

THE ENTHUSIAST 100 OF 2018





Our top picks of the year.

BY THE EDITORS OF *WINE ENTHUSIAST*

This year, *Wine Enthusiast's* tasting panel reviewed more than 24,000 wines from around the globe, exploring a multitude of regions, styles and price points. Each year, we cull through this behemoth batch of wines to pull out the most exciting finds. In the last two issues, we celebrated those that offer the most bang for your buck (Top 100 Best Buys) as well as the wines that you need to invest in today for enjoyment tomorrow (Top 100 Cellar Selections).

So now, here's the best of the best: The Enthusiast 100.

The Enthusiast 100 is the apex of our yearly round-ups, offering an impressive collection that represents some of the top wines reviewed this year. This list of high-scorers showcases still and sparkling picks, rosés and even sweet wines. Beyond their high numerical ratings, these boast excellent quality-to-price ratios, drinkability and availability, with an average score of just under 93 points and an average price of \$36.

This year's top spot goes to a Barbera from Piedmont—a category that has made huge strides in the last few decades. While not historically considered a high-quality grape, a growing number of producers have focused their efforts on building its reputation through better vineyard and cellar practices, moving away from the simple, fruity offerings to structured, concentrated pours. The No. 1 wine this year is from the relatively new Nizza DOCG, a subzone of Barbera d'Asti, and is made by one of the catalysts behind the creation of the designation, Michele Chiarlo. At a price that's hard to beat, it shows the incredible precision, complexity and ageability that exemplifies this new wave of Barbera from Piedmont.

All of the selections on this list are not to be missed and are sure to be snapped up fast, so find your favorites, grab a glass and enjoy!

1



95 Michele Chiarlo 2015 Cipressi (Nizza). Elegantly structured, delicious and loaded with personality, this benchmark Nizza offers earthy aromas of truffle, leather, game, pressed violet and ripe black-skinned fruit. The aromas carry over to the savory palate, along with star anise, black cherry, mature plum and crushed mint. It's balanced by polished tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2025. Kobrand. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

2



95 Roederer Estate 2011 L'Ermitage Brut (Anderson Valley). Dry and nicely mature, this complex wine is always among California's best bubbly. It combines great balance, tiny bubbles and some very interesting flavors that make it as appealing as a well-cellared white Burgundy at its peak. Hints of toast, butter and almond fill the aroma, while lemon, crisp apple and baking spices fill the palate. It has lively acidity that's softened by a good sense of body. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$48

3



92 Santa Carolina 2015 Reserva de Familia Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Elegance mixed with bold fruit is what this overachieving Cabernet is about. Aromas of blackberry, dried black plum, spice and cocoa suggest high quality. A focused palate and textural grip holds cherry and cassis flavors that are ripe and backed by notes of chocolate and coffee. Drink through 2022. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

4

96 Domaine Saint Damien 2016 Les Souteyrades (Gigondas). Even among a lineup of fantastic peers in a fantastic vintage, this bottling of Les Souteyrades is a stunner. It's intensely rich, bursting with mulberry and cherry flavors, yet not brawny or dense. Finessed and fine in texture, it's marked by soft, chalky tannins and bright, sunny acidity. The finish is long, offering lingering hints of crushed earth and *garrigue*. A treat to savor now–2030. Weygandt-Metzler. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

5



92 Elk Cove 2017 Estate Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). This sophisticated effort is highlighted by bright, polished fruit flavors of apple, melon and white peach. It's long and focused, fresh and immaculate, with no apparent new oak. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

6



93 Edmeades 2014 Zinfandel (Mendocino County). Tight, concentrated aromas of black fig and dark chocolate meet beefy, earthy and ripe berry flavors in this high-powered, concentrated wine. It has a full body and firm tannins that give it a powerful structure, with nice depth and a lingering chocolate and cherry finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

7



93 Franz Keller 2016 Vom Löss Pinot Noir (Baden). The nose of this wine is beautifully perfumed, suggesting whiffs of cherry blossom, graphite, plum and smoke. Black cherry and berry flavors seem delicate initially, but amass concentration and complexity with aeration, building layers of savory earth and tannin. A full-bodied, rich and expansive wine, it should improve well through 2030. Schmitt-Söhne USA. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

8

93 Ca' dei Zago 2015 Dosaggio Zero Metodo Classico (Prosecco di Valdobbiadene). This elegant, savory sparkler opens with inviting aromas of dried wild flower, mature orchard fruit and a yeasty whiff of bread dough. On the creamy palate, a soft mousse accompanies yellow apple, white peach and citrus zest alongside accents of dried herb and a hint of ginger. Ethica Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

9

95 Ramey 2015 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This combines grapes from the Martinelli family's Charles Ranch Vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview with grapes from Platt Vineyard, a site long sourced by Ramey overlooking the Pacific Ocean near Freestone—the producer's coolest site. It melds exotic ginger with apple skin, melon rind and bright focused acidity that remains fresh, succulent and lingering. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$42

