

# TOP 100 CELLAR SELECTIONS OF 2018

Stock and stash these collectibles today for a better tomorrow.

BY THE EDITORS OF *WINE ENTHUSIAST*

By and large, we American wine drinkers are all about the here and now. When scouring our local bottle shop, we generally focus on the next meal or occasion we will be pairing with our delicious finds. While that's fine for a good number of bottles on the market—those accessible, easygoing offerings that are meant for short-term consumption—there are many wines that deserve a little respite on your wine rack before being enjoyed.

But how do you know which wines are worthy of the cellar? Well, we've done the dirty work for you.

Each year, of the roughly 23,000 wines reviewed, only a portion (close to 4%) are designated Cellar Selections—wines that, while currently delicious, would benefit from being forgotten for some time in a cool, dark place in your home. This elite grouping is further whittled down to the Top 100 Cellar Selections list, a veritable cheat sheet for the most cellar-worthy wines on the market.

This list hits some of the most collectable wines in the world from classic regions in France, Italy, Spain and Germany. However, understanding that ageable bottles come from all over the globe, and run the full gamut from white to red, sparkling and sweet, there are many stellar examples from South Africa, Australia, Argentina, California and beyond.

This year's ranking is marked by a record breaking eleven 100-point wines, thanks in large part to banner vintages in Bordeaux and Brunello. While some of these high fliers can carry a hefty price tag, 79 of them are \$100 or under, making this collection not only incredibly quality driven (the average score is 95 points), but also immensely value-minded.

So seek these beauties out, stash them in your cellar and reap the benefits of a delicious pour in the years to come.







1

**100** Château Lafite Rothschild 2015 Pauillac.

This is a great vintage from Lafite. The profile is rich in feel, with a seriously firm tannic structure. Solid, complex and with great authority, this Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant wine is impressively dense in dark-fruit tones. It will age for many years. Drink from 2027, although that would almost be too soon. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$700

2

**100** Le Chiusse 2013 Brunello di Montalcino.

Dark spice, pipe tobacco, blue flower, crushed herb and wild berry are just some of the aromas you'll find on this stunningly beautiful, fragrant red. Vibrant and elegant, the radiant palate has great intensity and energy, delivering juicy Marasca cherry, pomegranate, white pepper and star anise set against a backbone of bright acidity and firm, refined tannins. A classic Brunello, with stunning body and superb pedigree, it will age for decades. Drink 2023–2043. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$79

3

**98** Alpha Omega 2013 Proprietary Red (Napa Valley).

This blends 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc into a seamless expression of black pepper, garrigue, clove and pencil. Old World in style and in full command of its power, it offers generously layered, intensely robust tannins and a concentration that flirts with richness. Equally fermented in both barrel and stainless steel, it shows promise for cellaring. Enjoy 2023–2038. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$100

4

**100** Pol Roger 2008 Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill Brut (Champagne).

One of the great Champagnes both for its richness and its longevity, this latest incarnation is superb. The wine's richness is linked to the ripe fruit and the dominance of Pinot Noir in the blend. It also shines in the perfect balance between the texture, the minerality and the integration of the fruit. It can be enjoyed now, but it will be better from 2020 and then for many years to come. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$293

5

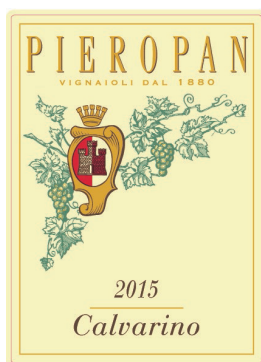
**100** W. & J. Graham's 2016 The Stone Terraces Vintage Port.

A superbly intense wine of great concentration, this has a generous structure and abundant ripe-fruit tones. Its tannins are fully intact, promising an immensely long aging period. It's rich, but also fresh in acidity and juicy black-fruit flavors. Drink from 2029. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$230

6

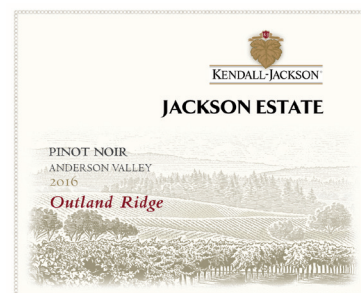
**96** Pieropan 2015 Calvarino (Soave Classico).

Always one of Italy's premier white wines, Pieropan's gorgeous 2015 Calvarino sets a new benchmark. Opening with heady aromas of white spring wildflower, citrus blossom, aromatic herb and crushed rock, the savory palate delivers layers of lemon drop, ripe apple, juicy pear and tangy mineral notes. It's concentrated yet elegant and thoroughly delicious. Drink through 2025. LUX Wines. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$31

7

**96** Kendall-Jackson 2016 Jackson Estate Outland Ridge Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).

Concentrated, exotic and almost earthy, this wine from a single vineyard in Anderson Valley has a wild edge of smoked fruit, singed rosemary and black pepper, with a core of deep black-cherry and clove flavors. It is full-bodied, mouthfilling and layered, with nuances that continue to unfold on the evolving finish. Best through 2024. —J.G.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$42

8

**100** Ciacchi Piccolomini d'Aragona 2012 Vigna di Pianrosso Santa Caterina d'Oro Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).

