral wine. Those textures go with spiced pear and kiwi flavors to give this rich wine that is now ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$52

89 Quinta do Pinto 2018 Estate Collection (Lisboa). This fruity, tangy wine is bright with apple acidity and filled out with touches of spice. Lemon zest and kiwi flavors go with a toasty, structured core. Drink the wine now. Cru Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

ROSÉS

88 Azores Wine Company 2020 Vulcânico Rosé (Açores). The Azores islands are essentially volcanic, hence the name of this rosé. This field blend has minerality and textured acidity, along with fragrant red fruits and finishing citrus. Drink now. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Poças 2020 Rosé (Douro). This fruity rosé offers a tang of minerality plus attractive strawberry fruits. The balance is just right, finishing with almonds and spice. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 **Quevedo 2020 Oscar's Rosé (Douro).** This ripe, bright rosé is made entirely from Touriga Nacional. Fresh and full of red fruits, the wine is lifted, perfumed and ready to drink. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Quinta da Pacheca 2020 Pacheca Rosé (Douro).** This attractive, lightly structured wine offers red fruits along with spiciness. Plenty of fruit helps the wine on its way. Saraiva Enterprises. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

87 **Herdade do Sobroso 2020 Cellar Selection Syrah Rosé (Alentejo).** There's plenty of freshness in this wine, with red-fruit flavors and an attractive edge of citrus acidity. The wine is crisp, with total brightness at the end. Drink now. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

86 **Fiuza 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon-Touriga Nacional Rosé (Tejo).** Crisp and clean, this is a brightly textured wine. It focuses on red fruits, acidity and crispness. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

86 **Quinta da Rede 2020 Rede Rosé (Douro).** The freshness of this wine's red-berry fruits is palpable, brightening the palate. Touches of lemon zest add to the liveliness. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 **Quinta dos Murças 2020 Assobio Rosé (Douro).** In this light, bright wine, red fruits are countered by almond and spice flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

86 **Vinos del Atlantico 2020 Nortico Rosé (Minho).** A softly textured, crisp and clean wine, this has attractive red-fruit hints, with a bite of spice at the end. Drink now. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 **Vinos del Atlantico 2020 Vera Rosé (Vinho Verde).** A ripe wine with orange-zest and raspberry flavors, this is perfumed and fresh. The wine is clean and attractively fruity. Drink now. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

84 **Casa Santa Eulália 2020 Plainas Rosé Espadreiro Rosé (Vinho Verde).** This simple wine offers red fruits and fresh acidity, highlighted by citrus and a tangy texture. Drink now. Sarmiento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$11

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

96 **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Vinha Maria Teresa (Douro).** Fermented in stone lagars, this wine has a rich, open character. From a field blend of old vines, it is impressively structured and densely textured. The black fruits and powerfully ripe tannins will take time. Drink the wine from 2025. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$242

95 **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Vinha da Ponte (Douro).** Produced from 100-year-old vines, this wine is both dense and beautifully structured. Dark tannins float over the black fruits, giving richness and layered acidity. The wine's power is finally tamed by fragrant freshness at the end. Drink from 2025. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$242

95 **Quinta do Crasto 2017 Vinha Maria Teresa (Douro).** This wine comes from a single vineyard of old, field-blend vines. Named after the granddaughter of the estate's founder, the wine offers rich tannins, tamed by black-currant fruits and acidity. Still developing and young, the wine has a great future. Drink from 2024. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$242

95 **Quinta do Noval 2018 Reserva (Douro).** This massive wine from the iconic Douro estate is destined for long-term aging. Structure and tannins march with well-balanced black fruits in a wine that will not be ready to drink until 2024. Vintus LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

94 **Fiuza 2015 Vila Flor Valle da Peça (Douro).** This powerful, mature wine is densely textured, with fruits that have now softened and absorbed the wood aging. Concentration comes from the old vines in the blend. Drink the wine now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 **Poças 2018 Símbolo (Douro).** This concentrated, wood-aged wine deserves further aging. Rich fruits balance with young acidity and tannins to give a ripe, full structured wine. Wait at least until 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

94 **Quinta de la Rosa 2018 La Rosa Reserva (Douro).** This wine comes from a selection of the year's best fruit, foot-trodden in granite lagars. It has great richness as it develops and fills out the already generous structure. This impressive wine will be ready from 2024. Winesellers, Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

94 **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Touriga Franca (Douro).** From 30-year-old vines that are at their peak, this is a ripe, structured and well-textured wine. Although still very young, its richness, black fruits and density give considerable promise. Drink from 2024. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** The violet perfumes of this wine are its glory. They bring out rich black fruits, tannins that promise aging and layers of minerality. The wine is elegant and well structured. Drink from 2024. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 **Quinta do Crasto 2017 Tinta Roriz (Douro).** Crafted from the Douro's version of Spanish Tempranillo, this is a richly smooth wine. Ripe tannins enhance the dark fruits, layering with spice and toast from wood aging. The wine is still young, so drink from 2023. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 **Quinta do Crasto 2017 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** Selected Touriga Nacional fruit has gone into this rich, perfumed wine. While still young, its black fruits are developing well, balancing density with elegance. The wine will be ready to drink from 2023. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 **Poças 2019 Reserva Caedo Ervedosa (Douro).** Named after the village from which the grapes come, this wine is smoothly textured but with a bite of firm tannins that sustain both acidity and layers of black fruits. The wine deserves further aging, so wait until 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 **Quevedo 2017 Q Grande Reserva (Douro).** From a top vintage in the Douro, this generous wine shows great structure and intensity. Dense tannins have softened into the dark black fruits and have begun the maturation process. This rich wine deserves a wait. Drink from 2023. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 **Quinta da Pacheca 2017 Pacheca Lagar No. 1 Reserva (Douro).** Fermented in a granite lagar, this wine has immense power and richness that are controlled by the structure and black-currant fruits. The wine is now at its peak, ready to drink. It is unfortunate about the weight of the bottle, like others from this producer, at 3.8 lbs. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$67

93 **Quinta da Pacheca 2017 Pacheca Vale de Abraão (Douro).** A blend of fruit from different parts of the Douro, this wine is concentrated, with dark tannins and layers of blackberry fruit. Spice and the wood aging come together to give a smooth structure, adding to the richness. Drink

BUYINGGUIDE

from 2022. Saraiva Enterprises. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

93 **Quinta da Rede 2016 Grande Reserva (Douro)**. This mature blend of Touriga Nacional with Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz is rich and now softly structured, although the big-hearted black fruits still show. A juicy aftertaste suggests that the wine will age further. Drink now or from 2022. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 **Quinta das Bandeiras 2018 Passagem by La Rosa (Douro)**. This vineyard in the Douro Superior is now performing well and has produced this new vintage release that is richly endowed. Generous tannins are beautifully integrated into dense layers of black fruits. The wine is ready to drink but also has aging potential that will allow it to mature for another 10 years. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Tinta Roriz (Douro)**. From a selection of the best parcels of Roriz on the Crasto estate, this wine was aged for 18 months in wood. It shows great richness, dense structure and youthful black fruits. Concentration and powerful tannins promise long-term aging. Drink from 2024. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 **Quinta do Crasto 2017 Reserva Old Vines (Douro)**. This field-blend wine comes from vines that are 70 years old. The wine is still young, showing serious structure and dark tannins. It is already well balanced, the wood flavors and spice contrasting with rich fruits. Drink the wine from 2023. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 **Quinta do Crasto 2017 Touriga Franca (Douro)**. From selected parcels, this wine is still young. Richly structured and perfumed, it has concentration, shining with red fruits and freshness. The contrast with the density of the wine is impressive. Drink from 2023. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 **Ramos-Pinto 2018 Quinta da Ervamoira (Douro)**. Fermented in stone lagars before wood aging, this Douro Superior wine is a departure for this estate, better known for its Ports. It is superrich, with powerful tannins and big fruit. The pepper edge does indicate the high alcohol, which is a shame. Drink from 2023. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$115

92 **CARM 2016 Maria de Lourdes (Douro)**. This perfumed wine with mint aromas and spicy flavors is a blend of Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca. The wine is now mature, richly structured

and with smoky black fruits. Drink now. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 **Quinta do Noval 2018 Touriga Nacional (Douro)**. Perfumed with rich black-currant fruits, this wine is textured, smoky and moving towards drinkability. Structured and with dense fruits and tannins, the wine will be ready from 2023. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 **CARM 2017 CARM Touriga Nacional (Douro)**. Aged for a year in new wood, this wine is perfumed and rich. Touches of minerality are a reminder of the schist rocks of the Douro, giving texture and aging potential. Drink from 2022. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$49

91 **Poças 2019 Fora de Série Vinho da Roga (Douro)**. The Roga is the procession by vineyard workers to celebrate the end of the harvest. This ripe wine is full of red fruits, spice, tannins and acidity. It will develop well to give richness and always a touch of freshness. Drink from 2022. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

91 **Quevedo 2018 Claudia's Reserve (Douro)**. Warm, ripe and satisfyingly rich, this wine is full of black fruits backed by generous tannins. Tinta Roriz and Touriga Franca provide the bulk of the blend, giving texture, fruitiness and a smoky aftertaste. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

91 **Quinta de la Rosa 2019 Douro**. This young, structured wine from a family-owned estate has good balance between its acidity and the black-currant fruits. They are supported by young tannins that will soften as the wine matures. Drink from 2023. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Real Companhia Velha 2017 Porca de Murça Reserva (Douro)**. This old-vines field blend is now ripely mature. Rich tannins have softened into a warm, full-bodied wine that is concentrated and dense. The wood-aged wine is just ready to drink. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Fiuza 2019 Grandes Quintas (Douro)**. This rich blend of dense black fruits and structured tannins is full of promise. Firmly structured, the wine is young and will be ready to drink from 2022. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 **Fiuza 2019 Vila Flor Reserva (Douro)**. With six months in wood, this wine is smoothly textured, packed with blackberry fruits, toast and spice. Full of youthful energy, it will be ready to drink from 2022. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 **Poças 2019 Vale de Cavalos (Douro)**. Vines in Douro Superior are the source of this richly textured and ripely spicy wine. The dark fruit and acidity are still young and will open further. Drink from 2022. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Quinta da Pacheca 2018 Reserva (Douro)**. Attractive black fruits and spice give ripeness to this wine. The structure and wood aging still show, suggesting that the wine is still young. It has a good future, so drink from 2023. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 **Duorum 2019 S&R (Douro)**. This soft, lightly wood-aged wine is full, rich and juicy. Black fruits and acidity are allied to a mineral texture that has softened enough for this balanced wine to be ready to drink. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 **CARM 2019 CARM Tinto (Douro)**. This blend of three grape varieties balances black fruits with youthful acidity. Blackberry flavors are shot through with a juicy character that will soften. Wait until mid-2022. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 **Fiuza 2019 Vilas-Boas Reserva (Douro)**. Fresh with juicy acidity and light spice, this ripe wine has a fresh side that gives it a lift. Black-currant crispness adds bite to the structure and aftertaste. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 **Quevedo 2019 Oscar's Organic Red (Douro)**. Oscar Quevedo has given his name to this rich, bright and fruity wine. Juicy black currant and berry fruits are firmly integrated into the dense structure. The wine is ready to drink. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 **Quinta do Crasto 2019 Crasto Douro (Douro)**. The entry-level wine from this producer, this is soft, full of red fruits with just a light tannic structure. With acidity and attractive berry fruits, the wine is ready to drink. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 **Real Companhia Velha 2018 Evel (Douro)**. This wine has depth and richness. With touches of tannin and ripe berry flavors, the wine is generous, open and ready to drink. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 **Duorum 2019 Tons de Duorum (Douro)**. This ripe wine offers red-fruit flavors. Although it is still young, the fruits and structure are already vibrant with soft tannins and juicy acidity. Drink from 2022. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Poças 2019 Coroa d'Ouro (Douro). With spice and wood flavors, lifted acidity and black fruits, this is an attractive, open wine. The texture and light tannins keep the wine's shape in order. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Quinta da Pacheca 2018 Pacheca Grande Reserva Touriga Nacional (Douro). This wine's intensity and richness verge on too much. Spice, wood aging and dense black fruits give a wine that shows its alcohol in pepper and spice flavors. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Quinta da Rede 2019 Rede (Douro). Light wood aging has had a beneficial smoothing effect on the blackberry fruits and spicy tannins. The wine is mildly structured and ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Quinta dos Murças 2019 Assobio (Douro). From a quinta under the same ownership as Herdade do Esporão in Alentejo, this open wine is rich. Its structure has softened to give black fruits, juicy acidity and a fruity aftertaste. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

LISBOA

92 Quinta do Pinto 2015 Estate Collection (Lisboa). This blend of six grapes, three Portuguese and three French, is certainly rich. But it also has a cool edge since it comes from a vineyard close to the Atlantic, giving the blackberry fruits a lift at the end. The wine is now ready to drink. Cru Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Quinta do Pinto 2017 Merlot & Syrah (Lisboa). Ten months in wood have produced a wine that is still young and structured. The black fruits are vigorously rich, giving layers of big tannins as well as supporting spice from wood aging. Drink the wine from 2022. Cru Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

87 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Portada Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa). Packed with rich red fruits and soft tannins, this wine is ready to drink. Juicy berry flavors are enhanced by the wine's acidity and light structure at the end. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

ALENTEJO

94 Herdade do Esporão 2016 Private Selection (Alentejo). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Herdade do Sobroso 2019 Cellar Selection Syrah-Alicante Bouschet (Alentejo). Ripe

and opulent, this wine is full of dense black-plum fruits matched with succulent acidity. Alicante Bouschet in the blend gives structure and extra richness as well as the dark color. Drink this powerful wine from 2023. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Herdade do Esporão 2018 Reserva (Alentejo). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Herdade do Sobroso 2019 Tinto (Alentejo). This vineyard on the banks of the Guadiana river has produced fruity wine, blending four grapes into a ripe, full-bodied whole. Tannins are well integrated but the vibrant black fruits need to soften. Drink from 2022. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

OTHER RED WINES

90 Azores Wine Company 2019 Tinto Vulcânico (Açores). In the Azores, vines grow in cracks between the volcanic rocks. This wine, a blend of several local grapes, has a tight, structured core surrounded by juicy red fruits, with a bright texture and bright acidity. It is ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

90 Freire Lobo 2017 Vigno (Dão). Fermented in open vats, this rich wine is well structured. Tannins go with juicy black fruits to give a stylish wine that is now fully developed. Beaune Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

90 Fiuza 2019 Canto do Pedro Vinhas Velhas Reserva (Tejo). Partially wood aged and with rich black fruits, this wine is concentrated and densely textured. It is still young and a little raw at the edges, but promises much. Drink this blend with Cabernet Sauvignon from 2022. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Quinta do Noval 2018 Petit Verdot (Duriense). Dense with its richness and high in alcohol, this wine is just on the right side of being over the top. It's saved by acidity and tannins that give it shape. Power and concentration propel the black fruits. Drink from 2023. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$47

88 Quinta do Noval 2018 Cedro do Noval (Duriense). This dense, young wine has smoky black fruits as well as rich tannins to give both structure and promise. Currently prominent, the acidity will soften as the wine matures. Drink from 2022. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

87 Azores Wine Company 2017 A Proibida Portuguese Red (Portuguese Table Wine). A field blend of old red varieties, this smoky, perfumed

wine offers spice and intriguing, rustic red-fruit flavors. Drink this mature wine now. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

87 Ivin 2017 Lapa da Orca (Dão). This mature, lightly oaked wine has soft tannins that support bright, juicy cherry flavors. A blend of four Dão grapes, it is perfumed with a fresh aftertaste and is ready to drink. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

86 Ivin 2019 Vales da Beira (Terras da Beira). From vineyards in eastern Portugal, this solid, lightly textured wine is gentle in tannins and full in red-berry flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Wine Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

85 J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Vila Santa (Alentejano). Soft, simple and open, this wine is all about red fruits, with light tannins and plenty of acidity. The wine is young, attractive and ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

84 Ivin 2019 Vinhas de Rebordello (Trás-os-Montes). This wine comes from the far northeast of Portugal. It has an earthy rusticity, offering black fruits with a barnyard twist. The wine is young but the texture shows it is ready to drink. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

83 Casa Santa Eulália 2020 Plainas Grande Escolha Tinto Vinhão (Vinho Verde). The Vinhão grape is the most favored for red Vinho Verde. While rich, this wine shows many of the rustic, barnyard characteristics associated with the grape. Tight fruit, layers of acidity and hints of red fruits still don't convince. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

PORTUGAL FORTIFIED WINES PORT

94 Dow's 2019 Quinta do Bomfim Vintage Port. From the Bomfim vineyard in Pinhão, this vintage Port shows black jam and spice flavors. These go with dense tannins that mark this wine out for aging. The concentration and structure are impressive, with a ripe, generous aftertaste. Drink from 2030. Premium Port Wines, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$55

94 Ferreira 2019 Quinta do Porto Vintage Port. From one of the top Douro quintas, this wine is rich. Packed with black fruits and massive tannins that will allow the wine to age well, it has

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a strong texture and powerful fruits. Drink from 2030. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$120

94 Quinta de la Rosa 2019 Vintage Port. This sestate close to the village of Pinhão has produced a perfumed Port that is ripe with structured tannins and jammy damson fruits. Initially soft, the texture only gradually shows its power and concentration for further aging. Drink the wine from 2030. Winesellers, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$80

94 Quinta do Crasto 2018 Vintage Port. Richly perfumed from the Touriga Nacional in the blend, this is a firm, textured Port. It layers powerful tannins with blackberry fruits. It is a wine with structure and power, set for long-term aging. Drink from 2029. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$55

94 Quinta do Vesuvio 2019 Vintage Port. One of the Douro's grandest quintas has produced a powerful, structured wine that shows concentration and density. The aromas and dark fruits speak to the Touriga Nacional in the blend, giving a Port that is destined for long-term aging. Drink from 2030. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$85

94 Sandeman 2019 Quinta do Seixo Vintage Porto. For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$90

94 W. & J. Graham's 2019 Quinta dos Malvedos Vintage Port. After a succession of generally declared vintage Ports, the 2019s offer a chance for the individual quintas to be showcased. Malvedos has produced a Port of perfumed elegance, the Touriga Nacional giving violets and black-cherry fruits. This structured wine will certainly age. Drink from 2029. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$NA

94 Warre's 2019 Quinta da Cavadinha Port. The high elevation of this vineyard brings out structure and a serious character, very much in the Warre's house style. On the dry side, this beautifully structured Port promises plenty of aging. Drink from 2030. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$57

93 Churchill's 2019 Quinta da Gricha Vintage Port. The Churchill flagship quinta has produced a serious style of Port. Dry and richly structured, it also has jammy red-berry fruits that will cushion the firmness. Drink the wine from 2029. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$55

93 Cockburn's 2019 Quinta dos Canais Vintage Port. On the north bank of the Douro, this quinta has produced a richly generous Port, full of structure and with layers of firm and promising

tannins. The wine has richness, jammy black fruits and a solid feel that will allow it to age. Drink from 2030. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$NA

93 Dow's 2019 Quinta Senhora da Ribeira Vintage Port. This perfumed Port comes from a Symington family-owned vineyard on the north bank of the Douro. With rich tannins and an opulent texture, the wine initially seems too open for aging. Then the structure kicks in, bringing with it acidity and a firm core. Wait to drink and try from 2028. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$75

93 Quevedo 1994 Colheita Port. Showing good wood-aging flavors, this Colheita Port was bottled just at the right moment. Spice and toastiness are poised to take over from the red fruits, giving a touch of freshness as well as a good depth of raisins and toast. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Quevedo NV Crusted Port. A crusted Port is one that has not been filtered before bottling, therefore allowing for further aging. This wine is full of black fruits, still structured and young, that accompany acidity and sweet blackberry jam flavors over the tannins. Drink from 2025. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$35

92 Quevedo 2018 Vintage Port. The structure proper to a Vintage Port is very much present in this dry style. Black fruits and acidity go with the dried fruits and firm tannins. This is a wine to age. Wait to drink until 2028. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Duorum 2017 Late Bottled Vintage Port. Vineyards for this wine are situated in the far east of the Douro, close to the prehistoric wall paintings of the Côa Valley. It is warmly rich, with jammy black fruits to go with the perfumed tannins. Bottled in 2021, the wine is ready but could age further. Wait until 2023. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$30

91 Quinta do Crasto 2016 LBV Late Bottled Vintage Port. Bottled unfiltered, this Port comes from 70-year-old vines. It is deliciously perfumed, softly textured with ripe black fruits and hints of dried fruits. While the wine can be enjoyed now, it will be even better with some aging, waiting until 2022. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$26

90 Poças 2015 Late Bottled Vintage Port. This sweet style of LBV has rich, soft flavors. Dried fruits and prunes mix with acidity and a structure that gives extra richness. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Quevedo NV Bio Porto Reserve Ruby Port. This ripe, sweet and jammy Port is full of black fruits and soft tannins. Stewed berry flavors give acidity to the generous fruitiness and texture. Drink now. Organic. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$28

MADEIRA

95 Blandy's 1977 Listrao Madeira. The Listrao grape comes in tiny quantities from the island of Porto Santo, part of the Madeira archipelago. This 1977 Madeira, from a vineyard that no longer exists, has been aged in wood, producing old-gold flavors and acidity. Medium sweet, the wine is superbly textured and ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$450

95 Cossart Gordon 1978 Bual Madeira. For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 20% **Price:** \$350

94 Miles 1999 Rich Tinta Negra Madeira. For full review see page 6.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$154

92 Blandy's NV 20 Years Old Malmsey Madeira. This wood-aged sweet Madeira is rich with toffee flavors, old wood and spice. The wine is intense and concentrated, captured at a perfect moment in its progression. Drink now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$90/500 ml

92 Blandy's 2008 Colheita Single Harvest Special Madeira. This dry style of Madeira has benefited from the period in wood, gaining depth and concentration. Although rich, the wine is bone dry, balancing intense acidity with old-wood flavors. Drink now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$65/500 ml

HUNGARY

FURMINT

93 Samuel Tinon 2018 Birtok Dry Furmint (Tokaj). This dry Hungarian Furmint is straw colored in the glass with aromas of pineapple, guava and a touch of flint. In the mouth there are flavors of quince, lemon curd, honeysuckle blossom and white peach. It is very well balanced with nice heft on the palate and a bright splash of acidity in the finish. Danch and Granger Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Tokaj-Hétszölő 2019 Dry Furmint (Tokaj). This straw colored Hungarian dry Tokaj is straw colored with aromas of lemon blossom and white peach. In the mouth there are flavors of white peach, lemon pith and grapefruit rind. There is a strong mineral backbone in the midpalate with

bracing crispness in the finish. Wineberry America LLC. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

89 Pajzos 2019 T Dry Furmint (Tokaj). Straw colored in the glass, this dry Hungarian Furmint has aromas of guava, pineapple and quince. In the mouth it is well balanced with flavors of lemon pith, lemon curd and white flowers. The finish has gentle florality. VOS Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

WHITE BLENDS

92 Erzsébet Pince 2018 Zafir Dúlló Dry (Tokaj). This straw colored Hungarian white wine is made from 90% Furmint and 10% Harslevelu. It has aromas of white peach, jasmine and lemon pith. In the mouth there are flavors of peach, apricot and lemon curd. It is well balanced with good mouthfeel and a bright splash of acidity on the finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 St. Donat 2017 Márga Balatonfüred-Csopak Furmit-Olaszrizling (Balaton). This straw colored Hungarian white blend is comprised of Furmint and Olaszrizling. It is straw colored in the glass with aromas of pineapple, lemon curd and flint. In the mouth there are flavors of caramelized pineapple, quince and guava. It is well balanced with pleasant acidity in the finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

89 Bőjt 2019 Egri Csillag (Eger). This straw colored Hungarian wine is a blend of Olaszrizling, Sauvignon Blanc, Leanka and Muscat. It has aromas of jasmine, honeysuckle and peach. In the mouth there are flavors of kumquat, mandarin orange and grapefruit peel with a bright finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Bussay 2018 Mura Zala (Hungary). This Hungarian white blend is comprised of Olaszrizling, Pinot Gris and Riesling. It has aromas of white flowers, freesia, lemon pith and orange blossom. In the mouth it has flavors of mandarin orange peel, jasmine and lemon curd. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

OLASZRIZLING

90 Bussay 2019 Kövecz Zala Olaszrizling (Hungary). This Hungarian Olaszrizling is straw colored with aromas of lemon blossom and Granny Smith apple. It has pleasant acidity and flavors of lemon pith, grapefruit rind and peach before the soft finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 St. Donat 2018 Kopaszhegy Vulkanikus Válogatás Balatonfüred-Csopak Olaszrizling (Balaton). This straw colored Hungarian Olasz-

rizling has aromas of white flowers, peach and jasmine. In the mouth there are flavors of bitter orange, mandarin peel and green apple with a touch of bitter almond in the finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

ROSÉ

88 Heumann 2019 Rosé (Villány). This Hungarian rose consists of 70% Kekfrankos and 30% Syrah and is salmon pink in the glass. It has aromas of strawberry, apricot and dried herbs. In the mouth there are flavors of strawberry, red raspberry and kumquat before the bright finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

RED WINES

91 Heumann 2016 Villányi Franc Cabernet Franc (Villány). This Hungarian Cabernet Franc is ruby garnet in the glass with aromas of blackberry, bramble and red pepper. It has aromas of cranberry, pomegranate, red raspberry and black cherry. It is well balanced with velvety tannins and bright acidity in the finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$34

90 St. Donat 2018 Magma Unfiltered Balatonfüred-Csopak Kékfrankos (Balaton). This unfiltered Kékfrankos is garnet colored with aromas of strawberry licorice, rhubarb and red plum. In the mouth there are flavors of red plum, cranberry and pomegranate. It is well balanced with soft tannins and a bright acidic finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Bőjt 2017 Egri Bikavér (Eger). The traditional Hungarian Egri Bikavér blend has made a resurgence in the last few years. This one is a blend of Kekfrankos, Cabernet Sauvignon, Zweigelt and Blauburger. It is cherry red colored with aromas of blackberry, dark cherry, plum and mocha. In the mouth there are flavors of pomegranate, cranberry and espresso. It is well balanced with slightly grippy tannins and a pleasantly soft finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Bussay 2018 Csókaszó Zala (Hungary). This Hungarian red wine is made from 100% Csokaszolo. It is medium cherry colored in the glass with floral and lightly perfumed aromas. In the mouth there are flavors of red raspberry, tart cherry and vanilla. The tannins are velvety and the finish is soft. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

89 Sebestyén 2018 Nánai Kékfrankos (Szekszárd). This red is dark cherry red with aromas of black cherry, cinnamon and black pepper. It has flavors of pomegranate and black cherry with soft tannins and a pleasant finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Vida Péter 2017 Bonsai Öregtőkés Kadarka (Szekszárd). This Hungarian Kadarka is light cherry red in color with aromas of cranberry and cherry. In the mouth there are flavors of red cherry, red plum and pomegranate. It is well balanced with silky tannins and a soft finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Bussay 2017 Charmes Zala Pinot Noir (Hungary). This Hungarian Pinot Noir is light cherry red with aromas of red cherry, cinnamon, and freshly ground black pepper. It has flavors of freshly picked yellow cherries and red raspberries with velvety tannins and a soft finish. Taste Hungry. —J.J.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

SWEET WINE

96 Tokaj-Hétszőlő 2008 Aszú 5 Puttonyos (Tokaji). This light amber Hungarian Tokaji has beautiful aromas of honeycomb, apricot, yellow peach and orange blossom. It is very full in the mouth with flavors of dried apricot, marzipan, caramelized pineapple, cantaloupe and peach. There is a touch of bitter almond that is revived by the bright acidity in the finish. Wineberry America LLC. —J.J.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$58/500 ml

BULGARIA

WHITE WINES

90 Bulgariana 2020 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 K Cellars 2020 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Rough Day 2020 Chardonnay (Thracian Valley). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

89 Bulgariana 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Thracian Valley). This Bulgarian Sauvignon Blanc has aromas of caramelized pineapple, melon and lemon grass. In the mouth there are flavors of honeydew melon, lemon grass and lemon pith. The finish is soft and clean. G&B Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.J.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

ROSÉS

89 Bulgariana 2020 Rosé of Gamza (Danube River Plains). This Bulgarian rose is made from 100% Gamza and is pale pink in the glass with aromas of dried Mediterranean herbs, rose petals and strawberry. In the mouth it feels quite creamy and there are pleasant flavors of freshly sliced

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strawberries before the bright finish. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 Rough Day 2020 Rosé (Danube River Plains). This Bulgarian rose is pale pink in the glass and has aromas of dried sage, oregano, rosemary, rosehips and strawberry. It is made from 100% Gamza and has flavors of fresh strawberry and vanilla ice cream with a pleasant acidic finish. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

RED WINES

90 Bulgariana 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). For full review see page 21. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 K Cellars 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Thracian Valley). For full review see page 21. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Bulgariana 2018 Gamza (Danube River Plains). This garnet colored Bulgarian Gamza has aromas of bramble, black plum and mocha. In the mouth it has a soft tannic structure and flavors of black raspberry, plum and pomegranate. G&B Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

89 K Cellars 2018 Merlot (Thracian Valley). This Bulgarian Merlot is garnet colored with aromas of black cherry, forest floor and vanilla. In the mouth there are velvety tannins and flavors of blackberry, red raspberry, red plum and cherry vanilla. It is soft on both entry and in the finish. G&B Importers. —J.J.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

89 Bulgariana 2020 Pinot Noir (Danube River Plains). This Bulgarian Pinot Noir is garnet colored and has aromas of powdered sugar, black cherry and cotton candy. In the mouth there are soft tannins and flavors of pomegranate, cranberry and cocoa powder with a soft finish. G&B Importers. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 K Cellars 2020 Pinot Noir (Danube River Plains). This garnet colored Bulgarian Pinot Noir has aromas of cotton candy, black cherry and powdered sugar. On the palate it has flavors of cranberry, cocoa powder and pomegranate. The tannins are smooth and the finish is soft. G&B Importers. —J.J.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

ROMANIA WHITE WINE

89 Budureasca 2019 Origini Oro Manisa Sec (Dealu Mare). This Chardonnay-based blend is straw colored in the glass, with aromas of flint, wet river rock and green apple. In the mouth it is balanced, with flavors of apple, yellow peach and jasmine. The finish has nice acidity and is bright. Giggleswater Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Budureasca 2020 Premium Fumé Vin Alb Sec (Dealu Mare). This white blend is comprised of Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Blanc and Pinot Gris. It has aromas of pineapple, mango and apple, while flavors recall tropical fruits, especially guava and mango. The wine finishes soft. Giggleswater Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

ROSÉ

87 Budureasca 2020 Premium Busuioac & Vin Sec Rosé (Dealu Mare). This pink-colored rosé from Dealu Mare offers aromas of sage, oregano and dried herbs. In the mouth there are flavors of red raspberry, strawberry and peach, with an astringent finish. Giggleswater Imports. —J.J.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

RED WINES

89 Budureasca 2018 Noble Five (Dealu Mare). This Romanian red is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Shiraz and Feteasca Neagra. It has aromas of red cherry and red raspberry, while flavors suggest red cherry, red raspberry and red plum. The wine is well balanced, with silky tannins and a persistent finish. Giggleswater Imports. —J.J.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Budureasca 2016 Origini Sec Cabernet Sauvignon (Dealu Mare). This Cabernet Sauvignon is garnet colored, with aromas of red plum, black cherry and cranberry. In the mouth there are flavors of pomegranate, cranberry and black raspberry. The wine is well balanced, with silky tannins and a pleasant acidic finish. Giggleswater Imports. —J.J.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Budureasca 2018 Origini Sec Feteasca Neagra (Dealu Mare). This wine is inky purple in the glass, with aromas of black cherry, black raspberry, black plum and vanilla. It is balanced on the palate, offering flavors of black raspberry, cherry and baking spice. The wine has slightly grippy tannins and a pleasant acidic finish. Giggleswater Imports. —J.J.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Budureasca 2018 Premium Zenovius Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Dealu Mare). This Cabernet Sauvignon/Shiraz blend is garnet colored, with aromas of plum, cranberry and pomegranate. In the mouth it is well balanced, conveying flavors of pomegranate, black plum and black raspberry. Tannins are nice and soft, and a pleasant burst of acidity shows on the finish. Giggleswater Imports. —J.J.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

ISRAEL

MARSELAN

90 Binyamina 2017 Reserve Ha'Shomer Marselan (Galilee). Deep violet red in the glass, this wine features aromas of strawberry and tomato leaf. Mouthcoating tannins provide a backdrop for flavors of dark cherry, blackberry, creme brûlée and juniper berry that culminate in an orange zest finish. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

ARMENIA

WHITE WINES

90 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2018 Dry Aghavnadzor (Vayots Dzor). Made with four native Armenian varieties, this wine has a nose of citrus and toasted nuts. It rolls across the palate with flavors of green apple, quince, lemon, blossom and orange that culminate in a toasted nut finish. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 Zulal 2019 Voskehat (Vayots Dzor). With aromas of nectarine and flint, this wine made with an indigenous Armenian variety has flavors of Bartlett pear, peach and lemon curd. It is bright in the mouth and offers a savory dried herb finish. Storica Wines. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINE

90 Keush NV Origins Méthode Traditionnelle Brut (Vayots Dzor). For full review see page 17.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

ARENI

93 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2017 Sarpina Areni (Vayots Dzor). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of cassis, raspberry preserves and thyme. Flavors of black currant, raspberry, anise, Mediterranean herbs and milk chocolate are set into a network of plush tannins that fill the palate and then wind down towards a smooth finish. Paul Hobbs Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

92 **Yacobian-Hobbs 2017 Rind Areni (Vayots Dzor).** This deep garnet colored wine has aromas of strawberry, pomegranate and lilac. It is bright on entry, with velvety tannins and flavors of black cherry, blackberry, aniseed and vanilla that culminate in a soft, spicy finish. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 **Zulal 2018 Reserve Areni (Vayots Dzor).** This dark garnet colored wine has aromas of black cherry and orange peel. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of black cherry, cassis and pomegranate and then a spicy note takes over joined by flavors of dark chocolate and espresso. Subtle tannins slowly build in volume and then raced into a lingering finish. Storica Wines. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 **Zulal 2018 Areni (Vayots Dzor).** For full review see page 20.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

AUSTRALIA

CHARDONNAY

89 **Angove 2020 Naturalis Made with Organic Grapes Chardonnay (South Australia).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 **Fowles Wine 2019 Farm To Table Sustainably Farmed and Produced Chardonnay (Victoria).** Medium bodied and big but not blowsy, this Chard opens with bombastic—and somewhat synthetic—peach, lavender soap and honeyed oak notes. The mouthfeel is creamy with slightly sweaty oak but also a refreshing lift of acidity. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Kangarilla Road 2020 Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills).** This bright, modern Chardonnay has a lemony zing, saline nuances and just a hint of toasty oak on the nose. It's straightforward but refreshing. The acidity feels a little forced but there's an appealing zip of citrus zest to finish, backed by subtle herbal and oak notes. M Imports, LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 **Yalumba 2020 The Y Series Unwooded Chardonnay (South Australia).** This unwooded Chardonnay, from one of Australia's large-scale, historic wineries, offers a straightforward but appealing nose of pineapple and stone fruit. The palate is ultrafresh and fruity yet dry, with a bit of textural interest. It's a thirst-quenching weeknight sipper without the flab. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 **Hugh Hamilton 2020 The Scally Wag Chardonnay (McLaren Vale).** There's a lot of winemaking here. The nose is fruity, with peach and strawberry notes backed by ginger, cream and some

oak influence. There's also what seems like a good lick of sulfur. In the mouth, acidity is angular and feels forced. The wine has a slippery texture and plenty of zippy fruit but again, the sulfur shows and the finish is a touch sour. Vino Logics. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

86 **McGuigan 2020 The Plan Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia).** A cheap and cheerful wine, this has all the winemaking bells and whistles but is easy to knock back iced cold or even over ice. It's highly fruity, with a nose of melon and pineapple popsicles, a toasted-oak note peeping through the cracks. There's a touch of sweetness on the palate but enough acidity to keep the wine refreshing. Palm Bay International. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Woop Woop 2020 Chardonnay (South Australia).** There's clearly a lot of winemaking here, but this is a solid, straightforward and affordable Aussie Chard. The nose suggests orchard fruit and toast, while the palate is fresh, with some oaky, lees-y creaminess. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

85 **De Bortoli 2019 17 Trees Chardonnay (Riverina).** A distracting onion and green-wood element on the nose of this wine gets in the way of the more appealing stone and melon fruit. The palate has a similar green, oniony sweatiness, plus a sour note on the finish. Nevertheless, crisp acidity and fleshy fruit make this a palatable, medium-weight wine. PH Importing. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

85 **Fowles Wine 2019 Ladies who Shoot their Lunch Wild Ferment Chardonnay (Victoria).** This is a rich, ripe Chard with a lot of winemaking. Plump pineapple and melon fruit are wound in spicy, toasty yeast and oak notes that feel a bit clunky, particularly on the creamy textured palate. The wine feels both flat and overblown. Kosher. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

85 **Lambert Estate 2019 A Thousand Words Chardonnay (Barossa Valley).** This Chardonnay is quite reductive on the nose. Behind the oniony notes, fleshy yellow fruit and vanilla tones peek through. On the palate, the acidity feels forced, never meshing with the creamy texture. Without vibrancy of fruit, things feel flat and disjointed. AUSA Pacific. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

85 **Thorn Clarke 2019 Milton Park Chardonnay (South Australia).** There's a lot of winemaking here, and a lot of reduction and sulfur too, at first sniff. Amid the Band-Aid character lurk high-toned citrus and tropical fruit and woody, spicy, lees-y notes. Acidity is fresh if forced, jutting out over the creamy texture, the two never gelling together. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

84 **Yellow Tail 2020 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia).** This pale-gold wine is a bit fizzy when first poured, and a little sweaty too. There's little to indicate that this is a Chardonnay beyond the vanillin wood notes, but bright aromas include melon, pineapple rind and citrus. The palate is fruity and creamy with rather forced acidity and oak, and a sour, flabby finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

83 **Yellow Tail 2020 Pure Bright Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia).** The marketing may claim low alcohol and calories, but this wine is also low on flavor and drinkability. Muted at first, the nose eventually reveals ripe lemon and melon aromas with a very forced buttery malolactic character. The palate is rich and creamy but the fruit feels flat, sour and sweaty, with a chemical flavor at the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 9.6% **Price:** \$7

SEMILLON

92 **Silkman 2018 Semillon (Hunter Valley).** Not enough Hunter Semillon makes it to U.S. shores. This bottling presents the iconic Aussie style. Citrus zest, pineapple, white spice and honeysuckle characteristics melt into a waxy mouthfeel on the medium to full-bodied palate. Zippy acidity and tangy citrus and spice notes linger on the finish. Clocking in at under 12% alcohol, the wine offers food-friendly drinking now, with the capability to age into a more complex creature over the next several years. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

91 **Moss Wood 2020 Wilyabrup Semillon (Margaret River).** This Semillon, from one of Margaret River's long-standing wineries, clocks in at a hefty 14.5% alcohol. It doesn't show, though. Instead it's open and varietal. It offers notes of warm stone, wool and beeswax in the foreground, while stone and citrus fruit are at the back. The wine is most interesting on the palate. Full bodied with a talc-like texture and a fabulous crunch of acidity, it could veer towards austerity but has enough flesh and girth to avoid it. Drink now with food or cellar over the next seven to ten years. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Ashbrook Estate 2020 Wilyabrup Single Vineyard & Hand Picked Semillon (Margaret River).** This pale-gold Semillon offers much of the pithy, waxy lemon, dried herb and damp straw notes typical to the variety and region. The palate is less generous on the fruit front with the acidity feeling a bit forced, but the finish has a lovely slippery texture and some length. This wine could shine with the right food, like a herb-laced chèvre. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Audrey Wilkinson 2019 Winemakers Selection Semillon (Hunter Valley).** Give this

BUYINGGUIDE

pale-gold Hunter Semillon a little air in glass—and don't chill it too much—so it can show the charms of the variety. This fleshy wine offers ripe citrus, melon and peach notes, backed by beeswax, herbs and honey. There's what feels like a good whack of sulfur here, too. The palate is where the extra air and only slight chill helps to reveal the slippery texture and pithy fruit. It's a full-figured wine but one that's fresh, tangy and food friendly. Cape Ardor LLC. —C.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$25

89 Torbreck 2020 Woodcutter's Semillon (Barossa Valley). Pale-hued, this fruity Sem opens with citrus, stone fruit and floral notes, with subtle undertones of white spice, dried herbs and beeswax. It's on the rich side, with a smudged charcoal-like texture but the fruit feels a touch confectioned, with a synthetic tinge. Despite this, there's decent freshness and a pleasant herbal flavor at the finish. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

RIESLING

91 Alkoomi 2020 Riesling (Frankland River). This wine is made in the austere, flinty style common to Western Australia's Great Southern region. There's a little kerosene on the nose, along with gentler citrus-blossom notes. The palate is dry, with rapier acidity and a lovely chalky texture. This food-friendly Riesling could be drunk now if not too cold, or cellared until at least 2029. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

91 Mr. Riggs 2020 Watervale Riesling (Clare Valley). This wine is from Ben Riggs, formerly of McLaren Vale's Wirra Wirra winery. The cool climes of the Watervale subregion helped in a warm year like 2020, producing a classic Aussie Riesling that's perfumed but still superfresh and drier than the fruity nose suggests. Notes of lemon, lime, orange and ginger combine with crisp acidity and a talc-like texture. This wine could pair with a summer meal or gain more honeyed complexity in bottle from 2026 to 2030. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

86 Frisk 2020 Prickly Riesling (Victoria). This ultraperfumed, off-dry Riesling is less about variety and more about style. It bursts with lime, apple skin, orange blossom and honeyed aromas. Just enough acidity on the palate keeps things refreshing. There's a gentle spritz, too, hence the name. Drink icy cold with spicy Latin or Southeast Asian cuisine. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

abv: 10%

Price: \$11

SPARKLING WINES

94 Clover Hill 2015 Vintage Release Méthode Traditionnelle Brut (Tasmania). This Chardonnay-dominant, traditional method vintage deftly demonstrates Tasmania's prowess with seri-

ous sparkling. Gold hued, it's opulent and heady, with notes of orchard fruit, ginger and crème brûlée. A vigorous mousse on the dry palate leaves room for the tangy fruit and mouthfilling texture. This is special-occasion bubbles but with the price tag of dinner party (if not everyday) drinking. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$39

93 Chalmers 2016 Felicitas (Heathcote). The Chalmers family brought a great deal of Australia's Italian grape varieties into the country, including Fiano, from which this sparkler is made. "Felicitas" is an elegant and ultradrinkable cool-climate bubbly. It offers gentle notes of fresh peach, pineapple, orange water, a copper-penny tang and a toastier, creamier note at the back. Bubbles are bright on the dry but fruit-filled palate. The two years spent on lees shows in both mouthfeel and flavor. Legend Wines. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