10



93 Zuccardi 2017 Concreto Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Calm and pure blackberry and cassis aromas feed into an intense palate with freshness and rubbery tannins. While not loud, this goes heavy on the gas and features edgy dark-berry flavors. A rock-solid finish confirms the structure on this cement-fermented-and-aged Malbec from Paraje Altamira in the Uco Valley. Drink through 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$38

11



93 José Maria da Fonseca 2016 José de Sousa Red (Alentejano). This rich, full wine is firmly anchored in ripe tannins. It has concentration and a dense texture that's layered with black fruits and acidity. Partly fermented in clay amphoras, the wine has a particularly juicy edge. Drink from 2020. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

12



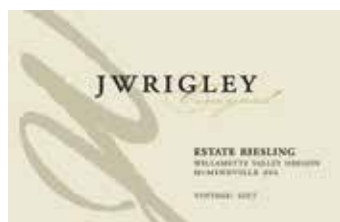
96 Stolo 2016 Estate Syrah (San Luis Obispo County). A gamy meat aroma meets black cherry, black plum, hickory, licorice and peppercorns on the nose of this cool-climate Syrah by Winemaker Nicole Bertotti Pope. Loads of cracked pepper and bright purple-fruit flavors show on the palate alongside rosemary and bay leaf, all wrapped in a taut structure with zippy acidity. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$36

13



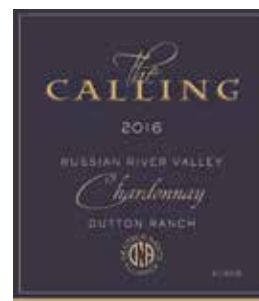
94 Vignobles Brumont 2014 Château Bouscassé (Madiran). From the home estate of the Brumont family, certainly the leaders in Madiran, this wine is dominated by Tannat, with additions of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. The blend produces rich tannins and broadens the palate to bring in a black currant flavor, with a crunchy, juicy texture. This wine will age well and should be ready to drink from 2023. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

14



96 J Wrigley 2017 Estate Riesling (McMinnville). This is a deft, detailed wine, offering a mix of tangy citrus, sweet tea, honeysuckle and lemonade. The sweet-tart mix is terrific, making for a lively palate that keeps inviting the next sip. Drink now–2030. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 11% Price: \$25

15



94 The Calling 2016 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Luxurious in green olive, peach and lemon, this is a complex, compelling vineyard-designate that's well made and in balance. It offers a sophisticated palate of toasted oak spice that complements the fruit and adds a spark to the whole. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$32

16



94 Château la Vieille Cure 2015 Fronsac. Dense tannins and rich black fruits mark this ripe wine that was organically grown. Its tannins are cushioned by the concentrated but generous black fruits, giving the wine great purity as well as structure. Drink from 2024. Etablissements Thunevin. —R.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$22

17

93 Forstreiter 2016 Alte Reben Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). A tropical touch of passion fruit clings to the otherwise earthy, savory nose of this wine. The palate plays on that savoriness, displaying a salty, herb-tinged miso note in a streamlined, bright and lemony package. It's taut but packs a punch. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

18

98 Franchetti–Passopisciaro 2016 Contrada R (Terre Siciliane). Compelling aromas of Mediterranean brush, dark spice, pressed flower, graphite and aromatic herb draw you in for more of this elegant red. Focused and intense, it boasts great energy, offering juicy wild cherry, rosemary, white pepper and star anise, framed in bright acidity and extremely refined tannins. It's gorgeous and already enjoyable but will offer a decade or more of exquisite drinking. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$66

19

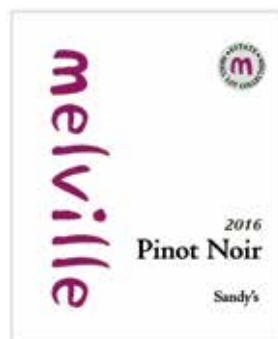
94 Maximin Grünhäuser 2016 Abtsberg Riesling Spätlese Grosse Lage (Mosel). Vibrant acidity shines a spotlight over pristine flavors of yellow peach, pineapple and tangerine in this ethereal spätlese. It's lusciously fruity yet spine tingling and spry. The finish is seemingly endless, silky and sweet.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

20

94 Paltrinieri 2017 L'Eclisse (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Made by the firm that helped put quality Lambrusco on the map, this delicious, stunning wine opens with enticing scents of wild berry, rose petal and citrus. The aromas carry over to the elegant, foaming palate along with juicy strawberry, creamy nectarine, grapefruit and a sprinkling of white pepper. A silky mousse gives it an irresistible texture while fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Lyra Wine. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