This gorgeous wine opens with alluring aromas of sweet pipe tobacco, underbrush, new leather, truffle, plum and eucalyptus. Smooth and full-bodied yet elegant, the savory, juicy palate delivers crushed Marasca cherry, raspberry preserve, licorice and menthol alongside polished, enveloping tannins. Fresh acidity provides impeccable balance while an orange zest note lifts the finish. Drink 2023–2032. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$175





9

**98 Kistler 2015 Cuvée Cathleen Kistler Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley).**

Made from a block within the producer's vineyard, which has a different soil series and clonal selection than the rest of the site, this is a stellar, memorable wine that's intensely layered and textured, with lasting, lingering acidity. Bright and inviting in fennel and dried apricot, the broken shale within the soil shows itself in stony, mineral components of oyster shell and white flower, with a fresh yet complex finish. Enjoy 2021–2025. —V.B.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$100

10



**100 Kracher 2015 Zwischen den Seen Scheurebe Trockenbeerenauslese Nummer 4 (Burgenland).** An exquisitely floral honeysuckle aroma surrounds a creamy yet sharp note of passion fruit, while a peppery verve tingles around the edges. The palate has the same playful character: a floral tease here, a full-blown passion-fruit kiss there, a total embrace of sweetness balanced by a sure-footed command of acid that draws everything together and assembles a newly precise picture with every sip. This is so heady, so delicious, so pure, so moreish that it should be a controlled substance. This should hold well through 2040, at least. Terlato Wines International. —A.K.

abv: 10%

Price: \$100/375 ml

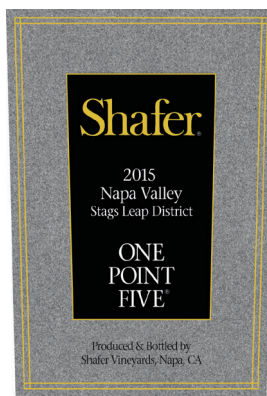
11

**100 Château Cheval Blanc 2015 Saint-Émilion.** Made with 45% Cabernet Franc, this great wine offers a beautiful, rich and perfumed character. It was an exceptional vintage for the estate, which incorporated fruit from parcels of the vineyard that would normally be used for the chateau's second wine into this blend. It is packed with black-fruit flavors and broad tannins, with a background of juicy acidity and a firm structure. Drink from 2027. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$800

12

**97 Shafer 2015 One Point Five Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).**

Taut and leathery, this is a thickly tannic, incredibly structured and powerful wine, softened by 7% Merlot and 3% Malbec. Extracted black fruit is poised amongst earthy truffle, crushed rock and black pepper, the aromas and flavors integrated and built to age. Enjoy 2025–2030. —V.B.

abv: 15.3%

Price: \$95

13



**100 Conti Costanti 2012 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** Heady scents of chopped herbs, woodland berry, forest floor, new leather, dark spice and violet are just some of the aromas you'll find in this fragrant wine. It's savory and loaded with finesse, delivering juicy Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, licorice, orange zest and pipe tobacco alongside firm yet polished tannins and fresh acidity. A tangy mineral note graces the lingering finish. It's still young and needs plenty of time to fully unwind and develop. Drink 2027–2042. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$245

14

**100 Château Ausone 2015 Saint-Émilion.**

This magnificent wine brings together the great fruit of the vintage in a complex structure. The acidity, ripe tannins and power of this dense wine are enormous, as is its aging potential. With that acidity and tannic structure, and with the perfumes from the Cabernet Franc, this wine will evolve slowly and with a measured pace. Drink from 2028. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$1000

15



**99 Sandeman 2016 Vintage Port.** This is a ripe and generous wine, with tannins that are well integrated into the powerful black-fruit core. It is rich in a black plum flavor that's cut by fine acidity. Complex, balanced and full of long-term potential, drink this impressive wine from 2029. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$90

16

**98 Quinta do Vale Meão 2015 Red (Douro).**

This quinta was created by the legendary Dona Antonia Ferreira in the 19th century and it is still owned by her descendants. While currently quite youthful, there is greatness in this wine. Its density of minerality, black fruits and rich tannins create a wine with huge aging potential. It's rich while always elegant, balanced and ready for a long life. Drink from 2025. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$106

17

**97 Château Coutet 2014 Barsac.** Powered by intense botrytis, this wine is opulent and ripe, with spice, yellow fruit and honey flavors. It has just the right balance of acidity to maintain its shape and proportions. It's likely to age well over many years. Drink from 2024. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

18

**97 Produttori del Barbaresco 2013 Rio Sordo Riserva (Barbaresco).** Enticing scents of wild berry, rose, baking spice and balsamic aromas come together in the glass. Juicy yet full in body, the flavorsome palate shows succulent Morello cherry, cranberry, licorice and ground white pepper alongside a backbone of vibrant acidity and firm, polished tannins. It's already exceptional, but will benefit from more aging. Drink 2020–2038. Vias Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$68

19



**97 Royal Tokaji 2013 6 Puttonyos Aszú Gold Label (Tokaji).** This ethereal Tokaji Aszú is golden in color, with aromas of delicate acacia flower, honeysuckle, fresh peach and tinned apricot. The flavors come alive on the palate, showing luscious apricot, floral honeycomb and fresh pear juice. The acidity is perfectly balanced to prevent this delightful wine from being too cloying. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.J.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$80/500 ml

20

**100 Château Margaux 2015 Margaux.** Predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine shows a wonderful black-currant purity on the palate, along with intense, vibrant acidity. The background is all tannin, which speaks to its aging potential. This wine is the last vintage produced by Paul Pontallier, who was general manager from 1990 until his death in 2016. It's a memorable wine and one for aging. Drink from 2027. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$1600

21

**97 Oddero 2013 Villero (Barolo).** Rose petal, woodland berry, new leather and wild herb aromas demonstrate its Nebbiolo pedigree. Youthfully austere but loaded with finesse, the full-bodied palate delivers red cherry, cranberry, white pepper and star anise set against firm fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity. This is a classic Barolo that needs time to come around and will evolve gracefully for decades. Drink 2025–2043. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