91 Best's 2017 Sparkling Shiraz (Great Western). Best's makes one of the strongest examples of this uniquely Aussie style, which has been a part of Aussie wine since 1881. There's a pleasant lift of sweet, plump plum and berry fruit, with gentler notes of chocolate and savory spice. The bubbles almost take you by surprise. They're vigorous when first poured but quickly settle. There's some fruit sweetness and alcohol warmth, with smudged charcoal tannins. Full bodied yet bubbly, this wine is made for wintertime holidays, but chill it down and you could also sip it with a summer barbecue. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

91 Clover Hill 2016 Cuvée Exceptionnelle Brut Rosé Méthode Traditionnelle (Tasmania). This wine takes its time opening and even once it does, it remains a quiet, gentle being. It whispers watermelon, apple and strawberry notes, with just a squeak of toast. The palate is elegant and harmonious, with vigorous bubbles. It never achieves the complexity one would hope for at this price, nor does it have the charm and opulence of its lower priced "Vintage Brut" counterpart, but it's a classy glass nonetheless. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$50

91 Lambert Estate 2019 The Prologue (Barossa). This lightweight, summery sparkler opens with whiffs of apples, pears and peaches backed by gentle notes of toast and spice. Fresh and mostly dry, it has just a kiss of sweetness and plenty of vibrant bubbles. Drink now. AUSA Pacific. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

87 Paringa 2018 Sparkling Shiraz (South Australia). For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**

abv: 14%

Price: \$12

PINOT NOIR

94 Giant Steps 2019 Applejack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). Grown on east-facing

slopes at higher elevation than the "Sexton" Pinot, this "Applejack" is the more open and gregarious of the single-vineyard duo. Fleshy fruit sits happily between a mélange of flavors including dried flowers, mushrooms and graphite. It's medium weight and silky, with smudgy, graphite-like tannins. The savory, herbal finish cries out for roast lamb or a tray of grilled, blistered veggies. Drink now—2028. Jackson Family Wines. —C.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$65

93 Giant Steps 2019 Primavera Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). This vintage of single-vineyard "Primavera" Pinot is as vibrant as the vivid cherry hue suggests. It's a more delicate, drink-now drop than this producer's other single-vineyard Pinots. The wine explodes from the glass with red-berry and stalky cinnamon-bark aromas, followed by gentler dried herb, floral and warm stone notes. The palate is fresh and bright, with a well-threaded tug of textural tannins. Drink now—2026. Jackson Family Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$65

93 Giant Steps 2019 Sexton Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). From north-facing slopes and at lower elevation than sister wine, "Applejack," this single-vineyard Pinot is initially dense and quiet, taking time to reveal its charms. As it warms, it unravels notes of cherries, plums, spring flowers and spice, with earthier bass notes of smudged charcoal and something more sanguine. The wine-making prowess shows on the palate. It has weight and power but also elegance in the form of well-integrated, sandpaper-like tannins and savory spice amid the concentrated fruit. Still a baby, this could cellar until 2029 at least. Jackson Family Wines. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$65

90 Innocent Bystander 2019 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). For full review see page 17.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

89 Fowles Wine 2019 Farm To Table Sustainably Farmed and Produced Pinot Noir (Victoria). This wine is mushroomy at first, but time in the glass reveals cranberry and raspberry fruits plus fistfuls of summer herbs and spices, with a faint graphite note at the back. The palate is fresh, with crunchy fruit and a well-textured grip of tannins. It's a modern Pinot for drinking young. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

88 Pacha Mama 2019 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). A vibrant cherry hue, this straightforward Pinot opens with oodles of ripe, fleshy red-berry fruit. It's a touch reductive, too, but those oniony notes morph into earthy, herb and spice ones as the wine opens. In the mouth it's light to medium bodied. A sappy, savory thread runs through the simple but appealing red-fruit flavors. Drink slightly chilled on a spring or early summer day. Mack & Schuhle Inc. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

SHIRAZ

96 Penfolds 2018 RWT Bin 798 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$150

95 Frankland Estate 2018 Isolation Ridge Single Vineyard Shiraz (Frankland River). This wine comes from one of the most isolated single-vineyards in the world and from a fantastic Shiraz vintage. The distinctive and deep well of aromas of this cool-climate region are all here: scrubby herbs, olives, mint, luscious red fruit, a stony minerality, violets and chocolate. It's fresh, with austere, ultrasavory, talc-textured tannins. Drink now with charred lamb or cellar another decade at least. Vinedos Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

95 Yeringberg 2018 Shiraz (Yarra Valley). For Yeringberg, one of the Yarra Valley's founding wineries, 2018 has proven a stellar vintage. This Shiraz could cellar nicely for several years but is drinking beautifully right now. There's high-toned black and red-berry fruit, licorice, baking spice and a citrus dusting polish note. It has a crunch of acidity and a juicy purity of fruit. The tannins are uniquely textured and savory. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$80

94 Luke Lambert 2019 Syrah (Yarra Valley). From one of the coolest microclimates in the Yarra and grown on unusually volcanic soil to boot, this is a structured yet also deliciously approachable wine from one of the Yarra's most talented small-batch producers. Made with minimal intervention and 80% whole-bunch fermentation, it opens with a heady perfume, like a cherry orchard at harvest time, with cinnamon bark and fistfuls of wild flowers thrown in for good measure. Thing feel more grown up on the palate. Sinewy, spicy tannins slink around crunchy fruit. Drink now with a platter of cured meats or age in bottle for several more years. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

94 Mayer 2019 Syrah (Yarra Valley). German expat Timo Mayer is one of the natural wine kings of the Yarra Valley, known for his prodigious yet skillful use of whole-bunch fermentation. Here the technique adds a pretty, spicy lift to the brambleberry, floral and mineral notes. Less medicinal and more fruit-driven than the previous vintage, this has powdery tannins that temper the bouncy, crunchy fruit on the palate. The wine drinks gloriously well now but has the chops to cellar through 2028. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$90

94 Oliver's Taranga Vineyards 2018 Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Corrina Wright and team once again deliver a medium-weight Shiraz that's both approachable and nuanced. Fresh cranberries and black cherries weave through baking spice, dried violets and olive brine. Crunchy acid-

ity and sappy, smudged charcoal tannins make for a protein-friendly food pairing. The confident yet stripped-back winemaking vibe also infers the ability for chilling down slightly and knocking back. Epicurean Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

94 Punt Road 2019 Napoleone Vineyard Shiraz (Yarra Valley). The 2019 vintage was picked a bit riper than usual and there's power here, but it still sits firmly in the medium-weight realm. This wine is layered with brambly berry, spice and graphite notes, with earth and mushroomy umami nuances. There's crunch to the acidity and a tang to the fruit, smudged like charcoal by the spicy, textural tannins. It's a harmonious and characterful wine. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

94 S.C. Pannell 2016 Syrah (Adelaide Hills). Steve Pannell's reputation as one of Australia's most skilled red winemakers is a deserved one. This wine, with a bit of bottle age, is in a great place. It offers a deep well of aromas, from fleshy raspberry and cherry fruit to violets and warming spices, with earthy, leathery bass notes. Once you manage to extract your nose from the glass and take a sip, your palate is enveloped in silky, juicy fruit and taut, textural tannins. Equal parts power and plushness, this will hold until 2031 at least. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$39

94 Torbreck 2019 The Struie Shiraz (Barossa). For full review see page 7.
abv: 15% Price: \$55

94 Tyrrell's 2018 Vat 9 Shiraz (Hunter Valley). In a moisture-prone region like Hunter, a warm, dry vintage like 2018 is a good thing. One of the region's best-known reds, Vat 9 is from old vines (some dating to 1892), with far older red-clay soils over limestone. This wine takes its time opening but soon offers flavorful layers of cranberry, blueberry, florals and subdued but present oak. This vintage is on the rich side, with leathery, chiseled tannins. A few years stashed away should offer big rewards. Drink 2022–2036. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$66

94 Wakefield 2018 St. Andrews Shiraz (Clare Valley). With 2018 a strong vintage down under, this wine wears it well. Plush yet high-toned currant and plum-fruit characteristics are followed by a sanguine note—like iodine—along with cedar, mint, pencil lead and a seaweed, umami-like nuance. The mouthfeel is distinctive: tannins like sandpaper but the fruit silky and tangy. There's power here but drinkability too. Cellar for several years for added complexity or crack open now with a roast lamb or similarly comforting cold-weather cuisine. Taub Family Selections. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$46

94 Walsh & Sons 2020 Felix Syrah (Margaret River). This pint-size Margaret River win-

ery, known for characterful yet clean minimal-intervention wines with downright adorable labels, has nailed the "Felix" style. It's a wine more for the stomach than the head, made for drinking with a wide variety of rustic food. Brightness, elegance and power combine via a bouquet of high-toned red and blueberry fruit, dried flower, tomato leaf, savory herbs and spice, with a ferrous streak. Medium weight, the slinky, juicy fruit is cinched by talc-like tannins. Drink now and over the next few years. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

93 Best's 2018 Bin No 1 Shiraz (Great Western). From one of Australia's most treasured estates, this cool-climate Shiraz from western Victoria is a little meaty and mushroomy at first, the plum and currant fruit trailing just behind. It has cola-like polish from the oak influence and an underbelly of florals and spices. Despite the fruit plushness on the palate, there's still verve, freshness and a smudged charcoal texture to the powerful tannins. Drink now with protein and over the next few years. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

93 Charlotte Dalton 2019 Love Me Love You Shiraz (Adelaide Hills). Wildly popular in Australia, this modern Shiraz puts deliciousness first without compromising quality. There's just enough whole bunch to lift the juicy plum and brambly berry fruit, while undertones of baking spice and salt add interest. The palate is light to midweight with fairly big, hoisin-like tannins balanced by a rush of juicy fruit. There's elegance and freshness here, and personality in spades. Drink now or over the next few years. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$33

93 Grant Burge 2019 Balthasar Shiraz (Barossa). Parent company Accolade Wines is making a push for re-entry of their longstanding South Aussie brands in the US, including Grant Burge. "Balthasar" is Eden Valley, and while this wine has no shortage of power and fruit concentration, the comparatively cool climate contributes freshness and a savory spine. Between the red and blackberry cracks grow notes of furniture polish, freshly sawn cedar, dried herb and inklings of spice, tomato leaf and olive. Textural tannins seal the deal. Sure, they're brawny and a bit boney, but the talc-like texture adds interest and never tugs on the fruit too hard. Drink 2022–2035. Accolade Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

93 Koomilya 2015 Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This is the relatively new label of Stephen Pannell, a well-respected name in Aussie wine. Made from the fruit of self-owned vineyards on staggeringly old soils, the wine takes a little time in glass to open up. Once it does, it reveals a deep well of flavor, from plump plum and blackberry to forest floor, mocha, violets, savory spice and porcini mushroom powder. It's full figured, with a plush, silky mouthfeel and solid framework of taut, textural tannins. The lifted perfume and structure makes it a less dense bot-

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ting than some of its regional counterparts. Drink now–2030. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$70

93 Poppelvej 2019 Somewhere Syrah (McLaren Vale). This is a relatively new small-batch label from Danish sommelier-turned-winemaker Uffe Deichmann. Fermented in concrete egg, this Syrah echoes those made similarly in the Southern Rhône with their fruit purity, ferrous nuances and unique tannin structure. It's open and lucid, with heady scents of fresh raspberry, sour cherry, cut flowers, Aussie bush herbs, dark chocolate and furniture polish, all of it from the fruit and not from oak. Chalky, bone-dry tannins cinch tightly on the crunchy, medium-weight palate. Drink now slightly chilled with tangy meat or veggies (think beef jerky or balsamic-marinated portobellos). Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$39

92 Bertrand Bespoke 2019 Syrah (Heathcote). This is the label of the French-born-and-trained winemaker Gilles Lapalus, today a highly regarded producer in Victoria. The Syrah is from the Heathcote region, known for its red clay soils and distinctive Shiraz. Lapalus's version, appropriately labeled "Syrah," is made in the vin de soif style, meaning it can be chilled down and drunk by the bucketload. Part whole-bunch fermented, it's bright and bouncy, with stalky, red berry and floral notes and crunch to the light-weight palate. Little Peacock Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: NA Price: \$33

92 Brash Higgins 2018 SHZ Omensetter Vineyard Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Expat-American Brad Hickey's reds celebrate the natural power and richness found in McLaren Vale and in his organic home block of clay-over-limestone soils. This vintage, a warm one, is particularly concentrated but still finds balance and complexity. Oxidative handling gives a lifted, slightly raisiny quality to the plummy fruit, which swirls in other flavors, from mocha and licorice to mint and grilling-meat spices. Freshness and minerality show on the palate amid the plump, rich fruit and powerful, textured tannins. Drink now with protein until 2028. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

92 Brokenwood 2018 Shiraz (Hunter Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14% Price: \$36

92 Forest Hill 2019 Highbury Fields Shiraz (Great Southern). This affordable bottling, from the cool Great Southern region in Western Australia, is plush and polished, with a nose of luscious red and black berry fruit, licorice, dried flower and a good lick of vanillin oak. The palate is sewn together tightly with chiseled, powdery tannins but the fruit is juicy. Secondary spice and brambly notes add complexity. Despite its density, the wine is still medium weight, with the capacity to age until 2028 or so. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

92 Frankland Estate 2017 Estate Grown Shiraz (Frankland River). This wine is appealing in sweet and savory aromas, from brambly fruit to bouquet garni, from dried flowers to cinnamon. There's also a stony, mineral streak and a kiss of cola-like oak. Medium weight, the juicy fruit is wound firmly with sinewy tannins, finishing both floral and savory. Drink now–2025. Vinedos Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

92 Handpicked 2018 Collection Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Berry and plum fruit take the fore on this high-toned Shiraz, but its secondary characteristics are most interesting. These suggest tomato leaf, olive tapenade, cocoa powder, bay leaf and earthy spice. Oak is present but not dominating. There's lifted acidity and chalky, somewhat astringent tannins on the palate. The through-line is the juicy red fruit and savory bass notes that flow to the finish. The wine has an austerity and a leanness that wants more of Barossa's famed fruit concentration. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$50

92 Pacha Mama 2019 Shiraz (Heathcote). This is a lovely example of cool-climate Shiraz from the Heathcote region of Victoria. It's open and lucid, with notes of sun-ripened wild blueberries and strawberries, tree sap, scrubby Aussie herbs and flowers, and a wet-stone nuance. Light to medium weight, the wine is less about muscle and more about lusciousness and drinkability. The tannins have a slight astringency, particularly on the finish, but overall this is a tasty drop. Mack & Schuhle Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

92 Stella Bella 2019 Shiraz (Margaret River). This bottling stays true to the power of Shiraz while sprinkling it with regional personality and a charm all its own. It's highly aromatic, with prominent cinnamon and flower-stalk notes interwoven with dark chocolate, violets, baking spice, berries and plums. The palate is fresh with muscular tannins along with tangy, silky fruit and a savory element. Still young, the wine needs a rare steak right now, but should age nicely into the early 2030s. M Imports, LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

92 Tyrrell's 2018 Shiraz (Hunter Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

91 De Bortoli 2019 17 Trees Shiraz (Heathcote). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$20

91 First Creek 2018 Shiraz (Hunter Valley). A strong vintage of this wine, this represents the medium-bodied style of Shiraz for which Australia's oldest wine region is known. Lucid and appealing once it gets some air, it offers fistfuls of plump red currant and raspberry fruit, backed by ground pepper, earthy spice and subtle floral nuances. Fresh and silky, it has a lovely juxtaposi-

tion of juicy red fruit and spicy, smudgy tannins. It should prove a versatile food wine for drinking over the next several years. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

91 John Duval Wines 2019 Entity Shiraz (Barossa). This vintage boasts all the polish and balance for which this experienced winemaker is known. It's not the most exciting bottling but it offers attractive notes of plum and berry fruit, with chocolatey, toasty oak along a spicy spine. The palate is powerful yet restrained, with lifted acidity and gauzy tannins. This old-school Barossa from a classic winemaker can be cellared until at least 2032. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

91 St Hallett 2019 Blackwell Shiraz (Barossa). Rich and traditionally styled, this muscular Shiraz initially wafts plum, red fruit and chocolatey oak, trailed by bay leaf and gentle peppery spice. There's power to the sturdy palate, the fruit and spice cinched by chiseled, sandpapery tannins. Still young, this wine could reward careful cellaring through 2032. Accolade Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$58

91 Wakefield 2019 Estate Label Shiraz (South Australia). This is serious bang-for-buck Shiraz. The brightness of the comparatively cool Clare Valley shows via the high-toned red-berry and plum fruit. There's a streak of dusty, warm stones, scrubby Aussie herbs and a bit of baking spice. Tannins are leathery and powerful but not enough to quash the juicy fruit. It's a full-bodied wine with restraint and character. Drink now–2026. Taub Family Selections. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

90 Konpira Maru 2020 Gymkata Syrah (Victoria). This stripped-back, cool-climate Syrah feels like a walk through the Aussie bush on a damp, autumn day. It evokes fresh black-cherry and raspberry fruit, with notes of spicy underbrush, dried flower and wet-stone minerals. It's medium weight, with a gentle but present line of sappy tannins amid the crunchy fruit. At just 10.3% alcohol and under a crown cap, this is a wine for drinking young, fast and ideally slightly chilled. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 10.3% Price: \$35

90 Leeuwin Estate 2018 Art Series Shiraz (Margaret River). This 2018 vintage shows all the perfume, vivid fruit and oak spice we've come to expect from the "Art Series" Shiraz, with more power on the palate than in previous years. Vivid aromas of black currant, licorice, florals and sweet oak spice lead to a mouthful of tannins. They're chewy and a bit drying, but they don't entirely muffle the lifted acidity and attractive fruit and floral flavors. Give this another year or two in bottle for those tannins to knit into the wine and then drink until 2030 or so. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

90 Mount Langi Ghiran 2018 Cliff Edge Shiraz (Grampians). This taut, somewhat austere cool-climate Shiraz has a nose of fresh red currant, plum and dried savory herbs. The palate feels polished if a little forced, with elevated acidity and firm, sinewy tannins that aren't for the faint of heart. Cut through them with some aged hard cheese or a rare steak. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Paxton 2020 MV Made with Organic Grapes Shiraz (McLaren Vale). For full review see page 18. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

90 S.C. Pannell 2018 Field St Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Steve Pannell's self-described "house style" Shiraz is a bright, fruity and modern bottling. Red and black berries bounce from the glass, with licorice, vanilla and a soy sauce-like umami character far behind. The palate is as light and juicy as the nose suggests, held firmly in place with chalky tannins. The only downside is a slightly cooked, sour fruit note at the finish, but overall this is an approachable and varietally correct drop. Vine Street Imports. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

90 Schwarz Wine Company 2018 The Schiller Single Vineyard Shiraz (Barossa Valley). From a small parcel of 140-year-old Shiraz vines, this small-batch premium wine offers a heady perfume of ripe berry and plum fruit backed by licorice, baking spice, florals and subtle dried-meat nuances. It shows a good lick of cola-like oak influence too. The palate is powerful, with silky fruit, lifted acidity and chalky, drying tannins. The heat from the alcohol can be felt, as can the oak. Drink now–2028. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P. **abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$112

90 See Saw 2018 Shiraz (Orange). From the high-elevation region of Orange in New South Wales, this organic Shiraz shows the coolness of the climate and the power of the variety. It opens with a nose of plump, brambly berry notes, cracked black pepper, earthy, savory spices and a slight meaty note. The palate is more austere, thanks to dusty tannins that firmly grip the juicy fruit, but it's also fresh and balanced. Drink now with protein at hand or cellar through 2027. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Vintage Longbottom 2019 H Syrah (Adelaide Hills). For full review see page 19. **abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

90 When & Where 2020 One More Episode Shiraz (Riverland). From the warm, inland Riverland of South Australia, this is a surprisingly fresh tippie. While the cherry, black-currant and black-licorice candy notes suggest ripeness, the wine also has lifted acidity and an almost unexpected wallop of sinewy tannins. Dusty red Aussie earth notes add a sense of place while a stripped-back winemaking feel makes this a rustic, crowd pleasing barbecue

wine at a weeknight price. Hudson Wine Brokers. **Best Buy.** —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

89 Ashbrook Estate 2018 Wilyabrup Single Vineyard & Hand Picked Shiraz (Margaret River). From one of Margaret River's longstanding family-owned and operated wineries, this is a charming Shiraz. It's fruit-centric, with a nose of redcurrant jelly, licorice, florals, baking spice and polished vanilla-oak sweetness. The medium-weight wine has taut tannins that dry out on the finish and juicy fruit, but without the tension achieved in cooler climates. Drink now–2028. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Dandelion 2018 Lionheart of the Barossa Shiraz (Barossa). This easygoing and fruity yet fresh Shiraz offers oodles of ripe blackberry and satsuma plum, mocha and a little savory spice. Tannins tighten things up on the palate and the acidity feels a bit forced, but overall this is a silky, medium-weight wine for drinking young. Vine Street Imports. —C.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Lambert Estate 2017 The Family Tree Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This rich, ripe and bold Shiraz feels more like a meal than a drink. Semi-confected yet bright berry fruit on the nose is countered by flower stalks, white pepper, savory herb and toasty oak. It shows a touch of bottle age, too. The palate is plush but not without freshness, while tannins are big, blocky and drying. This could cellar a few more years but isn't likely to offer the excitement of others at this price point. AUSA Pacific. —C.P. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75

88 Geyer 2018 Bunch Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Although this wine has plenty of appealing plump blueberry, mocha, violet and savory spice, quite a bit of volatile acidity overshadows it. Particularly obtrusive on the palate, the VA gives sharpness to the wine, an almost fizzy feel. It still has juicy, silky fruit and a supportive tug of tannins, some Barossa muscle flexed and little to no oak influence, but there's also some unpleasant mousiness on the finish. Vine Street Imports. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$44

88 Konpira Maru 2019 Gymkata Syrah (Victoria). This nouveau style of Syrah doesn't succeed as well as the low-alcohol 2020 vintage but it still hits the mark from a drinkability standpoint. It's dry, with lifted acidity and a scratch of tannins. There's a streak of hands-off winemaking barnyard funk but it also offers plenty of plump black cherry and savory herbal notes. Drink now. Vine Street Imports. —C.P. **abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$27

88 Lambert Estate 2018 The Family Tree Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This concentrated and polished oak-driven wine takes time in glass to come together. It conveys plush red and black berry

fruit, mint and dark chocolate, with a slightly synthetic furniture-polish note. Dense and powerful, the palate has the potential to hold together through at least 2031. AUSA Pacific. —C.P. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75

88 Paxton 2020 Now Natural Organic Wine Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Advertised as having no added preservatives, this organic Shiraz feels more conventional than one might expect. It opens with ripe dark berry, licorice, chocolate and savory spice aromas. The palate has richness and roundness that's only somewhat tempered by spicy, smudged charcoal tannins and tangy fruit. Chocolatey oak and a little alcohol heat also show. It's one for the big-red fans. Cabernet Corporation. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

88 Thorn Clarke 2019 Shotfire Shiraz (Barossa). This wine has all the hallmarks of South Aussie Shiraz. It offers plump plum, cherry, chocolate, black olive and peppercorn notes, with a dusty, Aussie bush-scrub element. The palate is less expressive, with a riper feel. Acidity feels a little forced and edgy, and grainy, savory tannins are drying. The alcohol shows here, too. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P. **abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Tim Smith 2020 Bugalugs Shiraz (Barossa). Plump black cherry and plum fruit lead on this wine. The dense fruit is backed by notes of licorice, graphite and bay leaf, with mushroomy umami nuances. Acidity on the palate feels a bit shrill, even if it does give this chocolatey-rich wine a welcome lift. But it never quite gels with the sappy, drying tannins or the ripe fruit. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

86 Paxton 2019 Quandong Farm Shiraz (McLaren Vale). There's a lot from the winemaking toolbox here, which is a shame since the techniques mask the sensitively grown fruit and leave one wanting a simpler approach. The whole-bunch characteristics on the nose stand out, a heady combo of stalks, cinnamon, cloves and cola-like oak that obscure the red and black berry fruit. Powerful, drying tannins never quite mesh with the juicy fruit, and the oak stands in another corner. It's tough to see whether this powerful and concentrated wine will ever find its way. Cabernet Corporation. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

85 Bella Ridge 2012 Shiraz (Western Australia). This small-batch winery, located in the Swan Valley just outside Perth, includes a dash of Viognier in its nearly decade-old Shiraz. Still a vivid cherry color, the wine shows a lot of volatile acidity. The subsequent nail-polish-remover smell is hard to get past since it muffles the high-toned red-berry, floral, spice and sap notes, making the acidity feel shrill. Nevertheless the juicy fruit and frame of toasty oak are still present, and natural-

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leaning wine drinkers may be able to get past all the VA. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$28

85 Bethany 2019 First Village Shiraz (Barossa Valley). In this wine, an over-arching aroma of mealy oak sits beside the cherry cola, currant and peppery spice. The palate is chunky, with elevated acidity. Astringent tannins and heavy oak weigh like a stone, making the fruit feel sour. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

85 Zonte's Footstep 2017 Lake Doctor Shiraz (Langhorne Creek). This big wine is a bit volatile and vegetal. It eventually offers lifted red berry, licorice, chocolate, mint and cedar characteristics. The palate is rich and the jagged acidity and muscular tannins feel forced in between all the concentrated fruit. Artisans & Vines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

84 McGuigan 2020 The Plan Shiraz (South Eastern Australia). While there's no shortage of fruit on this Shiraz, it all feels quite synthetic, suggesting strawberry, cherry, sap, leafy herbs, spice and soapy oak. The acidity is shrill, especially against the confectioned fruit and clunky oak. Palm Bay International. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

GRENACHE

94 Clarendon Hills 2016 Kangarilla Grenache (McLaren Vale). Reminiscent of Southern Rhône, this deeply hued, dense Grenache is under natural cork. Initial mustiness takes time to blow off and reveal the plump, slightly raisiny berry and plum fruits and floral notes. Savory roasting herbs and spices and river-stone nuances follow. Tannins are powerful and powdery, cinching the juicy, silky fruit and spice. This wine still has life, through 2026 at least. If drinking now, get the decanter ready and serve with roast lamb. Vinfolio. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Mr. Riggs 2018 The Magnet Grenache (McLaren Vale). Sourced from 100-year-old vines, this is a modern expression of the variety for which McLaren Vale is most renowned. Juicy plum and bramble berries lead on the nose, followed by dried violets and a sappy, savory undertone. The palate brings the signature sandpaper-like tannins of this region and variety. There's a bit of alcohol heat but plenty of acidity keeps things fresh. This firm yet fruity, medium-weight wine can be drunk slightly chilled. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

90 Clarendon Hills 2016 Blewitt Springs Romas Grenache (McLaren Vale). This wine shows some mustiness, and a bit of oxidation too. The berry fruit still speaks loudest but is starting to feel a little shriveled if not quite tired. Dried floral and spice notes add appeal and complexity. Typical to this producer, tannins are ultrafirm and sinewy. The

fruit on the palate is fading faster than those wise-like tannins but still show a juicy tang and lift of acidity. Drink this now with crisp pork belly or a spicy Asian meat or mushroom dish. Vinfolio. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$89

90 Schwarz Wine Company 2018 Thiele Road Single Vineyard Grenache (Barossa Valley). This bombastically fruity, small-batch wine is made with minimal intervention. The color of cherry juice, it wafts ripe red summer berries and a subtle but present whole-bunch stalky note. On the light palate, an almost surprising grip of tannins comes in towards the end. It's fresh and bouncy, with just a bit of stalky savoriness on the spine. Drink now and over the next few years. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$71

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Sirromet 2017 Vineyard Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Granite Belt-Coonawarra). Plump primary fruit notes of cherry, cranberry and pomegranate pop from the glass, backed by cinnamon, clove and a lick of vanilla. It offers plush fruit on the palate and tight-grained, powerful tannins, but also displays elegance, restraint and freshness. It's a unique and characterful Cab to drink with fatty French bistro fare. Meycorr. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Jim Barry 2017 Cover Drive Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). This is a good example of modern Coonawarra (from a well-known Clare Valley producer) at a great price. High-toned cherry and currant fruit is grounded by earthier notes of black pepper, eucalyptus, tobacco leaf and scrubby Aussie bush. It's medium to full bodied, with chalky, well-placed tannins and crunchy acidity amid the rich fruit. Drink now. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Killibinbin 2017 Seduction Cabernet Sauvignon (Langhorne Creek). This is a concentrated, polished wine in a classic South Aussie Cab style. It oozes mocha, cranberry, blueberry, mint, tobacco leaf and savory herbal notes. It's full bodied but not without freshness, wound in chalky, powerful tannins. This big wine requires protein. American Estates Wines, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Quarisa 2017 MRS Q Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). This powerful, dense Cab has upfront vanilla and furniture-polish oak aromas alongside notes of red and black berry fruit, licorice and savory, dusty herbs. It's heavyweight, with plenty of ripe fruit, but also shows a leanness due to sharp acidity and drying tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

RED BLENDS

96 Vasse Felix 2017 Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Margaret River). The 2017 vintage of this winery's top-tier red was on the cooler side for Margaret River, resulting in extra elegance alongside power and polish. Waves of aromas and flavors flow in the form of plum, currant, black olive, tar, leather, tobacco leaf and other savory herbs. A sanguine note sits at the back. The full-figured palate shows lovely freshness and poise. The tannins are chalky, chiseled and well-structured. Drink until 2040. Negotiants USA-Winebow. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$165

93 Frankland Estate 2017 Olmo's Reward (Frankland River). This Cab Franc-dominant Bordeaux blend from Western Australia's chilly deep south opens with distinctive notes of plump red fruit, cedar, dried thyme, violets and black olive, with a sanguine and warm stone vibe. The palate is full but fresh, with a lift of fresh fruit and oodles of savory herbs on the finish. Tannins are nicely textured but a bit drying, giving austerity to the wine, especially alongside the noticeable oak influence and some alcohol heat. But paired with a roast lamb, this should be a lovely, expressive drop. Drink now-2026. Vinedos Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

92 Thompson Estate 2017 Cabernet Merlot (Margaret River). This Cab-Merlot blend provides a lovely, approachable example of its distinctive style. It opens with upfront aromas of currants, tobacco leaf, olive, seaweed and dried savory herbs. There's an appealing tang and crunchiness to the fruit in the mouth, with a savory, saline spine. Sandpapery tannins are chiseled and a little austere but neatly placed. The finish is long. Pair with steak, roast beef or lamb. Liquid Innovation. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Clairault 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Petit Verdot (Margaret River). This Cab Sauv-dominant blend is on the ripe, dense side. It offers raspberry, plum and currant fruit aplenty, backed by savory dried herbs, black olives, and subtle but present chocolatey oak. There's some heat from the alcohol on the palate, and tight, powerful tannins amid the concentrated fruit. But the wine retains freshness, too. Drink now-2026. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

96 Beauregard 2019 Bald Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Stony aromas of seashell hover above the Asian pear, jicama, white-flower and light spearmint aromas on the fascinating nose of this bottling. The stony

streak cascades through the palate, which is like licking limestone but with fuller flavors of lemony apple and quince. The acid-driven finish lingers for an extended period. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Beauregard 2019 Beauregard Ranch Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Toasty aromas are cut by brisk lemon, wet stone and freshly plucked chamomile on the dynamic nose of this bottling. The palate is wrapped in phenomenally rocky tension, with those fresh lemon peel and flesh flavors rounded out by blanched almond on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Lucia 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 4.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

95 Sandar & Hem 2019 Bald Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).

Delicate yet expressive aromas of crushed seashell, lemon balm, blanched almond and a hint of jasmine show on the nose of this bottling from an ever-impressive vineyard. There's a firm tension to the sip, where a stony minerality contains zesty lime leaf and white-rock flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$48

95 Sandar & Hem 2019 Bruzzone Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).

From a vineyard located just four miles from the ocean near the famed Mystery Spot, this bottling is super-clean and tight on the nose with Asian pear, yuzu-pith, nectarine and wet chalk aromas. The focus is intense on the palate, where a chalky core frames fresh jicama and borderline minty flavors, which fascinate with each sip. —M.K.

abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$40

95 Testarossa 2019 La Rinconada Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).

A delicate nose of apricot and white-fleshed stone fruit is splashed with lemon zest and a kiss of butter on the delicious entry to this bottling. It's extremely tight on the palate, where sea salt and honeysuckle blossoms are extremely balanced, focused and pure. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$53

95 Testarossa 2019 Rincon Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley).

Lovely aromas of white flower, white peach, soft butter, salt and seashell converge on the dynamic nose of this bottling. The palate is wrapped in a fascinatingly tight texture, with waves of citrus, salt and stone fruit carrying on into a very long finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$53

94 Amici 2018 Flora Marie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Full of salty minerality, this impressive white offers a well-diversified and integrated wealth of fruit, from peach and pear to pineapple, changing as it goes. The full-bodied

lushness of texture remains fresh and exuberant throughout, showing a great deal of finesse. —V.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Chanin 2019 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).

The nose of this single-vineyard expression mixes bright Meyer lemon flesh with pithy pear rinds and tight apple-flesh aromas, as a hint of pulverized seashell plays the mineral card. The palate is powered by acidity and a stony texture, offering lots of clean rock and lemon-zest flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Far Mountain 2019 Myrna Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley).

High-toned and floral, this wine offers a generous mouthfeel of salty oak, mineral and wet stone. The elegant fruit profile combines pear, apple and Meyer lemon with ease, complementing the body weight with ample acidity. —V.B.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 FEL 2019 Savoy Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).

For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$52

94 MacRostie 2018 Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley).

From the great coastal site, this white sings in fruitful intensity and complex layers of flavor, a burst of Meyer lemon and grapefruit crispness complemented by richer undertones of Meyer lemon meringue and toasted pineapple. —V.B.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

94 MacRostie 2018 The Key Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

High acidity leads the way to a lively, fresh palate of grapefruit, kiwi and lemon in this lengthy, textured white. Impressive from start to finish, it shows a nice integration of oak and tannin, with hints of baking spice, flint and stone. —V.B.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

94 Sandar & Hem 2019 Frances J Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).

Quite light in the glass, this bottling from 25-year-old vines begins with delicate aromas of apple and citrus blossoms as well as a light ash element. There's a firm tension to the palate, which holds those floral tones together while bringing more citrus and Graevenstein apple to the party. —M.K.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

94 Sandar & Hem 2019 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).

Tropical aromas of plumeria and coconut join with perfumed apples and Meyer lemon pith on the nose of this fascinating wine. The texture is very tense and stony on the sip, where the fresh lemon and blanched almond flavors coalesce harmoniously. —M.K.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$42

94 Stephen Ross 2019 Bee Sweet Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley).

Stephen Ross Dooley is mastering this vineyard. This bottling begins with aromas of lychee, Meyer lemon pith, light coconut and honeysuckle. The palate's flavors are complex while cohesive, ranging from jicama and nectarine to sea salt and chamomile, with a flash of stone on the acid-washed finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

94 Vineyard 7&8 2019 Estate Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District).

This is an uncommon high-elevation white from relatively old vines, some of which are still planted on St. George rootstock. It provides plenty of tension, length and complexity, unfurling slowly and with structure to show aromatic intensity of white flower and jasmine. On the palate it shines in honeycomb, lime and crème brûlée. This should be aged further; enjoy best from 2027 through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$125

93 Amici 2018 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carmeros).

This wine opens in a lush, full-bodied concentration of stone fruit, both white peach and nectarine. The entry evolves on the palate to show structure and complexity. High-toned acidity lifts the oak and baking-spice elements to a lengthy finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Calera 2019 Chardonnay (Mt. Harlan). For full review see page 7.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Cambria 2019 Katherine's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).

For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

93 Silenus 2019 Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).

For full review see page 9.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Stephen Ross 2019 Chardonnay (Edna Valley).

Winemaker Stephen Ross Dooley's appellation blend is a more affordable winner. Tense aromas of yellow apple, light honeysuckle, chiseled stone and mellow nectarine lead into a mineral-washed sip of struck flint and river stone, following by fresh waves of Key lime. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

93 Tongue Dancer 2019 Pratt Vineyard Irwin Lane Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

From fluffy Goldridge soils, this white is creamy in texture and light and bright on the palate, fresh as a daisy in clean, focused flavors. Golden apple, Meyer lemon and a hint of ginger spark a memorable experience of balanced complexity and joy. —V.B.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$42

92 Brick & Mortar 2019 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).

This smooth, subtly oaky wine incorporates ripe apple and pear flavors with tempting butter, toasted baguette and baking-spice notes.