21

98 Nikolaihof 2004 Steinriesler Riesling (Wachau). Swirl this awake to reveal a world of dried hayflower, lemon peel and tart, baked apple. Its lifted, elixir-like chamomile scent goes straight to the pleasure center of the brain, signaling a celebration of maturing Riesling. Dry, taut and fresh, it shimmers with lemon zest and lemon-scented incense. Although immensely concentrated, it's also quite lithe. Treasure this, with its deep, lingering flavors. Lovely now, it will continue to develop. Drink now–2040. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$80

22

96 Melville 2016 Sandy's Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Aromas of snappy pomegranate, smashed pine, dewy chaparral and dried carnation show on the epic nose of this bottling by Chad Melville, who took over winemaking duties on this vintage. It's crisp and bright in feel, where sour cherry, thyme, sage and blistered tomato flavors engage all parts of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

23

95 Biondi 2016 Outis Rosso (Etna). This fragrant, exquisite red has captivating scents of wild red berry, rose petal, white pepper and menthol and a smoky mineral note. The linear, racy palate is all about finesse, delivering flavors of strawberry, red raspberry, star anise, crushed mint and graphite. It's ethereally elegant and well balanced, with vibrant acidity and polished tannins. It's not for everyone, but lovers of finesse will be in ecstasy. Drink through 2028. Oliver McCrum Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

24

94 Massican 2017 Annia White (Napa Valley). This is a refreshingly stunning blend of 55% Ribolla Gialla, 39% Tocai Friulano and 6% Chardonnay, the latter (from Hyde Vineyard) finding unexpected companionship with its Napa-grown Italian counterparts. Waxy and floral, it tastes of green apple and white peach, with a plush midpalate and lasting tension of vibrant acidity. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

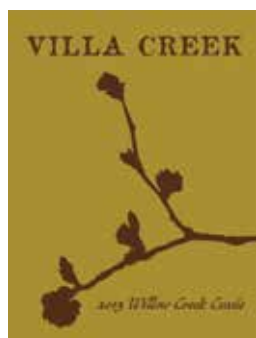
25

95 Big Table Farm 2016 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This stunning wine was fermented in 10% new French oak and shows pinpoint stone fruit, Meyer lemon, butterscotch and toast flavors. Firmly anchored by bright acidity that underscores the fruit and lengthens the finish, it keeps going and going. Drink now–2028. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

26

98 Arpepe 2007 Sassella Riserva Rocce Rosse (Valtellina Superiore). Intoxicating scents of smoke, flint, dried mountain herb and woodland berry are just some of the multifaceted aromas you'll find in this dazzling Nebbiolo. It's extremely elegant in a weightless intensity, delivering Marasca cherry, crushed strawberry, white pepper and tobacco framed by fine tannins. Vibrant acidity gives it impeccable balance, while a flinty mineral vein energizes the finish. Some may find this almost too ethereal while lovers of finesse, complexity and balance will be enchanted. Drink through 2027. WC Fields. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$110

27



95 Villa Creek 2015 Willow Creek Cuvée Red (Willow Creek). Cris Cherry is on the leading edge of Paso Robles vintners who push the ripe boundaries while remaining in compelling balance, and this blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre is an excellent example. Aromas of blackberry paste, fresh lilacs and hoisin sauce drop into a palate where blueberry and baked black-plum flavors are decorated with cola, sarsaparilla and black-pepper spices. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$50

28

93 Domaine du Haut Bourg 2009 Origine du Haut Bourg (Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu). Even at nine years old, this wine is only just mature. It still has citrus fruit flavors and a crisp texture. At the same time it offers rich spice, pepper and a toasty character that is cut with citrus acidity. Kept in an underground tank until bottling in December 2017, it is a great example of the aging ability of fine Muscadet. Drink now. Polaner Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$23

29



95 Trefethen 2015 Family Owned Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Blended with small amounts of Petit Verdot, Malbec and Merlot, this is an impressive wine well worthy of the producer's 50th anniversary. Currant, boysenberry and light handfuls of spice are wrapped in soft, polished tannins that offer an elegant length. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

30



96 Poças 2016 Vintage Port. Densely textured with dusty tannins and full of black plum skin and prune flavors, this is a ripe, complex wine. Its sweeter character does not spoil the great structure and dry core that will allow this exemplary wine to age. Drink from 2029. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$100

31

95 Castello di Ama 2013 San Lorenzo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Fragrant and refined, this radiant wine opens with scents of violet, red berry, baking spice and a whiff of plum. The chiseled palate delivers succulent wild cherry, white pepper, cinnamon and star anise alongside firm, refined tannins. It boasts a long licorice finish while bright acidity lends balance. It's already delicious but hold for even more complexity. Drink 2020–2033. The Sorting Table. —K.O.
abv: 13% Price: \$53