22

**97 Corison 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** This understated, elegant wine opens with a beguiling rose aroma before leading into the gracefully structured and well-balanced palate. Leather, black cherry and dark chocolate highlight a midpalate of finely polished, tamed tannin and integrated oak. It is delightfully enjoyable now, but has the structure to age well; enjoy 2020–2030. —V.B.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$95

23

**100 Château Pétrus 2015 Pomerol.** This is like drinking liquid black currants and blackberries. The wine has great intensity and richness from the superbly generous Merlot. The wood aging shows as a hint in the background, with the bold black fruit and ample acidity dominating. Drink from 2026. —R.V.

abv: 15%

Price: \$3400

24

**97 Paolo Scavino 2014 Bric del Fiasc (Barolo).** This dazzling red opens with enticing scents of rose petal, blue flower, wild berry and a whiff of camphor. Elegantly structured, the polished, full-bodied palate delivers succulent Morello cherry and raspberry compote, while licorice, tobacco and vanilla accents add depth. It's impeccably balanced, with fresh acidity. Without a doubt, this is one of the best 2014 Barolos out there. Drink 2022–2034. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$95

25

**96 Roar 2016 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Deep aromas of candied black cherries, ginger snaps, star anise and iron-laced soils are rich and inviting on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Boisterous, energetic flavors of red fruit meet with cinnamon, annatto and, on the finish, the buzz of Sichuan peppercorn. Drink 2020–2030. —M.K.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$60

26

**95 Château Carbonnieux 2015 White (Pessac-Léognan).** This wine has a wonderful citrus character of fresh lemons and limes that meld with the mineral texture. It is crisp while also structured, bright with acidity and zesty in lemon and orange flavors. The after-taste is herbal, crisp and bright. Drink from 2022. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

27

**95 Tenuta delle Terre Nere 2015 Feudo di Mezzo Il Quadro delle Rose (Etna).** Scorched earth, flint, grilled herb and red berry aromas follow over to the palate along with ripe cherry, raspberry compote and baking spice. Tight fine-grained tannins provide the framework while a licorice note lingers on the finish. Drink 2020–2030. de Grazia Imports LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

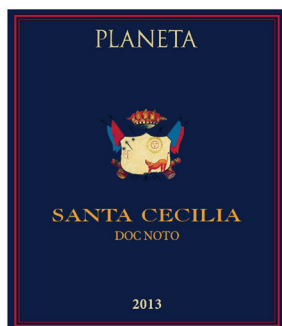
28

**95 Latta 2014 Upland Vineyard Mourvèdre (Snipes Mountain).** This varietal wine saw just a kiss (10%) of new oak. The bouquet offers aromas of blackberry, cigar box, dried herb, freshly ground black pepper, roasted meat and exotic spice. The flavors are rich, intense and layered, with captivating volume and weight as well as exquisite balance. A long, fruit- and spice-filled finish caps it off. It's a complete stunner—one of the best wines of the vintage. Best 2020–2026. —S.S.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$40

29



**95 Planeta 2013 Santa Cecilia (Noto).** Wild red berry, Mediterranean brush and exotic spice are just some of the intense aromas you'll find in this fragrant, compelling red. Elegant and well structured, the palate delivers cassis, pomegranate, sage, licorice and a hint of espresso framed in taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2019–2028. Palm Bay International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$41

30



**97 Schramsberg 2009 J. Schram (North Coast).** Enticing aromas of toasted almond and pear tart lead to an equally seductive and complex palate that is dry but rich in feel. It has the complexity and layering of a wine aged a long time on the yeast, and shows excellent concentration that leads to a long, lingering finish. This is Schramsberg's top-of-the-line Chardonnay-based wine and it definitely lives up to its billing in this vintage. Best after 2023. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$120

31

**97 Horsepower 2015 Sur Echals Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** The aromas are haunting, with notes of white and black pepper, peat, potpourri, green olive, orange blossom, grilled asparagus and smoked meat. The palate shows incredible texture and detail, but the story here is truly the finish—a full minute-plus investment worth every thrilling moment. It's hard to tell exactly when it stops. A complete mind- and palate-bending stunner—one of the defining wines of the vintage. Best from 2020–2030. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$120

32

**96 Franchetti–Passopisciaro 2016 Contrada S (Terre Siciliane).** Subtle aromas of black-skinned berry, rose, sea breeze and wet rock shape the nose. On the elegant, full-bodied palate, velvety tannins and vibrant acidity provide structure and finesse for juicy Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and a salty mineral note. It's full-bodied but also irresistibly weightless. Drink 2021–2031. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$74

33

**95 Marc Kreydenweiss 2016 Moenchberg Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace).** An exotic hint of passion flower and ivy leaf hovers over the Mirabelle notes on the nose of this bottling. The palate comes in with a flash of lemon brightness that is incisive and sonorous at the same time. The body is concentrated and rich in ripe fruit flavors while remaining dry and centered around that lovely, bright acidity. The bright, lip-smacking finish has a hint of wet stone. This is lovely now, but will evolve beautifully through 2030. AP Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

34

**96 Proprietà Sperino 2012 Lessona.** Structured, vibrant and boasting extreme elegance, this radiant Nebbiolo opens with enticing scents of iris, violet and crushed aromatic herb. The chiseled palate has wonderful intensity and precision, delivering red cherry, raspberry compote, star anise and Lessona's classic salty finish. It's still young and nervous but impeccably balanced, with taut, refined tannins and firm acidity. Give it time to unwind and fully develop. Drink 2023–2043. Petit Pois. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