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A supple texture and generous mouthfeel are supported by mild acidity for excellent balance. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

92 Calera 2018 Chardonnay (Central Coast). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

92 Center of Effort 2018 Effort Chardonnay (Edna Valley). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$26

92 Chanin 2019 Los Alamos Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Strong aromas of struck stone and iron tailings meet with apple peels, melon and a hint of nut on the complex nose of this bottling. Tart apple flavors run into macadamia nut on the palate, which is framed in a firm tension. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Colluvial 2018 Las Nenas La Rinconada Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Tight aromas of lime balm, light almond and a touch of warm toast make for a focused nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate retains the tight angle, as bright, lemon-based acidity cuts through grapefruit-peel and rounded apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 De Loach 2018 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). With a floral entry of jasmine and fennel, this is an earthy, balanced wine with ample complexity and a spicy center of Gravenstein apple and baking spice. The oak is well integrated and present. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

92 Dutton-Goldfield 2019 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This wine is made from several outstanding sites, including Sullivan and Walker Hill. Tightly structured, it shows a hint of butterscotch and oak before the acidity shines through to further emphasize a brightness of Meyer lemon, oyster shell and pear. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Edna Valley Vineyard 2019 Fleur de Edna Winemaker Series Chardonnay (Edna Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Gainey 2019 Limited Selection Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Toasty aromas of brioche with a pear filling meet with peach jam and roasted hazelnut on the rich nose of this bottling. It's thicker on the palate, with baked apple, peach and melon flavors, yet the lemony acidity and savory sea-salt touches keep it in a great place. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

92 MacRostie 2019 Bacigalupi Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This wine offers balanced richness and intensity, a signature of the site, flowing in pineapple, Gravenstein apple and melon flavors. The texture is smooth and opulent,

with a note of sea spray, wet stone and lasting hint of anise. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$46

92 MacRostie 2019 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A whiff of matchstick leads to layered and intense fruit flavors, a bold, deep and fleshy expression of oak, pineapple and crème brûlée. The acidity is nuanced and supportive and the texture grippy and youthful. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$46

92 My Favorite Neighbor 2019 Blanc Chardonnay (Paso Robles). There's a toasty touch of the nose of this bottling, with singed oak branch, baked apple and a hint of citrus balm. The palate grips with glee, showing rocky flavors alongside singed lemon and poached pear. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

92 Sandar & Hem 2019 Le Boeuf Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). From vines planted in 1974 by a pioneer in elephant seal research, this bottling starts with clean lines of Meyer lemon, white melon, Asian pear and sea salt on the well-composed nose. The palate is tense in structure and high in acid, while offering richer-leaning flavors of coconut oil and peach extract. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$52

92 The Calling 2019 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32

91 Amor Fati 2019 Murmur Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Apple blossoms, light pecan, lemon confit and a hint of lime show on the nose of this bottling, which manages to convey richness despite this cool-climate site. There's a thicker texture to the palate, where guava and mango meet with a slight nutty flavor. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Bargetto 2019 Regan Vineyards Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Poached apple, pear and water-chestnut aromas are hit with salt and lemon rind on the nose of this bottling. Fresh acidity and compelling grip frame the sip, where yellow grapefruit flavors are quite sharp. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Brick & Mortar 2018 Manchester Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge). Deep but lively fruit flavors energize this medium-bodied wine with tanga apples and vibrant lemons while light mineral tones add complexity. Grown at relatively high elevation, it is absolutely clean and fresh, showing little oak influence. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Cambria 2018 Katherine's Vineyard Signature Collection Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

91 Casa Dumetz 2020 LaBarge Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Sharp aromas of citrus flesh meet with riper pear and a wet rock minerality on the nose of this bottling. There's a botanical, tonic-like twist to the sip, where jasmine pops and a cinchona-bark character arises. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

91 Colluvial 2019 Les Nenas Tinaquic Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Macadamia-nut aromas meet with lemon glaze on the nutty nose of this single-vineyard expression. A tight, brisk and lemony acidity fires up the sip, which also shows tart apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$55

91 Daou 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This is classic California Chardonnay to the max, done in a clean style, but it will not appease the acid freaks of the world. Opulent aromas of butterscotch and toasted hazelnut on the nose lead into toasty flavors of baked peach, caramel and pecan cream that ride a fairly viscous mouthfeel. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

91 La Crema 2018 Tidal Break Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). From a site along the far Sonoma Coast, this wine is high-pitched in acidity, with lemony stone fruit, sea spray and crisp, fresh tones of blood orange and lime. Medium bodied, it holds its weight well, showing the lightness of its Goldridge-soil roots. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

91 Stringer 2019 John Sebastiano Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). There's a chamomile touch to the nose of this bottling as well as baked apple and lemon-confit aromas. The palate is well wound and firm, with yuzu and grapefruit flavors spritzing up the Asian pear flesh core. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$42

90 Beaulieu Vineyard 2019 Chardonnay (Carneros). With 17% Viognier, this white is steely, linear and flinty, with full-bodied ripeness beneath the focus. Layers of pear, apple and nutmeg ride along a lengthy foundation of unctuous lushness and approachability. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Beringer 2019 Luminus Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District). From a relatively cool appellation in the valley, this wine does offer freshness in addition to rich layers of tropical fruit and oak. Honeysuckle and Meyer lemon mingle around fresh-cut pineapple and butterscotch crème brûlée, finishing with full-bodied intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$39

90 Bouchaine 2018 Unoaked Estate Selection Chardonnay (Carneros). Fermented and aged entirely in stainless-steel tanks, this white is approachable in style, with rich layers of mango, pear and confectionery richness. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$33

90 Chamisal 2019 Amphora Chardonnay (Edna Valley). There's a honeyed edge to the nose of this clay-aged bottling, which also offer floral plummeria and lemon-cake aromas. The palate is sharp and a tad tart in citrus flavors, showing grapefruit peel and lemon flesh. —M.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$45

90 De Loach 2018 Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley). A rich expression of a coastal wine, this tastes of pear, banana and pie crust, the floral earthy intensity. Tight-grained tannin and oak form around baking-spice and vanilla undertones. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

90 Decoy 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Decoy 2019 Limited Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Delta 2020 Chardonnay (California). Fresh apple and lemon aromas lead to lively citrus and poached pear flavors that are lightly accented by vanilla. It emphasizes the grape's fruitiness on a medium body and with appetizing acidity for balance. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Family Reserve Chardonnay (San Miguel District). Slight hints of honey meet with subdued nectarine flesh and a steely minerality on the nose of this bottling. Light brushes of apple blossom and tart lemon show on the mellow palate—a promising show for this grape in a warmer region. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

90 Furthermore 2019 Graton Ridge Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Flinty and earthy, this wine is made in an ultralight style, driven by acidity and crisp, crunchy apple and pear. The oak is quiet and nuanced. —V.B.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$45

90 Handley 2017 Water Tower Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Bracing and well balanced, this nicely crisp, unoaked wine boasts fresh green-apple and apricot flavors. Tangy acidity is balanced out by medium to full body and ample fruitiness. —J.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$22

90 Joyce 2019 Submarine Canyon Chardonnay (Monterey). Dried lemon, sour citrus and pink-lemonade Popsicle aromas pop on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines lemon juice with light melon flavors, as orange-blossom and jasmine elements linger in the background. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

90 King Palm 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

90 La Crema 2018 Kelli Ann Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Moderate in body weight and structure, this wine is richly concentrated in tropical fruit and butterscotch, with an undercurrent of toasted oak. The texture is lush and plush, with impressive length. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

90 Landmark 2018 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

90 Lloyd 2019 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). This is made in a lush, full-bodied style, showing a generosity of baking spice, including both nutmeg and cardamom. A sweet center of vanilla tops additionally rich flavors of pear compote and melon. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Seagrape 2018 Zotovich Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Brisk pear and flashy citrus aromas give way to warmer scents of toasted nuts, butter and daffodil on the nose of this bottling. There's ample citrus-driven tension down the middle of the palate, where warmer baked apple flavors also show. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Signorello 2019 Hope's Cuvée Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This is a heady, small-production white, fruity, substantial and well made, with highlights of lemon cookie, unctuous apple and stone. The oak is supportive and helps to emphasize the full-bodied intensity and concentration. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$100

90 Sojourn 2019 Reuling Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). From the Goldridge sandy site near Forestville, this white is lengthy and textured in rich Gravenstein apple, pear and a generous helping of new oak and baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$69

90 Sojourn 2019 Sangiacomo Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Crisp honeyed apple notes lead to a core of moderate oak and acidity in this well-made wine, given just the right amount of new oak (30%) to keep it balanced and relatively brisk. Rounded on the palate, the texture is thick yet refined. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

90 Talbott 2019 Kali Hart Estate Grown Chardonnay (Monterey). For full review see page 19. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$23

90 Turning Tide 2019 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Verraco Ridge 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 William Hill Estate 2019 Chardonnay (North Coast). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$17

89 Banshee 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Oaky and intensely spicy, this is a medium-bodied white that offers approachable layers of Gravenstein apple and melon flavor that yield to an ample finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$22

88 BonAnno 2018 Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Steely and moderately structured, this white is herbal, grassy and offers layers of pear, Gravenstein apple and mango. It finishes lush and plush. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$18

88 Complicated 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Butterscotch, warm cream and peach aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is broad in that classic California Chardonnay style, with browned butter, caramel and ripe stone-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

88 Copain Wines 2019 Tidal Break Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Golden apple and pear lead to a creamy midpalate of rich banana before showing a touch of French oak and baking spice on a moderate finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

88 La Crema 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This wine is succulent on the palate and approachable in its medium-bodied ripeness and acidity. Apple, pear and lemon all figure into the layers of flavor, the oak well contained. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Mon Frere 2019 Chardonnay (California). Buttery, flinty aromas lead to tasty pear and golden-apple flavors in this full-bodied wine, while a smooth texture and good depth keep it interesting through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$16

88 Precision Wine 2019 District Series Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Spicy in apple and pear, this is a mid-level wine in terms of intensity and acidity, more approachable than not, with a simple style and moderate finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Spicerack 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Pear-flesh and peach aromas are spritzed with lime on the nose of this subtle bottling. There's a hit of tension to the sip before the tropical flavors of tuberose arise, hemmed in by a metallic minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$19

88 Taken Wine Co. 2019 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Inviting floral and candied aromas rise along a core of tight-grained oak, anise and stone

BUYINGGUIDE

fruit in this value-minded wine that is approachable from start to finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$17

87 Bishop Pine 2019 Chardonnay (California). Generous butter and vanilla flavors combine with a lush, buttery mouthfeel in this full-bodied and soft-textured wine. An underlay of golden apples helps support the rich spiciness. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Broadside 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Golden in the glass, this bottling is clean but fat with ripe aromas of browned marshmallow and coconut. It's almost sweet on the palate, with a smoothed out texture, offering melon, peach and pineapple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Crü 2020 Unoaked Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Heavily tropical aromas of plumeria, jasmine and ripe jungle fruits show on the nose of this bottling. While more tightly wound than expected, the palate is similar, with pumping flavors of coconut and plumeria. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

87 Delgado 2017 Rodgers Creek Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). Dark in color, this is an expansive and plush white wine, rich in crème brûlée and brioche, with moderate length and complexity. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

87 Firestone 2018 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Dried peach, poached apples and light hazelnut show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also rich with orange cake, melon-flavored tonic and dried citrus flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

87 Hess Select 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). A darker hue of yellow in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of peach and salted nuts. The palate is smoothed out in texture, with flavors of yellow peach, lemon and a hint of chamomile. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 MacRostie 2018 Olivet Lane Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This is a sleek and creamy white, with notes of toasted oak, butter-scotch and butter that contrast interestingly against keenly focused acidity. —V.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$46

87 V. Sattui 2019 Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Lemony, with edges of stone, flint and matchstick, this white is deep and richly conceived in caramel and toasted oak. Barrel fermented, the earthy oakiness persists throughout a concentrated ripeness that flirts with being sweet. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

86 Estate Cellars 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Shy on the nose at first, this bottling

offers aromas of wet rocks and sour limes. The palate is a bit tired, with dried apple slice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

86 Europa Village 2019 C'est la Vie Chardonnay (Temecula Valley). A strong perfume of lemon blossom and minty pine oil show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is flat in texture with menthol-like flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$34

86 Fetzer 2020 Chardonnay (California). Good apple aromas and rather soft, appley flavors make this medium-bodied wine pleasant to sip and ready to serve a broad audience. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

86 JaM 2019 Butter Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Tropical and richly layered in caramel, pineapple-upside-down cake and yes, butter, this is an unctuous and slightly over-the-top white that presents as full-bodied and intense. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

86 Raymond 2018 Generations Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This wine is overtly full-bodied and lush in style, with highlights of butter scotch pudding and matchstick, the oak sweetly accented in vanilla and clove. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

86 Sling & Spear 2018 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). With a spicy entry of cinnamon and toasted oak, this is a simple, moderately ripe white that is approachable in its softness and depth of tropical flavor. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

84 Oak Grove 2020 Family Reserve Chardonnay (California). This obviously oaky wine smells like toasted oak chips and tastes buttery and smoky. It has a soft, full body and apparently low acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

PINOT GRIS/GRIGIO

92 Intent 2018 Filigreen Farm Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). A light amber-orange color is striking for this usually pale varietal, and the aroma and flavor are equally vivid. Apricot, almonds and a touch of honey give it unusual depth and interest, while good acidity deftly balances a rich mouthfeel. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Union Sacre 2020 l'Inconnue Spanish Spring Vineyard Pinot Gris (Edna Valley). A very light shade of yellowish pink, this extended skin-contact bottling offers clean aromas of orange blossom, pink rose, stone fruit and citrus on the nose. There's a stony texture and flavor to the sip, where citrus-peel, jasmine and lingering orange-blossom flavors coalesce. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$28

90 FEL 2020 Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). Aromatic, dry and crisp, this light-bodied and engaging wine exudes floral and peachy aromas before cleansing the palate with tangy apples and white-peach flavors. It's a good example of how well the aromatic grape varieties do in Anderson Valley. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

88 Dark Horse 2020 Pinot Grigio (California). For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

87 Derek Rohlf's 2020 Wiley Vineyard Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). Fruity, buttery flavors give this medium-bodied wine a sense of richness, as melon, earth, flowers and a slight candied note please the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

87 SeaGlass 2020 Pinot Grigio (Central Coast). Light and a touch effervescent in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of sweet honey-suckle, plumeria and coconut sunscreen. It's much tighter on the palate, which is bright and zesty with pithy flavors that give way to the tuberose and Star-gazer lily elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Barefoot NV Pinot Grigio (California). For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$6

86 Kendall-Jackson 2020 Vintner's Reserve Pinot Gris (California). A straw-pink color, apple cider aromas and almost-sweet apple and honey flavors make this medium-bodied wine richer than many of its Pinot Grigio cousins. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

RIESLING

94 Maidenstoen 2020 Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 12.16% **Price:** \$22

93 Union Sacre 2019 Fraulein Riven Rock Vineyard Riesling (Central Coast). Just a shade away from water in the glass, this brisk bottling shows aromas of wet stone doused in limeade with hints of lemongrass that approach ginger on the nose. There's a chalky texture to the sip, where pulverized seashell elements lead into warmer hints of nectarine and lychee. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$36

92 Reeve 2019 Vonarburg Vineyard Riesling (Anderson Valley). This light-bodied, dry and aromatic wine shows off the wonderful complexity of the grape variety when grown in a cool climate, ranging from a smoky, petrol aroma at first to tangy apricot and peach flavors and on to a slightly nutty, honeyed finish. —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

92 Union Sacre 2019 Fraulein Oliver Vineyard Riesling (Edna Valley). There's a subtle lightness to this bottling, which offers delicate grapefruit peel, melon flesh, a hint of grass and a steely minerality. The palate is all about the texture, which is tense and frames the riper pear and apple-flesh flavors, with a hint of green grass throughout. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$34

91 Maidenstoen 2020 Oliver's Vineyard Riesling (Edna Valley). Tight aromas of lemon peel, melon rind and a touch of yellow grapefruit are very pithy on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is clean, fresh and straightforward, delivering Key lime and nectarine flavors that are wrapped in a stony grip. —M.K.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$NA

89 Firestone 2020 Riesling (Santa Barbara County). Intriguing lines of lime tonic, peach and guava peel show on the nose of this bottling. There's a brief impression of sweetness on the palate, then comes the citrus peels and tart pear flavors, with a pinch of sea salt. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Handley 2018 Riesling (Anderson Valley). Pine, peach and smoke aromas lead to crisp but ripe peach and pistachio flavors in this engaging, dry and complex wine. The aromatics and bright fruitiness will make it a good pour for lunch or pre-dinner. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$26

88 V. Sattui 2020 Off-Dry Riesling (North Coast). This smooth, semisweet wine brings peaches and white flowers to the nose, and rich peach and honey flavors to the palate. It is soft, smooth and easygoing. It will be easy to pair with cheeses or a not-too-sweet dessert. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

85 Marietta Cellars 2020 OVR Old Vine Riesling (California). This dry, lean, cider-scented wine offers tight fruit flavors, a mostly tangy mouthfeel and hints of apple on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Kenzo Estate 2020 Asatsuyu Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). This is the producer's flagship white, made by Heidi Barrett with 4% Sémillon and aged in both oak and stainless steel. Vibrant and varietal, it shows a textured layering of anise, cotton candy and almond liqueur, with bright bursts of succulent melon and white peach. Structured and complex, it is sophisticated and substantial. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80

94 Massican 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$32

93 Groth 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

93 Merry Edwards 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Gainey 2019 Limited Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Tightly wound aromas of green flowers, grass, chilled apple and lime juice are very sharp on the nose of this bottling. The palate penetrates with a sharp citrus core of lime zest, but there's also grassy tones, altogether making for a very lively and long-lasting wine. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Quintessa 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa County-Sonoma County). This is an impressively complex and effusive white wine, slatey and flinty, with a pleasant contrast of fruity apricot and peach. Textured, it has an earthy under carriage and considerable length. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Saracina 2020 Lolonis Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Redwood Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Trione 2020 River Road Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). From estate-grown grapes that were picked in early September, this white is fruity, textured and fresh, with pithy elements of white peach and melon. Balanced acidity doesn't detract from its lasting succulence and integrated richness. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Banshee 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22

91 Cadre 2020 Stone Blossom Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). There's a fascinatingly flinty kick to the nose of this bottling, reminiscent of mineral-driven Sancerre, and then come waves of green apple and lime. The palate is very tense and almost tarry, with hints of sea salt and seaweed but also familiar flavors of brisk apple and cut lawn. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Firestone 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 20.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$14

91 Flying Cloud 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). Accessible aromas of tart green apple are cut by grass, wet cement and struck sandstone on the nose of this bottling. There's a tight weave to the sip, which clings to a pithy texture while offering riper red-pear and yellow-apple flavors, finishing on a flash a white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Gamble Family Vineyards 2020 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville). From a variety of clones, including the floral Musque, this wine opens in a wealth of jasmine on the nose. It is expansive on the palate in flavors of Meyer lemon and grapefruit. The crispness persists through a creamy midpalate that shows the French oak aging, remaining cohesive and complex throughout a lengthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$35

91 Merryvale 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Structured and salty, this wine shows a good weight and breadth, with textured layers of green apple, Meyer lemon and a hint of melon. It is balanced and bright, with subtle complexity. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

91 Rumpus 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Tempting nuances of ground ginger and vanilla accompany fresh and vivid lemon, lime and Pippin apple notes in this well-balanced, complex and layered wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Artesa 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Berryessa Gap 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Yolo County). Vivid, tangy citrus and kiwi aromas light up this light to medium-bodied, unoaked wine, adding apricot and white peach on the palate for impressive fruit complexity that's briskly backed by good acidity. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$24

90 Daou 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$17

90 Future Perfect 2020 Breakfast Wine Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

90 Hindsight 2020 Weis Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Blended with 7% Viognier, this white is approachable and balanced in style, with underlying richness and lush texture. Pear, apple and melon flavors provide a fruitiness that finds a grip of wet stone and grass on the lengthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Joel Gott 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (California). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

90 Montoya 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Noble Vines 2020 242 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). For full review see page 21.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

BUYINGGUIDE

90 **Parducci 2020 Small Lot Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino County).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price: \$15**

90 **Sunstone 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Quite light in the glass, this bottling begins with zesty lime-peel and grapefruit-juice aromas. There is a vibrant and grippy texture to the sip, where lime-zest and grass flavors give way to broader peach and pear toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price: \$28**

90 **Tooth & Nail 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$20**

89 **Hess Select 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** Mineral and citrus flavors mingle nicely in this medium-bodied, crisp and refreshing wine. A tangy but slightly rich mouthfeel finds a very good balance. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$13**

89 **Saracina 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino County).** Crisp, fruity and flinty, this attractive medium-bodied wine smells nice and ripe like honeydew melon slices and tastes appetizingly tart, easily clearing the palate with each sip. It's refreshing and well balanced. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price: \$21**

88 **Bucher 2020 Bucher Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** From a heritage block of grapes planted in the 1970s, this white is lemony in aroma and taste, with strong additional aromas of apple blossom and pea shoot. Tightly textured on the palate, it shows earthy pea-shoot and grass notes around juicier, richer hints of melon and peach. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$35**

88 **Caspar 2020 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This white offers moderate structure and acidity, with lushness and weight on the midpalate. Melon, lemon and grapefruit flavors accentuate a sophisticated texture of grip. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$50**

88 **Dark Horse NV Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price: \$5/375 ml**

88 **Delta 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A vivid aroma of parsley, and bright lemon and snap-pea flavors make this medium-bodied wine exuberant and herbaceous in style. Its good acidity is a great palate cleanser. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$15**

88 **High Valley Vineyard 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley).** Vivid and tangy, this citrus and leafy-green-tasting wine boasts plenty of acidity to accompany its appealing lemon, lime and fresh herb flavors on a full body. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$27**

88 **San Simeon 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** Honeyed, guava-like and peachy aromas make for a tropical nose on this bottling, but there is a pithy aspect too. Yellow-apple and lemon-peel flavors show on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$19**

88 **Tehachapi 2020 Zabala Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco).** Familiar aromas of cut grass and dried green-apple peel show on the nose of this bottling. Tart flavors of lime peel, more grass and a rainy cement minerality carry through the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price: \$24**

87 **Acumen 2020 Mountainside Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** From a site sitting at 1,500-feet in elevation, this white is made in a rich, unctuous style, with layers of pear and peach. Tank-fermented, it remains soft and sleek, finishing in pineapple. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$30**

87 **Bread & Butter 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Made predominantly from a site in St. Helena, this white is moderate in acidity, showing a richness of juicy pear and melon upfront that accents a creamy texture. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$30**

87 **Clockwise 2020 Jewell Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** A dense and approachable white with medium-bodied intensity, this wine offers upfront layers of apple, pear and melon and moderate acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$30**

87 **Jacks & Swan 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey County).** Aromas of apple juice, lime tonic and peach gummies show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is pretty viscous, carrying dried apple, pear and honeydew flavors, with a bubble-gum finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price: \$22**

87 **Ram's Gate 2020 Estate Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Los Carneros).** This white spent time in mostly neutral oak (with a touch of it new) and stainless steel vessels. Tart, acid-driven and full of verve, it lingers in moderate layers of cantaloupe and Meyer lemon. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price: \$38**

87 **Tehachapi 2019 Zabala Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco).** Lime-tonic and lemon-balm aromas pick up tropical news of jasmine and plumeria on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit sour, with green-apple, pear-skin and grass flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price: \$24**

86 **Fritz Underground 2020 Native Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).** Using native yeast and barrel-fermentation, this white offers a depth of candied fruit and tart, persistent acidity. Medium

bodied in ripeness and style, it lingers in lemon, grapefruit and wet stone. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$45**

86 **La Crema 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** This approachable white offers a sweetness of stone fruit, apple and melon, light-bodied in approach, with both neutral oak and stainless-steel aging. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$25**

86 **Miner 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This is a stainless-steel fermented white that is richly dense in peach, melon and a hint of herb, with moderate acidity and body weight. —V.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price: \$25**

86 **Shooting Star 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).** On the soft side, this easygoing and light-bodied wine offers mild apple and melon flavors and low acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$20**

84 **Fifth Note 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Floral in jasmine and orange blossom, this white is blended with 8% Pinot Grigio. The strong aromatics belie a simple, straightforward palate of melon and apple that shows moderate acidity. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price: \$24**

84 **Kunde 2020 Magnolia Lane Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley).** With 2% Chardonnay, this wine is high-toned and confectionery at the same time, the result a bit disjointed on the palate. The fruit is a mix of melon, apple and lemon, which comes across as diluted. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$18**

84 **Philo Ridge 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Anderson Valley).** Strong veggie aromas and a full body make this a rather heavy wine, exuding green beans and snap peas, vague fruit flavors and a grippy texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price: \$20**

82 **CULT 2020 Blanc Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** Floral and pistachio aromas are inviting before more spare flavors take over the rather tart palate. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price: \$20**

82 **Riley's Rows 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** Earthy aromas and flavors leave this medium-bodied wine short on fruit and freshness. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price: \$26**

ALBARIÑO

93 **Monochrome 2020 Barrel Distortion Albariño (California).** Zesty aromas of fresh lime, minty herbs and sea breeze entertain the nose on this bottling, which includes 6% Gewürztraminer. There's an extreme amount of tension on the palate,

where approachable flavors of apple, lime and sea brine arise. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$41

92 Cadre 2020 Sea Queen Albariño (Edna Valley). Lime peel, grass, fresh melon and a light tonic aroma show on the nose of this bottling. It's tightly woven on the palate, where grapefruit-flesh, lemon-verbena and lime-peel flavors compete for attention. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

92 Stephen Ross 2020 Spanish Springs Vineyard Albariño (San Luis Obispo County). This is a very flinty take on this grape from a vineyard quite close to the coast. The struck stone and lime-peel nose leads into rainy cement and sour citrus flavors on the tightly wound palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 Europa Village 2020 Bolero Albariño (Temecula Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$34

90 Bethel Road 2019 Whale Rock Vineyard Albariño (Templeton Gap District). Dried apple and butter-poached peach aromas meet with plumeria on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more viscous than most Albariños, with a hefty flavor set of ripe stone fruit, butter and salt. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Berryessa Gap 2020 Albariño (Yolo County). An attractive mineral thread in the aroma and on the palate gives this full-bodied wine extra interest to complement tasty but restrained white-peach flavors. A smooth, rounded texture carries the subtle fruit and minerality through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Joyce 2020 Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Rounded aromas of apple, peach, pear and melon are quite broad on the nose of this bottling. It's a bit smoother out on the palate, where pleasant citrus and apple flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

88 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Family Reserve Albariño (El Pomar District). Rounded aromas of apple blossom, toast and white melon convey a warmer style of Albariño in this bottling. The texture is smooth and the palate offers dried apple and pineapple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

VIIGNIER

91 Eberle 2020 Eberle Estate Vineyard Viognier (Paso Robles). There's a steely minerality on the nose of this bottling, giving an edge to the pear and white-flower aromas. A light coconut flavor kicks off the sip, which rolls through honeysuckle, poached pear and ripe lychee. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$28

91 Miner 2020 Viognier (Paso Robles). Very light in the glass, this begins with tight aromas of apple, pear and jasmine on the clean, expressive nose. The palate is tightly wound, with a stony minerality that wraps around the dried apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

91 Sunstone 2020 Linda's Vineyard Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley). Clean aromas of cantaloupe and peach have a steely edge of minerality on the nose of this bottling, which comes from the 480 vines planted in honor of the late matriarch Linda Rice. There's an ashy grip to the palate, which is tightly wound and keeps the stone-fruit flavors in balance. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

90 Cambria 2019 Tepusquet Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$27

90 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Family Reserve Viognier (El Pomar District). Ripe melon, honeysuckle and gardenia aromas emerge from the glass on the nose of this bottling. The palate is clean and focused, with wet cement minerality framing the yellow-melon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

90 Sunstone 2020 Viognier (Santa Barbara County). Clean aromas of plumeria, peach oil and ripe melon kick off the nose of this bottling. The palate pops with a vibrant acidity and tingling texture that gives shape to those riper peach-blossom, jasmine and coconut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

WHITE BLENDS

93 Booker 2019 White (Paso Robles). This blend of 50% Roussanne, 32% Viognier, 10% Chardonnay and 8% Marsanne only grows more fascinating as it sits open for days. It starts with tight citrus peel, but also ripe melon and smoked peach on the nose. The palate goes savory, with chamomile and more subtle smoke, making it an excellent white-wine choice for roasted chicken, rich fish or even pork. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: NA **Price:** \$50

93 Monochrome 2020 Wall of Sound (California). Nutty aromas are cut by crushed stone and citrus peel on the nose of this blend of 75% Roussanne from the Santa Ynez Valley and 25% Viognier from Paso Robles. A firm texture frames the toasted almond and fresh citrus-peel flavors of the viscous palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

92 Ashes & Diamonds 2018 Blanc No. 4 Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Napa Valley). A crisp, focused and barrel-fermented co-mingling of the two white grapes, made by Steve Matthiasson, this wine offers a taste of wet stone, kiwi and apple skin.

It shows lively acidity throughout and a sleek tension on the palate, complex and intriguing. —V.B.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$45

92 Berryessa Gap 2020 Gozar! (Yolo County). Big in structure and mouthfeel, but a bit subdued in flavor at first, this full-bodied blend of Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc builds slowly on the palate, becoming riper and more nuanced with each sip. Orange blossoms, minerals and coconut emerge and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$19

92 Monochrome 2020 North by Southwest (California). Broad and clean aromas of nectarine, lychee and pear are fresh and inviting on the nose of this atypical blend of 89% Gewürztraminer and 11% Albariño from Plum Orchard Lane Vineyard. A firm grip and bright acidity frame the palate's melon and pear flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

91 Monochrome 2020 Center Tone (California). A unique blend of 57% Grenache Gris and 43% Picpoul, this bottling is clean on the nose with gardenia and orange-rind aromas. The palate is sharp with yuzu and pluot-flesh flavors, proving pleasantly tart. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$43

91 Monochrome 2020 Smile (California). This winery crafts unusual white blends, and in this bottling, the 67% Viognier from Paso Robles gives a pome-fruit core to the lime and sandstone touches of the 33% Chenin Blanc from the Santa Ynez Valley. There's both an oily and a grippy presence on the palate, where poached pear and white-melon flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$43

90 Arietta 2020 On the White Keys Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (California). Textured, stoney and focused in acidity, this is a robustly crafted blend of majority Sauvignon Blanc with Sémillon made in a Bordelaise style, with tense acidity, floral aromatics and concentrated apple and lemon. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

90 Bodega de Edgar 2020 La Guera (Central Coast). There's sharp citrus edge to the nose of this blend of 75% Albariño and 25% Torrontés, alongside yellow-apple rind and crisp crab-apple flesh. The palate is tart and lively, with sour pear and more citrus. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$42

90 Caliza 2020 Kissin' Cousins (Paso Robles). Bubblegum and banana-custard aromas show on the nose of this blend of 48% Viognier, 30% Grenache Blanc and 22% Roussanne. It lands fat on the palate with more banana and cherimoya flavors, but that ripeness is cut with fresh acidity and a balancing tension. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

90 Turning Tide 2019 White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This unique blend of 64% Chenin Blanc and 36% Grüner Veltliner tastes like very little else, starting with aromas of tart lime sorbet, lemongrass and green-tea mochi. There's ample tightness but a more mellow texture to the palate, with caviar-lime and Key lime peel flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Eberle 2020 Cotes-du-Robles Blanc (Paso Robles). Engaging aromas of pear, white blossoms and a tart citrus come through on the nose of this blend of 44% Grenache Blanc, 32% Viognier and 24% Roussanne. Mango shows on the palate along with lime-splashed pome fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

89 Monochrome 2020 Neither Here Nor There (California). This Santa Barbara County blend of 56% Chenin Blanc from Jurassic Park Vineyard and 44% Sauvignon Blanc from McGinley Vineyard starts with aromas of dried apple, mango and coconut. There's a bitter angle to the palate, where pear-flesh and apple-rind flavors are mel-
 lowed by a coconut element. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$41

88 Blackbird Vineyards 2020 Dissonance Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Sonoma County-Napa County). Fruity, floral and textured, this white is 81% Sauvignon Blanc and 19% Sémillon. Lemon-peel, guava and mango flavors shine brightest along a through line of richly rounded ripeness, unctuous mouthfeel and understated acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

88 Bocce Ball 2020 Kiss the Jack (Santa Ynez Valley). Baked apple and jasmine aromas show on the warm floral nose of this blend. The palate is pleasant with peach and melon flavors, though a tad flat in texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$22

88 Monochrome 2020 Earthen Fare (California). Citrus-peel and dried melon aromas show a slightly aged character on the nose of this blend of 64% Marsanne from the Santa Ynez Valley and 36% Grenache Gris from Paso Robles. There's a sour kick to the sip of yuzu, but then richer flavors of coconut and pear. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$43

88 Preston 2019 White Blend (Dry Creek Valley). From organically grown and certified grapes, this combines 50% Sauvignon Blanc with 25% Ribolla Gialla and 25% Tocai Friulano. Floral aromatics lead to a textured midpalate of lemon pith, white flower and jalapeño, finishing dry and grippy. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

87 Blue Rock 2019 Baby Blue (Sonoma County). A mix of Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Viognier, this tastes rich and tropical, with an un-

ctuous mouthfeel and earthy, herbal undercurrent of pea shoot. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

84 Pangloss Cellars 2018 Appreciation (Sonoma County). Blending 39% Grenache Blanc, 36% Viognier and 25% Roussanne, this white, aged in neutral oak, offers flavors of confectionery marshmallow and apple skin, showing a hint of oxidation as it goes. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Bethel Road 2019 Whale Rock Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Templeton Gap District). Very light in the glass, this bottling begins with broad aromas of bubblegum and tropical fruit, yet there's a stony edge holding it together. The palate is also very stony, with guava and white-fleshed fruit flavors making for a complex expression. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

93 Cadre 2020 Band of Stones Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley). There's a unique aromatic profile to this grape that's hard to pin down, but, at least in this bottling, runs from makrut-lime leaf and green-apple extract to sansho pepper and white pepper. It's very dry and focused on the sip, offering lime-peel, peppercorn, caviar-lime and more green-leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

93 Clementine Carter 2020 Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Subtle aromas of peach and crushed stone show on the nose of this bottling. The grippy texture is fascinating on the sip, where flashes of citrus, Asian pear and Gravenstein apple compete for attention. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Maidenstoen 2020 Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley). From vines grown on a steep, east-facing slope, this bottling begins with aromas of Key lime peel, caviar-lime flesh, green-fleshed kiwi and even some lychee on the nose. There's a great sizzle of acidity to the sip as well as a compelling grip, framing seashore-like flavors of fresh kelp, green citrus peels and cut grass. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

92 Lion Ranch 2018 Roussanne (Santa Clara Valley). Honeydew, honey, salt and tropical fruit aromas meet with a metallic minerality on the nose of this bottling. The complex palate is impressively tight and stony with a crushed rock structure, which frames the tart citrus and tropical-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$28

92 Union Sacre 2020 Los Ositos Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Arroyo Seco). There's nearly a hint of pink to the color of this wine, which begins with aromas of peach tonic, apricot blossom, melon and a hint of white pepper. The palate dries up considerably, blending stone fruit and melon

flavors with grass, wet stone and gunpowder tea. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$26

91 Andis 2020 Bill Dillian Vineyard Reserve Sémillon (Sierra Foothills). Pleasant scents of hay, fresh herbs and dried apples lead to a rather rich, layered palate in this medium-bodied wine. Its mouthfilling texture is nicely balanced by wisps of crisp apple acidity. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$30

91 Midnight 2020 Andromeda Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles). Toasty aromas of baked nectarine meet with clean lines of chiseled cement and a touch of apple blossom on the nose of this bottling. A firm texture grabs hold of the palate and persists through flavors of tart apple, squeezed lime and ripening pineapple. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$34

90 Union Sacre 2020 Delice Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Blanc (Santa Maria Valley). Ripe Asian pear, white melon and nectarine make for a pleasantly easy nose on this bottling. The palate is light and breezy, with ripe nectarine and a hint of lime peel, giving just enough stony texture to hold the attention. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

SPARKLING WINES

91 Goldeneye 2018 Brut Rosé (Anderson Valley). Light pink in color, this crisp, tangy and complex wine deftly balances subtle raspberry and green-apple flavors with ginger, mineral and toast notes that reveal on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Maker NV Sparkling Rosé (North Coast). Delicious red-wine flavors come dancing through this lively and well-balanced bubbly in a can, offering red-cherry and cranberry notes that ride a fine bead of bubbles. It is smooth, polished and vibrant. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$7/250 ml

89 Skinner 2018 Blanc de Blancs (El Dorado). Good, crisp and nicely dry, this well-balanced and subtle wine features tangy green-apple and lime flavors on a smooth head of fine bubbles. It is made from an unusual 50-50 blend of white Rhône varieties Roussanne and Marsanne. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

88 Delta 2020 Brut Rosé (California). The tangy, bone-dry red-cherry and raspberry flavors of this crisp wine are almost as bright as its electric-pink color. It's a real wake-up call for the taste buds, with great acidity and vivid flavors. —J.G.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Handley 2015 Blanc de Blancs Estate Vineyard (Anderson Valley). A light-gold color

leads to bread-dough aromas along with doughy, earthy flavors at first sip. With time in the glass it evolves a nice yeasty complexity and mature, almost nutty flavors. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$56

88 McFadden NV Cuvée Brut (Potter Valley). This mineral-rich wine offers chalky, green-apple aromas followed by nearly dry, flinty, mineral flavors backed by crisp acidity and fine bubbles. —J.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$25

87 Maker 2020 Bodkin Wines Sparkling Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). This line of cans is made by Chris Christensen, whose Bodkin Wines has made a name for itself with sparkling Sauvignon Blanc. Here, he has made a canned version that tastes of lemon candy, green apple and wet stone, boosted in an ultradry package that's good to go. —V.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$8/250 ml

86 Dark Horse NV Rosé (California). Light carbonation gives this fruity and easy-to-like can of wine a little extra boost on the sip. It feels lively, tastes like strawberries and has a touch of cherry-like sweetness. —J.G.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$5/375 ml

86 Delta NV Brut Bubbles (California). This medium-bodied bubbly tastes clean and fresh, subtle in terms of aroma and flavor but wafting light notes of golden apple on its crisp and lively texture. —J.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$5/250 ml

85 Brick & Mortar NV Bubbles Rosé (California). This tangy and vigorously bubbly wine is subdued in fruit flavors, but offers good balance and a dry, lip-smacking texture. —J.G.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$6/375 ml

84 Brick & Mortar NV Blanc Bubbles (California). This foamy wine in a can tops neutral fruit flavors with a light earthy scent of hay as a rich texture of bubbles and a touch of sweetness keep it soft on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$6/375 ml

GRENAACHE ROSÉS

92 Lion Ranch 2020 Lioness Rosé of Grenache (Santa Clara Valley). An inviting shade of pink in the glass, this bottling, which also includes 1% each of Cinsault and Syrah, offers clean lines of strawberry, rose petal and wet stone on the nose. There is a fresh citrus zest quality to the sip, where the acid tantalizes across the strawberry and plum flavors into the stony finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$23

91 Clementine Carter 2020 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Barbara County). A light shade of yellowish-pink, this bottling is tightly woven on the nose with lots of citrus peel and nectarine shavings,

as well as some wet cement minerality. The palate is subtle and rock-powered, proving tight and bright across flavorful brushes of crisp pluot. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Family Reserve Rosé of Grenache (El Pomar District). A yellowish shade of pink, this bottling begins with plush aromas of strawberry sorbet and cotton candy. There's a coconut-oil and melon-candy combination on the palate, which is ripe yet remains fresh. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Maker 2020 Ser Winery Rosé of Grenache (Monterey). A very light shade of pink, this canned rosé begins with rose petal and plaster of Paris aromas. The bubbles that show visually dissipate while hitting the palate, leaving a still rosé that's full of fresh and tart flavors of underripe pluot and rainy cement. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8/250 ml

90 Sandar & Hem 2020 Bates Ranch Rosé of Grenache (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very light in the glass, this bottling is very stony on the nose but also offers plenty of inviting peach aromas as well. It's fresh and fun on the palate, with likably ripe flavors of peach, melon and guava, framed by zesty acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$24

89 Bethel Road 2020 Whale Rock Vineyard Rosé of Grenache (Templeton Gap District). Subtle aromas of strawberry, cherry and rainy cement show on the nose of this Grenache rosé, which also includes 5% Syrah and 4% Tempranillo. Struck-stone flavors meet with warm cherry on the riper palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$26

89 Future Perfect 2020 Watch Hill Vineyard Rosé of Grenache (Alisos Canyon). A yellowish shade of pink in the glass, this bottling begins with dried lemon-peel, lime-oil and tropical guava aromas. There's a tart line of grapefruit juice and pith on the palate, but also warmer apricot tones, with an underlying chiseled stone minerality. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$28

PINOT NOIR ROSÉS

92 Tongue Dancer 2020 Rosé de Ville Pinot Noir (North Coast). Made only in magnums for maximum party power, this Vin Gris of Pinot Noir is hearty and refreshing, with enviable fruit intensity of the form of raspberry and cherry. Lush in texture, it glides along the palate with dangerous ease, refined and spicy in dried herb and wet stone. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70/1.5 L

91 Mini Vacay 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Central Coast). One of the better wines to come in a can yet, this bottling is almost spritzy in the glass, starting with aromas of watermelon, chalk, straw-

berry and lime. Clean lines of strawberry, jasmine and plumeria are presented in a measured manner on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28/250 ml

90 Bouchaine 2020 Vin Gris of Pinot Noir (Carneros). With five months spent entirely in stainless steel, this wine is light and citrus-driven, with a slatey, flinty quality that gives it complexity and structure. Apricot, strawberry and grapefruit flavors accentuate its inherent brightness and crisp approach. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Lula 2020 Day Ranch Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Smooth and fresh tasting, this light-bodied, elegant wine from a stand-out Pinot Noir maker sports red-cherry and candied plum flavors, light buttery accents and good crisp acidity underneath. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Tongue Dancer 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a direct-to-press wine, fruity, floral and pleasant in approach, with big bones and dark color. The acidity helps boost a richness of orange Creamsicle and cherry-pop flavor that is supple and textured on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$22

88 Bucher 2020 Bucher Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a light, bright wine from the producer's own vineyard on Westside Road, pressed into a lovely expression of apricot liqueur, melon and kiwi. Floral flourishes of rose petal contribute additional beauty. —V.B.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$30

88 Marimar 2020 Rosaleda Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From the producer's Dona Margarita Vineyard, this wine is floral in rose petal and cherry blossom, with fine layers of cherry and raspberry fruit. The acidity is integrated and persistently fresh, accentuating a wet stone quality that appeals. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

88 Rodney Strong 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Fruity in strawberry, orange and peach flavors, this is an easy-drinking, highly enjoyable wine, fermented entirely in stainless steel tanks. The acidity remains fresh and crispy in the glass. —V.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Starmont 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Carneros). Stainless-steel fermented, this crisp wine is meaty and weighty in bright layers of tangerine and blood orange, with a simplicity of approach and enduring acidity. —V.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Stephen Ross 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Bubblegum-like aromas of strawberry and banana make for a very fruit-driven entry on the nose of this bottling. There is a firm texture

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to balance the candied flavors of watermelon Jolly Rancher on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

OTHER ROSÉS

94 Kenzo Estate 2020 Yui Rosé (Napa Valley). A lush, opulent wine made by Heidi Barrett from 54% Malbec, 37% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc, this is an impressively structured and complex mix of cranberry, orange and violet, with underlying flavors of blueberry and plum. Notes of violet and dried herb linger on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80

92 Ampelos 2020 Rosé of Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). A bright, shiny concoction of 75% Syrah with 19% Grenache and 6% Riesling, this wine is delightfully balanced and textured. Mid-weight layers of peach and watermelon are met by hints of dried herb and wet stone, the finish chalky and long. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

92 Byron Blatty 2020 Rosé (Los Angeles County). A very pretty shade of pink in the glass, this Grenache-based rosé is very clean and brisk on the nose, with lots of crushed stone, jicama and light-pink-fruit flavors. There's a firm grip to the sip, with rose-petal and wet cement flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$27

90 Berryessa Gap 2020 ZGB Rosé (Yolo County). This ultrasmooth wine blends satisfying ripe cherry flavors with interesting nuances of ginger, melon and mint for a complex and delicious palate impression. It has the body and length of a serious red wine, but with lighter flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Blade & Talon 2020 Calleri Vineyard Rosé of Barbera (Cienega Valley). Very light in the glass, almost like a white wine, this bottling begins with aromas of honey, tart lemon and salted melon. The palate is quite chalky, with bright Meyer lemon and tart white-fleshed fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Pellegrini 2020 Estate Grown Olivet Lane Vineyard Rosé of Rosé (Russian River Valley). Stainless-steel aged, this wine is bright and full of good tension and verve, with balanced acidity and fruit-forward layers of cherry, strawberry and grapefruit. The finish is lengthy and equally crisp. —V.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$40

90 Post & Vine 2020 Rosé of Carignane (Contra Costa County). Nicely fruity and subtly complex, this fragrant wine offers tart cherries, raspberries and hints of baking spices on a smooth but vibrant texture that balances crispness and fullness in a very appealing way. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Preston 2020 Vin Gris Rosé (Dry Creek Valley). Juicy in strawberry, citrus and complemented by a slate-like texture, this light, bright wine combines 40% Mourvèdre, 40% Cinsault and 20% Grenache, lovely and floral throughout. —V.B.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$28

89 Caliza 2020 Pink Rosé (Paso Robles). Earthy notes of crushed rocks and lanolin meet with brighter brushes of pink lemonade and fresh rose petals on the nose of this bottling. There's a grippy texture to the sip, where flavors range from red plum to pink grapefruit. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 Simple Life 2020 Rosé (California). Steely, mineral elements in the nose and on the palate give an extra lively and complex slant to this light-bodied, fragrant and well-balanced wine. It was made from an unusual blend of almost half Tempranillo, plus Barbera and three other varieties. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Cavaletti 2020 The 109 Mile Rosé (Los Angeles County). A slightly brown shade of pink, this rosé that blend of 50% Tempranillo, 49% Grenache and 1% Pinot Noir begins with aromas of dark plum, dried citrus and a hint of strawberry. Dried red-fruit flavors meet with a tinge of grapefruit on the palate, where the acidity lingers. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Riley's Rows 2020 Rosé of Syrah (North Coast). This light-bodied, tangy wine offers attractive strawberry and red-cherry aromas followed by tart cherry and ripe raspberry flavors that give it plenty to savor. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$27

88 Saracina 2020 Skid Rosé (Mendocino County). Delicate in aroma and flavor, but substantial in body, this pale amber-pink wine is appealing for its subtlety. Mild white-raspberry and strawberry flavors develop nicely with more sips. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Terra d'Oro 2020 Rosé (Amador County). This fruity, nicely tangy wine is laden with baked cherry flavors on a broad texture and full body. Its unusual and vivid orange-pink color makes it stand out visually, while its composition of 74% Grenache and 23% Nebbiolo grapes is pretty rare. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Bogle 2020 Rosé (California). Watermelon and tart cherry aromas lead to crisp flavors that match up well with the bracing acidity. The wine is fresh and invigorating. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Delta 2020 Rosé (California). A hot-pink color, and jammy, candied fruit aromas are

jolted by very lean fruit flavors and edgy acidity in this bone-dry, low-alcohol wine. —J.G.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Paris Valley Road 2020 Rosé of Malbec (Paso Robles). A dark shade of fuchsia in the glass, this rosé shows tons of very ripe cherry aromas, with a hint of orange bitters on the nose. Candied strawberry and watermelon meet with a slight stone kick on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

87 Parker McCollum 2019 Rosé (Central Coast). A pinkish orange in color, this bottling offers strawberry glaze, lemon jelly and a hint of stone on the nose. Tart plum and pomegranate show on the sip, as well as a slightly funky tone. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$26

86 Marietta Cellars 2020 OVR Old Vine Rosé (California). This big and mouthfilling wine is almost fizzy, as its lively strawberry and red-cherry flavors wake up the palate. It is full bodied, quite ripe, but also crisp enough for balance. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

86 The Prisoner 2019 Unshackled Rosé (California). This slightly soft and rounded wine made from mostly Pinot Noir grapes boasts vivid cantaloupe and watermelon flavors and a broad, easy texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

85 ZO Wines 2020 Triple Ten Vineyard Rosé of Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Tannic and funky, this wine hints at a richness of blackberry topped in coconut cream and marshmallow, seemingly sweet on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$29

83 J.C. Winemaker 2019 Seventh Day Rosé (Mendocino). This pale, amber-pink wine offers earthy accents over dusty peach flavors on a medium body. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

83 Tehachapi 2020 Sara's Rosé (California). This unusual take on rosé starts with rowdy, peppery aromas and then brings on smoky, toasted flavors, red-cherry notes and a grippy texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

PINOT NOIR

96 Handley 2018 RSM Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This graceful, layered and subtle wine deftly blends delicious plummy fruit with judicious oak spices and a hint of earthy, forest floor aromas. A gentle mouthfeel, medium to full body and lingering finish make it easy to keep sipping. It's the best of Handley's 2018s, and great to drink through 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$55