32

94 Robert Mondavi 2014 Fumé Blanc (Oakville). A blend of 79% Sauvignon Blanc and 21% Sémillon largely fermented in 60-gallon French oak barrels, this is a well-integrated and substantial offering of sublime texture, length and complexity. A jasmine aroma rides atop fresh, vibrant layers of Meyer lemon and nectarine, with a stony mineral element persistent on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

33



92 Binyamina 2014 Yogev Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Israel). This inky-purple wine has a nose of pomegranate, cherry and orange zest. There is a sense of sophistication on the palate, with rich tannins and flavors of black currant, raspberry, milk chocolate, flint and coffee. You will be reaching for another sip as the blueberry finish tapers off. Kosher. Royal Wine Corporation. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

34

93 René Muré 2016 Signature Pinot Gris (Alsace). Gentle pear fruit has a touch of herbal tisane. The same gentle purity of fruit is amplified on the streamlined, dry palate where freshness and ripeness seem to flow from a deep well of pear and lemon. Taut and balanced, this is utterly moreish and perfectly dry. Drink until 2030. Gargouille Collection. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

35



96 Castelfiocondo 2013 Brunello di Montalcino. Wild berry, crushed violet, pipe tobacco and chopped herb aromas leap out of the glass. Smooth and savory, the full-bodied palate shows restraint and elegance, delivering red cherry, pomegranate, ground clove and black pepper alongside taut, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$79

36

93 **Domaine des Terres Dorées 2016 Fleurie.** Made in a rich style, this wine is fully structured and full of black fruit flavors. Grapes from a densely planted old-vine vineyard have added concentration. Drink from late 2018. Louis/Dressner Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

37

93 **Idlewild 2017 The Bird Flora and Fauna Red (Mendocino County).** A light, bright expression of 60% Dolcetto, 35% Barbera and 5% Nebbiolo, this shows tones of wild strawberry and dark cherry, uplifted by tenacious acidity. It changes in the glass to show complexity and verve, with a splash of tannin on the finish. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

38

95 **Château Malartic-Lagravière 2015 Blanc (Pessac-Léognan).** Smoothly textured, this fruity wine offers balanced acidity and a ripe apricot flavor. The zesty, mineral texture will allow it to develop well, promising more great fruit and texture in the future. Wait until 2024. Château Malartic-Lagravière. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

39

96 **Comm. G. B. Burlotto 2014 Monvigliero (Barolo).** Enticing aromas of rose, aromatic herb, new leather, truffle and balsamic notes are just some of what you'll find in this outstanding wine. On the elegant, vibrant palate, bright acidity and polished tannins offset flavors of juicy red cherry, crushed strawberry, rhubarb, clove and white pepper. Drink 2022–2034. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

40

94 **Patricia Green Cellars 2016 Estate Vineyard Old Vine Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** These old vines were planted between 1984 and 1990. They bring the anticipated subtle aromatics and detail, with highlights of ginger, clove and cinnamon. A black cherry flavor carries a streak of cola, along with a sense of minerality to the natural acidity. Delicious now, or enjoy over the next decade. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

41

93 **Muhr-Van der Niepoort 2015 Samt & Seide Blaufränkisch (Carnuntum).** Pure notes of crushed blueberry have a wonderfully tart edge, almost like wild little huckleberries. The same, pure and intense fruit spreads across the textured body where fine and ever so slightly rustic tannins crunch pleasurably. This wine shows the juicy, almost voluptuous ripeness of 2015 without ever losing freshness or tone. This should come with some sort of pleasure warning. Drink now–2025. Blue Danube Wine Co. —A.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

42

93 **Russiz Superiore 2016 Friulano (Collio).** Aromas of ripe yellow stone fruit, graphite, grapefruit and hazelnut follow over to the savory medium-bodied palate along with a note of lemon drop. Fresh acidity lends balance while a flinty note lingers on the close. It's a fantastic expression of Friulano. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

43

92 **Bodegas Martinez Lacuesta 2010 Reserva (Rioja).** Fine aromas of brandied cherry, spiced plum and earth get this reserva from a great vintage off to an impressive start. The layered palate is lively but showing maturity, while it tastes of black currant, brown sugar and myriad spices. A peppery, chocolaty, dry finish is beyond nice. Drink this well-priced overachiever

through 2025. Spain Wine Collection. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

44

92 **Yering Station 2016 Little Yering Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley).** Complex and earthy, this wine knits flavors of hot stone, tobacco, Morello cherry, and green peppercorn onto a palate of ultrafine, leathery tannins and beautifully poised acidity. This is an elegant and multi-faceted wine. Rathbone Wine Group. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

45

94 **Emile Beyer 2017 Pfersigberg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** Wonderfully aromatic overtones of rose hip tisane and spicy verbena hover on the nose among a more obvious ripe-peach note. The palate takes this ripe peach and edges it with wonderfully stringent lemon zestiness. That spicy edge is intensified by a lovely phenolic undertow. This is a nuanced, layered and intriguing picture of an aromatic, off-dry wine with a seemingly endless finish. Lovely now but certain to evolve. Drink now through 2028. Michael Corso Selections. —A.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

46

94 **Kumeu River 2016 Hunting Hill Chardonnay (Kumeu).** This single-vineyard wine hums on the nose but sings on the palate. Aromas of roasted, salted nuts, delicate orange and lemon peel seem to float in midair. On the palate, the toasty oak may be in plain view, but it's beautifully balanced by river stone minerality, crystalline acidity and a satiny mouthfeel that never seems to end. Drink now–2025. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

47



95 Ca' del Bosco 2013 Vintage Collection Dosage Zéro (Franciacorta). This stunning sparkler is all about precision, finesse and purity. It opens with enticing scents of white spring flower, crushed stone, lemon pastry and hazelnut. The aromas carry over to the chiseled palate together with creamy yellow apple, tangerine zest, brioche and mineral notes alongside an elegant perlage. Vibrant acidity gives it balance and structure. Santa Margherita USA. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$75

48

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2016 Estate Bottled and Grown Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Ripe stone fruit, rose and wet stone aromas show intensely on the nose. There's great presence to the medium-bodied palate, which boasts ripe, juicy flavors of apple skins and peach. A delightfully astringent mouthfeel is highlighted by white tea tannins on the lingering finish. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

49

94 Paix Sur Terre 2016 The Other One Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). A tad shy on the nose at first, this bottling from Glenrose Vineyard offers aromas of dark plum, smashed elderberry and elegant purple flowers. The palate combines smashed black plum and black raspberry with dark chocolate, bay leaf and dried chaparral herbs, making for a really wild and layered experience. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$55

50

92 Weingut Christ 2017 Wiener Gemischter Satz. A touch of fragrant rose petal meets ripe pear and juicy peach on the nose. That playful nature of mingling fruit and florals continues merrily on the expressive palate that shows texture, flavor and freshness as a harmonious, fragrant and attractive package. This lingers long after the dry finish. Carlo Huber Selections. —A.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

51

93 Alphonse Mellot 2017 La Moussière (Sancerre). This wine comes from Mellot's home domaine of La Moussière. It is young and intense, with a mix of spice, concentrated citrus and crisp acidity. The depth of flavor in this wine is extraordinary and merits aging. Drink from 2020. Elite Wines Import. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$36

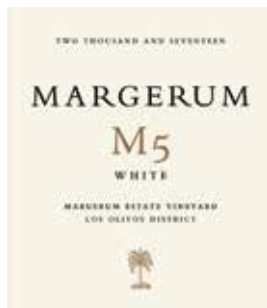
52

93 B. Leighton 2015 Olsen Brothers Syrah (Yakima Valley). The aromas draw you into the glass with notes of green herb, freshly peeled orange, raspberry, smoked meat and mineral. The palate is reserved in style but still quite flavorful, with seamless smoked-meat flavors that linger on the long, long finish. Lighter styled, it's all about subtlety and nuance but it delivers both in abundance. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

53

92 Soléna 2017 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is a delicious wine that offers a riot of cut pear dusted with cinnamon. It's further enlivened with appealing minerality, with the freshness of spring water over clean rock. The finish goes on indefinitely. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$20

54



92 Margerum 2017 M5 Margerum Estate Vineyard White (Los Olivos District). This is a compelling and delicious blend of 54% Grenache Blanc, 21% Viognier, 14% Marsanne, 8% Roussanne and 3% Vermentino from Doug Margerum's new estate property. Crisp Asian pear, apple blossom and stargazer lily aromas lead into a very grippy, tense and chalky palate full of nectarine sorbet, lime rind and tangerine flesh flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$21

55



97 Laurent-Perrier NV Grand Siècle Grand Cuvée Brut (Champagne). Laurent-Perrier has always preferred to keep its prestige cuvée as a nonvintage blend. With eight years aging after bottling and plenty of reserve wines in the blend, it is a mature wine that is yeasty and toasty in character. To go with that, there is great fruit from the blend that only comes from grand cru vineyards. It's ready to drink. Laurent-Perrier US. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$150

56



92 Shannon Ridge 2016 High Elevation Collection Petite Sirah (Lake County). Smooth but dense, this wine is unusually supple for the variety. It shows a great combination of ripe, rich fruit flavors of black fig, black pepper, wood smoke and blackberry, with firm but not harsh tannins that give it a plush, mouthcoating texture. Best through 2025. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$23

57

92 Polkura 2015 Syrah (Marchigüe). This is yet another in a growing line of excellent Syrahs from Polkura. Licorice and foresty aromas come with a measurable amount of coconutty oak. While the acidity on this is a touch amplified and gritty, flavors of blackberry, chocolate and dark spices are highly satisfying in a hedonistic way. Drink through 2023. Craveiro Importers. **Editors' Choice.** —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

58

92 **Château de Ségriès 2017 Tavel.** Pristine watermelon, strawberry and cherry flavors burst from nose and palate of this plush, juicy rosé. While dry in style and briskly composed, it's a buoyant, concentrated sip, with hints of spice, caramelized sugar and dried herb that linger on the finish. It's vivid pink in hue and quite exuberant. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

59

95 **Domaine Cheillon-Chezeaux 2015 Les Saint-Georges Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges).** This vineyard, on the hill above the city of Nuits-St.-Georges, is widely seen as the top premier cru of the appellation. Certainly this rich, structured wine, with its great fruit and firm tannins, is serious and ageworthy. Ripe, full and concentrated, it needs to age. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

60

92 **Bodega Norton 2015 Privada Family Blend (Mendoza).** Ripe blackberry and black cherry aromas are a touch candied, with a hint of tree bark lending earthiness. The palate on this Bordeaux-style blend is full and lush, with a beam of tartaric acidity. Blackberry and cassis flavors weigh in by the ton, while this is toasty and coffee-flavored on a calm, rounded finish. Drink through 2024. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

61

92 **Abacela 2015 Fiesta Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley).** Fiesta is the entry-level cuvée among four different Abacela Tempranillos. To say this wine overdelivers is to understate its impact. The estate-grown fruit sends up gamy scents that conjure dreams of blood sausage and lead down a deep, dark entryway into a core of blue plum, black cherry and cassis fruits. Some barrel time adds licorice and clove, with tannic muscle invigorating the finish. **Editors' Choice.** —P.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$23

62

93 **Giant Steps 2016 Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** Acclaimed winemaker Steve Flamsteed delivers the goods in this complex yet easygoing single-vineyard Chard. There's a lot going on here: citrus blossom, lime leaf, lemon balm and pineapple leaf tones are backed by warm stones, struck match and some toasty creaminess. The acidity is prickly and citrusy, wrapped in a pineapple tang, with a limey and seemingly endless finish. Drink now–2023. Old Bridge Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

63

92 **Lustau NV Oloroso Don Nuño Dry Sherry (Jerez).** Toffee and baked brown sugar aromas provide a nice opening in this wine. It's fresh and fearless, with popping acidity and layered flavors. Salty dried apricot and orange notes end with dashes of brine and pecan. Europvin USA. —M.S.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$25

64

90 **Maison Saint Aix 2017 Aix Rosé (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** This wine has the richness characteristic of Aix-en-Provence. Ripe red fruits, layers of intense acidity and a tangy texture come together to make a wine that is packed with fruitiness as well as great freshness. Drink this full-bodied wine from late 2018. Massanois Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

65

93 **Jean-Marc Brocard 2015 Vaulorent Premier Cru (Chablis).** Released a year later than other premier crus, this is a flagship wine for the producer. Close to the magnificent grand cru slope, the vineyard has produced a ripe wine offering yellow and melon fruit accented by vanilla and spice. While rich, it also has great poise from a good streak of acidity and minerality. Drink this wine from 2020. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

66

92 **Quinta da Rede 2016 Grande Reserva White (Douro).** With six months in wood and lees stirring to make flavors even richer, this is a ripe wine. The fruitiness is restrained by the toasty, smoky wood flavor, giving a wine that is full, smooth and sophisticated. It will age further so drink from 2019. M Imports, LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

67

94 **No Girls 2015 La Paciencia Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** The aromas pop in notes of sea breeze, dried nori, flower, wet stone, peat, white pepper and strawberry, showing a lot of complexity. The palate is elegant but intensely flavorful. A smoked meat finish carries as long as you care to count, kicking it up a notch. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$75

68

94 **Donnafugata 2015 Ben Ryè (Passito di Pantelleria).** Made from 100% dried Zibibbo grapes, this iconic dessert wine opens with enticing aromas of apricot jam, acacia honey and tangerine zest. The savory, balanced palate doles out mature fig, date, lemon jam and a touch of bergamot on the long finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40/375 ml

69

92 Fiuza 2016 Reserva Premium Alicante Bouschet (Tejo). New wood aromas with mint and spice introduce this dense, finely perfumed and deeply colored wine. Its rich tannins and equally rich black fruits are dark and dense. This is an opulent wine, packed with fruit and with a fine future. Drink from 2021. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

70



91 Nobilo 2017 Icon Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This wine offers the classic Marlborough combo of ripe tropical fruit flavors and subtle touches of snow pea and nettle leaf. It's the palate that really brings things up a notch with its chalky texture, stony minerality, mouth-watering acidity and long, juicy finish. Constellation Brands, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

71



91 Lucien Albrecht NV Brut (Crémant d'Alsace). Touches of lime and lemon zest entice on the shy but refreshing nose. The palate adds a mellow ripe-apple note, helped along by a creamy mousse. The long finish is poised and dry. Foley Family Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

72

92 De Fermo 2016 Don Carlino Pecorino (Abruzzo). Immensely fresh and intense on the nose, aromas of apple, dried chamomile, sea spray and lime zest kick off this wine. Fermented and aged in tonneaux, this has some textural roundness on the palate yet searing acidity keeping it fresh and persistent. There are plenty of ripe fruit flavors to maintain balance, but give this another few years in bottle to help soften the acidity and it will find its sweet spot. Drink from 2020. Grand Cru Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —A.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

73

92 Paxton 2016 Grenache (McLaren Vale). This is a heady and complex Grenache from a single block of bush vines. The nose offers a potpourri of dried flowers, red berries and cranberries backed by a meaty, earthy core. The palate is tightly structured, with sandy yet silky tannins and a long, savory finish. Drink now–2030. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

74



92 Château Lyonnat 2015 Emotion (Lussac Saint-Émilion). The 100% new wood shows in this wine's polished character, alongside hints of mint and dark chocolate. It will develop into a superripe and powerful yet balanced wine. It's bold and full of fruit at this young stage, wait until 2022 before drinking. Vintus LLC. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

75

92 Agustí Torelló Mata 2012 Gran Reserva Brut Nature (Cava). Rich, mature aromas of brioche reflect autolysis. A full palate with just enough acidic freshness is layered and complex, while spiced apple flavors are yeasty. A mild note of toast melds with a hint of butter and brioche on the lingering finish. As gran reserva Cava goes, this is a winner. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$35

76

91 La Lastra 2016 Vernaccia di San Gimignano. This wine's delicate broom, acacia flower and beeswax scents drift out of the glass. On the savory, medium-bodied palate, a white almond note underscores juicy yellow peach, tangerine and pineapple flavors alongside fresh acidity. A mineral note lingers on the tangy finish. Vias Imports. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

77

91 Involuntary Commitment 2016 Red (Columbia Valley). This neutral French oak-aged blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot is a side project from the folks at Andrew Will. Its aromas draw you into the glass, evoking savory herbs, cherry, tangerine peel, fresh tobacco, green pepper and black olive. The palate brings pure, textured, seamless fruit and savory flavors that sail into the distance. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19

78



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

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

79



91 **Herdade do Esporão 2015 Esporão Reserva Red (Alentejo).** Smooth and rich, this ready-to-drink wine is powerful yet generous and rounded. Its tannins and black fruits are well balanced, offering richness and concentration. It is a warm, ripe wine that is ready to drink. Now Wine Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

80



90 **Pine Ridge 2017 Chenin Blanc-Viognier (California).** Crisp, lively and refreshing, this medium-bodied wine offers a tangy citrus flavor and a light mineral accent that adds complexity. It's a natural pairing for seafood. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

81

91 **Château Pégau 2016 Cuvée Maclura Red (Côtes du Rhône).** A pleasant whiff of barnyard lends savory tones of earth and animal to crisp blackberry and plum flavors. It's an opulent, slightly warming wine, with a plummy, voluminous mouthfeel that's vibrantly balanced by fresh acidity. The finish is moderately long, lingering on hints of sun-dried thyme, lavender and grippy tannins. Enjoy now–2025. Hand Picked Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

82

92 **Colombera & Garella 2014 Cascina Cottignano (Bramaterra).** Aromas of graphite, dark spice, rose and wild berry lift out of the glass, along with a whiff of chopped mint. The racy, elegantly structured palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, white pepper and star anise set against polished tannins. Firm acidity gives it a nervous tension. Drink 2022–2034. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$44

83



92 **Pedestal 2015 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** High-toned exotic spice, dark raspberry and barrel aromas are followed by focused, supremely rich fruit flavors that lead to a warm finish. Firm tannins provide support. For those who question if Merlot can be a serious wine, this is your answer. —S.S.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65

84

91 **Adegas Gran Vinum 2017 Esencia Diviña Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Orange and blanched almond aromas are light and lucid on the nose. This is citrusy and ripe on the palate but not heavy. Citrus and melon flavors are a touch leesy, while this is steady and well-balanced fresh, rounded finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

85

91 **Pfeffingen 2016 Dry Scheurebe (Pfalz).** While mineral driven on first whiff, aeration reveals increasingly fragrant aromas of white blossom, pineapple and grapefruit in this wine. It's dry and intensely zesty on the palate, marked by a tropical lychee note and a refreshing herbal undertone. A light-bodied, invigorating sip to enjoy now–2023. Rudi Wiest Selections. —A.I.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

86

91 **Stark-Condé 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** There's a leathery, tobacco-like seam throughout this bold Cab, adding intrigue to the black plum and cassia core. Hints of char and roasted coffee give a rich impression to the palate, which feels plush and velvety in texture yet well-structured and defined. The finish is long and evolving, with an enduring grip and final notes of cigar box and black-fruit skin. Drink 2021–2025. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

87

91 **Heitz 2015 Grignolino (Napa Valley).** The winery has been making this unusual red since 1961. Wrapped in a rose petal aroma, this is lightly textured on the palate and offers a light touch of tangy cranberry and red-currant flavors. This is a lovely wine for the dinner table or as an aperitif. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

88



91 **Boutari 2017 Assyrtiko (Santorini).** Jasmine, orange blossom and citrus scents start this food-friendly white from Santorini. Sea salt, lemon and slate flavors prevail on the palate, feeling crisp and laser-focused. A perfect cohort to grilled fish or chicken. Terlato Wines International. —S.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89

91 **Northstar 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Brooding aromas of dark fruit, char and spice are followed by velvety bittersweet chocolate, cherry and mocha flavors that linger on the persistent finish. The enjoyment is as much about feel as flavor. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90

90 J. Portugal Ramos 2017 Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). This wine comes from the Monção and Melgaço region in the north of Vinho Verde, the spiritual home of Alvarinho. It has all the richness associated with the grape, with a strong layer of minerality as well as a zesty texture. Apples and green plums come through the young acidity. This will be better from 2019. MundoVino—The Winebow Group. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

91



90 Tokara 2017 Sauvignon Blanc (Western Cape). Bright, crisp and clean, this has a classic Sauvignon Blanc character of vibrant citrus aromas and flavors that are framed by notes of grass and melon rind. It's just shy of medium weight, with zippy acidity that shines alongside the lively flavors of fresh-cut grass and juicy citrus supremes. Enjoy it now through 2019 for its sunny, forward personality. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

92

91 Savage Grace 2017 Dineen Vineyard Côt (Rattlesnake Hills). This wine was fermented 100% whole cluster and saw just five months of neutral oak. Significantly lighter in color than most of the state's offerings of the variety, it brings aromas of potpourri, dried herb, black pepper, spice and red plum. The palate is elegant in style, all about delicacy and purity of flavors, with tart acidity capping it off. Put it on the dinner table to see it shine. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.
abv: 11.2% Price: \$28

93



90 Muga 2017 Rosé (Rioja). Bright, peppery aromas of tangerine and nectarine are clean and attractive. A healthy palate braced by proper acidity offers flavors of cantaloupe and peach, while this is steady and fresh on the finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

94

90 Terenzi 2016 Morellino di Scansano. This young, juicy Sangiovese opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, crushed raspberry and white pepper. The aromas carry over to the bright palate, alongside fresh acidity and velvety tannins. Drink through 2021. MS Walker. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

95



90 Ruca Malen 2015 Terroir Series Petit Verdot (Luján de Cuyo). This Petit Verdot carries aromas of dark berries and baking spices. The saturated, chewy palate offers equal parts thickness, acidity and tannins. Spicy blackberry, cassis and chocolate flavors finish solid. Drink through 2019. Opici Wines. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$19

96

90 Newton 2016 Skyside Claret (North Coast). Mint, chocolate and cherry flavors intermingle in this dry, full-bodied and firmly tannic wine blended from Bordeaux grape varieties. It offers plenty of blackberry notes shaded by black pepper and smoke and will stand up to the juiciest protein you can order. —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

97

90 Umathum 2016 Zweigelt (Burgenland). Juicy black cherry on the nose still has a tinge of reduction. The palate makes up for this with juicy easygoing freshness that expresses its ripeness with ease and a light step. The finish is lip-smackingly fresh. Winemonger. —A.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

98

90 Vinos de Arganza 2017 Viña Sécuro Godello (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This wine's stone fruit and green apple aromas are lightly briny and focused. It features a tight, centered palate, with vivid orange, lime and green melon flavors. The finish is compact, minerally and driven by energy. W. Direct. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

99

90 Alpha Estate 2015 Hedgehog Vineyard Xinomavro (Amyndeon). Raspberry, spicebox and herbal aromas take the lead in Alpha Estate's popular Hedgehog red. On the palate, lush red cherry, pepper flavors and a distinct mineral spin give it poise and purpose. Pair it with grilled meats, pork and tomato dishes. Diamond Importers Inc. —S.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

100

90 Keuka Spring 2017 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes). A fragrant perfume of rose petals, melon, ginger and white pepper spice comes together in the glass. Succulent in feel, the palate is broad and oily, with supportive acidity and mild astringency maintaining balance. Flavors of juicy yellow apple, melon and spiced potpourri broaden the midpalate and lead to a delicate jasmine note on the lingering finish. —A.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$17