35

**95 Vinha Paz 2014 Reserva Red (Dão).** This producer's vineyards are in the heart of Dão, close to Viseu, the capital of the region. A generous wine, this boasts a powerful structure and rich texture from the fermentation in stone lagars. It's shot through with ripe black plum and damson fruits as well as ample acidity. It should age and harmonize a bit further before enjoying, so drink from 2019. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

36

**95 Fritz Haag 2016 Brauneberg Juffer Sonnenuhr Riesling Trocken GG (Mosel).** Demure notes of lemon and crushed mineral on the nose contrast an exuberant palate full of pink grapefruit and hibiscus nectar. It's a gorgeously silky, concentrated dry Riesling, with a firm mineral backbone and electric acidity that need time to meld. Hold until 2020, and it's likely to improve well through 2030. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$52

37

**96 Terre Rouge 2015 Ascent Syrah (Sierra Foothills).** Smoky, earthy anise and dark-chocolate aromas give way to concentrated and layered black-plum, clove and blackberry flavors as this full-bodied wine expands on the palate. Its texture is richly tannic and the mouthfeel is generous, prolonging the lush flavors on the finish. A perennial standout, this wine has proven it can age well. Best after 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

38

**95 The Hilt 2015 The Old Guard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** Soft and mellow on the nose, with aromas of lemon cream, Meyer lemon pith, sea shells and a stroke of wood, this is a bottle to lay down and drink over the decades to come. The fresh, citrusy and layered palate focuses on bright acidity and textural tightness, making a perfect pairing for shellfish and white fish. Drink now through 2035. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$55

39

**95 Delas Frères 2015 Chantes-Perdrix (Cornas).** Firm, penetrating tannins and deep mineral complexities frame concentrated flavors of black cherry and plum in this ripe and muscular wine, elegantly balanced by vibrant acidity and a lingering violet and sage perfume. Still taut, it should improve from 2025 and hold longer. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

40

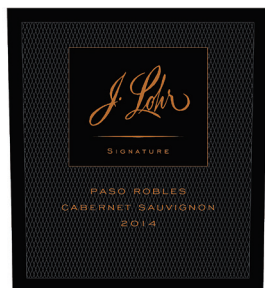
**95 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2015 Beatty Ranch Zinfandel (Howell Mountain).**

Black and white pepper lead the way into this structured, beautifully made wine, which is sourced from pre-Prohibition-planted blocks from the estate vineyard. Leather, blackberry and a grainy, grippy texture highlight the explosive flavors. It's well balanced, with both the power and grace to age. Enjoy 2020–2025. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

41

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

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

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$100

42

**94 Luca 2016 Old Vine Malbec (Uco Valley).**

Pure berry and cassis aromas are concentrated and show no holes. This Uco Valley Malbec feels pure, direct and linear, albeit with slightly scratchy tannins that should dissipate in due time. Blackberry and dry spice flavors finish full and grabby, with muscularity. Drink through 2028. Vine Connections. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

43

**94 Selvapiana 2013 Vigneto Bucerchiale Riserva (Chianti Rufina).**

This opens with enticing scents of blue flower, ripe dark-skinned berry, new leather, vanilla and sandalwood. Elegant and full-bodied, the palate delivers crushed raspberry, wild cherry, truffle and chopped herb, while intense licorice notes linger on the long finish. Fine-grained tannins and bright acidity provide impeccable balance. Drink through 2025. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

44

**95 Brittan Vineyards 2015 Gestalt Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville).**

Though more black-fruited than the Basalt Block bottling, this expresses to an even greater degree the minerality that typifies all Brittan Pinots. Dense, concentrated blueberry compote and black cherry come with residual flavors of astringent, dry stones. The mouthfeel is wonderfully textured and complex, yet detailed. It should provide pleasure for at least a decade; drink now through 2030. —P.G.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$60

45

**95 Henri Bourgeois 2015 Jadis (Sancerre).**

From steeply sloping, well-exposed vineyards in the village of Chavignol, this wine is concentrated and still young. With its intense green and citrus fruits, strong herbal character and spice, it is rich and impressive. It is a wine for further aging, so don't drink before 2020. Chambers & Chambers. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$63

46

**95 Muhr-Van der Niepoort 2015 Ried Spitzerberg Blaufränkisch (Carnuntum).**

Highly aromatic notions of cinnamon-dusted blueberry and plum rise from the glass. The richness of that scent is countered by ample freshness on the palate, which gives clean delineation to the fruit flavors and precision to the body. Right now, this is taut but flavors run deep. There seems to be a floral core of peony and berry that still needs to unfold—elegance and depth are to come. Drink 2022–2035. Blue Danube Wine Co. —A.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$65

47

**96 Louis Jadot 2015 Corton-Pougets.**

Powerful and structured, this opulent wine from a grand cru that makes up over half the vineyards in Aloxe-Corton boasts succulent fruit and dense tannins. It has power and structure, with a strong mineral texture that's still bursting with youthful fruit. Hold until 2025 for added depth and character. Kobrand. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$115

48

**96 Viña Cobos 2015 Bramare Chañares Estate Malbec (Valle de Uco).**

A deep purple color and equally deep aromas of wild berry and blueberry open this lush Malbec from one of Cobos's newest vineyards in the Valle de Uco. A sensuous palate is dense but balanced, with a bit more freshness than this label is known for. Mocha, chocolate and black fruit flavors are steady on a smooth finish. Drink this superb Malbec through 2030. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.S.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$115