96 Lula 2019 Lula Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Gorgeous black fruits and enticing

oak spice elements give this full-flavored, layered and well-structured wine more than enough pleasure. While rich, ripe and nicely nuanced with baking spices like vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg, good underlying acidity and moderate fine-grained tannins keep it fresh and appetizing. Best from 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

96 **Reeve 2018 Wendling Vineyard North Slope Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** This is a big but agile wine, framing ample, just-ripe black-cherry, cranberry and mint flavors in moderate tannins and lively acidity for great balance and good aging potential. Excellent concentration keeps the fruit and mild oak spice notes echoing on the finish. Best from 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$85

96 **Thomas Fogarty 2019 Windy Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This bottling by winemaker Nathan Kandler, from a vineyard 2,000-feet up in the mountains, demonstrates tremendous concentration at stunningly low alcohol. Aromas of mulberry, mace and sandalwood lead into a rich and woody palate that's reminiscent of a summer-warmed pine forest, where wild elderberry shrubs and plum orchards bake in the sunshine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$78

95 **FEL 2019 Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

95 **Hirsch 2019 The Bohan-Dillon Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** This wine is such an outstanding value for outstanding quality, it's crazy. Bright, effusive and lingering in freshly picked berry spice, it offers tension and verve on the palate, showing balanced acidity and lovely, complex accents of lavender and white pepper. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$38

95 **Lucia 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

95 **Lula 2019 Rescue Block Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This striking, full-flavored wine was made from previously abandoned vines that had to be nursed back into fruitfulness. It offers fragrant aromas of strawberry, sweet cherries and cinnamon followed by ripe, focused and vivid red and black fruits on the palate. Full body and plenty of fine-grained tannins give it a mouthcoating texture and a lingering finish that echoes ample fruits and spices. Best through 2029. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

95 **Reeve 2018 Rhoda Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This impressive and age-worthy wine offers fragrant fruit and baking-spice aromas, intense fruit flavors and a firm texture laced with

fine-grained tannins and snappy acidity. It shows delicious, palate-pleasing red-cherry, cranberry and black-cherry notes accented by cinnamon and light toast. Best from 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$48

95 **Sandar & Hem 2019 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This wine conjures a magical combination of opulence and vibrancy. Rich aromas of violet, black raspberry, clove and mace slide into a refreshing palate of crisp red plum, currant and orange rind, as sage and nutmeg add to the energetic mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$48

95 **Thomas Fogarty 2019 Henry Ayrton's Block Rapley Trail Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** From a half-acre block of Martini clone vines planted at 1,500-feet in 1983, this is an elegant and opulent showcase, offering aromas of sandalwood, roasted black raspberry and graphite on the nose. There is extreme tension on the palate, where grippy tannins frame roasted dark-red fruit, anise, wild myrtle and light game flavors. Drink 2023–2043. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 **Brick & Mortar 2018 Manchester Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** Deep and concentrated black-cherry flavors imbue this elegant, medium-bodied wine with a delicious palate that's nicely bolstered by moderate tannins and balancing acidity. Grown at 2000-feet elevation, the wine is tempting now, and best after 2024. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

94 **Casa Dumetz 2019 Spear Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lovely and lively aromas of strawberry, hibiscus, sage and creek mud show on the nose of this bottling from one of the appellation's newer plantings. The wine hits the palate with decent weight then brightens up on snappy currant, spicy peppercorn, bitter orange-rind and herbal eucalyptus flavors. The acid is fierce. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

94 **Chanin 2019 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** A light shade in the glass, this single-vineyard expression offers snappy aromas of currant alongside earthy hints of dusty rocks, dried herbs and cracked pepper. The structure is taut on the palate, where cranberry and green-peppercorn flavors are fresh and invigorating. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

94 **Chanin 2019 Los Alamos Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Quite light in the glass, this bottling by Gavin Chanin offers aromas of pomegranate, red currant, hibiscus and white pepper on a nose that bounces from bright to juicy. The palate is a tad richer and more rounded, offering cherry and strawberry as well as underlying sage-brush flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

94 **Chanin 2019 Schock Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Zesty black-raspberry and cherry-cola aromas get spiced by crushed peppercorn, fennel and anise on the nose of this bottling. A similarly complex array of herbs and spices light up the palate as well, where oregano and sage meet with red-plum and dried red-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 **FEL 2019 Wendling Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This big but velvety wine wraps tasty black cherry and dark chocolate in layers of fine-grained tannins for a mouthfilling effect and a lingering finish. It's full bodied, bold in flavor and very well concentrated. Best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

94 **La Lomita 2019 Chene Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Fresh aromas of wild strawberry, red currant and hibiscus are dusted in white-pepper spice on the nose of this bottling from a biodynamic vineyard. It's lively on the palate with snappy flavors of red currant and sumac, as light herb tones add to the tense but approachable plush frame. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

94 **Lula 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Seductive, ripe and fruity, this wine overflows with sunny black-cherry, red-cherry and blackberry flavors that verge on sweetness but are nicely balanced by fresh acidity and light tannins. Intriguing hints of mint, cinnamon and clove add to its allure. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 **Lynmar Estate 2019 AMDG Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A stemmy, edgy wine with sharp notes of forest and youthful tannic grip, this is savory in style, with impressive structure and length. Rich red berry punctuates a contrast of seamless oak and baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$76

94 **MacRostie 2018 Olivet Lane Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This tiny production is delicate in color and texture, offering nuanced notes of pomegranate, rhubarb and rose petal. With an edgy elegance, and impressive length on the palate, it finishes with a citrus-driven burst of acidity that lasts for days. —V.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$58

94 **Peake Ranch 2019 Peake Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Hearty aromas of black cherry and boysenberry are dusted in cardamom and mace spices on the fresh and impressive nose of this bottling. Rich and broad flavors of red cherry and strawberry meet with vibrant Sichuan peppercorn and Dr Pepper spices on the powerful yet balanced palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

94 Sea Slopes–Fort Ross Winery 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Sante Arcangeli 2019 Ananda Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). An ode to winemaker John Benedetti's late wife, Melanie, this blend of Split Rail and Lester vineyards is redolent on the nose with orange-rind, sour plum, tart cherry and crumpled chaparral aromas. There's a rugged feel to the sip, where rusty, sanguine flavors of muddled mulberry and red plum mix with juniper, bay leaf, salt and pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

94 Sante Arcangeli 2019 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

94 Thomas Fogarty 2019 James Thomas's Block Rapley Trail Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Just 50 cases were made from this block, part of a vineyard planted in 1983 at 1,600-feet. Aromas of blistered cherry tomato, red plum, damp sagebrush and mahogany lead into an immensely tense palate of sandalwood, black tea and black plum. Allow time to mellow out the pine spices. Drink now through 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Thomas Fogarty 2019 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark plum, red flower potpourri and dried purple flowers make for an elegant nose on this single-vineyard expression. There's a peppery spice that kicks off the sip, giving depth to the darkraspberry and very floral flavors that range from rose to lilac. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$62

94 Thomas Fogarty 2019 Razorback Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Elderberry, soy, light juniper, incense and bay leaf aromas all come through on the unique nose of this wine from vines planted back in 1986. That herbal edge of bay and pine is prevalent on the palate, as is a fresher sense of black raspberry as well. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$78

93 Chanin 2019 Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Salt pork, dried cranberry, smoked wood and a touch of patchouli show on the complex nose of this bottling. Sanguine flavors of rust and aged meat lead into richer red-cherry and eucalyptus-leaf flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Croix 2019 Floodgate Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A great depth of rich red cherry and plum lead to a brooding midpalate of full-bodied intensity and concentration, the wine well-integrated in terms of tannin and oak. Vanilla, baking spice and a note of cola close out the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$78

93 Croix 2019 South Block Six Platt Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Rich and concentrated in jammy black cherry and cola, this coastal wine is made in a big style and offers tremendous breadth and length. A tease of black tea and cinnamon accent the overall verve and acid-driven tension beneath the bold layers of intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$110

93 Cuvaison 2019 Mariafeld Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). This wine is named for a Swiss-origin clone that grows on the producer's estate, the wine bright and effusively layered in strawberry cream, baking spice and violet. Thick, dense and lengthy, it offers robust oak and tannin structure with a balanced, graceful finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Domaine Eden 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Gamy aromas of roasted pork and a wet stone minerality surround the plush cranberry fruit on the nose of this bottling. There's a floral edge to the palate, from rose petal to violet, as well as light red-currant and more game flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 FEL 2019 Ferrington Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Seductive baking-spice aromas and warm, generous red-cherry and strawberry flavors make this a welcoming and mouth-filling wine. Fine-grained tannins and a bit of red-cherry acidity balance it out nicely. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Guarachi 2019 Sun Chase Vineyard Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Handley 2018 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Dramatic floral and black-fruit aromas lead to juicy, bold and ripe red-cherry and black-cherry flavors in this full-bodied, moderately tannic and well-balanced wine from the cool "Deep End" of Anderson Valley. Best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$50

93 Joyce 2019 Gabilan Mountains Pinot Noir (Monterey). Quite light in the glass, this bottle from the eastern slopes above the Salinas Valley offers aromas of smashed sour cherry, turned soil, fresh sage and bloody rust. The palate is bright and earthy at once, showing fresh cranberry and raspberry but also ground-up chaparral and dusty rocks and soil. Both rustic and energized. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$45

93 Keller Estate 2019 Casa Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). With a depth of earthy cherry, black tea and forest, this approachable, value-minded wine offers velvety texture and length, well beyond its price point. Structured and youthful, it remains bright and fresh in the glass. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

93 Mount Eden Vineyards 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Black-plum, incense, black-cherry and root-beer aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a regional standard bearer. Sandalwood and mahogany flavors make for a woody palate, where the dark-plum and purple-flower flavors cling to a firm tension. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Reeve 2018 Kiser Vineyard Lower Block Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This elegant wine contrasts beautiful, pure and generous fruit flavors with a lithe sense of balance and structure that give it a mouthwatering texture. Mint, tea leaves, red-cherry and red currant notes fill the aroma and continue through the flavors and finish —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Sante Arcangeli 2019 Chrysanthemum Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A bottling in honor of longtime Aromas nursery owner Sumiko Haneta, this six-vineyard blend is light in the glass and redolent with aromas of pomegranate, cranberry, dried sage and mushroom ragù. Brisk and tight flavors of tart plum and underripe cherry are coated in an herbal tone of juniper throughout the sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

93 Sante Arcangeli 2019 Split Rail Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Winemaker John Benedetti is making a name for this vineyard with each vintage. This transparent bottling kicks off with rustic strawberry, cherry tomato, bay leaf, peppercorn and juniper aromas. The herially inflected palate surrounds both sour and juicy cranberry and orange-rind flavors, which engage the palate from front to back. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$49

93 Shane Wines 2017 Soixante Et Onze Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Juicy red fruit lifts a palate of freshness and structure in this well-made wine, balanced and complex in its entirety, with tension and verve. The tannins wrap around a flinty, rocky minerality that also speaks to its coastal provenance, offering length and breadth. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42

93 Testarossa 2019 La Rinconada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Red plum, cranberry, fennel pollen and a hint of roasted fruit show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate's tart berry and plum flavors are complemented by light pepper and crushed herb, making for a clean, focused and cohesive sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74

93 Thomas Fogarty 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Winemaker Nathan Kandler is making top-shelf Pinot Noir from unique mountain-top locations, and this appellation blend provides a chance for more people to check it out. Aromas of fresh cherry and tarragon are fresh and fun, while the tense but playful palate picks up extra kicks of anise and citrus rind. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Ampelos 2019 Ampelos Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Offering tremendous value for the high quality, this red offers a berry-driven beginning with shocks of cola, black tea and forest. Structured, it is light and delicate on the palate, with a weighty finish that shows balance and grace. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Barra of Mendocino 2019 Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This smooth and well-balanced wine offers delicious black-cherry and blackberry flavors, mild tannins and a good dash of fruit acidity for a refreshing texture. It's a great value, and will be a crowd pleaser, versatile for multiple occasions. Made with certified organic grapes. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Brick & Mortar 2020 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This rich and soft-textured wine seems to melt in the mouth, offering aromas of mulled wine and spices, ripe flavors of juicy black plums and cooked cherries. The mouthfeel is full and easy, floating the baked fruit notes through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

92 Colluvial 2018 MT Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Toasty aromas of wood, mace and cinnamon weave through the Bing cherry and red-plum aromas on the nose of this bottling. The palate leans into the riper flavors of baked strawberry soaked in cinnamon and dusted with herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

92 FEL 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

92 Intent 2018 Home Block Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This medium-bodied, nervy wine lifts snappy red cherry and cranberry flavors with good acidity and light tannins for an appetizing, not-too-heavy expression. Its forte will be food pairing due to excellent balance and a lighter touch than many California Pinots. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$42

92 Keller Estate 2019 La Cruz Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This vineyard-designate is light and soft, with rounded edges of integrated tannin and oak. Citrus, vanilla, stems and forest add to a length of baking spice and cardamom that intrigues and adds to the complexity of this crisp, deep wine. —V.B.
abv: 14.13% **Price:** \$55

92 Land of Promise 2017 Patriae Fidelitas Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Lula 2019 Costa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This smooth, supple, nearly irresistible wine grown in the Comptche district

boasts a sleek texture, plenty of red-currant and strawberry flavors and enough concentration for a lingering finish. It benefits from a full body, light tannins and good depth of flavor. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Lula 2019 Founder's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This rich, herb and earth-scented wine delivers concentrated cherry-like, loamy flavors on a smooth, viscous texture and full body. A slight funkiness complements the pure fruitiness in an appealing way. —J.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$50

92 Lula 2019 Peterson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). Excellent concentration and a velvety structure make this full-bodied wine easy to sip. It offers deep black-fruit flavors accented by pine-needle and rosemary nuances that add wonderful complexity. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 MacRostie 2018 Terra De Promissio Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Exuberant in a mélange of spicy cherry, raspberry and sea-spray-like salinity, this balanced red shows underlying elegance and coastal influence. Black tea, clove and forest floor provide savory contrast and complexity that lasts through a lengthy, energetic finish. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$58

92 Rusack 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Bright and fruity aromas of strawberry, hibiscus and watermelon candy make for a very refreshing entry to this bottling, which is a solid appellation blend. It's also bright but somewhat tight on the palate, where pomegranate and wild cherry flavors are enhanced by sage and pine elements, becoming a journey of a sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$34

92 Silver Mountain 2014 Tondre's Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark and dried plum, mushroom, soy and cocoa aromas convey this wine's advanced age but in regal ways on the nose of this bottling. There is a leathery texture to the palate, but still some freshness that holds up the caramelized tomato and turned earth flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

92 Testarossa 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Muddy clay and foggy fennel-frond aromas met with wild, dark and dry berries on the nose of this solid appellation blend. The palate begins on the ripe front, showing berry and cherry before the sagebrush and menthol character comes through. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$43

92 Testarossa 2019 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Candied cherry and currant meet with wet slate on the nose of this bottling from an iconic vineyard. There's a firm

grip to the sip, where sandalwood offsets the plush cherry and berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$76

92 Testarossa 2019 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Dark aromas of minty loam, black plum, baked earth and a hint of elderberry show on the nose of this bottling. The palate conveys richness, with black-plum and baked cranberry flavors, but then come slightly sour tones of grapefruit and orange rind. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$74

92 Thomas Fogarty 2019 La Vida Bella Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Deep, dark and penetrating aromas of dried cherry and sarsaparilla show on the nose of this bottling. Dusty herbs and shiitake flavors come through on the palate, where a hearty mouthfeel showcases baked plum and mulberry flavors as well. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$62

92 Union Sacre 2019 Squire Lafond Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Strong aromas of black tea, star anise, cinnamon and dark hibiscus tea show on the nose of this bottling. It hits the palate with booming flavors of wild berry and sage, but presents those potent flavors across a lighter, more delicate body. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

91 Beauregard 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This appellation blend is a great peek at what Ryan Beauregard is up to atop his mountain. Aromas of juniper, wet tea and cranberry lead into a zesty palate of pomegranate, peppercorn and orange-rind flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Croix 2019 Eastside Ritchie Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This bold, brawny wine is earthy with a wealth of forest and black tea. Tannic and concentrated in rich berry fruit, it is made in an unctuous, richly rewarding style from the famous site. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$78

91 Cuvaison 2018 Pommard Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). This small-production offering highlights the earthy, elegant clone at its core, showing bright crunchy citrus, lavender and rose petal, tart and lean in style with a grippy midpalate and lasting intensity. Spicy oak dominates on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

91 Handley 2018 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This warm, plummy wine is relaxed in texture and nicely filled out by ripe black plums, dried cherries and light savory, woody accents. Soft tannins and a rich mouthfeel accompany a full body. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$38

91 Handley 2018 Helluva Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This robust, full-bodied wine starts with fully ripe, roasted fruit aromas

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followed by a full, mouthfilling texture and more savory, slightly smoky flavors. Moderate tannins lend an appetizing grip on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

91 Handley 2018 Roderick Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Tempting aromas of strawberries and plump red plums give way to a rather firm texture and slightly leaner flavors of red cherry, rhubarb and black tea in this medium-bodied, tangy wine. Light tannins and nervy acidity give it a taut balance. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$50

91 Keller Estate 2019 El Coro Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Stemmy and feral in earthy forest, black tea and funk, this wine offers a depth of red fruit and citrus that keeps it sharp and crisp in the glass. The oak contributes baking spice in subtle ways, with a lengthy finish adding elegance. —V.B.
abv: 14.28% **Price:** \$65

91 La Honda Winery 2019 Sequence Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very light in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of hibiscus, red-plum peel and cinnamon. There's an orange-rind tartness to the palate, with sumac and pomegranate flavors as well as a dusty earth minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$28

91 Martin Ranch 2018 Therese Vineyards Griva Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). Toasty oak aromas meet with dark-cherry compote on the nose of this bottling. The oak is also strong on the palate, but in pleasant ways, warming up the cherry-compote, anise and clove flavors, as vanilla lingers into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$37

91 Piazza Family 2019 Mt. Carmel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Ripe cherry aromas converge with turned earth, dried mint and a hint of eucalyptus on the nose of this bottling from Mt. Carmel Vineyard. The palate is quite tart, with eucalyptus and sour cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$48

91 Rincon Mountain 2018 Pinot Noir (Ventura County). Growing grapes atop the famed Queen of the Coast surf break isn't easy, but this powerful, one-barrel bottling shows that ripeness is not a problem at this altitude. Opulent, jammy aromas of black and red cherry are lifted by sagebrush and wet soil on the nose. The palate packs more earth and herbs, from fennel to tarragon, with dark boysenberry at the core. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$68

91 Sante Arcangeli 2019 Integrato Barrel Selection Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Quite light and transparent in the glass, this earthy bottling starts with aromas of muddled pomegranate and cranberry as well as green sage, eucalyptus leaf and toasted oak. The slightly sour flavors show on the sip as well, amplified by the menthol and citronelle touches. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$39

91 Sonnet 2016 Gali Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Quite dark aromas of black plum and licorice show on the nose of this bottling. There is a touch of age on the palate, but the wine is still alive with dark-cherry, charred plum and anise flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

91 Union Sacre 2019 Squire Spanish Spring Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Opulent aromas of black cherry and cola pick up a slight funk before settling back into caramel and vanilla on the nose of this bottling. There's an acidic pop to the sip, which cruises through flavors of anise and thyme into a tart berry finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Bruliam 2019 Torrey Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Rose petals greet the nose of this well-made wine, which shows a wealth of succulent rich red and black cherry and wild strawberry. Notes of black tea and forest provide varietal complexity and contrast, with well-integrated oak and tannin and a rich cola finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

90 Bruliam 2018 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Black cherry, cola and smoky root beer aromas make for a fairly rich nose on this bottling. Blackberry and red-plum flavors mesh into cardamom spice on the palate, which is clean though hearty and ripe. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

90 Chappellet 2019 Calesa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). From a windy, cool-climate site, this wine is vibrant in crunchy red fruit like pomegranate and rhubarb, the contrasting components a burst of baking spice and dried herb. Meaty tannins grip with conviction, showing lasting intensity and concentration. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Colluvial 2018 Las Nenas Las Rinconada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Clove and slightly tart pomegranate aromas kick off the nose of this bottling. The palate is brisk with cherry and sour strawberry flavors, enhanced by an anise spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

90 Cuvaion 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42

90 Cuvaion 2018 Spire Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). A small-lot wine made to capture hillside and hilltop blocks on the estate, this is a robustly full-bodied wine, slaty in earth, mineral and herb. Fluffy tannins grip lightly around densely rich layers of black cherry and strawberry. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

90 Europa Village 2017 C'est la Vie Winemaker's Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Roasted aromas of charcuterie meet with soil and dried, sour cherry on the nose of this bottling. There's a slightly

underripe character to the palate, where bay leaf and pine-needle flavors play with the tart red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

90 The Calling 2018 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). High-toned acidity boosts a tannic midpalate of grippy intensity and oak in this appellation wine, made by James MacPhail. Rich red fruit bursts from the seams, finding accents of nutmeg, cola and vanilla along the way. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$37

90 ZO Wines 2019 Wentzel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This smooth and well-balanced wine has everything in place, from the black cherry and mild oak spice aromas to the vibrant black-cherry flavors to the light tannins and fruit acidity that keep it appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$54

89 Delta 2020 Pinot Noir (California). This well-balanced and lightly tannic wine blends aromas of red cherry and bay leaf with good raspberry and red-plum flavors on a medium body. It's a tasty wine that offers a nice bit of restraint. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

89 Testarossa 2019 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark-cherry and anise aromas show on the subtle nose of this bottling. There are damp soil flavors on the palate, with more cherry and wild herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74

88 Bouchaine 2018 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros). Thick black fruit is supported by generous overtones of oak and tannin in this estate wine, made with broad appeal and approachable in style. Rich accents of tea, cola and baking spice give it added nuance. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

88 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Sour cherry, dusty earth and toasted sage aromas kick off this countywide cuvée. There's a ripe landing to the palate, where persistent strawberry flavors slowly dry up toward earth and herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Lucky Rock Wine Co. 2019 County Cuvée Pinot Noir (California). Very fruity, moderately oaky and with a grippy mouthfeel, this full-bodied wine is flavorful and robust. Grilled plum, black cherry, toasted oak and baking spices come together nicely. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$22

88 Middleridge 2020 Rolling Hills Pinot Noir (Los Angeles County). Red-plum and dried strawberry aromas are cut by sharp hibiscus and light tarragon tones on the nose of this bottling. There's a tartness of red-plum skin to the sip, where

the sour sharpness is lifted by minty tarragon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

88 Reata 2019 Three County Jamieson Ranch Vineyards Pinot Noir (California). Rounded aromas of black cherry, chai, vanilla and toast show on the nose of this bottling. It's more tart on the palate, with plum-skin, pomegranate and baking-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

88 Silver Mountain 2015 Tondre's Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Long-stewed cherry and strawberry aromas meet with minty herbs on the nose of this bottling, which is showing some of its age. Hearty flavors of cola, root beer and dried cherry meet with a touch of leather on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

88 Sonnet 2017 Tondre's Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Clean aromas of cherry, root beer and fennel are a bit aged on the nose of this bottling. Rounded vanilla and licorice spice frame the roasted red cherries on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

88 William Hill Estate 2018 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Baked cherry and hibiscus meet with an iron minerality on the nose of this bottling. It lands with a hearty presence on the palate, where dried sage and mint lift the earthy iron flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

87 McFadden 2019 Blue Quail Pinot Noir (Potter Valley). Sturdy and moderately tannic, this organically grown, medium-bodied wine offers sun-baked red-fruit flavors, a firm texture and snappy acidity that will pair well with big proteins. —J.G.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$24

87 Reeve 2018 Kiser Vineyard Suitcase Block Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This lean, tannic wine boasts nervy, tart cherry and berry flavors and quite firm tannins that combine for a mouth-puckering texture. It's pretty severe to drink now but may mellow with time. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$115

87 Sonnet 2017 Muns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Muddled cherry, cola-spice and crushed stone aromas make for a slightly sour entry to the nose of this bottling. The tart red-fruit character extends across the sip, with earthy herbs showing as well. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

86 Bota Box NV Nighthawk Black Pinot Noir (California). This chocolaty wine brings on delicious blackberry and blueberry flavors with little obvious oak influence. It doesn't taste like most Pinot Noirs but has plenty of jammy fruit, milk chocolate and soft tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11/3L

86 Pellegrini 2020 Nouveau of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Made entirely from Pinot Noir that underwent carbonic fermentation and was then aged in stainless steel, this wine is dark in color and indeed Gamay-like in its thicket of crunchy cranberry and pomegranate. Simple and fruity, it has approachable appeal. —V.B.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$40

83 Elizabeth Rose 2018 Pinot Noir (Yountville). This wine is dull, showing a lack of fruit and overtly generous oak that makes for an unpleasant experience. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

97 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2018 S.L.V. Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Another outstanding vintage for this vineyard-designate standout from the famously historic producer, the estate-grown wine is herbal and elegantly fruity in dark cherry, dried herb and cocoa dust. An earthy undercurrent of dusty tannin and toasted oak add contours of savory complexity that will withstand further aging; enjoy best from 2028 through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$195

96 Senses 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Deep, dark and brooding flavors of berry pie and a lightness of spice invite one into this wine immediately. It offers a vibrant expression of the richly layered and flavorful signature of the appellation. Balanced and well integrated in tannin and oak, it is ultimately cohesive and lengthy, with bright shocks of underlying acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$250

96 Vineyard 7&8 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). This beautiful 100% varietal wine from the high-elevation estate is partially barrel-fermented and shows sophisticated tannin management and texture. Bay leaf, sage and cedar accent a full-bodied and concentrated core of complex red currant and cassis, with a girth of toasted oak, tobacco and cigar box playing secondary parts. Enjoy best from 2028 through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$185

95 Corison 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This is a high-toned, tart and earthy wine from the beloved producer, structured and grippy in its youth. Textured, the savory character is etched in dried herb, violet and currant, it evolves to share elegant and delicate layers of blue fruit and black cherry. Graphite, turned earth and black pepper endure. Enjoy through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$100

95 Corison 2018 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Youthfully wound in its own elegance and structure, this vineyard-designate is ebullient and graceful, with well-

defined layers of turned earth, black currant, cedar and baking spice. It holds its oak well, containing the tannins within a sturdy, elongated structure that should hold up well in the cellar. Enjoy best through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$195

95 My Favorite Neighbor 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Luis Obispo County). This newer brand for Eric Jensen of Booker fame offers a high-class taste of the Central Coast for a somewhat affordable price. It's dark in the glass, with heavy aromas of baked blackberry, cocoa and violet, the ample fruit balanced by woody, herbal spices. The structure is firm and the density is impressive, with concentrated dark-cherry, berry, caramel and nutmeg flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

95 Robert Mondavi 2018 The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). With a depth of red fruit adorned in cedar, earth and crushed rock, this impressively structured, complex wine is worthy of its reserve status. With great levels of integration, the tannins and oak add weight and power, with grip and length. Enjoy this full-bodied, youthful wine best from 2028 through 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$175

95 Ruby Hill Winery 2018 Jewel Collection Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). A haunting aroma of leather, tobacco and Kalamata olives leads to rich, deep, almost chewy black-fruit and dark-chocolate flavors in this captivating, complex and indulgent wine. Abundant fine-grained tannins lend a velvety texture, and set it up with good aging potential. Best from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$55

94 Hamel Family 2017 Nuns Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). An entirely varietal wine fermented in concrete, stainless steel and oak tanks, this is complex, structured and supremely earthy, with mineral traces throughout. Strawberry, cassis and vanilla provide a rich contrast to the cedar, sage and wisps of tobacco, the tannins powerfully present. Enjoy best from 2027 through 2037. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$160

94 Paul Dolan 2019 Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Rowen Wine Co. 2017 600L Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$150

94 Rubino Estates Winery 2018 Riserva Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This seductive wine is as smooth as suede and boasts deeply concentrated black fruits and subtle spices. Full bodied but balanced, it wraps blackber-

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ries, black cherries, cocoa and toasted oak flavors in a warm blanket of fine-grained tannins. Best through at least 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 **Domaine Eden 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Dark and brooding aromas of black plum and elderberry meet with oak, mahogany and loamy soils on the nose of this bottling. The wine is extremely structured on the sip, with elements of chiseled graphite, lava rock and pencil shavings, as well as those dark fruits and spicy woods. Drink now through 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 **Marietta Cellars 2018 Armé Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** This full-flavored, full-bodied and moderately tannic wine tastes bold but polished, showcasing luscious, ripe blackberries, blueberries and dark chocolate laced with fine-grained tannins. Layering and depth in the fruit flavors is nicely complemented by subtle accents of vanilla and new leather. Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot make up 15% of the blend. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$27

93 **Mauritson 2018 Clough Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** Clough soil is a gravelly loam with quartz and chert, and this wine is 100% varietal to emphasize its qualities in this particular kind of dirt. Slatey, with a grip of dust and oak, it offers substantial concentration and complex structure, dotted in a landscape of cranberry and currant. —V.B.
abv: 14.75% **Price:** \$95

93 **Mauritson 2018 Suther Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** Plush and bright, with hints of stone, violet and earth, this 100% varietal wine is named for a gravelly loam soil found on the side slopes of mountains marked by sandstone and shale. Concentrated blackberry and currant present as rich and round, with seamless tannin and decadent oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.57% **Price:** \$95

92 **Beringer 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley).** This is an elegantly structured and refined wine, full-bodied in style, with 20 months of barrel aging in French oak, a little more than half of it new. Black currant, black cherry and cassis combine around integrated tannin and lasting notes of sage and leather. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 **Correlation 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** From the team at Vineyard 7 & 8 on Spring Mountain, this is a highly enjoyable mountain wine in its youth, showing deft, well-integrated tannin structure and elegant complexity. Crushed rock, cigar box and cocoa powder lay a framework of savory and earthy character, with nips of anise and baking spice that linger with ease. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

92 **Edna Valley Vineyard 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 **Land of Promise 2017 Karren Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Mountain).** For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 **Mount Eden Vineyards 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Balanced aromas of redwood and pine give depth to the asphalt and leather elements on the nose of this bottling. The American oak seems prominent on the dense, leathery palate, where dark and dried fruits play along with sandalwood and mahogany flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

92 **Paix Sur Terre 2019 Bella Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Light yet juicy aromas of black raspberry, cranberry and melon meet with root beer and baking spices on the nose of this bottling. It's a brighter style of Cab on the palate, where the red-fruit flavors are cut by acidity and lifted with likable pepper spices. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$68

92 **Riley's Rows 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** This full-bodied but relaxed and drinkable wine offers aromas of blackberry, tobacco and cedar followed by mouthfilling blackberries, dark chocolate and a hint of vanilla. Fine-grained tannins give a light grip on the sip while its excellent concentration supports a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38

92 **Sandar & Hem 2018 Bates Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Candied cherries, anise and dried herb aromas kick off the easygoing nose of this bottling, a fresher take on Cab. Grippy tannins surround the vibrant, energized palate, where red currants and incense battle for attention. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$62

92 **Sequoia Grove 2017 Morisoli Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** From the great vineyard site in the heart of the appellation, this wine entices in dark-berry fruit and a note of brown sugar, with overt oak influence and spice. Thick and tannic, it is richly layered and should smoothen in time; enjoy best from 2027 through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Smith & Hook 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast).** For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

91 **Hess Collection 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Thick and earthy in flavors of coffee bean, tobacco, cedar and sage,

this wine offers densely packed concentration and structure, intensely built for aging. Blended with 22% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot, it will find its groove best between 2028 and 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

91 **Justin 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 14.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$60

91 **Justin 2016 Platinum Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 14.
abv: 16.2% **Price:** \$170

91 **Kate Arnold 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Savory aromas of salt, pepper and wood spice meet with dried fruit on the nose of this bottling. The smoothly polished palate offers impressively savory flavors of seasoning herbs, dried meat and more of the dried red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 **Marietta Cellars 2018 Game Trail Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Yorkville Highlands).** This silky, fruity and lightly spiced wine from a hilly district in Mendocino County feels smooth and elegant, especially for a Cabernet, as tasty blueberry and black-cherry flavors meet balanced acidity and relatively light tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42

91 **Oleandri 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 **Steele 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** This bold and tightly wound wine shows super concentrated black-cherry and dark-chocolate flavors laced with firm tannins that make it a bit mouth-puckering at this stage. But all that compact fruit in the middle should become more complex with time as the tannins soften. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Beringer 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley).** This is a value-minded wine that overdelivers on its price point, with moderate tannin and oak showing and a lengthy expanse of rich dark berry fruit, baking spice and vanilla. The oak profile is 100% French but only 25% of it new. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$36

90 **Beringer 2018 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Thick and tannic on the palate in its youth, this wine shows a great deal of structure and integration, having spent 18 months aging in 90% new French oak. Red fruit shines in the form of currant, cassis and cranberry, with leathery texture and accents of dried herb and sage. Enjoy best from 2028 through 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$170

90 End Of The Day 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Light red-cherry, wood-spice and smoke aromas show on the nose of this smooth and likable bottling. Rounded flavors of black cherry, vanilla, nutmeg and herb appear on the palate, which offers a long finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$30

90 Europa Village 2017 C'est La Vie Ben Drake Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley). Aromas of stewed red fruits, oregano and mahogany kick off the nose of this bottling, which offers a complete and dry sipping experience. The palate combines herbs with cocoa, cracked pepper, soy and carob flavors that amplify the rich red-fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$45

90 J. Lohr 2019 Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% Price: \$17

90 Mauritsen 2018 Positas Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Part of the producer's single-soil series of wines, using 100% of the variety from identical clones and rootstocks, this is meant to highlight a gravelly loam soil formed in alluvial material called Positas. With a good depth of fruit, it offers well-integrated notes of dust, bay leaf and rock, with a touch of grip and moderate length. —V.B.
abv: 14.04% Price: \$95

90 Parducci 2018 True Grit Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

90 Robert Mondavi 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). With 10% Cabernet Franc and small percentages of Petit Verdot, Malbec and Merlot, this is a well-made, full-bodied wine that shows off the exuberant plushness of the appellation and vintage. A depth of berry fruit is met by dried herb and cedar, with firm tannins throughout. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

90 Robert Mondavi 2018 Wappo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Thick and powerfully concentrated in red fruit, this wine shows moderate tannin and oak, allowing the cassis, currant and cherry flavors to speak. A trace of mineral-like stone complements and contrasts alongside accents of cedar and leather. —V.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$125

90 Ruby Hill Winery 2018 Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This bold and mouthfilling wine is delicious, deep and lingering. Light earth and leather aromas lead to ripe black-fruit and dark-chocolate flavors that accompany full body and firm tannins. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$30

90 William Hill Estate 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$18

89 Girasole 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). Vividly fruity and relatively light in body for a Cabernet, this attractive wine gushes black cherries, blueberries and black plums while light tannins have a good, balancing effect in the texture. —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

89 La Honda Winery 2020 Merry Pranksters Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a playful style of Cab that works well with the fun, Ken Kesey-honoring label. Fruity aromas of melon and pomegranate meet with graphite on the nose, while the palate pops with easy flavors of red plum, boysenberry and light wood. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$16

89 Sketchbook 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). A striking floral perfume and bright, focused black- and red-cherry flavors give this wine a vivid, exuberant expression while a medium body and light tannins keep it easy to sip and enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

88 Beringer 2018 Distinctions Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With opening notes of mint and eucalyptus, this herbal red is thick and richly dense, offering lush layers of black currant and blackberry. The oak adds baking-spice and vanilla undertones. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$65

88 Cass 2018 CAB Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Geneseo District). Ripe plums, peppercorns, asphalt and a pinch of herbs show on the nose of this bottling. Herb-crust, roasted red-plum flavors appear on the palate, which also offers blistered tomato flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

88 Hayes Valley 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). A light shade of ruby in the glass, this bottling's nose recalls freshly plucked berries and lavender. The palate picks up sandalwood spice and peppercorn, giving depth to the rounded red-fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 La Honda Winery 2019 Salinian Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a blend of wood-spice and umami aspects to the nose of this bottling, which also shows coffee grinds, dark purple flowers and cherry jam. Firm tannins and a slightly bitter aspect show on the dry sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$38

87 Clos LaChance 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). Dry aromas of blackberry, incense and black tea are a tad bitter on the

nose of this bottling. The palate is very woody and dry as well, with ample cedar shavings and a hint of plum fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

87 Flat Top Hills 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 20.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

87 Parducci 2019 Small Lot Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). This is a good, sturdy, flavorful wine that is lightly tannic, offering black-pepper aromas, grilled plum and blackberry flavors. It boasts a full body and a good mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: NA Price: \$15

87 Sans Wine Co 2019 Three Jacks Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This can of Cab is native-fermented and stainless-steel fermented and aged, giving it a youthful approachability and thickness to the fruit, a mix of dark plum, prune and cola. —V.B.
abv: 13% Price: \$25/375 ml

86 Estate Cellars 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Dour plum, root-beer and tree-bark aromas show on the slightly funky nose of this bottling. There are plenty of dried herbs on the palate, which decorate the sour dried fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

85 Happy Camper 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A menthol-like aroma and jammy, cherry-cola flavors give this rather light-bodied wine a glugable feel. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$9

84 Oak Grove 2020 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Strong confectionery and oak aromas give a very commercial veneer to this medium-bodied wine. It comes off as sweet, with candied cherry and sugar-plum flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$9

84 Shooting Star 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). This full-bodied and firmly tannic wine shows an earthy, potato-bin scent, followed by ripe blackberries and more earthiness. It is sturdy and rustic. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$20

81 Shed Horn Cellars 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is harsh and astringent with not much to recommend. The dried fruit flavors turn prune-like and are drying on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$53

CABERNET FRANC

97 Caladan 2018 Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). This is an impressively varietal wine, blended with 25% Merlot, the work of winemaker Chris Carpenter. Perfumed, tannic and leathery, it

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shows a touch of reduction and high-toned acidity, coming together into a core of full-bodied black fruit, violet, lavender and herb, the oak generously spiced and supportive. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$225

95 The Debate 2018 Sleeping Lady Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). From a beautiful site on the western benches of the Mayacamas, this impressively made and balanced wine bursts in violet and dried herb, with lengthy tannin and integrated oak. Blue and red fruit present as both succulent and softly layered, with a lasting impression of cardamom and dark chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$175

94 Clos du Val 2018 Hironnelle Vineyard Estate Cabernet Franc (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Helios 2018 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Franc (St. Helena). Bursting in bright acidity and polished tannin, this 100% varietal wine is floral and earthy, with salty oak and juicy blue fruit at its core. Elegant and balanced, with tension throughout, it shines in lasting notes of cranberry, currant and lavender. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Mt. Brave 2018 Cabernet Franc (Mount Veeder). Leathery aromas lead to a core of classic varietal character, made in a savory style with mountain-grown intensity. Violet, blueberry and integrated tannin glide along a velvety texture of refined structure and complexity, leading to a cohesive, oaky finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

94 The Debate 2018 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). From the famous site more well-known for its Cabernet Sauvignon, this rare bottling is muted in violet and blue fruit, elegantly powerful and dense in style. The muscular tannin profile underscores an impressive concentration of power that finds its way to a velvety, integrated and ultimately balanced finish of baking spice and clove. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$175

93 Daou 2018 Cabernet Franc (Adelaida District). Focused aromas of blackberry, coffee bean and herb are wrapped in toasty oak on the nose of this bottling. There is a well-defined and edgy structure to the tannins on the palate, which present very dark-fruit and brown-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$95

92 Lexington 2018 Gist Ranch Estate Cabernet Franc (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a focused line of blackberry to the core of the nose of this bottling, as well as warmer caramel and brown-spice elements, with black peppercorn on the edges. There's intense wood spice to the palate, with cracked pepper and herb lifting the core berry fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Songs 2020 Young Forever Karayannis Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Plenty of purple-flower aromas waft across the white-pepper and black-raspberry elements on the nose of this bottling. The floral qualities sing on the sip as well, where lilac and rosewater provide an elegant foil to the grape Jolly Rancher flavor. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

92 Tantara 2017 Mateo Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Los Olivos District). The classic peppery spice of Cabernet Franc comes through on the nose of this bottling alongside potpourri, cranberry and smoked meat aromas. It's bold on the palate with blackberry flavors, which are lifted by lavender and violet extract: a complex and interesting wine. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Brick Barn 2017 Fatalist Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley). This long-aged, two-barrel bottling is very ripe on the nose, with baked cherry, smoked cranberry, caramel and nutmeg aromas. The palate is more tart yet still rounded, offering cranberry, berry jam and spicy, peppery edges. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$140

91 Hungry Hawk 2018 Cabernet Franc (San Diego County). Lighter in the glass, this is a lively, fresh and varietally familiar expression, starting with aromas of cracked pepper, thyme and cranberry. The palate pops with herb, pepper and fresh red-currant flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

91 La Jota Vineyard 2018 Cabernet Franc (Howell Mountain). This is a varietally pleasing and well-made wine, bright and full bodied, with bursts of violet, lavender and herbes de Provence dotting a core of dense black cherry and currant. Structured in mountain-grown tannin, it holds a grip throughout, finishing in a note of coffee bean. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

91 Le Vigne 2018 Di Domenico Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Clean aromas of dried herb, cracked pepper, graphite and more opulent black cherry show on the nose of this bottling. Well-managed tannins are dry and firm on the sip, allowing sandalwood, dark-cranberry, dried herb and baked loam flavors to coalesce. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Robert Renzoni 2017 Riserva Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Baked cherry, turned soil, wet rocks and roasted fennel-frond aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There is more fennel bulb on the palate, as well as tart red-plum and light red-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$72

90 Cornerstone 2018 Oakville Station Cabernet Franc (Oakville). Earthy, leathery and brimming in concentrated red cherry and blackberry, this wine is immensely dense and velvety in texture.

The oak is generous and adds a sweetness seasoned in baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$NA

90 Thirty-Seven 2018 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Petaluma Gap). Moderate oak and structure allow the dense black and red fruit in this wine speak—a mix of black cherry and cassis that finds life in underlying acidity. A touch of reduction gives it grip and weight, finishing in lavender and salty oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$46

88 Midnight 2018 Moonlight Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Tart sumac and red-plum aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There is also a tangy aspect to the sip, where cranberry and more red-spice flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

88 Robert Mondavi 2018 Cabernet Franc (Oakville). Spicy in black pepper, dried herb and cedar, this is an earthy, Old World varietal wine, with 2% Petit Verdot contributing additional power and color. Soft, simple and full bodied, it shows wide appeal. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

87 Vine Cliff 2018 Cabernet Franc (Oakville). This is a 100% varietal wine that spent two years in French oak, half of it new. Cherry, cassis and dry, leathery tannins present as considerably weighty and concentrated, with an imprint of dried herb and baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$85

MERLOT

95 La Jota Vineyard 2018 Merlot (Howell Mountain). Reductive on the nose, this bold mountain red is brimming in plum, cranberry and currant, with underlying earthiness that complements in savory cedar and tobacco. High-toned acidity and lifted aromatics provide a balance and brightness that surprises and lengthens the impressive palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Mt. Brave 2018 Merlot (Mount Veeder). Thick and richly layered, this wine is savory in tobacco, sage and plenty of grippy tannin, the fruit nuanced in dark plum and currant. Tobacco, black pepper and wild game nip at the edges, adding to the complexity and intrigue. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Songs 2018 Humbled & Kind Merlot (Paso Robles). Well-integrated aromas of black cherry, blackberry, toasted oak and crumpled flowers make for a cohesive nose on this bottling. Very grippy tannins frame the ripe blackberry and boysenberry flavors of the palate, which is bolstered by cocoa and wood spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Sullivan 2018 J.O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Merlot (Rutherford). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$250

92 Bargetto 2018 Regan Vineyards Reserve Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains). Strong aromas of cedar and sandalwood meet with dark-cherry and woody mushroom notes on the nose of this bottling. There are layers of rust and iodine to the palate, with rounded cherry flavors in the midpalate and then, on the finish, star anise and eucalyptus. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$40

92 Y Rousseau 2018 Pepe Merlot (Napa Valley). This is an unctuous, well-structured and darkly fruited wine, spicy in oak with silky tannin. Robust and balanced, it has a lively freshness that appeals. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$54

91 Lexington 2018 Gist Ranch Estate Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains). Smashed cherry, dried herb and cocoa aromas make for an earthy nose on this bottling. There's an herbal tone to the palate, where red-fruit flavors meet with cracked pepper. Expect more cohesion with time. Drink now through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

90 Peter Franus 2018 Merlot (Carneros). This is an herbal, peppery and Old World styled red, balanced and earthy, with additional hints of tobacco leaf and cedar. The sizable tannins wrap around layers of plum and dark cherry, finishing in vanilla and cocoa nibs. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

90 Raymond 2018 Reserve Selection Merlot (Napa Valley). With a brawny nose of tobacco, nutmeg and blueberry, this soft, flavorful wine offers good value and approachability, adorned with a velvet label as smooth as its texture. It finishes in rich notes of baking spice and vanilla. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

90 Rincon Mountain 2018 Estate Merlot (Paso Robles). Dark-cherry and pleasant cigar-box aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a strong sandalwood and incense kick to the palate, which sits atop a tightly woven cherry and berry core. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% Price: \$48

90 Sutro 2018 Warnecke Ranch Merlot (Alexander Valley). This tiny-production wine from the producer's estate is given time in both neutral Hungarian and French oak. It opens in high-toned, tart red fruit, leading to plush, caramelized layers of rich spice and vanilla, the tannins well integrated and smooth. —V.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

89 J. Lohr 2019 Los Osos Merlot (Paso Robles). This is a fresh style of Merlot, and super-affordable. Bright red-cherry, purple-flower and fresh herb aromas lead into a juicy palate with just

enough texture to hold up the black-cherry and root-beer-spice flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

88 Ehlers Estate 2018 Merlot (St. Helena). This wine is thick and robust in tannin, concentrated in dense flavors of dark berry, plum and toasted oak. Earthy cedar and tobacco elements contribute additional varietal intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

88 Folie à Deux 2018 Merlot (Alexander Valley). This is a soft, plush wine with managed tannins that allows plenty of room to develop flavors of rich red plum and berry. With accents of cedar and dried herb it shows varietal flair, finishing in vanilla and toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$20

88 Martin Ranch 2018 JD Hurley Merlot (Santa Clara Valley). Smoked meat and woody cherry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The wood spice is powerful on the palate but well placed, with cranberry-sauce and orange-rind flavors benefiting from the incense touch. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$26

88 Rombauer 2018 Proprietor Selection Merlot (Napa Valley). Baking spice, leather and pipe tobacco play around the edges of this simple, full-bodied wine, blended with small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. The oak is American, 74% of it new, which adds a lush softness to the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

87 McClain Cellars 2018 Purpose Road Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Cherry juice and toasty oak aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There are intriguing herbs on the lightly bodied palate, which also offers a cherry-juice core. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$58

86 Acri Wine Company 2019 Merlot (Los Angeles County). This is a tart bottling with lots of red-plum-skin aromas and a hint of vinegar. The palate is energetic with bay leaf and herb flavors, though the acetic edges are overwhelming. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$39

84 Vokel 2018 Foreman Lane Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). Quite plummy, syrupy and ripe, this wine presents as unbalanced, offering an abundance of sweet fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$75

82 Ca' Momi 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley). Reductive, flat and somewhat sour on the palate, there is not much to recommend about this wine, which offers diluted layers of dark fruit and oak. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$20

GRENACHE

96 Clementine Carter 2019 West End Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Deliciously lively aromas of black raspberry, rosewater, light tarragon and lavender show on the nose of this bottling, which comes from the new Christy & Wise Vineyard that sits west of the already coastal Sta. Rita Hills. There's a great grip to the sip, where the floral flavors give delightful depth to the dark yet not overly ripe fruit at the core. White-peppercorn spice lifts the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$49

95 Booker 2019 Ripper Grenache (Paso Robles). There's a firm snap of tart plum that kicks off the nose of this bottling, followed by more lush aromas of cardamom, char and black pepper. Very chalky tannins frame this young wine, offering roasted plum, cracked pepper and dried red- and purple-flower flavors. There is much more cohesion and elegance to come, so drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$85

93 Amor Fati 2019 Murmur Vineyard Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$60

93 Future Perfect 2019 Portico Hills Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$45

93 McPrice Myers 2019 Sel de la Terre Grenache (Paso Robles). A cohesive nose on this bottling showcases aromas of dark cherry, dark wood, incense and cured meats. The palate is ripe and dense yet remains quite pleasant, offering black-cherry, boysenberry and dark-purple-flower flavors, with a pinch of pepper toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$50

92 Skinner 2019 Grenache (El Dorado). Vivid, sunbaked fruit flavors and a great structure of moderate acidity and tannins balance this wine out beautifully on a high level. Blackberry and raspberry notes mingle with hints of cedar, clove and black pepper for a tasty complexity. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

91 Edio 2019 Estate Grown Grenache (El Dorado). For a grape variety that tends to make broad, superfruity wines, this one is comparatively lean and enticingly savory, offering flint, black-pepper and grilled herb nuances on top of light red-berry fruit. Light tannins and good acidity give it great balance, too. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$38

90 Lava Vine 2016 Mangels Vineyard Grenache (Suisun Valley). Warm, generous plum flavors meet subtle spices, a full body and soft tannins in this rich and inviting wine. Plums, mulled cher-

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ries and a hint of strawberries are accented lightly with cinnamon and vanilla. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

89 Byron Blatty 2017 Vice Grenache (Los Angeles County). Dark aromas of kirsch, root beer, cola and ample oak show on the nose of this bottling, which includes 10% Syrah and spent 33 months in barrel. There's a hint of tannins that smooth out quickly on the sip, offering cherry-syrup and cola-candy flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$37

88 Bethel Road 2018 Whale Rock Vineyard Grenache (Templeton Gap District). Condensed aromas of candied black cherry, caramel sauce and heaps of baking spice make for a rich entry to this bottling. The barrel spice overwhelms the palate, from cedar to cardamom. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$36

88 Lava Vine 2016 The Poor Ranch Grenache (Mendocino). A leafy aroma of wild berry bushes leads to dried-fruit flavors, moderate tannins and a full body in this rather rustic and complex wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

88 Oakdale Road 2019 Reserve Garnacha (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Focused cherry aromas are amplified by wood spice on the straightforward nose of this bottling. There's decent texture on the palate, where dark rose-petal and simple berry flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

88 Sipwell 2020 That's the Jam Grenache (Templeton Gap District). Lively mesquite and cherry aromas leap out of the glass on this canned wine, which shows a lot of oak influence. Ripe, juicy cherry flavors dominate the sip, with hints of star anise and vanilla. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$8/250 ml

88 V. Sattui 2018 Grenache (Napa Valley). Rich and deeply fruity, this is a soft, rounded and straightforward interpretation of the variety, blended with 9% Syrah. Strawberry jam comes most to mind. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$37

84 Sierra Vista 2018 Grenache (El Dorado). This full-bodied and mature-tasting wine offers abundant tawny Port and dried fruit aromas, a soft, broad mouthfeel and rather buttery, sunbaked flavors. (Tasted twice, consistent) —J.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$28

SYRAH

95 Booker 2019 Fracture Syrah (Paso Robles). Intensely dense aromas of black currant, elderberry, asphalt and charred meats show on the nose of this bottling. The palate's savory flavors range from dried meat to dark cocoa, with high

acid pumping through those intense berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$98

95 Caliza 2018 Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Very dense and dark in the glass, this bottling begins with brooding aroma of dark fruit and dried meats, growing even more savory into stewed meats as the wine breathes. It's well structured and acid-powered on the palate, as tense tannins properly frame this big and booming style of wine, which offers cassis and pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Stringer 2018 Syrah (Ballard Canyon). This Ballard Canyon bottling by a winery based in Napa is golden on many levels. Dark in the glass, it shows aromas of raw meat, dark berry, complex herbs and chai spice. The palate is wrapped in a finely chiseled tension that unleashes waves of bright purple-fruit and flower flavors as well as peppercorn dust and dark cocoa. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$37

95 Xygyny 2018 Forutan Vind La Montanita Vineyard Syrah (Central Coast). Lively and crystalline lines of violet, lavender and white pepper meet with fresh black raspberry on this very pure and clean expression of Syrah. It's equally exuberant on the palate, with floral flavors and peppery spices wrapped up in harmonious ways, with nothing sticking out. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

94 Amor Fati 2019 Murmur Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

94 Caliza 2018 Reserve Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For a wine that spent 18 months in new French oak, the nose is mellow at first on this bottling, showing loam and light wood, before richer tones of plum jam, mace, lavender and raw meat come through. The palate lands with a viscosity that's impressively comforting, carrying cassis, toasty oak and light caramel flavors across a firm structure. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Justin 2018 Focus Syrah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 5.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$110

93 Cass 2017 Backbone Syrah (Paso Robles). Roasted strawberry is spiced up by mace and cardamom on the nose of this bottling, which also offers a savory side of smoked meat. Those smoke elements waft through the palate, where roasted fruit, seasoning salt and cracked pepper flavors make for the perfect barbecue wines. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

93 Joyce 2019 Tondre Grapefield Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). Slightly reductive aromas of tar and asphalt give way to warmer hints of wood

and roasted plums on the nose of this bottling—one of the few Syrahs from the appellation. The savory style shows more proudly on the palate, where cracked black-pepper and vibrant açai flavors jump in line as well. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$35

93 Lucia 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Paix Sur Terre 2019 Either Side of the Hill Glenrose Vineyard Syrah (Adelaida District). There's a compelling cohesion of caramel and baked blackberry pie on the nose of this rich Syrah, bolstered by inviting hints of warm crust and milk chocolate. The palate is very accessible and delicious, with lots of easy-to-enjoy vanilla, caramel and roasted black-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58

93 Peake Ranch 2019 John Sebastiano Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark-plum and boysen berry aromas are lifted by licorice and made savory with dried meat on the nose of this bottling. The palate is full bodied in berry fruit and pie spice, but with pretty floral edges. Needs a tad of mellowing. Drink 2022–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

93 Scott Harvey 2019 Mountain Selection Syrah (Amador County). This bold, potent and generous wine offers a nice contrast between green- and black-pepper notes and deep black-fruit flavors, all braced by firm tannins yet with enough fruit concentration for good balance. Best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$29

93 TH Estate 2018 L'Envol Syrah (Central Coast). Baked black-plum-pudding, blueberry and vanilla aromas are spiced by mesquite, hickory and iodine on the complex and rich nose of this blend of the TH, Bassetti and Kimsey vineyards. The palate is hefty yet bright, with blueberry-sorbet and light tar flavors wrapped in a tense frame. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$80

92 Edna Valley Vineyard 2017 Reserve Syrah (Edna Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

92 Lava Vine 2016 The Poor Ranch Syrah (Mendocino). Deep, concentrated and firmly tannic, this young and tightly wound wine will need time to show its best side. Dark-cherry and blueberry aromas meet dark-chocolate and woodsmoke flavors on a full body. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Marietta Cellars 2018 Gibson Block Estate Grown Syrah (McDowell Valley). This full-bodied and tannic wine holds its concentrated black-fruit and dark chocolate flavors rather tightly, waiting for a great pairing with a grilled steak or chop. Black cherries, blueberries, woodsmoke and

beef jus nuances give it plenty to savor. Best from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$42

92 **Piazza Family 2018 Bella Vista Vineyard Reserve Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Gamy and leathery aromas of raw lamb and blood meet with roasted wood and dark berry on the nose of this rich reserve bottling. Smoked meat flavors are woven through the roasted berry, cherry and fig elements of the palate, which finishes on a licorice and cocoa-pudding kick. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% Price: \$75

92 **Rincon Mountain 2018 Estate Syrah (Paso Robles).** Aromas of black plum, elderberry, wisteria and grape Jolly Rancher show on the nose of this two-barrel bottling. The palate is packed with violet and lavender flavors as well as hints of fennel pollen and dark cassis. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% Price: \$58

92 **Robert Renzoni 2017 Riserva Don Fernando Vineyard Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Punchy red-fruit aromas meet with melted caramel, graham cracker and oak spice on the nose of this reserve bottling. Pleasantly polished tannins frame cinnamon, red fruit and lingering wood-spice flavors: a very drinkable expression. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$76

92 **Zaca Mesa 2018 Chapel G Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Crisp aromas of violet and fresh cassis are spiced by white pepper on the nose of this bottling. It's quite light on its feet, with more of those purple-fruit and flower flavors, riding an acidity that keeps everything fresh. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$48

91 **Byron Blatty 2018 Agenda Syrah (Los Angeles County).** This bottling, which includes 9% Tannat, offers smoky aromas of baked red fruit and caramel on the inviting nose. Dark berry and cherry are sprinkled with ample baking spices on the ripe and rich sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% Price: \$50

91 **Martin Ranch 2018 Dos Ninas Vineyard Therese Vineyards Syrah (Santa Clara Valley).** Savory aromas of black olive, beef jerky and dried tarragon meet with elderberry and baked plum on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. There's a solid cracked pepper flash to the sip, where damp wood and dark elderberry flavors hang from a chalky frame. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$32

91 **Miner 2018 Syrah (Napa Valley).** Blended with 15% Mourvèdre, this bold, burly red is tangy in blueberry fruit, with brooding undertones of wood, cigar and wild game. Black pepper and leather build on the concentrated core of the wine, built with substantial tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$50

91 **Sunstone 2019 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is rather light in the glass and a playfully

fresh style of Syrah. Aromas of red currant, raspberry, pepper and tar lead into a delicately nuanced palate of white pepper, cranberry and pomegranate. It is easy to enjoy. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

91 **Zanoli 2018 Glenrose & Colburn Vineyard Syrah (Adelaida District).** With 20% Grenache and 5% Mourvèdre, this Syrah is lighter in the glass, and full of zippy aromas of black raspberry, herb and mulling spices. Thyme, marjoram and fennel-pollen elements give an herbal kick to the boysenberry-pie and cardamom spices on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$52

90 **Ampelos 2017 Ampelos Vineyard Gamma Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** This wine spent three years barrel-aging, and tastes well resolved and integrated. Blue fruit, sage and tree bark accentuate a high-toned center of acid-driven structure and length, the undertones bright in citrus as a hint of cigar box wafts in. —V.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

90 **Byron Blatty 2017 Versa Syrah (Los Angeles County).** Violet and lilac meet with tart dark fruits on the nose of this bottling, which includes 10% Grenache. Fresh flavors of purple flower, berry and plum show on the sip, which is dusted in white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$37

90 **Destinata 2020 Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$29

89 **J. Lohr 2019 South Ridge Syrah (Paso Robles).** Smoke, blackberry sauce and white-pepper aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is medium weight, with black currant, tar and purple-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$15

89 **Le Vigne 2018 Di Domenico Syrah (Paso Robles).** Dark-plum, mint and purple-flower aromas make for a cohesive nose on this bottling. There is a pleasantly grippy, acid-driven texture to the sip, where tart black-fruit and purple-flower flavors are spiced by cracker pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$40

88 **Amista 2017 Morningsong Vineyards Syrah (Dry Creek Valley).** This is a meaty, substantial wine, brambly and brooding in blackberry, black cherry and brown sugar. The palate is dense and chewy in tannin, with a lasting hint of black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$42

87 **Bocce Ball 2017 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dried fruit and clove aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There are prune-like flavors on the sip, bolstered by mace and nutmeg spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$26

86 **V. Sattui 2018 Syrah (Napa Valley).** Reductive, this wine is a mix of full-bodied baked plum, iron and oaky leather. The fruit is diluted vis-à-vis the substantial tannin, showing grip over grace. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$42

MOURVÈDRE

96 **Paix Sur Terre 2019 Comes a Time Alta Colina Vineyard Mourvèdre (Adelaida District).** This bottling is screaming evidence that Mourvèdre can be made into a very serious, elegant and intellectual wine. Aromas of black cherry, kirsch, leather and roasted meat prove both savory and fruitful. The palate is thick in texture yet bolstered with acidity, offering dark-berry and vanilla flavors, much like a polished, Old World classic. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$58

94 **Paix Sur Terre 2019 The Other One Glenrose Vineyard Mourvèdre (Adelaida District).** Baked red-cherry, loamy earth, red-flower and cocoa aromas make for a cohesive and compelling nose on this bottling by Ryan Pease, arguably the region's Mourvèdre master. Fresh red-berry, light lilac and dark rose-petal flavors play on the palate, which is wrapped in impressively textural layers. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$58

93 **Clementine Carter 2019 Mourvèdre (Santa Barbara County).** Pleasant aromas of dried cherry, crumpled lilac and a hint of leather show on the rustic nose of this bottling. There's a grippy texture to the palate, where dark-cranberry flavors play against purple flowers, nutmeg and star anise. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$48

93 **Paix Sur Terre 2019 Been Away Too Long Denner Vineyard Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** When focusing on a specific grape like Mourvèdre, it can be challenging to present different expressions. Winemaker Ryan Pease offsets his more regal bottlings with a fresh style here, starting with aromas of black raspberry, rosewater and wet stone on the nose. The palate is almost Grenache-like, with punchy flavors of rosewater, violets, white pepper and plum. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$58

92 **Cass 2019 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles).** This is a large production of Mourvèdre, meaning that it may be many people's first taste of the grape, and it's a solid, spicy start. Aromas of candied Bing cherry, cinnamon, sumac and mace on the nose lead into a palate of rich black and red fruits and loads of barrel spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$48

92 **Skinner 2019 Mourvèdre (El Dorado).** This handsomely oaked wine sprinkles ginger, cinnamon and clove over ripe and vibrant black-cherry flavors that are wrapped in moderate tannins for a grippy mouthfeel. Tempting now for its warm

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spices and deep fruit, it will be best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Zanolì 2019 Glenrose Vineyard Row X Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Fresh aromas of black plum, smashed berry and a hint of bubblegum meet with crushed asphalt on the complex nose of this bottling. It's fresh on the palate as well, with boysenberry and fennel-pollen flavors, yet retains that earthy core of the grape. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

91 Big Basin 2019 Rodnick Farm Vineyard Old Vine Mourvèdre (Chalone). From 33-year-old vines planted at 1,600-feet, this lightly colored bottling is loaded with dried herb and bay leaf aromas as well as a rustic and tangy cranberry tone. The palate balances that tart red fruit with graphite, peppercorn and more herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

CARIGNAN

92 Kaleidos 2016 Carignan (Templeton Gap District). This bottling is still very fresh five years in, starting with aromas of juicy strawberry and savory tar. Earthy flavors of turned loam and lava rock meet with dark, intense and concentrated purple-fruit and lavender flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Meeker 2018 Venturi Vineyard Carignane (Mendocino). This deep and concentrated wine has been well tempered by oak aging, wrapping fine-grained tannins around cedar, tobacco, leather and black-cherry flavors. It is complex, mature but still vibrant on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

88 Bethel Road 2017 Whale Rock Vineyard Carignane (Templeton Gap District). Ripe black-cherry aromas meet with hickory smoke, baked licorice and roasted fig on the nose of this bottling. There is some tension on the sip, giving some depth to the caramelized cherries and prune flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

TANNAT

91 Blatty Cellars 2018 Tannat (California). Dark aromas of black plum and licorice show on the rich nose of this bottling. There's a hearty, rustic mouthfeel on the sip, which is loaded with dark-plum, clove and star anise flavors, as acidity pumps into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$45

91 Midnight 2018 Titan Tannat (Paso Robles). Dusty aromas of licorice and clove waft over the dark fruit at the core of the nose on this bottling. It lands with a ripe entry to the palate, where

roasted plum, star anise and more clove flavors ride into an acidic finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$49

88 Europa Village 2017 Bolero Bella Collina Vineyard Tannat (Paso Robles). Fairly subtle on the nose, this bottling offers clove, cardamom and star anise spice against the prune aromas. The extraction is apparent on the palate, where more plum flavors met with *li hing mui* powder and licorice spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

TEMPRANILLO

94 Booker 2019 Tempranillo (Paso Robles). Dark and rich yet expertly clean aromas of roasted boysenberry and charcoal kick off the nose of this bottling. Roasted meat and grilled berry flavors are wrapped in somewhat gritty tannins on the sip, which is impressively weighted with an enveloping mouthfeel. Needs a tad more time. Drink 2022–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Rincon Mountain 2018 Estate Tempranillo (Paso Robles). Elderberry-jam, açai and lavender aromas meet with hints of savory meat on the nose of this bottling. Focused flavors of strawberry and rose are lifted by a salt-and-pepper spice pairing on the palate, which lead into a very long finish. It's complex without being heavy. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$42

93 St. Amant 2019 The Road Less Traveled Tempranillo (Amador County). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Croma Vera 2020 Joven Tempranillo (Paso Robles). This brand is having fun with Tempranillo in this bottling, which begins with fresh and floral aromas of purple flowers, light raspberry and cracked pepper on the nose. There's a charcoal and smoke aspect to the palate, but it is more driven by rosewater and plum, with a hint of that bubblegum that often comes with carbonic fermentation. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$25

91 Morgan 2019 Tempranillo (Arroyo Seco). Cooler climate Tempranillos are hard to come by in California, but this is a strong case for making more. Light in the glass, the wine kicks off with fresh aromas of tart cherry, wet soil, chiseled stone and a hint of pepper on the nose. There are ripe and fun strawberry and plum flavors on the sip, as well as an ashy minerality of white rock. It's easy to enjoy, without so much oak baggage. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Bethel Road 2017 Whale Rock Vineyard Tempranillo (Templeton Gap District). Deep and dark aromas of blackberry and prune meet with molasses, brown sugar and caramel on the nose of this bottling. It's unctuous on the palate, where

hedonistic layers of vanilla, caramel and berry are framed by biting tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

85 Frey 2019 Biodynamic Tempranillo (Mendocino). This bold, smoky and firmly tannic wine offers heady aromas of rubber tire and grilled plums followed by rather deep black-cherry and woodsmoke flavors. No added sulfites. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$20

ZINFANDEL

94 Jeff Cohn 2018 Iron Hill Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). From organically farmed grapes, and 20% whole-cluster fermented, this red opens in inviting aromas of rose petal and lavender before showing a wealth of baking spice and white pepper. Luxurious black fruit coats the palate, grippy in youthful tannin and leathery intensity. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

94 Jeff Cohn 2018 Rossi Ranch Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). From organically grown grapes, this red is sumptuous in black fruit and tannin, with a supporting cast of toasted oak and powerful intensity. Spicy, textured and complex, it delivers a packed punch of flavor and earthy deliciousness. —V.B.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$55

94 Jeff Cohn 2018 Sweetwater Springs Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Opening in spicy white pepper and lavender, this wine flies an impressive flag for the variety in this appellation—an increasing rarity in fact. Rich as blackberry cobbler, it offers enduring baking spice and a velvety smooth texture that's hard to resist in its overt exuberance of full-throttled flavor. —V.B.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$55

94 Rockpile Winery 2019 Uncle's Block Zinfandel (Rockpile). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.75% **Price:** \$50

94 Saucelito Canyon 2019 1880 Old Vine Zinfandel (Arroyo Grande Valley). This bottling comes from vines planted in 1880, and is a resounding testament to the glories of old-vine Zinfandel. Focused aromas of dark berry, graphite, crushed rocks, sagebrush and a hint of game transport the nose to this rugged site. A stony structure and ample acidity frame the sip in brilliantly rigid ways, trapping the juicy berry flavors in tune with the chaparral spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

93 Jeff Cohn 2018 St. Peter's Church Vineyard Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Turned earth, vanilla and dark cherry adorn a fresh, fruity and full-bodied core of big, ripe flavor and tannin in this vineyard-designate, a wine the producer has made since 1996. A light topping of dust and baking spice season generous oak and weighty complexity. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Heritage Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

92 Lady of the Sunshine 2020 Narrow Gate Vineyard Primitivo (El Dorado). Completely different than most any other Zinfandels, this bottling snaps on the nose with pomegranate and raspberry aromas as well as brushes of earth and wet cement. There's a light pine and incense kick to the palate, which is loaded with uplifting raspberry, tarragon and rosewater flavors. —M.K.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$36

92 Martinelli 2018 Vigneto di Evo Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Despite its considerable weight and ripeness, this estate-grown wine shows a hint of brightness beneath its layers of dense blackberry and dark cherry. Leather, black pepper and a hint of dried herb accent it well, leading to an oak-spiced finish of lengthy proportion. —V.B.
abv: 16.1% Price: \$40

92 Saucelito Canyon 2019 Estate Zinfandel (Arroyo Grande Valley). Earthy aromas of turned loam and asphalt give depth to the baked strawberry at the core of the nose of this bottling from the historic estate. It's dry on the palate yet lively with bright red fruit and even peach flavors, remaining light and refreshing into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

92 Xygyny 2018 Why We Came Zinfandel (Templeton Gap District). Plum and sagebrush aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which was grown just across the creek from downtown Templeton. There are rustic herbal tones to the sip, yet it still features plush strawberry-sauce and cinnamon-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$50

91 Bartholomew Estate 2019 Garden Block Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Old-vine aromatics of dust and leather dot a landscape of bold, richly layered berry fruit in this full-bodied, softly concentrated wine. Meaty tannins present as soft and seamless, emphasizing concentration and dense style. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$45

91 Bethel Road 2017 Whale Rock Vineyard Primitivo (Templeton Gap District). Cola and root-beer aromas meet with black-plum extract on the nose of this rich bottling. The palate is also thick with vanilla and chai spices, giving complexity to the black-cherry core, with waves of sea-salt caramel toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% Price: \$40

91 J.C. Winemaker 2018 Everybody Zins Vista Luna Vineyards Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$25

91 Jeff Cohn 2018 Maggie's Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). With a small percentage of whole-cluster fermentation, this hearty red offers notes of dried fruit, cranberry and currant, the French oak substantial and well integrated. Lavender and tobacco provide floral earthiness around a smooth, crisp finish. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$55

91 Kennedy Family 2017 Vite Vecchio Centannin Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). From an estate-grown site with dry-farmed, head-pruned older vines, this red is tangy in red fruit—a burst of citrus and oak. Offering grip and length, it has baking-spice and tobacco characteristics that add to the complexity and compelling nature of the wine. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$30

91 Marietta Cellars 2019 Angeli Estate Grown Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). With a depth of fruit, cedar and dried herb, this is a thick, well-structured wine that delivers understated power and lasting elegance. Lushly textured, it offers length and breadth, with lasting notes of baking spice and black pepper. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$37

91 Omen 2018 Origins Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). This perfumed, full-bodied and well-built wine starts with aromas of cedar, toasted oak and wild berries, followed by rich and ripe blackberry and raspberry flavors that are generously spiced with clove, cedar and cinnamon from oak aging. —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$16

91 Peachy Canyon 2019 Especial Zinfandel (Adelaida District). Earthy elements of loamy soil are woven into the baked blackberry and caramel-dust aromas on the nose of this bottling. There's a ripe start to the palate of sweet berries, and then come waves of thyme and peppercorn and a scorched earth minerality. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$42

91 Venge 2019 Signal Fire Zinfandel (Calistoga). Made in a generous style from older vines, this wine is savory in barbecued meat and game, with a contrast of dark, baked plum. The oak is toasted and adds a touch of char around the intensely rich and velvety palate of cola and spice. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$50

90 Bartholomew Estate 2019 Estate Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Rustically earthy, integrated and bold in style, this estate-grown wine offers notes of blackberry, cola and graphite. Elements of cedar, pencil shaving and dried herb adorn it well, helping to temper the generously ripe style. —V.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$35

90 Bruliam 2019 Zinfandel (Rockpile). This is a jammy, rich wine that is cohesive and bursting in berry flavor. Secondary characteristics adorn the fruit, a mix of mineral, crushed herb

and stone, finding balance within the concentrated power and ripeness. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$55

90 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Dutton Ranch Morelli Lane Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). From an historic site along a ridge outside of Occidental, the vines dry-farmed and head-trained, this wine opens with an abundance of acidity and crunchy cherry and pomegranate. Underlying richness provides body weight and lush texture, with lasting components of dark chocolate and baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Eberle 2019 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). A light shade of red in the glass, this bottling from four vineyards begins with aromas of oregano, sage and thyme before the wild red-plum and dark-cherry scents arise. There's a leathery aspect to the sip, where earthy flavors of dried red fruit and herb make for a more delicate style of Zin. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$34

90 Marietta Cellars 2019 Román Estate Grown Zinfandel (North Coast). Brambly aromas, jammy fruit flavors and hints of chocolate and vanilla give this full-bodied wine plenty to like, while soft tannins keep it pretty gentle in texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$24

90 McPrice Myers 2019 Paper Street Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Extracted aromas of blackberry jam, wood spice and black cherry lead into the nose of this bottling. It's dark, rich and focused on the palate, where the dark-cherry core is wrapped in baking spices. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% Price: \$60

90 Peachy Canyon 2019 Willow Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This is a classic style of Paso Robles Zinfandel, starting with the hearty aromas of black cherry and caramel sauce on the nose. It's ripe and thick on the palate, where cassis and raisin flavors are lifted by baking spices. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$44

90 Peter Franus 2017 Brandlin Vineyard Zinfandel (Mount Veeder). From a high-elevation site with 10% Mourvèdre, Charbono and Carignan mixed in, this wine is earthy and sticky in tannin, with dense, velvety dark-cherry flavor that is powerfully concentrated. Accents of spice and oak liven the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$40

90 Quivira 2018 Anderson Ranch Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Reductive, earthy and tightly wound in its youth, this organically farmed wine is 100% varietal, big and brooding in style, with tart cranberry and cherry fruit. Throughout are complementary bursts of dried herb, cola and toasted oak, the tannins supple and supportive. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$50

90 Quivira 2018 Katz Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Made from 80% Zin and the

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remainder mixed blacks from an organically farmed, 1900-era field blend, this is a powerfully robust and tannic wine, with dense, chewy black fruit, leather and overtones of grilled meat. The oak is present, adding baking spice and cola. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

90 Rincon Mountain 2018 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Tea, incense, cola and mace aromas make for a heavily barrel-spiced nose on this bottling. Firm tannins frame the rich black-cherry-juice core of the sip, which is spiced up by nutmeg and wood spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$52

90 Rockpile Winery 2019 Fär Zinfandel (Rockpile). A thick, concentrated expression of plum and berry, this is a tannic, ripe wine with plenty of savory undertones of iron and oak. Cedar and tobacco add to the full-figured mix and grip, showing plenty of power. —V.B.
abv: 14.75% **Price:** \$50

90 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Selezione Susie Family Reserve Zinfandel (Santa Clara Valley). Dark strawberry and blackberry aromas are pumped up with anise spice on the nose of this bottling, which also includes 15% Petite Sirah and 5% Mataró. It's thick on the palate but also grippy in texture showing black-cherry, dark-berry and licorice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

89 Thacher 2018 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Dried herbs and dark-mahogany aromas play against the tart boysenberry element on the nose of this bottling. The dark wood spice is prominent on the sip as well, covering up most of the other fruit tones. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

88 Baca 2019 Cat's Cradle Zinfandel (Rockpile). Earthy in mushroom, meat and herb, this big, tannic wine is textured and savory in style, with elusive berry fruit and generous oak. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

88 Brutocao 2017 Contendo Vineyard Primitivo (Mendocino). Full bodied and nicely fruity, this firm-textured wine offers good blackberry and black-pepper flavors and moderate tannins for grip. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Martinelli 2019 Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Bursting in berries and sweet oak, this ultraripe wine is estate-grown and generously flavored in big, brooding fruit. Vanilla and cola elements accentuate the overall richness and density. —V.B.
abv: 16.3% **Price:** \$58

88 Purple Dragon 2018 Tres Ninos Zinfandel (Arroyo Grande Valley). Dark and ripe aromas of cherry, licorice and bourbon are powerful yet pleasant on the nose of this bottling. It's quite a

mouthful on the palate, booming with baked berry, vanilla, clove and caramel flavors. —M.K.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

88 Seghesio 2019 Cortina Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Textured, weighty and meaty, this is an intense wine, made in a brooding and dense style. Black-pepper, cola and iron notes contrast against succulent blackberry and cherry, with French and American oak integrated within. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$40

84 Seghesio 2019 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). This full-bodied wine, aged in both American and French oak, is densely syrupy and jammy on the palate, with sweet, intensely built tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$26

RED BLENDS

98 Joseph Phelps 2018 Insignia Estate Grown Red Wine (Napa Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$315

97 McPrice Myers 2019 Hommage a Stevan Lerner (Ballard Canyon). An ode to Ballard Canyon pioneer Stevan Lerner, this is a brilliant blend of 68% Syrah and 32% Grenache, combining the region's coolish climate ways with McPrice Myers' richer style. Focused, pure and penetrating aromas of boysenberry and moist soil lead into a vicious palate that coats the mouth in unparalleled ways with unwavering yet expertly ripe flavors of berry, violet and pepper. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$60

96 Booker 2019 Oublie (Paso Robles). The nose of this blend of 34% Grenache, 31% Syrah, 27% Mourvèdre, 4% Tannat and 4% Petite Sirah is wildly complex, running from boysenberry and black plum to packed lavender, black pepper and dried beef. The floral aspects fly higher on the palate, from elderflower to violet, combining a delicate aspect with black plum intensity. It will only get better for years. Drink now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

96 Booker 2019 Vertigo (Paso Robles). This powerfully savory blend of 48% Syrah, 47% Mourvèdre, 3% Grenache and 2% Viognier begins with aromas of pepper, thyme and dried sage that play against the black plum, elderberry, black olive and roasted meats on the nose. There's a charred meat flavor at the core of the palate, where blackberry also rides on integrated tannins that are both polished yet firm. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

96 Daou 2018 Micho (Paso Robles). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

95 McPrice Myers 2019 L'Ange Rouge (Santa Barbara County). Focused aromas of cherry

and blackberry meet with light cola on this fresh nose of this blend of 68% Grenache, 18% Syrah and 14% Mourvèdre. A tightly wound structure ensures a long life to come, allowing the dark boysenberry, licorice and crushed stone flavors to further align. Drink now through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$50

95 Paix Sur Terre 2019 The Golden Road Yankowski Vineyard (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Graciano showed up a mislabeled surprise in most California vineyards, and this blend with 40% Mourvèdre is a good example of how to use it. Dark in the glass, it begins on the nose with penetrating while dry aromas of boysenberry, black currant, violet and asphalt. The chiseled tannins are present but not intrusive on the palate, where the dark-fruit and flower elements meet with dark-chocolate notes. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$58

95 Sequoia Grove 2017 Cambium (Napa Valley). Juicy in red and black cherry, currant and cassis, this wine is impressive in length and tension, with a complex structure that suggests further aging potential. Dried herb, cedar and baking spice accent the fruit, softening its inherent intensity. Enjoy best from 2027 through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$NA

94 Bodega de Edgar 2018 E-Squared Kimsey Vineyard (Ballard Canyon). Rich and savory aromas of roasted black cherry, charred meats and pie spice converge on the nose of this blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Grenache from Ballard Canyon. A black-cherry-pie flavor centers the palate, with ample cinnamon, clove and roasted meat contributions, all framed by tense tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$58

94 McPrice Myers 2019 Altas Vinas (Santa Barbara County). Rich and ripe aromas of black cherry, sweet mesquite and caramel invite the nose into this blend of 66% Mourvèdre, 20% Syrah and 14% Grenache. The palate is stunningly dry, with tightly woven plum and cherry notes as well as a sizzling acidity, and then come the pepper and sandalwood elements. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$50

94 McPrice Myers 2019 Paper Street Vineyard Cuvée (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Concentrated aromas of blackberry, cocoa and caramel sauce make for a rich nose on this vineyard blend of 44% Syrah, 40% Grenache, 6% Petite Sirah, 6% Mourvèdre and 4% Graciano. Smoked meat, boysenberry-jam, elderberry and elderflower flavors show on the impressively weighted sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$60

94 Tooth & Nail 2019 The Fiend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

94 Westwood 2018 Legend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Caliza 2018 Companion Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Paso Robles). Almost opaque in the glass, this blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and 48% Syrah is intense with aromas of focused blackberry, smoked meat, teriyaki and all manners of umami. It's thick and rich but quite dry on the palate, where black-cherry, violet-candy, caramel and nutmeg aromas coalesce. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

93 Edna Valley Vineyard 2017 Winemaker Series Meritage (Paso Robles). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Gainey 2018 Patrick's Vineyard Selection (Santa Ynez Valley). Candied berry, elegant violet and dark wood aromas make a harmonious combination on the nose of this blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, which is only produced in special vintages. The medium-bodied palate recalls blackberry jam on toast, with cocoa-spiced graham cracker and light thyme flavors also in play. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

93 Peachy Canyon 2019 The Odd One (Adelaida District). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

93 Peake Ranch 2019 Bellis Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark aromas of boysenberry jam and lavender are clean and rich on the floral nose of this blend of mostly Grenache and Syrah, with an unusual splash of Pinot Noir. The palate is more tightly composed, with elegant purple-flower and berry-sorbet flavors that are wrapped in chalky tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Piazza Family 2018 Nancy's Cuvée Bella Vista Vineyard Syrah-Graciano (Ballard Canyon). This is a smart split of Graciano and Syrah, done in a lighter style. Aromas of bright lilac and black-raspberry gelato meet with tar and cracked pepper on the nose. The palate shows the cool-climate aspects even more, offering green peppercorn, lavender bud and light purple-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$42

93 Thacher 2017 New Routine (Central Coast). There's a seamless cohesion of the 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Syrah in this bottling, starting with aromas of dark blackberry, salted meat and cardamom crackers on the nose. The texture is hearty, rich and ripe, yet balanced with flavors of blueberry, chai and dried meat. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

93 Tooth & Nail 2018 The Stand (Paso Robles). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

93 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2018 Terzetto (Napa Valley). A cofermented blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, this wine shows a wealth of dense red fruit,

leather and violet. Balanced and complex in structure and fine tannin, it was given 22 months in French oak, 60% of it new, with the fruit organically grown from the producer's Chiles Valley estate. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80

93 Westwood 2018 Twenty-One Annadel Gap Vineyard (Sonoma Valley). A proprietary blend of unknown grapes, this wine is meaty and barnyardy in style, suggesting Syrah and Grenache, as well as Mourvèdre. White pepper, lavender and game combine around a dense midpalate of powerful elegance and full-bodied intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$105

92 Bella Grace 2017 Montagnaro (Amador County). Complex, spicy and mature in flavors, this layered 50-50 blend of Zinfandel and Barbera starts with cedar, tobacco and leather aromas followed by mulled berries, clove and black pepper that leave a lingering finish. It's a sort of brooding, mellow wine that will taste great with a roast bird on a chilly evening. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Bogle 2018 Phantom (California). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

92 Caliza 2017 Cohort (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Tart purple-fruit aromas meet with lilac on the nose of this Petite Sirah-led blend, which also includes 28% Syrah and 14% Mourvèdre. It's quite dry on the palate, with roasted black-currant, singed violet and vanilla-spiked caramel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

92 Dubost 2017 Reserva (Paso Robles). Black tea, dusty strawberry, red-spice and sweet sandalwood aromas show on the nose of this blend of 60% Syrah, 30% Grenache and 10% Sangiovese. The palate is dark, refined and cohesive, combining rustic red fruit with mace spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$55

92 J. Lohr 2017 Cuvée St. E (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

92 McPrice Myers 2019 Fait Accompli (Paso Robles). Deep, dark and brooding aromas of black currant and violet are heavy on the nose of this blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Syrah and 8% Petit Verdot. It's thick but with soft tannins on the palate, where purple-flower and dark red-fruit flavors meet with cinnamon spice in the concentrated finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$50

92 Michael David 2019 Freakshow Red (Lodi). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

92 Robert Renzoni 2017 Fiore di Fano Red Wine (Temecula Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 TH Estate 2018 The 46 Reserve (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Focused aromas of black cherry, star anise and mace strike the nose on this blend of 47% Syrah, 42% Grenache and 11% Mourvèdre. There's a firm texture to the palate, where mace and more licorice-like barrel spice lifts the mulberry and fig flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$88

92 Thacher 2017 Original Copy (Adelaida District). Blackberry paste, soy sauce, light shiitake and a hint of wood aromas show on the nose of this blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Petit Verdot and 25% Malbec. The palate is cohesive in flavors, offering dark fruit offset by wood spice, with well-primed acidity and dried herb elements in the background. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

92 Tooth & Nail 2019 El Valiente (California). Very accessible aromas of berry juice and anise show easily on the nose of this blend of 64% Tempranillo, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Syrah. The tannins are soft on the sip at first but stiffen up just enough to hold the baked strawberry, mint and licorice flavors together into a smoky finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$70

91 Caliza 2018 End of the Day Red Cuvée (Paso Robles). This perfectly named red blend is an affordable way to end the day. The nose kicks off with red cherry, minty strawberry, wet asphalt and a hint of game. It's lively on the palate with red currant and brisk cinnamon spice, proving acid-driven and easy to quaff. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Comartin 2018 Cuvée Cassidy G-S-M (Santa Ynez Valley). Tart red-berry, mace and cardamom aromas show strongly on the nose of this blend of 50% Grenache, 35% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre. Those strong red-fruit and brown-spice flavors ride a resilient acidity on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$49

91 Dubost 2019 Auguste (Adelaida District). Dark-purple-flower, açai-fruit and light-caramel aromas show on the nose of this blend of 70% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre and 10% Grenache. There's a rich and oaky caramel aspect to the palate, but it works against the boisterous red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Harvey & Harriet 2019 Red (San Luis Obispo County). This is a study of darkness from the front to back. The wine begins with charred meat, packed violet, elderberry-paste and straight-up charcoal aromas on the nose. The palate pairs dried

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meat with black, almost bitter fruits, all clinging to a very firm structure. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