49

**94 Pascal & Alain Lorieux 2015 Alain Lorieux Thélème (Chinon).**

This is a rich, seriously structured wine that is just approaching drinkability. Rich, concentrated black fruits are framed by a firm, tannic structure. Pepper, spice and a decadent aftertaste are enmeshed in the powerful tannins. It's hard to resist now, but it should mature well; drink from 2020. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

50

**96 Wayfarer 2015 The Traveler Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).**

From an estate-grown plot that has produced consistently spectacular wines, this vintage is no exception. It's densely packed and concentrated in blackberry and black cherry, with touches of rose petal and orange peel that give it freshness and underlying complexity in its youth. Over time, it should only be more beautiful. Enjoy 2025–2030. —V.B.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$115



51

**94 Vignobles Brumont 2014 Château Montus (Madiran).** This is the latest release from this Madiran showpiece estate on steep vineyards surrounding a grand chateau. The wine is black, firm and full of tannins while allowing room for swathes of dark fruits and a bold structure. It is still in the aging process. Drink this blend of Tannat and Cabernet Sauvignon from 2024. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

52

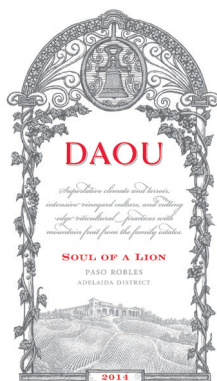
**94 Kevin White 2015 Pionnier Boushey Vineyard Red (Yakima Valley).** This blend of 90% Grenache, 5% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre is a new offering from the winery. Lighter in color, the aromas are arresting, with notes of orange peel, raspberry, green olive, mineral, fresh chopped parsley, white pepper, herb, potpourri and whiffs of smoked meat. There's a compelling sense of purity to the flavors and feel of the raspberry, cherry and meat notes along with a crazy-long orange peel, meat and raspberry-filled finish. It's a complete knee buckler, all about delicacy. Best after 2022. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

53



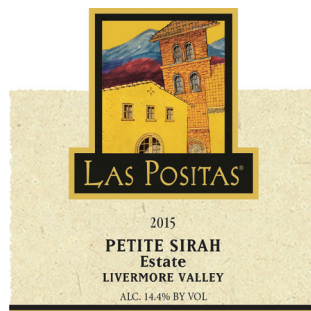
**95 Epoch 2014 Ingenuity Red (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Viscous and dark in the glass, this wine's unctuous nose shows black currant, violet and a hint of hot asphalt. The blend of 50% Syrah, 25% Grenache, 18% Mourvèdre and 7% Petite Sirah is tight on the palate, where a tarry texture carries flavors of concentrated black currant, fresh blackberry and wild chaparral herbs. Drink 2019–2029. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.7% **Price:** \$70

54



**96 Daou 2014 Soul of a Lion Red (Adelaida District).** A sultry shade of dark purple, this luxury bottling by the Daou brothers shows freshly smashed black currant, gravelly minerality, black pepper, espresso and shaved chocolate on the nose. The palate is black to the core, from blueberry to dark chocolate to lava rocks, with strong yet polished tannins and well-balanced acidity. Decant now or drink 2020–2035. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$125

55



**94 Las Positas 2015 Estate Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley).** This big and bold wine fills out its tannic frame with gorgeous, ripe exotic-fruit and floral flavors. It practically overflows with boysenberry, Kalamata olive and black-pepper flavors that flood the palate and cling to the sides of the mouth for a long ripe finish, finishing with good overall balance. Best from 2020–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$38

56

**95 F X Pichler 2016 Ried Kellerberg Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau).** A beautifully pure green-pear note is joined by a hint of ripe yellow plum on the nose of this wine. These fruit notions persist, despite the palate being all about texture and salty, lemony concentration. Still tightly curled, it needs time to unfold and is totally worth waiting for. Drink 2020–2030. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$77

57

**94 Ramey 2015 Syrah (Sonoma Coast).** This is a well-made wine from several sites, including Cole Creek, Rodgers Creek and Alegria, all vineyard-designates of their own. Together they sizzle in floral lavender, smoke and gamey meat, the Syrah co-fermented with 6% Viognier. The body is concentrated in ripeness and grip; let it mellow in the cellar and enjoy 2025–2030. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

58

**95 Contrade di Taurasi—Lonardo 2012 Vigne d'Alto (Taurasi).** Perfumed and loaded with finesse, this single-vineyard wine opens with enticing scents of violet, ripe black-skinned fruit, new leather and baking spice. Made with 60- to 100-year-old plants, the smooth, delicious palate delivers succulent Marasca cherry, plum, licorice and nutmeg framed in velvety tannins, making it one of the more elegant expressions of Taurasi out there. A mineral note energizes the lingering finish. Drink through 2032. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

59

**94 Franz Keller 2015 Franz Anton Schwarzer Adler Pinot Noir (Baden).** Lavish strokes of vanilla, spice and toast lend a slightly aspirational feel to this Pinot Noir, but its undoubtedly a concentrated, solidly structured wine in need of some time to harmonize. Sumptuous red-cherry and raspberry flavors are fleshy and deep, invigorated by a crush of cranberry acidity and a cool mineral undertone. Bold, chunky tannins should meld nicely from 2025. Schmitt-Söhne USA. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

60

**95 Mvemve Raats 2015 MR de Compostella Red (Stellenbosch).** Perhaps the best vintage of Compostella to date, this is a blend of 40% Cabernet Franc, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 11% Petit Verdot and 4% Malbec. It showcases a beautiful elegance and herbal edge in waves of cigar tobacco and blackcurrant leaf, with a grounded fruit core of blackberry, plum and cassis. Additional notes of leather and German chocolate cake lend depth and intrigue, while the finish exhibits a masterful evolution between all these components with each sip. Well-structured and superbly balanced, it boasts gripping tannins and ample acidity to frame the ripe fruit. A beauty that should mature masterfully, drink 2023–2033. Cape Classics. —L.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85



61

**94 Tiefenbrunner 2016 Feldmarschall Von Fenner Müller-Thurgau (Alto Adige).**

Enticing and intense Alpine herb, white flower, grapefruit and yellow stone-fruit aromas lead the way in this radiant, delicious white. The savory, elegant palate delivers layers of juicy apricot, yellow peach and succulent citrus flavors alongside vibrant acidity. A savory vein of flinty minerality adds depth. Drink through 2026. Leonardo LoCascio Selections—The Winebow Group. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$44

62

**95 Albert Bichot 2015 Les Sorbets Premier Cru (Morey-Saint-Denis).**

This generous wine is still young in firm tannins, although it's also rich in black fruits and ample concentration. It is juicy and ripe in blackberry flavor, packed with spice and a dry core. The vineyard, at midslope like all premier crus, is named after the rowan trees that were found around the edge. It's a wine with a great future; drink from 2025. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$90

63

**95 Clos Solène 2015 L'Insolent Red (Paso Robles).**

Very dark and thick in the glass, this blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Petit Verdot is still quite wound up on the nose, shyly offering hints of dark chocolate, soy and black currant. Grilled beef, violets, roasted coffee and elderberry show through the tight tannic frame of the palate, which needs time to unfurl. Dried oregano and black pepper arise on the finish. Drink 2020–2040. —M.K.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$95

64

**94 Jean-Luc Baldès 2013 Clos Triguedina Les Petites Cailles (Cahors).**

From the iron-rich limestone in the highest vineyard terrace above the Lot river, this Baldès Trilogie wine brings out terroir-by-terrace differences. It has a textured character, from the density of its black fruits to its firm, still-young tannins. Expect to start drinking this smoky, intensely fruity wine from 2023. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$49

65

**94 Contucci 2014 Mulinvecchio (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).**

Fragrant blue flower, rose, berry, new leather, sandalwood and underbrush aromas lead the way in this wine. Structured and elegant, the vibrant palate delivers crushed strawberry, juicy sour cherry, white pepper and star anise notes framed by tightly knit, refined tannins. It's still youthfully austere, but will develop beautifully. Drink 2021–2034. Multiple U.S. importers. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$49

66

**95 Fontodi 2014 Vigna del Sorbo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).**

Exotic spice, pipe tobacco, dark-skinned berry, forest floor and a whiff of French oak all come together on this structured red. The elegant, full-bodied palate evokes Marasca cherry, black raspberry, licorice and white pepper while vibrant acidity and firm, fine-grained tannins provide balance. It's still young, with great energy and will benefit from more time in the bottle. Drink 2020–2029. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$96

67

**94 Grosset 2017 Polish Hill Riesling (Clare Valley).**

From one of Australia's most lauded Riesling producers, this wine is from the cool, later-ripening 2017 vintage that seems to be a triumph for the region and variety. The delicate nose chimes with echoes of lime blossoms, peach skins, lavender, talcum powder and a touch of honey, despite being bone dry on the palate. Bright, twinkly acidity is balanced by a slippery yet linear texture and a long, stoney finish. Drink now–2038. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$52

68

**94 Salwey 2014 Henkenberg Pinot Blanc GG (Baden).**

Bold notes of smoke and struck flint recede gradually, revealing prettier tones of grapefruit, lemon and lime. Full in body yet anchored by spine-tingling acidity, this elegant wine offsets concentrated citrus flavors against savory tones of herb and dark mineral. Tasted in early 2018, it's still a taut, nervous wine that should meld nicely from 2023. Rudi Wiest Selections. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$54

69

**94 Quinta de la Rosa 2015 La Rosa Reserva Red (Douro).**

A selection made both of grapes in the vineyard and wines in the winery, this rich wine has power and density as well as superb fruits. The well-judged oak aging melds well with the dark fruits and acidity, while the tannins give strength and aging potential. Drink from 2021. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$54

70

**94 Schloss Johannisberger 2015 Grünlack Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Rheingau).**

Thrilling acidity and honeyed stone-fruit nectar are pegged with bolts of sun-baked clay, pastry and spice in this complex Spätlese. There's still so much tightly wound fruit and mineral tones yet to develop in this spry little wine, so hold until 2020. Mionetto USA. —A.I.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$55

71

**96 Henriot 2005 Cuvée Hemera Brut (Champagne).**

Only produced in the top years, this wine, named apparently after the Greek goddess of daylight, has just achieved maturity. It is rich in notes of almonds and toast that meld together with the ripe white fruits. It's a great wine that is impressive and ready to drink, although it will also easily age further. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$200

72



**94 Valserrano 2014 Finca Monteviejo (Rioja).** Intense aromas of graphite, pencil shavings, vanilla and creamy berry fruits are a fine opening to this off-vintage winner, proof that great wines come from weak vintages. A deep and ripped palate is blazing with integrated acidity. Campfire smoke is infused into blackberry and cassis flavors, while this is long, elegant and echoes ripe berry and chocolaty oak on the finish. Drink through 2040. Classic Wines, Inc. —M.S.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$58