91 Le Vigne 2018 Cuore Della Vigna Red Wine (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Le Vigne 2018 Nikiara (Paso Robles). This blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 13% Petit Verdot and 10% Merlot is a lively, peppery and very quaffable wine. Light in the glass, black-raspberry and pepper aromas pop on the nose, while the palate's cracked green-peppercorn spice lifts the fresh red fruits. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

91 Lexington 2018 Apex Gist Ranch Estate (Santa Cruz Mountains). Blackberry, dried herb, black-pepper and loam aromas shine on the nose of this blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc and 2% Merlot. The palate is stiff in structure, with lava rock, light herb and dark-berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Marietta Cellars 2018 Christo Estate Grown (North Coast). This big, nicely dry and firm-textured wine supports deep blackberry, black-pepper and woodsmoke flavors with firm tannins and a full body. It's great to pair with a juicy chop or steak. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24

91 Midnight 2018 Capriccio Italien Reserve Red Wine (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

91 Neyers 2019 Sage Canyon Red Wine (California). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

91 Riley's Rows 2018 3x3 (North Coast). A light-hearted label leads to a sophisticated wine. A harmonious blend of cedar, clove, black-cherry and red-cherry flavors make this full-bodied and moderately tannic blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah almost irresistible. It is mouthfilling, slightly grippy, and has good length on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$34

91 Rincon Mountain 2018 Dusty Vinyl (Paso Robles). Tart black-raspberry aromas meet with touches of lavender on the nose of this blend of 38% Grenache, 33% Syrah and 29% Mourvèdre. The plum flavors are lifted by a dusting of peppercorn and hint of toasted sage on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Robert Renzoni 2017 1886 Liberta (Temecula Valley). This blend of Syrah plus three Bordeaux varieties kicks off with herbal aromas that wind through broad cherry, vanilla and star anise elements. The oregano and herb aspects fill out the

palate, which also offers red-cherry, cranberry and roasted wood flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Robert Renzoni 2017 Riserva Meritage (Temecula Valley). Tart red-plum aromas and fistfuls of herbs show on the nose of this bottling. There's a toasty graham cracker flavor to the sip, wrapping around the red-plum jelly, marjoram and roasted fennel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$72

91 Rowen Wine Co. 2017 600R (Sonoma County). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$150

91 Ruby Hill Winery 2019 Cuvée Dray (Livermore Valley). This deep and plush wine boasts sultry oak spices like cinnamon, vanilla and wood smoke that layer through very ripe and delicious black-fruit flavors. Its moderate tannins lend good counterpoint to all the mellow richness of the flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

91 Smith & Hook 2018 Proprietary Red Wine Blend (Central Coast). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

91 Sunstone 2019 Founder's Reserve (Santa Ynez Valley). Plush and punchy aromas of red currant meet with incense and thyme on the nose of this blend of 82% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc. It's lightly bodied on the easygoing palate in a pleasing manner, with dried strawberry, fruit-punch and light herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

91 Sunstone 2019 Rapsodie G-S-M (Santa Ynez Valley). Rustic and gamy aromas of dried meat converge with plum and dark strawberry on the nose of this blend of 59% Grenache, 29% Syrah and 12% Mourvèdre. The charcuterie touches expand through the palate, where dried strawberry and rooibos-tea flavors also arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

91 Terra d'Oro 2019 Amador (Amador County). Generously fruity and also firmly structured, this flavorful and moderately tannic blend of two Spanish grape varieties sports blackberry, blueberry and a bit of black olive on the palate. Its vivid fruitiness is more than enough to balance out the grippy texture, making it easy to enjoy as a medium-weight wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Toccata 2018 Riserva (Santa Barbara County). Dark-raspberry-sorbet, violet, lavender and geranium aromas meet with a touch of dried meat on the nose of this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Merlot, Freisa and Petit Verdot. The palate bounces from boysenberry jam to toasty brioche, with pinches of brown spice and a hint of herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

90 Andis 2019 Painted Fields Curse Of Knowledge (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

90 Eberle 2019 Cotes-du-Robles (Paso Robles). Elegant aromas of baked and blistered plums meet with savory salts and dried red fruit on the nose of this blend of 60% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 18% Mourvèdre and 2% Durif. The dusty palate combines dried cherry with lots of herbs and a brick-like minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

90 La Honda Winery 2019 Exponent Xy (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark cherry, light wood and a hint of licorice show on the nose of this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot and Sangiovese. The wood comes through more on the sip, with cedar, red-cherry and crumpled herb flavors making for a fine table wine. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$26

90 Porterhouse Winery 2018 Black Label Reserve (Santa Ynez Valley). Stewed red-fruit, vanilla, star anise and milk-chocolate aromas align on the nose of this bottling. Clove makes a showing on the sip, spicing up the dried red-fruit flavors at the core. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

89 Byron Blatty 2018 Evident Syrah-Petite Sirah (Los Angeles County). This is a big blend of 80% Syrah and 20% Petite Sirah soaked in a lot of oak. Toasty aromas of dried cherry and dark licorice lead into an oak-driven palate of caramel-sauce and blackberry-jam flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

89 End Of The Day 2018 ZM Cuvée (Paso Robles). Rustic aromas of baked cherry, tar and cracked pepper show on the nose of this blend. Juicy while tart red-cherry flavors are offset by oregano and cracked pepper on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$28

89 Marietta Cellars NV Old Vine Red Lot 72 (California). This smooth, jammy-tasting wine offers ample blackberry, black-plum and vanilla flavors while light tannins keep the texture soft. It shows good concentration and ripeness without overdoing the oak. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Post & Vine 2017 Testa Vineyard Old Vine Field Blend (Mendocino). Very firm in texture and potent in terms of black-fruit flavors, this full-bodied wine boasts noticeable tannin, focused black-cherry flavors and good balance for some aging. Best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

89 Rodrigue Molyneaux 2018 Electra (Livermore Valley). Generous helpings of blackberries and raspberries are well braced by light tannins in this tasty, lip-smacking, full-bodied wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Ruby Hill Winery 2019 Grapeful Red (Livermore Valley). Fresh and vivid raspberries and blackberries infuse this very full-bodied wine with a focused core of fruit flavor that matches perfectly its light tannins and good touch of acidity. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$18

89 Saucelito Canyon 2019 Sauvage (Arroyo Grande Valley). Tart red-fruit, dust and resinous herb aromas show on the nose of this blend of 67% Cabernet Franc and 33% Cabernet Sauvignon. There's a firm tannic tension to the palate, where a chalky structure holds up the blackberry-jam and carob flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

88 Ampelos 2017 Syrahe Ampelos Vineyard Syrah-Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). Light and brightly layered in red fruit, citrus and game, this combines 67% Syrah with 33% Grenache. Firm tannin provides structure and body to the wine. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

88 Clos LaChance 2019 22 Pirates (Central Coast). Aromas of strawberry and boysenberry sorbet are amplified by pinches of pepper and *li hing mui* powder on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite ripe and somewhat sweet with those rich red-fruit and red-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Europa Village 2017 C'est La Vie Grand Mélange (Temecula Valley). Herby aromas of dill, pencil shavings and wood spice meet with cherry liqueur on the nose of this blend of 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 24% Petit Verdot and 14% Malbec. The dill element is very strong on the palate, which also shows coffee-bean and extracted black-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

88 Hawk Watch Winery 2016 Cold Fusion (South Coast). Stewed cherries, fennel pollen and tarragon aromas show on the nose of his Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre blend. The minty, anise-like character goes through the red-fruit flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

88 Inkscape 2017 Red (Central Coast). A light shade of ruby in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of crushed rock, tar and dark berry. Dried meat and asphalt flavors play on the sip, alongside tart red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Omen 2019 Red (Sierra Foothills). Chocolate aromas and flavors ooze from this full-bodied, mouthfilling wine, layering over good plum and blackberry tones. Cocoa, vanilla bean and ultradark chocolate dominate the palate while mostly soft tannins keep the texture loose. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$20

88 Opolo 2018 Rhapsody (Paso Robles). Comforting and inviting aromas of smoked

meat, strawberry, cherry and graphite lure the nose into this bottling. The oak flavors are very strong on the palate, providing tons of smoke and a light herb dusting to the ripe berry and cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Pangloss Cellars 2018 Tenacity (Sonoma Valley). This wine is made from 57% Grenache, 40% Mourvèdre and 3% Syrah. Aged in neutral oak for 10 months, it offers a substantial core of peppery spice, dry tannin, oak and gamy meat, with a lasting finish of cigar. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

88 Taken Wine Co. 2018 Red (Napa Valley). Blending a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon with 15% Zinfandel, 11% Merlot, 7% Malbec and 2% Petite Sirah, this red is brawny, tannic and leathery, with plenty of power. Blackberry and cherry are lushly presented on the palate alongside dusty texture and earthy undertones. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

88 V. Sattui 2018 Entanglement G-S-M (Napa Valley). Blending 63% Grenache and 22% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre, according to the label, this offers a depth of blueberry fruit that is softly round and rich on the palate, with approachable, full-bodied style. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42

88 Vienza 2017 Vendetta (Temecula Valley). A light-brown shade of red in the glass, this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Merlot offers aromas of stewed fruit, caramel and toasted nuts. There is decent acidity on the palate, where roasted fennel and grilled plum flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$43

87 Bethel Road 2017 Ln. 2 (Templeton Gap District). This five-grape blend, led by 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, is very extracted, evident through the caramelized, oaky aromas of ripe black plum and blackberry on the nose. The caramel picks up vanilla on the palate, where acidity and tannins add substance to the cooked fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$45

87 Dubost NV Homestead (Paso Robles). Slightly sour cherry aromas meet with cola spice and nutmeg on the nose of this bottling. The tartness is very apparent on the sip, where those sour red-fruit flavors are enhanced by pinches of anise. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

86 Campos 2018 Lou Estate (Contra Costa County). This hearty, mature-tasting Zinfandel-based blend offers iron and leather aromas, cooked plum and brown-sugar flavors and a broad texture with light tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

86 Paraduxx 2017 Red (Atlas Peak). This Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon blend is oak and tannin-driven, with rustic red cherry and

baking spice accenting a thick, densely concentrated palate of boldness. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

86 Paraduxx 2017 Candlestick Blend (Napa Valley). Blending 60% Syrah and 40% Grenache, this wine is dry, tannic and earthy, with full-bodied intensity and substantial power. French oak plays a big part on the palate, adding baking spice and vanilla. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

85 Hayes Valley 2019 Meritage (Central Coast). Sour dried fruit and a slight acetic aroma show on the nose of this bottling. Oregano appears on the sip, but tart balsamic strawberry flavors are most prominent. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Malibu Rocky Oaks 2018 360 Degrees (Malibu Coast). Smoke, tart berry and primary fermentation aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Cinnamon-candy and strawberry flavors meet with green herbs on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

94 Scar of the Sea 2020 Topotero Vineyard Gamay (San Luis Obispo County). Transparent in the glass, this herby display of Gamay from a very coastal vineyard fascinates with aromatic layers of tarragon, forest floor, uncracked peppercorn and pine needle trampled into muddy soil on the nose. Tart berry and plum flavors pop on the sip, where green-sage and wild earth elements carry into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

93 Cavaletti 2019 Sangiovese (Los Olivos District). Focused aromas of black plum, dark cocoa, violet and crumpled herbs make for an elegant nose on this bottling, which also includes 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Tempranillo. Polished tannins frame the sip, where dark-berry, black-cardamom and nutmeg flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Clementine Carter 2019 Graciano (Santa Ynez Valley). Fresh aromas of açai and purple flowers gain complexity from game and black-pepper elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate is vibrant with vivid purple-fruit flavors and a lavender lift. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Joyce 2020 Gamay Noir (San Benito). Fresh raspberry, tarragon, white-pepper and mossy earth aromas show on this bottling by Russell Joyce. There's quite a bit of body on the palate, where a slightly viscous texture carries cherry, mint and lemon-verbena flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Robert Renzoni 2017 Estate Riserva Barbera (Temecula Valley). Lavish aromas of vanilla,

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clove and spice cake are rich while inviting on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm structure, which is required to hold up with baked strawberry, cherry and floral flavors that pick up star anise and nutmeg by the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$68

92 Europa Village 2017 Vienza Reserve Estate Barbera (Temecula Valley). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$70

92 Purple Dragon 2018 Tres Ninos Vineyard Petite Sirah (Arroyo Grande Valley). Focused aromas of black currant, elderflower and lilac are fruity and floral on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite focused and taut with hefty tannins, as star anise and licorice flavors pick up the dark-purple-fruit and flower elements. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$30

91 Barton 2019 Hot Blooded Glenrose Vineyard Counoise (Adelaida District). Only four barrels were made of this energetic and intriguing wine, which begins with snappy aromas of raspberry, crushed pepper and freshly laid pavement. There's a cement-like grip to the sip, showing its youth, with fresh fruit flavors of dark strawberry and ripe cherry. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

90 Meeker 2020 Hone #3-Hooky Dolcetto (Mendocino). Very fresh and overflowing with fruit flavors, this medium-bodied wine made by carbonic fermentation boasts raspberry, blackberry and wild sage aromas followed by tangy raspberry and cranberry flavors, all braced by lively acidity and light tannins. —J.G.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

90 Prima Materia 2019 Dolcetto (Kelsey Bench). This flavorful, smoky and moderately tannic wine offers black-pepper, bell-pepper and charred meat aromas backed by black-fruit flavors. It's lively, distinctive and offers a good change of pace from the usual French varieties. —J.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

86 Europa Village 2017 C'est la Vie Cinsault (Temecula Valley). Fennel frond and licorice aromas meet with nutmeg, red plum and red flowers on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite tart with plum-skin flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

SWEET MUSCAT

92 Xygyny NV The Way Love Is Black Muscat (Templeton Gap District). Elegant Port-like aromas of dried prune, fig, caramel and a hint of earth show on the nose of this bottling. The 10% residual sugar is apparent on the sip, but it's balanced by firm tannins and a great acidity that carries the black-cherry, nutmeg and caramel flavors. The alcohol and acid sear into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$35/375 ml

90 Castello di Amorosa 2019 Moscato Il Raggio Del Sole Muscat (Santa Barbara County).

Lovely aromas of guava, lime, orange blossom and botanical tincture show on the nose of this complex dessert bottling, which is worth a sip even for those that don't usually veer sweet. There's a slight spritz on the sip, where the orange-blossom flavor is central, riding through hints of gin and tonic. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$29

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

92 Alexana 2018 Signature Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). An interesting wine, this punches through with juicy bubblegum flavors and a hint of mint. It's powerfully fruity, leaning into tangy tropical flavors of papaya and guava. The acidity tightens it up just enough, and it should drink well over the next half decade. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Argyle 2019 Nuthouse Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This is toasty and tart, hitting the palate with a sappy and seductive mix of sweet lemon, tangerine and grapefruit flavors. The mix of acidity and buttery toast from 18 months in 30% new French oak is lively and invigorating. Delicious already, this should age nicely over the next half decade. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Stoller 2020 Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This is strikingly crisp, fresh, juicy and loaded with tart lemon, orange and grapefruit flavors. It's high in acidity but in the best possible way, washing over the palate with generous fruit and cleansing minerality. It was fermented in stainless steel, with a small proportion in concrete. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

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

92 Stoller 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This estate grown barrel and block selection deftly mixes the lively acidity of the citrus and apple flavored fruit with a leavening influence from aging in 20% new oak. It has been smoothed out a bit and is beginning to show highlights of toast, butter, hazelnuts and caramel. Another couple of years of bottle age is recommended. —P.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Chehalem 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Stoller estate fruit is sourced for this reserve, which was fermented in French oak barrels, 30% new. A toasty nose leads into a full-flavored palate with apple fruit, pear skin and a touch of citrus. As the wine ages a bit further the oak influence should moderate. Drink 2022–2027. —P.G.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$40

PINOT GRIS

92 Archery Summit 2019 Vireton Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This stainless-steel fermented Pinot Gris is loaded with rich and sappy flavors of ripe melon, guava and peach. It has plentiful acidity to keep it lifted and bright, and the power through the finish is exceptional. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

92 Soléna 2020 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Fresh and nicely textured, this tastes of pears and honeydew, with a pleasing florality (okay, maybe it's not a real word, but it should be!). Underscored with a gently crunchy mineral flavor, this is a beautifully balanced and refreshing style. Drink now and over the next three or four years. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

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

91 Alexana 2020 Terroir Series Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A sappy, luscious wine, this keeps the alcohol down and the flavors elevated. Bright, freshly cut Asian pear and golden apple are lightly accented with Mandarin orange. It's a lovely mix, with proportionate acidity. —P.G.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$32

91 Chehalem 2020 Pinot Gris (Chehalem Mountains). The latest vintage features plump pear fruit with a fleshy mouthfeel. There's a streak of vanilla bean and moderate acidity along with a twist of lime. Fermented entirely in stainless, this should be drinking well through 2026. —P.G.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Acrobat 2019 Pinot Gris (Oregon). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

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

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Willamette Valley Vineyards 2020 Riesling (Willamette Valley). This medium-sweet wine pays tribute to a style that seems to be vanishing from most "serious" portfolios in favor of the dry Rieslings that can often be more versatile with food. But in Oregon the natural acidity serves as a counterweight to the sugar, and though this reaches just 8.4% alcohol, it is fruity more than sugary, with plenty of snap and tang in the finish. Golden apples, golden raisins and a dash of molasses set up well against acid-driven flavors of Meyer lemons. *Best Buy.* —P.G.

abv: 8.4% **Price:** \$14

89 Faith Hope & Charity 2019 La Crescent (Oregon). La Crescent is an American hybrid grape developed in the late 1980s at the University of Minnesota's Horticultural Research Center. Popular in the Midwest but unique in the Northwest, it produces a high acid, low alcohol wine with attractive honey and floral characteristics. The palate brings in Meyer lemon, bee pollen, dried apricot and

golden apple flavors. This is a fascinating addition to the Oregon wine industry. —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

87 Faith Hope & Charity 2018 La Crosse (Oregon). A deep tawny gold, La Crosse is an American hybrid (part Seyval Blanc) found almost exclusively in the Midwest. It's got light dried apricot fruit flavors annotated with scents of honeysuckle and clover, though on the palate it's quite dry. The color suggests impending oxidation, so drink up. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

SPARKLING WINES

94 Argyle 2010 Extended Tirage Brut (Willamette Valley). Argyle is the leader in releasing traditionally made Oregon sparkling wines with extra time *en tirage*. Disgorged at 10 years of age, this blend of 55% Pinot Noir and 45% Chardonnay already shows exceptional complexity, which will only increase with further bottle age. Golden raisins, figs, hints of honey and a suggestion of creamy caramel are in play, yet the freshness of the wine is impressive. In order to benefit from the extended tirage, more bottle age is recommended. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Domaine Serene NV M.V.2 Fleur de Vie Demi-Sec Sparkling Wine (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$75

94 Domaine Serene NV M.V.3 Evenstad Reserve Brut Sparkling Wine (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$80

93 Domaine Serene NV M.V.2 Evenstad Reserve Brut Rosé (Dundee Hills). You'll find the M.V.2 designation on the neck label front and center. A pinkish copper with a fine bead, the Brut Rosé has just a touch more Pinot Noir than the Brut. It's more open and generous, with light scents of lavender and fruit flavors touching on berry and cherry along with plenty of citrus. Disgorged in summer 2020, it has had sufficient time to rest but will certainly drink well through the rest of the decade. —P.G.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$95

93 Lytle-Barnett 2015 Brut (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Soter 2017 Mineral Springs Brut Rosé (Yamhill-Carlton). The joy begins when you just look at the wine in the glass—it's a coppery cherry hue. It's scented with cherry blossoms, and cherry fruit flavors pop up throughout. The bead is fine and persistent, and the tastes linger generously through the finish. This should age nicely over the next decade, but it's already drinking well. The blend is

84% Pinot Noir and 16% Chardonnay sourced from the Mineral Springs Ranch estate. —P.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$65

92 Argyle 2017 Brut Rosé (Willamette Valley). This is an even mix of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier sourced from the Knudsen and Spirit Hill vineyards. A pale copper, it's got a fine bead and lovely aromas of truffle, toast and spice. The fruit brings pastry flavors of strawberries and cherries accented with a touch of brioche. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Cho 2015 Laurel Vineyard Blanc de Noirs (Laurelwood District). This single vineyard *méthode Champenoise* sparkling wine is an apricot gold and in a fine drinking window. It spent five years *en tirage* and was given just 3 g/L dosage. It's dry and nutty, with baked apple fruit and a touch of brioche. Drink now and over the next five years. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Lytle-Barnett 2016 Blanc de Blancs (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 12. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

92 Stoller NV Estate Brut (Dundee Hills). This nonvintage blend is principally Pinot Noir with 13% Chardonnay and 8% Pinot Meunier in the mix. Fermented and initially aged in neutral French oak, it's got a fine mousse and a medium straw hue. The style is very much *méthode Champenoise*, with crisp apple, celery and citrus flavors and just the lightest hint of toast. A fine effort, it should age gracefully over the next decade. —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

91 Argyle 2015 Spirit Hill Vineyard Blanc de Blancs (Eola-Amity Hills). This single vineyard, vintage-dated cuvée was fermented and aged in neutral barrels. Given the richness of the vintage overall, this has retained its vibrant acidity and remains fresh and even biting in the mouth. Clean and tight green apple fruit flavors along with lemon juice and rind suggest that this will age indefinitely. A bit of new barrel toast would be welcome, but take it as is for its power and zest. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Lytle-Barnett 2017 Blanc de Noirs (Eola-Amity Hills). Despite a relatively high dosage of 5 g/L, this feels quite dry and has a strong mineral component. Compact flavors of lemon skin and apple are crisp and sharp, with light hints of lemony herbs. It's steely and clean, more closely resembling a blanc de blancs than a standard blanc de noirs. —P.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

90 Chemistry NV Pinot Noir Rosé Bubble (Willamette Valley). Part of the Stoller Wine Group, the value brand Chemistry now includes a palate-pleasing rosé bubbly. Minty cherry fruit and lively acidity keep it fresh and clean. Nothing fancy

here, but a good, dry, crisp party wine it is for sure. *Editors' Choice*. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Cho 2020 Laurel Vineyard Pétillant-Naturel (Laurelwood District). Working with Pinot Noir from a single estate vineyard, this innovative young winery has produced six quite distinctive wines. One of three bubblys, this delicious pét-nat has a fine mousse, bright fruit flavors of blood orange, watermelon and strawberry, and a refreshing and lingering finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Lytle-Barnett 2016 Brut Rosé (Willamette Valley). Bottles vary from a deep coppery gold to a lighter coppery gold. So there may be oxidation happening and consequently some freshness lost. The fruit seems to be starting to fade, though the dominant flavors are tart and yeasty green apples. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Soter 2020 Planet Oregon Rosé Bubbles (Willamette Valley). This pure Pinot Noir sparkler is made from organically farmed grapes. It's fresh and lively, with effusive bubbles and a clean cherry fruit palate. It's carbonated rather than fermented in the bottle, which keeps it affordable and makes it a perfect choice for mixers. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 Cho 2020 Laurel Vineyard Pique Me Piquette (Laurelwood District). A glass of this transports you to a farmstead in rural France. Lightly fizzy, it's made by adding fresh well water to Pinot Noir pomace, then bottled midferment. A dark plum color, it's got a touch of tack room leather and light hints of blackberry fruit. Refreshing and unique, it's sealed with a crown cap and should be enjoyed immediately. —P.G.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Valcan 2020 Carmin Sparkling Malbec (Rogue Valley). The winery made two Malbec rosés and this crown-capped bubbly from the Kelly Vineyard in 2020. Here, a full week of skin contact prior to pressing brings a deep magenta color, along with purple fruit and some abrasive tannins. It's quite dry and tannic with generous acidity. Use it as a mixer and get creative. —P.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

ROSÉS

91 Alexana 2020 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A pale copper color, this nonetheless has a pleasing richness to the mouthfeel. Deep flavors of watermelon, strawberry and peach combine with just enough tannins to provide a frame around the finish. It's balanced and tart, with lingering power. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

90 Valcan 2020 Rosé of Malbec (Rogue Valley). Darker than Valcan's Bare White Malbec,

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though both are rosés, this had 24 hours of skin contact prior to pressing. It's an interesting mix of chamomile tea, lemon verbena and other citrusy herbs. As a tart and floral/herbal style of wine, it shines brightly and would be an interesting companion to certain creamy light cheeses. —P.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

89 Valcan 2020 Bare White Malbec (Rogue Valley). Despite the name, this is really a rosé rather than a white wine, which is obvious once you look at the clear glass bottle. It's fruity and full across the palate, with a mix of peach and citrus flavors. There's ample acidity, and the ripeness is sufficient despite the low alcohol. —P.G.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

PINOT NOIR

95 Soter 2018 Origin Series Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Soter has two estate vineyards on the Ridge, this one expressing lush black fruits underscored with the AVA's notable seashell minerality. The flavors capture all that is distinctive and exceptional about Oregon Pinot Noir, with detail, length and balance. The finish shows firm and proportionate tannins, with a thin streak of anise and char. The overall length promises a long life ahead. Drink through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

94 Audeant 2018 Luminous Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

94 Bergström 2019 Winery Block Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$85

94 Brick House 2019 Les Dijonnais Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This is a spicy vintage for this multi-Dijon clone blend sourced from a block planted a quarter century ago. It's aromatic and textured, with threads of berries, coffee grounds, cocoa, vanilla, bourbon tea and more, all nicely layered in and blended. The tannins are moderate, and the acidity keeps it lively, with a long and elegant finish. It was aged 16 months in 30% new French oak. Drink now and over the next decade. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$54

94 Domaine Serene 2018 Two Barns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*

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

94 Owen Roe 2018 Clandeboye Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Although the Willamette Valley AVA can be an indicator of a more generic cuvée, here it tags the reserve wine that has been compiled from some of the best barrels among Owen Roe's single vineyard selections. Aromatic and toasty with coconut, hazelnut and frangipani

highlights, this evolves into luscious flavors of brambly blackberry kissed with citrus. —P.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85

94 Owen Roe 2018 Durant Vineyard Clonmacnois Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This elegant and detailed Durant vineyard selection is buoyed with citrusy acidity and hints of seashells. The tart raspberry fruit is focused and tight, with highlights of blood orange and pie cherry. The 40% new French oak is actually less evident than in some of the other cuvées; credit brighter acidity. This is an elegant wine with a nod to Burgundian style showing precision and aging potential over a decade and longer. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

94 Owen Roe 2018 Sojeau Vineyard Connacht Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This is a barrel selection, which seems to have an extra burst of toast and tannin as compared with the other Sojeau Vineyard cuvée. There's a strong streak of coffee and chocolate, along with almond paste and hazelnut butter. That's a lot of nonfruit flavors, but the blueberry and blackberry fruit hangs in there with a touch of marionberry jam also. This lush and compelling wine may be enjoyed immediately but has the power and balance to age. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

94 Soter 2018 Origin Series Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). One of five AVA-specific Pinots in this new series, this intensely aromatic offering bursts open with lush scents of blackberries, cocoa and baking spices. The grapes were sourced from Zena Crown and the Soter Vineyard, and 20% were whole cluster fermented. Dense and bright, it's a compelling and spicy wine with exceptional balance. —P.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

94 Soter 2018 Origin Series Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). One of five AVA-specific Pinots in this new series, this is 100% Gran Moraine (a Jackson Family vineyard) fruit. Ripe blackberry flavors are here in spades, with a tartness that says freshly picked. The wine flattens out a bit on the palate, adding toasty and baking spices as it does. Running out the finish are darker toast and char barrel flavors, with a hint of chanterelle mushrooms. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Audeant 2018 Nysa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A mix of Pommard and Dijon 115, this tasty wine starts out with a burst of cherry and lightly toasted walnuts. The acidity kicks in and propel it through the palate. Aged in just 17% new French oak, it's lightly framed with barrel toast and moves into darker hints of smoke and char and coffee through a lingering finish. —P.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

93 Bergström 2019 Bergström Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 7.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$110

93 Bergström 2019 Le Pré du Col Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). For full review see page 7.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$80

93 Bergström 2019 Silice Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Bergström has cut back production of the single vineyard wines to the benefit of the blended Cumberland Reserve. In this new vintage, the single vineyard wines have added concentration and specificity. The Silice Vineyard is rooted in sandy soils and gets exceptional sun exposure and strong winds. It's all evident in this powerful wine, with a crystalline focus, firm tannins and compact black fruits. —P.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

93 Bergström 2019 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Though loaded with black fruits, this has the acidity and ripe tannins to put a substantial frame around them and give the wine real gravitas. Josh Bergström shows a deft touch with phenolics also, using whole cluster fermentation to full advantage. Many wineries compete for fruit from this iconic vineyard, but only a few use it this well. —P.G.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$70

93 Domaine Serene 2018 Gold Eagle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Often part of the Evenstad reserve, this has been given single vineyard status in this vintage. The mixed red fruits come with a touch of rhubarb, providing a tart lift to the palate. There are subtle skin flavors as well, and a lingering spiciness from barrel aging in half new French oak. This young wine will reward further cellaring. —P.G.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$115

93 Elk Cove 2019 Five Mountain Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

93 Owen Roe 2018 Lenné Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This has a savory streak running from the blackberry fruit right on through the tannins, which finish with a lick of breakfast tea. The toast and coffee highlights that inform all of Owen Roe's 2018s are here as well, though the finish is astringent and cuts out a little quickly. Let it breathe and the baking spices come up front and center. The wine was aged in 30% new French oak for 10 months. —P.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

93 Owen Roe 2018 Sojeau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A stunning value, this lush wine pairs raspberry and plum fruit with generous barrel flavors of toasted hazelnuts. The acidity keeps it lifted with hints of blood orange, and the perfectly polished tannins have just enough texture

to provide a little grit, along with hints of graphite. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$42

93 Pike Road 2019 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

93 Soter 2018 Origin Series Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). One of five AVA-specific Pinots in this new series, this was sourced from the former Vista Hills Vineyard. Forward flavors of mixed berries carry subtle hints of sun-dried tomatoes, adding texture and depth. Tannins are soft and plush, providing an airiness to the extended finish. Drink now and over the next four or five years. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$60

93 Soter 2018 Origin Series Savannah Ridge Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). One of five Origin Series Pinots from Soter, this gives a taste of wines sourced from a subsection of the Yamhill-Carlton AVA that includes Soter's Mineral Springs Ranch and may ultimately be officially recognized as its own AVA. It produces a gently herbal wine with details of straw, dried earth and chamomile tea. The fruit brings wild raspberry and mountain strawberry, and the balancing acidity and tannins are in good proportion through a long finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$60

93 Stoller 2018 Ruth's Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The winery explains that this is assembled from the four best barrels of the oldest estate vines, all Pommard clone. Young as it is, it is drinking beautifully, with all the components in balance. There's raspberry, tart blackberry and black cherry candy, zesty acidity, firm tannins, a vein of espresso and dark chocolate, and a firmness to the finish that presupposes aging potential. Drink now if you must, but 2024 and on would be preferable. *Cellar Selection.* —P.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$100

92 Alexana 2019 East Blocks-Volcanic Soils Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This shoots up beguiling aromas of black cherries, coffee and roasted hazelnuts. It's compact and firm, with a light suggestion of stems around the finishing tannins. The sturdy composition and balanced frame suggest aging it a bit longer, and it should drink well into the 2030s. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$70

92 Alexana 2019 Revana Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This pings the palate with cola and black cherry flavors, along with mineral acidity that buoys up rather than tarts up the palate. It's lighter than the previous vintage, balanced and appealing, with that streak of cola lingering on through the medium length finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$55

92 Aubaine 2019 Joie Anahata Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$60

92 Audeant 2018 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Savory and thick with dusty tannins, this highlights blackberry and black cherry fruit, set against an earthy foundation. It's a powerful wine that was fermented with 30% whole clusters and aged in 50% new French and Austrian oak. Its chewy texture is packed with flavor. It will be fascinating to see how this develops over time. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$50

92 Bergström 2019 Cumberland Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Labeled reserve this is actually an entry-level Pinot for the expansive Bergström lineup. It's a substantial effort that surely includes grapes from a number of first-class sites. It's still young and stiffly tannic, but packed with well-ripened fruit flavors of blackberry and black cherry. The tannins kick in and add a firm frame with baking spices and an inviting herbal component around the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$42

92 Bergström 2019 Gregory Ranch Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This vineyard designate has distinctive and palate-penetrating pine needle accents. It's tight and focused, mixing cranberry and tart raspberry fruit with a light suggestion of truffle umami. The balance and complexity argue for further bottle age. It wraps up with well-ripened tannins that add touches of black olive and black tea. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$60

92 Bergström 2019 La Spirale Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This relatively new site, planted in 2005, was purchased by Bergström in 2018 and is still growing into full maturity. This new vintage delivers light, elegant flavors of pomegranate, strawberry and cranberry, along with tannins that show the drying flavors of tea. The typical minerality of the AVA strikes a harmonic chord through the trailing finish. —P.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$80

92 Domaine Serene 2018 Evenstad Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine, which spent 16 months in French oak, slightly more than half of it new, retains tight and compact flavors of brambly blackberries, herbs and lightly composted earth. The acidity is as prominent as the fatter, toasty barrel flavors, and the impression is that more bottle age will be a real advantage before you pull the cork. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

92 Domaine Serene 2018 Yamhill Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is an exceptionally aromatic year for this wine, which jumps from the glass with spicy raspberry and cherry fruit. In the mouth it's sharp and a bit peppery, with some bite to the tannins. Aerate it if drinking over the

next couple of years, or give it a bit of cellar time to smooth it out further. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$52

92 Dundee Wine Library 2018 Pugilist Chapter One Pinot Noir (McMinnville). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

92 Dundee Wine Library 2018 Testament Luciole Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is a chewy, toasty wine. It's thick and tannic, with highlights of leafy tobacco and black cherry fruit. Made with whole cluster fermentation, this is broadly accessible and reasonably balanced. Winemaker Thibaud Mandet (Clos Griotte) has woven together an appealing mix of fruit, leaf, acidity and tannins with just 10% new oak influence. —P.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

92 Elk Cove 2019 Clay Court Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The Clay Court Vineyard sits atop Parrett Mountain and offers up pie cherry fruit with a backing of tart orange. At first it seems a little thinner than the other 2019 single vineyard selections from Elk Cove, with more lemony citrus flavors. With ample aeration the aromas build and the palate expands nicely with balanced acidity. Some wines need a bit of extra time after bottling and this seems to be one of them. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85

92 Elk Cove 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

92 Elk Cove 2019 Mount Richmond Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). 2019 is an excellent vintage for Elk Cove, despite whatever fire-related weather and smoke issues the Willamette Valley was suffering. Perhaps the northwest corner location was spared the smoke; in any event the estate-grown Pinots are fruit-driven, beautifully ripened, clean and textured and immediately delicious. The Mount Richmond adds a touch of leather to its blackberry fruit, along with refreshing minerality and a neat streak of espresso. Trailing out the finish is a note of clean straw. Drink now and through the middle of the decade. —P.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

92 Owen Roe 2018 Anna's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This aromatic, pleasantly toasty wine saw 30% new French oak for just under a year. It's a generous mix of red berries, pie cherries, graham cracker and sea salt. Tart and chewy in a good way, this young wine should reach a prime drinking window in another five or six years. Drink through 2027. —P.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$42

92 Owen Roe 2018 The Kilmore Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$42

92 Pike Road 2019 Fairings Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Along with value-priced varietal wines, Elk Cove's sister winery offers limited-production single vineyard Pinots from non-estate sources. This fragrant wine opens with violets and raspberries and then moves into a spicy palate loaded with plums and blueberries. The acidity sparkles and pushes bright fruit flavors into a lingering finish. Given its screw cap seal, this wine should be decanted and will retain freshness for many years to come. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Ruby 2018 Old Vine Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$55

92 Stoller 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This delicious, estate-grown wine is one of the stars of the vintage. Generously toasty from aging in one-quarter new oak barrels, it sets blackberry fruit against a backdrop of chocolate, mocha and toasted hazelnuts. It's smooth and balanced, with the prospect of drinking well through the rest of the decade. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Stoller 2018 William Harvey Stoller Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Stoller makes a number of special reserve Pinot Noir selections. This is the rarest one, and the most expensive. A selection of three barrels from the oldest estate plantings, it gets more time in new oak (50%) but is not overtaken by it. Blackberry and black cherry fruit shines through, with a hint of bacon and smoke. The tannins are moderate but provide a solid foundation. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$125

91 Alexana 2019 West Blocks-Sedimentary Soils Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This wine is bursting with sweet red cherry fruit, which seems to gather itself into a focused midpalate with highlights of chamomile tea. In the mouth it's open and fresh, with a lightness that keeps the fruit right out front. This may not be the Alexana Pinot to cellar, but rather the one to drink over the next few years while that freshness remains. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Archery Summit 2019 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). In past vintages the winery's Dundee Hills Vineyard designates have been accompanied by a more generic Willamette Valley cuvée. In this vintage a blend of estate fruit bearing the Dundee Hills AVA has been made. There's a mix of black fruits, black tea tannins and clean earth flavors. It's a medium-weight wine with a gentle fade. Give it another year or two of bottle age. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Argyle 2019 Nuthouse Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This is drinking almost like a wine right out of the fermenter. It's bright, tart, stiff and fresh, bursting with cranberry fruit. Tannins are hard and chewy, and there's little doubt that

another two or three years of bottle age would be very helpful. It was aged 18 months in 20% new French oak. Drink after 2023. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Aubaine 2019 Anahata Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$50

91 Brick House NV House Red Made with Biodynamic Grapes Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Chapter 24 2019 The Last Chapter Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a palate-pleasing wine with optimal fruit ripeness and good balance throughout. Raspberry, blueberry, marionberry and plum are in the mix, with some toast and chocolate highlights from aging in 40% new French oak. The natural acidity keeps it focused, and the finishing tannins resonate with a streak of breakfast tea. Drink now and over the next three or four years. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$91

91 Chehalem 2019 Stoller Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This estate-grown wine spent just under a year in barrel, about one-fifth new. Black cherry fruit and sweet barrel toast scents and flavors dominate, making for an immediately flavorful and appealing wine. Drink this over the rest of the decade. —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Division 2019 Un Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Strawberry and cherry fruit combines here with a pie-filling consistency. A mix of grapes from six different vineyards, it comes into focus as a seamless and complete fruit-forward wine. Tannins are moderate but provide enough back-end texture to boost the overall power. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$28

91 Division 2019 Eola Springs Vineyard Deux Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Sourced from blocks planted in 1972 and 1980, this presumably old-vine bottling is elegant and well-defined. Rhubarb, strawberry and white raspberry fruit has a touch of peppery herb. The only off-note is a hint of plastic, but aeration fixes that. Dive into the lingering finish and you'll pick out interesting accents of orange peel, clove and thistle. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$39

91 Dundee Wine Library 2018 Epilogue Vista Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Lovely aromatics open this wine and move into a soft palate with blurred fruit flavors of peach, strawberry and plum. Spicy tannins prop up the finish and, as with the Protagonist bottling, this pushes into more mature fruit flavors that suggest a near-term drinking window would be optimal. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Dundee Wine Library 2018 Publisher La Dolce Vita Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

This is all Pommard clone and displays its typical fruit-forward appeal. The plum and cherry fruit is accented with pretty baking spices, including cinnamon and even a hint of brown sugar. It's finished dry but brings a lot of fruit-driven sweetness, which amps up the immediate impact. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Dundee Wine Library 2018 The Protagonist Chapter Two Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Pike Road 2019 Meyer Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The Meyer selection is the result of a swap of estate vineyard fruit between Elk Cove and Lemelson. This places the emphasis on lovely blackberry fruit and keeps a grip on the savory notes, pushing flavors forward and adding a touch of baking spices and fruit sweetness to the mild tannins. It's fresh and juicy, like chomping a berry off a wild-growing blackberry bush. Previous vintages were aged 15 months in 43% new French oak; it's not clear if the same program applies here, but this emphasizes the fruit over the impact of any barrel aging. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Ruby 2018 Laurelwood Blend Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Ruby 2018 Steve's Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$65

90 Acrobat 2019 Pinot Noir (Oregon). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Division 2018 Armstrong Vineyard 'Cinq' Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Expressive aromas of ripe strawberries lead into a fruit-laden wine with tart acidity. The strawberry fruit and citrus highlights are dominant, though the wine was aged 10 months in French oak barrels, which seems to have had a neutral impact. From a vineyard planted in 2006, it's not yet showing the complexity of more mature Ribbon Ridge sites. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

90 Maison L'Envoyé 2019 Two Messengers Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Pike Road 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Ruby 2018 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Soléna 2019 Grand Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Medium-bodied and showing some earthy tannins, this hits the palate with black cherry and green tea flavors. Its acidity comes up through the finish, adding notes of chamomile. Hints of roasted coffee beans trail on out. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

90 Soter 2019 Planet Oregon Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a sharp and detailed young wine, with tight blackberry fruit that etches its way into your palate. Aged for eight months in neutral barrels, this puts a tart and peppery spin on its lightly chewy tannins. Drink now and through the next half decade. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Chehalem 2019 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is a modest, slightly green wine, with plenty of herbal, brambly fruit flavors. The tannins and acidity are abundant but proportionate, and the overall impression is that this fruit is less than optimally ripened, but still varietally on point. Drink over the next two or three years. —P.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Coelho 2019 Two Brothers' Private Selection Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Much like the Atracção Estate Select, this has plenty of acidity, with tart blueberry fruit anchoring the midpalate. Hints of aging in a percentage of new oak pop up with a light dusting of cinnamon spice. It firms up with good structure on through the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

89 Cooper Mountain 2019 Life Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Life series pays heed to the so-called clean wine movement. It's farmed organically without pesticides or fertilizers, fermented with native yeast and no additions and bottled without addition SO₂. As with all such wines, it's best consumed as soon as possible. A pleasant mix of berry fruit flavors, this pushes quickly into a finish with astringent, tea-flavored tannins. Drink up. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Firesteed 2019 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Since being acquired by Vintage Wine Estates, Firesteed has expanded its Pinot portfolio to include AVA-specific bottlings such as this. It's made in an easy-drinking style, with flavors of cola, vanilla and black cherry and a creamy coffee finish. Drink now and over the next three or four years. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

88 Black Magnolia 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Despite a bitter note when first opened, this pushes clean raspberry fruit front and center. The tannins add a streak of earth and green herbs, thickening up through the finish. It's a sturdy, almost rustic wine but delivers plenty of flavor. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Cardwell Hill 2019 Fenders Blue Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Named for a protected species of butterfly, this new cuvée is light and pretty with raspberry fruit and a citrusy grip. The fruit and acidity balance keeps it fresh and forward, and it's the sort of sipping wine that may be enjoyed chilled and should be consumed over the next two or three years. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

88 Cho 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is arrestingly pungent with reductive aromas of rubber and struck match. Let it open up with aeration, and some cherry fruit and blood orange highlights come through. There's some bite to the finish and a bit of that sulfur character remains, but basically the wine is sound and should be decanted for full enjoyment. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Coelho 2019 Atracção Estate Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a pleasantly tangy wine, with tart blueberry fruit claiming center stage. For some folks it may seem borderline sour, but if you are a fan of unsweetened jams, this should ring your bell. The fruit and acidity carry it on through a lip-smacking finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$27

88 Firesteed 2019 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Since being acquired by Vintage Wine Estates, Firesteed has expanded its Pinot portfolio to include AVA-specific bottlings such as this. There's little differentiation among them. Look for dark berry fruit flavors, streaks of smoke and char, and highlights of vanilla and espresso, with chalky acidity coming through in the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

88 Firesteed 2019 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Firesteed has expanded its Pinot portfolio to include AVA-specific bottlings such as this. Dark berry fruit flavors, streaks of smoke and char, and highlights of vanilla and espresso all speak to a wine of some potency. Flavors are upfront and fade into a slightly chalky finish and a hint of alcoholic burn. —P.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

88 Foris 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). Despite limited barrel time this wine has a smoky-toasty note that penetrates into the finish. The tight fruit is principally raspberries with an herbal frame. The tannins punch up the finish but stop it a bit short. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Kason 2018 828 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Virtually all of the clonal selections from 2018 have high-toned scents and flavors that occasionally touch borderline volatility. Here it brightens up the mix of raspberry and cherry fruit, without overtaking it. There's plenty of acidity, light tannins and citrus flavors running right on through the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Kason 2018 Dijon 115 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Tart raspberry fruit buoyed by moderate acidity leads into a modest wine with a mix of berry and lemon flavors and earthy astringency. As it wraps up there are accents of lemon verbena and peat moss. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

88 Kason 2018 Dijon 777 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is stiff and tart, with blackberry fruit and firm tannins. It's got moderate concentration but hits a wall and stops short of a full finish, turning earthy and astringent. More bottle age is recommended. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

88 Kason 2018 Old Vine Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). There is no indication as to what qualifies this as old vine or separates it from the winery's other 2018 Pinots. It's a clonal mix, with blueberry and tart cherry fruit. It thins out into a mild finish with leafy herbal elements. The barrel aging does not add any hints of new oak. —P.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

88 Kate Arnold 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a light and pleasant wine with pretty cherry flavors dotted with notes of dried tea leaves, dried herbs and fruit leather. It almost seems dried out, but not in a negative sense. Rather it's showing a bit more maturity than might be expected and should be consumed over the next couple of years. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Samuel Robert 2020 Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Formerly the Vintner's Reserve, this has been renamed but retains the same affordable price. It packs a lot of sweet blueberry flavor, along with chocolate and almond paste. The flavors are fresh and forward, and there's a streak of vanilla running through the finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Coelho 2019 Paciência Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The three 2019 Pinots from Coelho are labeled either Estate Select, Private Selection or Barrel Select. It's not clear how those unregulated terms apply, or what differentiates these wines other than price. This is the most expensive but has less fruit power than the others. The tannins are already drying out the finish, and there are leafy, herbal, savory flavors but little or no actual fruit impact. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Dundee Wine Library 2018 The Antagonist Lia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Leather, dried cherries, tobacco and tea are dominant here. This is quite astringent, and the drying finish strips out the fruit and leaves the acidity. Two bottles tasted. Drink up. —P.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Firesteed 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Now part of the Vintage Wine Estates

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portfolio, Firesteed made five different Pinots in 2019. Aging in all neutral French oak has started to soften the rough tannins of this wine, though plenty of stiff herbal flavors remain. The fruit flavors are brambly wild blackberries with a peppery frame. It's sealed with a screw cap, so give it plenty of aeration or decant it well before drinking. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Kason 2018 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The distinguishing feature of this cuvée is aging in a 50-50 mix of French and American oak. Raspberry fruit, high-toned aromas and a puckery mouthfeel complete the picture. Best drunk chilled. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

87 Kason 2018 Black Label Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This new cuvée is a mix of clones from estate vineyards. Purple berry fruits come with a high-toned note in both the scents and the flavors. This is one of those wines that could be slightly flawed, and yet it delivers plenty of fruit and flavor at a modest price. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

87 Oregon Grove 2020 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Offered by a New York-based importer, this pleasant wine bears the Willamette Valley AVA though no other information is provided. It's got plenty of purple fruit, a smoky streak and some bitter tannins. Drink over the next year or two. —P.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$20

87 Samuel Robert 2020 Conscious Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The winery puts out up to three different Willamette Valley Pinots priced under \$20, which is remarkable. This is the least expensive, with forward blueberry fruit that shows obvious sweetness. It's a take on a California style of inexpensive Pinot, here with a sturdier tannic frame and supporting Willamette Valley acidity. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Valcan 2017 Rainbow's End Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This lightweight wine offers strawberry fruit and a broad streak of vanilla. Some 20% of the cooperage was new. Tannins are gentle, with a leafy note. —P.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$34

86 Cooper Hill 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a second label for Cooper Mountain, but it uses estate-grown biodynamic grapes from the same vineyards. This young wine has stiff herbal tannins and an overriding green character that runs from the fruit on through the finish. Brambly blackberry flavors and thistle and pine needle notes abound. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Kason 2018 Pommard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Pommard clone is often singled out for specific cuvées for its forward and appealing fruit flavors. Here that generous fruit is obscured by high-toned scents and flavors border-

ing on volatility. For some tasters it won't matter; for others it creates diminished fruit, alcoholic burn and a touch of vinegar. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

86 Kason 2018 Reserva Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Kason makes a broad array of clonal selections and blends. This reserva is indistinguishable from the rest. It's high-toned and lightly fruited and shows no influence from oak aging. Drink up. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

GAMAY NOIR

90 Cooper Mountain 2019 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). Here the Beaujolais grape is given a tannic base that punches up the otherwise light and pretty flavors of red and purple fruits. Grown with biodynamic farming, the threads of earth and herb form a neatly woven web of details that elevate the finish. More substantial than many Gamays, this retains its elegance through a long finish. —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Division 2019 Methven Family Vineyards Cru Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Cranberry and raspberry fruit are more dried than fresh, with some leathery overtones beginning in the aromas and continuing across the palate. The acidity keeps it buoyant for now, but this is probably best consumed sooner rather than later. —P.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30

85 Division 2018 Redford-Wetle Vineyard Renardière Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Leathery and astringent, there's little fruit to be found in this wine. For those who enjoy such tack room flavors, this may seem to be rather French. But if you're looking for Oregon-style fruit and freshness, it's not to be found here. —P.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

SYRAH

92 Division 2017 Mae's Vineyard Gamine Syrah (Applegate Valley). This Quady North vineyard is one of Oregon's best sources for Syrah. The gamy, earthy, herbal side of the grape shines through, along with brambly red fruits and a black tar finish. There are streaks of espresso and hints of bloody meat along with chewy and bitter herbs, and the complexity carries on from the first sip to the lingering, lightly peppery aftertaste. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Valcan 2017 Syrah (Rogue Valley). Though 2017 was a lighter vintage in the north, the grapes ripened fully in the Rogue as this lively Syrah proves. It's aromatic and loaded with brambly berry fruit that has a punchy peppery note. The tannins

are balanced and add touches of dried herbs. The wine was aged for two years in 20% new oak. —P.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$34

90 Abacela 2017 Syrah (Umpqua Valley). This is tannic to be sure, but very expressive of the particular characteristics of the grape. It's packed with purple and black berry fruits, along with a seam of cola and a broad foundation of clean moist earth. The mix of fruit, acidity, tannins and savory earth is well-balanced, though the finer details found in some top-tier southern Oregon Syrahs are muted. —P.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$34

TEMPRANILLO

90 Abacela 2018 Fiesta Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley). From the winery that introduced Tempranillo to the West Coast, this affordable bottle invites with open aromas of chocolate and cherries, moving into a generous palate with more depth and detail than might be expected at this price. It's nicely layered with brambly fruit, sweet herbs, sandalwood and a wash of mocha. All balanced and forward yet persistent, it's a lovely wine. *Editors' Choice.* —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

90 Abacela 2017 Barrel Select Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley). Among a broad portfolio of estate-grown Tempranillo, this shows the tobacco flavors first and foremost. Dried leaves, dried cherry fruit and a touch of peat moss are amplified through the midpalate and into the finish. Aged 21 months in oak, this is in prime drinking condition. —P.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

90 Valcan 2017 El Torero Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). There's a juicy quality that keeps this fresh even at four years of age. Lightly herbal tea leaf and tobacco highlights add texture and interest around tart cranberry-raspberry fruit. Not a big wine, it is nonetheless delightful and a nice showcase for Southern Oregon Tempranillo. —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

RED BLENDS

91 King Estate 2017 Crater View Vineyard & Seven Hills Vineyard Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre (Oregon). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

90 Valcan 2016 Mélange de Vin (Rogue Valley). This Southern Oregon blend is 45% Petite Sirah, 52% Syrah and a splash of Tempranillo. Juicy marionberry fruit is backed with lemony acidity. Flavors are forward with a fruit punch character (in a good way). This is a chillable red for easy quaffing. —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$26

88 Abacela NV Vintner's Blend #21 (Umpqua Valley). A blend of nine different grapes,

all estate grown, this cries out to be your everyday all-purpose pizza and burger wine. It's the kind of smooth generic red that may be drunk without paying a lot of attention. That said, it's tasty, broad, mixed with red berry and pomegranate fruits, and lingers gracefully through the finish. —P.G.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$19

OTHER RED WINES

91 Abacela 2018 Grenache (Umpqua Valley).

Grenache is carving out an important role in southern Oregon. Here it shows its potency and muscle, bumping up against some alcoholic heat in pursuit of the ripest possible fruit. Dense black cherry, root beer and clean earth flavors combine, with ample acidity. The tannins are in a lighter supporting role. This wine would be great to try with anything seasoned with chipotle. —P.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

91 Abacela 2018 Tinta Amarela (Umpqua Valley).

This Portuguese grape is dark-skinned and full-bodied. Though rare in the U.S., it is part of Abacela's ongoing exploration of Iberian varieties. The strong tannins bring black tea astringency and flavors of dried leaves around brambly blackberry fruit. It's a savory wine but layered and ageworthy. A great bottle to toss in and mystify your friends during any blind tasting of tannic reds. —P.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$32

91 King Estate 2017 Carpenter Hill Vineyard Petite Sirah (Rogue Valley).

For full review see page 14.

abv: 14%

Price: \$55

90 Abacela 2018 Tannat (Umpqua Valley).

This sturdy red is known for its muscular tannins, which are well managed here. Savory brambly blackberry flavors reflect a Zin-like character, though with extra tannic grip. The flavors broaden out through the lengthy finish, astringent and layered with caramel and vanilla. —P.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$32

90 Valcan 2016 Petite Sirah (Rogue Valley).

Sourced from a single vineyard, this fruit-centric wine keeps the grape's natural tannins tamed and proportionate. Purple berries and plums, hints of green tobacco and bourbon tea are in the mix. The relatively low alcohol keeps it meal-friendly. —P.G.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$30

88 Abacela 2017 Malbec (Umpqua Valley).

Pure varietal Malbec is difficult to pull off, and this seems more like an excellent component than a complete wine. There's a hole in the midpalate, circled with blackberry fruit and sappy acidity. The tannins bring tea leaf flavors to a compact finish. —P.G.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$30

86 Faith Hope & Charity 2018 Frontenac (Oregon).

Frontenac is a cold-hardy hybrid red

grape developed by a team at the University of Minnesota. Virtually unknown in Oregon, it produces a smooth, plummy wine with sufficient acidity and moderate tannins. In the Midwest it is made into Port-style dessert wines; here it's done as a dry red of little distinction. —P.G.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

86 Faith Hope & Charity 2018 Léon Millot (Oregon).

This French hybrid red grape is a mainstay in Alsace and the American Midwest though virtually unknown in Oregon. Already well along the aging curve, this current release is tart and spicy, with fruit leather flavors of plum and cherry and black currant. Its ageability is unknown, but best strategy is to drink up sooner rather than later. —P.G.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$40

WASHINGTON

CHARDONNAY

90 g3 2020 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).

For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$15

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2020 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).

The aromas offer notes of corn on the cob, coconut, butter and apple. Full feeling peach and apple flavors follow. It's very varietally correct and provides a lot of value. —S.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

88 Fielding Hills 2019 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Chardonnay (Wahluke Slope).

The variety is immediately identifiable, with aromas of apple and spice. Creamy feeling flavors follow. There are good things happening, but it gets a bit bogged down at times. —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

88 StoneCap 2020 Estate Grown Goose Ridge Vineyards Selection Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).

For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$10

87 Roaming Dog 2020 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).

Light aromas of peach and whiffs of tropical fruit are followed by a light-bodied palate that is straight down the fairway with enough acidity to keep it all together. The variety isn't immediately identifiable, but it still quite pleasant. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

86 Westport Winery 2020 Shorebird Olsen Brothers Chardonnay (Yakima Valley).

This wine offers aromas of apple and pear. The flavors are sleek and light. It's a pleasant, seemingly unoaked Chardonnay quaffer. —S.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Grosgrain 2020 Skin-Contact Les Collines Vineyard Semillon (Walla Walla Valley).

This is a one-of-a-kind wine in the state, fermented 14 days on skins and aged in clay amphorae and stainless steel. Aromas of lemon balm, herb, graphite and cream lead to a textured palate backed by bright, lemony acidity, with clay notes throughout. It's a statement for this producer and valley. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$30

90 Aquilini 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Red Mountain).

The aromas bring notes of fig, herb, citrus and tropical fruit. Full-bodied kiwi and citrus flavors follow. It's an unabashedly warm appellation offering of this variety, with all of the goodness that can bring. —S.S.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$36

90 Hoquetus 2020 Les Collines Vineyard Riesling (Walla Walla Valley).

Fruit for this wine was grown at 1,100 feet—high by Washington standards. The aromas intrigue, with notes of herb, lime zest, lemon and diesel, with the aromas showing some evolution. It drinks bone-dry and has tart, puckering fruit flavors with a big blast of acidity behind them. Chalk notes run throughout and persist on the finish. It fascinates—a unique interpretation of this variety from the valley and state, with the acidity providing much of the appeal. —S.S.

abv: 12.2%

Price: \$28

89 Goose Ridge 2020 Estate Bottled Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley).

The aromas intrigue, with notes of pear, apple, oyster shell and Vaseline. The palate is refined, medium in weight and flavorful, with light tropical accents. It brings a freshness that adds to its appeal. —S.S.

abv: NA

Price: \$20

89 Cairdeas 2020 Nellie Mae Lawrence Vineyard (Columbia Valley).

Named after the winemaker's grandmother, this wine is a blend of 62% Viognier and 38% Roussanne. Its aromas offer notes of pear, white peach and flower along with a light ale note. Broad feeling fruit flavors follow. It's still settling in. —S.S.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$24

88 Fielding Hills 2020 Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Columbia Valley).

The aromas aren't entirely in harmony, with notes of apple pie and nutshell. The palate is graceful, with a lot of acidity behind it. Perhaps some time in the bottle will put the parts together? Tasted twice with consistent notes. —S.S.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$28

88 Gård 2020 Freyja Lawrence Estate Wines Lawrence Vineyards (Royal Slope).

This wine is three-quarters Viognier and one-quarter Roussanne. The aromas are effusive, with notes of flower, orange essence and peach Jolly Rancher. The flavors are far more subdued, lighter in intensity

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than the aromas would suggest, with a slightly viscous feel. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$18

88 Watchful Maker 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills). The aromas pop, with notes of guava, herb and passion fruit. Medium-bodied tropical fruit flavors follow. Kiwi notes linger on the finish. It needs more acidity to tie the rich fruit flavors together. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

86 Westport Winery 2019 Going Coastal Red Willow Vineyard Gewurztraminer (Yakima Valley). With fruit coming from one of the state's most highly regarded vineyards, albeit for red wines, the aromas offer notes of pencil lead and ginger. The flavors are quite light in intensity. It's very hard to put a finger on this typically expressive variety. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

86 Westport Winery 2020 Medusa Elephant Mountain (Yakima Valley). Apple tart-filled aromas lead to sprightly flavors. The concentration is light, but it's pleasant, though its hard to entirely determine the intent. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

SPARKLING WINES

90 Domaine Ste. Michelle 2016 Luxe (Columbia Valley). There's plenty of appeal to be had with the aromas, with notes of pear, apple and baked bread. The palate is full of class and lively fruit flavors. It's a terrific value. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Concentric Wine Project 2020 Petillant Naturel Chenin Blanc (Columbia Valley). There's a lot to like on the aromas of brioche, pear, apple and kiwi. Bone-dry flavors follow. There's plenty of acidity behind it all. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$34

87 Domaine Ste. Michelle NV Brut Rosé Méthode Champenoise (Columbia Valley). The aromas are effusive, with notes of strawberry, pear and sweet spices. The palate drinks off-dry, with lively pear and apple flavors. It seems slightly sweeter than a traditional brut. —S.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

85 Domaine Ste. Michelle NV Brut (Columbia Valley). Pear, brioche and ginger aromas lead to deft ginger beer flavors. It's quite a stylistic departure from previous efforts. —S.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

ROSÉS

90 Hoquetus 2020 Seven Hills Vineyard Rosé (Walla Walla Valley). A pretty pale salmon color, this wine is 100% Cabernet Franc. The aromas

offer notes of strawberry, herb and mineral. Broad, full feeling flavors follow with enough acidity to stand them up. —S.S.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$26

88 Fielding Hills 2020 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Rosé (Wahluke Slope). A pretty pale salmon color, this wine is 100% Cabernet Franc. The aromas offer notes of strawberry, herb and mineral. Broad, full feeling flavors follow with enough acidity to stand them up. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$26

88 Gård 2020 Grand Klasse Reserve Lawrence Estate Wines Lawrence Vineyards Rosé (Royal Slope). This is the first time fruit for this wine comes from outside Corfu Crossing Vineyard, with more than half of it from Thunderstone. A blend of 96% Grenache and 4% Mourvèdre, this medium salmon-colored wine offers bright aromas of strawberry candy and guava. Full-bodied, creamy feeling, sweet, almost off-dry seeming passion fruit and kiwi flavors follow. It brings a whole lot of fruit but could do with more acidity to support it all. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Klipsun 2018 Klipsun Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$150

92 King Cab 2018 King Cab Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Fruit for this wine comes from high-density plantings at McNary Vineyard. The aromas are reserved, with notes of coffee, dried and fresh herbs and chocolate. The palate shows the density and richness that is the hallmark of Cabernet from this region. It's a big-time winner. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

92 Starside 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas are generous, with notes of black raspberry, plum, blackberry and herbs, bringing a dazzling purity. Plump blue and black fruit flavors follow. It's a complete charmer, guaranteed to please. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$25

92 Walla Walla Vintners 2018 Sagemoor Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Fruit for this wine comes from 1972 plantings at Bacchus in the newly approved White Bluffs appellation. The aromas bring a classic Cabernet Sauvignon profile of scorched earth, dried herbs, black raspberry and dark cherry, showing purity. The palate gives range and sophistication, with a creamy feel to the dark-fruit flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2017 Ethos Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas announce themselves, with notes of coffee, bit-

tersweet chocolate, vanilla and black cherry, with fruit and barrel intertwining. The palate is sharply etched with dark-fruit flavors, and there are plentiful oak accents. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$55

91 Fielding Hills 2018 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). This producer has made its mark with outright delicious, unabashedly appealing, full-bodied wines, and that is what we have here. Coffee, black cherry, bitter-sweet chocolate and blackberry aromas are followed by ripe, velvety fruit flavors. A warm, lingering finish caps it off. There's enough tannin behind it all to hold this hedonistic offering all together. It's delicious. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$50

91 Full Pull & Friends 2018 Block 1 Discovery Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). The aromas intrigue, with notes of gun smoke, plum, black cherry, orange twist and tar. There's plenty of purity to the light, juicy dark-fruit flavors. Pair it with flank steak. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

91 Gorman 2019 Old Scratch Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The aromas draw you into the glass, with notes of soil, the blackest of cherries and flower. The palate is densely packed with ultraripe fruit and firm, slightly dry tannins. It's a big burly beast of a wine, drinking quite young at present. Give it some additional time in the bottle or decant. —S.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$32

91 Gorman 2018 The Bully Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromas of barrel spice, plum, café au lait and cherry lead to full-bodied, plentiful, juicy espresso, chocolate and cherry flavors. Fine-grained tannins back it all up. It's made in the winery's unabashed, full-bore style. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$50

91 Grosgrain 2018 Seven Hills Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). This is 100% varietal, all aged in French oak (55% new). Subdued aromas of coffee, dried herbs and cherry lead to supple, restrained fruit flavors. The acidity is pleasantly dialed up and gives a mouthwatering finish. It's a very pretty, understated interpretation of Cabernet Sauvignon with impeccable balance that delivers big-time. Pair it with skirt steak. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

91 King Estate 2017 Quintessence Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.66% **Price:** \$60

91 Valo 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is all Solaksen Vineyard Cabernet from the Royal Slope, along with a healthy dollop of Bacchus Cabernet Franc (22%). The aromas are hard to tease out initially, with notes of sweet barrel spice, dried herbs and cigar box. Plum emerges over time. There's a lot of ele-

gance and sophistication to the cherry and chocolate flavors. Best after 2024. —S.S.
abv: NA Price: \$70

91 Virtue 2019 Charisma Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Whole berry fermented and seeing 25% new French oak, with one sniff there is no mistaking the variety. Aromas of cassis, scorched earth, clove and dried herbs lead to a pillowy soft palate that shows a lot of elegance but also intensity to the fruit flavors. Coffee notes linger on the finish. It's a very pretty but also supremely delicious offering of the variety. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$30

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2018 Canoe Ridge Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). The aromas provide immediate appeal, with notes of blackberry, coffee, graphite, baking spices and dried herbs. Chocolate and cherry flavors follow, showing a lot of polish. It mixes equal parts fruit and barrel. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$36

90 Fortuity 2018 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Fortuity is a new player in Washington, and this wine makes an impression. Lush, high-toned aromas of cherry, chocolate, raspberry, scorched earth and Red Vines lead to plump fruit and barrel flavors. It's a high octane wine that pulls no punches. —S.S.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$65

90 g3 2019 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$15

90 J. Bookwalter 2019 Readers Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Bookwalter's Readers wines are one of the best places to find value in Washington—with much of it coming from old-vine fruit that didn't fit into the rest of the winery's program. Made with 15% Syrah and equal parts Petit Verdot and Malbec (5%), this Cab blend has aromas that pop, with notes of black fruit and a sprinkling of herbs. The flavors are plump and generous while showing the midpalate elegance of the vintage. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$28

90 Soos Creek 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). With this blend of fruit from Ciel du Cheval and Klipsun vineyards, the aromas provide plenty of appeal, with notes of soil, cinnamon, golden raisin and clove. Luscious but sophisticated cherry and chocolate flavors follow. It's a very pretty expression of the variety and appellation. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$50

90 The Soldier 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 19. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.04% Price: \$23

89 Fortuity 2018 DuBrul Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). Fruit for this wine comes from one of the state's most highly regarded vineyards. The aromas lean into the savory, with notes of nori and braised green pepper followed by cherry and chocolate. The palate brings the soft, velvety flavors that this vineyard is known for, with a lot nuance. Coffee notes linger on the finish. It's equal parts promise and delivery. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$64

88 King Estate 2017 Bacchus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This comes from a one of the state's oldest vineyards in the recently approved White Bluffs appellation. The aromas bring notes of milk chocolate, cherry and herbs. Coffee, tobacco and cherry flavors follow, painting around the edges, lighter in the middle. —S.S.
abv: 14.23% Price: \$56

88 Soos Creek 2018 Terrible Beauty Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is 100% varietal from Ciel du Cheval, Elephant Mountain, Klipsun, and Weinbau vineyards. The aromas boast notes of milk chocolate, menthol, herbs and cherry cough syrup. The flavors are plump in feel but lighter in concentration, particularly through the middle. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$30

88 Tattoo Girl 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas are generous, with notes of plum, blue fruit and dried herbs. Full feeling black currant flavors follow, with any oak far in the background. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$15

88 Three Rivers 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Rose petal aromas are out front, followed by notes of raspberry and green herbs. The palate hasn't fully settled in, showing some reductive elements. The tannins seem green and astringent out of the gate. It needs more time to show where it's going. —S.S.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$16

87 Fortuity 2018 Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). The aromas are high toned, showing some volatility, with notes of blackberry, cherry liqueur and chocolate and the fruit seeming somewhat desiccated. Ripe fruit flavors that give a light impression follow. The vineyard is hard to place. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

CABERNET FRANC

91 Valo 2018 Reserve Bacchus Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). Barrel-fermented and aged in 300 L new French oak, this Cab Franc features aromas that bring notes of freshly roasted espresso bean, dark chocolate and cherry. The palate is restrained, with juicy fruit flavors backed by lightly grainy tannins, fleshing out with time open.

There's a sophistication to it that adds to its charm. Best after 2025. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$85

90 Fielding Hills 2018 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). The aromas provide immediate appeal, with notes of flowers, dried herbs, bittersweet chocolate and cherry. The flavors are rich and high octane, but the palate is still more about sophistication than overt power. —S.S.
abv: 15.6% Price: \$42

90 Virtue 2019 Temperance Cabernet Franc (Royal Slope). Stoneridge Vineyard is known for its unique profile, and we see that here. The aromas offer notes of nori, olive, fresh herbs and tangerine zest. The palate is supple and restrained, bringing nuance and delicacy. It's a pretty interpretation of this variety and region, without a direct point of comparison. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$26

87 King Estate 2017 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). Fruit for this wine comes from the Wahluke Slope. Intriguing aromas of black raspberry, cola, leather and medicine lead to black tea flavors. It's grainy in feel. An unusual offering, it's hard to see exactly where it is or where it's going. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$54

MERLOT

91 g3 2019 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Merlot (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

91 Goose Ridge 2018 Estate Bottled Merlot (Columbia Valley). Coming from the newly approved Goose Gap appellation, the aromas announce themselves with notes of dark fruit, chocolate, vanilla and wood spice. The palate is plush and full, with a whole lot of structure behind it. The oak needs some time to fully integrate, but the stuffing is there. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: NA Price: \$35

91 Valo 2018 Lawrence Vineyards Merlot (Columbia Valley). The aromas capture notes of coffee, moist earth, cedar, tobacco and gun smoke. The flavors are light, juicy and structured. It's a fascinating interpretation of this variety and appellation. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

91 Virtue 2019 Authenticity Merlot (Columbia Valley). This young producer is making some thrilling, well-priced wines with a distinctive style, and this is another example. The variety jumps out of the glass, with its notes of fresh raspberry, plum and whole orange. The palate is supple, showing delicacy, purity and restraint. Coffee notes linger on the finish. Yum. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$26

90 Fielding Hills 2018 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Merlot (Wahluke Slope). The aromas announce themselves, with notes of freshly brewed dark coffee, chocolate, vanilla and baking spice, mixing fruit and barrel. Ripe fruit and spice flavors follow. It pulls no punches. —S.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Moonbase Cellars 2019 Max Q Series Wine-sap Vineyard Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). This is a rare, 100% varietal Merlot coming from a vineyard in the Rocks District. The aromas are reductive out of the gate, causing some distraction. Beneath that are aromas and flavors of ash and firepit, with the flavors lighter in the middle. Coffee notes linger on the finish. It's equal parts intellectually interesting and hedonistically successful. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2018 Indian Wells Merlot (Columbia Valley). Dark roasted coffee bean, barrel spice and raspberry aromas lead to fruit and barrel flavors that show surprising elegance for the vintage. Coffee notes linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 King Estate 2017 Weinbau Vineyard Merlot (Columbia Valley). With fruit coming from a vineyard on the Wahluke Slope, cherry candy, medicine, leather and spice aromas are followed by soft, plump flavors. Coffee notes linger on the finish. The aromas and palate seem disconnected. —S.S.
abv: 14.53% **Price:** \$52

86 Westport Winery 2019 Mermaid Elephant Mountain Vineyard Merlot (Rattlesnake Hills). This is an odd mixture of not fully ripe and overripe seeming fruit that plays throughout the aromas and flavors. The variety is impossible to identify. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

SYRAH

94 Avennia 2019 Arnaut Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). This is the winery's 10th vintage from this esteemed vineyard, and it's glorious. The aromas erupt from the glass, with notes of blueberry, huckleberry, iron, earth and bacon fat. The palate is chock-full of layer upon layer of textured blue and black fruit flavors along with plentiful herb accents. The finish sails off into the distance. It's flat-out delicious. Give it some time in the cellar to see it at its best. It will have a long life ahead of it. Best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

94 Gård 2018 Thunderstone Lawrence Estate Wines Lawrence Vineyards Syrah (Royal Slope). The aromas explode from the glass, with notes of green olive, Stargazer lily, smoked meat, asparagus and firepit that are quite reminiscent of a Rocks District wine. The palate is intensely flavored, full of savory notes that linger as long as you care to count. Those in search of the vanguard of

Washington Syrah should look no further. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$50

91 Block Wines 2019 Ankleroller Block Stones Speak Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Coming from a highly regarded vineyard in the Rocks District, this wine has aromas of Stargazer lily, potpourri, orange essence and wet gravel that lead to lighter styled, sumptuous, perfumed fruit flavors. Vintage and vineyard are on full display throughout. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

91 Fielding Hills 2018 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). Owner and wine-maker Mike Wade has made a name for himself over the last 20 years by creating rich, hedonistic wines, and that is what we have here. The aromas are subdued, with notes of tar and chocolate, while the palate is rich with full-bore black fruit flavors. It's hedonism in a glass. —S.S.
abv: 16.2% **Price:** \$44

91 Full Pull & Friends 2019 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This is all single vineyard fruit coming from the Rocks District. That appellation announces itself, with notes of orange twist, firepit, olive and potpourri. Like many wines from this vintage, the palate is light and elegant, with plenty of flavor. The textured feel ups the appeal. Tasty Rocks District wine at this price? Yes, please. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Grosgrain 2019 Seven Hills Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This producer has hung its hat on an early release, light, bright style, and this wine brings that in abundance. This was fermented 38% whole cluster and aged in neutral French oak, and the aromas aren't ready to reveal themselves. The palate is bright and fresh, with the tannins giving a light grip. It's delicious. Give it a short decant and pair it with a ratatouille made with smoked eggplant. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 L'Ecole No. 41 2019 Syrah (Columbia Valley). As always, this wine includes healthy amounts of Grenache (16%) and Mourvèdre (2%). The aromas are chock-full of blue fruit, with red fruit and dried herb accents. Center focused like many wines from this vintage, it's rich and has freshness and purity. There's a lot enjoyment to be had. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

87 King Estate 2017 Sonrisa Tempranillo (Columbia Valley). Aromas of blackberry, fruit leather, chocolate and graphite lead to fruit flavors that paint around the edges. Light smoky notes linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.56% **Price:** \$50

RED BLENDS

93 Aquilini 2018 Family Blend (Red Mountain). In less than a decade, Aquilini has become one of the most significant players on Red Mountain. This wine is full of sophistication and polish, with aromas and flavors of red and black fruit along with scorched earth. There's a whole lot of tannic structure behind it all. —S.S.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$70

93 R.R. Poet 2019 Alliteration PineBrake Vineyard (Rattlesnake Hills). A blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon with the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Merlot, this is one of the inaugural releases from this producer, and it flat-out impresses. The aromas show a lot of nuance, with notes of earth, struck flint, cherry, flower and fresh herb. The palate is laser-focused, supple and textured, with bright, fresh, vivid fruit flavors. Coffee notes linger on the long finish. It's all about sophistication and polish—a statement. Pair it with grilled skirt steak. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

93 R.R. Poet 2019 Allusion Pinebrake Vineyard Merlot-Cabernet Franc (Rattlesnake Hills). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

93 Walla Walla Vintners 2018 Silt & Stone (Walla Walla Valley). This wine is 60% Seven Hills Vineyard Merlot and 40% Waliser Cabernet Franc. It offers immediate appeal, with its pretty but understated aromas of fresh herbs, orange rind, raspberry, cherry, cocoa and barrel spice. The palate brings density and volume but also sophistication. Chocolate flavors linger on the finish. Give it some additional time in the bottle or decant. It's a beauty. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$42

92 Catchlight 2019 Reflection Pinebrake Vineyard (Rattlesnake Hills). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

92 Sol Duc 2018 Estate Meritage (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 13. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Valo 2018 Intemporal Lawrence Vineyards (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

92 Valo 2018 Lawrence Vineyard Malbec-Syrah (Columbia Valley). This is an equal split of these two varieties, coming from a vineyard on the Royal Slope. They marry beautifully, with aromas of black pepper, sea salt, nori, coffee and plum. Plush but fresh, vital fruit flavors follow. It's outrageously delicious. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

91 Avennia 2019 Justine (Yakima Valley). This is blend 62% Grenache, 23% Mourvèdre and 16% Syrah. The aromas aren't fully ready to reveal their charms, with subdued notes of plum, raspberry, pepper, orange oil and herbs. The flavors are elegant and juicy. It hasn't all come together yet, but it has good stuffing. Best after 2024. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

91 g3 2019 Estate Grown Family Owned Goose Ridge Vineyard Selection Red Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

91 Gård 2018 Kvasir Lawrence Estate Wines Lawrence Vineyards (Royal Slope). Mourvèdre makes up 91% of this wine, with the rest Syrah (6%) and Grenache (3%). The aromas are subdued and reductive out of the gate. Behind that are notes of soot, coffee, smoke and dried herbs. The palate is sleek feeling but flavorful. It's equal parts intrigue and delivery. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

91 Gård 2018 Vaucluse Lawrence Estate Wines Lawrence Vineyards (Royal Slope). Syrah makes up nearly two-thirds of this wine, Grenache just over a third and the rest a smidgen of Mourvèdre. It's reductive out of the gate, while the blue and black fruit flavors are center-focused and flavorful. Give it some air to see it at its best. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

91 Gorman 2019 The Devil You Don't Know (Columbia Valley). This is a blend of 55% Syrah, 41% Grenache and 4% Mourvèdre, aged in new American oak, though the latter shows restraint. Aromas of blueberry, raspberry and herbs are followed by blueberry pie-driven flavors. It's a full-flavored charmer. —S.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$32

91 Next 2018 Fig. 92 Between Heaven and Earth Red Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13.82% **Price:** \$13

91 Soos Creek 2018 Elephant Mountain Vineyard (Rattlesnake Hills). This is a blend of three-quarters Cabernet Sauvignon and one-quarter Merlot. Aromas of cherry, herb and spice are followed by light, juicy flavors. There's more than enough tannic structure to hold it all together. It's a very pretty interpretation of this appellation. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

91 Soos Creek 2018 Soleil (Columbia Valley). This wine is 60% Cabernet Franc, 33% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas offer notes of Rainier cherry, rose hips and fruit leather. The palate brings freshness and polish, with plenty of acidity and firm tannic structure that will benefit from some time in the cellar. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

91 Virtue 2019 Fortitude (Columbia Valley). Merlot (52%) is in the lead on this wine, followed by Cabernet Sauvignon (25%) and Malbec (23%). The aromas announce themselves with notes of fresh herbs, raspberry, orange oil, olive and plum. There's sophistication, freshness, and delicacy to the palate. It's a terrific value. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24

91 Walla Walla Vintners 2018 Vottavo Cut Bank Vineyard (Walla Walla Valley). Coming from a vineyard adjacent to the winery, Sangiovese makes up half of this wine, with the rest 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Syrah. The aromas bring notes of red fruit, pencil eraser, spice and herb. Juicy coffee flavors follow, with the tannins giving a firm squeeze. Chocolate notes linger on the warm finish. Give it some time in the bottle or decant, and you will be rewarded. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

90 Aquilini 2017 Family Blend (Red Mountain). Though the wine is still locked up tight, swirling coaxes out aromas of blackberry, graphite, wood spice, licorice, dried herbs and menthol. The flavors are rich and full-bodied. The tannins give a firm, dry, almost unyielding grip. There's plenty of acidity to stand it all up. Patience is required here. Don't touch before 2028. —S.S.
abv: 15.32% **Price:** \$70

90 Fielding Hills 2018 Estate Tribute Riverbend Vineyard Red (Wahlake Slope). This is a blend of 58% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Syrah. It's still settling in, showing some reductive elements out of the gate. Beyond that are notes of coffee, cherry cordial and black licorice. The palate is full-throttle, chock-full of dark-fruit flavors. There's a lot to like. —S.S.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Gorman 2019 The Devil You Know (Columbia Valley). This is a blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. At first blush, it shows a bit of reduction. Beneath that are notes of plum and herb. Chocolatey flavors follow. It's drinking young right now, but the goods are there that will deliver plenty of enjoyment. Give it some additional time in the bottle or a short decant. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

90 Moonbase Cellars 2019 Moonlapse (Walla Walla Valley). What's this? A valley appellation red wine for this price? Yes! Predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon, it's clear some quality juice went into the bottle. Aromas of dark roasted coffee bean and bittersweet chocolate lead to coffee laden flavors that show the refinement of the vintage. It's a serious value. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$22

90 Walla Walla Vintners 2019 Red (Columbia Valley). The aromas offer notes of roasted coffee bean and chocolate along with fresh herbs. The creamy feeling chocolate and cherry flavors

show the restraint of the vintage, with barrel tannins backing it all up. There's a lot of enjoyment to be had. Give it some time or decant. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$25

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2018 Indian Wells (Columbia Valley). The aromas are redolent with notes of dark roasted coffee bean, chocolate and spice. Creamy feeling fruit and barrel flavors follow with the tannins giving a light squeeze. The oak gets somewhat in front of the fruit, but there's still plenty of enjoyment to be had. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

89 Soos Creek 2018 Artist Series #18 (Columbia Valley). This is a blend of 59% Cabernet Franc and 41% Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas bring a candied aspect, with the fruit seeming dried out. Chocolate and cherry flavors follow. It doesn't meet the winery's usual high standard, but there is still enjoyment to be had. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

88 Soos Creek 2018 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard (Red Mountain). High-toned aromas of cherry and herbs lead to somewhat lighter styled chocolate and cherry flavors. The tannins give a light grip. There are some good things there, but it seems disjointed at present. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

88 Soos Creek 2018 Sundance (Columbia Valley). The aromas of this blend of 58% Merlot and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon bring high-toned notes of fruit leather, red fruit and assorted herbs. The palate shows the elegance that this producer is known for. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

87 J. Bookwalter NV Notebook 15NV (Washington). This is a multi-vintage blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (31%), Syrah, (24%) Merlot (23%) and Malbec (22%). The aromas bring notes of dried rose petal, orange peel, gravel and black pepper. Tacky feeling, lighter styled blue and black fruit flavors follow. It's a bit missing in the middle, but there's still enjoyment to be had. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

87 Stormchaser 2019 Wild Ride (Columbia Valley). This is a fruit-forward wine, with aromas of orange rind, plum, raspberry and herbs. Plump, lightly sweet blue fruit flavors follow. It's a soft red crowd-pleaser. *Best Buy*. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$6

87 Tattoo Girl 2018 Red (Columbia Valley). This wine shows some reductive character out of the gate but not in a way that causes significant distraction. Beyond that are aromas of cocoa, red fruit and cherry cordial. The limber flavors are straight down the fairway. —S.S.
abv: 13.75% **Price:** \$13

86 Westport Winery 2019 Kraken Reserve Elephant Mountain Vineyard (Rattlesnake

BUYINGGUIDE

Hills). The aromas bring a ripe mixture of dark fruit, baking spice and vanilla. Full-bodied flavors follow, mixing fruit and barrel. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$49

OTHER RED WINES

92 Virtue 2019 Vitality Malbec (Columbia Valley). This producer is quickly making a name for itself, creating wines that offer a pure look at each variety, without much adornment by new oak. The aromas are generous and appealing, immediately identifiable as Malbec, with notes of Damson plum, raspberry and orange zest. Plush, achingly pure flavors follow. It's delightful. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$26

90 Concentric Wine Project 2020 Gamay Noir (Columbia Valley). Gamay is a rare beast in the state, with this producer making an early release-style offering. The aromas offer notes of cigar butt, dried stem and raspberry. The palate is light and fresh, with plenty of tart fruit flavors with a lot of acidity behind them. Pair it with roasted lamb chops with a cherry glaze. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Fielding Hills 2018 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Carménère (Wahluke Slope). This variety is often known for its green elements, but it seems to have found a happy home at the winery's warm vineyard on the Wahluke Slope. A bit reductive out of the gate, it has aromas of blackberry, cherry, baking spice and herbs leading to rich, pillow soft dark-fruit flavors. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$48

90 Walla Walla Vintners 2019 Malbec (Wahluke Slope). Les Collines Vineyard in Walla Walla Valley makes up 70% of this wine, with the rest from Shaw 32. The aromas boast notes of chocolate, espresso, plum and vanilla. Fruit and barrel intertwine on the palate. The barrel influence plays prominently at present, but there's a mouthwatering freshness behind it that ups the appeal. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

89 Gård 2018 Reverence Lawrence Estate Wines Lawrence Vineyards Grenache (Royal Slope). This is 93% Grenache and 7% Mourvèdre. The aromas are reserved, with notes of red fruit, barrel spice, allspice and herb. The palate has soft cranberry and raspberry flavors. It's part intrigue, part delivery. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50

89 Walla Walla Vintners 2019 Sangiovese (Columbia Valley). Sangiovese is an increasing rarity in Columbia Valley. Aromas of graphite, coffee, raspberry, cedar and plum are followed by a palate that shows a lot of elegance. Behind that are some sneaky tannins and ample acidity. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Itä 2019 Breezy Slope Vineyard Pinot Noir (Walla Walla Valley). Pinot Noir is a relative rarity in the Columbia Valley, with most of what's planted used for sparkling wines; Pinots from Walla Walla are that much more unusual. It's light in color and cloudy, offering aromas bursting with notes of strawberry, forest floor, rhubarb and whole tangerine, with the variety immediately identifiable. The palate is light and juicy. It doesn't entirely stand up on its own but will do well at the dinner table. Pair it with salmon salad with fresh berries and a basil vinaigrette. —S.S.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$45

86 Westport Winery 2019 Message in a Bottle Sugarloaf Vineyard Grenache (Rattlesnake Hills). The aromas are unique, with notes of freshly peeled orange, berry, ash, allspice and flower. The Mandarin orange- and raspberry-driven flavors are light and juicy. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

IDAHO

WHITE WINES

88 Colter's Creek 2020 Estate Chardonnay (Lewis-Clark Valley). The aromas offer notes of freshly cut pear and yellow apple along with mineral accents. Fuller feeling flavors follow. It's a bright, fresh interpretation of the variety. Pair it with a porch and a warm summer day. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Colter's Creek 2020 Estate Chardonnay-Viognier (Lewis-Clark Valley). This is an equal split of these two varieties. The aromas offer notes of petroleum jelly, cut apple and pear. The palate is full-bodied and viscous in feel. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Sawtooth 2020 Classic Fly Series Chenin Blanc (Snake River Valley). This is an aromatic wine, with notes of cantaloupe, melon rind and whole lemon. The palate is full feeling and lightly spritzly. There's a lot to like. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