73

**94 Brick House 2015 Evelyn's Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** This barrel selection is a 50-50 blend of Pommard and Dijon clone Pinot Noir, all biodynamically farmed. It's spicy and complex, with cranberry, orange peel and lemon aromas. Those flavors are in the mix, along with black cherry, clean earth and dashes of cola and sassafras. A glorious wine, it should be enjoyed now through the late 2020s. —P.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$58

74

**96 Quilceda Creek 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This hails from Champoux, Lake Wallula, Palengat and Wallula Gap Vineyards. The aromas draw you into the glass, evoking anise, blackberry, black raspberry, graphite and exotic spices. The flavors show intense depth, richness and hedonism, and the finish seems endless. Best from 2029–2036. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$200

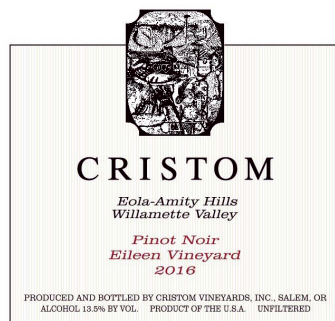
75

**93 Parducci 2015 True Grit Reserve Petite Sirah (Mendocino).** This monumental wine is one for the ages—or at least for 15 years. A deep color is followed by gorgeous aromas of rose, dark chocolate and blackberry syrup. The mouth-filling, ripe fruit flavors are concentrated, bolstered by thick, powerful tannins that give it a mouth-puckering astringency. The firmness sets this wine up for a long life. Best from 2022–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

76

**93 Clos Henri 2016 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is an opulent style, sourced entirely from the estate's Greywacke river stone soil. It conjures images of sun-ripened apples, just fallen from trees, resting in the green grass, and a nearby stream weaving its way over rocks and stones. A kinetic line of acidity cuts through all the richness, leading into an endlessly long apple and stone finish. Savor this beauty now or cellar it till 2026, if you can bear the wait. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

77



**94 Cristom 2016 Eileen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The darkest, most muscular of the winery's 2016 Pinots, this is loaded with ripe black-cherry fruit, wreathed in a whiff of smoke. There's a streak of cola and some lightly dusty tannins, and the length and texture argue for cellaring. Drink now–2030 and beyond. —P.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$65

78

**93 Fabrice Larochette 2015 Le Clos de Monsieur Noly (Pouilly-Fuissé).** This bold, rich wine comes from one of the best-reputed vineyards in Pouilly-Fuissé. With a dense texture and rich yellow fruits it is already powerful. The tight mineral texture and firm structure will allow this wine to age. Drink from 2019. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

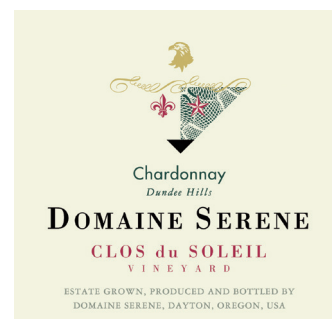
79

**94 Delmas 2016 SJR Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Somewhat lighter in color, the aromas show notes of barrel spice, smoke, blueberry, dried flower, coffee, orange peel and boysenberry. The palate is seamless, ripe, full and fruit filled with an extremely (extremely) long finish. It's a much riper, fruitier, more oak-driven style than typically seen from the Rocks region, but it's delicious all the same. Best from 2025–2031. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

80

**94 G. H. Mumm 2012 RSRV Maison Mumm Blanc de Blancs Brut Grand Cru (Champagne).** This wine, from a range of Champagnes that highlights grand cru villages, is still very young, with taut acidity and considerable minerality. From Cramant on the Côte des Blancs, it is developing into a fine wine and has richness, great fruit and a taut texture. Let the wine soften and drink from 2021. Pernod Ricard. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$75

81



**94 Domaine Serene 2016 Clos du Soleil Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** This cuvée stands out for its precise, almost sculptural framework. Poached pear, nectarine and apricot flavors combine with a touch of toasted coconut. A highlight of juicy acidity makes this feel ripe, polished and perfectly in tune with all the gorgeous fruit. Drink now–2028. —P.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$75



82

**94 TR3 2015 Tr3smano (Ribera del Duero).**

A ripe, heady nose of blackberry, toast, lemony oak and molasses amounts to something big but also pure. This is saturated on the palate in flavors of mocha, blackened toast and ripe berry, finishing on a well-mannered toasty note. Drink this outstanding Tempranillo from 2020–2040. Axial Vinos USA. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

83

**96 Torres 2011 Reserva Real (Penedès).**

Spicy berry aromas are herbal, classy, elevated and lay out the red carpet for what's to come. This Bordeaux-style blend is deep and pure in feel, with energy, tannic power and depth. Blackened, toasty flavors include a ton of natural and wood-aided spice notes, licorice and pepper in particular. A well-built finish with chocolate and oak flavors concludes this superb Catalan red. Drink 2020–2040. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$225

84

**94 Pascal Bouchard 2015 Les Clos Grand Cru Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).**

The small production of this wine comes from old vines at the heart of one of the top Grand Cru Chablis vineyards. As such, it has plenty to say for itself, with rich apricot and pineapple fruit and intense acidity all topped by toast from wood aging. This wine is worth cellaring; drink from 2021. Total Wine & More. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$81

85

**94 Glaetzer 2015 Anaperenna (Barossa Valley).**

The next tier down from Ben Glaetzer's top wine, Amon-Ra, this Shiraz-dominant blend is every bit as good, riding a line between power and elegance. The nose is like dessert in a glass: Tangy raspberry and red cherry swirled with licorice, mint, resin and raisins. Silky yet firm tannins lead on the palate, balanced by plush, juicy red fruit, black olives and a long, savory finish. Drink now–2030. Wine Trees. —C.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$86

86

**94 Montes 2013 Alpha M Red (Colchagua Valley).**

Ripe, alluring aromas of violet petal, sugar cookie and blackberry lead to a firm palate with structure and length. Complex flavors of soy sauce, tea, baking spices and blackberry finish with a flash of chocolaty oak and a note of burnt toast. Drink this vintage of Montes's top wine through 2028. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

87

**93 Domaine du Vieux Lazaret 2015 Blanc (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).**

Vibrant whiffs of orange blossom and lemon peel are offset by savory bramble and earth notes in this dry, full-bodied white blend. Its juicy lemon and tangerine flavors are edged by salty, saline complexities that are just starting to develop. It's rich and textural, with a fresh, lingering finish. Hold until 2021. David Milligan Selections. —A.I.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

88

**93 Trisaetum 2017 Estates Reserve Riesling (Willamette Valley).**

This young wine has all the components for long-term ageability, though they are still melding together. Dense tree-fruit flavors, apple cider and almost syrupy peach are all evident, with a dusting of powdered sugar. What keeps it lively and fresh is the appealing acidity. Drink 2020–2030. —P.G.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$42

89

**94 Charles Smith 2014 King Coal Stoneridge Vineyard Red (Columbia Valley).**

A blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Syrah, the aromas draw you into the glass, with light notes of savory herb, cassis, pipe tobacco, spice and crushed rock. It brings a flat-out gorgeous sense of texture, covering the palate from end to end with cherry flavors that glide on the finish. The feel is knee-buckling. Best after 2021. —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$100

90

**95 Teso La Monja 2015 Alabaster (Toro).**

Dark, highly concentrated blackberry, vanilla and saddle aromas are lusty and complex. As expected from Alabaster, the palate is saturated and dense, with rubbing tannins that need more time to soften. A bounty of toasty blackberry, peppercorn and chocolate flavors are steered by toast and coffee notes to a fine conclusion. Drink from 2020–2030. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$220

91

**93 Château Jolys 2015 Vendanges Tardives (Jurançon).**

Intensely rich while never over-the-top sweet, this wine is made from late-harvest grapes. Aged in wood for two years, it is unctuous, ripe yet always cut with good acidity. Drink the wine from 2019. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

92

**93 Vall Llach 2014 Porrera Vi de Vila (Priorat).**

Dark berry aromas include black cherry and cassis. From the village of Porrera, this is a rich and intense version of Priorat, one that's 77% Carignan and 23% Garnacha. Medicinal black-fruit flavors feature elderberry and black currant, while this is toasty and peppery across a warm finish. It will be best from 2020–2026. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.S.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$65

93



**93 Avennia 2015 Sestina Red (Columbia Valley).** This delicious blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc hails from the Red Willow, Dionysus and Bacchus Vineyards. It's locked-up on first pour, opening to reveal bittersweet chocolate, graphite, raspberry, blackberry and dried herb notes. The palate is soft and smooth yet dense, showing sophistication, structure and impressive length. Best from 2023–2029. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

94

**92 The Eyrie Vineyards 2016 Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills).** Eyrie pioneered this variety and continues a half century later to break new ground. It's aromatically complex and elegant, with compelling flavors of waxy apple, grapefruit and star fruit. The wet stone acidity keeps it lively and fresh, but based on the winery's history, this is a Pinot Gris that can age quite well. Drink now–2030. —P.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

95



**93 Santa Rita 2013 Casa Real Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Spicy, briary cassis and wild berry aromas come with notes of mountain herbs. As per usual, Casa Real 2013 is in great shape; the palate is lush and cushioned but stern and balanced. Spicy cassis, plum and oaky flavors finish with a mix of wood spice and dried-fruit notes. Drink through 2026. DFV Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$85

96



**93 Masciarelli 2012 Villa Gemma Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** A heady dose of fresh dill and cigar box rides over a dense core of cherry and spicy blackberry in this flagship wine from Masciarelli. It's big and bold on the palate, boasting a concentrated berry tone bolstered by bracing tannins and shot through with a refreshing granite twang. This powerful wine needs time in the cellar. Drink 2022–2030. Vintus LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

97



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

98

**93 Alheit 2015 Magnetic North Mountain Makstok Chenin Blanc (Olifants River).** This wine is currently a baby, wanting more time to completely form and express itself with full potential. The nose is shy at first, needing some airing to coax out notes of singed fynbos, greengage and white melon rind. The palate offers a bit more fruit expression, as waves of citrus peel, Asian pear and dried apple skin are framed by a chalky minerality and just a hint of nutty stone-fruit pit. A sea-breeze salinity graces the driven, precise finish. Drink 2020–2028. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100

99

**92 Chakana 2015 Ayni Vino de Parcela Gravas Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** Red-plum, pomegranate and wild-berry aromas make for a potpourri of fruit on the nose of this Malbec from gravelly soils in the Altamira district of the Uco Valley. A tight sinewy palate is structured, while this deals a hardy mix of plum and berry flavors with no interference from oak. A racy, tight finish is mildly astringent. This should benefit from more time in the cellar. Drink from 2019–2030. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

100

**92 Te Mata 2015 Coleraine Red (Hawke's Bay).** Te Mata's most renowned wine takes some time to open in glass. When it does, its many subtleties start to shine and it shows both its muscularity and its delicacy. Trademark florals lead the pack, closely followed by notes of black currant and blackberry jam, graphite, tobacco and hot stones. The palate leads with tart fruit but quickly blends with the savory notes of oak and chewy, pencil lead tannins. It finishes on the oaky side right now, but will age for many years. Drink now–2027. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80