87 Colter's Creek 2020 Estate Riesling (Lewis-Clark Valley). The aromas pop with notes of green apple skin, heaping amounts of herb, passion fruit and a whiff of diesel. The palate drinks just off-dry, with broader feeling flavors. It's more interesting than entirely successful. —S.S.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

ROSÉS

89 Colter's Creek 2020 Rosé of Negroamaro (Lewis-Clark Valley). This one-of-a-kind bottling in the Northwest brings notes of herb and melon. Just off-dry-drinking, rounded flavors follow. The acidity is delightful. Pair it with grilled octopus with chimichurri. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

86 Colter's Creek 2020 Estate Rosé of Cinsault (Lewis-Clark Valley). Aromas of herb, apple and cherry are followed by broad, dry flavors. It feels thick and viscous through the middle, in the end quite ponderous. —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

RED WINES

92 Colter's Creek 2018 Fondo Estate Syrah (Lewis-Clark Valley). This winery is pioneering exploration of this appellation, and its findings are glorious. The aromas pop, with notes of earth, huckleberry, blueberry, orange peel and herb. Plump fresh blue fruit flavors follow. It's a complete delight—a new benchmark for this young appellation and an outrageous value. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Colter's Creek 2018 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Lewis-Clark Valley). The aromas offer notes of purple fruit, dried herb, green flower and cherry, showing a lot of ripeness. Rich, ripe flavors follow. It's an unabashedly full-bore style, high on the hedonism scale. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

90 Ste. Chapelle 2018 Panormaic Series Shoshone Falls Malbec (Snake River Valley). There's no question on the variety, with its notes of blue fruits, plum, fresh herbs, green stem and orange oil—textbook aromas for this variety in the Northwest. The palate is all about the grace and purity of the plump fruit flavors. There's a lot to like. *Editors' Choice*. —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30

86 Bitner 2016 Terrosa Red (Snake River Valley). This is a blend of 45% Syrah, 45% Petit Verdot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of vanilla, baking spice, red and black cherries, hay and cedar box are followed by tart fruit flavors. There are interesting pieces, but they don't all come together. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

NEW YORK

CABERNET FRANC

92 Benmarl 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region). Intense aromas of crushed black pepper, thyme and savory meets a coiled cranberry and brambleberry core in this dense Cabernet Franc. There's tension, drive and grip to the medium-bodied palate, with rippling berry flavors flecked with a bevy of herbal, earthy accents. Graphite and crushed herbs linger on the long close. Drink now–2027. *Editors' Choice*. —A.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

92 Osprey's Dominion 2015 Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This savory red delivers cohesive aromas of tomato paste, olive and crushed herbs over a coiled cran-

berry and blackberry core. There's some development on the nose, but all within good measure, adding depth and nuance. The medium-bodied palate seamlessly blends tart fruit with savory herb and peppery spice flavors, with a tangy slick of granite and a hint of barnyard funk extending on the finish. Drink now–2026. *Editors' Choice*. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

91 Hound's Tree 2017 Indigène Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This whole cluster fermented Cabernet Franc displays intense aromas of blueberry pie filling, rife with cinnamon, clove and anise accents. There's depth and richness to the berry fruit on the medium-bodied palate, with rounded tannins lending a gentle grip and juicy acidity lifting it all up. The fruit and warm spice tones don't skip a beat from start to lingering finish. —A.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$38

91 Jamesport 2017 Cutchogue Native Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Cohesive aromas of ripe cranberry and cherry blend with anise and lavender on the compact nose. This red saw extended maceration on Teroldego skins and was aged 16 months in new old French oak. It's juicy and grippy on the palate, driven by bright shots of red berry flavors matched by herb and spice accents. The structure is seamless yet supportive, with depth of flavor and a crushed-velvet texture extending from start to finish. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

91 Jamesport 2017 Estate Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Zesty aromas of spiced cranberry and peppercorn are lifted and bright on the nose, with base elements of crushed herbs, rooibos and lavender lending depth. Rounded cranberry and brambleberry flavors fill out the core of the medium-bodied palate, with more earthy and spice tones grounding it all. Resolved tannins and plenty of juicy acidity lend structure for all these elements to linger on the finish. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Billsboro 2019 Sawmill Creek Vineyards Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). This medium-bodied red seamlessly blends ripe tones of cranberry and blueberry with sweet and savory accents of anise, clove and crushed herbs. There's density to it all, yet plenty of balance from the rounded tannins and juicy acidity. Crushed herb and spice notes linger gracefully on the finish. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Hound's Tree 2017 Reserve Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Sweet spice driven on the nose, this red shows a deft mix of cinnamon and anise blended into a rich cherry core. Using 60% whole cluster fermentation, the pops of tart red berry and warm spice tones carry over to the medium-bodied palate. A gentle kick of mentholated herbs lingers on the close. —A.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$45

90 Living Roots 2019 Woodland Cherry Cabernet Franc (New York). Aromas of cranberry pie filling, flecked with anise, clove and cinnamon, shows lift and intensity on the nose thanks to a light lacing of menthol. The medium-bodied palate is supple and juicy, bursting with bright berry flavors dotted with sweet and savory spices. It ends lifted and bright, making this a balanced pour. —A.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$24

90 Raphael 2015 Reserve Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Cocoa, coffee and singed lavender lead the nose, with dense cranberry and blackberry riding below. The roasted notes continue on the palate, with rich berry fruit pushing through midway. There's structure and depth in spades, yet by the end it resolves into a neatly packed package. —A.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$55

89 Anthony Nappa 2019 Bordo Antico Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). A gentle spiced cranberry aroma starts off this red, with fresh herbal accents of thyme and savory chiming in. It's driven by tart red berry flavors on the palate, flecked by dried chile and herbs. Lightly rustic tannins and mild acidity lend support. —A.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$25

89 Hosmer 2019 Cabernet Franc (Cayuga Lake). Aromas of ripe cranberry and cherry meet a delicately spiced edge on the nose, accented by crushed herbs and lavender. The medium-bodied palate shows easy red berry flavors balanced by soft tannins and fresh acidity. It resolves well on the finish, ending smooth and supple in feel. —A.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$22

89 Hound's Tree 2017 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). There's lift and intensity on the nose, displaying bright aromas of mentholated herbs, anise and brandy-soaked cherries. The medium-bodied palate is zesty while remaining broad and juicy. Tart cranberry and peppery herb flavors are wrapped in a gentle hug of tannins. —A.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28

88 Benmarl 2019 Cabernet Franc (New York). This light, zesty Cabernet Franc delivers brisk tones of cranberry, menthol, thyme and peppercorn. Its balance of gentle tannic grip and juicy acidity makes it a solid choice at the dinner table. —A.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$23

88 Keuka Spring 2019 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). A mildly intense nose suggests brambleberry and cranberry matched by accents of thyme and black pepper. The medium-bodied palate is gently glossy, filled out by juicy thick-skinned berry flavors that seamlessly blend with spice and herbal tones. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Millbrook 2019 Cabernet Franc (New York). A pleasing mix of brambleberry, cranberry, tar, clove and green peppercorn shows good depth

on the nose and palate of this medium-bodied red. There's some generosity to the fruit in texture, with soft, resolved tannins rounding it all out. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Paumanok 2019 Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This delicate Cabernet Franc delivers lightly concentrated aromas and flavors of cherry, raspberry and citronella. Firm boundaries are set by sandy tannins, with bright acidity lending balance. —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

88 RGNV 2019 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Ripe cherry and blackberry aromas blend with clove and crushed black pepper on the nose. There's nice weight to the medium-bodied palate, with juicy berry fruit wrapped in a seam of dried chile and warm baking spices. The intensity thins out slightly on the midpalate and ends abruptly on the finish, but this is enjoyable for its quick burst of flavor. —A.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$37

88 Ventosa 2017 Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake). Lightly concentrated aromas of cranberry and sweet baking spice carry the nose. It's bright and juicy on the medium-bodied palate, with slightly sandy tannins giving a gentle grip. Sweet spice tones arise on the finish, alongside a tangy slick of granite. —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

87 Fox Run 2018 Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake). This spicy red delivers lifted herbal aromas of thyme and savory, backed by a brisk brambleberry core on the nose. It's light and juicy on the palate, flecked by more peppery herbs. Drink slightly chilled. —A.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$22

87 Knapp 2019 Unoaked Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Spicy aromas of crushed red pepper flakes and black peppercorn blend with brisk cranberry on the nose. It's light in feel, showing tart, zesty red berries on the palate matched by delicately sandy tannins and fresh acidity. Enjoy slightly chilled. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

86 Heron Hill 2018 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). This fruit-forward red shows ripe tones of black raspberry and cranberry, with hints of cracked pepper hiding beneath. Slightly astringent tannins stick out against the fruit on the palate, with mild acidity lending a bit of balance. —A.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$18

86 Weis 2018 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). This mild light-bodied red shows decent cohesion of spiced cranberry and peppery herbs. There's a slight grit to the tannins, with a tart red fruit flavor pushing through. —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

86 Weis 2016 Barrel Reserve Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Savory aromas of bouillon

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and poultry spice make for an odd entry, with dried cranberry and blackberry at the core. The savory flavors take a backseat on the medium-bodied palate, where juicy berry fruit is matched by rounded tannins and integrated acidity. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

85 Lieb 2019 Estate Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Strong aromas of menthol and thyme drive the nose, with black fruit hiding in the wings. There's a thick feel to the dark cherry fruit on the palate, where tar and herbal nuances meet mildly harsh tannins. —A.P.

abv: 12.8% Price: \$30

85 Macari 2019 Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). Very light aromas of baked raspberry and peppery spice carry to the delicate palate. Fermented in concrete egg, this red has nothing to hide. A watery cranberry flavor feels brisk, with paper-thin tannins lending support. —A.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$30

85 Robinia Hill 2019 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Leading with aromas of cola, sarsaparilla and brandy-soaked cranberries, this red shows oak tones in full force. The medium-bodied palate echoes the nose, with lean red berry fruit masked by sweet spice tones. Bright acidity and resolved tannins lend a solid structure. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

84 Buttonwood Grove 2018 Skaneateles Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). This light-bodied red shows lifted aromas of blood orange and citronella on the nose, with a gentle dried cranberry tone underneath. It's delicate on the palate, with demure red-berry flavors wrapped in superthin tannins and mild acidity. —A.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$19

84 McCall 2016 North Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Franc (North Fork of Long Island). This light, brisk Cabernet Franc is driven by grassy, herbal aromas, with the fruit straining to shine through. There's a bitter edge to the tannins, with juicy acidity lending just enough balance. —A.P.

abv: 12.8% Price: \$26

84 Robinia Hill 2018 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). This red smells like the fruit filling to a freshly baked berry pie: allspice, cinnamon and clove over a baked cranberry core. The medium-bodied palate is a bit flabby in feel, with mild tannins and gentle acidity propping it up. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

83 Lamoreaux Landing 2018 Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). This delicately concentrated red shows tones of dried chile, coconut suntan oil and cranberry. The tannins are gossamer thin, with mild acidity lending support. —A.P.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$23

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Osprey's Dominion 2015 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Showing an engaging array of juniper, thyme, sage, cranberry and currant aromas on the nose, this tightly coiled Cab is a stunner. Dense red berry flavors are met with a mentholated edge on the palate. While there's currently a glimpse of polished sheen to the tannins, this is destined for further aging. Drink through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$39

91 Lenz 2015 Old Vines Unfiltered Uncolored Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Densely packed aromas of dark cherry and red currant meet lifted accents of graphite and cigar wrapper on the nose. It's energized and lifted on the medium-bodied palate, pushed along by coiled berry flavors that are wrapped in peppery and sweet spices. There's grip and drive to the finish, indicating this will hold well through 2028. —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$60

90 Duck Walk 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Lifted elements of graphite, crushed herbs, juniper and currant lead the energized nose. It's smooth and supple in feel on the palate, displaying juicy currant flavors bolstered by slicks of graphite and crushed stone. It ends bright and tangy, with resolved tannins and a gentle fruity twang. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

89 McCall 2014 North Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Reticent on the nose, this red eventually reveals aromas of black cherry, cocoa powder and menthol. It's sultry and slick on the medium-bodied palate, where juicy berry fruit is wrapped in polished tannins. —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$48

89 Raphael 2015 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Ripe red cherry and red currant aromas carry a delicate toasty edge on the nose. Bright berry flavors follow over to the medium-bodied palate, with cocoa, coffee and singed sage accents. It shows a gentle polish to the tannins, with bright acidity pushing it all along. —A.P.

abv: 13.1% Price: \$55

88 Pellegrini Vineyards 2015 Vintner's Pride Estate Grown Uncolored Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Thyme and green peppercorn aromas lend an herbal lilt to the nose of this wine, with blueberry and blackberry providing a solid core. It's smooth and glossy in feel on the palate, with nicely generous berry flavors studded with graphite and spice accents. —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$70

87 Lenz 2017 Estate Selection Uncolored Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Dense, brambly blackberry and cur-

rant aromas show ample richness on the nose, with toasted warm spices firmly wrapping it all. The medium-bodied palate is more demure in nature, with soft berry fruit and gentle tannins lifted by a mild vein of acidity. —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$35

87 Paumanok 2019 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (North Fork of Long Island).

Dense aromas of black cherry, currant and citronella drive the nose. Plush fruit carries the medium-bodied palate, with spiced juniper lifting it up. There's a firmness to the tannins that lends a solid boundary for the ripe fruit. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

MERLOT

93 Osprey's Dominion 2013 Reserve Merlot (North Fork of Long Island).

From a stellar vintage on Long Island, this Merlot delivers intense aromas of dark plum, crushed granite, sage and hints of sweet spices. It's supple and rounded on the palate yet driven by a sleek, stony streak that balances the succulent, plummy core. Accents of earth and spice linger long on the close. Drink now—2028. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$30

92 Coffee Pot Cellars 2014 Merlot (North Fork of Long Island).

Aromas of graphite and crushed herbs lend a linear, driven feel to the nose, yet there's plenty of generosity by way of black currant and plum at the core. The medium-bodied palate shows a delightful mix of taut dark-berry fruit balanced by accents of graphite and sage. While enjoyable now, this has the structure and stuffing to last through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$24

92 Lenz 2015 Old Vines Unfiltered Uncolored Merlot (North Fork of Long Island).

Dense aromas of black plum, blackberry, tar, fern and crushed mentholated herbs give this old-vine Merlot plenty of intensity on the nose. There's richness to the medium-bodied palate, with a soft, generous texture filled out by juicy berry and plum fruit. It remains balanced all the way through the lengthy finish. Drink through 2029. —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$70

91 Anthony Nappa 2015 Reserve Merlot (North Fork of Long Island).

There's density to the brooding aromas of cherry, plum, coffee and singed thyme on the nose. A mix of luscious berry and plum flavors are wrapped in a warm, toasty embrace on the full-bodied palate, with power and grip behind it all. This will hold well in the cellar. Drink through 2026. —A.P.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$40

91 Raphael 2017 First Label Merlot (North Fork of Long Island).

Lifted aromas of menthol and tarragon meet clove on the nose, with a deep well of dark cherry and plum providing a solid core. There's density on the medium-bodied palate, where well-

meshed tannins and bright acidity frame the juicy fruit, spice and herbal flavors. It's a cohesive Merlot that is enjoyable now but should hold well through 2026. —A.P.

abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$32

90 Duck Walk 2019 Reserve Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). Ripe red plum and cranberry aromas meet lifted accents of crushed granite, thyme and cracked pepper on the cohesive nose. It's rounded and juicy on the palate, showing good generosity of flavor and backed by smooth tannins. It lingers nicely on the taut finish. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Jamesport 2017 Estate Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). Well-concentrated aromas of cherry coulis and fresh red plum are perked up by crushed granite, minty herbs, fern and charcuterie. The medium-bodied palate is fully fleshed out in juicy berry and plum flavors, all wrapped in a mix of herbs and sweet spices. Rounded tannins and bright acidity lend ample structure to it all, with the fruit lingering on the close. —A.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Paumanok 2014 Grand Vintage Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). This Merlot holds richness in spades, delivering succulent dark cherry and plum tones perked up by pink peppercorn, thyme and sage accents. It's smooth and supple in texture, with plenty of bursting fruit flavors driving from start to finish. —A.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Pindar 2019 Reserve Barrel Select Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). For full review see page 18.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 The Grapes of Roth 2018 Merlot (Long Island). Cohesive aromas of dark cherry, red plum, tar and clove carry to the medium-bodied palate where a warm, toasty spice embrace wraps it all up. It's rounded in feel, with integrated tannins and bright acidity that lend a seamless texture to the whole. It ends with lingering juicy fruit. —A.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Wölffer 2010 Lorena Merlot (Long Island). This late-release wine made from partially dried grapes delivers dense aromas of brandy-soaked dark cherries and macerated plums, with hoisin sauce, menthol and dried fern lending nuance. It's generous and full in feel, showing supple dark-fruit flavors edged by sweet and savory spices. Sandy tannins and bright acidity lend the frame. Drink now for best enjoyment. —A.P.

abv: 16.2% **Price:** \$85

88 Hound's Tree 2017 Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). A bit reticent on the nose, this Merlot shows quiet tones of red plum and dark cherry against a thin wall of tar and mentholated herbs. Rounded in feel, with pleasing generosity to the fruit tones, the medium-bodied palate offers

resolved tannins and mild acidity for a balanced outcome. —A.P.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

88 Palmer 2015 Old Roots Estate Bottled Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). Aromas of brandy-soaked plums, sandalwood and dried cranberry carry this old-vine Merlot. It's rich in feel on the palate, driven by spiced berry and peppery spice flavors, ending with a noticeable kick of alcohol. —A.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 Saltbird 2018 Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). Well-concentrated aromas of brambleberry and red plum are balanced by hints of wet earth and herbal spice on the nose. The medium-bodied palate is driven by juicy fruit flavors, with a green peppercorn note arising on the midpalate. Resolved tannins and bright acidity lend an easy-to-like vibe. —A.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Hunt Country Vineyards 2019 Merlot (Finger Lakes). There are delicate aromas of cherry and fern on the nose of this Merlot. It's sultry and slinky on the palate, showing a rounded plum flavor studded with peppery spice. Soft tannins and a burst of fresh acidity frame it all. —A.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Inspire Moore 2017 Timothy Moore Caywood Vineyards Seneca Merlot (Finger Lakes). This lightly concentrated Merlot delivers aromas and flavors of red plum and cherry Jell-O alongside a mix of sweet and savory spices. Zesty acidity and gently raspy tannins frame it all. —A.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

87 Lieb 2019 Estate Merlot (North Fork of Long Island). This rather austere Merlot delivers coiled flavors of plum and cranberry braced by earthy accents of tar, thyme and menthol. The acidity is driving it all, with fine yet copious tannins leading to a pinpoint close. —A.P.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

MALBEC

89 Lenz 2017 Estate Selection Unfiltered Malbec (North Fork of Long Island). This fleshy plum-fruited red delivers the deep black fruits typical of the variety alongside a delicate seam of warm spices. There's power behind the full-bodied palate, with the fruit tones currently dominating through the lingering finish. —A.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Raphael 2017 Estate Malbec (New York). This red shows the pure dark-fruited nature of the variety, unencumbered by any noticeable oak influence. There's a brambly edge to the black plum and blackberry tones, with stemmy spice, thyme and basil adding nuance. Slick tannins and bright acidity make this a fun, fresh offering. —A.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

88 Raphael 2015 Reserve Malbec (North Fork of Long Island). This fleshy red shows tones of ripe black plum replete with tones of cola and rooibos. There's good cohesion between the supple tannins, bright acidity and juicy fruit, making this a solid representation of the variety. —A.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

87 Duck Walk 2019 Malbec (North Fork of Long Island). This nicely ripe red displays easy tones of red plum and dark cherry alongside hints of crushed herbs and menthol. Soft tannins and juicy acidity give it a sense of ease. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

86 Wölffer 2019 Malbec (Long Island). This brambly, light-bodied red displays easy tones of blackberry and cherry perked up by stemmy spice. There's a slight grit to the tannins, with bright acidity driving it along. —A.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

PETIT VERDOT

89 Osprey's Dominion 2014 Reserve Petit Verdot (North Fork of Long Island). A seamless blend of blackberry and plum tones meet menthol, crushed herbs and peppery spice in this red. It's nicely ripe in feel, bolstered by mellowed tannins and juicy acidity. —A.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Paumanok 2014 Limited Edition Apollo Drive Vineyard Estate Bottled Petit Verdot (North Fork of Long Island). Rich aromas of blackberry coulis and black plum blend with crushed peppercorn, anise and clove. It's unctuous and dense on the palate, showing ample power to the thick-skinned black fruit flavors upfront. It falls off on the quick side, with a coating of tannins replacing the fruit flavors on the finish. —A.P.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

87 McCall 2014 Petit Verdot (North Fork of Long Island). Quiet aromas of baked raspberry and dark cherry pie filling blend with a lifted black pepper accent on the nose. It's plush and soft on the medium-bodied palate, pushed along by juicy acidity. —A.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

87 Raphael 2015 Reserve Petit Verdot (North Fork of Long Island). There's cohesion on the nose to the aromas of blackberry and plum jam, clove and cigar wrapper. Despite the dense fruit, there's a lithe profile to the palate, where tart berry flavors meet a bit of green spice on the midpalate. The mellow tannins provide an easy entry point. —A.P.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

83 Pellegrini Vineyards 2015 Estate Grown Unfiltered Petit Verdot (North Fork of Long Island). Baked blackberry and plum flavors meet a hefty dose of green peppercorn and sage on the

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nose. The green, herbal notes continue on the palate, translating as a bit harsh in tannins. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

CARMENÈRE

92 Osprey's Dominion 2015 Estate Bottled Carmenera (North Fork of Long Island). This Bordeaux variety is rarely bottled on its own outside of Chile, so it's a real treat to see such a stellar domestic bottling. Densely packed aromas of graphite, thyme, sage, moss and button mushroom seamlessly mingle with the cranberry and blackberry core on the nose. It's equally compact and intense on the medium-bodied palate, where earthy and herb accents play well against the plump berry fruit. Showing grip and drive now, this should hold well through 2028. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

RED BLENDS

93 Osprey's Dominion 2014 Flight Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot delivers tightly compact aromas of currant and plum flecked with thyme, graphite and moss. It's polished and poised on the medium-bodied palate, with graphite, herb and currant flavors vying for the spotlight. The intense coil of flavors, as well as the firm, lingering structure, indicate cellaring potential. Drink through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Coffee Pot Cellars 2015 Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). This blend offers a seamless mix of brambleberry, plum, anise and clove tones, presenting as lifted and energized on the nose and palate. There's a supple ease to the texture, with resolved tannins and integrated acidity supporting the succulent plummy fruit. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Lieb 2019 Estate Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). There's depth and richness to this Bordeaux-style red blend. Accents of Dutch-process cocoa, coffee and clove stud the rich black-cherry and dark-plum core, with a zesty line of crushed stone lifting it all up. There's grip and power to the tannins, with bursting acidity for balance. Fruit and oak spice linger on the close, indicating this would hold well in the cellar. Drink through 2028. —A.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$48

91 Raphael 2015 Primo Reserve (North Fork of Long Island). A rich, jammy core of plum, cherry and currant sets the foundation for heady accents of thyme, fern and cured meat in this blend of Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. There's depth and richness to it all, framed by well-resolved tannins and bright, juicy acidity. Oak and fruit tones end integrated and with a sense of ease. —A.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

90 Benmarl 2019 Field Blend Estate Grown (Hudson River Region). A pretty mix of cherry cordial, black plum, clove and anise marks this cohesive blend of Cabernet Franc, Blaufränkisch and Saperavi. It's rounded and ripe on the palate yet crunchy and taut in texture thanks to juicy acidity and grippy tannins. Enjoy slightly chilled. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 Jamesport 2017 Mélange de Trois Reserve (North Fork of Long Island). Rich aromas of plum and cherry meld with coffee and clove in this unique blend of Lagrein, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. It's generous and luscious in dark plummy and black cherry fruit on the palate, perked up by delicate seams of warm spice. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 McCall 2014 Ben's Blend Corchaug Estate (North Fork of Long Island). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot sees 18 months in French oak. The result is a rounded, nicely plump wine replete with ripe red plum, cherry, menthol, coffee, damp herbs and clove. Smooth tannins and bright acidity meet a gentle seam of bitter cocoa, which hold all the fruit tones in place through the toasty finish. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$54

90 Paumanok 2015 Assemblage Estate Bottled (North Fork of Long Island). Dense aromas of black plum and blackberry meet cocoa and tar in this rich blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. The structured palate is fully fleshed out by fresh berry and plum flavors, framed by gripping tannins and bursting acidity. It's compact and tight right now but should open up further with a decant or time in the bottle. Drink from 2023–2028. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Macari 2015 Alexandra (North Fork of Long Island). Fruit-forward aromas of cherry and plum lead this blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. It's luscious and juicy on the palate, with bright acidity keeping everything taut while sandy tannins lend grip. —A.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$95

89 Pindar 2019 Mythology Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). For full review see page 20.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

88 RGNV 2019 Scielo Tinto (North Fork of Long Island). Red cherry and plum are mildly concentrated in this blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon, with wood grain and sweet spice tones lingering in the background. It's soft and supple in feel, with smooth tannins and mild acidity lending the frame. —A.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

88 Saltbird 2016 Harbinger (North Fork of Long Island). A brambly, earthy nose starts off this blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sau-

vignon. It's glossy and supple on the medium-bodied palate, with smooth berry flavors met by bright acidity and sandy tannins. —A.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$27

87 Macari 2017 Dos Aguas (North Fork of Long Island). Mildly concentrated tones of blueberry and red plum meet menthol, clove and thyme in this red blend. It's soft, supple and easy on the palate, with delicate fruit flavors propped up by lightly sandy tannins. —A.P.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$35

87 Palmer 2015 Old Roots Reserve Estate Bottled (North Fork of Long Island). This blend of 73% Cabernet Franc and 27% Merlot is driven by copious sweet tones of coconut, sandalwood and brown sugar. Delicate tannins lend a rather light profile on the palate, showing dried cherry and warm spice tones perked up by bright acidity. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

86 Harbes 2019 Red Blend (North Fork of Long Island). This easy blend of Cabernet Franc and Merlot offers lightly concentrated aromas and flavors of crushed cherry and cranberry, perked up by accents of clove and damp herbs. It's zesty and taut, with gritty tannins arising on the finish. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

86 Keuka Spring 2019 Epic Reserve (Finger Lakes). Driven by herbal tones of sliced poblano pepper and crushed peppercorn, this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Lemberger and Saperavi carries a mildly concentrated mixed fruit core. Supple plum and cherry flavors meet a gentle bitter seam of tannins, all lifted by fresh acidity. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

81 Adirondack Winery 2018 Adirondack Trio Premium Edition Meritage (New York). Candied cherry and sweet spice tones carry this blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. Very delicate tannins and mild acidity give it a thin profile. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

SPIRITS

The latest reviews of Armagnac

Armagnac, the grape-based brandy from France's Gascony region, is a delightful spirit well worth a pour. Although almost every discussion of the category begins by referencing Cognac—the other, more famous French brandy—Armagnac has no problem holding its own.

The robust richness of the brandy makes it an ideal dessert companion or nightcap. The flavor profile often includes butterscotch, stone fruit and caramel while older bottlings tend toward more dry flavors that suggest roasted nuts, plum skin or leather. Spice notes also can feature prominently, leading some to posit that bourbon is to rye whiskey as Cognac is to Armagnac.

Armagnac is frequently bottled in dated vintages, which means they can be perfect for commemorating a special birthday or anniversary. However, blended Armagnacs also exist. Many of these are affordable options that can be a good choice for mixing into cocktails. Those blends use an age grading similar to Cognac:

Spice notes also can feature prominently, leading some to posit that bourbon is to rye whiskey as Cognac is to Armagnac.

VS, VSOP, XO and hors d'age, which has similar requirements as XO but producers use to indicate high-quality, often older bottlings.

One notable new blend is Bhakta 50, which incorporates an astonishing range of brandies: the youngest is 50 years old, distilled in 1970, the oldest distilled in 1868, plus six other vintages between 1878 and 1965. The average age of the blend is over 60 years old.

"It's a miracle that these brandies survived," producer Raj Bhakta rightly observes. "Nearly every village in war-ravaged Europe has been sacked time and again, and after its fortifications are reduced, a captured town's alcohol is the first thing to be consumed." It's a reminder how much history can unfold in any bottle.

Luckily, this blend wasn't treated too reverentially as it was finished in Islay Scotch casks, adding subtle bacon fat and smoke tones. The end result is a nontraditional spin on a traditional spirit—yet another signal that Armagnac is ready for its spotlight. —Kara Newman

98 Gaspard de M. Single Estate Distillers Cut Bas Armagnac (France; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). For full review see page 22.
abv: 45.3% Price: \$56

97 Dartigalongue Grande Eau-de-Vie Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). For full review see page 22.
abv: 40% Price: \$125

97 Delord 25 Hors d'Age Bas Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). For full review see page 23.
abv: 40% Price: \$83

96 Castarède XO Aged 10 Years Armagnac (France; 375 Park Avenue Spirits, Louisville, KY). The aroma is pure, concentrated caramel. Oak, coffee grounds and piquant black pepper lead into a richer, creamier midpalate, showing vanilla cream

and baking spice flavors reminiscent of egg nog, finishing with hints of cocoa, baked pear and nutmeg.
abv: 40% Price: \$70

96 Delord XO Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Look for rich flavors and dark spices: toffee, burnt caramel, dark-roast coffee, deeply toasted gingerbread embellished with clove and black pepper. The notably long sweet-and-spiced finish will not quit.
abv: 40% Price: \$55

95 Bhakta 1897 Armagnac (France; Bhakta Farms, Shoreham, VT). An extremely old and rare bottling, this brandy has a dark nut-brown hue and whiffs of toffee and dark chocolate. The palate is delicate and dry, almost papery. Fleeting toffee and spice notes quickly give way to cigar wrapper, cocoa powder, crumbly leather and a final puff of violet.
abv: 41% Price: \$3,364

95 Dartigalongue Double-Oaked Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). This robust brandy is ideal for bourbon fans, aged in new French oak with a heavy toast, then given a second aging in new French oak with a medium toast. Expect a copper penny hue and concentrated, rich caramel and chocolate aromas. The palate echoes that cocoa note, leading into toffee accented by espresso. The finish dries to walnut and clove accents enlivened by a hint of apricot.
abv: 43.3% Price: \$50

95 Larressingle Napoleon Armagnac (France; Kobrand, Purchase, NY). Look for a nut-brown hue and aromas that mingle allspice, caramel and a subtle earthy tone. The palate has an almost amaro-like quality at first sip, showing roots and bark, leather, clove and black pepper, with a hint of toffee in the background. The complex, drying finish offers oak, cigar wrapper and walnut.
abv: 40% Price: \$70

94 Artez Historic Baco Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). The Baco grape variety represents only 10% of vineyards used to make Armagnac, so it's not often seen as a single varietal bottling. The end result is a sweet vanilla fragrance and pleasing gingerbread interspersed with espresso, vanilla and a hint of hazelnut. The drying finish is lifted by orange peel and cracked black peppercorn. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$40

94 Dartigalongue Hors d'Age Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Vanilla sweetness blends with ginger, cayenne, cinnamon and cardamom, perked up by a dried apricot midpalate. The long finish similarly leads from spiced to sweet, finishing with a crème caramel exhale.
abv: 40% Price: \$64

94 Laubade L'Unique #2 The Traveling Barrel Armagnac (France; Baron Francois, New York, NY). This eight-year-old Armagnac was finished in ex-bourbon barrels for eight months. The end result is a tawny liquid perfumed with vanilla and baking spice. The first sips are brisk and energetic, with hints of oak, dried apricot and plum skin, blossoming into a long, gentle fade marked by mocha, toffee and a hints of sarsaparilla.
abv: 48.4% Price: \$80

93 Artez 1995 Bas Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). This 22-year-old single-cask bottling, distilled in 1995, has a mild cinnamon aroma and velvety palate showing cocoa, fudge and hazelnut. Orange peel briefly perks up the midpalate, fading to chocolate and clove.
abv: 46% Price: \$120

93 Artez Historic Folle Blanche Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). The Folle Blanche grape variety represents only 5% of vineyards used to make Armagnac, so it's not often seen as a single varietal bottling. The end

result here is a restrained vanilla aroma, leading into lip-smacking brown sugar, maple and cocoa powder. **Best Buy.**

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

93 Chateau de Laubade 21 Years Old Bas Armagnac (France; Baron Francois, New York, NY).

For full review see page 23.

abv: 45.3% **Price:** \$100

93 Larressingle XO Armagnac (France; Kobrand, Purchase, NY).

Look for a notably deep amber hue and caramel aroma. The lively palate opens with caramel, spice, cocoa and plenty of oomph, finishing gracefully and long with ribbons of cocoa and vanilla intertwined with nutmeg and allspice sparks.

abv: 43% **Price:** \$80

92 Hontambère Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MD).

This is part of Hontambère's Rare Armagnac collection, a 1987 vintage single cask from the Ténarèze region, bottled at cask strength. Cinnamon bark and cayenne heat open to juicy red fruit, finishing with a wash of vanilla and dried cherry, exiting gently spiced.

abv: 54.2% **Price:** \$190

91 Bhakta 50 Armagnac (France; Bhakta Farms, Shoreham, VT).

From the founder of WhistlePig, what's in the bottle is a blend of old Armagnacs—the youngest is 50 years old, the oldest was distilled in 1868—finished in Islay whisky casks. The nose is all luscious crème brûlée, but the palate shows little of that. Cinnamon and black pepper are followed by surprising mesquite and bacon fat notes. The finish is more delicate, with hints of dried apricot, chamomile tea and cigar wrapper leading into a lightly smoky and spicy exhale.

abv: 46.3% **Price:** \$399

91 Larressingle VSOP Armagnac (France; Kobrand, Purchase, NY).

Caramel sweetness on nose and palate lead into bold toffee and oak, finishing long with a sweet of espresso. Black pepper, clove and dusty cocoa powder frame the exit.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$60

90 Bhakta 1952 Armagnac (France; Bhakta Farms, Shoreham, VT).

This rare spirit finished in Islay Scotch casks has a notably dark amber hue and a amaro-like roots-and-bark aromas. The drying, dense palate opens with unsweetened chocolate, stout, tobacco and walnut, finishing with dried cherry, clove and cinnamon.

abv: 43.7% **Price:** \$1,698

90 Castarède VS Armagnac (France; 375 Park Avenue Spirits, Louisville, KY).

Vanilla and apricot aromas are balanced against some alcohol astringency on nose. The light palate echoes that stone fruit note alongside a blitz of cinnamon heat, finishing with a wash of honey and brown butter. Sip or mix. Aged at least 3 years. **Best Buy.**

abv: 40% **Price:** \$39

90 Castarède VSOP Armagnac (France; 375 Park Avenue Spirits, Louisville, KY).

Aged at least eight years, look for a tawny hue with orange highlights and brown sugar aromas coupled with a mild floral hint. The palate opens slightly drying, with oak and hints of plum skin and blackberry, unwinding into toffee, clove and black pepper prickle. **Best Buy.**

abv: 40% **Price:** \$46

90 Marie Duffau Napoleon Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA).

Rich brown sugar is complemented by toasty baking spice on nose and palate. Each sip trails off into vanilla bean and cocoa powder, plus a final dusting of hot spices.

Best Buy.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

89 Delord Napoleon Armagnac (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA).

Lively allspice, cinnamon and cayenne sparks frame vanilla and dried fig. The long, relatively hot finish brings more cinnamon sizzle and a hint of lemon peel. **Best Buy.**

abv: 40% **Price:** \$42

87 Saint-Vivant VS Armagnac (France; 375 Park Avenue Spirits, Louisville, KY).

Oak, vanilla, and red fruit aromas are followed by mild oak, vanilla and cinnamon spice. A funky note, reminiscent of banana taffy, underpins the palate. The drying finish shows mild cinnamon and a hint of roasted nuts.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$34

BEER

Relaxing pints of mild ales and extra special bitters

The British pub is a special place. Try to picture it, and you'll likely imagine a quirky spot filled with well used but comfortable chairs, wooden accents and a few cask handles behind the bar. The beer in this scenario should be a proper mild ale or an extra special bitter—the choice of a filled dimpled mug or imperial pint is up to the individual drinker.

Once ubiquitous, these classic styles are hard to come by today, especially in the United States where flashier beers, like full-throttled, hop-forward IPAs or goey imperial stouts rule the roost. But there is pleasure in the simplicity of low-alcohol ales with simple malt bills and legacy hops. Finding one on draft or on cask, or even a can for at-home enjoyment is a pleasant deviation from the norm.

For milds, the aroma is largely malt-focused and can present as nutty and caramel-driven, with occasional coffee, chocolate or a roasted character. Hop aromas are often muted but can be slightly earthy or woody, floral and grassy.

There is pleasure in the simplicity of low-alcohol ales with simple malt bills and legacy hops.

A hint of bitterness on the finish is welcome. The real draw is the sessionability of these beers, often landing in the 3% alcohol range, meaning a few are easy to have or a quick pint won't quickly put you under.

Despite its name, the extra special bitter is not actually that harsh. It is, however, special, and the the London brewer Fullers makes the best known example of the style. Malt is again at the center of flavor here, with biscuit or bread flavors along with floral and resin-forward hop accents.

In both cases look for hop varieties like Fuggle and Goldings to be used. Modern hop varieties sometimes show up in avant-garde recreations of the styles, but those can distract from the welcome simplicity and skill of traditional recipes.

The American brewers making these traditional English styles have a respect for history. These won't be the next big thing but are a welcome island of relaxation among a sea of strong hops and big alcohol. —John Holl

and always served in dimpled mug. It's best enjoyed standing at a worn wood bartop that is slightly warped from countless pints put down upon it. Or wherever you can conjure up that thought. This beer carries tradition well, it is not trying to reinvent the wheel, but spins perfectly.

abv: 3.5% **Price:** \$10/16oz 4 pack

94 Small Change The Future is Unwritten (English-style Dark Mild Ale; Small Change Brewing, MA). Roasty and mild, with a nutty coffee flavor that has cola undertones, this ale has a smart roast that wants to be paired with a burger at the good place in town or a steak cooked perfectly at home. It's a porter with distinction that honors the English tradition without letting American influence muck it up.

abv: 3.1% **Price:** \$12/16oz 4 pack

91 Bonn Place Nemo (Dark Mild Ale; Bonn Place Brewery, PA). A creamy, ruddy brown ale with

a tan head, this delivers on a chocolaty coffee roast and a touch of singed malt on the finish. It's a pint that makes a rainy summer afternoon a bit more comfortable.

abv: 3.8% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack

89 Calusa Ravenhold (Extra Special Bitter; Calusa Brewing, FL). With a hint of spice, this ale has some life to it that is accented by earthy and slightly bitter hops. Sweet on the finish, it's delicious out of a can but would sparkle on cask.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

89 Wellspent Spice of Life (English-style Dark Mild Ale; Wellspent Brewery, MO). There is a lot going on with this floral, earthy, hopped beer, including flavors of baked sugar and vanilla, spicy pipe tobacco, leather and a twinge of funk.

abv: 3.4 **Price:** \$9/16oz 4 pack

88 Bull & Bear Better Year Bitter (Extra Special Bitter; Bull & Bear Brewery, NJ). This is an ale with light toffee and roast aromas and flavor, followed by sweet caramel and a slight hop bitterness on the finish. It's a reliable go-to pub ale.

abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$20/16oz 4 pack

88 Good Word Digital Comforts (English-style Bitter; Good Word Brewing, GA). Clear and golden with a white head that dissipates quickly, this is an easy-drinking ale that is meant for lunch-time pints where the taste of beer is appreciated but there is still the work of the day to be completed.

abv: 3.9% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

87 Ferment Brewing ESB (Extra Special Bitter; Ferment Brewing Co., OR). This is a fun, easy-drinking little bitter, with a caramel roast, a touch of nuttiness and a sweet finish. This is a pleasing pub ale that brings a bit of London sensibility to your home bar.

abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$5/500ml

86 Confluence Sophie's Mild (English-style Mild Ale; Confluence Brewing, IA). This is light in body and flavor, with a perfumy floral hop note and slightly smoky aroma. It's a sipper while tending to the grill during a long afternoon summer party.

abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$10/16oz 4 pack

86 Icarus Bitterish Invasion (Extra Special Bitter; Icarus Brewing, NJ). This is a malt-forward ale, with a kiss of English hops. There's a slight boozy note that appears on the midpalate before falling into a dry finish.

abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

86 Spyglass Privateer (Extra Special Bitter; Spyglass Brewing, NH). This is golden in color, with a light hop quality, nutty malt and semidry finish. It's a fine representation of the style that can be enjoyed during the second half of a proper football match.

abv: 5.7% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack

95 Bonn Place Mooney Pub Ale (English-style Ordinary Bitter; Bonn Place Brewery, PA). The beauty of this medium-bodied beer is its simplicity. It has all the necessary components of a traditional grain bill, a soft hand on the hops and a clean fermenting yeast, so it won't overwhelm the senses with bells and whistles. By the third pint you know this is a friend for life.

abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack

95 Good Word Analog Life (English-style Dark Mild Ale; Good Word Brewing, GA). Big on roast without the bitterness, this leans heavily into floral and low herbal hops that give it a bit of a perfumy essence. It finishes dry and readies the taste-buds for the next sip.

abv: 3.6% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

95 Wallenpaupack English Pale Mild Ale (English-style Mild Ale; Wallenpaupack Brewing, PA). The world needs more beers like this

BUYINGGUIDE

86 Wild East Temperance (English-style Dark Mild Ale; Wild East Brewing, NY). This soft, rounded ale is easy drinking, with a touch of sweetness, earthiness and cola. It's just right for a train station pint with only minutes to spare at the bar, or a quick can on the train itself on a short commute.
abv: 3.5% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

85 Lost Worlds Claston (Extra Special Bitter; Lost Worlds Brewing, NC). This is a golden amber ale, with a low head that falls on the sweeter side of the palate. Showing flavors of nutty malt and a touch of mineral water, this is enjoyable, especially in early autumn with a slight chill in the air.
abv: 5.3% **Price:** \$NA/16oz 4 pack

85 Temperance Adventurous Mild (English-style Dark Mild Ale; Temperance Beer Co., IL). This is a cola colored ale that is sweet and nutty, finishing with an herbal sweetness. On tap or offered with a traditional English Breakfast, this completes the meal.
abv: 4% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

84 Fieldcrest ESB (Extra Special Bitter; Fieldcrest Brewing Co., MA). This is copper colored and light in profile, with a bready, nutty flavor and a clean, dry finish. It's an ale that is the solid choice at a corner pub where football always seems to be on the corner television.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$17/16oz 4 pack

84 Icarus Yonder (English-style Dark Mild Ale; Icarus Brewing, NJ). This is a fruity interpretation of the style, with whiffs of ripe fruits mixed in with a malt nuttiness. Bits of roast coffee on the nose and finish.
abv: 4% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack