

# WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

## BEST OF YEAR 2020

### THIS MONTH

- 2 LOIRE VALLEY
- 31 BURGUNDY
- 48 SOUTHWEST FRANCE
- 51 RHÔNE VALLEY
- 62 PORTUGAL
- 72 NORTHERN ITALY
- 82 CENTRAL ITALY
- 88 PUGLIA
- 90 SICILY
- 92 OTHER SOUTHERN ITALY
- 93 OTHER ITALY
- 94 NEW ZEALAND
- 96 CHILE
- 99 URUGUAY
- 100 CALIFORNIA
- 132 WASHINGTON
- 138 SPIRITS
- 140 BEER

Harvest season in Menetou-Salon

FOR ADDITIONAL RATINGS AND REVIEWS, VISIT [WINEMAG.COM/RATINGS](http://WINEMAG.COM/RATINGS)



# LOIRE VALLEY

A hidden trove of Pinot Noir

It's hard to find many benefits of climate change. However, there is one for vine growers and wine producers in cooler climates. Grapes that ripened erratically are now regularly capable of going the extra mile, turning out wines that previously could only have been made in warmer climes.

That's the case in the eastern Loire regions of Sancerre and Menetou-Salon. While these areas might be better known for Sauvignon Blanc, this story is about Pinot Noir.

The red wines of Sancerre and Menetou-Salon, which are made entirely from Pinot Noir, used to be mainly thin and weedy. A few geniuses, such as the Vacheron family, managed to

coax richness from grape, but mostly the wines were light in profile, with flavors of bell pepper and green herbs. Sometimes, a producer would throw wood at the problem and fail.

The last six years, starting with the 2014 vintage, there has been a remarkable change. Producers have learned to make red wines that

Producers have learned to make red wines that are close to attaining the heights of Burgundian Pinot Noir.

are close to attaining the heights of Burgundian Pinot Noir, with the same depth and complexity. They have learned that wood supports the fruit and doesn't submerge it.

The resulting wines are reflected in a recent batch of reds reviewed from the regions. Who would have thought that Sancerre could produce a 95-point red? Or, that in this batch alone, there would be more than 40 wines scoring 90 points or above?

These wines are succulent in rich black cherry tones, lifted by acidity that comes from picking the grapes at just the right moment, and not from under-ripeness. They show all that effort put into growing Pinot Noir in the chalk soils of

Sancerre was worth it—that there was a logic to putting the red vines among the ocean of Sauvignon Blanc.

Elsewhere in this Buying Guide, you'll find reviews from Italy, California, New Zealand and beyond. Check out [winemag.com/ratings](http://winemag.com/ratings) for thousands more reviews. —Roger Voss

## SANCERRE

**95 Alphonse Mellot 2016 Génération Dix-Neuf (Sancerre).** This flagship wine is one of a pair of releases that celebrate the 19 generations of the producer. Its structure and ripe, generous black fruits are still developing, sustained by the wood aging and acidity. Age further and drink from 2022. Organic and biodynamic. MS Walker. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$140

**94 Alphonse Mellot 2016 En Grands Champs (Sancerre).** This sophisticated, ripe wine comes from a high elevation, well-exposed vineyard. Generous and full, the wine has light tannins and spice from wood aging. The structure and black fruits are rich and fully mature, although there is also potential for further aging. Organic and biodynamic. MS Walker. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$140

**94 Domaine Bernard Fleuriet et Fils 2018 Anthocyane (Sancerre).** Old vines and fermentation and aging in barrel have produced this richly concentrated wine. Big tannins and black fruits are laced with acidity and minerality from the chalky soil. Drink this ripe wine from 2022. Integrity Wines GA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**94 Domaine Delaporte 2018 Le Cul de Beaujeu (Sancerre).** For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$53

**94 Domaine Vacheron 2016 Belle Dame (Sancerre).** This is a magnificent wine from a producer that has made a name for its red Sancerre. The wine is dark, solid and firmly structured, balanced by rich, dense black fruits that impart great potential. Drink this wine now, but it

will be better from 2021. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$84

**94 Pierre Morin 2016 Bellechaume (Sancerre).** From a parcel of vines in the village of Bué, this wine benefits from the vineyard's south exposure. It has richness, depth and concentration. The dense tannins and bold texture of the black fruits are balanced by acidity and a cool, perfumed after-taste. Drink now. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$31

**93 Alphonse Mellot 2016 La Demoiselle (Sancerre).** This wine is structured and full-bodied, rich in tannins, black-cherry fruits and hints of green pepper. Wood aging has smoothed the fruit and brought the beginnings of maturity to the wine. Drink from 2021. Organic and biodynamic. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$130

**93 Domaine Bernard Fleuriet et Fils 2018 Les Saurins (Sancerre).** A new single-parcel red from this estate, this wine is structured and firm, with a crisp red-currant edge and smokiness from wood aging. The wine's potential is obvious, with tannins and acidity backing up the red fruits. Drink this wine from 2022. Integrity Wines GA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Domaine Matthias et Emile Roblin 2016 Grande Côte de la Vallée (Sancerre).** The top red wine from the producer, this is impressive. Perfumed, smooth and mature but still with acidity, the wood-aged wine is elegant and spicy. Mature tannins hold the wine together well, giving structure and supporting the richness. Drink now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Domaine Vacheron 2018 Sancerre.** From the master of Pinot Noir in Sancerre, this release epitomizes the spicy, perfumed style of wine produced in the region. It also has richness and density, giving a wine that is worth aging for several years. Drink from 2022. European Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**93 Pascal & Nicolas Reverdy 2018 Sancerre à Nicolas (Sancerre).** Bottled unfiltered, this richly dense wine still shows young tannins as well as ripe blackberry fruits. Its lush texture bodes well for the future, moving towards a generously structured and perfumed wine as it matures. Drink from 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Pierre Prieur et Fils 2014 Cuvée Maréchal Prieur (Sancerre).** This ripe, wood-aged wine is mature. Perfumed and with its spice and black fruits supporting the secondary, smoky flavors, the

Continued on page 24

## The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

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

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

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

### TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

### ABOUT THE SCORES

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

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

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

### SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

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

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

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

### SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

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

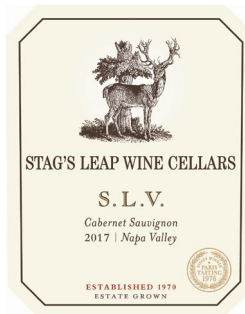
### LABELS

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

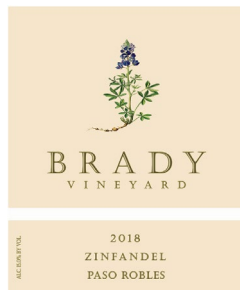
Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at [winemag.com/ratings](http://winemag.com/ratings)



**97 Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** A chalkiness on the nose of this wine blends with freshly cut lime zest, creating a vivid mix of aromas. Although the palate tones this down, it still holds immense chalky depth and freshness, despite the vintage's ripeness. The body is generous but lifted, with a hint of lanolin accentuating the richness. This wine will be even more beautiful and chalky with age. Drink 2022–2040. **Louis Latour Inc. Cellar Selection.** —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$95



**97 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2017 S.L.V. Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** From the producer's first site that was planted in 1970, this wine is sumptuous in black-berry, fig and dark chocolate. A bright wisp of cassis shines on the midpalate, enlivening the bold, supple texture. Underlying layers of crushed rock and iron provide a welcome and intriguing minerality that highlights the finish. Best from 2027–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$195



**96 Brady Vineyard 2018 Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Dense aromas of black currant, red flowers and charred meat are wrapped in a rocky edge on the nose of this bottling. There is great cohesion to the palate, where rich red fruits are cut by crushed stone flavors, lifted by savory spice and framed by ample acidity and tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$24



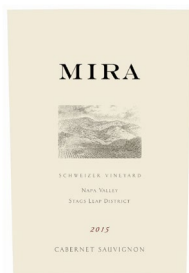
**96 Chappellet 2017 Hideaway Vineyard Chappellet Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This wine is 100% varietal and aged in entirely new French oak, the grapes grown on a rocky slope at 1,425 feet in elevation. Sinewy on the palate, it offers flavors of leather, mocha and dark berry, with background notes of coffee and dark chocolate. It packs plenty of punch and opulence while still retaining enviable grace and complexity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$140



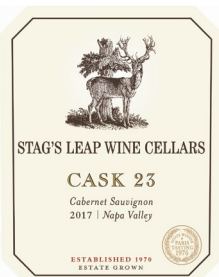
**96 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Angel Camp Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Well balanced yet opulent in flavor, this superb wine blends a spicy, earthy, piney aroma with lush, ripe black-fruit flavors that are shaded by hints of rosemary and baking spices. It's beautifully complex on the palate and long on the finish. Best through 2028. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$62



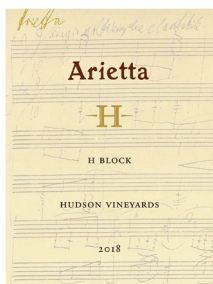
**96 Joseph Drouhin 2018 Drouhin Vaudon Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis).** A creamy, nutty haze on the nose of this wine already promises integration. The palate follows through with a ripe, rounded body that has chalkiness, a pithy texture and a slight warmth that is countered by lemony concentration. This big, bold wine portrays the ripeness of 2018, ringing with warmth and freshness. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$110



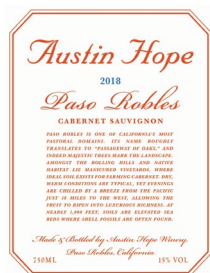
**96 Mira 2015 Schweizer Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** A 100% varietal wine from a mighty appellation, this is thickly concentrated in black fruit, with robust tannins and oak to carry it through. Specks of coconut and vanilla contrast against a sturdy wall of black pepper, iron and crushed rock, finishing with powerful intensity and length. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$377



**96 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2017 Cask 23 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** A 100% varietal wine from the best lots of two of the producer's prized sites, Fay and S.L.V., this wine is richly expansive in red fruit, balanced by bright acidity and lengthy structure. Clove, black pepper, black olive and a dash of dark chocolate mingle on the palate. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$295



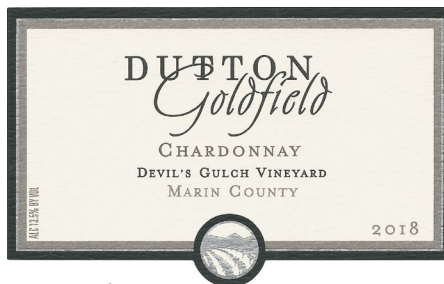
**95 Arietta 2018 H Block Hudson Vineyards (Napa Valley).** This is such a spectacular showcase of 56% Cabernet Franc and 44% Merlot, both from Hudson Vineyards in Carneros. Spicy in nutmeg and clove, with red and black currant layered throughout, it finishes on accents of cedar, violet and crushed rock. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$150



**95 Austin Hope 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Quite dark in the glass, this reliable crowd-pleaser begins with hearty aromas of black currant, black plum, lush oak and caramel, accented by a hint of olive and loads of clove and nutmeg. The mouthfeel is hearty and rich, with just enough tannic weight to balance the creamy black-cherry, caramel and chocolate-ice-cream flavors, which lead to an oaky finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$56



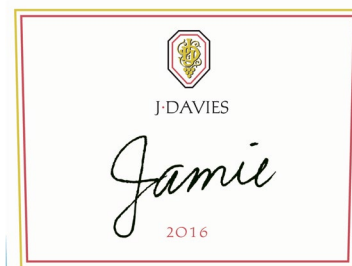
**95 Chanson Père et Fils 2018 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine's shy nose allows just brief glimpses of lemon zest and a slight nuttiness. The nuttiness is equally subtle on the taut, smooth and focused palate that seems to be a shaft into cool, chalky depths. The long lemon-zest finish is elegant and smooth. Drink 2022–2040. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75



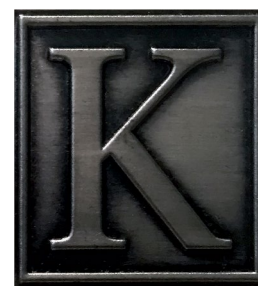
**95 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Devil's Gulch Vineyard Chardonnay (Marin County).** This silky, gentle, quietly concentrated wine combines subtle mint, pine, Gravenstein apple and peach flavors, adding a suggestion of honey on the finish. While full in feel, it's not at all fat in texture, but sleek and polished. Best through at least 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55



**95 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Devil's Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Marin County).** This suave, smooth and intricately flavored wine just wows the nose and palate with well-modulated baking spices, mulled cherries, black tea and cinnamon notes. It's polished, complex and full bodied, but well balanced, too. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$72



**95 J. Davies 2016 Jamie Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).** Made from estate-grown grapes, this wine opens in soft, supple tannins and a wealth of powerful black fruit. Expansive and weighty on the palate, it unfurls integrated acidity throughout. Black pepper, dried herb and crushed rock components give it an enduring earthiness. Enjoy from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$225

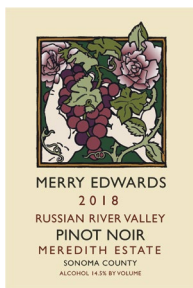


**95 Kintera Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Beautifully inviting aromas entice one into a world of blueberry, dark cherry and cassis in this layered, luxurious wine. With small amounts of Malbec and Petit Verdot included in the blend, it is soft, supple and sultry on the lengthy palate, with a spicy finish of nutmeg, clove and black pepper. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$150

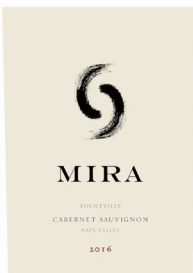




**95 La Pelle 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** A collaboration between winemaker Maayan Koschitzky of Atelier Melka, viticulturist Miguel Luna and vineyard manager Pete Richmond, this stunning white is a must-try, even if made in such small quantities that it might be difficult to find. The wine is aromatically exquisite and fully realized in tension and texture. Delicate and quenching, the acidity lifts a core of oyster shell, white peach and stone. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45



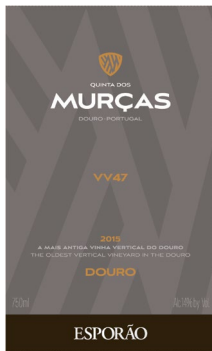
**95 Merry Edwards 2018 Meredith Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This wine is exuberantly layered in bright tones of pomegranate and strawberry, while textured with integrated tannins and oak. Complementary elements of forest floor, black tea and clove play well with the fruitiness and enduring lushness on the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72



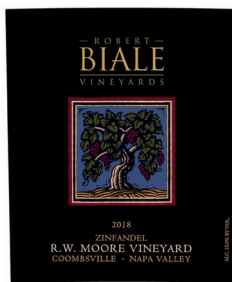
**95 Mira 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** This impressively structured wine, with just 3% Petit Verdot, is ample in a robust blackberry jam tone. Iron, tobacco, lavender and dried herb ride along the midpalate with ease. The black pepper on the finish is additionally on point. Enjoy from 2026–2036. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$144



**95 Quinta do Vallado 2018 Vintage Port.** This estate, founded by the legendary Dona Antónia Ferreira, has produced a massive Port. Dark with tannins and full of opulent black-stone fruits and prunes, it obviously has a fine future ahead. Drink this great Port from 2030. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$110



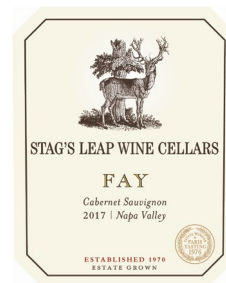
**95 Quinta dos Murças 2015 VV47 (Douro).** With traditional foot treading in open lagars, this field blend has a generously rich and open character. Its tannins are firm but ripe—a powerhouse of spice, black fruits and structure from wood aging. It's an impressive wine that can be enjoyed now or until 2025. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90



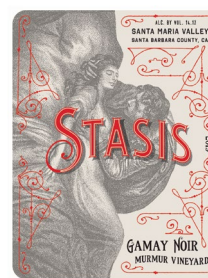
**95 Robert Biale 2018 R.W. Moore Vineyard Zinfandel (Coombsville).** First planted in 1905, this is a relatively cool-climate site that imparts great brightness and tart acidity to the wine. A dark cherry flavor is powerfully represented, alongside baked plum, blackberry and black pepper. A taut structure suggests this will do well with time in bottle. Best from 2028–2033. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$62



**95 Seven Apart 2018 Expedition Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** The inaugural release made by Andy Erickson, this comes from the owner's Sage Ridge Vineyard atop Atlas Peak, at 1,400-foot in elevation and planted in 1999. Thick, tannic and earthy, it buzzes in dried herb, sage, flint and a rich intensity of blackberry, plum and vanilla. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$135



**95 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2017 Fay Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** From the historic site where Stag's Leap first began, this is nearly 100% varietal, with just 1.5% Cabernet Franc. It delivers a lifted, floral character dipped in tangy red fruit. The tannins are pillowy and supple, with a structure will last. Enjoy from 2027–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$150

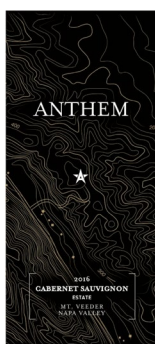


**95 Stasis 2019 Murmur Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** The early attempts at Gamay Noir on the Central Coast trend toward fresher styles, but this bottling is reminiscent of a serious Cru Beaujolais. Aromas of dark berry, crumpled flowers, crushed rock and white pepper lead into a palate of boysenberry, plum skin, pepper and purple flowers. The texture is tight, the acidity is bright and yet there is compelling density. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$42

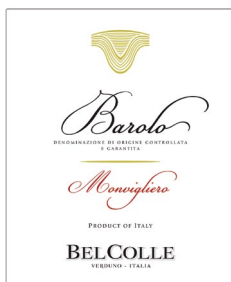




**95 Three Sticks 2018 Origin Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Tones of crushed salt, oak, lemon zest and crème brûlée blend in this beautifully made wine. From the producer's own Durell Vineyard, this white is fermented in concrete egg, amphora and stainless steel, aged on its lees to maximize creaminess and texture. The power is there, yet it is elegant and balanced. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55



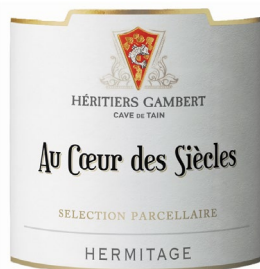
**94 Anthem Winery 2016 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Made by Winemaker Jeff Ames, this Cabernet Sauvignon includes 7% Cabernet Franc and 7% Petit Verdot. Aged in 100% new French oak, it offers a seamless core of cassis, raspberry and dark cherry, with velvety richness forming a concentrated bond on the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$125



**94 Bel Colle 2016 Monvigliero (Barolo).** Rose, camphor, pipe tobacco, leather and tilled earth are just some of the aromas that appear in this full-bodied, fragrant red. Elegantly structured, the focused palate features ripe black cherry, licorice and clove framed in firm, fine-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it vibrant. Drink 2026–2036. Quintessential Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



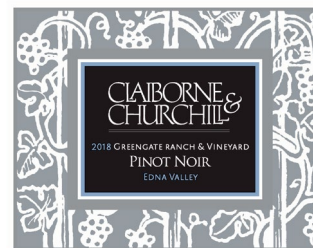
**94 Casa Relvas 2018 Herdade de São Miguel Reserva (Alentejano).** This dense, dark red blend has a perfumed character, along with young tannins and a backdrop of ripe black fruits. Made with Alicante Bouchet, Touriga Nacional and a host of other grapes, this is a big wine that needs to age. Drink from 2022. Quintessential Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35



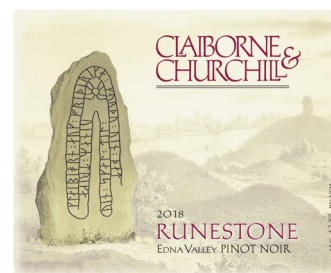
**94 Cave de Tain 2017 Au Coeur des Siècles Selection Parcelleire (Hermitage).** Notes of honeycomb and pollen offset delicate lemon and apple on the nose of this 100% Marsanne. Sourced from granite and alluvial soils, it's a juicy, mouthfilling, dry white that's packed with crisp yellow apple and quince flavors. Pristine fruit and crisp mineral tones are appealing in youth, but it should continue to improve through 2030 and hold longer still. Hand Picked Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$97



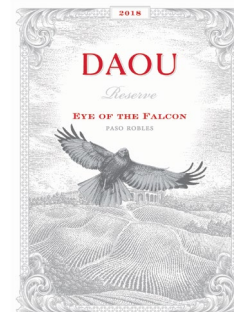
**94 Château de la Créé 2017 La Rue aux Vaches (Puligny-Montrachet).** The nose of this wine is subtle in gentle touches of oatmeal and lemon. The palate then comes in with chiseled precision and lemony intensity. While hints of honey have started to develop, the wine has underlying concentration, with a gorgeously chalky texture. It's taut, bright, stony and long. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70



**94 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Delicate aromas of red currant, pomegranate and raspberry are enhanced by touches of rose petal and crushed rocks on the nose of this bottling. The wine starts on the palate with a brisk kick, showing wild plum and rose petal as well as thyme, marjoram and lavender. Waves of ever-changing complexity keep coming into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$52



**94 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Runestone Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** This barrel-selection bottling is named as an ode to the founder's former career as professor of Norse studies. It takes a bit of time to open, but then doesn't relent in complexity. Ripe yet crisp aromas of black-raspberry cream, black cherry and toast lead into a grippy palate loaded with sagebrush, black plum and earthy herb flavors that just grow more intriguing with time. Drink through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$56



**94 Daou 2018 Eye of the Falcon Reserve (Paso Robles).** This blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Petit Verdot begins with aromas of charred coffee beans, blistered black plums and cherries, with accents of lilac and dried beef. The roasted flavors extend across the palate, bringing together espresso, soy, charred meat and dark fruit. The tannins are polished yet hefty. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

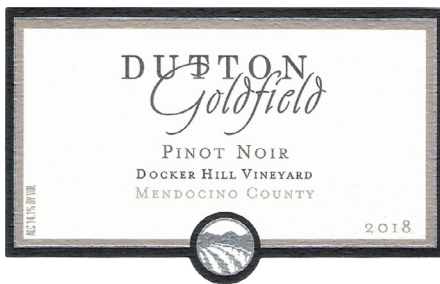




**94** **Domaine Delaporte 2018 Le Cul de Beaujeu (Sancerre).** This rich, full-bodied Pinot Noir is built around solid tannins. At the same time, dense black fruit balances all that structure, yielding a powerful wine that needs time in the cellar. Drink from 2022. Vineyard Brands. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$53



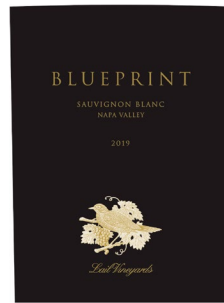
**94** **Dovecote 2017 Thompson Vineyard Estate Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** Black plum, cardamom and more baking spice aromas kick off the nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard in the newly christened Alisos Canyon appellation (approved after this wine was bottled). Flavors of lavender, lilac and rose petal meet açai and peppercorns. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$80



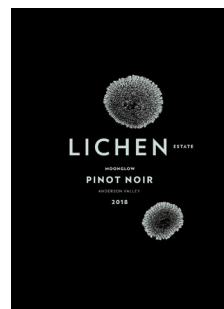
**94** **Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Docker Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino).** Pure, focused fruit flavors and delicate baking spices give this medium-to full-bodied wine a sleek but powerful expression. Concentrated flavors of black cherry and pomegranate are wrapped in light tannins and lifted by bright acidity. It has everything needed to age well. Best from 2024. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$68



**94** **Harrington 2018 Calleri Vineyard Sagrantino (San Benito County).** The essence of stone is throughout this bottling of a grape originally from Umbria, Italy. Aromas of river stone, granite and gravel meet with red currant and underripe strawberry. The palate is brisk in acidity and mineral-driven, while taut tannins carry bright red-fruit flavors into a dry finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$35



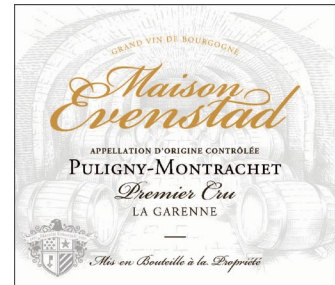
**94** **Lail 2019 Blueprint Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This white is fermented in French oak barrels, 30% of them new, and then aged in stainless steel—offering the best of both worlds. Quenching flavors of stone fruit highlight a rounded, rich palate, dusted in dried herb and earth. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40



**94** **Lichen Estate 2018 Moonglow Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Superfresh and powerfully fruity, this medium- to full-bodied wine braces bright, focused blackberry and black-cherry flavors with tangy acidity and moderate, grippy tannins. It has a vibrancy and drama that are wonderful to experience. Best from 2023. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35



**94** **Luke 2018 Reserve Syrah (Wahluk Slope).** Blackberry and other dark-fruit aromas meld with notes of smoked meat, coffee and mineral. The palate packs a big wallop of rich, layered black-fruit flavors, with plenty of tannic structure to provide support. It's a power-packed, hedonistic delight. **Editors' Choice.** —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

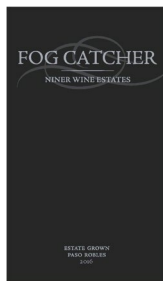


**94** **Maison Evenstad 2017 La Garenne Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** Hazelnut and a hint of resin carries the nose of this wine. The palate adds multidimensional richness in tones of lemon oil, saffron, hazelnut and flint—it is steely precision clothed in sumptuous velvet, and will please Burgundy purists as well as richer Chardonnay fans with its creamy finish. **Domaine Serene.** —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

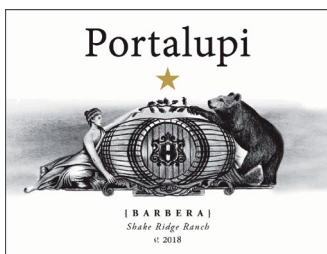


**94** **McKahn 2018 Mourvèdre (Livermore Valley).** This substantial, fruit-packed and full-bodied wine overflows with delicious dark-berry and dark-chocolate flavors while the rich, clinging texture is backed by light tannins. With time in the glass, intricate, complex notes of beef, woodsmoke and mushroom appear on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$42





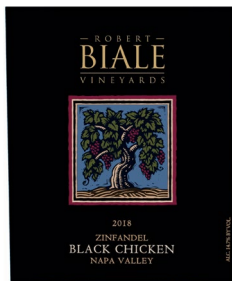
**94 Niner 2016 Fog Catcher Estate Grown (Paso Robles).** This top-shelf bottling is a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Malbec, 15% Carmenère and 14% Petit Verdot. Aromas of black currant and licorice lead into an elegantly framed palate of black plum and violet, bolstered by tannins that are firm but not in the way. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$100



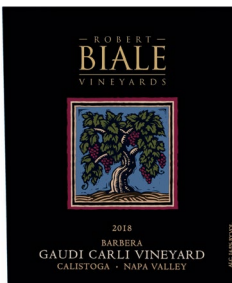
**94 Portalupi 2018 Shake Ridge Ranch Barbera (Amador County).** A deft touch of new oak and sumptuous, concentrated blueberry and black-cherry flavors are delicious and impressive in this full-bodied wine. It is big and superexpressive, layering cinnamon and nutmeg over the dramatic, ripe fruit notes framed by moderate fine-grained tannins. Best through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90



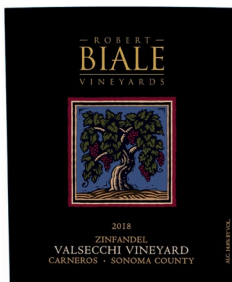
**94 Quinta do Crasto 2016 Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** A blend of 30 grape varieties from vines at least 70 years old, this wine boasts density and a firm structure. It is powered by tannins, dark black-fruit flavors and great concentration, and is an impressive wine that needs time. Drink from 2022. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45



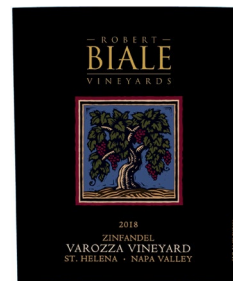
**94 Robert Biale 2018 Black Chicken Zinfandel (Napa Valley).** The producer's marquee wine and a nod to its long-standing ties to farming, this is fresh and earthy in notes of crushed rock, slate, dried herb and black pepper. The fruit is layered and sumptuous in flavors of raspberry and black cherry, while supple tannins and a hint of toasted oak provide framing. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$50



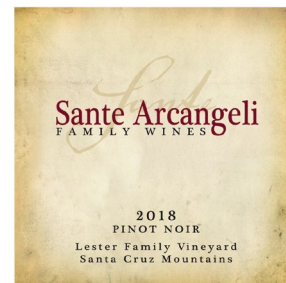
**94 Robert Biale 2018 Gaudi Carli Vineyard Barbera (Calistoga).** This tiny production wine is made from some of the oldest Barbera in Napa Valley, planted more than 80 years ago. Tangy red fruit leads to flavors of just-picked blackberry, with bright acidity carrying the experience to an earthy mushroom finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50



**94 Robert Biale 2018 Valsecchi Vineyard Zinfandel (Carneros).** One of the few and oldest vineyards planted to the variety in Carneros, this wine opens in sharp, tangy cherry and strawberry flavors dusted with baking spice. Bright acidity turns up at every level, though the wine still maintains plenty of full-bodied power, concentration and a creamy texture. A finishing touch of citrus underscores its lively nature. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58



**94 Robert Biale 2018 Varozza Vineyard Zinfandel (St. Helena).** Brawny and thick in notes of blackberry, dark cherry and cola, this wine comes from a 40-acre site of head-trained vines at the northern edge of St. Helena. A plush, opulent texture supports the powerful fruit, finishing on teases of nutmeg and black pepper. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55



**94 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Many winemakers pull from this vineyard, but John Benedetti might be closest to mastering the site. Tightly wound aromas of strawberry, red plum and hibiscus are wrapped in a slightly earthy sage-root element. The palate snaps with crisp cranberry and rose petal flavors, lifted by white pepper and sumac. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$49



**94 Tatomer 2018 Paragon Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley).** Tangerine peel, dried lime and a lightly funky kelp aroma draws the nose into this epic bottling by Graham Tatomer. The palate is extremely dry yet utterly floral, offering flavors of plumeria, jasmine tea and Mandarin zest. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

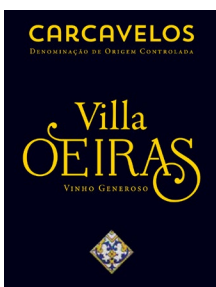




THREE STICKS

CHARDONNAY  
SONOMA MOUNTAIN  
ONE SKY  
2018

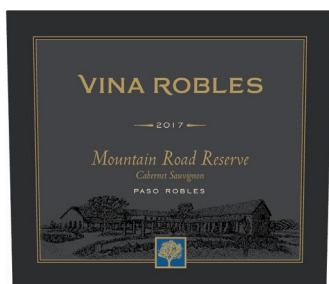
**94 Three Sticks 2018 One Sky Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain).** From an estate vineyard planted at 1,400-feet in elevation, where cool pockets hug the mountain, this white is bright, grippy and textured. Fennel, flint and lemon peel flavors wrap around a tense core of stone fruit and oak, with shots of acidity that brighten and lengthen the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55



CARCAVELOS  
DENOMINAÇÃO DE ORIGEM CONTROLADA

Villa  
OEIRAS  
VINHO GENEROSO

**94 Villa Oeiras NV Superior (Carcavelos).** This blend of Galego Dourado, Arinto and Ratinho is aged for 15 years in wood and comes from Portugal's smallest appellation. The long wood aging of this wine has given it an intensity that comes from great concentration. It has a beautiful texture and touches of honey and spice that are memorable. Drink now. Haus Alpenz. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 18.5% **Price:** \$31/500 ml

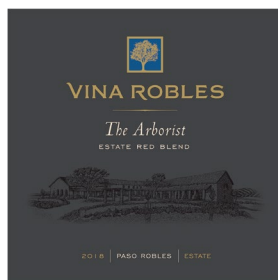


VINA ROBLES

— 2017 —

Mountain Road Reserve  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
PASO ROBLES

**94 Vina Robles 2017 Mountain Road Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Aromas of freshly smashed boysenberry, açai sorbet and purple flowers make for a vibrant nose in this bottling from the brand's Adelaida Springs Ranch, located just 12 miles from the coast at 1,700 feet in elevation. Those fruity, floral tones are upheld by tight tannins on the otherwise lush palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$56

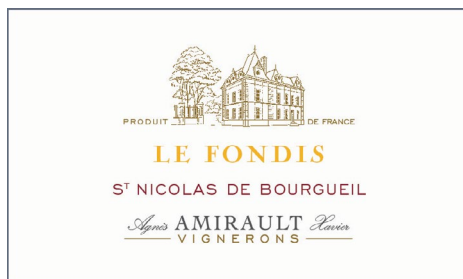


VINA ROBLES

The Arborist  
ESTATE RED BLEND

2018 PASO ROBLES ESTATE

**94 Vina Robles 2018 The Arborist Estate Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This is a screamingly good deal, offering both hedonistic pleasure and complexity through a blend of 41% Syrah, 35% Petite Sirah, 12% Grenache and 12% Tannat. Aromas of roasted cherry, smoked meat and cola spice lead into a hearty palate of black currant, roasted game and licorice. It's balanced by bright acidity, making for a sip that will satisfy many. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18



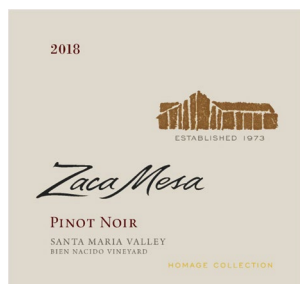
PRODUIT EN FRANCE DE FRANCE

LE FONDIS

ST NICOLAS DE BOURGUEIL

Agnès AMIRAULT Olivier  
VIGNERONS

**94 Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2016 Le Fondis (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** From deep gravel soil to the west of Saint-Nicolas, this wine is rich and balanced despite its modest alcohol. Ripe, firm tannins give the wine richness and structure along with some further aging potential. Perfumed red-berry fruits offer a fresh take. Drink from 2022. Vineyard Brands. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$46



2018

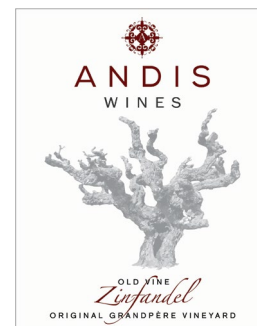
ESTABLISHED 1973

Zaca Mesa

PINOT NOIR  
SANTA MARIA VALLEY  
BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD

HOMAGE COLLECTION

**94 Zaca Mesa 2018 Bien Nacido Vineyard Homage Collection Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** An elegant lavender aroma meets with raspberry, crushed rock and a hint of game on the nose of this bottling. The tannins are expertly taut, carrying more floral tones of lavender and rose alongside subdued plum, making for a delicate yet complex display. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$48

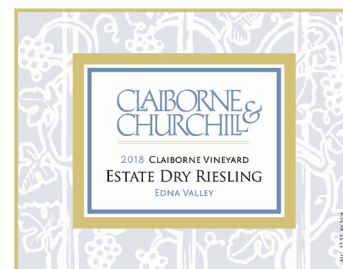


ANDIS  
WINES



OLD VINE  
Zinfandel  
ORIGINAL GRANDPÈRE VINEYARD

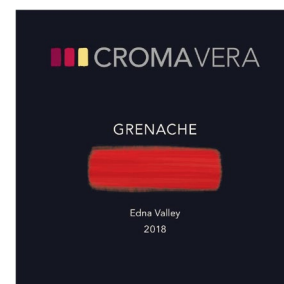
**93 Andis 2018 Old Vine Original Grandpère Vineyard Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** Distinctive tones of salt, pepper and sage bring this full-bodied wine to life as they accent the ripe plum and black-berry flavors. Mild tannins and a superbroad texture make this wine something over which to linger, as it no doubt reflects the 19th-century vines from which it was made. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$45



CLAIBORNE & CHURCHILL

2018 CLAIBORNE VINEYARD  
ESTATE DRY RIESLING  
EDNA VALLEY

**93 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Claiborne Vineyard Estate Dry Riesling (Edna Valley).** Aromas of jasmine, apple, honey and light petrol show on the nose of this bottling from a pioneering Riesling property. The palate is both crisp and oily, offering flavors of lime peel and citrus jelly as well as guava and plumeria. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

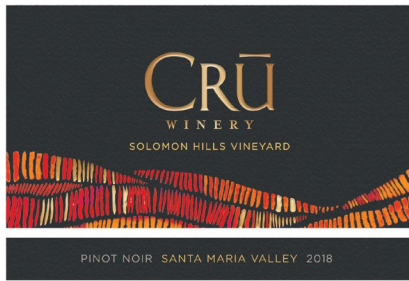


CROMAVERA

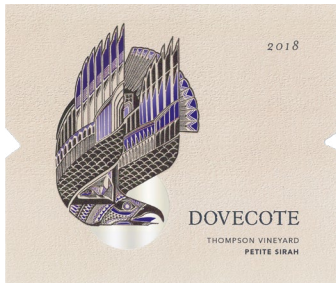
GRENACHE

Edna Valley  
2018

**93 Croma Vera 2018 Grenache (Edna Valley).** Buoyant aromas of raspberry, white pepper, rose, dried sage, loamy soil and roasted meat make for a layered and dynamic entry to this hearty wine. There is plenty of depth on the palate as well, from black raspberry and plum flavors to salumi and Turkish delight. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$45



**93 Crū 2018 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Aromas of iron, roasted cherry, sagebrush and potpourri are pleasantly full and rustic on the nose of this bottling from a coveted vineyard. Light strawberry, roasted red-plum and thyme flavors are fresh yet ruggedly delicious on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$60



**93 Dovecote 2018 Thompson Vineyard Petite Sirah (Alisos Canyon).** Petite Sirah is a rarity in Santa Barbara County, but this vineyard makes one wonder why. Aromas of lilac, Concord grape, iodine and elderberry jam slide into an upright, acid-washed palate of violet candy and just-smashed black currant. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55



**93 El Pino Club 2018 Sea Floored Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Coiled aromas of raspberry and red cherry meet with a hint of loamy soil on the powerful nose of this bottling. There's a touch of savory game at the beginning of the sip, then come flavors of black raspberry paste and cardamom. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$60



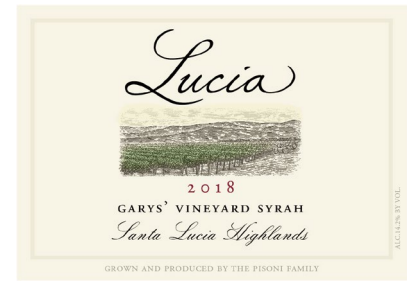
**93 Four Vines 2018 The Kinker Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For the price, this delicious bottling is hard to beat. Aromas of blackberry pie, caramel and light oak are approachable and appealing. The palate is wrapped in tight-enough tannins to uphold the joyous black-plum and blackberry-pie flavors, which are enhanced by savory touches of meat and black olive. It finishes on a hint of mint. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18



**93 High Valley Vineyard 2018 Zinfandel (High Valley).** Pure, delicious black-fruit flavors and a nicely firm texture make a great combination in this full-bodied, high-alcohol but well-balanced wine. Hints of mint and cedar accent the black-cherry and black-plum flavors while light tannins add a good bite to the texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$32



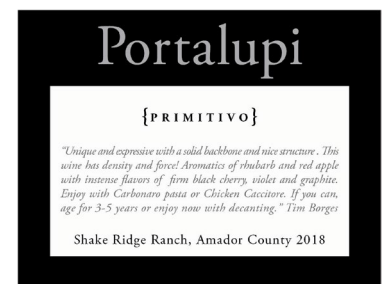
**93 Indigené 2017 Parenthesis Syrah (Chalona).** Like much from this ruggedly dry appellation, this bottling is tightly wound and should stand the test of time. Dark aromas of black currant, crisp blackberry, violet, game and graphite lead into a tense, chalky palate with dark fruit and black pepper flavors. Drink 2022–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45



**93 Lucia 2018 Garys' Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This wine is only beginning to gather the elements that will make it a classic for years to come, starting with aromas of savory dried meat, kelp and charred asphalt. The palate's dried purple fruits are lifted by peppercorns, tar and more seashore influence—elements that will all converge in true harmony with time. Drink 2022–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60



**93 Mettler Family Vineyards 2018 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Lodi).** Deep, layered and saturated, this inky-colored wine is massively concentrated and tannic, but still comes off velvety and generous. Woodsmoke, blueberry and dark chocolate are accented by touches of vanilla and cassia. Best from 2023–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**93 Portalupi 2018 Shake Ridge Ranch Primitivo (Amador County).** Absolutely gorgeous black-fruit flavors burst out of this deep, dark, full-bodied Primitivo. It is a supergenerous, ripe and lip-smacking expression. Blackberry and black-cherry flavors practically overwhelm the palate and linger on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$40





**93 Quinta dos Murças 2018 Margem (Douro).** This field blend of old vines planted close to the Douro River is impressive and also very young. It has tight tannins that are still firmly closed, giving it an initial dry character. But the rich black fruit and ripe acidity promise a fine future. Drink from 2023. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65



**93 Quinta dos Murças 2015 Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** This wine is made from a wide selection of Douro grapes. They give power and richness as well as solidly textured tannins and concentrated black fruits. The wood aging adds spice and pepper as well as broadening out the structure. Drink from 2022. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45



**93 Ron Noble 2018 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** This reserve-level wine from a cool-climate site is weighty and robust in style, with a creamy texture and plenty of upfront fruit intensity. Brooding black cherry and wild strawberry layer over sumptuous notes of cardamom, nutmeg and clove. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95



**93 Ruggeri & C. 2019 Vecchie Viti Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Honeysuckle and green apple aromas follow over to the polished, vibrant palate, along with green melon and pear. Tangy acidity lifts the rich flavors while an elegant, continuous perlage provides creamy finesse. WinesU. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40



**93 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Ananda Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Named after Winemaker John Benedetti's late wife, Melania Ananda Benedetti, this bottling combines the grapes from Split Rail and Lester Family Vineyards. It opens with candied cherry, red currant and wild mint on the nose, leading into a grippy, fresh palate of tart red fruit, peppery spices and a smooth finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$65



**93 Schramsberg 2017 Blanc de Blancs Méthode Traditionnelle Brut (North Coast).** Lively citrus flavors are nicely tempered by almond and bread-dough nuances in this elegant, well-balanced and rich-tasting wine. It offers more than fresh fruit, adding aged-on-the-lees complexity for a very tempting expression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$41



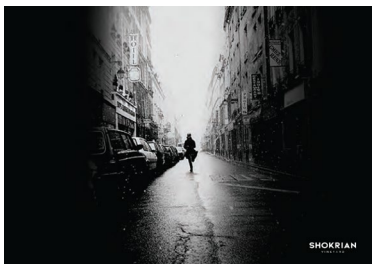
**93 Schramsberg 2011 J. Schram (North Coast).** Handsome and fully mature, this well-aged bottle of bubbles is all about complexity. Tempting aromas of toasted walnuts and buttered baguettes are backed by mellow lemon and tangerine notes that keep the palate fresh from the start to the lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$130



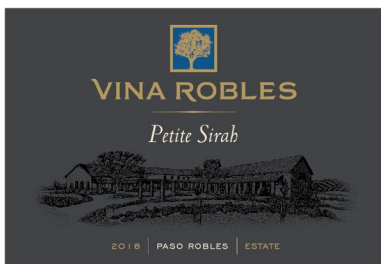
**93 Shokrian Vineyard 2018 Harvest Moon Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Extremely light in the glass, this wine by Drake Whitcraft is sprightly and refreshing, starting with aromas of cranberry juice, raspberry, strawberry and hibiscus. It's crisp and tight on the palate, where those red fruit and flower flavors meet with bright acidity. This one goes down all too easily. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$44



**93 Shokrian Vineyard 2018 Opulent Goat Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** A crisp black-raspberry-sorbet aroma makes for a fresh, inviting interpretation of Syrah by Winemaker Alice Anderson. The palate is grippy in structure, offering tart blackberry and lavender flavors, clinging to that snappy and fresh vibe. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40



**93 Shokrian Vineyard 2017 Rue Dauphine Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Black raspberry, wet clay and rose petal aromas converge on the dynamic nose of this brisk bottling from a vineyard near Los Alamos. The wine is fresh, snappy and lively on the sip, where an energetic tension delivers bright, easy-to-like flavors of red currant and white pepper. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$42



**93 Vina Robles 2018 Estate Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** Quite dark and inky in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of cassis, roasted meat and a hint of baking spice. Thick, hearty tannins frame the savory sip, where teriyaki and roast lamb flavors lead to dark berries, moving to vanilla bean and espresso on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29



**92 Andis 2018 Painted Fields Old Vine Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** This well-balanced, layered and seamless wine offers tons of fresh blackberry and raspberry flavors wrapped in a bracing texture of fine-grained tannins. Good acidity and a great sense of focus add to its charms. Interestingly, it is made from 50% Zinfandel, 30% Primitivo (the Italian strain of Zinfandel), 10% Petite Sirah and 10% Barbera. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$25



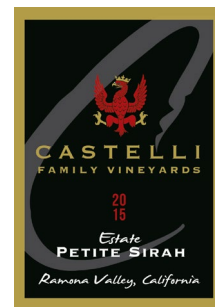
**92 Bel Colle 2016 Simposio (Barolo).** Aromas of ripe berry, pipe tobacco and new leather form the nose. Firmly structured, the palate offers juicy black cherry, baked plum and star anise alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2026–2031. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60



**92 Bel Colle 2009 10 Anni Riserva (Barolo).** Aromas of tar, smoke, pressed rose, leather and prune slowly take shape in the glass. The aromas carry over to the medium-bodied palate along with dried cherry and tobacco while fine-grained, drying tannins provide support. It's still holding up, but enjoy it sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit and freshness. Drink through 2024. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75



**92 Casa Relvas 2018 Herdade de São Miguel Escolha dos Enólogos (Alentejano).** Taken from a selection in the cellar, this wood-aged wine is a rich blend that includes Touriga Nacional, Alicante Bouschet, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and others. It has structure as well as powerful black-fruit flavors that come through the dark chocolate and spice accents. Drink from 2022. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**92 Castelli Family Vineyards 2015 Estate Petite Sirah (Ramona Valley).** This is a solid wine from a little known Southern California region. Dense aromas of cassis, black plum, barbecued meat and leather lead into a palate wrapped in chalky tannins. Opulent cassis and elegant purple-flower flavors lead into a lavender-scented finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45

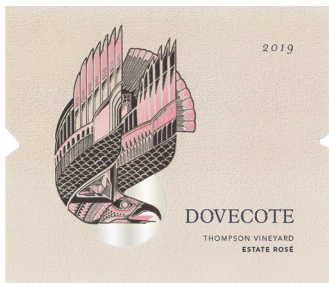


**92 Cossart Gordon 2008 Colheita Single Harvest Verdelho (Madeira).** At 12 years old, this wood-aged Madeira has plenty of fruit to go with lifted acidity. Orange and candied lemon-peel flavors are preserved by the wine's total freshness and spice. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$48/500 ml

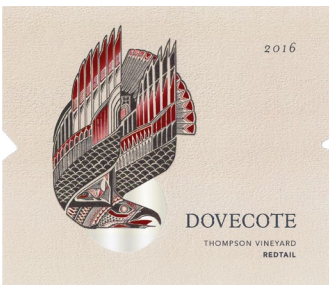


**92 Dos Almas 2015 Apogeo de Apalta (Colchagua Valley).** Blackberry and blueberry aromas meld with a bit of tar on the nose. A full and layered palate brings the intensity, while this Cabernet Sauvignon-lead blend tastes of blackberry, chocolate and a touch of green herbs. Toasty oak lends smokiness to a finish that fades with grace. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50





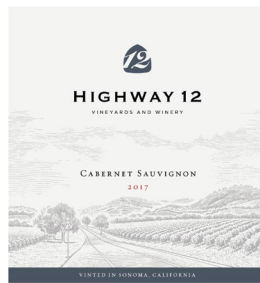
**92 Dovecote 2019 Thompson Vineyard Estate Rosé (Santa Barbara County).** A light shade of pink, this bottling begins with delicate aromas of bubblegum, rose and wet stone. The palate comes alive with zesty acidity and a chalky texture, offering flavors of peach, citrus and strawberry. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30



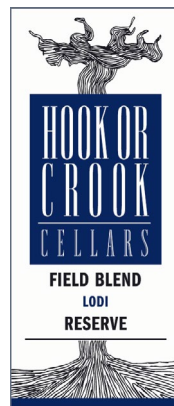
**92 Dovecote 2016 Redtail Thompson Vineyard (Santa Barbara County).** Aromas of baked boysenberry and raspberry meld with baking spice, soy and braised beef accents on the nose of this blend of 34% Syrah, 25% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre and 16% Petite Sirah. There's a fresh snap to the palate, where bright acidity carries flavors of tart blackberry, mace and cracked pepper. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55



**92 Four Vines 2018 The Biker Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Aromas of fresh berries and crushed rocks make for a tightly wound and focused nose in this bottling. Brisk blackberry-jam and light vanilla flavors converge on the palate, which is structurally impressive, wrapped in taut tannins and solid acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18



**92 Highway 12 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This complex and well-layered wine is a true standout. It offers intriguing tobacco, earth and cedar aromas, well-knit flavors of black cherry, tamarind and olive, all wrapped in a solid, firm texture. Composed and well balanced, it will drink well through at least 2026. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$17



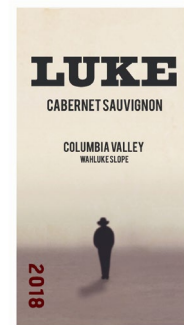
**92 Hook or Crook 2018 Field Blend Reserve (Lodi).** Excellent depth and concentration give this full-bodied wine a richness that is expressed in beautiful flavors of blackberry, blueberry and chocolate. All that lushness is wrapped in a blanket of fine-grained tannins that creates a velvety texture. Best through 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24



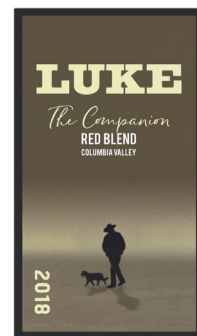
**92 Indigené 2017 Parenthesis Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dense aromas of baked blackberry, purple flowers, loamy soil, light smoke and cocoa dust show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is firm and concentrated, offering cassis and violet flavors supported by strong acidity and a tight tannic structure. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45



**92 Jermann 2017 Red Angel on the Moonlight Pinot Nero (Venezia Giulia).** All about finesse, this linear, balanced red opens with alluring aromas of red forest berry, graphite, smoke and underbrush. The elegant palate boasts surprising freshness for the scorching vintage, featuring juicy strawberry, pomegranate, white pepper and star anise. Silky tannins lend a smooth texture. Drink through 2023. LUX Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35



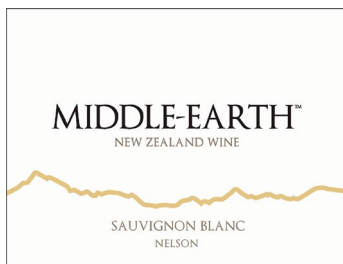
**92 Luke 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluk Slope).** Aromas of fresh raspberry, bitter-sweet chocolate and dried herb pop on the nose. The palate is ripe, delicious, fruit filled and lip-smacking, displaying a lot of density, intensity and texture. Give this beauty a short decant if drinking in the near term. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$25



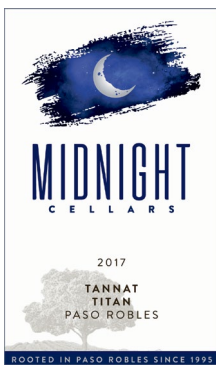
**92 Luke 2018 The Companion Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and equal parts Merlot and Syrah. Plum, raspberry, chocolate and cherry aromas lead to an explosion of blue- and red-fruit flavors on the palate. There is dazzling freshness, a spot-on sense of balance and plenty of acid and tannin structure. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$22



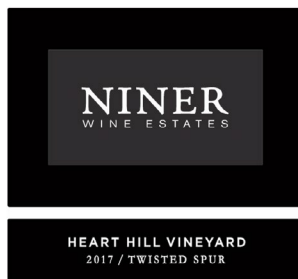
**92 Marchesi Antinori 2017 Villa Antinori Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, warm spice and blue flower mingle with a balsamic whiff of menthol. The firm, medium-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and a hint of espresso alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2021–2027. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35



**92 Middle-Earth 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Nelson).** In addition to pineapple rind, red apple peel and lemon verbena tones, this wine offers gentle accents of warm stone and dried riverside vegetation, too. The acidity is bright and zippy and there's lovely purity of fruit on the palate. This is a youthful, vibrant wine that's expressive of place and variety, with an affordable price tag to boot. Copa Fina Imports CA. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17



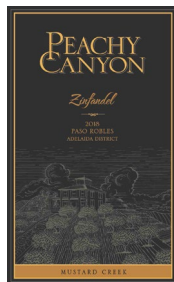
**92 Midnight 2017 Titan Tannat (Paso Robles).** Aromas of smoked berry, roasting herbs, cola spice and black plum skin carry the nose of this bottling, which is a solid showing of this grape's Paso Robles potential. Rich flavors of black cherry, cola and German chocolate cake show on the palate alongside hints of coffee beans and smoked pork. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$49



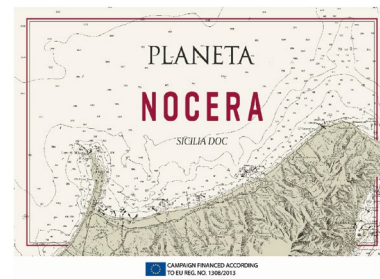
**92 Niner 2017 Heart Hill Vineyard Twisted Spur (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Intense aromas of purple flowers, cassis and a hint of vanilla wafer show on the nose of this blend of 37% Syrah, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot, 15% Malbec and 4% Carmenère. There is firm tannic framing to the sip, balanced by welcoming flavors of currant and baking spice that soar across the palate. Drink 2021–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$75



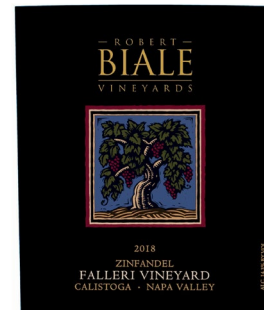
**92 Peachy Canyon 2018 Ms Behave Malbec (Paso Robles).** Dense aromas of blackberry, ham, coffee and a hint of leather show on the brooding nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with earthy and savory flavors of bloody meats and tobacco, as sandy tannins frame the dark fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40



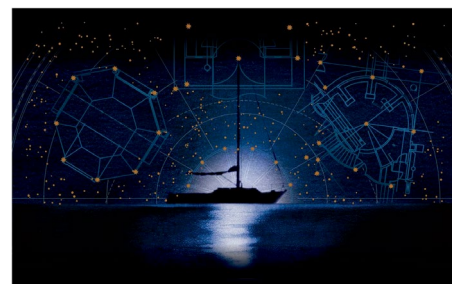
**92 Peachy Canyon 2018 Mustard Creek Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** Aromas of smoked blackberry, fennel and oregano are intense but not overripe on the nose of this bottling, which includes 11% Petite Sirah. Generous flavors of baked red plum, rose petals and tea leaves lead into a graham cracker finish, all framed in a delicate tension. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42



**92 Planeta 2018 Nocera (Sicilia).** Elegant and focused, this lithe red offers aromas of fragrant blue flower, wild red berry and Mediterranean scrub. Made from vineyards overlooking the sea, the savory, ethereal palate delivers juicy strawberry, sour cherry, star anise and a saline note alongside glossy tannins. Vibrant acidity adds even more energy to the mineral tension. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA



**92 Robert Biale 2018 Falleri Vineyard Zinfandel (Calistoga).** Thick, supple tannins wrap around lifted tones of strawberry and raspberry in this wine. From a site planted in 1924, it shows the successful partnership between producer, site and ideal vintage, finding balance and nuance that impress. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$58

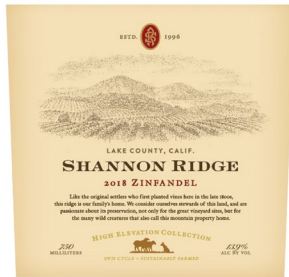


**92 Ron Noble 2018 Estate Pinot Noir (Petaltuma Gap).** Stemmy and earthy, this intriguing estate wine is lifted in red fruit, with persistent accents of mixed dried herbs. From a relatively cool site, it offers structure, lushness and length, with bright acidity helping to keep it balanced and poised. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$68





**92 Shannon Ridge 2018 Buck Shack Small Batch Red Wine (Lake County).** This bold and full-bodied wine boasts a superdeep color, dense and concentrated blackberry flavors and a firm structure. It has the power to stand up to a juicy steak or roast, bolstered by fine-grained tannins and filled in nicely by opulent black-cherry and cassis flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35



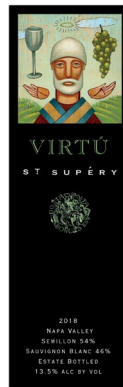
**92 Shannon Ridge 2018 High Elevation Collection Zinfandel (Lake County).** This full-bodied and nicely structured wine offers a mix of ripe blackberry and plum flavors, with light nuances of dried sage and aged beef. It's balanced, complex and distinctive. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$23



**92 Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Chablis.** Lemon zestiness on the nose yields a sense of freshness and ripeness at the same time. The palate manages to be slender and sinuous despite the warmth of the vintage and shows an uncommon tension. Paired with the chalky, textured midpalate, this wine has a sense of place, finishing with beautiful freshness. Louis Latour Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



**92 Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine's shy nose needs swirling to reveal subtle but ripe lemon notes. The palate comes in with concentration and roundness, displaying slightly bitter citrus pith. There is a phenolic edge and a plush body, but the finish shows the inherent zestiness. This wine needs time to come into its own. Drink 2023–2030. Louis Latour Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48



**92 St. Supéry 2018 Virtú Estate Bottled Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** A blend of 54% Sémillon and 46% Sauvignon Blanc, this barrel-fermented white is crisp and sophisticated. Flavors of pea shoot, dried herb, peach and green apple mingle effortlessly on the palate, extending long on the ample finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30



**92 Undurraga 2015 T.H. Terroir Hunter Rarities Garnacha-Cariñena-Monastrell (Cauquenes Valley).** Warm berry aromas include a dose of pavement in this Mediterranean red blend. A shock of bold acidity enlivens the palate and creates a sense of racy crispness. Slightly charred black-fruit flavors show hints of juniper and chocolate, while this is jacked up and lifted across the finish. Drink through 2023. Freedom Beverage Co. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35



**92 Zaca Mesa 2016 Mesa Reserve Estate Vineyard Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Although nearly five years old already, this bottle is still firm and tight. Aromas of crisp elderberry, lavender, white pepper and asphalt lead into a palate of black pepper, violet and iodine flavors, proving intense and still rigid. Drink through 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$54



**91 Bellenda 2017 Sei Uno Metodo Classico Rive di Carpesica Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Dry and elegant, this vibrant sparkler carries aromas of hawthorn, white stone fruit and a whiff of almond. These tones follow through to the crisp, clean palate along with yellow apple and unsweetened lemon drop, accompanied by a refined, continuous perlage. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$30



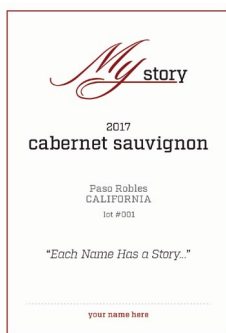
**91 Bonterra 2018 Made with Organic Grapes Merlot (California).** The black-fruit flavors in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine go deep and broad, filling the palate with rich blackberries and cherries. Hints of cocoa and dark chocolate add interest and complexity, too. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$16



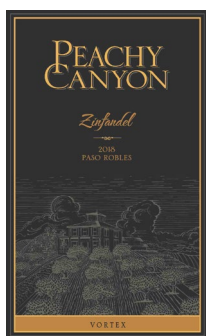




**91 Mettler Family Vineyards 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This full-bodied, rich and saturated wine offers abundant black cherry, black olive and toasted oak flavors on a firm texture of moderate, fine-grained tannins. It brings a lot of sensory pleasure from its deep, dark color to the velvety mouthfeel and baking spice accents that linger on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**91 My Story 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Focused aromas of dried cherry, soy, leather, smoked oak and coffee candy show on the nose of this bottling. The mouthfeel is hearty and full, carrying flavors of blackberry jam, coffee cream and a generous helping of oak. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$17



**91 Peachy Canyon 2018 Vortex Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Aromas of dark berry, smoke, leather and crushed black rocks show on the nose of this bottling, which includes 9% Petite Sirah and 8% Counoise. A baked boysenberry flavor meets with dried fig and rock tones on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$44



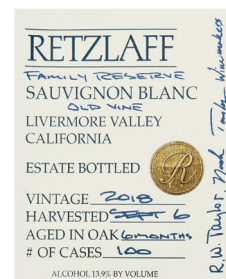
**91 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Méthode Traditionnelle (Sonoma County).** Combining 70% Chardonnay, 20% Pinot Noir and small amounts of both Pinot Blanc and wine from an aged reserve blend, this sparkler is fleshy and lush in an expansive mouthfeel of fruit and texture. Gravenstein apple, pear and a touch of honey highlight the midpalate, building to a finish of toast and brioche. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22



**91 Quinta do Crasto 2017 Crasto Superior (Douro).** From a selection of grapes from the quinta's property up river in Douro Superior, this wine is richly perfumed and structured. The tannins blend into the juicy richness of the dark fruit, but this fine, ripe wine needs some more time. Enjoy from 2021. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29



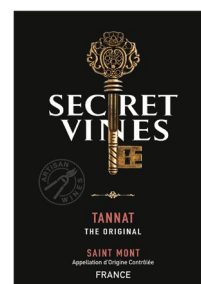
**91 Retzlaff 2018 Estate Bottled Merlot (Livermore Valley).** This expressive wine aged in French oak barrels offers a spicy bouquet of mint, cedar and cigar box followed by powerful and focused black-cherry flavors. It's all supported nicely by fine-grained tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49



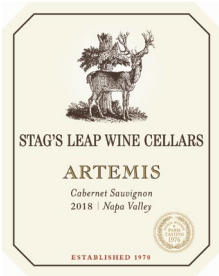
**91 Retzlaff 2018 Family Reserve Old Vine Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley).** This smooth, oak-aged wine brings a bracing, toasty, mineral aspect to the inherent citrus and melon flavors, and does it while maintaining good balance and freshness. It's a delicious change of pace for a Sauvignon Blanc. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$42



**91 Retzlaff 2014 Estate Bottled Merlot (Livermore Valley).** Tempting accents of mint, cedar and tobacco surround a solid center of blackberry and black plum in this full-bodied and lightly tannic wine made from organic grapes. It shows some good wood-aged maturity and a satisfying grip on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$36



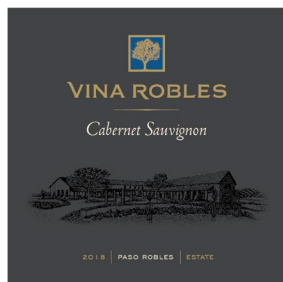
**91 Secret Vines 2016 The Original Tannat (Saint Mont).** Best known in nearby Madiran, Tannat is also grown in Gascogne's Saint Mont. This wine offers a broad, rich texture that is still softening. The tannins typical of the variety are still exerting an influence and firm grip alongside the black plum fruits. Brickell Wines LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20



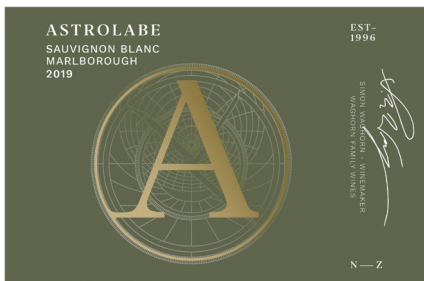
**91 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2018 Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** From a blend of beautiful sites across the valley, including Arcadia Vineyard in Coombsville and Rancho Chimiles in Wooden Valley, as well as small amounts of grapes from S.L.V. and Fay, this wine is inviting in dense aromas of red fruit, caramel and brioche. With dashes of Petit Verdot and Malbec, it finishes on accents of tobacco and cedar. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



**91 Undurraga 2019 T.H. Terroir Hunter Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley).** A bright nose delivers a shot of fresh lime backed by cilantro, vanilla and sea spray. A sleek and juicy palate is cut by piercing acidity, while lime, tangerine and tarragon flavors wrap up on a cleansing finish. This shows all the attributes of Chilean Sauvignon Blanc at its best. Freedom Beverage Co. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22



**91 Vina Robles 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Aromas of roasted black cherry, fig, caramel and milk chocolate make for a rich and goey entry to the nose of this appellation blend. Lavish, creamy and smooth tannins frame the sip, where roasted plum, fig and raisin flavors are framed by a more rigid structure toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26



**90 Astrolabe 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** With a bit of time in the glass, this reveals itself to be an aromatic bombshell. More fruit driven than vegetal, it offers notes of lychee, passion fruit, lime zest and peach, with a subtle snow-pea aroma at the back. The palate is bright and bouncy, with nicely concentrated fruit and texture. Share a Splash. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22



**90 Bartholomew Estate 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** Earthy and thickly concentrated, this robust wine is intensely flavored and dark. Tobacco, cedar and clove flavors accent a core of rich blackberry, black cherry and vanilla, finishing on a dusting of dark chocolate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60



**90 Bluewing Vineyards 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** This is a brawny, approachable and likable wine, thick in tannin and oak. Dark berry, cola, vanilla and a thread of lasting baking spice highlight the full-bodied, soft and supple palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20



**90 Böen 2018 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County-Monterey County-Sonoma County).** This complex, full-bodied and generously oaked wine offers attractive baking-spice aromas and an abundance of pear, apple and honey flavors. It brings a mouthfilling, smooth texture that's underpinned by good acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$25



**90 Bonterra 2018 Made with Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** Cinnamon and clove aromas lead to a juicy, well-concentrated cherry flavor in this medium-bodied, fairly oaky wine. Light tannins add to the grippy mouthfeel and help pull the fruit flavors through the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$18



**90 Broken Earth 2019 Limited Release Fiano (Paso Robles).** This bottling begins with clean, pleasant and yet strong lines of peach, apple blossom and lime peel on the nose. There's undeniable ripeness of guava and other tropical fruits on the palate, but the texture is chalky and the acidity is fresh. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$24





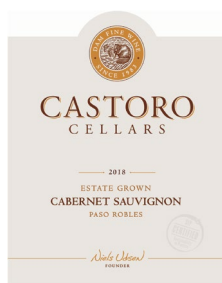
**90 Carol Shelton 2019 Black Magic Late Harvest Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** This dessert wine is made from a selection of vineyards and blended with 15% late-harvest Petite Sirah. Viscous and delicious, it delivers dense flavors of baked cherry, vanilla and mocha that blend with balanced accents of baking spice and oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$20/375 ml



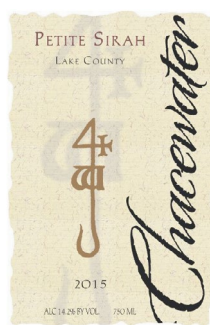
**90 Castello Bonomi 2011 Cru Perdu Millesimato (Franciacorta).** Aromas of white spring flower and white stone fruit form the subtle nose. The vibrant, linear palate offers bread crust, orange rind and ripe yellow apple alongside firm acidity and a lively perlage. It closes on a note of bitter walnut. Serendipity Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39



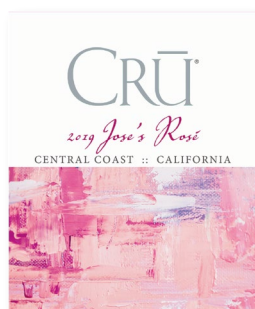
**90 Castello di Neive 2016 Vigna Basarin (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Aromas of violet, black-skinned berry and spice emerge from the glass. The vibrant, mouthwatering palate delivers crushed blueberry, ground pepper and clove alongside polished tannins. An almond note marks the finish. Enjoy through 2025. LLS—Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19



**90 Castoro Cellars 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark red berries, cocoa and new leather aromas show on the nose of this reliable bottling from a regional icon. There is a hefty feeling to the chalky, sandy tannins, zippy acidity and familiar flavors of dark red fruit, herbs and turned earth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



**90 Chacewater 2015 Petite Sirah (Lake County).** This is a well-concentrated, no-nonsense wine that is superfocused on black-fruit flavors and laced with the typical blanketing tannins. While a bit subdued now, it will come around with time. Best from 2024–2034. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$28



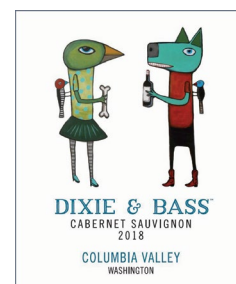
**90 Crū 2019 Jose's Rosé (Central Coast).** A dark shade of pink in the glass, this ripe style of rosé begins with aromas of strawberry pie and orange cream on the inviting nose. There's a bright sizzle of acidity on the sip, where more of those strawberry and orange flavors arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$20



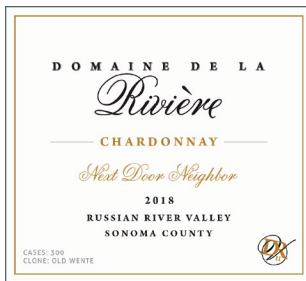
**90 Cuvaison 2019 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Los Carneros).** Lengthy and intense, this estate-grown white is fermented entirely in stainless steel and aged similarly for another six months. Kiwi, honeydew and grapefruit combine around a stony texture of grip and viscosity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24



**90 Davis Bynum 2017 River West Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Made in a thick, full-bodied style with wide appeal, this vineyard-designate wine opens with a green olive tone and focused acidity. The midpalate delivers more richness, effusive in toasted oak, vanilla and crème brûlée. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



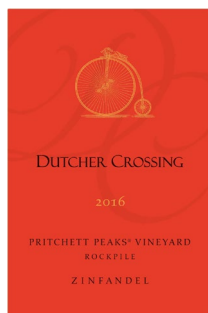
**90 Dixie & Bass 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The aromas of this wine are ripe and fruitful, with blackberry and black cherry showing pleasing purity. There's plenty of density and intensity to the flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18



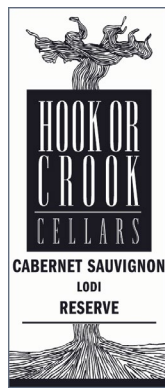
**90** **Domaine de la Rivière 2018 Next Door Neighbor Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** From the Lone Oak Vineyard next door to the producer's property, this wine has a rich, confectionary opening on the nose. There's a saltiness underneath the oak, and it's floral, earthy and well integrated on the palate, with lasting flavors of pear, pineapple and peach. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$62



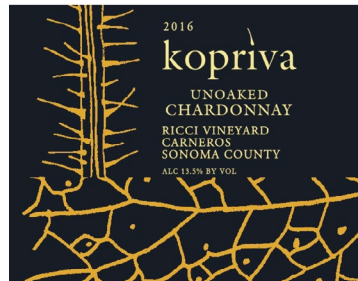
**90** **Dovecote 2018 Quail Valley Vineyard Estate Viognier (Los Olivos District).** Tightly woven aromas of dried lemon peel, ripe apple, a metallic minerality and a touch of nuts show on the nose of this bottling from Noah and Tamara Rowles' backyard vineyard. There's bright acidity on the palate, where flavors of ripe apple, melon and a hint of banana arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35



**90** **Dutcher Crossing 2016 Pritchett Peaks Zinfandel (Rockpile).** From a site high above Lake Sonoma, blended with small amounts of Petite Sirah and Mourvèdre, this wine is juicy in plum and dark cherry. With a soft, integrated structure, it builds complexity in the glass, contributing savory notes of black pepper and clove. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$51



**90** **Hook or Crook 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This stalwart, firmly tannic wine wraps concentrated black-fruit flavors in a full body and grippy texture. It will dazzle with a juicy steak or chop, and stay enjoyable through at least 2024. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24



**90** **Kopriva 2016 Ricci Vineyard Unoaked Chardonnay (Carneros).** Lemon rind, lime and peach figure prominently on the palate of this steely, unoaked wine. Light, bright and fussy, it has lifted acidity that keeps it laser focused and lean. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$19



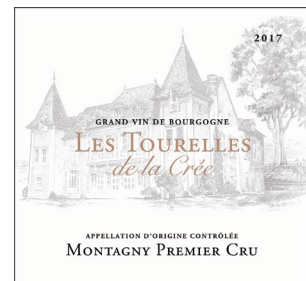
**90** **Lamole di Lamole 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Toasted nut and underbrush aromas lead the nose along with whiffs of menthol. The austere palate presents dried cherry, prune, espresso and tobacco alongside notes of powdered sage. Fine-grained tannins leave a drying finish. Santa Margherita USA. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25



**90** **Lava Cap 2019 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (El Dorado).** Figgy aromas lead to subdued but tangy flavors of green apple, mineral and mild herb in this subtle, medium-bodied, well-balanced wine. It's not overtly fruity, but well worth sipping for its complexity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20



**90** **Le Garenne 2018 Red (Sancerre).** Lightly wood aged, this wine has weight and richness as well as juicy red-cherry fruits. A subtle touch of spice accompanies the lifted acidity. Drink from 2021. Asgram LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



**90** **Les Tourelles de la Créé 2017 Premier Cru (Montagny).** Although the shy nose of this wine gives little away, the palate shows a fleshy richness of fruit. Overtones of fresh pineapple cluster around a nutty, rounded but fresh core. The finish has a touch of smokiness. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45





**90 Luca Bosio 2016 Barolo.** Aromas of blue flowers, baking spices and leather lead the way in this firm red. The taut, linear palate offers ripe black cherry, orange zest and star anise alongside assertive, close-grained tannins that grip the close. Drink after 2026. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45



**90 Michael David 2018 Sixth Sense Syrah (Lodi).** Delicious and mouthfilling, this full-bodied wine is drenched in jammy blackberry and blueberry flavors on a rather soft and easy texture. The saturated fruitiness stays on the palate through a lingering finish. —J.G.

abv: 15%

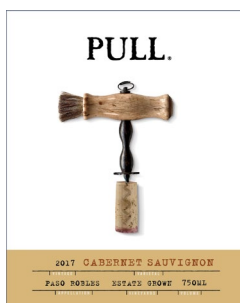
Price: \$18



**90 Michael Pozzan 2018 Giapoza Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This is a big yet nicely restrained wine, backing its flavors of black cherry and dark chocolate with moderate tannins. Its appetizing texture slowly releases layers of depth and flavor with time in the glass. Best through 2026. —J.G.

abv: 13.5%

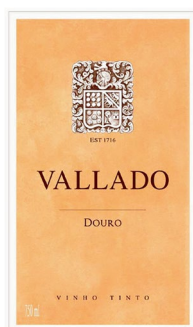
Price: \$18



**90 Pull 2017 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Concentrated cherry, crushed stone, silty dust and light oregano aromas kick off the nose. The palate is rich and viscous in black cherry, nutmeg and vanilla flavors, which ride tight tannins and fresh acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14%

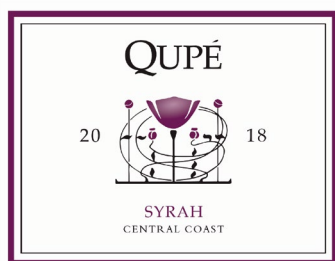
Price: \$16



**90 Quinta do Vallado 2018 Vallado Tinto (Douro).** Partially wood aged, this rich, dense wine is smooth, maturing well but retaining plenty of its ripe black-fruit flavors. It is a dense wine that lingers on a blackberry flavor and lifted acidity. Drink now. Quintessential Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23



**90 Qupé 2018 Syrah (Central Coast).** Though founder Bob Lindquist is no longer part of this winery, the brand still delivers value-driven Syrah. Aromas of roasted meat, black pepper, lavender and light berries kick off the nose, while the savory palate blends pepper, crisp fruit and dried herb flavors into an easy-to-quaff, light-bodied expression. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20



**90 Rocca delle Macie 2016 Riserva di Fizzano Single Vineyard Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Subdued aromas evoking ripe black-skinned fruit, toasted nut, new leather and violet form the nose. The full-bodied palate features dried cherry, chopped aromatic herbs and licorice alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Palm Bay International. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

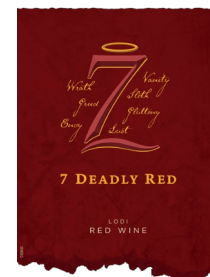
Price: \$65



**90 Secret Vines 2018 Reborn Varietals Gros Manseng-Petit Courbu-Arrufiac (Saint Mont).** In pursuit of its enlightened policy of finding and developing old local and native varieties, this producer has blended Gros Manseng, Petit Courbu and Arrufiac into a fresh while also richly creamy wine. Its sliced apple flavors shine out, bringing acidity and ripeness. Drink now. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20



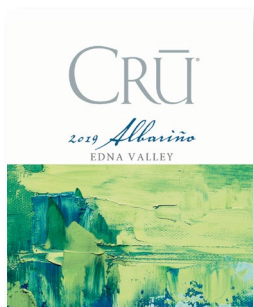
**90 Seven Deadly 2017 Red Wine (Lodi).** Rich licorice, plum and blackberry-jam notes give this full-bodied wine more than enough fruit flavor, while a velvety texture laced with fine-grained tannins makes it smooth on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 15%

Price: \$16



**90 Viña Chocalan 2017 Gran Reserva Origen Carmenère (Maipo Valley).** Olive and tomato leaf aromas meld with pepper and blackberry at the base of the nose. A plump, fleshy mouthfeel is soft in the middle, while flavors of plum, tobacco, tomato and thyme carry to a soft finish. Drink through 2022. Chocalan USA. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18



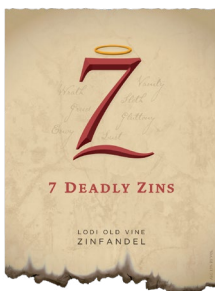
**89 Crū 2019 Albariño (Edna Valley).** Aromatic hits of apple blossom, bubblegum, melon and tuberose show on the nose of this bottling. There is compelling tension and sizzling acidity to the sip, which is fresh although very ripe in tropical flavors of papaya, mango and plumeria. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20



**89 Michael David 2018 Freakshow Zinfandel (Lodi).** Full in feel and firmly structured, this wine is a kind of gentle giant. It offers ripe but not overt flavors of blackberry and blueberry, with a well-polished texture despite the moderate tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$20

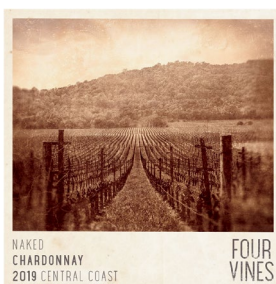


**89 My Story 2019 Chardonnay (Paso Robles).** Aromas of lime blossom and Key lime pie meet with a chalky restraint on the nose of this bottling, whose label invites customers to write their names on the front. Flavors of wet stone and lime zest make for a delicate palate, where sharp acidity cuts into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$17



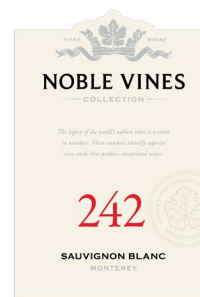
**88 Seven Deadly Zins 2017 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** This full-bodied, broad and chocolaty wine tastes ripe and is quite mouthfilling. Flavors of dried plum, milk chocolate and cedar make a satisfying blend. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$16

## BEST BUYS

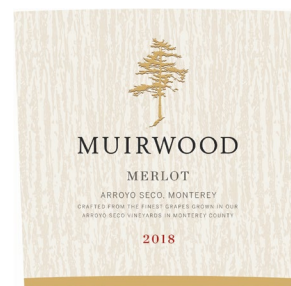


**91 Four Vines 2019 Naked Chardonnay (Central Coast).** This unoaked bottling carries all the tropical hallmarks of the style, starting with jasmine and guava flesh on the nose. The palate is generous in both acidity and flavor, showing pineapple, lychee, guava and stone fruit that linger into the grippy finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

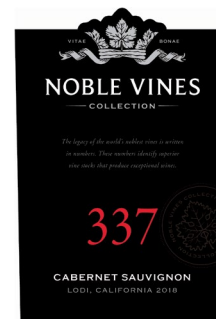
## BEST BUYS



**91 Noble Vines 2019 242 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey).** Crisp aromas of green apple skin, cut grass and white flowers show on the nose of this bottling, the latest in this numbered series of affordable wines. It's fresh on the palate in flavors of lime peel, fresh grass and peach, framed by a tense minerality that holds the ripe part in check. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13



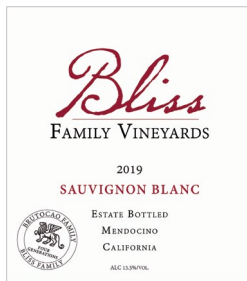
**90 Muirwood 2018 Merlot (Arroyo Seco).** This brand is consistently producing affordable wines that punch above their weight class. This wine begins with aromas of ash, chalk, red berry and light pomegranate. These tones continue to the palate, with added streaks of stone, red currant and chalk that hold firm into the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$15



**90 Noble Vines 2018 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Polished and well balanced, this flavorful and moderately tannic wine fits the bill nicely for a well-priced Cabernet. It has a full body, a concentrated black cherry flavor and subtle hints of chocolate and vanilla. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15



## BEST BUYS



**89 Bliss 2019 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino).** Crisp and lively, this wonderfully fruity wine lifts bright apple and citrus flavors with good acidity for a refreshing, tangy expression. Perfect for lunches and appetizers. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

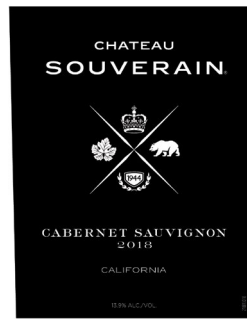


**89 Guenoc 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Subtle in flavor and well balanced, this wine is a bit steely and mineral-like in aroma, then brings light cucumber and honeydew melon flavors to the palate. It will be a superversatile wine for lunch or dinner. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10



**88 Castle Rock 2019 Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** Fruity and savory flavors mingle well in this full-bodied, smooth-textured wine. It offers ample black-cherry and black-plum notes along with hints of tasty mushroom and beef jus. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

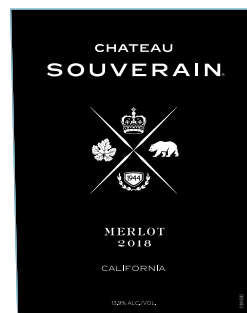
## BEST BUYS



**88 Chateau Souverain 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This engaging wine is medium weight for a Cab and shows authentic varietal character in its savory, interesting mix of black olive, black cherry and bell pepper flavors. Moderate tannins give it a velvety texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

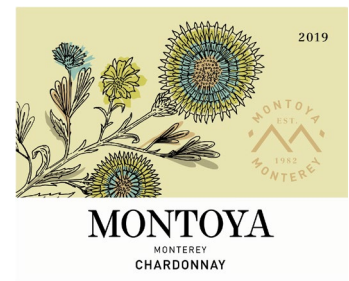


**88 Chateau Souverain 2018 Chardonnay (California).** This very good wine offers lots of fruit flavor and a straightforward, slightly crisp texture filled out by fresh apples and pear alongside hints of oaky vanilla and white pepper. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

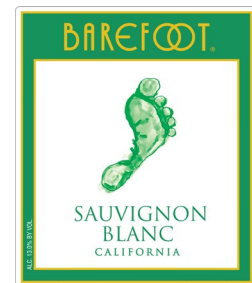


**88 Chateau Souverain 2018 Merlot (California).** Bold tones of chocolate, vanilla and mint start this off. Black licorice and black cherry meld on the palate in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

## BEST BUYS



**88 Montoya 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Broad aromas of buttered peach, roasted apple, sea salt and daffodil make for a pleasant entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe in flavors of poached apple and pear, with ample baking spice to keep it intriguing. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

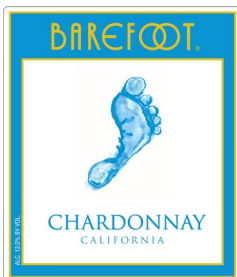


**87 Barefoot NV Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Lemon, lime and snap pea aromas lead to very fresh, vivid, herbal flavors in this light-bodied, appetizing wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$7

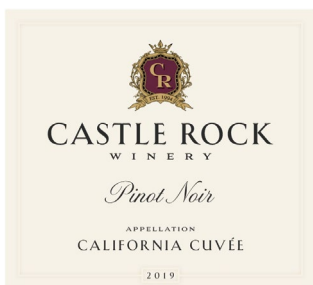


**87 Mirassou 2018 Pinot Noir (California).** This smooth, gentle medium-bodied wine offers a rich, soft texture and ripe cherry flavors accented by a touch of cinnamon. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$12

## BEST BUYS



**86 Barefoot NV Chardonnay (California).** Charred oak and butter aromas are followed by ripe fruit flavors and more butter and toast. This full-bodied wine is broad in mouthfeel, shows plenty of oak influence and has a thick texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$7



**86 Castle Rock 2019 California Cuvée Pinot Noir (California).** A reduced, flinty aroma gives way to pleasant fruit flavors and earthy overtones in this medium-bodied wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11



**86 Chateau Souverain 2018 Pinot Noir (California).** This full-bodied wine is smooth and well behaved, offering generally ripe black-fruit flavors, low tannins and a hint of baking spice. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

wine is suave, balanced and totally ready to drink. Vineyard Road. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92 Domaine Delaporte 2018 Silex (Sancerre).** Named after the flint soil on which the vines grow, this structured wine has plenty of tannins. They go with the perfumed and spicy black-cherry fruits. Acidity and a juicy character promise aging. Drink from 2021. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**92 Pascal & Nicolas Reverdy 2018 Terre de Maimbray (Sancerre).** This dense wine has fine tannins that are still softening. Blackberry and red cherry fruits shine with freshness and richness. The elements have potential and will come together further. Drink from 2022. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Pierre Prieur et Fils 2016 Domaine de Saint-Pierre (Sancerre).** This is a ripe, mature and perfumed wine. Juicy fruits have softened into generous tannins to produce a texture that is smooth but has a dry edge. Drink now. Vineyard Road. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**92 Roger et Didier Raimbault 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Sancerre).** Concentrated and dense, this structured wine demands aging. Ripe black-cherry flavors are threaded by dry, firm tannins and freshened by the juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2022. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**91 Alban Roblin 2018 Sancerre.** After a year in wood, this wine has developed a rich, lush character that cushions the black fruits and softens the tannins and acidity. The wine is ripe, balanced and ready to drink. APS Wine & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**91 Château de Sancerre 2018 Tradition (Sancerre).** This full, silky-textured wine is packed with ripe cherry flavors and toasty notes from wood aging. It is still developing but the juicy character is already established. Drink this poised wine from 2021. USA Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

**91 Clement et Florian Berthier 2016 La Croix Renaud (Sancerre).** Now mature, this ripe wine has secondary undergrowth flavors, touched by mushrooms while still guarding some original black-cherry freshness. The wine is balanced and ready to drink. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Domaine Fouassier 2018 Sancerre.** This perfumed, red-berry-flavored wine was wood aged for a year. It is polished, rich in fruits, minerality and light toast. The structure will soften well over the next few months, so drink from 2021. Organic. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**91 Domaine Matthias et Emile Roblin 2018 Origine (Sancerre).** A year in wood has given this wine richness and a smooth texture to go with the smoky flavors. Red cherries and spice add complexity to the wine that needs more time to soften. Drink from 2022. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**91 François Crochet 2018 Sancerre.** This wine exudes the richness that is now possible in red Sancerre. Black-cherry fruits are dense, structured but with the necessary acidity to keep the wine balanced as it develops. Drink from 2022. Organic and biodynamic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Lucien Crochet 2015 La Croix du Roy (Sancerre).** This perfumed, ripe wine is now fully mature. Although the fruitiness may be diminished, the texture has softened and opened into a smooth, structured, cherry-jam-flavored, wine. Drink now. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**91 Michel Vattan 2018 B-C (Sancerre).** Soft and fruity, this wine has a texture that has smoothed out into luscious blackberry flavors. Acidity and a hint of pepper add further interest to the forward fruitiness. Drink from 2021. Boivin Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Pierre Morin 2017 Sancerre.** Produced from several parcels of vines, this wine is ripe and smoothly textured. There is a succulent character to the polished texture and balance between fruit and the partial wood aging. Drink the wine now. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90 Alphonse Mellot 2016 La Moussière (Sancerre).** This ripe wine is full of red-cherry flavors broadened by the wood aging. Tannins and juicy berry flavors are balanced, giving a wine that is ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$52

**90 Clement et Florian Berthier 2018 Sancerre.** A perfumed wine with spice and bitter cherry flavors, this red offers a crunchy texture as well as ripe fruitiness. It needs a few more months and will be best from 2021. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Domaine Bernard Fleuriet et Fils 2018 Sancerre.** A ripe, smoothly textured wine, this is packed with black-cherry and red-berry flavors. Tannins support the fruits and spicy structure. Drink from 2021. Integrity Wines GA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

**90 Domaine Delaporte 2019 Chavignol (Sancerre).** In this rounded wine, generous black-cherry fruits are balanced by acidity and a light touch of tannins. This perfumed wine is open,



packed with fruit and a peppery edge. Drink the wine from 2021. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**90** **Domaine Reverdy-Ducroux 2018 Beau Regard (Sancerre).** Packed with red-cherry fruits, this softly textured wine is ready to drink. Light tannins give a gentle edge to the acidity and final fruitiness. Winebow. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**90** **Fleuriet Frères 2018 Renaissance La Magie des Caillottes (Sancerre).** Balanced structure and ripe cherry fruits are perfumed, making this an open wine. Fragrant and fruity, with a balanced tannic core, the wine is almost ready and will be very drinkable from 2021. Vinifrance. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Jean-Marie Reverdy et Fils 2018 Silex (Sancerre).** This ripe, almost mature wine offers rich black-cherry flavors and a backdrop of firm tannins. The ripe fruits have been smoothed by a year in barrel, adding spice and a lightly toasty flavor to the mix. Drink from 2021. TAP Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Le Garenne 2018 Sancerre.** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Roger et Didier Raimbault 2018 Sancerre.** Perfumed and elegant, this has soft tannins to balance the red-berry flavors. Depth and concentration come from the rich fruitiness, acidity and the firm, dry core. The wine will be at its best from 2022. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Gitton Père et Fils 2016 Les Herses d'Or (Sancerre).** A rich, jammy and dense wine, this is full of black-cherry and spice flavors. The wine is still dry, showing some flavors from the wood aging while the fruit opens out. Let it have a bit more time so drink from 2021. Metropolis Wine Merchants, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

**89** **Joseph Mellot 2018 Le Rabault (Sancerre).** This generous wine offers ripe fruits and warm tannins. Acidity from the red-cherry flavors is balanced with the maturing tannins. The wine is ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Domaine Anthony Girard 2018 La Clef du Récit (Sancerre).** In this polished, smoothly textured and fruity wine, ripe red-cherry flavors are shot through with acidity. It still has tannins enough for it to age further, so drink from 2022. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Domaine Jean-Paul Picard 2018 Charlaux (Sancerre).** In this rich wine, soft tannins contrast with the mineral texture and smoky character. This small-production, wood-aged wine has

an aromatic character and a ripe future. Drink from 2021. VOS Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**88** **Domaine Merlin Cherrier 2018 Sancerre.** This fresh wine is full of red berries and acidity, with a light touch of tannins. Perfumed and fruity, it will be ready from 2021. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$36

**88** **Domaine Reverdy-Ducroux 2018 Les Grappes Entières (Sancerre).** This is a juicy wine, with bold red-berry flavors and spicy tannins from the whole-bunch fermentation. The fruit is still young, with a crisp edge that will soften soon. Drink from 2021. Asgram LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**87** **Aurore Dezat 2018 Domaine des Chasseignes (Sancerre).** Lightly wood aged, this wine has young tannins as well as perfumed red-plum flavors. It is still structured, with a tough, dry core that needs to open up to the fruits. Drink from 2022. Premier Wine Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Domaine Reverdy-Ducroux 2018 Cuvée Laurent Reverdy (Sancerre).** This perfumed wine is entirely about its ripe red-cherry fruits, soft tannins and attractive acidity. Drink this wine now. Asgram LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Domaine Sautereau 2019 Sancerre.** This is a soft and light wine. Gentle red-cherry flavors are ripe, with a touch of nutmeg from the partial oak aging. It is an open and ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**87** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2018 Domaine la Croix-Canat La Vendangette (Sancerre).** This domaine owned by the Tinel-Blondelet family has produced a structured, ripe and black-fruit-flavored wine. With solid tannins to partner the fruits, the wine is set for further aging. Drink from 2021. H Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**86** **Maison Foucher 2018 Le Mont (Sancerre).** Juicy and ripe, this is a fresh, red-cherry-flavored wine. Soft tannins and acidity give the wine a gentle character. It is ready to drink. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**85** **Joseph Mellot 2016 Le Connétable (Sancerre).** A blend of the best Pinot Noir parcels, this wood-aged wine is rich and structured. The dry core suggests an over-enthusiastic use of wood, masking black fruits that have weight in the background. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

## MENETOU-SALON

**93** **Domaine Pellé 2018 Morogues (Menetou-Salon).** This succulent, juicy wine has ripe cherry flavors, generous tannins and freshness all at the same time. Acidity and fruitiness hold the wine together and promise aging. Drink from 2021. DB Wine Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**93** **Domaine Pellé 2016 Le Carroir (Menetou-Salon).** Ripe and juicy, this perfumed wine has a cool character to go with its black-cherry flavors. Partial wood aging has added spice and a smooth texture to the wine's complexity. Drink from 2021. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**93** **Domaine Philippe Gilbert 2017 Les Chandelières (Menetou-Salon).** Aged for two years in barrel, this single-vineyard wine is just approaching maturity. Rich tannins have softened to bring in the ripe blackberry flavors and perfumed acidity. The wine needs a little more time, so drink from 2021. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaines Minchin 2018 La Tour Saint-Martin Célestin (Menetou-Salon).** This generous wine is full of ripe black fruits. Tannins give a touch of dryness but are already well integrated into the ripe berry flavors. The perfumed aftertaste and acidity hold promise for the future. Drink from 2022. European Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Domaine Antoine van Remoortere 2019 Menetou-Salon.** This young wine is full of promise. Red-cherry flavors are enthusiastically bright and fruity, backlit by acidity and light tannins. It should be ready to drink from 2022. Winemonger. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Domaine de l'Ermitage 2018 Clos de Davet (Menetou-Salon).** Black-cherry fruits and soft tannins sustain this soft, warm wine that has a juicy character. The texture and tannic edge give the wine shape and will allow it to age further. Drink from 2021. The Wine Source. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Domaine Philippe Gilbert 2018 Menetou-Salon.** This dense wine is packed with rich black fruits as well as tannins. It's a sign of the new wave of reds from this region, giving rich cherry and berry flavors, touches of wood aging and some aging potential. Drink from 2022. Organic. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90** **Isabelle et Pierre Clément 2018 Classique (Menetou-Salon).** Short wood aging has enhanced the perfumes of this smoky, ripe and fruity wine. With acidity as well as red-berry fla-

# BUYINGGUIDE

vors, the wine is still buoyant, showing a firm layer of tannins. Drink from 2021. World Wine Source. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Domaine Chavet 2019 Menetou-Salon.** Touches of wood aging gives this wine generosity as well as spice. They go well with the black-cherry fruits to give a wine that is still young but has good potential for richness. Drink from 2021. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**88** **Domaine de l'Ermitage 2019 Les Pierres Chaudes (Menetou-Salon).** Profiting from the ripe vintage, this wine has generous black fruits that are smoothly integrated into the tannic structure. All about the fruits and warm aftertaste, the wine is ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Domaines Minchin 2018 La Tour Saint-Martin Pommerais (Menetou-Salon).** With its elegant tannins and ripe fruit, this wine has promise. First, though, it needs to lose its green, young edge. When that happens (and it will), this will be a structured wine ready to drink from 2022. European Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Joseph Mellot 2018 Les Thureaux (Menetou-Salon).** This ripe wine is rich in tannins and black-cherry fruits. Coming from chalk soils west of Sancerre, this structured wine is still young. It will be best from 2021, when the smoother textures will show through. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Domaine de l'Ermitage 2019 Première Cuvée (Menetou-Salon).** This rounded, soft wine shows light extraction and crisp red-cherry fruitiness. It is lightly perfumed, with a touch of tannins to give the wine shape. Drink from 2021. The Wine Source. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**87** **Fleuriet Frères 2018 Renaissance Les Demoiselles (Menetou-Salon).** This perfumed wine is ripe, with balanced red fruits and attractive spiciness. The cool-climate freshness is supported by tannins and stinky red fruits. Drink the wine now. Vinifrance. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Isabelle et Pierre Clément 2017 Tradition (Menetou-Salon).** This wine has a stinky character, juicy red fruits, spicy tannins and a touch of wood from barrel aging. The wine is ready to drink. World Wine Source. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Domaine Bernard Fleuriet et Fils 2018 Menetou-Salon.** Still young, this structured wine is dry, with a solid core of tannins that dominates the red-cherry flavors. A pepper edge and bit-

ter extraction spoil the potential of the fruit. Integrity Wines GA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Tracy & Cie 2018 Madame des Fontaynes Les Marnes (Menetou-Salon).** This soft, smoky wine has attractive red-cherry fruits and a stinky texture. Crisp and ready to drink, the wine is part of a new venture from the owners of Château de Tracy in Pouilly Fumé. Winebow. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

## COTEAUX DU GIENNOIS

**92** **Clement et Florian Berthier 2017 L'Inédit du Champ Jacquot Pinot Noir (Coteaux du Giennois).** This ripe, wood-aged wine has swathes of red-cherry flavors alongside spice and crisp, perfumed acidity. A well-structured wine, it is just approaching maturity. Drink from 2021. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Clement et Florian Berthier 2018 Le Gamay de Pépé (Coteaux du Giennois).** In this smooth, velvety wine, tannins are engulfed by ripe black fruits. Acidity and black-cherry flavors give freshness as well as a rich, open character. Drink from 2021. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**88** **Clement et Florian Berthier 2018 Pinot Noir-Gamay (Coteaux du Giennois).** This bright, spicy wine offers cherry flavors and a good balance between structure and fruitiness. Juicy and zesty, it is ready to drink. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

## CHINON

**90** **Domaine Gouron 2019 Chinon.** This perfumed wine balances fresh blackberry flavors and acidity with a rich texture. Vibrant, fruity and smoky, it offers hints of tannins at the end. Drink from 2021. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Saget la Perrière 2018 Marie de Beauregard (Chinon).** This wine offers ripe black fruits and spicy, smoky flavors. Still young, it has rich potential. Let the fruit and dry core soften and meld. Drink from 2021. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Domaine de la Commanderie 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Chinon).** Old vines give concentration to a wine, as is the case with this densely textured, black-fruit-flavored bottling. Tannins and youth are still prominent along with a crisp mineral edge. Let the wine rest a while and open in 2021. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**87** **Domaine de la Commanderie 2018 Cuvée Médiévale (Chinon).** Crisply textured with

black-currant and spice flavors, this perfumed wine was produced from young vines. Hints of toast are balanced by a stinky, mineral character. Still a little tight, the wine will be best from late 2020. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87** **Le Garenne 2019 Chinon.** Berry fruits and soft tannins give this wine a comfortable, fruity character. Freshness contrasts with ripe strawberry flavors. Drink now. Organic. Asgram LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## SAINT-NICOLAS-DE-BOURGUEIL

**94** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2016 Le Fondis (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$46

**94** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2016 Le Val Renou (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** From vineyards on the slope behind Saint-Nicolas, this wine is ripe and dense. Generous red fruits are shot through with a fresher, cooler character from the chalk and flint soil. Rich tannins promise some more aging. Drink from 2022. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$55

**93** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2017 Le Clos des Quarterons Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** A walled section that forms part of the producer's Quarterons vineyard has given this dense wine. It has the lift and freshness proper to wines from this appellation but with intensity and firm tannins that promise further aging. Drink this wine from 2021. Organic and biodynamic. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$42

**91** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2018 Les Quarterons (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** The biodynamic farming brings out the bright red-berry fruits of this wine that comes from the lowest part of the Saint-Nicolas slope. It has a fresh feel, open and lightly textured. The juicy aftertaste hints at the core of tannins. Drink now. Organic and biodynamic. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**90** **Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2017 Les Graviilles (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** This wine comes from deep gravel soils on the approach to the Loire river. It is softly textured and light, with crisp acidity. With cherry flavors and a perfumed aftertaste, the wine is ready to drink. Organic and biodynamic. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$36

**88** **Vignoble de la Jarnoterie 2018 Élégante (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** This wine is ready to drink now, with its spicy, stinky character. Bell-pepper flavors partner with the tight structure, acidity and crisp red fruits. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

## BOURGUEIL

**93** **Domaine de la Butte 2018 Mi-Pente (Bourgueil)**. One of three wines from the La Butte vineyard, this comes from halfway up the slope. The positioning gives the wine a rich style, expressing the vineyard in its ripe black fruits and fine, dark tannins. It is an ageworthy wine, poised and subtly elegant. Drink from 2022. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**92** **Domaine de la Butte 2018 Le Haut de la Butte (Bourgueil)**. From vines at the highest point of this vineyard, this wine produces generous strawberry flavors and velvety tannins. It is structured, but wears that formation lightly. Drink from 2021. Organic. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Domaine de la Butte 2018 Perrières (Bourgueil)**. This firmly textured wine offers ripe red-fruit flavors. Juicy fruitiness and solid tannins give it a bold profile, dense while fresh at the end. Drink from 2022. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$37

## OTHER RED WINES

**89** **Domaine de Reuilly 2018 Reuilly**. This balanced wine offers red-cherry flavors that are already rounded into the light tannins. Fruity and smoky, with a crisp texture, the wine is ready to drink. Organic and biodynamic. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Raphaël Midoir 2019 Cuvée Jean Gamay (Touraine)**. A Gamay with red-cherry flavors, this has soft fruits and light tannins. Poised and balanced despite its alcohol, it is all about fruitiness. Drink now. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**86** **Domaines Tatin 2017 La Commanderie (Reuilly)**. This perfumed, softly textured wine offers light tannins and red-cherry flavors. Hints of tannins guard the dryness of the aftertaste. VOS Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## LOIRE VALLEY

### WHITE WINES

#### POUILLY-FUMÉ

**94** **Jonathan Didier Pabiot 2018 Prédilection (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Since starting his domaine in 2006, the producer has concentrated on organic and then biodynamic practices. That's evidently to the benefit of the old vines in this well-structured wine. The smoothly textured fruit shows baked-apple and pink-grapefruit flavors and is set for

aging. Drink this wine from 2021. Organic and biodynamic. Polaner Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**93** **Comte Henri d'Assay 2018 Comte Henry Commune de St-Andelain Argiles à Silex (Pouilly-Fumé)**. From flint and clay soil at the high point of the appellation, this wine is textured, bright with bold white fruits behind a tautly mineral texture. The wine will benefit from further aging to bring out its full potential. Drink from 2021. Wine Symphony, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$49

**93** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2018 D'Or et Diamant (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This limited-production wine is a selection of the finest grapes from the estate. It is a structured, young wine, tangy and full of zesty acidity. The wine's structure remains important and needs to soften to give richness in the future. Drink from 2022. Grape Expectations (CA). *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**93** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2015 Traditions Cullus (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Aged in large barrels, this wine is now mature while still having a vibrant, fruity character. The acidity has been tamed, filling the glass with perfumed white fruits that are touched by spice. Drink this wine now. Suitable for vegans. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**93** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2019 Arelles (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This wine shows all the minerality and tight texture of a young Pouilly Fumé. It also has apple and spice flavors, shot through with lime and lemon. The wine needs to age, so wait to drink from 2022. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**93** **Jonathan Didier Pabiot 2018 Eurythmie (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Tight and perfumed, this wine offers good balance between the crisp texture and white-fruit flavors. The wine is still developing, the fruitiness coming through the steely texture. Drink this potentially rich wine from 2021. Organic and biodynamic. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**92** **Château de Tracy 2019 Pouilly-Fumé**. This focused wine has tangy acidity, ripe white fruits and a strongly mineral texture. Still young, the wine will evolve into complexity and richness. Drink from 2021. Winebow. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**92** **Comte Henri d'Assay 2018 Comte Henry Commune de Tracy Calcaires (Pouilly-Fumé)**. The chalk soil of the village of Tracy, close to the Loire, has produced this balanced wine. Pure citrus fruits have a steely character that comes through the texture. Drink from 2021. Wine Symphony, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$49

**92** **Domaine Marchand & Fils 2018 Kalcaire (Pouilly-Fumé)**. From a chalk vineyard, this wine is tight and crisp, with a strong mineral texture as well as intense spice and apple fruits. This rich wine needs time to soften. Drink from 2021. Elliott Bay Distributing Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$70

**92** **Domaine Marchand & Fils 2018 Kimmeridgian (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This dense wine has ripe, spicy fruit and rich apple alongside crisply textured citrus flavors. Weight and concentration are restrained by tight acidity. Drink this richly fruity wine from 2021. Elliott Bay Distributing Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**92** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2019 Les Pierres de Pierre (Pouilly-Fumé)**. A parcel of old vines that belongs to Pierre-François Masson has produced this crisp, tight and mineral-driven wine. With its nervy, textured character, the wine needs aging. Drink from 2022. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**92** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2019 Génétin (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Grown on limestone soil, this perfumed, citrus-flavored wine will be very attractive. As it softens and the initial shock of acidity dissipates, the wine will develop peach and apple flavors, always keeping its mineral edge. Drink from 2022. H Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Joseph Mellot 2017 Grande Cuvée des Edvins (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This superripe, wood-aged wine is rich with spice and full-bodied pear flavors. It comes from flint soil in the small village of Saint-Andelain, giving the wine structure to match the fruits. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Bouchié-Chatelier 2018 Premier Millésimé (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Having softened well with the extra year in bottle, this wine is now at its best. Crisp green fruitiness has not entirely gone but has been enhanced by the nutty quality, spice and rounded final texture. The wine is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**91** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2019 Les Ange-lots (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Dense chalk soil has produced this structured, tight wine. It is crisp and taut, bringing out tense acidity as well as strong minerality. This wine demands long-term aging. Drink from 2022. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2019 Domaine la Croix-Canat La Chantepleure (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This warm, ripe wine is full of creamed-apple flavors and ripe white fruits. These contrast with the more textured character that is part of the vibrant youthfulness of the wine. Give it time, and the wine



# BUYINGGUIDE

will be concentrated and densely fruity. Drink from 2021. H Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**91 Francis Blanchet 2019 Kriotine (Pouilly-Fumé).** Grown in a vineyard composed of hard pebbles, this tight, crisp wine offers spice as well as fruit flavors. Dense texture and concentration give richness and aging potential. Drink from 2022. North Berkeley Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Jonathan Didier Pabiot 2018 Aubaine Sauvignon Blanc (Pouilly-Fumé).** A perfumed, floral wine, this offers hints of lychees as well as ripe peppered-pear flavors. Still young, this complex wine will be ready from 2021. Organic and biodynamic. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**91 Jonathan Didier Pabiot 2018 Utopia (Pouilly-Fumé).** Close to an orange wine in style, this is made as naturally as possible. That gives the wine an oxidative edge as well as a deep color. It also enhances the wine's acidity while muting its fruitiness. Drink this wine from 2021. Organic and biodynamic. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$58

**91 Michel Redde et Fils 2018 La Moynerie (Pouilly-Fumé).** Named after the producer's winery, this wine is a blend of fruit from different parts of the appellation. A little age has rounded out the wine, giving richness as well as a bite of acidity at the end. Although ready to drink, the wine will be even better from 2021. Kobrand. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Bouchié-Chatelier 2019 Argile à S (Pouilly-Fumé).** Named after clay and flint soil in the vineyard, this wine balances between richness and taut steeliness. It is young and crisp, with final zesty acidity. Drink from 2021. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Comte Henri d'Assay 2018 Comte Henry Pouilly Fumé (Pouilly-Fumé).** Blended from a number of parcels across the appellation, this wine is intense but lightly textured, with minerality from flint and chalk soils. Drink this lemon-flavored wine from 2021. Artisans & Vines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Clement et Florian Berthier 2019 Pouilly-Fumé.** Spicy and zesty, this crisp, mineral-driven wine is packed with young, green fruits and a taut, nervy texture. At the moment, the textured character masks the fruit, so let it wait a few months and drink from 2021. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Domaine de Bel Air 2018 Cuvée des Acoins (Pouilly-Fumé).** A ripe, richly textured wine, this has generous white fruits as well as pink grapefruit and plenty of tangy acidity. The extra year in bottle has softened the tightness of the wine

and expanded its horizons. Drink this generous wine now. WineWise. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2019 Villa Paulus (Pouilly-Fumé).** Named after the Roman villa found close to the vineyard, this wine is crisp, still young with rich citrus fruits and pure acidity. The wine is set for some aging, so drink from 2022. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Domaine Philippe Rimbault 2018 Mosaïque (Pouilly-Fumé).** A ripe wine, with maturing white fruits and softening acidity, this has both freshness and an open character. Touches of minerality give a textured edge to this wine that is drinkable now. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**90 Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2019 Arrêt-Butte (Pouilly-Fumé).** Named after the vineyard from which it is produced, this wine is rounded, ripe with layers of acidity, green apples and a texture that is just beginning to soften. Drink the wine from 2021. Maverick Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Francis Blanchet 2019 Calcite (Pouilly-Fumé).** The chalk soil of the vineyard has given this young wine a textured edge. It needs time, because behind this texture awaits bright white fruitiness and refreshing final acidity. Drink the wine from 2021. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Jean-Pierre Bailly 2019 La Craie (Pouilly-Fumé).** This softly textured wine hints at herbal flavors, with touches of spiciness. Typical of Pouilly Fumé, it is still young at this stage, but should open into white and citrus fruitiness. Drink from 2021. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Patrice Moreux 2019 Corty Artisan Cailottes (Pouilly-Fumé).** From vines planted on poor, stony soil, this wine is closed, with a tight texture typical of some young Pouilly Fumé. The wine needs time for the freshness of the green fruit to show and the wine to soften. Drink from 2021. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Patrice Moreux 2019 Corty Artisan Silex (Pouilly-Fumé).** Fermented using natural yeasts, this wine is steely from the flint soil and taut with herbal crispness. The wine is still young, tight and waiting to open up over the next few months. Drink from 2021. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Patrice Moreux 2018 La Loge aux Moines (Pouilly-Fumé).** This ripe wine is full bodied and rich, with generous citrus and crisp pear flavors. Powerful weight and density give an emphatic texture that may not be subtle but is certainly right

up front. Drink the wine from 2021. Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**89 Château de Tracy 2019 Mademoiselle de T (Pouilly-Fumé).** Zesty and really young, this wine is still tight and textured. As it softens, the intense citrus fruits will evolve and bring the crispness into focus. Drink from 2021. Winebow. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Domaine de Bel Air 2019 Cuvée Riquette (Pouilly-Fumé).** The stony vineyard for this wine has given intense acidity and firm minerality. They go with the tangy, zesty texture and touches of spice to produce a vibrant wine that needs to age. Drink from 2021. WineWise. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**89 Domaine des Rabichattes 2019 Pouilly-Fumé.** Still very young, this richly textured wine has great potential. With its tight apple and citrus fruits and minerality, the wine is textured and likely to soften over the next few months. Drink from 2021. Flying Blue Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Domaine Marchand & Fils 2019 Les Kérots (Pouilly-Fumé).** A blend of parcels across the domaine, this young wine is textured and fruity. The closed, tight character needs to soften to reveal the wine's natural fruitiness, with fresh citrus and perfumed acidity. Drink from 2021. Elliott Bay Distributing Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2019 Thauvenay (Pouilly-Fumé).** From a seven-acre vineyard, this wine is full and ripe. It shows the richness and generosity of the vintage, giving hints of yellow fruits as well as plenty of fresh acidity. This generous wine is ready to drink from late 2020. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Francis Blanchet 2019 Cuvée Silice (Pouilly-Fumé).** This young wine is taut, textured and full of crisp, sliced-apple fruits. With an edge of minerality and steely character, it needs time. Drink from 2021. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Francis Blanchet 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine is young but already surprisingly open. It has a crisp texture, yellow fruits, perfumed acidity and an accessible texture. Drink from 2021. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Saget la Perrière 2019 Blanc Fumé de Pouilly (Pouilly-Fumé).** Like many wines from this appellation, this release needs aging. It is firm and textured, the citrus fruit showing concentration and a steely tension. The wine needs time to soften, drink from 2021. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**88 Bertrand Jeannot et Fils 2018 Auguste (Pouilly-Fumé).** From a single parcel, this wine is bright, fruity, crisp and textured. With the extra year, the wine has gained concentration while still keeping plenty of taut freshness. Drink this wine now. Tricana Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**88 Bouchié-Chatelier 2019 La Renardière (Pouilly-Fumé).** With a mineral character from the flint soil, this wine is tight and textured. Although a little suppressed at this young stage, the fruit is there, with its herbal edge and green flavors. Drink the wine from 2021. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Compagnie Vinicole de Val de Loire 2018 Le Pré Vaujour (Pouilly-Fumé).** Soft, fruity and ready to drink, this is a rounded wine. It just hints at minerality that lies behind the wine's grapefruit and orange flavors. Drink the wine now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Complices de Loire 2019 Marius Cesar Fluvium Ligerium (Pouilly-Fumé).** This young, taut wine has gooseberry and herbal flavors and a tight texture. As the wine softens, it will begin to show citrus and green-fruit flavors. Drink from 2021. Artisan Wine Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**88 Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2019 Domaine la Croix-Canat L'Épinette (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine is ripe while still tight with acidity and minerality. Along with crisp apple and grapefruit flavors, it has a fragrant aftertaste that will soften into the fruit. Drink from 2021. People Wine Corp. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**88 Joseph Mellot 2019 Le Troncsec (Pouilly-Fumé).** A single-parcel wine from clay and chalk soil, this is ripe, full in the mouth and rounded. Mango and pineapple flavors come through strongly, giving richness that goes right through to the end. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**88 Patrice Moreux 2019 Pouilly-Fumé.** This wine has good potential. Crisp texture masks the white fruits and perfumed lemon flavors. There is an underlying ripeness to this textured wine. Give it time and drink from 2021 Verity Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$24

**87 Bertrand Jeannot et Fils 2018 Domaine de Riaux (Pouilly-Fumé).** In this perfumed wine, ripe white fruits are balanced by well-judged acidity. The wine's texture and fruits are still young, vibrant and fresh. Give the wine time and drink from 2021. Tricana Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**86 Domaine de Bel Air 2019 Pouilly-Fumé.** This grassy and herbal wine has green fruits and tangy acidity. The minerality is still forceful and the

strong texture needs to subside before drinking. Wait until 2021. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**85 Château Favray 2019 Pouilly-Fumé.** Still young and tight, this wine has green fruits and a strong presence of citrus. Acidity cuts right through to give an intensely crisp aftertaste. Drink from 2021. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**85 Joseph Mellot 2019 Domaine des Mariniers (Pouilly-Fumé).** Fruity and soft, this wine has ripe citrus and red-apple flavors, with a light texture. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## SANCERRE

**91 Roger et Didier Rimbault 2017 Vieilles Vignes (Sancerre).** Produced from vines that are up to 50 years old, this wine is still fresh, ripe with hints of tropical fruit to balance the crisp citrus. It is full and generous. Touches of minerality provide contrast. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Complices de Loire 2019 Marius Cesar Silicem Terra (Sancerre).** This vintage produced rich wines in Sancerre, and this wine shows the effect of ripeness and open fruitiness on Sauvignon Blanc. The mineral texture contrasts with the wine's herbal acidity and tangy citrus aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2021. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**89 Roger et Didier Rimbault 2019 Les Belles Côtes (Sancerre).** Young, crisp and vaunting its bright fruitiness, this wine is textured, full of grassy flavors and tight acidity. As it ages, this vibrancy will soften to give warm apple and lime flavors. Drink from 2021. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**87 Xavier Flouret 2019 French Blonde (Sancerre).** Produced at the Domaine la Gemière, this wine is crisp and softly textured, with herbal and green-fruit flavors. It is bright, balancing fruitiness and acidity. Drink the wine now. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

## QUINCY

**88 Domaine Adèle Rouzé 2019 Quincy.** A soft wine with attractive apple as well as more tangy lime flavors, this is well textured and elegant. Poise comes from the light texture and zesty final acidity. Drink now. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88 Domaine de Chevilly 2019 Quincy.** This crisp, white-fruit and citrus-flavored wine comes from the small enclave west of Sancerre. It has a tight, mineral and herbal edge and shows real

Sauvignon Blanc aromatic character. Elite Wines Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 18% **Price:** \$18

**88 Domaine Lecomte 2019 Quincy.** This zesty and tangy wine comes from Quincy, an attractive riverine appellation west of Sancerre. It has a fresh side to the concentrated texture, with quince and citrus flavors coming together. The wine will be ready from late 2020. Winedom LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 Domaines Tatin 2019 Vin Noble (Quincy).** This wine is crisp and fruity, with a touch of herbal acidity. A light wine with citrus and apple flavors, it is ready to drink. VOS Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## REUILLY

**91 Domaine de Reully 2019 Denis Jamain Les Fossiles Sauvignon Blanc (Reully).** The name of this bright, mineral-driven wine recalls the fossilized shells that make up the chalk soil of the region. A dense, richly fruity character counterbalances the tight texture. Give it a few months and it will be poised and elegant. Organic and biodynamic. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Domaine de Reully 2019 Les Pierres Plates Sauvignon Blanc (Reully).** The small appellation of Reully produces attractive, crisp Sauvignon Blanc like this wine, which is very accessible and not too intense. With its open, crisp citrus fruits, it is immediately ready to drink. Organic and biodynamic. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE

**94 Domaine de la Taille aux Loups 2018 Clos de Mosny (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** Single-vineyard wines are a specialty of this producer. This one from old vines is rich, concentrated and spicy. Barrel aging has added touches of nutmeg to enhance the white stone fruits and mineral-driven texture. The wine will be ready from 2021. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Domaine de la Taille aux Loups 2018 Clos du Hochet (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** Fermented and aged in wood, this wine has a good balance between fresh fruits and a denser, oxidative character. Almonds, cantaloupe melon and ripe acidity combine with the toastiness from the wood into a rich wine that is still developing. Drink from 2022 or even 2023. Organic. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Domaine de la Taille aux Loups 2018 Les Hauts de Husseau (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** This ripe, toasty wood-aged wine is concentrated, rich with baked apple, honey and textured acid-

# BUYINGGUIDE

ity. The wine's toastiness is still forward and with its richness, minerality and generous fruitiness, it needs time. Drink from 2023. Organic. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Complices de Loire 2019 Clair de Lune (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** Baked-apple flavors come from this fruity wine. Lightly honeyed and with touches of lemon, it is young but already well balanced and refreshing. Artisan Wine Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**88 Clos Saint Fiacre 2019 Chardonnay (Orléans-Cléry).** From the region close to the city of Orleans where the Loire makes its dramatic turn from flowing north to flowing west, this floral wine is fresh with green-apple fruitiness and perfumed acidity. It is ready to drink. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

## VOUVRAY

**93 Domaine la Croix des Vainqueurs 2018 Le Bouchet Moelleux (Vouvray).** A proportioned and poised wine, this manages successfully to balance intense honeyed sweetness and well-honed acidity. Still young and with a great future ahead of it, the wine is already impressive. Drink from 2022. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**92 Domaine la Croix des Vainqueurs 2018 Le Bouchet Sec (Vouvray).** This beautifully textured wine is full of fruit and minerality. Yellow- and baked-apple flavors are tightly textured with acidity and hints of English walnuts. Ripe while light, this wine is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Saget la Perrière 2018 Marie de Beauregard (Vouvray).** With flavors of nuts and apricots, this ripe wine has generous fruits and an open texture. Well structured, ripe and fruity, it is ready to drink. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## ANJOU

**91 Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2018 Les Quarterons (Anjou).** This rich, wood-aged wine is impressively structured, with ripe spice, almonds and an inspiring floral character. The round, supple texture and yellow fruits are generous. Although ready to drink, the wine will age at least until 2024. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$37

**89 Domaine de la Petite Roche 2019 Origine (Anjou).** This soft and generous wine has apple flavors and a pure line of acidity. The textured

edge is still young and the wine will certainly age. Drink from 2021. T. Elenty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Saget la Perrière 2018 M de Mulonnière (Anjou).** This ripe, nutty and creamy wine comes from an estate west of Angers. Smoothly textured and ripe, it has just a hint of bitterness that will disappear as it ages further. Give it until 2021 and it will have even greater smoothness and pleasure. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## TOURAINÉ

**86 Complices de Loire 2019 Ponte d'Agrumes Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** A soft, tropical fruit and floral wine, this is packed with freshness, fruitiness and balancing acidity. It is ready to drink. Artisan Wine Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**86 Domaine A Deux 2019 Chenin Blanc (Touraine).** A lightly honeyed wine conveying apple sauce and ripe white stone fruits, this is attractive and fresh. A touch of minerality adds extra complexity. Drink now. Wine Manager LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Domaine A Deux 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** This crisp, grassy wine has rich gooseberry freshness. Drink this tight, taut and fruity wine now. Wine Manager LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**93 Saget la Perrière 2014 Château de la Mulonnière L'Effet Papillon (Savennières).** This is now a rich, mature Chenin Blanc. Its name indicates that fruit comes from the famed Clos du Papillon vineyard of Savennières, giving the wine ripeness and density. The acidity and quince flavors harmonize well. Drink now. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

**90 Domaine de la Commanderie 2018 Cuvée Élégance (Chinon).** In keeping with the style of this producer's white wines, this is rich, spicy and peppery from alcohol while also having balanced fruit and acidity. It comes from a small parcel of old-vine Chenin Blanc on the estate. Drink now. Jack Edwards Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Domaine Gibault 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine Chenonceaux).** From the top vineyards of Chenonceaux, this wine is ripe and now mature. Balanced and stylish, it shows rounded green fruits and acidity to match. Drink this wine now. Wine Universe Corp. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**87 Jean-Yves Bretaudeau 2019 Domane du Colombier Cuvée des Deux Colombes Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine).** This soft, rounded wine has just the right balance between freshness and ripe white fruits. There is a light touch of pepper as well as plenty of brightness in this attractive wine. Drink now. Steep Hill Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**86 Hubert Brochard 2019 Les Carisannes by Hubert Brochard Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire).** This soft, fruity wine from a 12-acre estate showcases the less intense side of Sauvignon Blanc in the Loire Valley. It is fresh with crisp apples and a lively aftertaste. Drink now. Winebow. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

## LOIRE VALLEY SPARKLING WINES

### MONTLOUIS-SUR-LOIRE

**93 Domaine de la Taille aux Loups 2008 Triple Zéro Millésimé (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** The toasty maturity of this rich wine is impressive. It balances the creamed apple and tight minerality by rounding and softening them, giving an elegant, spicy aftertaste. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$99

**92 Domaine de la Taille aux Loups NV Triple Zéro Brut (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** Barrel aging gives this wine its creamy texture and underlines the apple flavors touched by almonds. Acidity and a mineral edge add freshness and structure. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

### CRÉMANT DE LOIRE

**90 Domaine la Croix des Vainqueurs NV Brut (Crémant de Loire).** A blend of half-and-half Chenin and Chardonnay, this is deliciously crisp. Apple flavors come through the lively mousse to give an elegant wine. It is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89 Gratien et Meyer NV Brut (Crémant de Loire).** Citrus and crisp green-apple fruits give this wine an attractive cool character. Acidity, tangy orange-zest flavors and floral character come together well. Drink now. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**88 Domaine du Vieil Orme NV Cuvée Gabriel Chenin Blanc-Chardonnay (Crémant de Loire).** A half-and-half blend of Chardonnay and Chenin Blanc, this wine comes from Benoist family estate. Full of white fruits and nutty apple flavors,



the wine is crisply textured and refreshing. Drink now. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Gratien et Meyer NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Loire).** Lightly textured and with crisp fruitiness, this is a pale-colored, elegant rosé. With its cool acidity and perfumed aftertaste, the bottling is ready to drink. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**87** **De Valloie NV Paramour Brut (Crémant de Loire).** This lively wine has attractive citrus flavors and bright acidity. Crisp pear fruitiness goes with the tangy texture and squeeze of lemon at the end. Drink now. Asgram LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**82** **Veuve Amiot NV Pol Clement Brut (Crémant de Loire).** This soft, creamy wine has a soapy texture that does no justice to green-apple flavors. It is ready to drink. Wine Warehouse Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

## OTHER SPARKLING WINES

**89** **Domaine de la Taille aux Loups NV Brut Tradition (Touraine).** The honeyed flavors of Chenin Blanc sing in this attractive wine with its lemon acidity and pure, clean texture. This bottling is ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Domaine la Croix des Vainqueurs NV Le Bouchet Brut (Vouvray).** Two years aging after the disgorgement has just begun the maturing process of this peach- and apple-flavored wine. It is zesty, the creamy mousse and acidity giving a final lift. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**84** **De Valloie NV Paramour Rosé Brut (Saumur).** Softly textured and gently fruity, this is lightly red-currant flavored wine. It is somewhat unfocused, with a simple aftertaste. Drink now. Asgram LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## BURGUNDY WHITE WINES CHABLIS

**98** **Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2018 Clos des Hospices dans Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** While the nose on this wine has a rich sense of creaminess and chalk, an insistent sense of juicy Mirabelle and ripe lemon breaks through with sheer exuberance. Something fresh-faced and honest in that fruit expression seems aware of the depth and seriousness of the wine. Despite the profundity, the wine conveys an eternal sense of joy. Concentrated and generous, but also so cool and

linear, the wine is wonderful. Drink by 2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**97** **Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit La Moutonne Monopole Grand Cru (Chablis).** A subtle nose on this wine references chalk, lanolin and lemon, drawing you in with a promise of depth. Just as secretive, the palate presents pure lemon essence from its depths of chalkiness. The wine is concentrated and bright, with effortless elegance. We will have to wait for this profound yet restrained wine to reveal itself. Drink 2025–2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$237

**97** **Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** Beautiful subtlety on this wine's nose recalls smoky lemon, citrus pith and molten candlewax. The palate also holds these notions, bolstering that lemony waxiness with thick, layered chalkiness and pithy, mouthwatering freshness. This is concentrated and bold, offering energy and drive, with a contradictory heat emanating from a cool core. A compelling wine, it needs to calm down a little. Drink 2025–2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$120

**97** **Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Vaudésirs Grand Cru (Chablis).** Bright, tender lemon and fragrant summer blossom give a sense of delicacy to this wine's chalky nose. The chalky, concentrated and textured palate is also pervaded by lemon zestiness that makes the mouth water. Yet the wine also has generosity and lovely balance. Richness and freshness are anchored in the stony depth of the wine, making it a joy to drink. Over the years the chalkiness will become even more pronounced. Drink by 2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$122

**97** **Chanson Père et Fils 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** This wine's shy nose suggests clear, molten wax. Waxy richness also plays on the concentrated palate where everything seems compact, bundled in richness and almost viscous. There is ripeness but it is measured, and freshness that is rounded. This wine needs time to come into its own, with the chalky depth becoming even more evident. Drink 2025–2040. Vintus LLC. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$120

**97** **Domaine Besson 2017 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** The merest touch of tomato leaf precedes an intense nose of wet chalk. On the palate of this wine, that chalkiness gets stronger and projects depth and cool freshness that is augmented by lemony brightness. Elegant, expressive, fresh and precise, it will become more and more of itself with bottle age. Drink by 2040. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$105

**97** **Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2018 Les Clos (Chablis).** A certain restraint governs the chalky, nutty and smoky nature of this

wine's nose. Very slowly, a pure note of zesty lemon comes through, illuminating the entire wine. Chalky density, coolness and rich, buffered stoniness give texture and concentration, made distinct by lemon freshness. The wine already has harmony and poise that will only increase over the years. It is elegant and enduring. Drink 2025–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**97** **Domaine des Malandes 2019 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** Scents of hazelnut, smoke and molten wax blend on this wine's complex nose. A sense of pure lemon oil hovers above. There is something rich and concentrated here, edged with lemon that is anchored in chalk. Texture and coolness is everything here, despite the roundness and generosity. This wine is beautifully fresh and bright. Drink 2025–2040. Milton Road Trading Co. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$165

**97** **Domaine Laroche 2018 Les Blanchots Grand Cru (Chablis).** Creaminess on the nose of this wine comes with the richness of crème fraîche edged with lemon. A velvety palate enforces this bright, mellow creaminess, layering it with chalky coolness pervaded with zesty lemon. The roundness of 2018 is conserved in refreshing smoothness. Depth is already hinted at on the long, smooth and chalky finish. Drink 2025–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**97** **Domaine Louis Moreau 2017 Les Clos (Chablis).** Hints of cool chalk and bright lemon show on this wine's shy but fresh nose. A whisper of smoke accompanies the stony, wet-chalk notes. Chalkiness is even more pronounced on the palate, pervading texture and body, but also referencing lemon zestiness and riper tangerine. Gorgeously fresh now, this alluring wine is certain to evolve. Drink by 2040. Winebow. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**97** **J. Moreau & Fils 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** Only a slight quiver of smokiness intrudes on the wet chalk and lemon nose of this wine. The palate is striking in its serenity and balance, an apt representation of the ripe 2018 vintage. It offers immense juiciness but somehow, the age-old limestone complexity takes the lead, affirming that over the years, only depth will matter. Nonetheless, the wine has immense charm, smooth texture and absolute freshness. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$108

**97** **Joseph Drouhin 2018 Drouhin Vaudon Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis).** Toasted hazelnut, chalk plus the merest hint of summer blossom and creaminess combine into a subdued but utterly attractive nose on this wine. The palate has the same sonorous and gentle texture, rich, layered and giving a real sense of chalkiness. All is pervaded by lemon freshness. The ripeness of 2018 is beautifully managed here, manifesting itself in an elegant,

# BUYINGGUIDE

smooth and cooling wine. Drink 2025–2045. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$110

**97 Julien Brocard 2018 Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis)**. A yeasty, funky, earthy and still slightly reductive, flinty haze clouds this wine's nose for now. On the palate, however, three elements combine for deliciousness. The wine offers the ripe juiciness of tangerine-tinged stone fruit, cool, profound chalky depth and pervasive freshness. It has energy and animating verve. This little genie in the bottle will work its magic over years. Drink by 2040. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$86

**97 Roland Lavantureux 2018 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Chalk, wax, smoke and lemon are intense on this wine's nose, immediately conveying that it is not about fruit but rather stone and place. The same goes for the palate where a dense texture redoubles on that chalk and smoke. But everything is brightened and pulled into delicious focus by lemon freshness. This wine has poise, elegance and subtlety. Drink 2022–2040. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**97 Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis)**. For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection*.  
abv: 13% Price: \$95

**97 William Fèvre 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis)**. A subtle nose on this wine evokes chalk made moist with ripe Amalfi lemon juiciness. The palate plays these twin notions off each other in a subtle, fresh way, despite the concentration and depth. This wine is cool and zesty at its core but generous and lightfooted at the surface. Allow this to calm down and come forth with its compelling core. Drink by 2040. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$160

**96 Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Blanchots Grand Cru (Chablis)**. This wine's nose opens with subtle apple freshness followed by lemon brightness. The palate immediately shows rounded, chalky depth, filling the mouth with chalky yeastiness that is brightened and cooled by lemon. The heat of 2018 is well managed in this elegant wine, expressed in juicy ease but anchored in cooling depth, with a subtle whisper of oak. Drink 2025–2040. Albert Bichot USA. *Editors' Choice*. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$108

**96 Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis)**. A touch of roast hazelnut lends richness to chalk and lemon on this wine's evocative nose. The palate also combines richness and freshness, bedded on a concentrated core of cool chalkiness. Lemon oil shimmers around the edges, as does a slightly pithy bitterness that makes the mouth water even more. This wine makes you want to delve into its untold depth. It is certain

to reveal more and more of itself. Drink by 2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$109

**96 Clotilde Davenne 2017 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis)**. A subdued note of wet chalk is the first notion on this wine's nose, which remains subtle and smooth. The palate continues this deep sense of chalkiness, pervading and illuminating it with vivid lemon. This wine is compact in body but sonorous in stature, shining with freshness and depth. Lovely now, it is certain to evolve and remain fresh. Drink now–2040. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**96 Domaine Besson 2017 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis)**. An almost mossy green freshness streams from the glass, implying gentle, herbal savoriness. The palate of this wine offers the same effortless but insistent freshness. A flinty, stony tone amid the chalk adds extra dimension, illuminated by lemon freshness. The sense of chalkiness and cooling depth is persistent and strong, just what you are looking for in this sort of wine. Drink now–2040. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice*. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$95

**96 Domaine Billaud-Simon 2018 Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Lemon, lemon flower and white summer blossom are like a gentle caress on this wine's nose. The palate has the same buffered gentleness and soft aroma, with a concentrated midpalate that reveals texture and riper, juicier stone fruit. A smooth finish offers long, lemon freshness. Drink by 2035. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**96 Domaine Billaud-Simon 2018 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Toasty, nutty richness lays itself like a warming blanket over this wine's nose, but underneath some ripe, lemon-edged stonefruit peeps through promisingly. The palate is still dominated by that toasty sheen, but it is only a question of time before the vivid, concentrated fruit integrates this, making the wine more of a unit. It has rich texture, lovely depth, generous fruit and ripe freshness. Drink 2025–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: NA Price: \$NA

**96 Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2018 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis)**. The appetizing nose on this wine offers creamy, nutty and lemon-scented freshness. The palate adds supersmooth, juicy ripeness that suggests yellow apple, juicy Mirabelle and a touch of honey from the ripeness of 2018. There is wonderful freshness, however, and cool, chalky depth that turns this into a balanced, rounded, mouthwatering wine with real dimension. The finish is zesty and long. Drink 2022–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**96 Domaine des Malandes 2019 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Almost blossomy aromas precede pear, lemon and chalk notes on this wine's nose. The palate presents a full-blown cloud of lemony, smoky chalkiness on a textured, smooth body. A nutty echo of oak adds roundness. The finish is smooth, bright with lemon and long with chalk. Milton Road Trading Co. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$165

**96 Domaine Jean Collet & Fils 2018 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis)**. The sonorous and slightly nutty richness of oak for now dominates this wine's nose with its toastiness. The palate counterpoints that with rich and textured chalkiness, along with smooth, soothing creaminess and bright lemon freshness. This wine has elegance and harmony but what really gets you is the vivid yet gentle freshness. Drink now–2040 The Source. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**96 Domaine Pinson 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis)**. This wine's open nose is an unusual but attractive combination of ripe, juicy orchard fruit and cool chalkiness. The palate adds a rounded nutty dimension to the ripeness, with a textured, smooth and rich core that allows glimpses of limestone depth. All the concentration is lightly worn and for now still clothed in fruit. The real stony, chalky depth will show itself more with every year of bottle age. Drink by 2040. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$80

**96 Jean Durup Père & Fils 2017 Vaudésirs Grand Cru (Chablis)**. An initial, greenish intensity on this wine's nose recalls tomato leaf but this notion is soon displaced by creaminess and zesty lemon. On the palate the freshness receives an extra dimension of chalkiness and texture, offering smooth creaminess buffered by lemony brightness. This is a sinuous, cooling wine with stony depth and resonance. Gorgeous now, it will reveal even more of itself. Drink now–2040. Linwood Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**96 Joseph Drouhin 2018 Drouhin Vaudon Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis)**. For full review see page 3.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$110

**96 Lamblin & Fils 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Initial, yeasty funk clouds bright lemon, chalk and Mirabelle notes on the nose of this wine. The palate then moves that buffered, textured chalkiness center stage. It offers generosity and beautiful concentration, with a roundness that speaks of lemon, stone, freshness and ripeness. This wine is expressive, elegant and very long. V&N Cellars. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$130

**96 William Fèvre 2018 Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Funky reduction still dominates this wine's nose with yeasty fumes, but underneath bright lemon notes shine through. The palate

comes in with compact concentration and bundled but buffered energy. Drive and verve are packed in 2018's generosity, with a slender, bright core that conveys mouthwatering refreshment. The chalky finish is long and fresh. Drink by 2035. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$135

**95 Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine Long-Depaquit Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).**

Chalk, lemon and hazelnut make for a subtle aromatic trio on this wine's tender nose. The restrained palate adds real depth and resonance, emphasizing it with a smooth, chalky texture wrapped in a smoky but revealing cloak. It is elegant and lasting. Drink by 2040. Albert Bichot USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$68

**95 Chanson Père et Fils 2018 Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis).**

A sense of reduction on this wine's nose expresses itself as just-extinguished candlesmoke. Beyond that, waxiness suggests phenolic richness. The rich palate is cloudlike in its generosity. It offers yeast, chalk, lemon, roundness and more of that phenolic, pleasantly bitter edge. The finish is long and lasting. Drink by 2035. Vintus LLC. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$110

**95 Chanson Père et Fils 2018 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).**

For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

**95 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis).**

Gentle oak on this wine's nose carries a smoky toastiness. On the palate, that toastiness blends with a ripe lemon streak that cuts right through the body with luminosity and freshness. Concentration and verve from that lemon zestiness counterpoints the essential creaminess. It's a rounded, sonorous wine. Drink 2025–2040. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$108

**95 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis).**

Roast hazelnut, slight smoke and toasty richness fill this wine's nose right away. The palate is also full of smoky, resonant richness that for now blankets the gentle, lemony texture and freshness of the concentrated midpalate and smooth texture. This wine needs time but will always have that oaky bent. Drink 2022–2040. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$108

**95 Domaine Céline et Frédéric Gueguen 2018 Blanchot Grand Cru (Chablis).**

A touch of fresh, ripe lemon zest is all that peeps through on this wine's shy and closed nose. More air reveals lovely hints of petrichor and chalk. The palate is rounded and textured. Yeastiness and chalky depth align themselves to bright, ripe lemon, and the lemony chalkiness lasts beautifully. Drink by 2040. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

**95 Domaine Céline et Frédéric Gueguen 2018 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis).**

A hazelnut-like, slightly lemony creaminess feels like balm on this wine's subtle nose. The palate also has a soothing effect, with layered creaminess that is made up of chalky depth, yeasty smoothness and gentle pithiness. Despite the ripeness and slight warmth of the wine, it has a cooling streak and tons of concentration. Drink by 2040. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

**95 Domaine Daniel Damp & Fils 2019 Les Vailions Premier Cru (Chablis).**

Subtle hints of reduction, wet chalk and yeasty funk play on this wine's nose, promising depth and longevity. The palate reinforces these elements, adding a touch of lemon freshness. This wine is about about stone and site—fruit barely gets a look-in, but that is not necessarily a bad thing. It's a wine for the long run. Drink 2022–2040. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

**95 Domaine Jean Collet & Fils 2018 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).**

Notions of moss and green pear peel are bound up in an aromatic citrus-oil richness on this wine's expressive nose. The palate comes in with the expected concentration. This wine is energetic, yet anchored in cool depths of limestone and chalk. It has a salty tang and the allure of textured pear peel and citrus pith. Layers of fruit and stone play off each other, leaving us to witness and sense the pleasure. Drink by 2040. The Source. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

**95 Domaine Laroche 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).**

Just a touch of smoke intrudes upon the lemon freshness and chalky depth apparent on this wine's nose. A hint of passion fruit lends a tropical spin. The palate focuses on an almost candied lemon richness and concentration that suffuses itself with the chalky depth of the midpalate. This wine is textured, rounded and generous, yet highlighted by that lemon brightness. It's a resonant, rich wine that will evolve. Drink 2022–2040. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

**95 Domaine Louis Moreau 2018 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).**

Hint of wet walnut skin and flint are subtle but distinct on the slightly reduced nose of this wine. The palate immediately poses a thick layer of chalk with airy, salty depth. Fruit almost does not come into it. This wine is all about texture, soil, stone, coolness and salt. The concentration and vividness are intense. Winebow. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

**95 Domaine Vincent Damp 2019 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).**

Ripe lemon peel, a whisper of elderflower and cool, chalky depth create an inviting nose on this wine. The palate has a similarly light, aromatic touch on its smooth texture, but also hints at depth and beautiful length. This wine is sinuous, smooth, concentrated and satisfy-

ing. Drink slowly and let it happen to you. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

**95 Garnier et Fils 2017 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis).**

Nutty, toasty but subtle notes of oak come with a tinge of vanilla on this wine's nose. These are even stronger on the palate where evolution already shows, with distinct notes of dried fruit amid the chalkiness, wet earth tones and edge of honey. Lemon freshness highlights all these elements, creating a lucid picture of concentration, generosity and freshness. Drink by 2035. Martine's Wines. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

**95 J. Moreau & Fils 2018 Blanchot Grand Cru (Chablis).**

Notes of yeast, chalk, ripe Amalfi lemon peel and white summer blossom unite into a seductive, creamy nose on this wine. Toasty, oaky smoke also hovers but is beautifully subdued. The palate also encompasses these notions but focuses on concentrated, stony depth and pithy texture. It's smooth, cool and bold. Give this elegant wine some time. Drink 2022–2040. Boisset Collection. —A.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$108

**95 J. Moreau & Fils 2018 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).**

This wine's nose is a picture of subtlety. Hints of blossom, chalk, pear and lemon are so tender you feel you have to sniff again and again. The palate becomes a picture of smooth, gentle harmony and depth. Freshness, fruit, texture and chalky depth make for a gorgeous constellation. Boisset Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$53

**95 Jean-Marc Brocard 2019 Butteaux Premier Cru (Chablis).**

A hint of petrichor colors this wine's lemony, bright nose with a stony allure. The palate dresses this lemony richness in nutty, rounded smoothness without denying its mouthwatering essence. The midpalate is buffered, chalky and intense, with reverberating richness and freshness that makes this wine a real joy. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$47

**95 Jean-Marc Brocard 2018 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis).**

Lemon oil, flint and creaminess unite on this wine's subtle nose. The palate comes in with a rounded, creamy presence that combines yeasty richness, textural charm and chalky depth with the ripeness and freshness of lemon oil. This wine is concentrated, energetic and bold, channeling its drive towards a lasting finish that lets lemon and chalk speak clearly. Drink 2025–2045. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$70

**95 Jean-Marc Brocard 2018 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis).**

Reductive smokiness still clings to lemon and yeast notes on this wine's nose. The palate has smoky allure from oak, with a textured midpalate that speaks of yeast, citrus pith and depth. Chalky concentration spreads cooling freshness despite the year's ripeness. While this wine



# BUYINGGUIDE

is rounded and sonorous, it is also vivid and fresh, with a lemony, chalky and textured finish that lasts. Drink 2022–2040. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**95 Lamblin & Fils 2018 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis).** A slightly funky nose on this wine mixes yeastiness, lemon and earthiness but also comes with a lift of freshness. The palate conveys lemony, creamy purity, with a free-flowing, smooth joyousness that seems bedded in chalky profundity. Sonorous ease belies the depth of this elegant wine with astonishing, lemony length. Drink 2022–2040. V&N Cellars. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$130

**95 Louis Jadot 2018 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** Vivid, creamy, lemony chalkiness dominates this wine's nose. On the palate, these notions are joined by subtle, rounded nuttiness and a sense of generosity and ripeness. Real concentration and texture at the core has chalkiness and a pithy tang that makes the mouth water. The finish is long and insistent. Drink 2022–2040. Kobrand. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**95 Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis).** Scents of green apple and summer blossom play above the chalky nose of this wine, promising a gentle touch. The palate is concentrated and buffered with layers of chalkiness and yeast, all brightened by lemon. Texture, chalk and roundness are the chief markers here that will serve the wine well for the future. Drink by 2040. Louis Latour Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**95 William Fèvre 2018 Bougros Côte de Bouguerots Grand Cru (Chablis).** Hazelnut-like smokiness folds itself around lemon notes on this wine's creamy nose. The palate comes in with rounded pear, portraying the juicy ripeness of 2018 but grounding it in layered, yeasty, chalky and smoky depth. Oaky nuttiness adds extra dimension while lemon freshness makes for luminous length. Drink by 2045. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$140

**95 William Fèvre 2018 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis).** Cooling, mossy chalkiness plays on this wine's nose, despite the heat of 2018. The palate then displays juicy roundness in the form of ripe, yellow pear pervading chalky depth. Rich lemon-peel notes create contour and add mouthwatering brightness to this concentrated, understated wine that comes with subdued but distinct power. Drink 2025–2045. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$130

**94 Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Vaucopins Premier Cru (Chablis).** Ripe Mirabelle notes come with the merest hint of passion fruit before they are swept up in smoky richness. The palate of this wine combines ripe, almost

luscious fruit with vivid freshness. The wine offers texture and brightness as well as nuance and precision. It's balanced and lasting. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$68

**94 Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine Long-Depaquit Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** A tinge of smoke resonates on the chalky nose of this wine. The palate plays a similar game, with a chalky, cool depth and smooth, pithy texture, contoured with freshness and subtle, oaky smoke. This refined and elegant combination will stand the test of time. Drink by 2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$73

**94 Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Vaucopins Premier Cru (Chablis).** Hay-flower blends with fresh moss on this wine's gentle nose. The palate adds ripe lemon freshness that is mouthfilling, smooth and textured with yeasty richness that is aligned to chalky depth. This is rounded but fresh, ripe but toned. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$68

**94 Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine Long-Depaquit Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Mirabelle, yeast, chalk and slight nuttiness on this wine's nose promise generosity on the palate. This duly follows, pervaded by ripe lemon zestiness. Although still slightly funky with yeast in places, the wine is lively, profound and smooth. Allow it to come into its own and drink 2022–2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$58

**94 Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** Lifted and ethereal notes of dried and fresh lemon peel dominate this wine's open nose. On the palate, the focus shifts to a cool, intense, chalky core around which freshness and juiciness are bundled. This is concentrated and bright, carrying a cool, stony undertone. Drink 2025–2040. Albert Bichot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$73

**94 Camille & Laurent Schaller 2019 Vau de Vey Premier Cru (Chablis).** A subtle hint of wet chalk plays on this wine's otherwise shy nose, promising depth and slenderness. A hint of green pear adds freshness. The palate comes in with smooth, measured tenderness pervaded by a lovely sense of depth. Thomas Calder Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**94 Chanson Père et Fils 2018 Fourchaumes Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtlety marks out this wine's reticent nose. The palate then sweeps in with taut but juicy freshness, adding pear juiciness to that cool, lemon drive. It has concentration and a pithy texture that spells depth, coolness and harmony, despite the heat of the vintage. The wine is really well done and properly long. Vintus LLC. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70

**94 Chanson Père et Fils 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Little escapes from this wine's closed nose, despite vigorous swirling. A mere hint of nuttiness appears and is also present on the concentrated palate. The body is rich and smooth, pervaded by chalky coolness despite the generous pear fruit. Long and rounded, the finish reveals chalky depth and some creaminess. Vintus LLC. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**94 Clotilde Davenne 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Only a slight notion of wet chalk escapes from this wine's closed nose. It gives a little more sense of lemon on the smooth, rounded palate. Pervaded by freshness, it is all about texture rather than fruit. Layers of chalkiness and yeast create a mouthfilling but cool and fresh midpalate. It's subtle, supple and long. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Clotilde Davenne 2017 Blanchots Grand Cru (Chablis).** Buttery richness seeps into this wine's chalky nose and carries onto the palate, which shows even more chalk and creaminess. Bright lemon pervades the mellow richness but chalkiness is already out in force and will become even more deliciously pronounced. Ready now, the wine is certain to evolve. Drink 2020–2035. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2019 L'Homme Mort Premier Cru (Chablis).** Creamy hazelnut and subtle smoke wrap themselves around ripe, bright lemon notes on the alluring nose of this wine. The palate presents a fuller picture of those same notions: smoke, lemon, creaminess and nuttiness. A subtle texture buffers but also intensifies the lemon freshness that reverberates throughout the body. It's a taut but rich and resonant wine. Drink 2022–2040. Charles Neal Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$58

**94 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis).** The smoky, rich and nutty embrace of oak for now has a tight hold over the nose and palate of this wine. The ripe, round body counters the oak with a smooth, yeasty and chalky texture and vivid lemon freshness. There is concentration, generosity and texture. This wine still has to find its center but has all the elements to age well. Drink 2022–2040. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$108

**94 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** Yeast, ripe Mirabelle and juicy, golden lemon come together with juicy ripeness on this wine's inviting nose. The palate adds lovely texture to this roundness, offering pithiness edged by ripe lemon zestiness. It has concentration and restrained power. The energy of

this wine needs to calm. Drink 2025–2040. Charles Neal Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$51

**94** **Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Vieilles Vignes Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis)**. A friendly, inviting nose combines fresh, ripe Mirabelle and bright, golden lemon and pits them against wet chalk. The palate has that same sunny ripeness but is anchored in a soothing lemony chalkiness. This depth resonates and sends lasting, clean and precise freshness amidst 2018's ripeness. Drink by 2040. Charles Neal Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$48

**94** **Domaine Besson 2018 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis)**. Ripe, fresh greengage notes appear on the aromatic nose of this wine, which is tinged with lemon, lime and a richer note of candlewax. The palate continues in this compact, almost oily vein. A concentrated body speaks eloquently of the 2018 ripeness, but more in terms of texture than fruit since everything is brightened by a tinge of lime. Texture and freshness meld to present a harmonious and subtle wine. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice*. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

**94** **Domaine Billaud-Simon 2018 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis)**. This wine's subtle nose reveals hints of lemon, hay and chalk. These carry over onto the palate where they entwine in concentrated harmony. There is focus on generosity, marked out by the pithy, chalky midpalate texture and lemony brightness, despite the hot conditions of this vintage. It's a stony, elegant wine with lovely depth. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Charly Nicolle 2018 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis)**. This wine's subtle nose combines ripeness and freshness in its twin notions of greengage and lemon. Slight smokiness leads richer candlewax that continues onto the concentrated, smooth and almost oily palate. It is this rich texture rather than the fruit flavors that depicts the generosity of 2018 here, as well as exuberant juiciness. Cool, chalky depth lends freshness and poise. Serge Doré Selections. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$85

**94** **Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2018 Vaillon Premier Cru Cuvée Guy Moreau (Chablis)**. Lemon, petrichor and subtle chalkiness play on this wine's subtle nose. The palate adds ripe, juicy pear fruit but focuses on freshness and cooling, soothing chalky depth. Fruit and stone are caught in a lovely pas-de-deux and give this wine charm, freshness and length. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Daniel Dampé & Fils 2019 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis)**. Chalky depth and yeasty funk take turns on this wine's subtle nose to draw you in. These notions are joined by a

slightly bitter, pithy element on the textured palate that emphasizes the chalkiness. This wine is not about fruit but about texture, yeast and depth. It's an understated, honest take on 2019 Chablis with gorgeous length and saltiness. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Daniel Dampé & Fils 2019 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis)**. An edge of warmth and seeming sunshine joins the fresh lemony nose of this wine. The palate comes in with roundness and texture, suggesting mellow apple flesh that is toned with lemon brightness and has gorgeous depth. Profundity is set off by spiky lemon freshness for enlivening contrast. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine de Vaux 2017 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Aromas of melted butter and lemon yogurt dominate the nose on this wine with milky richness. On the palate this creaminess is joined by pillowy yeast and chalky depth, contrasting richness with stony restraint. The finish is long and chalky fresh, dominated by bright lemon and more yogurt notes. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine des Malandes 2019 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis)**. There's almost lime-like freshness on the vivid nose of this wine, even though it remains subdued. The palate also has this cool, understated notion, already giving glimpses of a chalky hinterland. This wine is concentrated, taut, focused and fresh in a very unfrilly, honest way. Drink by 2040. Milton Road Trading Co. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$86

**94** **Domaine des Malandes 2019 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis)**. The nose on this wine has a nutty, smoky edge of oak, enticing with a suggestion of dried walnut leaf. A rounded palate reveals layers of chalky depth, lemony intensity, yeasty richness and a kiss of smoky oak. It is the lemon that sets the tone with its unflinching honesty. Drink by 2040. Milton Road Trading Co. *Editors' Choice*. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$87

**94** **Domaine des Malandes 2019 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis)**. Nutty resonance mixes with chalky, lemony notes on the nose of this wine, implying evenness and smooth texture. The palate indeed provides textured evenness but cuts it with lemon brightness. This wine is bold, alive and fresh. It still needs time to find its center, but promises to become glorious. Drink 20225–2040. Milton Road Trading Co. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$82

**94** **Domaine des Malandes 2019 Vau de Vey Premier Cru (Chablis)**. Slightly funky yeastiness plays on this wine's nose before pear peel, chalk and lemon become apparent. The palate proceeds in a textured vein, presenting pithiness, chalk, yeast and pear peel pulled into focus by bright lemon. This

wine is incisive, unfrilly, bold and totally worth laying down until it rounds out. Drink 2025–2040. Milton Road Trading Co. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$72

**94** **Domaine Jean Collet & Fils 2018 Butteaux Premier Cru (Chablis)**. This wine's closed nose gives mere glimpses of shy citrus. Concentration and richness become apparent on the palate via a ripe but zesty core of fruit that is smooth but dense in texture. There is a sense of fruit resting around a core of limestone depth. Lemon-tinged smoothness adds appeal at the end. The Source. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis)**. Sun-dried hay, Mirabelle plum and a touch of dried yarrow make for an aromatic nose on this wine. The palate comes in with intense concentration that adds dried lemon zest to the aromatic mix, propelling the wine forward with energy and freshness. There is still depth and precision to be revealed. Drink 2025–2040. Fass Selections. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

**94** **Domaine Jean-Claude Courtault 2018 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis)**. Ripe green and yellow apple freshness fills this wine's nose. The palate has that same sense of juicy ripeness and generosity. Freshness is ever-present and rounded, emanating from some cooler, chalkier depth. The midpalate texture is creamy and smooth, and pithiness gives concentration. It's a generous but well-proportioned wine. Drink by 2040. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$105

**94** **Domaine Laroche 2018 Vieilles Vignes Fourchaumes Premier Cru (Chablis)**. Hints of hazelnut and lemon yogurt play on this wine's generous nose. The body adds rounded, pithy and yeasty midpalate texture that matches the fullness. Zestiness lends focus, suggesting that the wine still has to find its chalky center, which is undoubtedly there. Drink 2024–2040. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Louis Moreau 2018 Vau Ligneau Premier Cru (Chablis)**. The gentle nose on this wine combines the slight flintiness of reduction with ethereal dried yarrow. The palate is multidimensional with yeast, lemon, chalk and saltiness. Subtle texture and scented freshness are everything here, despite the ripeness of 2018 Winebow. *Editors' Choice*. —A.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Louis Moreau 2017 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis)**. A funky, earthy tinge on the nose of this wine also references fresh chalkiness and something lactic. The palate wipes any funkiness away with spankily fresh, ripe and juicy stone fruit that is pervaded by zesty citrus. An attractive texture already reveals chalkiness and a core of mouthwatering pithiness. Lovely now (but

# BUYINGGUIDE

decant), the wine will show more of its stony depth with bottle age. Drink now–2035. Winebow. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre 2018 Les Preuses Grand Cru (Chablis).** There is something ripe and friendly about this wine's nose, shining with lemony charm and ripe vivaciousness. The palate has the same welcoming bent, but adds a cooler, sleeker dimension. It offers a concentrated, smooth body, a gentle, chalky texture and zesty lemon ripeness. The wine is elegant and understated. Wine Agencies Inc. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$78

**94** **Domaine Pascal Bouchard 2018 Les Vieilles Vignes Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** The rich, almost mealy scent of lemon yogurt makes for a milky nose on this wine. Richness continues as creaminess on the smooth and ripe palate. Yogurty, textured generosity remains a central feature texturally but is countered by a streak of ripe lemon. It's a mellow wine with spiky, welcome freshness. Drink by 2040. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$100

**94** **Domaine Pinson 2018 La Forêt Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine's shy nose gives away only mossy hints of coolness amid a sensation of lemon. The slender but concentrated palate adds a rich, chalky texture of stony depth. There is saltiness too, and cool freshness despite the ripeness of 2018. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$50

**94** **Domaine Pinson 2018 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** Mossy, lemony coolness emanates from the glass, promising scented freshness while the tiniest vestige of reduction still has a flinty tang. A picture of texture, chalk and brightness, the palate of this wine conveys cooling, smooth depth. The harmonious finish is surprisingly rounded Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$50

**94** **Domaine Pinson 2018 Montmain Premier Cru (Chablis).** A touch of greengage and lemon play alongside wet chalk on this wine's nose. The palate then spreads out across the mouth like a blanket of chalky coolness, tinged with lemon freshness. There is concentration, vivaciousness and a graceful stony and chalky elegance. The finish reveals richer creaminess that sits well with the chalk and lemon. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$50

**94** **Domaine Sébastien Dampt 2019 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).** A shy nose on this wine allows just a mere notion of yeastiness despite much swirling. On the palate, the zesty, pithy lemon texture becomes apparent, layered onto wet chalkiness. A quiet intensity at work here still needs to evolve. Keep this bottle in reserve and wake it up when it is ready. It will be intense, salty and textured. Drink 2022–2040. The Wine House. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Sébastien Dampt 2019 Les Beugnon Premier Cru (Chablis).** In this wine, the twin notions of green pear peel and wet chalk are imbued with subtle, scented florality. The palate reprises the same gentle, smooth and scented theme of lemon, pear and blossom bedded on a yeasty, chalky midpalate. This wine is harmonious, fresh, layered and resonant, with a salty fillip on the finish. The Wine House. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Sébastien Dampt 2019 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Scented florality hovers above green pear and ripe lemon-zest notes on this wine's inviting nose. The palate puts its bundled force towards that lemon zestiness that pervades the wine with purity and freshness. A yeasty texture on the body counters the lemon and buffers the crispness. The wine is intense and bright. The Wine House. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Domaine Vincent Dampt 2019 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Yeasty funk on this wine's otherwise shy nose speaks of youth and complexity. The palate comes in with vivid freshness that pervades a creamy, concentrated and layered midpalate that has a pithy, mouthwatering texture and real focus. The finish is alive and lasting, with pure lemon freshness. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$40

**94** **Garnier et Fils 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Earth, flint, yeast and lemon gather on the reduced nose of this wine, signaling freshness and layered complexity. The palate sweeps in with the rounded, ripe juiciness of Mirabelle plums. All the fruit is caught in a web of pithy, flinty and salty layers of yeast and chalk. An energetic core of cool freshness propels everything forward and makes this wine vivid. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Garnier et Fils 2018 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** Reduction still clouds this wine's fresh nose but at the same time holds promise for the future. The smooth palate adds deep, layered yeastiness that has coolness and freshness at its core. Insistent saltiness is enticing on the sinuous, chalky palate. Drink by 2040 Martine's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **Garnier et Fils 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** A touch of reduction on this wine's subtle nose makes itself felt as a hit of wet walnut and flint. Flintiness with a pleasant edge of walnut-skin bitterness carries over to the palate, where some warmth speaks of the ripeness of the 2018 vintage. At its core, this wine is concentrated and intensely salty, edged with freshness and oh so moreish. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**94** **J. Moreau & Fils 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtle smoke wraps itself around

light notions of ripe Mirabelle on this wine's nose. Gentleness also defines the palate where well-captured ripeness is met with smoothest texture and a little smokiness, all illuminated by pure lemon freshness. This wine has a lovely balance and much elegance. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$53

**94** **J. Moreau & Fils 2018 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis).** The richness of oak expresses itself as the scent of roasted hazelnut on this wine's nose. Smooth and rounded, the palate can handle the oaky resonance that sets the tone. An edge of honey is balanced by lemony brightness. Concentration and freshness signal that this wine will age well. Drink 2025–2040. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$108

**94** **J. Moreau & Fils 2018 Vaucopin Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtle pear, hazelnut and lemon shimmer on this wine's shy nose. The palate brings in roundness and ripeness, think luscious Mirabelle with a touch of honey. Juicy and ripe lemon pervades all with its freshness while a smooth texture adds a balmy background. The wine has lovely harmony and balance. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$53

**94** **Jean-Luc Aegerter 2018 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis).** Vivid notes of green pear peel are pervaded by chalkiness and lemon ripeness on this wine's open, intense nose. The palate follows with more juiciness and abundant chalkiness that emphasizes the yeasty texture. Lemon freshness remains throughout, giving contour to the rounded, smooth body. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$100

**94** **Jean-Marc Brocard 2019 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** A slight yeasty, lactic funk plays on this wine's otherwise fresh, lemony and vivacious nose. The palate adds lots of juicy fruit, think ripe, red-cheeked Mirabelle tinged with zesty, limey greenness. Concentrated and bold, the body reveals depth underneath all this fruit, harboring coolness and verve. It's a compelling wine. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$36

**94** **Jean-Marc Brocard 2019 Vau de Vey Premier Cru (Chablis).** A lifted but guarded sense of lemon zest plays on this wine's nose, forthright at one moment, restrained the next. The palate channels concentrated but creamy lemon peel, mouthwatering in its frankness but buffered by lovely chalkiness. Lemony limestone freshness rings long after the last sip. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

**94** **Jean-Marc Brocard 2019 Vaulorent Premier Cru (Chablis).** Mossiness accompanies pear and lemon notes on this wine's nose along with a lift of dried hayflower. The palate adds ripe roundness and intense, multidimensional creaminess that takes in yeast, smokiness and chalkiness alongside



the intense lemon. Drink 2022–2040. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 Lamblin & Fils 2019 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Touches of hazelnut and cream round out zesty, almost spiky lemon notes on the animated nose of this wine. That same citrus intensity is apparent on the textured, pithy and textured palate, pulsating with freshness on this rounded but toned wine. The finish is long, chalky and intense. V&N Cellars. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**94 Louis Jadot 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Nutty smoke and flinty reduction combine enticingly on this wine's expressive nose. The palate is concentrated and even more flinty, with a pervasive saltiness that makes the mouth water. Hazelnut richness from oak seems to intensify the savory depth. Gorgeous now, the wine will become even more itself over the coming years. Drink by 2040. Kobrand. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 William Fèvre 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Lemon oil subtly pervades the mossy nose on this wine with richness and generosity. The juicy palate adds zestiness that plays above rounded, smooth yeastiness. Towards the finish this tapers towards limestone depth, ending with a long echo of lemon. Lovely now, the wine will show its truer self with bottle age. Drink 2022–2040. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**94 William Fèvre 2018 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtle aromatics combine pear peel, creamy candlewax and green citrus into an alluring, fresh nose on this wine. The palate comes in with rounded ripeness. It redoubles that sense of creaminess that rests on a yeasty, billowing texture that is backed by bright lemon. The interplay between freshness, ripeness and texture creates harmony. Lovely chalkiness appears on the finish. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**94 William Fèvre 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Ripe lemon notes on this wine's nose have hints of Mirabelle plum and lemon-peel waxiness. The palate is rounded and smooth, but shot through with ripe lemon zest. This wine is fruitier and richer than expected, but buffered by a chalky texture that hints at untold depth. The finish reveals the full dimension of the wine. Drink 2022–2040 Maisons and Domaines Henriot. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**94 William Fèvre 2018 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine's intriguing nose combines rich candlewax with bright lemon oil. The palate is rounded and smooth, with buffered freshness on the midpalate. It is here that the sense of chalky depth comes in, conveying a stony, austere hinterland for which 2018's generous fruit is mere win-

dow dressing. With its depth, the wine expresses the vintage beautifully. Drink by 2040. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. *Editors' Choice*. —A.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$75

**94 William Fèvre 2018 Vauorent Premier Cru (Chablis).** Green pear freshness edged with lemon marks out this wine's nose. The pear is rounder and riper on the palate but that freshness remains, leading to cooling, concentrated and chalky depth. It has elegance and lasting freshness—a triumph in 2018. Enjoy through 2040. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. *Cellar Selection*. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$100

**93 Alain Geoffroy 2018 Vau-Ligneau Premier Cru (Chablis).** Hay and a hint of yeasty funk play around lemon notes on the nose of this wine. The palate has salty savoriness that joins with the lemony, yeasty, chalky layers of the midpalate. It shows intensity, juiciness, balance and freshness on the finish. Baron Francois Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**93 Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine Long-Depaquit Beugnons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Pear peel, slight smoke, yeast and lemon make for a most appetizing nose on this wine. The palate has immense elan and flow, with juiciness that references ripe Mirabelle and even a touch of honey. This liveliness, however, is anchored in lovely texture that reaches as deep as it does high. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**93 Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Lys Premier Cru (Chablis).** Lemony chalkiness is faint on this wine's shy nose. The palate paints a fuller picture, using the broad strokes of lemon to reveal brightness, depth and chalky coolness. This wine still needs to knit its divergent parts together but all the elements are there. Wait for this. Drink 2023–2035. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**93 Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Beugnons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Notions of lemon, hayflower and lifted, dried lemon peel make for an aromatic, almost heady nose on this wine. The palate is concentrated and even bold. This big, full wine shows muscle and tone, but in an elegant fashion. Power is anchored in stony depth that lends cool freshness. This will be even better with bottle age. Drink 2024–2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**93 Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Les Lys Premier Cru (Chablis).** Ripe Amalfi lemon peel shines subtly on this wine's friendly nose. On the concentrated palate that lemon note turns to zestiness, joined by a fuller, more textured notion of lemon peel. Cool, chalky concentration at the core of the wine lends soothing, intriguing depth. Despite the rounded richness there is ample, lasting freshness. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**93 Albert Bichot 2018 Domaine Long-Depaquit Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Pear peel and lemon-rind notions on the nose of this wine have a slight overtone of passion fruit, signalling juiciness and ripeness. The palate presents a concentrated, textured body that unites power and ripeness, expressed by some warmth on the midpalate. This is mitigated by the grippy texture that lends harmony alongside ripe lemon freshness. This wine will benefit from bottle age, so drink 2024–2040. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$68

**93 Clotilde Davenne 2018 Vaucoupin Premier Cru (Chablis).** Ripe lemon, chalk and sun-dried hay make for an aromatic and enticing nose on this wine. The palate has the rounded sunniness of 2018 but concentration and freshness provide contour, aided by the textured, yeasty midpalate. The finish is long and precise, with coolness emanating from chalky depth. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Corinne et Pierre Grossot 2018 Les Fourneaux Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtle but insistent lemon zest is all that the shy nose on this wine reveals. Creamy fullness and softness on the palate counterbalances the lemony brightness and sits well with the rounded generosity of the vintage. The concentrated body has enough freshness to come out balanced and supple. VOS Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Corinne et Pierre Grossot 2018 Vaucoupin Premier Cru (Chablis).** The initial whiff of this wine combines chalk, passion fruit and a milky floral overtone. The palate wraps these notions in fine, ripe lemon zestiness, focusing on midpalate texture rather than fruit. The body is rounded and yeasty, with a lovely, lemony, chalky depth that lends coolness. The finish is all bright, long, soothing lemon. VOS Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Lemon pith and zest spread subtle, fresh but ripe perfume on this wine's nose. More air brings a notion of ripe Mirabelle plum. The palate also shows ripeness but likewise is pervaded by aromatic, rounded lemon brightness. Underneath a layer of grounding, cooling chalkiness lingers. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**93 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Vaucoupin Premier Cru (Chablis).** A subtle hint of hazelnut plays on the lemon and chalk nose of this wine. Rounded and full, the palate is edged with a slight but ripe lemon zestiness that frames a textured midpalate that displays notions of yeast and chalk. The finish is rounded but clean and long. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**93 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** The shy nose of this wine offers subtle lemon notions. Bearing out the ripe-

ness of the 2018 vintage, the palate has an emollient and generous roundness that is nonetheless anchored in chalky, limestone coolness. The lemony, smooth texture really sets off the chalkiness. On the finish, the wine is smooth, fresh and appetizing in its saltiness. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$33

**93** **Domaine Besson 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Ripe Mirabelle plum and wet chalk take the lead on this wine's enticing nose. The palate swings towards the fruit, accenting juicy, plump ripeness that stands on a cool foundation of chalkiness and texture. The coolness that emanates from this core ensures freshness despite the ripeness of 2018. It's a beautifully captured, zesty and concentrated wine. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Domaine Céline et Frédéric Gueguen 2019 Vosgros Premier Cru (Chablis).** Apple, lemon, buttermilk and yeast all show on this wine's funky nose. The palate unites these notions on a buffered, concentrated, chalky and lemony body that has subtle depth. The wine is smooth, fresh and understated. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2018 Vaillon Premier Cru (Chablis).** Touches of flint and smoke play enticingly on this wine's subtle nose. There is nothing restrained, however, about the concentrated body, where citrus pithiness is as prominent as yeastiness. Smooth, ripe freshness gives real drive and contour. Drink by 2035. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Domaine Daniel Dampé & Fils 2019 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtle creaminess on this wine's nose is tinged with lemon freshness. The palate has the same fresh disposition, dressed in lemon brightness, while lemon sharpness pulls the smooth texture into focus. It has lovely length and real depth. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Domaine Daniel Dampé & Fils 2019 Les Lys Premier Cru (Chablis).** Mossy freshness on this wine's bright nose tinges lemon notes with earthy greenness. The slender but concentrated palate adds a slightly sonorous texture, rounding out the curvaceous lemon brightness. It finishes with a sense of buttery richness and textured length. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Domaine de Vauroux 2017 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Slight notions of corn husk and milky creaminess hover on this wine's nose before lemony ripeness kicks in. Concentrated and smooth, the palate has a chalky tang that becomes ever more evident. This wine is concentrated, long, laced with ripe lemon zest and oh so chalky. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Domaine des Malandés 2019 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).** Yeasty richness still imbues lemon notes on this wine's nose that also shows apple and Mirabelle ripeness. The concentrated palate then majors on bright, incisive lemon ripeness that still rings with sharp green-apple freshness. This wine is direct, concentrated and superfresh. Milton Road Trading Co. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**93** **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).** A subtle note of wet chalk plays into lemony ripeness on this wine's gentle nose. The palate has smooth, lemony and concentrated flow, showing understated energy that seems powered by the twin forces of warm sunshine and cool, chalky depth. It's a wine of precision and depth. Fass Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**93** **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Homme Mort Premier Cru (Chablis).** Nutty, roasted notes of oak fill this wine's nose from the first whiff onwards. The palate continues in the same way, clothing 2018's ripe fruit with the hazelnut and vanilla notes of oak. Lemony freshness counters this, supported by the smooth, yeasty texture. This wine needs time to integrate. Drink 2023–2035. Fass Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**93** **Domaine Laroche 2018 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Earth, chalk, lemon and slight yeasty funk play on the wine's nose. The rounded, generous palate is bundled around a central seam of ripe lemon zestiness and the juiciness of ripe, yellow pear suffuses everything. A pithy, chalky texture is a lovely counterbalance and provides an extra dimension. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Vivid but restrained lemon peel notes on this wine's nose suggest tautness. The palate is still tightly coiled, conveying pure lemon oil on its firm body. This wine is intense, bright and still needs to relax into lemony ease. The finish is fresh and promising. Drink 2022–2032. Wine Agencies Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**93** **Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre 2018 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** A touch of creamy hazelnut shows amid fresh notes of green apple and ripe pear on this wine's nose. The palate comes in with rounded juiciness that centers on smooth, ripe creaminess edged with lemon freshness. Cool, chalky depth lends extra dimension and zestiness. Wine Agencies Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**93** **Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre 2018 Vau-lorement Premier Cru (Chablis).** The flinty resonance of reduction still hovers above the glass. Bundled and energetic, the palate of this wine offers rounded ripeness along with concentrated, zesty, pithy and textured freshness. Full but toned, it's an

engaging, textured and fresh Chablis that tells the 2018 story with bravura. Wine Agencies Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**93** **Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** Pear and lemon appear on the nose of this wine, alongside tantalizing notions suggesting citrus peel, bergamot and bitter orange. The palate bounds the 2018 generosity with that fragrant citrus zestiness, accompanied by crunchy firmness and a chalky texture. It has depth, originality and expressiveness. Wine Agencies Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**93** **Domaine Pascal Bouchard 2017 Les Vieilles Vignes Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** The nose of this wine opens with yeasty oatmeal creaminess. This is expressed even more strongly on the smooth, almost emollient midpalate where the yeastiness smoothes itself along limestone freshness. A sense of salty lemon makes for a long, bright, fresh finish. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Domaine Pascal Bouchard 2016 Les Vieilles Vignes Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine's shy nose has a promising whiff of lemony chalkiness. Concentrated but with a lovely sense of tension, the palate offers wet, chalky, stony length, with a gorgeous whiff of oystershell. It lingers subtly, with an accent on texture and freshness rather than fruit. Drink now–2030. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Jean Durup Père & Fils 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Notions of lemon, cream, hayflower and fresh citrus pith unite into a soothing, scented and cooling nose on this wine. Citrus pith and lemon brightness define the generous, creamy but taut palate, layered around a core of cool, yeasty freshness. The finish is smooth and soothing. Linwood Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Jean Durup Père & Fils 2018 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** Aromas of dried hay, summer blossom and fresh, cold, lemon-scented cream make for an inviting nose on this wine. The palate comes in with concentration and lemony zestiness. This frames the smooth ripeness and underlines the wine's soothing, gentle, yeasty texture. An elegant wine, it is long with creamy, enticing lemon. Linwood Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Jean Durup Père & Fils 2018 Vau de Vey Premier Cru (Chablis).** A gentle, creamy, floral-tinged cloud of lemon defines the tender nose of this wine. The palate has buffered smoothness, carrying lemon freshness and rounded yeastiness in a concentrated but weightless fashion. It is supersmooth and elegant. Linwood Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Jean-Marc Brocard 2019 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Creamy, almost apple-tinged

mellowness makes this wine's nose feel broad and rich. A mealy creaminess underscores the richness even more. The palate reins this in with lemon freshness and a stony, chalky focus that is beautifully pure. Creamy, mealy mellowness returns on the finish, accompanied by a bright flash of lemon. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

**93 Joseph Drouhin 2018 Drouhin Vaudon Sécher Premier Cru (Chablis).** A touch of Mirabelle juiciness plays amid bright, ripe lemon notes on this wine's nose. The palate also shows this almost luscious juiciness of Mirabelle fruit but tapers towards a cool, concentrated center. There is lovely concentration, pithy texture and balancing ripe but zesty freshness. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

**93 Julien Brocard 2018 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).** A touch of reduction blends with lifted lemon-peel notes on the nose of this wine. The palate also still carries some flinty reduction but opens out into lemony, fresh juiciness. There's pithy concentration at the heart and a zesty, cool sense of chalkiness. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

**93 Lamblin & Fils 2019 Vaillon Premier Cru (Chablis).** Green apple and lemon-oil notes on this wine's nose come with insistent creaminess. The palate is concentrated and vivid freshness streams from its cool, profound core of tart, bright lemon freshness. Cooling chalkiness soothes and gives resonance and dimension. V&N Cellars. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$60

**93 Louis Jadot 2018 Montée de Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis).** The toasty resonance of roasted hazelnut on this wine's nose spells oakiness. With its roundness and juicy, ripe lemon freshness, the palate accommodates that woody support and make it part of its rich, textural charm. This is a deep, rounded wine and the ripeness of 2018 equips it to embrace that nutty richness. Kobrand. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$54

**93 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2019 Closerie des Alisiers Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** Apple, yeast, summer blossom and lemon notions layer over the creamy oatmeal nose of this wine. Chalky depth becomes apparent on the palate. The saline texture is edged with lemon zestiness that counters this vintage's ripeness and stands with concentration and finesse. Drink 2022–2040. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

**93 Maison Stéphane Brocard 2018 Closerie des Alisiers Vau de Vey Premier Cru (Chablis).** A subtle, smooth lemony cloud of creaminess hovers above the glass and draws you in. The palate of this wine continues with this lemon creaminess that slowly merges into chalkiness. Rounded and smooth, the body is helped along by midpalate texture, but despite the warm vintage there is last-

ing freshness. It's a harmonious wine with chalky length. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

**93 Tremblay-Marchives 2019 Vau de Vey Premier Cru (Chablis).** Slight funk twirls lactic and yeasty hints on this wine's nose. The palate also has these unresolved notions but a smooth texture, bright lemon and lively Mirabelle fruit, along with a slight nuttiness, ensure that this wine will find its center. Drink 2022–2032. Jerome Selection. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

**93 William Fèvre 2018 Champs Royaux (Chablis).** A subtle hint of tangerine on the nose dissipates to leave ripe lemon brightness. The palate is concentrated, juicy and fresh, brimming with lemon-edged Mirabelle fruitiness. Chalky depth anchors everything in coolness despite the ripe, rounded vintage. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

**92 Alain Geoffroy 2019 Chablis.** A touch of summer blossom seems to cling to ripe lemon notes on this wine's subtle nose. The palate comes in with smoothness and roundness, countered by bright, ripe lemon freshness. It's a smooth, elegant and understated wine, full of verve and freshness. Baron Francois Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$29

**92 Alain Geoffroy 2018 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis).** Hints of fresh yellow-pear peel and lemon suggest juicy ripeness. The palate of this wine follows up with juicy generosity but channels the fruit into a cool, chalky texture that becomes more pronounced towards the finish. A lovely lemon freshness lasts. Baron Francois Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$38

**92 Alain Geoffroy 2018 Cuvée Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** Creamy hints of yogurt and Mirabelle plum on the nose of this wine suggest ripeness and generosity. The palate continues these notions but adds fruity concentration held in an almost phenolic texture. Yes, this wine is generous but it is also structured, with bright, fresh length that will allow it to evolve. Drink now–2030. Baron Francois Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

**92 Albert Bichot 2019 Domaine Long-Depaquit (Chablis).** Notes of melted butter accent this wine's creamy nose with richness. The palate adds more generosity but in the concentrated fashion of lemon oil, creating a texture that is smooth, full but also pleasantly bitter. This elegant, salty wine has resonance and lasting allure. Drink by 2030. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

**92 Camille & Laurent Schaller 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** The slightly smoky, hazelnutty resonance of oak accompanies lemon notes on this wine's elegant nose. The palate combines lemon brightness, nuttiness and creamy texture

in a restrained, smooth and understated fashion. This wine is fresh and totally harmonious. Thomas Calder Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$29

**92 Chartron et Trébuchet 2019 Mont de Millieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** A creamy hazelnut aroma immediately suggests richness, tinged with vanilla. The palate of this wine spreads out in lemon-tinged creaminess, filling mouth and mind with lemony smoothness. The finish is all vanilla and lemon pie, with an echo of Amalfi lemon zest. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$38

**92 Corinne et Pierre Grossot 2018 Chablis.** A hint of flinty reduction shows on this wine's shy nose, while more swirling reveals touches of lemon and chalk. The palate has freshness and an engaging, chalky texture that plays well with the ripeness of the vintage. Lemon and chalk make for a wine with great typicity. VOS Selections. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

**92 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Cuvée Emeraude (Chablis).** Exuberant zestiness on this wine's nose carries a suggestion of lemon candy. The palate is rounder than the nose suggests, with lemon ripeness and good concentration on the mid-palate where stony depth adds dimension. The finish is warm but balanced and really fresh. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

**92 Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Les Fourneaux Premier Cru (Chablis).** A tropical hint of ripeness on the nose of this wine fleetingly evokes passion fruit before lemony brightness takes over. The palate comes in with almost plump, rounded richness, suggesting Meyer lemon. Lemon smoothness persists on the clean, precise finish. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$51

**92 Domaine Besson 2017 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtle lemon plays above stoniness on this wine's nose, aligned to a yeasty sense of oatmeal richness. Fuller and warmer than the nose suggests, the palate still has to find its center, but the chalky concentration and lemon ripeness will stand it in good stead. Drink 2022–2030. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$50

**92 Domaine Billaud-Simon 2018 Chablis.** Stony freshness on this wine's nose projects steeliness alongside a riper notion of juicy Mirabelle plum. The palate presents the same delicious juxtaposition. Concentration, freshness, zesty texture and ripeness all vie for attention. It's an engaging wine with a vividly fresh finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

**92 Domaine Billaud-Simon 2018 Tête d'Or (Chablis).** A subtle, flinty note of reduction gives way to creamy, chalky lemon on this wine's appe-



# BUYINGGUIDE

tizing nose. The palate then sweeps in with unexpected juiciness and ripeness from the hot summer. A leesy, chalky texture lends coolness and anchors the freshness. The finish offers more lovely chalkiness. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Céline et Frédéric Gueguen 2018 Cuvée 1975 (Chablis).** Lemon zest and billowing creaminess are the chief markers on this wine's subtle nose. The palate adds juicy flow and a supple, yeasty texture that answers to the fruitiness. Lemon brightness pervades and adds flowing balance. The finish is fresh. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Charly Nicolle 2018 Per Aspera (Chablis).** Corn husk, slight creaminess and ripe lemon are the chief aromas on this wine's nose. The palate has bright and cooling freshness, with an elegant midpalate texture that conveys yeast and stone. An elegant iteration of a challenging vintage, the wine has a fresh and lasting finish. Serge Doré Selections. —A.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**92** **Domaine Charly Nicolle 2017 Ante MCMLXXX Les Fourneaux Premier Cru (Chablis).** When this wine is first opened, the nose offers just a distant hint of ripe, yellow apple. Although even further swirling does not awaken more aroma, the palate compensates with tense, textured and chalky freshness. There is lemony, bright concentration along with smoothness. Ripe apple appears again on the finish. Serge Doré Selections. —A.K.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75

**92** **Domaine des Malandes 2019 Envers de Valmur (Chablis).** A slight notion of wet chalk appears alongside hints of lemon zest on this wine's fresh nose. Superbright and more open, the palate offers cooling, smooth chalkiness pervaded by lemony ripeness. It's a concentrated, elegant wine with depth. Milton Road Trading Co. —A.K.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$51

**92** **Domaine Jean Collet & Fils 2018 Chablis.** A hint of reduction blends flintily with bright lemon on this wine's nose. The tightly held palate presents a similar picture, pervaded by lemon and anchored in chalky coolness. Intensity at the core along with riper glimpses of Mirabelle are hallmarks of the vintage. The Source. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Héritage (Chablis).** An initial flinty note of reduction dissipates immediately and makes way for hints of lemon and Mirabelle. The juicy, concentrated palate of this wine also combines yellow plum and bright, ripe lemon, countered by slightly flinty coolness that has chalky depth. Fass Selections. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Hay, chalk and lemon have overtones of ripe Williams pear and juicy Mirabelle plum on the inviting nose of this wine. The palate holds the same fruitiness and layers of aroma but it presents them in a more linear, stony and cool fashion. Rounded and creamy ripeness from the 2018 vintage reappears on the finish but has a cooler spin. Fass Selections. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Laroche 2019 Chablis.** A hint of fern gently accents lemony notes on this wine's nose. The palate presents more intense lemon that unites ripeness with zestiness. This wine is slender, taut, linear and energetic, deriving from that pithy, textured zestiness on the concentrated body. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Laroche 2019 Cuvée Zéro (Chablis).** Melted butter, bruised apple and freshly baked apple pie show on this wine's rich and expressive nose. The palate adds a vividly salty line of freshness to these rich notions that also play on the body, creating lovely tension amid the creamy, apple texture. An alluring finish is pure saltiness. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Laroche 2019 Saint Martin (Chablis).** A lifted intensity of lemon and hazelnut on this wine's subtle nose promises concentration. The palate presents lemon zestiness and a yeasty texture that seems to fizz with freshness. It has lemony resonance, mouthwatering brightness and a rounded body to back it all up. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Laroche 2018 Vieille Voe (Chablis).** This wine's subtle nose combines fresh green-apple peel and bright, ripe lemon. Those fruity notions add freshness to the taut, bright and concentrated palate that has the warmth of 2018 but also cooling, redeeming limestone depth. This wine is textured, elegant and multidimensional. Drink by 2030. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Mosnier 2018 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis).** Hints of chalk and hay join ripe pear on this wine's nose. Ripeness carries over onto the palate where it spreads juiciness and generosity. This is countered by cool freshness and a seam of lemony chalkiness lends focus and length. Mr. Wine. —A.K.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**92** **Domaine Nathalie & Gilles Fevre 2018 Charonnay (Chablis).** Subtle hints of green pear and lemon on this wine's nose promise freshness. Mossy, bright overtones add to this impression. Rounded but fresh, the palate has concentration and balanced, zesty freshness that frames 2018's

ripeness with vivid juiciness. The finish is bright and lemony. Wine Agencies Inc. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Passy le Clou 2018 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis).** Hints of pear skin, lemon, moss and wet chalk appear on this wine's nose. More air reveals touches of blossom and peach. The palate is juicy and sinuous, edged with ripe zestiness and chalkiness. Towards the finish, this rounded ripeness attains cool smoothness and freshness. Wine Universe Corp. —A.K.

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

**92** **Domaine Pinson 2019 Chablis.** A bright and immediate note of ripe lemon on this wine's nose has both floral and creamy aspects. These reappear on the smooth, textured and yeasty palate, where a concentrated body of zesty but calm intensity steals the show. This wine is lively but understated and harmonious. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Domaine Sébastien Damppt 2019 Chablis.** Only subtle notions of lemon can discerned on this wine's nose but the palate brims with lemon verve and mouthwatering juiciness. Concentration, energy and unadulterated freshness are anchored in cool, profound chalk. The Wine House. —A.K.

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

**92** **François Martenot 2019 Domaine Aleth (Chablis).** Yellow apple and lemon freshness vie for attention on this wine's fruity nose. The palate adds zesty, ripe Amalfi lemon and is an exuberant expression of ripe but coolingly articulated fruit. There is energy, concentrated zestiness and length. Advantage International. —A.K.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**92** **François Martenot 2019 Domaine Carrion Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** The nose on this wine has a slight cloud of unclean funk that thankfully disappears with air. The palate is smooth and gentle, fresh with lemon and textured with yeasty smoothness. There is lovely balance and a hinterland of chalky richness. Let this wine breathe and come into its own. Drink 2022–2032. Advantage International. —A.K.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**92** **François Martenot 2019 Les Pommiers Premier Cru (Chablis).** A subtle note of smoke comes with creaminess that hovers on this wine's shy nose. The palate adds lemony intensity and that hint of smokiness attains a tinge of licorice. The finish is bright, intense, tight and lasting. Advantage International. —A.K.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Jean Durup Père & Fils 2018 Chablis.** Fresh pear and apple notes have suggestions of peach, cream and hazelnut on this wine's inviting nose. The palate offers the same, supple creaminess that results from an airy but zesty, chalky texture.

Deep lemony freshness makes everything bright, cool and smooth. Linwood Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Jean Durup Père & Fils 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** A subtle nose on this wine combines cornmeal, chalk, ripe pear and lemon peel. The palate wraps these notions in a concentrated, fine web of fresh firmness that counterpoints the juiciness. Generous but firm, the wine offers a beautiful take on this unusual vintage. Linwood Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Joseph Drouhin 2018 Drouhin Vaudon Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** A hint of ripe pear-peel freshness blends with bright lemon on the nose of this wine. The palate comes in with rounded, ripe juiciness edged with lemon pith and peel, giving contour to the generosity. Chalky, lemony freshness and cooling depth counteract the slightly warm finish. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**92 Joseph Drouhin 2017 Réserve de Vaudon (Chablis).** Subtle lemon freshness and a sense of Williams pear play on the subdued nose of this wine. The palate comes in with equal tenderness and presents a beautiful texture with just an echo of flinty reduction. This wine conveys restraint, anchored in stone and freshness. Midpalate concentration and almost hidden heat make this a compelling rendition of the 2018 vintage. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**92 Julien Brocard 2018 Boissonneuse (Chablis).** This wine opens with a flinty, promising whiff of reduction. The freshness of the palate chimes in with zesty purpose and forms a bright core to the generous and rounded smoothness of 2018. A textural midpalate provides a lovely backdrop for the harmonious freshness of this wine. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92 Moillard 2019 Vaucoupin Premier Cru (Chablis).** The gentle smokiness of subtle oak gives resonance to lemony notes on this wine's nose. Smokiness also touches the pithy texture and lemon brightness on the concentrated palate. Balanced and harmonious, this wine gives enough rein to the lemon freshness, yet has that kiss of smoky oak. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Moillard 2018 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis).** Smoky oak wraps itself like a cloak around this wine's aromas but lemon peeps through. The palate is similarly rounded and rich with oakiness, but a bright, concentrated core of lemon oil creates freshness and even more richness. Drink 2025–2035. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**92 Patricia Raquin 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** The smooth, vanilla-scented reso-

nance of oak lays itself like balm on this wine's lemony nose. On the palate, the oak, creaminess and lemon freshness come together as a harmonious trinity, each holding its own with poise. There's depth and freshness too. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$37

**92 Roland Lavantureux 2018 Chablis.** A touch of wet walnut accompanies pear and lemon on this wine's fresh nose. Vivaciousness at the core belies the heat of the 2018 vintage. Yes, there is concentration and some midpalate weight, but salty, preserved-lemon freshness dominates the wine and bright finish. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Roland Lavantureux 2018 Vauprin (Chablis).** Resonant notes of roasted hazelnut on the nose of this wine sit well with the lemon brightness. The palate carries the same nuttiness but puts lemon freshness center stage. This slightly smoky combination is bedded on a smooth but cooling, yeasty texture, with beautiful length. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Chablis.** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**92 Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**92 Stephanie & Vincent Michelet 2017 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis).** It takes a bit of swirling for the lemon and chalk notes on this wine's subtle nose to wake up. Concentrated but gentle, the palate unfurls with ease and displays a compact core where chalk and lemon unite in a mouthfilling flow. A light, chalky texture supports this and intensifies the length. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$46

**92 William Fèvre 2019 Chablis.** Subtle zestiness insinuates itself on the subtle cornmeal notes of this wine's nose. More air reveals fresh green-pear peel. The palate comes in with ripeness and pervasive citrus freshness. Bright and juicy, the wine has gentle but zesty concentration and fresh resonance. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**92 William Fèvre 2019 Champs Royaux (Chablis).** Green-pear peel and notions of lemon, bergamot and tangerine make for a tantalizingly aromatic and fresh but subtle nose. The palate is bright but smooth, soothed by a chalky texture that carries cooling zestiness to the long finish. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92 William Fèvre 2018 Chablis.** A touch of reduction blends in with a hint of lanolin on this wine's subtle nose. The palate adds zestiness to a rounded, smooth and harmonious mix of pear

fruit, citrus and chalkiness. It finishes bright and fresh. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**91 Camille & Laurent Schaller 2019 Chablis.** Subtle creaminess unites green-pear peel and lemony brightness on this wine's gentle nose. These elements come together on the concentrated, smooth palate where creaminess is countered by lemon zestiness. Depth intensifies the texture and freshness. Thomas Calder Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Clotilde Davenne 2018 Chablis.** Just a touch of flinty reduction echoes on this wine's nose, merging into zesty, ripe lemon. The concentrated palate redoubles that lemon and presents freshness in spite of the 2018 ripeness. This wine is energetic and bright. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Domaine Charly Nicolle 2017 Ante MCMLXXX (Chablis).** A touch of dried corn husk plays subtly on this wine's nose while more air brings a sense of lemony ripeness. The smooth, ripe palate adds a sense of yeasty texture and gives extra sheen to that lemon ripeness. Salty slenderness on the finish is rather elegant. Serge Doré Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$33

**91 Domaine de Vauroux 2018 Chablis.** Fresh lemon zest and a hint of wet chalk promise freshness on this wine's nose. The palate has more roundness and ripeness than expected but preserves its cooling, soothing chalky freshness that emanates from real depth. This is elegant, concentrated, cool and supersmooth. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Domaine des Malandes 2019 Cuvée Amandine (Chablis).** Only the slightest hint of fresh lemon peel escapes this wine's closed nose. The palate comes in with juicy concentration, almost fizzing away with rounded, ripe freshness. There is something lively here, bundled around a central shaft of cool, bright lemon zestiness. It's refreshing and long. Kosher. Milton Road Trading Co. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$52

**91 Domaine Louis Moreau 2019 Chablis.** Notes of green and yellow apple join zesty lemon hints on this wine's appetizing nose. The palate carries that same fruitiness, marked by both full ripeness and aromatic freshness. A bright, lemony vein cuts through the middle with juicy allure, giving glimpses of cool, appealing depth. Winebow. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Domaine Mosnier 2018 Chablis.** Subtle, almost mossy freshness perfumes lemon notes on this wine's nose. The palate comes in with ripeness and concentration, pushing 2018's warmth along with a sense of freshness. Bold but honest, this wine has a lovely sense of pithy texture and zestiness. Mr. Wine. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

# BUYINGGUIDE

**91** **Domaine Mosnier 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** A subtle sense of flinty reduction can still be made out on the slightly lemony nose of this wine. The palate comes in with slenderness, brightness and concentration. Unfrilly and honest, the wine carries lemon freshness all the way to the dry finish. Mr. Wine. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

**91** **Domaine Pascal Bouchard 2019 Le Classique (Chablis).** Even rigorous swirling won't make this wine's shy nose give away its secrets. The palate, however, is an open book of lemon zestiness bedded on smooth, buffering and creamy yeast. It offers beautiful concentration and linearity. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**91** **Erick Lavallée Domaine Grand Roche 2018 Chablis.** Hints of cornmeal, yogurt and Mirabelle play on this wine's open nose, suggesting ripeness and creaminess. The palate redoubles on the Mirabelle richness but lemony brightness keeps everything juicy. Zesty lemon and hints of chalk add coolness to the finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**91** **Garnier et Fils 2018 Chablis.** Slight, yeasty funk tinges lemon notes on this wine's nose with a bruised-apple mellowness. The palate comes in with the same easy richness but adds a leesy, smooth and salty texture that enhances the appeal. This wine is a little off-piste but compelling, despite the warm finish. Martine's Wines. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **J. Moreau & Fils 2018 Chablis.** Notes of lemon-flecked cornmeal and ripe Mirabelle are distinct but subtle on the nose of this wine. The palate adds juicy pear to the Mirabelle richness. Yeastiness anchors the fruit while gentle lemon provides freshness. This wine is rounded and harmonious, with a bright finish. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Jean-Luc Aegerter 2019 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).** Lemon yogurt, cornmeal, green pear and ripe lemon zest all appear on this wine's nose. The palate then sets a more focused tone with a line of bright, tight lemon freshness but the rounded, creamy texture remains somewhat mealy. The fresh finish continues the concentration shown on the body. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$43

**91** **Jean-Marc Brocard 2019 Les Vieilles Vignes de Sainte Claire (Chablis).** It takes much swirling to get a hint of lemon zestiness on this wine's very shy nose. Equally reticent, the palate is driven forward by a core of textured lemon brightness. This wine is elegant and a picture of mouthwatering lemon zestiness. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**91** **Jean-Marc Brocard 2019 Sainte Claire (Chablis).** The slightest touch of flinty reduction still plays around lemony brightness on the nose of

this wine. The palate stays on a straight and narrow but concentrated path, focused on lemon freshness but rounded out with charming, riper notes of pear. This wine has quiet intensity, freshness and length. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**91** **Julien Brocard 2019 Boissonneuse (Chablis).** Citrus brightness immediately becomes evident on this wine's lively nose, with a sense of boxwood that makes things even fresher. The palate combines freshness and ripeness, majoring on white and green pear. The finish is balanced, juicy, rounded and bright. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91** **Marius César 2019 Sublimis Vallis (Chablis).** A very shy nose only gives hints of peardrop and lemon on the nose of this wine. The palate comes in with roundness, concentration and ripeness that displays a certain warmth. A smooth, rounded texture completes the picture. W. Direct. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$43

**91** **Simonnet-Febvre 2018 Bio (Chablis).** Subtle lemon liveliness characterizes the shy nose of this wine. The concentrated palate shows some warmth countered by ripe lemon-peel zestiness. Elegance and a certain self-assurance pervades this wine, along with freshness reminiscent of a coniferous forest. The finish is bright, appetizing and resonant. Louis Latour Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Stephanie & Vincent Michelet 2018 Chablis.** This wine's gentle nose gives just slight hints of cornmeal and sundried hay. The palate adds ripe notes of yellow pear that come with a gentle pear-peel texture augmented by yeastiness. Citrus concentration keeps this wine on the fresh, taut side despite the 2018 heat. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

**90** **Albert Bichot 2019 Chablis.** This wine's aromatic nose combines fresh, crunchy green-gage with ripe lemon. The concentrated palate continues with this insistent, bright and engaging fruit duo, adding a slightly pithy texture to the body. The finish is fresh and zesty. Albert Bichot USA. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Chanson Père et Fils 2018 Chablis.** Creamy lemon and a sense of yeastiness and oatmeal make for a mellow but fresh nose on this wine. The palate speaks of the ripeness of 2018, with a generous sense of apple and ripe pear, and a warmth countered by lemon zestiness. Creaminess is present from start to finish and rounds out the dry conclusion. Vintus LLC. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$34

**90** **Chartron et Trébuchet 2019 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis).** Creamy yeast on this wine's nose is pervaded by bright lemon zestiness. The palate follows with intensity that also holds notions of bruised apple and citrus pith. This wine is concen-

trated, fresh and broadens out towards the lemony finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**90** **Domaine Alain Gautheron 2018 Chablis.** Notions of yellow-apple skin and ripe lemon peel make for a fruity nose on this wine. While still fresh, the palate has the mellowness of the 2018 vintage countered by juicy waves of lemon. The wine offers lovely concentration and a subtle, yeasty texture. Charles Neal Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Domaine Besson 2018 Chablis.** Notes of freshly cut yellow apple and ripe lemon almost verge into juicy yellow pear on this wine's rich nose. The palate displays the same generous fruitiness and beds it in on a fresh, if rounded, yeasty texture. It finishes dry and smooth. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Domaine Céline et Frédéric Gueguen 2019 Chablis.** Subtle lemony zestiness on this wine's nose comes with a gentle floral dimension. The palate lets the lively lemon, which also has a hint of candied peel, spread over the tongue, covering everything in mouthwatering freshness. It is bright on the finish. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine Christian Moreau Père et Fils 2018 Chablis.** Chalk, hazelnut, green apple, ripe yellow plum and lemon all make fleeting appearances on this wine's vivid nose. There also is a lovely touch of smokiness. The palate is more rounded with ripeness than the nose suggests but still echoes with flinty smoke. This wine is generous but also fresh. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine Daniel Dampé & Fils 2019 Chablis.** Subtle mossy, cool and lemony chalkiness shows on this wine's shy nose. The palate offers more rounded fruit than the nose suggests, presenting juicy, ripe pear and pithy, citrusy texture. This is mouthfilling and round, but concentrated and zesty at the same time. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine des Malandes 2019 Chablis.** Notes of green-pear peel are laced with lemon freshness on this wine's aromatic nose. Winsome pear fruit and textured pear peel are pervaded by ripe but zesty lemon freshness on the smooth, concentrated body. Milton Road Trading Co. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$43

**90** **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Chablis.** Not even vigorous swirling makes this wine's shy nose open. The palate comes in with warmth, concentration and a notion of ripe, juicy apple. There is a slightly textured midpalate and more apple and lemon on the balanced, impactful finish. Fass Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30



**90** **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2018 Claire (Chablis).** Creaminess and some nutty resonance appear on this wine's nose, alongside a hint of lemon zest. The palate has that same slightly oaky nuttiness that sits well with the round body. An enhanced texture makes for a smooth, balanced finish. Fass Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Domaine Jean-Claude Courtault 2018 Chablis.** Subtle scents of sun-dried hay and fresh lemon make for an appetizing nose on this wine. The palate comes in with ease and flow. A zesty concentrated core counters the richness of the vintage, expressed here via full, juicy Mirabelle fruit and lemon. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Domaine Passy le Clou 2018 Chablis.** A lifted sense of hayflower and lemon peel signals ripeness right away on this wine's open nose. The palate follows with textured, rounded pear skin juiciness and a real sense of russet pear. This is rich, smooth and fresh. Wine Universe Corp. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine Vincent Dampit 2019 Chablis.** Green-pear peel freshness makes for a lovely nose on this wine. The palate combines pear-peel texture with citrus pithiness on the concentrated body while vivid lemon freshness pervades everything. It is bright, zesty, rounded and mouth-watering on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**90** **François Martenot 2019 Domaine Carrion (Chablis).** This wine's reticent nose gives just a hint of reductive funk. The slender palate carries that same yeastiness that now has an edge of flintiness. It seems like a wine that was awakened too soon from its slumber. Essentially fresh, textured and vivid, it just needs to find its center. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**90** **François Martenot 2019 La Reine Pedaque (Chablis).** Despite swirling, this wine's nose reveals nothing but a faint hint of lemon peel. Lemon gets more intense on the concentrated palate where zestiness is mouthwatering and enlivening. The body is sinuous, lemony and refreshing. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**90** **François Martenot 2019 Les Marouettes (Chablis).** Incipient creaminess appears amid fresh green-pear peel notes on this wine's nose. The palate carries that same textured freshness, adding citrus pithiness to the midpalate on the rounded, fresh but harmonious body. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**90** **Jean-Luc Aegerter 2019 Les Opales (Chablis).** Creamy hits of lemon yogurt and buttermilk are intense on the nose of this wine. The palate brings the same milky roundness backed by a

mealy, lemony texture. The finish is all bright lemon and creamy. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Lamblin & Fils 2019 Chablis.** Slight yeasty funkiness blends with green-pear peel, creaminess and lemon on this wine's nose. The palate shows beautiful concentration on a ripe, slightly pithily textured body reminiscent of lemon zest. All is fresh, vivid and juicy. V&N Cellars. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**90** **Louis Jadot 2018 Chablis.** Aromas of green and yellow apple, oatmeal and ripe lemon zest spell freshness and ripeness in equal measure. The palate of this wine follows suit. A fruity, concentrated midpalate conveys zestiness and channels the ripeness of 2018 beautifully. This is vivid, energetic and bold. Kobrand. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**90** **Moillard 2019 Coquillage (Chablis).** This wine's subtle nose combines fresh green-pear peel, lemon and pear drop aromas. The rounded palate brims with more pear fruit juiciness. All is pervaded by lemon-peel freshness that makes for a bright finish. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Sainte Céline 2019 Chablis.** Breezy lemon aromas hover gently above the glass. Bright lemon juiciness also plays on the palate of this wine, which has a slightly textured body of some pithiness. This wine is light, smooth and fresh. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**90** **Tremblay-Marchives 2019 Chablis.** Subtle lemon zestiness rises gently but steadily from the glass. Real lemon brightness follows on the slender, focused palate of this wine, which brims with vibrance and also shows a little of that beautiful Chablis chalkiness. The finish is fresh. Jerome Selection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**89** **Chartron et Trébuchet 2019 Chablis.** Bright notes of green pear are smooth and inviting on this wine's nose. The palate comes in with the same smooth freshness, adding citrus zestiness that frames the juicy, fruity body. It's lemony and utterly appetizing on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89** **Jean-Luc Aegerter 2018 Réserve Personnelle (Chablis).** Vivid notions of lemon yogurt fill the nose of this wine with lactic intensity and richness. The palate reins this in a little and adds hints of green and yellow apple and a sense of juicy ripeness. There is concentration and freshness at the core but the lactic richness that dominates this wine. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Levert Frères 2019 Chablis.** Aromas of cornmeal and lemon yogurt fill this wine's nose with creaminess. The palate counters this with

textured, pithy freshness pulled into focus by lemony brightness. It is citrusy and fresh on the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Maison Chandesais 2018 Premier Cru (Chablis).** Notes of cornmeal and lemon yogurt are the backdrop to ripe Mirabelle plum on this wine's fruity nose. Milkiness also pervades the rounded, smooth palate where pithy freshness counters the richness. The finish is clean and bright. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Domaine Beaufumé 2018 Chablis.** Hints of corn husk and pear peel are all that this wine's shy nose gives away. Equally neutral, the palate merely presents its textured, pithy midpalate and some freshness. It is clean and bright on the finish. Winebow. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Jean-Luc Aegerter 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** Buttery, mealy richness on this wine's open nose is edged with fresh lemon. The palate continues this rounded richness and lemon brightness on an juicy, fresh palate. It is smooth and still buttery on the finish. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**88** **Maison Chandesais 2018 Les Annonciades (Chablis).** Something lifted about this wine's nose suggests candied lemon, while more air adds a note of lemon yogurt. The palate shows roundness, warmth and more of that concentrated lemon vibe. It finishes dry, warm and rounded. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

---

## PETIT CHABLIS

---

**89** **Julien Brocard 2019 Les Plantes (Petit Chablis).** Exuberant fruit jumps from the glass with the first whiff. Fresh pear, crunchy greengage and juicy Mirabelle plum combine within a lemony cloud of freshness. The full-fruited, taut palate is merely the manifestation of that fruit, caught within vivid freshness and real concentration. David Bowler Wine. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Stephanie & Vincent Michelet 2018 Petit Chablis.** Ripe pear and gentle citrus characterize this wine's nose. The palate brims with rounded pear but comes with a sprightly body that has balance and freshness. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

---

## MEURSAULT

---

**92** **Jehan Emonin 2018 Goute d'Or Premier Cru (Meursault).** Subtle hazelnut and creamy lemon play on the nose of this wine. The palate comes in with gentle creaminess and concentration. Smooth and rounded, it offers hints of smoke and

# BUYINGGUIDE

enduring lemon intensity. This is compact, generous and smooth. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$128

**90 Jehan Emonin 2018 Les Narvaux (Meur-sault).** In this wine, toasty hints of oak envelope a rich nose of lemon and honeydew melon. The palate also shows this oaky richness on ripe fruit. Gentle freshness counters and rounds out the concentrated flavors. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$88

## PULIGNY-MONTRACHET

**94 Château de la Créé 2017 La Rue aux Vaches (Puligny-Montrachet).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**94 Maison Evenstad 2017 La Garenne Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

**93 Château de la Créé 2016 Puligny-Montrachet.** Evolution is evident in earthy autumn-leaf and calf leather notes on the nose of this wine, clothed in slight smokiness. While carrying these aromas, the palate still seems fresh with lemony energy and drive. It has concentration, chalky texture, power and precision. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**93 Domaine du Cellier Aux Moines 2017 Les Pucelles Premier Cru (Puligny-Montrachet).** The slightest touch of fresh pineapple hovers above corn husk, lemon and hazelnut notes on the nose of this wine. The palate knits together in a firm texture that relies on creaminess and concentration. Lemon oil notes set an aromatic accent amid corn-husk resonance and richness. Pure lemon dominates the finish. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$150

## CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

**93 Domaine du Cellier Aux Moines 2017 Les Chaumées Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet).** Notes of melted butter strike first on the nose of this wine, followed by lemon and a hint of cinnamon. On the palate, roundness and concentration emanate from a textured, rich core. The finish is fresh and mellow on this rounded, rich wine. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$135

**92 Au Pied du Mont Chauve 2017 Les Chenevottes Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet).** Slight notions of yeast, cream and Mirabelle come forth on the shy nose of this wine. These impressions also appear on the rounded, creamy palate that makes more of its mellow texture than its aromas. It has a core of freshness and lovely concentration. With

just a little warmth on the finish, it is balanced and smooth. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

## SANTENAY

**93 Château de la Créé 2017 Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay).** Subtle lemon creaminess on the nose of this wine promises texture and freshness. The palate follows through with a chalky core bathed in buffered lemon zestiness. This wine is resonant and round, but anchored in lemony, bright coolness. It's elegant, soothing and moreish, with a lactic finish. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**93 Maison Evenstad 2017 Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay).** Lemon creaminess and a hint of hazelnut play on the nose of this wine. On the vivid palate, buffered limestone freshness takes center stage. It's cool, but clothed in rich lemon oil, nutty oak and mellow creaminess. The wine has balance, straightness and length. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**93 Maison Evenstad 2016 Beaurepaire Premier Cru (Santenay).** Lifted notes of resin have the merest hint of honey on the nose of this wine. The palate follows up with hazelnutty, lemony richness, bedded on a creamy texture and highlighted with honey overtones that blend with citrus-oil richness. All this centers around a limestone core of freshness, with a chalkiness that has only just started expressing itself. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$90

**93 Maison Evenstad 2016 Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay).** Lemon-oil notes on the nose of this wine have a fresh chervil accent and residual hint of reductive flintiness. The palate offers precision, vivacity and concentration. Everything seems to reverberate with richness and freshness. The wine shows an exemplary balance of lemon oil, vanilla, toast and creaminess. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**92 Château de la Créé 2016 Charmes (Santenay).** Toasty oak, creaminess and lemon on the nose of this wine segue onto a seamless, rounded palate. Freshness counters the creamy oak richness but also accentuates the roundness. It's a rich but fresh wine with lovely texture and a lemon-yogurt finish. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**92 Château de la Créé 2016 Gravières Premier Cru (Santenay).** Hazelnut and vanilla notes of oak dominate the nose on this wine, immediately suggesting roundness. The palate counters this with pervasive lemon freshness. This game of brightness juxtaposed with richness continues throughout, rendering this wine mellow and vibrant, with a lip-smacking lemon finish. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**92 Domaine du Cellier Aux Moines 2017 Beauregard Premier Cru (Santenay).** A shy nose on this wine gives little away but the palate comes in with lemon and limestone freshness. Creaminess lends roundedness and texture but the serene brightness holds the attention and provides focus. The finish brims with buffered lemon zestiness. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$73

**92 Maison Evenstad 2017 Beaurepaire Premier Cru (Santenay).** Lemon oil, dried corn husk, hazelnut and a touch of vanilla come together on the nose of this wine. Uniting these notions, the palate coalesces around limestone freshness and chalky depth. The freshness is enduring but also smooth and balanced, with a lemon-cream finish. Domaine Serene. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$96

## MERCUREY

**91 Château d'Étroyes 2018 Les Ormeaux (Mercurey).** A touch of chalk surrounds the lemony notes of wheat bran on the nose of this wine. Chalkiness continues on the smooth, textured and slightly creamy palate, which has lemony overtones. Freshness makes for a bright yet smooth finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

## MONTAGNY

**91 Domaine du Cellier Aux Moines 2018 Les Combes Premier Cru (Montagny).** Dried corn husk and a fragrant note reminiscent of hay and elder leaf make for an intriguing nose on this wine. These aromas also dominate on the precise palate that is informed by vivid freshness and linearity. A lovely texture endures, as does that fresh elder-leaf note. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**90 Les Tourelles de la Créé 2017 Premier Cru (Montagny).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

## RULLY

**90 Château d'Étroyes 2018 La Chatalienne (Rully).** Wheat bran, cream and lemon balm combine for an appetizing nose on this wine. The palate continues the creaminess and presents rounded, gentle fruit. A slightly chalky texture is resonant with toasty overtones, accentuating the inherent warmth that is also expressed in the pineapple finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**90 Château d'Étroyes 2018 Les Fromanges (Rully).** The merest glint of reduction adds a hint of flint to the creamy lemon nose on this wine. More rounded and smooth than the nose suggests, the palate has an gentle, creamy core. Fresh-

ness caresses the chalky, lemony finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

## VIRÉ-CLESSÉ

**91** **Domaine Guillemot-Michel 2018 Charleston (Viré-Clessé).** A note of Golden Delicious apple has the merest touch of smoke on the nose of this wine. The palate comes in with smooth roundness, still conveying mellow and fresh apple. Although the textured palate is almost tannic with drying phenolics, real freshness becomes apparent in the depths. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91** **Domaine Guillemot-Michel 2018 Retour a la Terre (Viré-Clessé).** A lifted sense of white currant fights through on the shy nose of this wine. The rounder palate evokes juicy yellow plum and white peach. A sense of citrus pith adds real texture while lemony depths become apparent with more time on the palate. This is unusual but the wine has vivid juiciness and its own sense of depth. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Domaine Guillemot-Michel 2018 Quintaine (Viré-Clessé).** A chalky hint of rounded lemon is shy on the nose of this wine. However, the palate is awake with juicy yellow apple and rich melon edged with ripe lemon freshness. The texture is smooth and the body mellow. Bright fruit highlights the chalky finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Domaine Guillemot-Michel 2017 Quintaine (Viré-Clessé).** The nose on this wine conveys a mellow and fresh cloud of Golden Pearmain apple. Mellowness carries through on the palate, with a smooth core of yellow-apple freshness. An edge of peppery spice adds interest but smoothness and freshness are the chief charms of this wine. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

## BURGUNDY SPARKLING WINES

### CRÉMANT DE BOURGOGNE

**93** **Bailly-Lapierre 2013 Vive-la-Joie Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Strawberry shortcake notes abound on the fresh nose of this wine, which conveys the fresh fruit, creaminess and richness of the pastry. The palate puts these all in a tight, fresh corset, vivid with liveliness. Fine foam makes everything exuberant and bright. The finish is alluring and dry. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$33

**93** **Louis Bouillot NV Fine Réserve Extra-Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Fresh and candied lemon, cream and angelfood cake figure on the

enticing, bright nose of this wine. The tight palate brings in an earthy edge of autolysis that has richness and dimension. Framed with yeasty saltiness and freshness, the wine presents a body of elegance and restraint. It's long and bone dry. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**93** **Louis Picamelot 2015 Les Reipes Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Straw, lemon, chalk, earth and yellow apple combine into one enticing aroma. More air adds a gentle sense of ripe yellow apple. The palate of this wine comes in with creaminess, lemon freshness and an elegant, fine-boned structure. Lovely now the wine will be even creamier with some bottle age. It's an elegant, bone-dry and classy fizz. Serendipity Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**93** **Louis Picamelot 2014 Les Reipes Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Creamy notions of ripe yellow apple abound on this wine's gentle nose. Lemony, buttery freshness underpins the palate that is rounded by smooth bubbles. The dry body has depth, a chalky echo and dry, elegant finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$30

**93** **Paul Chollet 2015 Concerto Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Creamy richness brimming with Red Delicious and buttery shortbread notes defines both the nose and this wine. On the palate, rounded, creamy and rich autolysis surrounds the central freshness with its salted butter notes and apple ripeness. The foam is smooth and the palate is concentrated. Freshness is pristine and the finish dry. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$32

**92** **Bruno Danguin 2017 Prestige de Constance Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Ripe red apple is pure and insistent on this wine's nose, promising freshness and mellowness. The smooth body delivers salty, ripe Red Delicious flesh that's creamy and supple but also savory and peppery. It's a compelling wine with real personality, vivid freshness, lovely balance and pure fruit. Transatlantic Bubbles. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Cave L'Aurance 2015 Brut Millésimé (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Notes of ripe Mirabelle and dried apricot point to some evolution on the nose. The fine foam and richness on the palate carry the same, presenting concentrated, mellow freshness and fine, smooth, salty and yeasty autolysis. Elegant and smooth, the palate has a spine of freshness. Allied Beverage Group. —A.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$24

**92** **Clotilde Davenne 2011 Brut Extra (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A high-toned notion of candied lemon peel melds into an herbal savouriness recalling crushed yarrow on the nose of this wine. The taut body shows wonderful signs of evolution,

with a creamy, honeyed core of freshness that's now mellowing. Slenderness is made rich by depth and a sense of bitter honeycomb. All this is set off by lemony freshness and carried by lively foam. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Clotilde Davenne 2006 Brut Extra (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Vanilla-scented notes of ripe, yellow apple fill this wine's nose with generous, precise mellowness. This sense of vanilla, salted butter and apple expands on the slender palate, adding depth rather than weight. The lemony, chalky core serves as a wellspring of brightness and freshness. It's bone dry and compelling. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **JCB 2014 No. 13 Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A hint of wild strawberry flickers on this wine's subtle nose amid dried orange-peel notes. On the palate, rounded richness sets the tone, pitched against a fine line of citrus freshness. The foam is lively, creamy and fruity, with bottled strawberry mellowness. It has depth and resonance, while lovely notes of truffle begin to appear in the red-fruited backdrop. The wine is beautiful and layered. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$78

**92** **Louis Bouillot 2012 Perle d'Or Brut Millésimé (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Notes of honeyed sponge cake and gingerbread on this wine's nose immediately promise evolution and richness. The palate follows with concentration and intensity, showing evolved notes of candied lemon peel and that gingerbread vibe. There is roundness and heightened freshness, flanked by candied-citrus richness. The finish is fresh, smooth, dry and long. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Louis Picamelot 2014 En Chazot Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A touch of reduction still spreads flinty notions on this wine's nose. Depth of fruit becomes apparent on the palate, with smoky notions of crisp but ripe red apple and subtle yeastiness. The bubbles are fine while a tingling spine of freshness brightens everything. Another year of bottle age and this will be a stunner. Serendipity Wine Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$34

**92** **Paul Chollet NV Brut Zéro (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Golden Delicious apple and salty yeast figure prominently on this wine's generous nose. The palate has a creamy, mellow texture, presenting fine, smooth bubbles that add excitement to the ripe apple notes. The bony-dry finish reverberates with yeasty, appetizing length. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**91** **Bailly-Lapierre 2017 Egarade (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Apple flesh, rye bread and lemon peel make appearances on this wine's subtle nose. They also feature on the palate, accentuated



# BUYINGGUIDE

by the fine, gentle foam. This wine is harmonious, fresh and vivid, with a long finish. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$27

**91 Bruno Dangin 2017 Prestige de Narcès Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** In this wine, subtle aromas include hints of wet chalk, lemon peel and yellow apple. The body has precision and freshness, outlining these notions with lemony brightness against a yeasty, smooth and creamy backdrop. This wine is elegant and smooth, with plenty of charm. Transatlantic Bubbles. —A.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**91 Clotilde Davenne NV Brut Extra (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Ripe yellow apple is edged with lemon on this wine's nose. On the palate that richness is pulled into taut, slender focus by full lemon freshness. Salty tanginess clings to the yeasty backdrop, making this wine totally appetizing with its apple, lemon and salt combo on the dry, long finish. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**91 Clotilde Davenne NV Rosé Brut Extra (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Notes of red apple have an unusual tangerine highlight on the nose of this wine. The palate comes in with slender, vivid brightness on a light and taut body. Although the creamy foam has yeasty depth, the finish is resoundingly fresh, long and dry. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**91 JCB NV No. 69 Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Red apple and dried orange peel form the chief aromas on this wine's vivid nose. The palate follows with rounded mellowness bedded on creamy foam and rich yeastiness. Textured, pithy freshness pulls everything into focus. Concentrated and bold, this wine would be a gorgeous, rounded and dry winter aperitif. Boisset Collection. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$28

**91 JCB 2009 No. 39 Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Creamy yeast on the nose of this wine blends with a high note of dried lemon peel and hint of bitter fir honey. The palate adds a sense of wet chalk and a yeasty, creamy texture, still with that bitter glint of fir honey. With its concentration, well-rounded freshness and considerable flavor, this sparkler will do well with subtle food. Boisset Collection. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$78

**91 Louis Picamelot 2016 En Chazot Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A shy nose on this wine gently conveys creaminess, lemon and yellow apple. Next the palate comes in with a slender tenderness of fine bubbles and brightness. The body is fresh, flowing, harmonious, zesty and dry. Serendipity Wine Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$34

**91 Louis Picamelot 2015 Cuvée Jeanne Thomas Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Creamy, ripe apple flesh notions character-

ize this wine's subtle nose. The palate continues with this fruity gentleness and adds chalk, lemon and salt. With a slender body, frothy bubbles and dry finish, this comes together very nicely. Serendipity Wine Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

**91 Parigot & Richard NV La Sentinelle Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** This wine's shy nose reveals only lemony hints of chalk. Touches of Mirabelle appear on the palate alongside more notions of chalk and lemon, presented against a textured backdrop on a taut body. The finish is dry, subtle and enticing. Grand Cru Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

**91 Paul Chollet NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Vivid notes of ripe yellow apple fill this wine's nose, along with a savory hint of yeastiness. The palate has freshness, yeasty, almost salty autolysis and rounded fruit freshness. Fruit, yeast and freshness unite on the dry finish. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$29

**90 Bailly-Lapierre NV Brut Pinot Noir (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Aromas of Mirabelle and ripe, yellow apple fill this wine's nose with easy fruitiness. The palate adds bready, yeasty texture to the fruit and presents roundness, smoothness and creaminess, with a dry, fresh and friendly finish. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$25

**90 Bailly-Lapierre NV Brut Chardonnay (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A slight edge of honey clings to ripe Golden Delicious aromas on this wine's nose. The palate is rounded with the ripe apple fruit, with glints of honey and lemon. It's a harmonious, smooth and fresh wine, with fine foam and expressive fruit. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$25

**90 Bailly-Lapierre NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** In this wine, notes of Red Delicious apple come clothed in a berryish, fruity guise. The smooth, rounded palate also homes in on Red Delicious ripeness, layering rich fruit onto berry charm and citrus brightness. This wine is easy, generous, bold and fruity, with a dry finish. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$25

**90 Bruno Dangin NV Cuvée Blanche (Crémant de Bourgogne).** The freshness and ripeness of green and yellow apple flesh strikes with purity on this wine's nose. The palate offers the same expressive fruit, bedded on smooth, gentle foam and a fine, yeasty creaminess that makes this wine exceptionally easy to drink. It's refreshing, apple-scented and bright. Transatlantic Bubbles. —A.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**90 Cave L'Aurance NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** An initial whiff of rye bread on the nose of this wine comes with saltiness that's taken

over by fruitier, riper Mirabelle plum. The palate unites these notions in one smooth, frothy, fresh but rounded package. Fine and smooth, the foam add further charm to this rounded richness. Allied Beverage Group. —A.K.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

**90 Domaine Charly Nicolle NV Brut Nature Pinot Noir (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Mellow red apple notes on this wine's nose have a slight but alluring accent of honey along with chalky creaminess. On the palate, bright lemon energizes the creamy, ripe apple flavors that also show a slight sense of pepper. The bubbles are lively and the finish is bone dry. Serge Doré Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$45

**90 Domaine Labouré-Gontard NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Cream, yeast and lemon form a perfect trinity on this wine's vivid nose. The fresh palate is lively with bubbles, rounded with bready yeastiness and comes with a gentle texture. It is dry, appetizing and refreshing on the finish. Boisset Collection. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$14

**90 Domaine Pierre André NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A hint of candy floss and peardrop mingles with ripe, mellow apple notes on this wine's nose. The palate adds a yeasty, creamy texture and zestiness that makes this wine rather moreish and enticing. On the finish, it's dry and wonderfully fresh. Misa Imports. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$16

**90 Francois Gleisweiler NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Yeasty creaminess and a touch of ripe apple define this wine's nose, hinting at generosity. The palate is fresh but mellow, with fine foam underlining the essential smoothness and gentleness. Dry and smooth, the finish combines richness and freshness. DHI Selections. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$16

**90 Louis Bouillot NV Grande Réserve Perle des Vignes (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A subtle hint of vanilla clings to notes of warm brioche on this wine's rounded nose. The palate sweeps up this roundness in a generous embrace with concentration and freshness. Bubbles froth with liveliness, countering the autolytic roundness. The appetizing finish is dry. Boisset Collection. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$20

**90 Louis Bouillot NV Perle d'Ivoire (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A bright, lithe note of citrus on this wine's nose almost has a floral quality. The palate is light, citrus-scented and bright, but has a smooth core of creamy richness. This combination of different elements offers enduring appeal. Boisset Collection. —A.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$20

**90 Louis Bouillot NV Perle de Nuit (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A shy nose on this wine gives just slight aromas of yeast. The palate also has this yeastiness that caresses the light green and yellow-

apple flavors. The foam is fine and gentle. This understated wine is altogether elegant and beautifully dry. Boisset Collection. —A.K.

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

**90 Maison Chanzuy NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A creamy nose on this wine reveals hints of shortbread and lemon, which carry over onto the palate. Rounded but fresh, the body displays a lovely balance between fruit and yeastiness. This harmonious wine is dry and refreshing on the finish. Winebow. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$29

**90 Moingeon NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Creamy, mellow autolysis on this wine's nose suggests bread and bread crust. Just as mellow, the palate buffers its freshness on the rich, fruity mellowness of ripe apple. The bubbles froth slightly, creating liveliness all the way to the dry finish. K&L Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**90 Parigot & Richard NV Monochrome Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A hint of strawberry blends into notes of rosehip tisane that fill this wine's nose. The palate is fruity and frothy, with a tang of lemon and richer note of dried fruit. It's resonant and dry. Grand Cru Selections. —A.K.

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

**90 Parigot & Richard NV Origines Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Ripe notes of yellow apple on this wine's nose have a zippy touch of lime. The palate also combines richness and liveliness, energized by frothy bubbles. Underneath it all, saltiness entices you to sip again and again. Grand Cru Selections. —A.K.

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

**90 Paul Chollet NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Baked and fresh apple notes on this wine's nose create a sense of mellowness. Salty, creamy and round, the palate offers rich apple ripeness. The finish is smooth and dry, with lovely length. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$27

**90 Simonnet-Febvre NV Brut P 100 Blanc de Noir (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A pure note of ripe, red apple is made brighter by an edge of lemon on this wine's nose. The palate shows the same fruit combination but favors roundness, still edged by vivid freshness. All the elements are harmonious and bright, with a gentle foam and dry finish. Louis Latour Inc. —A.K.

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

**90 Vignerons de Mancey NV Brut Réserve (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Ripe red and yellow apple create a fruity nose on this wine. The palate has ripe apple mellowness and creamy roundness, as well as a crisp nature. Bubbles are lively and this dry wine presents a harmonious whole. Authentic Wine Selections. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**89 Albert Bichot NV Brut Réserve (Crémant de Bourgogne).** In this wine, an initial whiff of reduction blows off to reveal bright notes of Golden Delicious apple. The palate is light and dry, with a lively fizz, dispersing apple notes alongside lemony freshness. Albert Bichot USA. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**89 Bailly-Lapierre NV Réserve (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Fresh red apple and lemon zest make for an appealing aromatic duo on this wine's nose. The palate adds a yeasty, bready tone and a slightly pithy texture, complementing the rounded fruit and making for smoothness and glinting freshness. It is dry and smooth on the finish. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**89 Bulliat NV Brut Nature (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Aromas of green-apple skin and lemon peel on this wine's nose make for a striking opening. The palate is more rounded and ripe than the nose suggests but the bubbles are fine, smooth, and zesty. On the finish, it is dry and appetizing. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**89 Domaine Pascal Bouchard NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Buttery creaminess is the chief notion on this wine's rounded nose. The palate counters this richness with apple freshness. Although the bubbles are almost creamy, that butteriness sets the tone all the way to the dry finish. Connecticut Distributors. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**89 La Burgondie NV Brut Réserve (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Ripe apple, almost with a hint of candied apple, and citrus feature on the fresh, fruity nose of this wine. The palate retains the apple notes and adds creamy, fruity richness. Everything is supplemented by fine, smooth bubbles. The finish is dry and fresh. Plume Ridge. —A.K.

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

**89 La Maison du Crémant NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Fruity aromas of green and yellow apple dominate this wine's nose. The slender palate also brims with bright apple while frothy bubbles enhance both freshness and fruit. It's a lively sparkler, with a dry finish. Latitude Wines, Inc. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**89 Louis Bouillot NV Rosé Perle d'Aurore (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Subtle aromas on the nose of this wine include yeast, citrus and a touch of red apple. The palate has a gently phenolic texture reminiscent of citrus pith, which sits well with the yeasty undertone and the rounded but fresh apple fruit. The finish is dry and smooth. Boisset Collection. —A.K.

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

**89 Louis Picamelot NV Les Terroirs Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Just a hint of freshly squeezed lemon appears on this wine's shy nose.

The palate presents a fuller picture of subtle creaminess, light body and frothy, easy foam that makes this an enlivening, dry aperitif. Serendipity Wine Imports. —A.K.

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

**89 Paul Chollet NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Vivid notes of ripe, red apple come with enticing creaminess on the nose of this wine. The bubbles on the slender palate are frothy and lively, carrying more of that fresh apple fruit. It is rounded, dry but beautifully fresh on the finish. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**89 Paul Chollet NV Oeil de Perdrix Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** The slightest notion of Red Delicious apple shows on this wine's yeasty nose. Smooth and rounded, the palate buffers freshness with yeasty mellowness. The dry finish carries more of that apple brightness. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$29

**89 Simonnet-Febvre NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Bright lemon on the nose of this wine has a floral overtone of summer blossom. The body comes in with lightness and a fine, creamy foam that enhances the feeling of weightlessness. This wine is fresh and easy, with a yeasty backdrop that gives substance to the fizz. The finish is dry and appetizing. Louis Latour Inc. —A.K.

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

**89 Simonnet-Febvre NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Hints of strawberry creep into the bright lemon nose of the wine. Fresh, rounded, bubbly and easy, the palate shows pretty fruit with some yeasty backdrop. The finish is dry, bright and refreshing. Louis Latour Inc. —A.K.

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

**89 Victorine de Chastenay 2014 Extra Brut Millésimé (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Subtle, lemony creaminess spreads from the glass. The palate of this wine comes in with frothy foam and slender freshness that is bedded in a slightly chalky, gentle texture. Lemony brightness marks the dry finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

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

**89 Vignerons de Mancey NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** The creamy richness Red Delicious apple flesh immediately fills this wine's nose with mellowness. The palate presents that ripe but dry and smooth flavor, too. Frothy bubbles add liveliness and freshness to the rounded wine and its dry finish. Authentic Wine Selections. —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**88 Albert Bichot NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A hint of lemon and slight whiff of strawberry are shy on this wine's nose. The bright palate is alive with frothy bubbles that make this both rounded and fresh. The finish is dry and appetizing. Albert Bichot USA. *Best Buy.* —A.K.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88 Cave L'Aurance NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** An initial hit of strawberry candy eases into a mellow note of ripe red apple on this wine's appetizing nose. With foamy froth, the palate presents a picture of mellowness and ease, supplementing the rich fruit with subtle freshness. Allied Beverage Group. —A.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Champliau NV Brut Authentique (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Fresh green-apple notes abound on this wine's fruity nose. The palate shows similar verve, bubbling with liveliness on the slender body. It's dry and apple-scented on the finish. Winebow. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Champliau NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A hint of wet earth comes with a sense of citrus coolness on this wine's nose. The rounded palate has more of that earthy edge that slowly morphs into citrus pithiness and texture. There is creamy foam and a sense of ripe freshness. The finish is dry. Winebow. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Domaine Marie André NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Fruity notes of white currant, yellow apple and Mirabelle plum are tender on this wine's nose. The palate is light, easy and frothy, wrapping its freshness in fruitiness. It finishes dry and fresh. Misa Imports. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 François Martenot 2018 Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Notes of ripe, green apple have hints of lime peel and pear drop on this wine's nose. Fruitiness is also evident on the palate where fine fizz adds creaminess to the freshness. The finish is dry and bright. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**88 JCB NV No. 21 Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Notes of Red Delicious apple on the nose of this wine have a leafy overtone of elderberry. The mellow palate has an earthy tinge, hinting at chalk but also wanting a little more definition. Rounded and smooth, the body comes to a dry finish. Boisset Collection. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88 La Burgondie NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A strawberry candy note abounds on the vivid and fresh nose of this wine. The palate adds ripe, red apple freshness as well as frothy but creamy foam, making this an easy, joyous, fruity and dry sparkler. Plume Ridge. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**88 Levert Frères 2018 Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Slight notes of red and yellow apple come with tender creaminess on this wine's nose. The slender palate also has lively apple notes and an easy, slightly creamy foam that makes this wine fresh and smooth. It is dry on the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Levert Frères 2018 Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Perfumes of ripe, juicy strawberries and strawberry candy float from the glass. The palate of this wine is rounded and fresh while the bubbles enhance that lovely strawberry note all the way to the dry finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Moillard 2017 Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Ripe red and green apple notes abound on this wine's fresh nose. The palate offers exuberant foaminess, more apple notes, freshness and slenderness. This wine is easy, dry, fruity and lively. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Moillard 2017 Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A hint of cotton candy is all that shows on this wine's nose. The palate has creaminess, freshness and fine bubbles but could do with more fruit precision. Nonetheless, this is refreshing and beautifully dry. Advantage International. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

**87 Chartron et Trébuchet 2017 Brut Chardonnay (Crémant de Bourgogne).** The shy nose on this wine reveals a mere hint of lemony yeastiness. The slender body has a slightly synthetic aspect of autolysis but also rounded yellow-apple freshness. It finishes dry and bright. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Chartron et Trébuchet 2017 Brut Pinot Noir (Crémant de Bourgogne).** The merest hint of creaminess softens lemon notes on this wine's nose. The palate is frothy, light and alive with bubbles that enhance its inherent freshness. It is dry and easy on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**87 Domaine des Terres de Velle NV Les Bulles Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** In this wine, initial flinty reduction blows off and reveals fresh apple and lemon notes. The frothy palate is easy and light, giving a sense of ripe, yellow-apple flesh and rounded freshness. Bubbles are lively and the finish is dry. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**87 François Gleisweiler NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** A lifted hint of something akin to pine presents itself first on this wine's fresh nose. On the palate, a rye-bread notion of autolysis adds yeasty mellowness to this fresh, smooth, dry wine. DHI Selections. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**87 Victorine de Chastenay NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** Notes of fresh pear, lemon and green apple unite into fruity freshness on this wine's nose. Just as fruity, the palate is also light and foamy. The finish is dry and fresh. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Victorine de Chastenay NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne).** This wine's nose gives away only a slight sense of lemon. The palate comes in with earthy, rounded freshness and lively froth. On the finish, it is earthy, dry and fresh. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

## SOUTHWEST FRANCE WHITE WINES

### JURANÇON

**96 Domaine Cauhapé 2014 Quintessence du Petit Manseng (Jurançon).** This golden late harvest wine is just an adolescent. Its intense richness and flavors of baked apricot and honeyed almonds are shot through with the signature acidity that gives this grape in this region its greatness. This wine is just drinkable, but to enjoy its beauties, wait until 2022. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$120

**95 Domaine Cauhapé 2015 Noblesse du Temps (Jurançon).** This beautiful wine, harvested in December 2015, is now mature. The oak aging has integrated, leaving traces of nutmeg to spice up the richly honeyed character. It is a smoothly seamless wine, elegant while also rich. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**94 Domaine Cauhapé 2017 Symphonie de Novembre (Jurançon).** Because Jurançon is a late harvest wine style, grapes can easily be harvested well into November. The year in wood has added spice to the honey and the baked apricot flavors. The wine is beautifully rich, laced with citrus acidity and just ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**92 Domaine Cauhapé 2018 Boléro (Jurançon).** Oak aging has brought out the honeyed character of this late harvest wine. It is rich, but intensely shot through with acidity to give freshness at the same time as the sweetness. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Domaine Cauhapé 2019 Ballet d'Octobre (Jurançon).** The noble grape of Jurançon aged in wood gives what is a medium sweet wine, beautifully delineated and hinting at yellow fruits and honey as well as spice. The wine will be ready from 2021. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

### JURANÇON SEC

**93 Domaine Cauhapé 2017 C de Cauhapé (Jurançon Sec).** Five local grapes, including three that are rare, go into this wood-aged wine. It is a



selection from the best of the vintage from each grape, giving a rich wine that is finely balanced and now mature. The wood aging shows as do the kiwi and white fruit flavors. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

**92** **Domaine Cauhapé 2018 La Canopée (Jurançon Sec).** Aged in wood for 12 months, this superrich wine is dense, spicy and approaching maturity. Its yellow fruit flavors are balanced by a tight, zesty character that brings out acidity. The wine is full though still young, and is likely to be best from 2021. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**92** **Domaine Cauhapé 2017 Quatre Temps (Jurançon Sec).** Half-and-half Petit and Gros Manseng, this dry wine has touches of honey and apricots as well as deliciously rich ripe apples. As a contrast to all this fruitiness, this fine wine is textured and perfumed and is ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**91** **Domaine Cauhapé 2019 Geyser (Jurançon Sec).** A blend that includes rare local grapes such as Camaralet, Petit Courbu and Lauzet gives complexity and great richness to the two primary Manseng grapes. It's an impressive evocation of the region—rich, spicy, citrusy and ready to drink from 2021. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Domaine Cauhapé 2019 Chant des Vignes (Jurançon Sec).** Crisp acidity allied to pineapple and kiwi flavors give this wine both freshness and bold, vibrant acidity. The wine, a blend of Gros Manseng and Camaralet, is ripe, touched by pepper and ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$15

**90** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 Clos de la Vierge Le Carré de Péés (Jurançon Sec).** This dry wine is rich, full with touches of honey along with ripe apricots. Its dryness comes through in the intense citrus acidity and the thrust of freshness to balance the wine's richness. Drink this delicious wine now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**89** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 Clos Cancaillou Le Lavoir (Jurançon Sec).** Petit Manseng in dry mode makes powerful wines with high alcohol levels. It shows in this wine with a burn on the palate, but at the same time, there is the grape's intense freshness from lemon and honey flavors. Drink from 2021. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

## SAINT MONT

**90** **Secret Vines 2018 Reborn Varietals Gros Manseng-Petit Courbu-Arrufiac (Saint Mont).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Plaimont 2018 Les Cépages Préservés (Saint Mont).** A blend of Gros Manseng, Petit Courbu and Arrufiac, this wine comes from three local varieties that are showing their quality. The wine is rich with ripe white fruits, tangy acidity and intense freshness. Drink now. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

## CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

**88** **Domaine Saint-Lannes 2019 Signature (Côtes de Gascogne).** With its blend of Colombard and Gros Manseng, this wine brings together ripe fruitiness of kiwi and fresh currants, all tied up with acidity. The wine is attractive and ready to drink. Russell Herman Selection. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Plaimont 2018 Domaine de Cassaigne Grand Vin (Côtes de Gascogne).** This ancient estate, just south of the Armagnac town of Condom, is managed by the Plaimont cooperative. This wine is fresh and fruity, touched with honey and apricots as well as bright citrus flavors. Drink now. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 L'Incomparable Beau Manseng (Côtes de Gascogne).** Along with its partner Petit Manseng, the Gros Manseng is a major variety in the southwest of France. This wine shows its ability to be both bone-dry and honeyed, ripe and intensely fresh. Drink this perfumed, fruity wine now. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**87** **Plaimont 2019 Big Born in Gascony (Côtes de Gascogne).** Gascogne is Gascony in English, and this wine celebrates the light and fresh white wines from the region. This naturally dry Gascon wine blend of Colombard and Gros Manseng has touches of honey as well fresh currants and tight, brilliant acidity. Drink now. Brickell Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**86** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 Pyrène Cuvée Marine (Côtes de Gascogne).** The crisp, cool and classic Gascon blend of Colombard, Sauvignon Blanc and Gros Manseng has yielded a bright, crisp wine, light as a feather and refreshingly fruity. With its light touch and lively acidity, the wine is ready to drink. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$10

## CÔTES DU LOT

**86** **Château Vincens 2019 La Pierre Levée Char-donnay (Côtes du Lot).** With some oak aging, this fruity wine has creamy acidity and an attractive spicy edge. With its pear and kiwi flavors, allied to toastiness, it is a balanced while still young. Drink from 2021. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

## ROSÉS

**87** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 Pyrène Le Temps des Roses Rosé (Comté Tolosan).** A rosé from the Négrette grape of Fronton, this is lightly textured with spice and peppered raspberry flavors. With its ripeness and texture, it is probably best as a food rosé. Drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**88** **Château Lagrézette 2019 Roseberry Malbec Rosé (Côtes du Lot).** An attractive fruity wine with a bite of pepper, this is poised between soft and crisp. Its bright acidity and raspberry fruitiness are just right. It's ready to drink. First Growth Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

**87** **Château Lagrézette 2019 Le Rosé de Julie Rosé (Côtes du Lot).** Made from 100% Malbec, this wine has ripeness as well as a rounded texture. Acidity shoots through, bringing with it raspberry flavors and shots of orange zest. Drink this attractive wine now. First Growth Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 La Dune Domaine de Bachen Rosé (Landes).** A blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc from the coastal Landes region, this is a rounded, red fruit ripe wine. With a hint of caramel to point up the acidity and the zesty texture, the wine is ready to drink. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## SOUTHWEST FRANCE RED WINES

### CAHORS

**94** **Château Vincens 2016 Graves de Paul (Cahors).** Selections from the estate's top parcels and aging in new wood for two years have produced an immensely rich wine. Polished and spicy, the wine has serious tannins as well as layers of black fruits. The wine is just there, and it is impressively ready to drink. DHI Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**94** **Paul Hobbs & Bertrand Gabriel Vigouroux 2015 Crocus La Roche Mère (Cahors).** This is

# BUYINGGUIDE

the top wine from a partnership between California consultant Paul Hobbs and the Vigouroux family of Cahors. It is a splendidly rich wine, with licorice, spice and swathes of powerful black fruits. There is an astonishing amount of freshness as well, with its acidity and black currant flavors balancing the wine's density. Drink from 2022. Paul Hobbs Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**93 Château Vincens 2018 Origine (Cahors).** Still totally young, this dense, structured and tannic wine shows strong wood aging flavors. Licorice and bitter chocolate emphasize the wine's youth and fine future. Drink from 2023. W. Direct. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**93 Château Vincens 2017 Origine (Cahors).** This pure Malbec wine is solid, dark with tannins and blueberry fruits. It is full and rich, dense with ripeness and serious concentration. With its richness still coalescing, the wine could age further, so drink from 2021. W. Direct. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**93 Paul Hobbs & Bertrand Gabriel Vigouroux 2015 Crocus Le Calcifère (Cahors).** Produced from vines on chalk soil, the wine is one of three produced by California-based consultant Paul Hobbs in partnership with the Vigouroux family in Cahors. Textured with strong touches of minerality as well as tannins, the wine has a richly juicy character as well as powerful black fruits. Concentration and wood aging give the wine its potential, which is not yet realized. Drink from 2022. Paul Hobbs Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**92 Château Lagrézette 2017 Cuvée Marguerite Massaut (Cahors).** Of course, this wine is still young, but it has great potential. Rich, packed with black fruits and with a smoky background, the wine has weight, density and a fine future with its black plum skin and acidity well in balance. Drink from 2022. First Growth Brands. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**91 Château Vincens 2018 Prestige (Cahors).** Grapes grown on the high terraces above the River Lot and oak aged are the source of this ripe wine. Its tannins speak of youth, and the wine with its dark black fruits does need to age to smooth out the structure and let the blackberry flavors and acidity speak. Drink from 2023. DHI Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Château Vincens 2017 Prestige (Cahors).** This blend of Malbec with some Merlot is a rich, oak-aged and still young wine. Its dark tannins and powerful tarry texture are lifted by the acidity and rich black plum flavors. Drink from 2022. DHI Selections. —R.V.

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

**90 Paul Hobbs & Bertrand Gabriel Vigouroux 2016 Crocus L'Atelier (Cahors).** One of three wines produced by California-based consultant Paul Hobbs in partnership with the Vigouroux family in Cahors, this is a rich, densely textured blend across different terroirs. It is concentrated, showing licorice flavors as well as black fruit and some firm extraction. So even after four years, the wine needs to soften. Drink from 2022. Paul Hobbs Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2018 Cahors Malbec (Cahors).** A rich and dense wine that has concentrated black fruits, firm tannins and bold, juicy richness. The wine is balanced, with its structure showing well against the fruit. Drink from 2021. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**88 Château Vincens 2019 P.U.R.E. (Cahors).** Made without added sulfur, this wine has fine black fruits and a texture that is already smoothing out. There are plenty of dark fruits tones as well as ripe tannins, with plenty of acidity to balance. Drink from 2021. DHI Selections. —R.V.

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

## BUZET

**91 Vignerons de Buzet 2016 Odalis (Buzet).** Wood aged for a year, this is a structured wine from a selection of grapes across the appellation. While still showing firm tannins, the wine also has the potential for elegant richness and balance. It will develop further and be ready from 2021. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**87 Vignerons de Buzet 2018 Volupie (Buzet).** A wine that is all about ripe black fruits, bold tannins and a light touch structure. The wine has an immediately appealing freshness at the end. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

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

## SAINT MONT

**91 Secret Vines 2016 The Original Tannat (Saint Mont).** For full review see page 17. **Editors' Choice.**

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Plaimont 2017 Cloche Bleue (Saint Mont).** Dominated by Tannat, this is a richly structured wine. Its bold fruits are full-bodied, edged with pepper and with generous blackberry flavors. The wine is just ready to drink. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

## MADIRAN

**95 Domaine Berthoumieu 2016 Vitis MCM (Madiran).** Once you've negotiated the awkwardly heavy bottle, the wine is a great pour. Powerfully tannic, it is rich in dark berry flavors and dense concentration. Because it is still young, its structure and firm extraction are still evident. As it matures, this will become a finely balanced wine. Drink from 2023. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**95 Domaine Berthoumieu 2015 Vitis MCM (Madiran).** This is a perfectly mature, superrich and structured wine. The Tannat has been tamed with age to produce its ripe black fruits allied to a leathery texture. Concentrated and deeply powerful, this wine is ready to drink. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**92 Domaine Berthoumieu 2018 Au Calvaire (Madiran).** This is a big wine in all senses. Its rich blackberry fruits are dense and concentrated, ripe in tannins as much as fruit at this stage. Dark chocolate flavors mingle with a solid structure to back up the massive fruits. The wine needs time, so drink from 2023. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**88 Domaine Berthoumieu 2018 Gloire de Virgile (Madiran).** This a dark and dense wine with forward rich black fruits and solidly integrated tannins. It revels in its juicy, bold fruitiness and spice flavors. Drink from 2021. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$12

## CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

**91 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2019 Tannat Sans Soufre Tannat (Côtes de Gascogne).** From the southwest Gascony region and bottled without sulfur, this wine has bold black fruits, ripe tannins and concentration. It is a rich wine, still a little young, but with a potential that will soon be realized. Drink this solid, firm wine from 2021. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**90 Plaimont 2018 Domaine de Cassaigne Grand Vin (Côtes de Gascogne).** This wine's unique blend includes a small percentage of Manseng Noir, a grape that has recently been rediscovered and propagated by the Producteurs Plaimont. The wine is smoothly textured and spicy, with a smoky edge and rich juiciness. It's immediately attractive, generous and ready to drink. Brickell Wines LLC. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**87 Plaimont 2019 Big Born in Gascony Merlot-Tannat (Côtes de Gascogne).** This wine is all about fruitiness and fresh stalkiness. Juicy and packed with red berry flavors, it will benefit from

being enjoyed slightly chilled. Drink now. Brickell Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

## OTHER RED WINES

**90** **Maison Bertrand Ravache 2019 Aligança (Gaillac).** A typical Gaillac blend of Merlot, Braucol, Syrah and Duras, this bright wine has structure and a fine spice and black fruit flavor. Juicy and full of enticing acidity, the wine is sure to be ready from 2021. Evaki Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2018 Fer de Soif Mansois (Marcillac).** From the foothills of the Massif Central mountains in central France, this wine celebrates a small appellation and its unique grape variety. Delightfully rustic, the wine is fruity, with bright red berry flavors and a lightly stalky texture. It is young, bright and ready to drink. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Domaine Fabien Castaing 2018 Domaine de Moulin-Pouzy (Bergerac).** A blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is soft, ripe and juicy. There is a lightly smoky character to go with the red currant and bright acidity. This is an attractive wine that is ready to drink now. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**86** **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2016 Le Pouvoir des Fleurs (Fronton).** Intensely floral, this wine, mainly of Négrette with a touch of Syrah, is perfumed with blackberry flavors and a crisp texture that gives the wine freshness to balance the fruitiness. Drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**85** **Maison Bertrand Ravache 2019 Origine 1749 Merlot-Malbec (Périgord).** With its farmyard aroma, this is a rustic wine. It has red fruits that come through the funky character, and they may prevail. Drink from 2021. Evaki Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES HERMITAGE

**96** **Delas Frères 2016 Domaine des Tourettes (Hermitage).** Buoyant aromas of marmalade, caramel and smoke accent pert yellow apple and pineapple here. A barrel-fermented blend of Marsanne (90%) and Roussanne (10%), it's voluminous and stately with a waxy, undulating mouthfeel freshened by a tangy mineral crush. It's maturing beautifully, gaining gorgeously honeyed, earthen tones, but should continue to improve for a decade

further. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$105

**96** **M. Chapoutier 2016 De l'Orée (Hermitage).** Wisps of tea leaves and caramelized honey swirl into freshly pressed apple and pear in this complex, elegant Marsanne. While intensely ripe and unctuous in mouthfeel, it's a remarkably pure sip brightened by soft tangerine acidity and a bristling mineral finish. Although enticing young, it should develop more earthen, honeyed complexities over the next decades. Terlato Wines International. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$160

**96** **M. Chapoutier 2016 L'Ermite (Hermitage).** Enticingly smoky, spicy notes of caramel and honey mingle into plump yellow plum, quince and apple in this decadently textured Marsanne. Chapoutier's flagship Hermitage Blanc, it's a luscious white matured on lees for 10 months in 100% new oak. The finish is marked by hints of earth, bramble and walnut. Lovely already but best to hold till 2026—it will improve for decades. Terlato Wines International. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$260

**95** **Christelle Betton 2017 Arpège (Hermitage).** Made from 100% Marsanne, this buxom dry white offers penetrating pear and tangerine flavors swirled with honey and cream. Fermented and aged in oak, it's an expansive but stately sip that finishes on lingering hints of tea tannins and dried flower petals. Lovely already but should gain earthier complexities through 2037. North Berkeley Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**95** **Delas Frères 2017 Domaine des Tourettes (Hermitage).** Delicate notes of white blossom and Asian pear introduce this rich, profoundly textural blend of 90% Marsanne and 10% Roussanne sourced from three different plots in Hermitage. Fermented in oak for 9–12 months, it's a creamy, delicately spiced sip but refreshingly mineral, too. It's enticing in youth but will improve over the next two decades. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$105

**95** **Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 Le Reverdy (Hermitage).** Radiant red apple and quince are accented by spring blossoms, hazelnut and honey in this luscious blend of Marsanne and Roussanne sourced from Les Beaumes and Le Méal in Hermitage. Fermented and aged in oak, it's a dramatically textural, creamy sip that lingers long on notes of nougat and caramel. Delightful already but should gain earthier complexities for decades. Sera Wine Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90

**95** **M. Chapoutier 2017 Chante-Alouette (Hermitage).** Initially restrained aromas of tart apple and smoke subside with aeration to reveal vibrant pear, quince and tangerine. Made from

100% Marsanne sourced from three different sites in Hermitage, it's opulent but fresh and etched by notes of walnut, pastry and dried ginger. Fermented and aged only partially in oak, it's an unusually precise expression of Hermitage that should gain complexity over the next decades. Terlato Wines International. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$130

**95** **M. Chapoutier 2016 Le Méal (Hermitage).** Initial notes of smoke and earth dissipate with aeration to reveal perfumed notes of quince, ginger and pear. It's a rich, expansive white made from 100-year-old Marsanne grapes grown on the chalk and alluvial soils of the Le Méal vineyard. In youth, it offers pristine orchard fruit and spice, but it's a wine that's better left till 2022 at least. It will reward cellaring for decades. 300 cases produced. Terlato Wines International. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$190

**94** **Cave de Tain 2017 Au Coeur des Siècles Sélection Parcelle (Hermitage).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$97

**94** **Domaine Belle 2017 Hermitage.** Sunny yellow apple and pear introduce this opulent, intensely concentrated blend of organic Marsanne (60%) and Roussanne (40%), sourced from sandy limestone soils. While dry in style, it's an unctuously honeyed white, peppered by oak inflections of vanilla and biscuit. An open-knit but elegant wine that's approachable in youth but will develop savory complexities for decades. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**94** **Domaine Philippe & Vincent Jaboulet 2016 Hermitage.** Fresh apple, lemon and quince are pure and pristine in this freshly composed 100% Roussanne sourced from loess soils. Despite being fermented and matured in oak (50% new), it's a remarkably precise, focused expression of Hermitage that should gain more depth and nuance with age. Best to hold through 2021—it's a wine that's likely to improve through 2036 at least. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**94** **Gabriel Meffre 2017 Laurus (Hermitage).** Fresh apple and pineapple flavors are swathed in honey and cream in this soft but freshly balanced dry white. Made from 100% Marsanne fermented and aged in barrel, it's a rich, lavish wine that lingers on notes of vanilla, honeysuckle and sweet spice. Stunning in its youth but should gain complexity for decades. Vision Wine & Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**94** **Gabriel Meffre 2016 Laurus (Hermitage).** Burnt caramel, vanilla and spice lend warmth to this rich, creamy Marsanne. Tangerine acidity on the palate is sunny and soft but augmented by a fresh mineral tone. It's a hedonistic, voluptuous sip that's welcoming in youth but likely



# BUYINGGUIDE

to age beautifully for decades. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**93 Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 Les Miaux (Hermitage).** Wisps of fresh yellow apple, pear and lemon penetrate this delightfully silken Marsanne. Accented by hints of walnut skin and ginger, it's a concentrated sip with a juicy, enveloping palate. Quite lovely in its youth but should gain complexity through 2030. Sera Wine Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**92 Jean-Claude et Nicolas Fayolle 2017 Les Dionnières (Hermitage).** Initial impressions are smoky and restrained, but a bit of aeration brings out zesty lemon and yellow apple tones here. Made from 100% Marsanne aged seven months in old barriques, it's a vibrantly fruity, fresh-footed expression of Hermitage. The finish is marked by a crisp, mineral lift. Ready now but should hold through 2027. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## CROZES-HERMITAGE

**91 Domaine du Colombier 2017 Cuvée Gaby (Crozes-Hermitage).** Layers of smoked nut, vanilla and caramel swaddle fresh yellow apple and pear in this very lavish oak-aged Marsanne. It's a full-bodied, richly textured wine that's pleasant in youth for its pert orchard-fruit flavors but has a concentration and density that suggests it should age even better. Approachable now but should improve through 2030. Cape Classics. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Domaine les 4 Vents 2017 La Rage (Crozes-Hermitage).** A fascinating comparison to the producer's 100% Roussanne Les Pitchounettes, La Rage is made from 100% Marsanne and highlights the grape's fresh floral and crisp red apple perfume. It's a full-bodied, lavishly textural wine that's crystalline and mineral. At peak now but should hold through 2023. Krewe du Bizou Wines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$25

**90 Domaine les 4 Vents 2017 Les Pitchounettes (Crozes-Hermitage).** Perfumed notes of preserved quince and tangerine introduce this juicy, freshly balanced Roussanne. It's full-bodied and voluptuous but anchored by sunny lemon acidity and a lingering salty finish. Lovely now but should hold through 2023. Nomadic Distribution. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Domaine Mucyn 2017 Les Charmeuses (Crozes-Hermitage).** Waxy yellow apple and pear flavors are freshly concentrated in this full-bodied blend of 60% Marsanne and 40% Roussanne sourced from sandy clay and loess soils. It's lavishly textured, almost honeyed, on the palate but balanced by tangy citrus acidity and a salty, mineral finish. Best now–2024. Margaux & Company. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 Le Grand Courtil (Crozes-Hermitage).** Fresh grapefruit acidity lifts softer notes of yellow apple, pear and tangerine in this sunny, medium-bodied white. Juicy and forward yet refreshingly dry and mineral, it's drinking at peak now but should hold through 2023. Sera Wine Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 François Villard 2017 Cour de Recre (Crozes-Hermitage).** Skeins of caramel, smoke and hazelnut mingle into tangerine and yellow pear in this rich, rounded 100% Marsanne. It's a luscious, yogurt-tipped sip lifted by a fresh mineral undertone. At peak now but should hold through 2025. Jack Edwards Collection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Pierre le Grand 2017 Crozes-Hermitage.** Whiffs of candlewax and hazelnut accent delicate apple and lemon in this full-bodied, juicy white, a blend of 60% Marsanne and 40% Roussanne. The palate showcases crisp yellow pear flavor edged with crushed stone and salt. Best now–2024. Misa Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Domaine de la Ville Rouge 2017 Cuvée Nathan (Crozes-Hermitage).** Perfumed notes of white blossoms and anise accent pert yellow plums and apples here. A blend of Marsanne (70%) and Roussanne (30%) grown in alluvial soils, it's a plump, softly textured sip with sunny, citrus acidity. The finish lingers on hints of tea leaf and cinnamon. At peak now. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Fayolle Fils & Fille 2017 Crozes-Hermitage.** Charred underbrush and bramble lend savory contrast to plump, juicy yellow plum and grapefruit here. A blend of Marsanne (60%) and Roussanne (40%) vinified and matured in stainless steel, it's a refreshingly fruity, sunny dry white. Best enjoyed now–2023. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Olivier Dumaine 2017 La Croix du Verre (Crozes-Hermitage).** Hints of salted caramel, yellow apple and pear introduce this 100% Marsanne. Full-bodied and lusciously waxy on the palate, it's a creamy sip with soft, sunny acidity but it's lifted by a fresh mineral finish. Best now–2023. Chloe Wine Collection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Paul Jaboulet Aîné 2017 Crozes-Hermitage.** While subdued and earthen on the nose, delicate apple and pear notes gain intensity on the palate of this plush, open-knit Marsanne. Sourced from alluvial soils and matured partially in oak, it's a full-bodied, softly edged wine that finishes on lingering mineral tones. Best now–2023. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**88 Domaine Melody 2017 Chaos Blanc (Crozes-Hermitage).** While herbaceous and brambly on the nose, this blend of 70% Roussanne and 30% Marsanne offers bright apple and pear flavors. It's a rich, generous sip that's been fermented and matured in wood. An elegant wine that finishes on lingering notes of cream and smoked nut. Best now–2024. American B.D. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Jean-Claude et Nicolas Fayolle 2017 La Rochette (Crozes-Hermitage).** Salted caramel notes lend spice to fresh apple and pear in this full-bodied 100% Marsanne. It's a richly textured, pleasantly waxy sip that finishes on a bite of tea tannins. At peak now. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Laurent Habrard 2017 Grand Classique (Crozes-Hermitage).** Unoaked, pristine tangerine and pear flavors take center stage in this full-bodied blend of Marsanne (90%) and Roussanne (10%) sourced from loess and granite soils. It's a juicy, easy-drinking dry white accented by hints of bramble and underbrush. At peak now but should hold through 2022. Vin de Frog. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 NewRhône Millesimes 2017 Romain Duvernay (Crozes-Hermitage).** Delicate notes of crushed mineral and smoked hazelnut accent fresh apple and pear in this full-bodied, freshly composed white. It's not deeply concentrated, but it is thirst-quenching. The pristine finish is accentuated by a salty, margarita-rim tang. At peak now but should hold through 2022. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## LIRAC

**93 Domaine de la Mordorée 2018 La Reine des Bois (Lirac).** Plumes of spring blossom and grapefruit zest perfume this exuberant dry white. A rich, full-bodied blend of six regional white grape varieties, it's buoyantly peachy but maintains a fresh mineral balance. At peak now but should hold through 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Domaine Maby 2018 Casta Diva (Lirac).** A blend of 60% Viognier and 40% Grenache Blanc, this richly textured white balances the opulence of oak-fermented Viognier with the peachy freshness of Grenache Blanc. Whiffs of vanilla and smoke are prominent on the nose but integrate neatly on the palate. The finish is subtle and quite elegant. At peak now but should drink well through 2024. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Château d'Aqueria 2018 Lirac.** Zesty, thirst-quenching grapefruit and white peach are accented by hints of smoke and hazelnut in this full-bodied white. An unoaked blend of five regional white grape varieties, it's a fruit-forward yet

refreshingly mineral wine that's best enjoyed young. Kobrand. —A.I.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**90 Château de Montfaucon 2018 Comtesse Madeleine (Lirac).** Bold proportions of Marsanne and Clairette (augmented by lesser proportions of Grenache Blanc and Picpoul) lend richness to pert pineapple and lemon flavors here. It's a medium-bodied, juicy dry white that finishes on a murmur of smoked nuts. At peak now but should hold through 2023. Maverick Selections. —A.I.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**90 Château de Montfaucon 2017 Vin de Madame la Comtesse (Lirac).** Made from 99% Clairette with just 1% of Grenache, this is such a juicy, thirst-quenching expression of a white Rhône wine. While fermented and aged *en barrique*, the palate bursts of zesty pineapple and tangerine flavors before finishing on delicate whispers of sweet spice and vanilla. Best enjoyed young. Old World Import/Export. —A.I.  
abv: 14% Price: \$37

**90 Château de Ségrès 2017 Lirac.** Chalky mineral tones highlight brisk pineapple and white pear in this full-bodied but fresh dry white. A blend of Ugni Blanc, Clairette, Roussanne and Picpoul, it's juicy but elegant with a zesty, stony finish. Best enjoyed young. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
abv: 14% Price: \$24

**90 Domaine des Marvilhas 2018 Pradoux (Lirac).** Fresh white peach, pineapple and grapefruit abound in this thirst-quenching, unoaked blend of Grenache Blanc and Bourboulenc. Medium-bodied and briskly balanced, it finishes on bites of tart pineapple and thyme. Best through 2022. Biodynamic. —A.I.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**90 Mas Isabelle 2018 Blanc Roc (Lirac).** A touch of almond nougat lends richness to crisp pear and white peach in this full-bodied, textured blend of five regional white grape varieties. It's a generous, broad-shouldered dry white but maintains crisp tangerine acidity and a bristling mineral finish. Best through 2023. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.I.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**89 Château de Bouchassy 2018 Eglantine (Lirac).** Bright, juicy pineapple and tangerine flavors are etched by veins of crushed earth in this full-bodied but zesty dry white. Unoaked and pristine, it's a blend of Grenache (40%), Clairette (30%), Roussanne (15%) and Viognier (15%) with a pert citrus finish. Ready to drink now. Gifted Grape. —A.I.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**89 Domaine Come-Loup 2018 Lirac.** Dusty mineral tones are demure on the nose initially, but the palate of this full-bodied, juicy blend of Grenache Blanc (40%), Roussanne (30%) and Viognier (30%) offers cutting pineapple and white

nectarine flavors. It's a subdued but refreshing wine best enjoyed young. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
abv: 14% Price: \$24

**88 Château de Manissy 2018 Trinité (Lirac).** Intensely rocky mineral notes dominate this pert, freshly balanced blend of Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Viognier. Lemon and apple flavors are not deeply concentrated but crisp. The finish is thirst-quenching and clean. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.I.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**88 Château le Devoy Martine 2018 Via Secreta (Lirac).** More stony minerality than overt fruit, this dry, medium-bodied white is an unoaked blend of equal parts Bourboulenc, Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Roussanne. Subtle citrus notes refresh the finish. Ready to drink now but welcomes a bit of aeration before serving. Sacred Thirst Selections. —A.I.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**88 Domaine des Carabiniers 2018 Lirac.** While initially quite closed and earthen, aeration introduces crisp white peach and red apple notes in this dry, full-bodied blend of Grenache Blanc (50%), Roussanne (25%) and Viognier (25%). It's not a deeply concentrated wine, but it is vital and fresh. At peak now—2023. —A.I.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**88 Domaine Lafond 2018 Lirac.** The nose is demure here but the palate offers crisp, cutting yellow apple and pear flavors accented by tings of stony minerality. While full-bodied and plump in mouthfeel, it's a pertly balanced blend of Grenache Blanc (50%), Roussanne (30%) and Viognier (20%) that should drink well through 2023. Alain Jauguenet Selection. —A.I.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**88 Domaine Maby 2018 La Fermade (Lirac).** Delicate notes of crushed stone lend freshness to crisp yellow apple and pear flavors in this easy-drinking, unoaked blend of Grenache Blanc, Clairette and Picpoul. It's full-bodied but briskly concentrated and finishes on a kick of sweet spice. Best enjoyed young. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**88 Vignobles Assemat 2018 Lirac.** Bright yellow apple and pear extend from nose to finish in this juicy, fruit-forward dry white. Unoaked and unadorned, it's an easy-drinking, crisply composed wine best enjoyed young. Terroirs Wine Export. —A.I.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

## MUSCAT DE BEAUMES DE VENISE

**92 Arnoux & Fils 2018 Tresor du Clocher (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise).** Perfumed notes of white peach and honeysuckle introduce this intensely fruity but pure, almost crystalline vin

doux naturel. Made from 100% Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains, it's sumptuously sweet but freshly balanced. Enjoy young to maximize its vitality and perfume. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.  
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

**91 Domaine de la Pigeade 2018 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise.** Elegant, subtle notes of honeydew and white peach are filigreed by fine shards of minerality in this concentrated, balanced vin doux naturel. Juicy peach, apricot and honeysuckle flavors are gorgeously concentrated but vibrant and pristine. A pleasantly sweet tippie with a fresh, mineral finish. Vitis Imports. —A.I.  
abv: 15% Price: \$18

**91 Domaine la Ligière 2017 Chante Coucou (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise).** Intoxicating aromas of white peach, cantaloupe and honey explode from the glass of this decadent yet gorgeously balanced vin doux naturel. It's a penetrating, concentrated wine packed with lip-smacking stone fruit flavor but finishes vibrantly on a kiss of white blossom. Best enjoyed young. AP Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
abv: 15% Price: \$32

**91 Gabriel Meffre 2017 Laurus (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise).** A touch of caramelized sugar introduces this unctuous, lusciously concentrated vin doux naturel made from 100% Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains. Flavors of honey, white peach and tangerine penetrate the palate and linger long and silky on the invigorating finish. Best enjoyed young. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.  
abv: 15% Price: \$22/500 ml

**91 Ravoire et Fils 2018 Manon (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise).** While a touch spry on the nose, intensely ripe honeydew and yellow peach flavors maintain freshness on the palate of this silky, supple vin doux naturel. It's a ripe, supple sip with balanced sweetness and an invigorating lift of honeysuckle perfume that lingers on the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.  
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

**90 Domaine des Bernardins 2018 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise.** Dusky pink in hue, this blend of 75% white and 25% black Muscat à Petits Grains offers sunny peach and blood orange flavors edged by a touch of aperol-like bitterness. It's lusciously sweet, even a touch marmalade like, but balanced alcohol and fresh acidity lead a vibrant finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
abv: 15% Price: \$20

**88 Domaine de Fenouillet 2018 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise.** While a touch spry on the nose, whiffs of green herbs and white blossoms carry nicely onto the palate of this profoundly fruity Muscat. Yellow peach and pineapple flavors are a touch syrupy, but balanced alcohol and a lift of minerality lend freshness on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.I.  
abv: 15% Price: \$23

**88 RhonéA 2018 Carte Or (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise).** Silken, succulent yellow peach and marmalade flavors undulate on the palate of this slightly syrupy vin doux naturel. It's an intensely fruity sip with a properly sweet but balanced finish. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$28

**88 RhonéA 2018 Domaine du Papatrotier (Muscat de Beaumes de Venise).** Intensely peachy from nose to finish, this supple vin doux naturel made from 100% Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains offers concentrated, honeyed sweetness offset by a touch of earthen minerality. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18/375 ml

## RHÔNE VALLEY

### RED WINES

#### CÔTE-RÔTIE

**96 Domaine Christophe Pichon 2017 La Comtesse en Côte Blonde (Côte-Rôtie).** Packed with pristine black cherry and raspberry flavor, this medium-bodied Syrah is a gloriously perfumed expression of Côte Blonde. It's sunny and charming in fruit profile but elevated by subtle hints of fur, crushed earth and charred bramble, too. While tempting in its youth, it should gain complexity well past 2030. Wade & Clark Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$85

**95 Domaine Martin Clerc 2017 Coteau de Tupin (Côte-Rôtie).** Radiant notes of black raspberry and black-cherry preserves are accentuated by complexities of violet, crushed granite and clove in this pure-fruited, supple wine. Matured for 18 months *en barrique* (20% new), it's a hedonistic, spicy sip but briskly structured, too, held upright by piercing acidity and firm, gripping tannins. Lovely already but should improve through 2030 and hold further. Shiverick Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$71

**95 Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 L'Eglantine (Côte-Rôtie).** Pronounced notes of char and vanilla but also fur and black olive perfume this complex, intriguing Syrah. Blackberry and cherry flavors are sultry on the palate but offset by tart cassis acidity and a bristling granitic finish. At peak 2021–2030 but should hold further. Sera Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**95 Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 Montmain (Côte-Rôtie).** A cooling spine of granite lends freshness to pristinely ripe black currant and raspberry flavors here. It's a delicate, finessed Syrah—more ballerina than powerhouse—but penetrating in fruit. Whispers of smoke, licorice and peppery herbs linger on the finish. At peak 2021–2030 but

should hold further. Sera Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$85

**94 Domaine Benjamin et David Duclaux 2017 La Germiné (Côte-Rôtie).** La Germiné is this producer's midrange Côte Rôtie offering relying on older vines than La Chana, and a touch less new oak than the Maison Rouge. It's a gorgeously pure-fruited expression of cassis and black cherries edged by perfumed notes of lilac, dried thyme and anise. Intensely concentrated and silken on the finish, it's lovely young but should improve through 2030 and hold further still. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**94 Domaine Christophe Billon 2017 Les Elotins (Côte-Rôtie).** Whispers of fur, charcuterie and smoke lend savory complexity to luminous cassis and mulberry flavors here. A blend of 97% Syrah and 3% Viognier sourced from schist and mica slopes, it's boasts a gleaming acidic spine and fresh, mineral undertone that are revitalizing. Rich, chewy tannins should meld with time and while appealing already, it's a wine that should peak from 2021–2030 hold further still. Fass Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**94 Domaine Christophe Pichon 2017 Rozier (Côte-Rôtie).** Sourced from 50-year-old vines planted on schist soils, this is a gloriously concentrated Syrah packed with luminous cassis and blackberry flavors. Prominent oak tones of smoke, vanilla and cacao are balanced by pristine fruit and a bristling acidic edge. It's lovely in its youth but should develop depth and complexity through 2030 and hold further still. Wade & Clark Wine Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**94 Ravoire et Fils 2017 Olivier Ravoire (Côte-Rôtie).** Pronounced violet perfume accents blackberry and black currant flavors in this satin-edged Syrah. Matured for 18 months in new and one-year-old French oak, it's a lavish wine streaked by veins of vanilla and smoke but crisp acidity and a flurry of green herbs lend freshness to the mid palate. Firm, gripping tannins need some time to meld but it should be at peak from 2021–2030. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**94 Vignobles Verzier 2017 Indiscrète (Côte-Rôtie).** Savory, herbaceous notes of dried violets, bramble and charred underbrush lend elegance to ripe, restrained black cherry and cassis here. This is a slender, sylphlike Syrah with a pert acidic spine and slightly green tannins that lend a peppery bite to the finish. Should reach peak from 2021–2030 but hold longer as well. Beaune Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Domaine B. Burgaud 2017 Côte-Rôtie.** Intriguing whiffs of fur, charred earth and

violet perfume this freshly concentrated Syrah made from destemmed grapes and vinified with native yeast. It's a refreshingly classic, spry expression of Côte Rôtie compared with increasingly richer, riper ones. The long finish is marked by velvet, persistent tannins. Lovely already but should improve through 2027. Martine's Wines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**93 Domaine Benjamin et David Duclaux 2017 Maison Rouge (Côte-Rôtie).** Hints of toast, cinnamon and bramble mingle into ripe black raspberry and cassis flavors here. Matured 20 months *en barrique* (40% new), it's a softly edged, delicately textured sip that falls on smooth, feathery tannins. Approachable in youth but should gain complexity through 2030. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

**93 Domaine de Bonserine 2017 La Sarrasine (Côte-Rôtie).** A blend of Syrah (and 3% Viognier) sourced from seven different plots of Côte Rôtie, this is a slender, silken sip packed with juicy black raspberry and cherry flavors. It's an immediately approachable, fresh-fruited wine but maintains classic nuances of smoke, bacon fat and crushed earth. The finish is marked by fine, feathery tannins. Best now–2030. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**93 Domaine Martin Clerc 2017 Collet (Côte-Rôtie).** Intensely ripe, luscious cassis and mulberry flavors maintain the same perfumed, spicy tone of this producer's Coteau de Tupin bottling, but there's a breathtaking freshness here accentuated by a pleasantly green, herbaceous tone. It's a moderately full-bodied, freshly concentrated sip that finishes on fine, feathery tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2030. Shiverick Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$66

**92 Domaine Benjamin et David Duclaux 2017 La Chana (Côte-Rôtie).** Sourced from young Syrah vines (15–20 years old) planted on a bedrock of gneiss, this is a fresh, pertly composed red. Black currant and cassis flavors are pure and pristine, edged by whispers of anise and black pepper and fine, feathery tannins. A youthful, vibrant style of Côte Rôtie to enjoy now–2030. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**92 Gabriel Meffre 2017 Laurus (Côte-Rôtie).** A balanced blend of Côte Brune's power and Côte Blonde's sunny charm, this medium-bodied but luscious Syrah calibrates smoky, slightly meaty complexities against pristine blackberry and raspberry flavor. It's a juicy, immediately enjoyable wine accentuated by soft, feathery tannins and a lingering whisper of ore. At peak through 2030. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$63

**92 Louis Bernard 2017 Côte-Rôtie.** Enticing notes of rose petal, charred earth and



underbrush accent intensely ripe, glossy cassis in this slim, spry Côte Rôtie. It's intensely ripe but freshly balanced and finishes on pert, upright tannins. Ready to approach now but should hold through 2027. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## CORNAS

**95 Domaine Philippe & Vincent Jaboulet 2016 Cornas.** Hints of bramble, cacao and anise lend spice to penetrating blackberry and blueberry here. Sourced from high-altitude granite soils, it's a vibrant, freshly composed Syrah. Two years of maturation in oak barrels (50% new) accentuate its rounded mouthfeel and fine-grained, softly tannic finish. Should improve through 2037 and hold further. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**95 Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 Les Eygats (Cornas).** Radiantly ripe black plum and black cherry notes are muted by hints of earth, leather and ore in this richly tannic, mouthfilling wine sourced from high-altitude sites above the village of Cornas. It's glossy, perfumed style is enticing in its youth but should show even better from 2022 and improve well through 2037. Sera Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**95 Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 Les Grands Mûriers (Cornas).** Pure, unadulterated cassis and blackberry extend from nose to finish in this intensely concentrated Syrah. Made from partially destemmed grapes, it's rich and glossy but shaded by hints of dark earth, granite and leather. Ripe, integrated tannins seem coated in cocoa powder and chalk. Approachable already but should improve through 2030 and hold further. Sera Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$62

**94 Alain Voge 2016 Les Vieilles Fontaines (Cornas).** Whispers of violet, licorice and granite extend from nose to finish in this moderately full, succulent red. It's a gloriously ripe, finessed expression of 80-year-old Syrah planted on granitic slopes. Plump and penetrating, it finishes on chalky, mouthfilling tannins. Quite lovely in youth but should improve through 2027. Citadel Trading. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$165

**94 Domaine Christophe Pichon 2017 Allégorie (Cornas).** Sourced from Syrah grown on high-altitude granite slopes, this moderately full-bodied, silken wine offers scintillating black plum and cassis flavors edged by smoke, earth and iron. It's a rich, satisfying wine that's briskly balanced in acidity and framed by fine, penetrating tannins. Lovely already but should gain complexity through 2030. Wade & Clark Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**94 Éric & Joël Durand 2017 Confidence (Cornas).** Whispers of leather saddle, charred earth and smoke penetrate this uniquely rustic Syrah aged 18 months in 30% new barriques. Flavors of black plum and blueberry preserves are intensely concentrated but freshened by a firm, granitic undertone and coarse tannins. Approachable now but should improve through 2030. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$51

**94 Ferraton Père et Fils 2017 Patou (Cornas).** Whiffs of violet candy and licorice lend gorgeous perfume to mulberry and cassis here. Made from Syrah sourced from a fully south facing, granite slope, it's decadently ripe but luminous. Rich, ripe tannins envelope a long, penetrating finish. Approachable already but should improve through 2030 and hold further. Sera Wine Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Cave de Tain 2017 Arènes Sauvages (Cornas).** Maturation in new French oak lends prominent accents of char, vanilla and nutmeg to this glossy, black fruited Syrah. It's a flamboyant, intensely luscious sip packed with crème de cassis and mulberry flavors, but precisely composed, too. Youthful fruit flavors are immediately hedonistic, but the coarse, gripping tannins should meld better through 2030. Hand Picked Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100

**93 NewRhône Millesimes 2017 Romain Duvernay (Cornas).** Roasted plum and black cherry compote are accented by whiffs of sweet spice and autumn leaves in this powerfully concentrated Syrah. Moderately full in body, it's opulent but subtly earthen, too, and finishes on ripe, mouthfilling tannins. Approachable already yet should improve through 2027. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Domaine des Remizières 2017 Cornas.** This is a bit closed upon opening, suggesting more earth and smoke than fruit, but some time and aeration coax out ripe, rich notes of black cherry and plum compote. It's a soft, fleshy Cornas accented by hints of smoked nut and leather anise and coated in soft, yielding tannins. Approachable now but should hold through 2027. French Libation. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**92 Éric & Joël Durand 2017 Empreintes (Cornas).** Flavors of spicy black cherry compote and baked plums abound in this rich, almost fleshy expression of Cornas. Aged in 20% new barriques, it's a soft, open-knit Syrah framed by silky tannins and lingering whiffs of earth and scorched underbrush. Approachable now but should hold through 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$39

**92 Éric & Joël Durand 2017 Prémices (Cornas).** Ripe, luminous plum preserve and cassis liqueur abound in this supple oak-aged Syrah. Sourced from younger vines (15–30 years old), it's a fresher, more primary expression of Cornas than the producer's Confidence or Empreintes bottlings. It's

ready to enjoy in its youth but should hold through 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

## VINSOBRES

**91 Chateau MontPlaisir 2017 Expressions (Vinsobres).** A fresh, invigorating blend of Syrah (60%) and Grenache (40%), this pert, firmly tannic red offers a structured, elegant expression of Vinsobres. Blackberry and cherry flavors are crisp and cutting, etched by bold strikes of *garrigue* and a lingering minerality. It's approachable now but likely to improve through 2027. Amphorium LLC. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Domaine Constant-Duquesnoy 2017 Vinsobres.** Mouthfilling licorice and cassis flavors mark this sexy, hedonistic blend of Grenache (60%) and Syrah (40%). Aged briefly *en barrique*, it's luminously fruity but shaded by whiffs of charcuterie, clove and smoke. Full-bodied and glossy in tannins, it's an immediately inviting wine to enjoy through 2027. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$24

**90 Pierre Amadieu 2017 Les Piallats (Vinsobres).** Sourced from Grenache and Syrah grown on the northern heights of Vinsobres, this full-bodied but invigorating red offers zesty blackberry and cherry flavors. It's lavishly fruity but accented by layers of wild thyme, mint and earth. The finish is velvety and lingers on a warming touch of vanilla. Ready now but should drink well through 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Cellier des Dauphins 2017 Crus des Côtes du Rhône Vinsobres (Vinsobres).** This is a rich, velvety blend of Grenache (65%) and Syrah (35%) accented by perfumed notes of cacao, violet and herbes de Provence. Black cherry and plum flavors are lusciously concentrated, leading into a long, softly tannic finish. A glossy, supple wine that's ready now but is structured enough to enjoy through 2025. Plume Ridge. —A.I.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$20

**89 Maison François-Xavier Nicolas 2017 Réserves des Quatre Seigneurs (Vinsobres).** Dark and brooding, this ripe, ruddy blend of Grenache and Syrah offers densely concentrated black cherry and plum flavors accented by char, smoke and earth. Full-bodied and lusciously textured, it's a rich, tannic wine that's appealing in youth but structured enough to enjoy through 2025. MHW, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Domaine Autrand 2017 Vinsobres.** Brooding, heady notes of baked plum and preserved cherry introduce this powerhouse blend of equal parts Grenache and Syrah. It's a rich, densely textured wine marked by intense layers of thyme,

# BUYINGGUIDE

sage and bramble. The finish is marked by a kiss of warmth. At peak now–2025. Misa Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## RASTEAU

**93 Brunel Père et Fils 2017 Château de la Gardine (Rasteau).** Vibrant black cherry and plum preserves are etched by veins of dusty mineral and earth in this voluptuous but vibrantly balanced red. A blend of 75% Grenache and 25% Syrah, it's peppery and focused, finishing on fine, firm tannins and a kick of acidity. Should improve through 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Domaine Brusset 2018 La Bastide (Rasteau).** Bramble and charred *garrigue* accent ripe, tangy blackberry and boysenberry in this invigorating blend of Grenache and Mourvèdre. It's a leaner, brisker expression of Rasteau that finishes on a bold, mineral tone. Lovely now but should drink well through 2030. MS Walker. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Domaine de l'Espigouette 2017 Rasteau.** A blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Mourvèdre, this bright, lusciously fruity wine offers concentrated cassis flavors edged by bramble, crushed stone and peppery spice. It's full-bodied but freshly composed, and the finish is marked by fine-grained, velveteen tannins. At peak now but should hold through 2027. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Domaine des Escaravailles 2017 Heritage 1924 (Rasteau).** Initial notes of smoke and earth are replaced by pert, sun-kissed blackberries and plum with time and aeration. This is a rich, full-throttle varietal Grenache packed with sultry black fruit flavors. It's powerful but subtly nuanced, too, edged by hints of graphite and licorice. Soft, smooth tannins make it approachable already but it's sturdy enough to improve through 2030. European Wine Group. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Domaine la Soumade 2017 Á Johanne (Rasteau).** The nose is quiet here, suggesting just a whiff of burnt caramel and subtle black fruit. But the palate of this full-bodied blend of Grenache (80%) and Syrah (20%) offers layer upon layer of ripe, pristine black plum and cassis edged by sun-baked *garrigue* and smoky charcuterie. A lavish but elegant wine with firm, gripping tannins, it should drink well through 2030. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$55

**92 Cave de Rasteau 2018 Les Peyrieres (Rasteau).** Earthen whiffs of sunbaked clay and buckwheat mingle into plump, juicy black cherry and fig in this sultry blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%). It's a richer, slightly spicier expression of Rasteau than this

producer's standard bottling. A luscious sip that finishes long on fine-grained, penetrating tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2028. Saranty Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Domaine Beau Mistral 2018 La Bastide Saint Martin (Rasteau).** There's a refreshing restraint to this full-bodied but mineral-focused blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Blackberry and cassis flavors are luscious but pristine, framed by dark earth tones and a lifting spray of acidity. An elegant, invigorating expression of Rasteau that's ready to drink now–2028. The Wine Source. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Domaine de Verquiere 2017 Rasteau.** This is a glossy, succulent blend of Grenache (70%) and Syrah (30%) assembled from two distinct terroirs in Rasteau. Mulberry and cassis flavors are concentrated and plush but edged by hints of earth, *garrigue* and cacao powder. An elegant but hedonistic sip to enjoy now–2030. French Libation. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Domaine des Escaravailles 2017 La Ponce Rhône-style Red Blend (Rasteau).** Bold notes of olive and thyme mingle into cassis and plum on the nose of this seductive, sultry blend of Grenache (80%) and Syrah (20%). It's gloriously ripe but elegant structured by strikes of fresh acidity and a firm mineral finish. Drinks well now but should improve through 2027. European Wine Group. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Domaine Elodie Balme 2017 Rasteau.** Complexities of smoke, saddle and charred *garrigue* juxtapose buoyantly ripe, juicy flavors of raspberry and blackberry here. It's full-bodied and gloriously fruity but tinged by just enough savory notes to maintain elegance. The finish is marked by firm, upright tannins. Delightful young but should hold through 2027. Louis/Dressner Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**92 Domaine la Soumade 2017 Rasteau.** Whiffs of dried thyme, sage and charred earth lend a savory balance to penetrating cassis and cherry flavors. A Grenache-dominant blend with Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's gorgeously primary in fruit character yet finessed and firm in structure, too. Gripping, almost fiery tannins should meld nicely through 2030. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Domaine la Soumade 2017 Cuvée Confiance (Rasteau).** This is a big, brawny blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre packed with concentrated black plum and crème de cassis flavors. It's a glossy, decadent sip but subtle shadings of crushed green olive and herbes de Provence lend complexity. In its youth, the finish is tightly packed with tannins, but this is a wine that should improve well through 2030. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

**92 Domaine les Evigneaux 2017 Rasteau.** Produced by the Lavau family, this is an intensely concentrated, lavish blend of Grenache, Syrah, Carignan, Cinsault and Mourvèdre sourced from a diversity of Rasteau terroirs. Flavors of plum compote and blackberry preserves are accented by anise, smoke and granite tones. The finish is framed by firm, persistent tannins. Ready now but should drink well through 2030. Kinson The Future of Wine. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 La Font de Notre Dame 2017 La Source (Rasteau).** While the nose is quiet, the palate of this Grenache-dominant blend explodes with lip-smacking black plum and blueberry flavors. It's unabashedly juicy and fruity but hints of savory thyme and sweet spice lend complexity. Ready now but should hold through 2027. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**92 Lavau 2017 Rasteau.** Earthen notes of crushed stone and dried porcini lend complexity to ripe, luscious blackberry and cassis flavors. A blend of equal parts Grenache and Syrah, it's plump and intensely fruity but balanced by fresh acidity and a pleasantly bitter rim of minerality on the finish. Best now–2027. Kinson The Future of Wine. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Rémy Ferbras 2017 Terre de Mistral (Rasteau).** Whiffs of charred thyme and sage lend savory undertones to ripe, elegant blackberry and plum. A full-bodied but stately blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre sourced from sandy marl soils, it's elevated by lingering complexities of spice and earth. Drinks well now but should improve through 2030. Prestige Beverage Group. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Camille Cayran 2017 Rasteau.** Brisk mineral tones juxtapose intensely concentrated black cherry and raspberry in this penetrating blend of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah sourced from clay-limestone soils. It's a full-bodied, intensely fruity sip but elegant, too, anchored by veins of stony earth and fine, feathery tannins. Unoaked and translucent, it's ready to drink now but should hold through 2027. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**91 Cave de Rasteau 2018 Tradition (Rasteau).** Rich, glossy cassis and boysenberry flavors coat the palate of this full-bodied but freshly balanced red. A blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%), it's plush and silken in mouthfeel but maintains a mineral briskness along with pert, upright tannins that anchor the finish. Ready now but should hold through 2028. Saranty Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Domaine Beau Mistral 2018 Selection Vieilles Vignes (Rasteau).** A blend of Grenache

(60%), Mourvèdre (30%) and Syrah (10%), this elegant red is more finesse than powerhouse. Blackberry and plum flavors are ripe but restrained, etched by hints of dried thyme and crushed earth. Lingering notes of olive and licorice lead a long, softly tannic finish. Ready now but should hold through 2028. The Wine Source. —A.I.

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

**91** **Domaine Caroline Bonnefoy 2017 Rasteau.** Savory impressions of wet earth, tapenade and black pepper lend complexity to luscious black cherry and boysenberry in this blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah. It's ripe but restrained in style, anchored by a firm, mineral backbone and a long, spicy finish. Enjoyable in its youth but should hold through 2027. Jerome Selection. —A.I.

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

**91** **Domaine les Grands Bois 2017 Marc (Rasteau).** Hints of dusty earth and sun-scorched *garrigue* on the nose are juxtaposed by ripe, intensely extracted boysenberry and black fig in this unctuous blend of Grenache (50%), Mourvèdre (25%) and Syrah 25%. It's a massive, mouthfilling wine accented by spicy kicks of licorice and olive. Fine-grained but firm tannins should meld nicely through 2027. —A.I.

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

**91** **Domaine Martin 2018 Rasteau.** Hints of dried earth and dusty mineral mingle into ripe, pristine black currant and plum in this elegant, subtle expression of Rasteau. A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's full-bodied but freshly balanced. The finish is marked by soft, feathery tannins and spicy kicks of olive and pepper. Best now–2028. Grapevine Distributors. —A.I.

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Ravoire et Fils 2017 Rasteau.** Inviting hints of crushed earth and smoked meat mingle into preserved black plum in this savory, complex wine. A Grenache-dominant blend accentuated by Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's plush and voluminous but lifted by tangs of salt and crushed mineral on the mid-palate. The finish is long and marked by pleasantly bitter thyme and lavender notes. Approachable already but should drink well through 2027. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.I.

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

**90** **Domaine du Trapadis 2017 Les Cras (Rasteau).** This Grenache-dominant blend is quiet upon opening but gradually reveals layers of ripe, rich blackberry and mulberry flavors muted by earth and dusty mineral. It's opulent but calibrated neatly by bites of acidity and firm, persistent tannins. Best now–2027. European Wine Group. —A.I.

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

**90** **Domaine Fond Croze 2017 Rasteau.** This is a big, hulking blend of Grenache (80%), Mourvèdre (10%) and Syrah (10%) sourced from 60-year-old vines. It's a full-throated, luscious wine, but blackberry and cassis flavors are surprisingly fresh on the midpalate. Bold, penetrating tan-

nins on the finish may require some aeration and time to meld. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Domaine la Soumade 2017 Cuvée Prestige (Rasteau).** Opening whiffs of earth and sun-scorched *garrigue* dissipate into elegant notes of blackberry and cassis with time and aeration. A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's a bold, richly concentrated sip with a pleasantly earthen, savory tone. The finish is marked by firm, chewy tannins. Should meld and improve through 2027. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Domaine Mikael Boutin 2017 M.B. (Rasteau).** Accents of wild mint, thyme and crushed earth permeate throughout this Grenache-dominant blend sourced from clay and limestone soils. It's full-bodied and plump, offering ripe but slightly muted black plum and cherry flavors. The finish is marked by gripping, fine-grained tannins. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.I.

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

**90** **Reserve Saint Dominique 2017 Rasteau.** Pristine, sun-kissed blackberries are edged by crushed stone and *garrigue* here. A blend of Grenache (80%), Syrah (15%) and Mourvèdre (5%), it's richly concentrated but freshly balanced, too, lingering on fine-grained, bitter tannins on the finish. Ready now but should drink well through 2027. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Vignobles et Compagnie 2018 Rasteau.** Smoky notes of licorice and cinnamon lend warmth to plump black cherry and plum in this 50–50 blend of Grenache and Syrah. It's a big, brawny wine that falls on the palate with weight and density, but a touch of mineral freshness lifts the finish. The finish extends on ripe, chewy tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2025. Savorian Inc. —A.I.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**89** **Boissy & Delaygue 2017 Rasteau.** Whiffs of smoke, charred thyme and cured meat lend savory nuances to elegant black cherry and plum in this full-bodied but restrained red. It's plush and rounded on the palate and edged by fine, integrated tannins. Best enjoyed now–2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.

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

**89** **Domaine de Beurenard 2017 Rasteau.** Glossy cassis and mulberry flavors are ripe and concentrated in this brawny blend of Grenache (80%), Syrah (17%) and Mourvèdre (3%). Soft, integrated tannins accentuate its hedonistic, immediately appealing style. At peak now but should hold through 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.I.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Domaine du Trapadis 2017 Les Adrès (Rasteau).** While initially quite closed on the nose, this blend of Grenache (80%), Carignan

(10%) and Mourvèdre (10%) yields perfume and fruit with just a bit of time and aeration. Black plum and preserved cherry flavors are ripe and luscious but shaded by savory notes of bramble, sage and thyme. The finish is quite gripping with tannins. Best enjoyed now–2027. European Wine Group. —A.I.

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

**88** **Château du Trignon 2017 Rasteau.** This full-bodied but bristling blend of Grenache (60%) and Mourvèdre (40%) offers zesty blackberry and cassis flavors. It's a leaner, slightly puckering expression of Rasteau edged by firm, penetrating tannins. Best now–2025. David Milligan Selections. —A.I.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Grand Nicolet 2017 Terre des Bertrand (Rasteau).** Notes of blueberry and black plum preserves have a jammy, concentrated tone in this full-bodied blend of Grenache, Syrah and Carignan sourced from clay and limestone soils. Compared with previous vintages, slightly earthen, muted fruit notes in this bottling suggest a slightly early maturity. Its fine-grained tannins would welcome consumption while young as well. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Grand Nicolet 2017 Vieilles Vignes (Rasteau).** Densely concentrated plum and black cherry flavors are muted by savory notes of crushed earth and tobacco and in this full-bodied blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. It's a rounded, open-knit wine that's showing glimpses of maturity, so it's best to enjoy now–2024. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.I.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$24

---

## BEAUMES-DE-VENISE

---

**93** **Domaine la Ligière 2018 Les Garennes (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Ripe but pristine cassis and black cherry are accented by savory hints of roasted beet, anise and violet perfume in this lovely, fragrant red. A 60–40 blend of Grenache and Syrah, it's a silky, refreshingly medium-bodied sip edged by fine-grained, integrated tannins. The finish wraps up on an invigorating mineral tone. Best now–2026. AP Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**91** **La Grand Comtadine 2018 Hespéria (Beaumes-de-Venise).** While subdued on the nose, this ripe but elegant blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre offers plump black cherry and cassis flavors. It's a rich, almost creamy, mouthful framed by fine-grained, velvety tannins. The finish is marked by kicks of peppery black spice and cut stone. Best now–2026. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.

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

**91** **RhonéA 2017 Terres des Farisiens (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Intensely mineral, earthen tones juxtapose gorgeous violet perfume on the nose of



# BUYINGGUIDE

this pretty Grenache-Syrah blend. Full-bodied and decadently concentrated, it offers rich, juicy blackberry and cherry flavors offset by crisp acidity. The finish is long and lingers on fine, silky tannins. Best now–2027. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.

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

**90** **Domaine Saint Amant 2017 Grangeneuve (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Whispers of licorice and vanilla accent concentrated cassis and plum in this perfumed, lavish red. A blend of cofermented Grenache (50%), Syrah (30%), Carignan (10%) and Viognier (10%) sourced from high-altitude vines, it's luscious and inky on the palate while maintaining a purity of fruit. The finish is long and gripped by persistent, fiery tannins. Best now–2027. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**90** **RhonéA 2017 Domaine de la Chêneraie (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Pronounced notes of bramble and sun-scorched thyme lend savory inflections to plush, creamy blackberry and plum here. A rich, lavish blend of Grenache and Syrah, it's full-bodied but pertly balanced. Soft, ripe tannins accentuate its easy, open-knit feel. Enjoy young. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.

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

**90** **RhonéA 2017 Terres de Bel Air (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Bold layers of licorice, black pepper and charred *garrigue* accent rich, almost unctuous black cherry preserve and cassis. A blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah sourced from high-altitude clay and limestone soils, it's a creamy, hedonistic sip framed by soft, welcoming tannins. At peak now but should hold through 2024. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.

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

**89** **Domaine des Bernardins 2018 Beaumes-de-Venise.** Charry notes of sun-scorched thyme and sage accent rich, almost ruddy, black cherry and plum in this voluptuous Grenache-dominant blend. Additions of white grapes like Marsanne and Grenache Blanc lend a lift of freshness and vitality on the midpalate. The finish is marked by velveteen but persistent tannins. Best enjoyed young. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Gabriel Meffre 2017 Laurus (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Whiffs of cedar, cinnamon and anise mingle into ripe cassis and blueberry in this rich, creamy blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (45%) and Carignan (5%). Sourced from high-altitude gypsum and clay soils, it's a luscious, silky wine lifted by fresh acidity. It's immediately enjoyable but should hold through 2024. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.

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

**89** **RhonéA 2017 Terroir Daronton (Beaumes-de-Venise).** While the nose is intensely ripe and ruddy, the palate of this full-bodied red offers elegant, restrained black cherry and blackberry flavors accented by earthen notes of char and crushed

clay. A Grenache-dominant blend augmented by Syrah, Carignan, Mourvèdre and Viognier, it's full-bodied and silken through a long, integrated finish. Best now–2024. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Arnoux & Fils 2017 Vieux Clocher (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Dark, savory mineral tones lend an earthen undertone to ripe, tangy blackberry and cassis flavors. A blend of 60% Grenache, 35% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, it's a distinctly restrained expression of the Southern Rhône. Supple, smooth tannins make it welcoming while young. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Domaine Caroline Bonnefoy 2017 Beaumes-de-Venise.** Hints of sandalwood and anise lend heat to the nose of this full-bodied red, but the palate is surprisingly brighter and fresher. A blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah, it offers ripe, succulent black cherry and plum flavors offset by pert acidity and firm, persistent tannins. An easy-drinking sip best enjoyed young. Jerome Selection. —A.I.

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

**88** **Domaine de Fenouillet 2017 Terres Blanches (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Rich, plummy black cherry and blueberry notes are edged by bramble, anise and cola notes. An ample, fleshy blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre framed by soft, easy tannins, it's an immediately approachable wine to enjoy young. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.I.

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

**88** **Domaine les Goubert 2017 Beaumes-de-Venise.** Intensely ripe, ruddy black fruit flavors gain freshness and purity on the palate of this full-bodied blend of Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault. It's rich and rounded in mouthfeel, but crisp acidity leads a brisk finish marked by firm, upright tannins. Best now–2024. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**88** **RhonéA 2017 Dom Venitia (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Plush and plummy, this full-bodied blend of Grenache and Syrah offers intensely ripe blackberry and blueberry flavors accented by sandalwood and cinnamon. While fleshy in mouthfeel, it's framed by fine-grained, mouthfilling tannins. A touch of earth lingers on the finish. Best enjoyed young. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **RhonéA 2017 Domaine la Brune (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Bold whiffs of thyme and sun-baked *garrigue* lend savory complexities to ripe, glossy blackberry and fig in this full-bodied blend of Grenache (55%) and Syrah (45%). Tart cassis freshens the midpalate and leads a moderately long finish edged by fine-grained but parching tannins. Best now–2024. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Bonpas 2018 Grand Cardinal (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Intensely ripe, slightly stewed

notes of black plum and cherry are edged by savory note of herbes de Provence and dried earth in this full-bodied Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre blend. Plush and open on the palate, the finish wraps up on soft, feathery tannins. It's showing signs of maturity already, so drink soon. Boisset Collection. —A.I.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

## VACQUEYRAS

**91** **Alain Jaume et Fils 2018 Château Mazane (Vacqueyras).** While the nose is smoky and restrained, this plummy, pristinely fruity red offers loads of sun-kissed black cherry and plum flavors edged by a stony, mineral undertone. A blend of 60% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre, it's an immediately approachable but elegant wine. The finish lingers on fine, feathery tannins. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**91** **Domaine le Colombier 2018 Cuvée G (Vacqueyras).** A blend of equal parts Grenache and Syrah, this producer's flagship Vacqueyras bottling is jam-packed with gloriously ripe, juicy blackberry and blueberry flavors. Matured in French oak for 12 months, it's a spicy, clove-studded sip with a lavishly textured, open-knit feel. A hedonistic pick that's ready now but should hold through 2028. Jerome Selection. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Domaine les Ondines 2018 Vacqueyras.** Whiffs of sandalwood and violet lend a sultry perfume to ripe, ruddy black plums and cherries on this voluptuous red. In this mouthwatering blend of Grenache (75%), Cinsault (5%) and Syrah (20%), the palate is unctuously fruity but freshly balanced by streaks of red cassis acidity and a lingering granitic finish. Lovely already but should drink well through 2028. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Alain Jaume et Fils 2018 Grande Garrigue (Vacqueyras).** Whiffs of crème de cassis are accented by smoke and char in this full-bodied, juicy red. The palate is quite pristine, loaded with pert blackberry and black cherry flavors juxtaposed by a tangy acidic edge. The finish is long and marked by fine-grained, persistent tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2028. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Alain Jaume et Fils 2018 La Grangette des Garrigues (Vacqueyras).** Blueberry and boysenberry notes are intensely ripe but muted by earth tones in this curvaceous blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. Crisp acidity and sandperry tannins offset its voluptuous mouthfeel. Best enjoyed now–2026. Epic Wines. —A.I.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Domaine d'Ourea 2018 Vacqueyras.** Restrained blackberry and cherry on the nose gain ripeness and intensity on the palate of this bright, fresh-fruited red. A Grenache-dominant

blend accentuated by Syrah, Carignan, Cinsault and Mourvèdre, its spicy, smoky blackberry and blueberry flavors are layered in soft, silky tannins. Ready to enjoy immediately. Thomas Calder Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Louis Bernard 2018 Vacqueyras.** Bold blueberry and violet aromas perfume this plump but freshly balanced blend of Grenache and Syrah. Full-bodied and luscious on the palate, its fig and blackberry preserve flavors are approachably fruity but edged by firm, anchoring tannins. Best enjoyed now–2028. Boisset Collection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Ogier 2018 Boiserie (Vacqueyras).** Heaps of blueberry and raspberry jam introduce this robust, intensely concentrated blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. All curves and soft edges, it's a lavish sip framed by ripe, seamlessly integrated tannins. At peak now but should hold through 2025. Taub Family Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Vignobles et Compagnie 2018 Domaine de la Ganse (Vacqueyras).** There's a refreshingly tart boysenberry perfume on the nose here, but the palate of this full-bodied, forward red is ample and ripe. Flavors of blueberry and fig preserve are plush and juicy but held upright by taut, persistent tannins. An immediately enjoyable wine that should hold through 2018. Savorian Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Domaine de l'Oiselet 2018 Vacqueyras.** Luscious blueberry and black fig flavors are edged by a refreshing granite undertone in this full-bodied, fleshy red. It's an immediately approachable, indulgently fruity sip that begs to be enjoyed in its youth. Firm, grippy tannins on the finish lend welcome structure. Massanois Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Domaine le Colombier 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Vacqueyras).** Notes of intensely ripe, jammy blueberry and plum preserves abound in this rich, deeply fruity blend of Grenache (80%) and Mourvèdre (20%). It's a rotund, full-throttled wine etched by soft, fine tannins, but there's a hint of granite on the finish that's invigorating. Best enjoyed young through 2024. Jerome Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Gabriel Meffre 2018 Saint Barthélémy (Vacqueyras).** Fresh and unabashedly forward, this full-bodied blend of Grenache and Syrah offers loads of juicy, primary blackberry and boysenberry flavors edged by piquant bramble and spice. It's soft and rich in mouthfeel but the finish is anchored by firm, lingering tannins. Ready to drink now but should hold through 2028. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Les Vins Skalli 2018 Caves Saint-Pierre (Vacqueyras).** Pristine blackberry and plum flavors are edged by hints of granite and crushed earth in this full-bodied, fresh-fruited red. A blend of Cinsault, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah, it's accessibly juicy but zesty and lingers on fine, supple tannins. Best enjoyed now through 2024. Boisset Collection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Ogier 2018 Oratorio (Vacqueyras).** Glossy blueberry and blackberry flavors are accented by clove and spice in this profoundly ripe, cream-textured blend of Grenache (65%) and Syrah (35%). It's an unctuous, intensely ripe wine balanced by sunny acidity and fine, baby-soft tannins. A hedonistic sip that's at peak already but should hold through 2025. Taub Family Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**89 RhonéA 2018 Domaine du Grand Prieur (Vacqueyras).** A blend of equal parts Grenache and Syrah amplified by small proportions of Cinsault and Mourvèdre, this is an intensely primary, fruity sip loaded with juicy blackberry and plum-preserve flavors. Concentrated but freshly balanced, its easy, approachable style is accentuated by fine, feathery tannins. Best enjoyed young. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 RhonéA 2018 Fontimple (Vacqueyras).** Intense, concentrated flavors of blackberry jam and plum preserves are muted by hints of earth and granite. Voluptuous and mouthfilling, it's a juicy, boldly fruity sip framed by fine, firm tannins. A hint of granite lends elegance to the finish. At peak now but should hold through 2024. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$31

**89 RhonéA 2018 Terroir Daronton (Vacqueyras).** Sun-drenched blackberry and cherry flavors are spiced by hints of black pepper and a subtle granitic undertone. It's a plush, full-bodied sip but crisply concentrated. Tannins are finely edged, lingering through a long, supple finish. Best enjoyed young. Metrowine Distribution. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Bonpas 2018 Grand Cartulaire (Vacqueyras).** Brambly blackberry and raspberry flavors penetrate this full-bodied, briskly concentrated blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. It's a zesty, ebulliently fruity sip framed by firm, upright tannins. Best enjoyed young. Boisset Collection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Domaine La Rêverie 2018 Vacqueyras.** Hints of smoked nut and char introduce this intensely fruity red. It's not a deeply nuanced wine but is fleshy and hedonistic, packed with flavors of black plum and boysenberry preserves. Firm, taut tannins lend a grip of structure on the finish. Best now–2024. Total Beverage Solution. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Domaine le Colombier 2018 Tradition (Vacqueyras).** Ripe, sun-drenched black cherry and boysenberry flavors are accented by cinnamon, anise and smoke in this bold, fruity blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%). It's a youthful, immediately accessible wine that should be enjoyed soon for its vivid primary fruit. These grippy tannins may need a juicy steak or burger for balance. Jerome Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Maison Bouachon 2018 Vacqueyras.** Cutting red cassis acidity and firm, finely grained tannins frame this full-bodied but vibrantly balanced red. A blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah, it's a juicy, forwardly fruity sip packed with concentrated black cherry and plum flavors. Best enjoyed now–2023. Boisset Collection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

---

## LIRAC

---

**93 Château de Ségrèis 2016 Secret de la Grange (Lirac).** Crisp, spice-inflected blackberry and black cherry flavors are anchored by a cooling mineral undertone in this stand-out Grenache-Syrah blend. It's ripe and glossy on the palate but pertly balanced with bristling acidity and a lingering stony finish. At peak now but should improve through 2028 and hold further. Kysela Père et Fils. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**93 Domaine de la Mordorée 2017 La Reine des Bois (Lirac).** Black plum and mulberry flavors explode in this luscious, intensely concentrated blend of Syrah (40%), Grenache (30%) and Mourvèdre (30%). It's a touch jammy on the palate but structured by crisp red currant acidity and fine-grained, grippy tannins. At peak now–2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Domaine Coudouliis 2017 Cuvée Bacchus (Lirac).** Flamboyant skeins of clove and smoke accent profoundly ripe plum and mulberry here. A 70–30 blend of Grenache and Syrah sourced from 50- to 60-year-old vines, it's a deeply penetrating, tannic wine lifted by cooling mineral undertones. It's hedonistic in its youth but should drink well through 2027. Vitis Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Domaine Coudouliis 2017 Hommage (Lirac).** Unctuous, silky blackberry and blueberry tones are wrapped in rich, chewy tannins in this powerful blend of Grenache (67%) and Syrah (33%). It's an intensely concentrated, deeply fruity sip marked by smoky accents of anise and vanilla. Ready now but should hold through 2027. Vitis Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Domaine Lafond 2017 La Ferme Romaine (Lirac).** Whispers of sandalwood and clove lend a spicy, sultry tone to this decadent blend of

# BUYINGGUIDE

old-vine Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Partially matured *en barrique*, it's a creamier, oakier expression of Lirac, but its juicy cassis and plum flavors maintain freshness and elegance. The finish envelops the palate with soft, chalky tannins. At peak now—2027. Alain Junguenet Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Domaine Roger Sabon 2018 Lirac by Roger Sabon (Lirac).** Pure, unadulterated blackberry and mulberry flavors take center stage in this plump but freshly balanced red. A Grenache-dominant blend augmented by spicy accents of Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan, it's a softly tannic sip packed with perfumed notes of lilac, violet and bramble. Hedonistic, easy-drinking and quite irresistible. European Cellars. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**91** **Alain Jaume et Fils 2018 Clos de Sixte (Lirac).** Whispers of smoke and tobacco lend earthen complexities to ripe but pristine blackberry and cherry. It's a bold, voluptuous wine framed in firm, slightly charry tannins but elegant through a long finish. Ready now but should hold well through 2027. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Château de Montfaucon 2016 Baron Louis (Lirac).** Pretty lilac perfume abounds in this fruit-forward, invigorating blend of Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, Carignan and Mourvèdre. It's a hedonistic sip marked by piquant notes of pepper and licorice on the midpalate. The finish is stately, lingering on firm, upright tannins. Best now—2025. Maverick Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**91** **Château de Montfaucon 2016 Vin de Mr le Baron de Montfaucon (Lirac).** Charred earth and stony minerals juxtapose crisp, cutting blackberry and black currant flavors in this vital blend of 15 classic Rhône grapes, cofermented and matured in oak. It's vibrantly fruity but savory, too, edged by lingering veins of smoke and dried sage. Fine but firm tannins grip the finish. Ready now but should improve through 2025. Kindred Vines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**91** **Château Mont-Redon 2017 Lirac.** Savory accents of smoke, anise and hazelnut mingle into juicy black plum and dried strawberry flavors here. A rich, creamy blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%), it's balanced by lip-smacking red currant acidity and a fine grip of tannins on the finish. Delightful already but should hold through 2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine Corne-Loup 2016 Lirac.** Pristine black cherries and red currants are shaded by notes of smoke, anise and black pepper in this ripe but crisply balanced red. A blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (40%) and Mourvèdre (10%), it's a full-bodied, thirst-quenching sip. The finish is

marked by shards of cut stone and fine, integrated tannins. Best now—2026. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91** **Domaine Coudouls 2017 Evidence (Lirac).** This is a big, powerhouse wine packed with rich, ripe blackberry and plum flavors. An unadorned blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's decadently fruity but intently mineral, too, etched by bristling strikes of stone and earth. Hedonistic already but should hold through 2025. Vitis Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine de la Mordorée 2017 La Dame Rousse (Lirac).** Sun-drenched cassis and blackberry penetrate from nose to finish in this pristine 50-50 blend of Grenache and Syrah. The palate is supple and spry—concentrated without feeling heavy or dense. Fine, taut tannins and hints of crushed earth linger on the finish. Ready now but should hold through 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$33

**91** **Domaine Duseigneur 2016 Antarès (Lirac).** Inflections of crushed stone accent zesty cranberry and red cherry flavors in this ripe but restrained blend of Grenache (60%) and Mourvèdre (40%). Sourced from biodynamic fruit, it's a full-bodied, concentrated wine that maintains vibrance and acidity throughout. Fine-grained tannins accentuate its youthful appeal. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine La Løyane 2017 Cuvée Marie (Lirac).** Decadent fruit and rustic earth tones calibrate neatly in this opulent red made from 90% Grenache. Flavors of dried strawberries and black figs are accented by toast, cinnamon and leather. It's a richly fruity yet elegant wine that finishes on swathes of savory herbs and bold, chewy tannins. At peak now—2027. Elixir Wine Group. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine Maby 2017 Bel Canto (Lirac).** Intensely ripe, radiant mulberry and black cherry flavors abound in this rich but freshly balanced Grenache. It's a luscious, silky sip accentuated by fine, feathery tannins and a kiss of sweet spice on the finish. At peak now—2025. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine Maby 2017 La Fermade (Lirac).** Juicy, concentrated blueberry and black plum flavors are lusciously ripe but maintain pert acidity in this full-bodied blend of Syrah (50%), Grenache (40%) and Mourvèdre (10%). Unoaked and fruit-forward, it's an immediately pleasing sip with a refreshing, mineral finish. Enjoy now—2025. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine Maby 2017 Nessun Dorma (Lirac).** Heady layers of smoke and char mingle into plump blackberry and cassis in this blend of Syrah

(45%), Mourvèdre (35%) and Grenache (20%). It's an opulent, mouthfilling sip kept on its toes by a twist of sour-cherry acidity on the finish. Ripe, integrated tannins make it ready to drink now—2025. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Domaine Pierre Usseglio et Fils 2017 Cuvée Usseglio (Lirac).** Heady with aromas of vanilla and crème de cassis, this is a rich, concentrated Grenache-dominant red (augmented by Syrah, Mourvèdre, and Cinsault). Blackberry and cherry flavors are luscious but pristine, accented by bold layers of pepper, cinnamon and licorice. It's immediately approachable but firm, gripping tannins should maintain it well through 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Les Vignerons de Tavel & Lirac 2017 Les Hauts d'Acantalys (Lirac).** The nose of this opulent Grenache-dominant blend announces itself with plumes of plump red cherries, rosemary and lilac. It's a full-bodied, supple sip packed with fleshy black plum and blackberry flavors and fresh, spirited acidity. A lovely wine that's ready to drink now but should hold through 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Rocca Maura 2017 Terra Ancestra (Lirac).** Zesty blackberry and blueberry flavors are marked by piquant accents of cinnamon, smoke and fresh, green herbs. It's full-bodied and lusciously textured but structured by zesty red currant acidity and firm, upright tannins. At peak now—2025. Communal Brands. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Vignobles Boudinaud 2017 Lirac.** Whispers of anise, black pepper and cardamom lend spice to sultry blueberry and black plum flavors. A blend of Grenache (60%), Cinsault (20%) and Syrah (20%), it's a voluptuous, lusciously textured sip but maintains vitality and brightness throughout. Fine, feathery tannins make it welcoming in youth, but it's a wine that's concentrated enough to hold through 2025 at least. The Wine House. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Celier des Chartreux 2017 Domaine les Colombettes (Lirac).** Savory dried thyme and mint accent luminous red currant and red cherry flavors in this Grenache-Syrah blend. Moderately full in body, it offsets juicy, primary-fruit characters against an invigorating mineral undertone. At peak now but should hold through 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**90** **Château Boucarut 2017 Cuvée Ulysse (Lirac).** Ripe, fleshy blueberry and blackberry flavors are shaded by dried thyme and menthol notes in this forward, unadorned blend of Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault and Mourvèdre. It's a plummy, opulent wine balanced by brisk acidity and fine, gripping



tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2025. One For the Vines. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Château d'Aqueria 2017 Lirac.** Perfumed whiffs of violet, smoke and anise accent luscious blueberry and black fig flavors. It's full-bodied and silken on the palate but balanced by fresh acidity and firm, gripping tannins that lend an upright edge to the finish. Ready now but should hold through 2024. Kobrand. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Château de Bouchassy 2018 Quatuor (Lirac).** Luminous black fruit and cooling granite tones collide in this ripe but invigorating blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Sourced from chalky soils and unoaked, it's a pure, softly tannic sip that lingers on brambly blackberry tones. At peak now–2023. Gifted Grape. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château de Manissy 2017 Avant-Goût du Paradis (Lirac).** Whiffs of preserved black cherry and crème de cassis are shaded by thyme and black pepper on the nose. In this blend of 80% Syrah and 20% Grenache, the palate highlights Syrah's sharp, penetrating blackberry and bramble tones along with firm but fine-grained tannins. Best enjoyed now–2025. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31

**90** **Château de Manissy 2017 Trinité (Lirac).** Hints of smoke, saddle and spice lend savory nuances to fleshy blueberry and black plum flavors. Made from whole-cluster Grenache and aged partially in French oak, it's a lavish, open-knit wine fringed by earth and bitter-herb notes. Despite firm, bracing tannins, it's a welcoming wine that's at peak now–2027. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Château le Devoy Martine 2018 Via Secreta (Lirac).** Loads of violet and lilac perfume accent fresh, primary blackberry and plum flavors in this irresistibly fruity blend of Mourvèdre (40%), Cinsault (20%), Grenache (20%) and Syrah (20%). It's not a deeply complex wine but voluptuous and immediately likable. Fine, feathery tannins and a touch of minerality linger on the finish. Ready now but should hold through 2024. Sacred Thirst Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Dauvergne & Ranvier 2017 Domaine des Muretins (Lirac).** Fresh mint and thyme mingle into lavender and lilac on the nose of this full-bodied but spirited red. A blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault, it offers crisp blueberry and blackberry flavors edged by a firm granite undertone. A fresh, elegant wine to enjoy now–2024. Massanois Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine Croze Granier 2016 Bel Air (Lirac).** A spine of granite lends freshness to this plummy, perfumed red blend. Packed with juicy

black plum and cherry flavors, it's full-bodied and plush yet crisply composed and accented by fiery hints of anise and dried sage. Ripe, fine-grained tannins make it immediately accessible, but it should hold well through 2025. Marcus Brothers Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine d'Arbousset 2016 La Vigne d'Yvon (Lirac).** Whispers of smoked nut and lilac perfume accent zesty red currant and sour cherry. A Grenache-dominant blend bolstered by Syrah, Cinsault and Mourvèdre, it's voluminous and forward but maintains a zesty frame of acidity and fine-grained, firm tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine des Marvilhas 2018 Canto-Bruno (Lirac).** Bold strokes of thyme and rosemary lend complexity to fresh, fruity black cherry and berry flavors here. A thirst-quenching blend of biodynamic Grenache and Mourvèdre, it balances pristine black fruit flavors against a crush of salty minerals and just a hint of earth. Ready now but should hold through 2024. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine des Marvilhas 2018 Pradau (Lirac).** This Syrah-dominant red offers piercing blueberry and blackberry flavors accented by hints of licorice, bramble and black pepper. It's a straightforward but invigorating wine lifted by crisp cassis acidity. Smooth, fine-grained tannins make it easy to enjoy now–2024. Biodynamic. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine La Løyane 2017 Vieilles Vignes (Lirac).** This is big, brawny blend of Grenache (60%) and Syrah (40%) packed with densely concentrated black cherry and plum flavors. It's a voluptuous, decadent wine accented by prominent notes of char, vanilla and smoke. Big, gripping tannins lock down a long finish. Ready now but should hold through 2025. Elixir Wine Group. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine Lafond 2017 Lirac.** This blend of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah offers succulent cassis and blackberry flavors juxtaposed by elegant nuances of earth, *garrigue* and violet. It's full-bodied but crisply concentrated and finishes on fine-grained, gripping tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2024. Alain Junguenet Selection. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières 2018 Le Pellegrin (Lirac).** Zesty and intently mineral, this vital blend of Grenache (80%) and Syrah (20%) stands out for its elegant restraint. Blackberry and cherry flavors are concentrated but crisp, framed by silk-tipped tannins and a lingering peppery finish. Ready now and quite refreshing. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**90** **Domaine Pélaquié 2017 Lirac.** Succulent raspberry and red plum flavors abound in this unabashedly juicy, fruity blend of Grenache and Mourvèdre. It's primary in fruit but accented by hints of sun-charred *garrigue*. The finish is framed by fine, feathery tannins. Immediately approachable but should hold through 2023. David Bowler Wine. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **La Font de Notre Dame 2017 Lirac.** Ripe, juicy raspberry and red cherry notes are muted by shades of earth and bramble in this full-bodied blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (25%) and Mourvèdre (5%). Unoaked and transparent in fruit quality, it's an easy-drinking red with a touch of cooling minerality on the finish. At peak now–2023. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **M. Chapoutier 2017 Lirac.** This is a bold, densely concentrated blend of Grenache and Syrah packed with luminous blackberry and plum flavors. It's opulent but pertly balanced by crisp mineral tones and a zippy acidic edge. Firm, gripping tannins on the end lend foursquare structure. Ready now but should hold through 2025. Terlato Wines International. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **NewRhône Millesimes 2017 Domaine de l'Eyrolle (Lirac).** Pretty, perfumed notes of lavender and dried thyme lift fleshy blackberry and blueberry flavors in this decadent Grenache-Syrah blend. It's a full-bodied, voluptuous sip edged by soft, feathery tannins. At peak now but should hold through 2023. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Ogier 2018 Lou Caminé (Lirac).** This pretty Grenache-dominant blend stands out for its glorious violet and lilac perfume. Lusciously textured and packed with dazzling blackberry and plum flavors, it's an effortlessly fruity, approachable sip framed by a softly tannic finish. At peak now–2023. Taub Family Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Château de Ségrières 2017 Lirac.** Fleshy black cherry and plum flavors are muted by layers of thyme and sage in this blend of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. It's a full-bodied, boldly fruity sip with just a hint of stony minerality on the finish. Immediately ready to drink but should hold through 2023. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**89** **Château Saint-Roch 2017 Lirac.** Notes of crushed earth and sage juxtapose pert, pristine blackberry and cherry flavors in this juicy Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre blend. Red currant acidity lends bite to the midpalate. The finish is marked by fine-grained, feathery tannins. At peak now–2025. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Domaine Giraud 2018 Les Sables d'Arène (Lirac).** Ripe, luxuriant black plum and cassis flavors are rich and creamy in this big-bodied blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. A pillowy, comforting sip wrapped in fine-grained, integrated tannins, it's appealing already in youth but should drink well through 2024. European Cellars. —A.I.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Domaine la Rocalière 2017 Dentelle Noire (Lirac).** Made from 80% Syrah and 20% Grenache, this is a peppery, smoky expression of Lirac marked by crisp blackberry and cassis flavors. It's full-bodied but zesty with a finish that lingers on fine-grained tannins and green, herbaceous tones. At peak now–2024. Cru Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Laudun Chusclan 2017 Les Cosses Vacquières (Lirac).** Smoke and lilac mingle into luminous black currant and cherry in this full-bodied yet Grenache-Syrah blend. Fruit-forward and immediately accessible, its juicy, easy-drinking style is accentuated by soft, feathery tannins. Ready now but should hold through 2025. Cutting Edge Selections. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Les Vignerons de Tavel 2017 Domaine de Chantepierre (Lirac).** Lingering veins of smoke, dried thyme and sage lend earthen nuances to crisp red cherry and blackberry in this blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (30%) and Mourvèdre (20%). It's an ample, full-bodied sip but anchored by fresh mineral tones and charry tannins that coat the finish. At peak now–2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Rocca Maura 2017 Lirac.** Subtle notes of crushed earth and crisp blackberry introduce this full-bodied but brisk red. Zippy red currant and sour-cherry flavors lift the midpalate and lead a cooling, mineral finish. Best enjoyed now–2024. Communal Brands. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Cave des Vins de Cru de Lirac 2017 Jean XXII (Lirac).** Fresh-fruited black plum and cherry flavors take center stage in this juicy unoaked blend of Grenache, Syrah, Carignan and Mourvèdre. Whispers of smoke and toasted hazelnut lend complexity to the midpalate, and firm, gripping tannins add some structure, too, but overall, it's a fruity, easy-drinking sip to enjoy now–2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Château Saint-Roch 2017 Confidentielle (Lirac).** Intensely ripe, almost ruddy, flavors of preserved black plum and cherry are lifted by whiffs of violet and savory earth tones here. Full-bodied and buoyantly juicy, it offers easy-drinking, fruity enjoyment framed by grippy tannins on the finish. At peak now–2023. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Domaine Croze Granier 2016 Sisyphe (Lirac).** Crisp blackberry and cassis are accented by savory nuances of barnyard and fur in this elegant, decidedly Old World red. It's full-bodied and richly concentrated in black fruit flavors but structured by firm acidity and gripping, assertive tannins. A wine that should meld and improve through 2025. Marcus Brothers Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Domaine La Grangette 2018 La Grangette des Garrigues (Lirac).** Hints of dried earth and smoked nuts accent flavors of black cherry preserves and cassis liqueur here. An open-knit blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's full-bodied and juicy with a finish that settles into soft, easy tannins. Ready now and best enjoyed young. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **NewRhône Millesimes 2017 Lirac.** Wild mint, rosemary and pert red cherry mingle throughout this full-bodied but crisp red. Its zippy, primary fruit profile makes it appealing in its youth but firm, gripping tannins on the finish make it best accompanied by a juicy steak or burger. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Vignobles Assemat 2018 Réserve Syrah (Lirac).** This is a plump, almost cream-textured wine packed with flavors of blueberry and raspberry preserves. A blend of Syrah (50%), Grenache (40%) and Mourvèdre (10%), sourced from clay and sandy soils, it's lifted on the midpalate by a fresh mineral tone. Best enjoyed young. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## PORTUGAL WHITE WINES VINHO VERDE

**91** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Casa Grande Sant'Anna Avesso (Vinho Verde).** This 37-acre estate in southern Vinho Verde is obviously capable of producing wines that can age. This is smoothly textured and ripe with crab-apple and spice flavors, as well as a soft, green-fruit aftertaste. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**91** **Quinta do Regueiro 2019 Foral de Melgaço Old Vines Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** Produced from old vines in Portugal's northern Minho Valley, this is a finely textured, ripe and refreshingly tangy wine. Lemon and tight green-apple flavors have a taut mineral texture that will soften over the next few months. Drink from 2021. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**91** **Quintas de Melgaço 2018 QM Vinhas Velhas (Vinho Verde).** This Melgaço producer in the Minho Valley has made a rich, impressively dense wine. Lemon flavors are filled out with herbal tangi-

ness and a concentration of fine fruits from the old vines. This a fine wine, ready to drink. Le Wine Importer. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Lima & Smith 2019 Covela Reserva Avesso (Vinho Verde).** From vines on the northern banks of the Douro river in southern Vinho Verde, this wood-aged wine has a fine, spicy character along with textured, tight green- and apple-fruit flavors. Drink this full, generous wine now. Organic. Kindred Vines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Quintas de Melgaço 2019 QM Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** The wine is all fruit, freshness and bright acidity. Along with its great crispness and citrus flavors, the wine also has a tense minerality and zestiness that give a fine bite the aftertaste. Drink from 2021. Le Wine Importer. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Howard's Folly 2017 Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** This Alentejo-based winery has ventured north to the classic Alvarinho region of Monção and Melgaço to source this now-mature wine. It shows plenty of citrus flavors while also having an edge of toastiness. The wine is ready to drink. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Lima & Smith 2019 Covela Avesso (Vinho Verde).** This is a ripe and fruity wine from the southern Vinho Verde that has a touch of spice to go with the wine's crisp tangy texture. The wine's fruitiness is balanced by the zest and minerality. Drink this attractive wine now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Casa Grande Sant'Anna Escolha (Vinho Verde).** Poised between youthful freshness and fine maturity, this tangy and crisp wine has lemon zest and spiced apple flavors. It is fruity, smoothly textured and ready to drink. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86** **Lima & Smith 2019 Tormes (Vinho Verde).** Produced from vines owned by a charitable foundation, this is a crisp wine that has a light prickle on the tongue, and is bright, fresh, dry and refreshing with acidity. Drink now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**84** **José Maria da Fonseca NV Vindonya V (Vinho Verde).** A soft, medium-sweet wine, with apples and candied orange flavors, this very low alcohol wine is light and full of refreshing drinkability. Drink now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$12

**84** **Parras Wines 2018 Ruelas Superior Branco (Vinho Verde).** With its prickle on the tongue and off-dry character, this is a simple, light

and fruity wine. Orange zest and citrus dominate along with bright fruitiness. Drink now. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$11

## DOURO

**92** **Quinta dos Avidagos 2019 Alvarelhão Reserva Blanc de Noirs (Douro).** This is unusual: white wine made as a blanc de noirs from the rare red Alvarelhão grape. The wine is textured, with hints of tannins and certainly with richness. Full with tropical fruits and spice from wood aging, the wine is young and will be better from late 2021. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**91** **Quinta de la Rosa 2019 La Rosa Reserva (Douro).** Judiciously wood aged, this is a spicy wine, with layers of rich white-fruit flavors. The wine has a crisp side and textured acidity to go with its ripeness and give a fine lift to the aftertaste. Drink this wine from 2021. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**91** **Quinta dos Avidagos 2019 Reserva Arinto (Douro).** This grape, found throughout Portugal, has produced a young but rich, spicy and smoky wine. The wood aging has given structure and extra richness to the white fruits and intense acidity. Drink this wine from 2021. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**90** **Duorum 2019 Colheita (Douro).** Crisp, textured and fruity, this wine is immediately bright and attractive. There is a fine tang of acidity allied to freshness and lemon-juice flavors. The wine's wood aging has broadened its texture and added attractive toastiness. Drink the wine from 2021. Winebow. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Quinta de Porrais 2018 Reserva Branco (Douro).** This fine, wood-aged wine is bright with apple fruitiness and lightly toasty from the barrels. It is crisp, supple while also textured with minerality. Drink this attractive wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Crasto Superior Branco (Douro).** This blend of Viosinho and Verdelho, grown in the eastern vineyards of the Douro Superior, has produced a rich, full wine, showing minerality, hinting at almonds as well as tangy orange-zest flavors. It is ready to drink. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**89** **Quinta dos Avidagos 2018 Reserva (Douro).** The blend of Arinto and Viosinho is now mature and touched by toast. The wine's acidity is fully integrated with the yellow-fruit flavors that

have been freshened by a shot of lime. Drink this attractive wine now. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**88** **Quinta de la Rosa 2019 La Rosa Branco (Douro).** A blend of four typical white Douro grapes, this wine is cool and collected with fine apple acidity and a bright texture. There is a hint of yellow fruits to add richness to the aftertaste. Drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Ramos-Pinto 2019 Duas Quintas Branco (Douro).** From higher altitude Douro vineyards, this wine is fruity, bright with acidity and with lively apple and citrus flavors. Its crisp texture could soften a little, so drink from 2021. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**87** **Quinta de Porrais 2019 Porrais Signature (Douro).** The wine is all about fruit and fresh citrus flavors. With its lightness and poised balance between fruit and acidity, the wine is textured, crisp and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Crasto Branco (Douro).** A crisp, fruity and lightly mineral textured wine, this is bright with citrus and kiwi flavors. The acidity and the wine's freshness are now finely focussed, ready to drink. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**85** **Quinta dos Avidagos 2019 Avidagos Colheita Branco (Douro).** This is a light-textured wine that has hints of yellow fruits as well as lime and attractive acidity. The wine is crisp, tangy and ready to drink. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

## DÃO

**93** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2018 Ribeiro Santo Vinha da Neve (Dão).** Weighing in at a whopping 4.4 pounds, this body-building bottle contains a rather fine wood-aged wine. With its toastiness contrasting with the yellow-fruit and baked apple flavors, the wine is developing into richness, density, offering potential. Drink from 2022. Wine Bridge Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Fontes da Cunha 2018 Munda Encruzado (Dão).** The aromatic combination of the wood aging and the perfumed fruit is a great introduction to this rich, smoothly textured wine. With its ripe white fruits, and touches of spice and pepper, the wine is toasty and ripe. Drink now. EcoValley. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Freire Lobo 2018 Vigno Encruzado (Dão).** Light oak aging has given this delicious, ripe wine intensity, spice and enhanced fruitiness. It

has touches of minerality from the granite soils. This texture is given richness by the wine's hints of yellow fruits and crisp freshness. Drink this bright wine now. OZ Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**89** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Ribeiro Santo Automático (Dão).** From old vines, this wine has great richness and surprising maturity already. It is the creamy, spicy and yellow-fruit-flavored character that has brought it all forward and made this ripe wine ready to drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Parras Wines 2019 Evidência Branco (Dão).** This is a rounded, creamy wine, full of apple and pear flavors. Its generous ripeness comes from the rich Encruzado in the blend, freshened with a touch of Bical and perfumed Malvasia. The wine is ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**87** **Kelman Wines 2018 Encruzado (Dão).** A ripe, creamy wine with fresh apple and tangy acidity, this is fresh, generous and direct. The wine is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**85** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Escadas da Beira Branco (Dão).** A soft, ripe wine with orange-peel and peach flavors. This has a creamy texture and is fruity, with an attractive soft acidity at the end. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## LISBOA

**89** **Herdade do Rocim 2019 Vale da Mata (Lisboa).** A wine from the Lisboa vineyard owned by Alentejo producer Herdade do Rocim, this is cool and collected. Its tight acidity is still seriously fresh and bright and does need to calm down and let the white-fruit flavors shine. Drink from 2021. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Parras Wines 2018 Quinta do Gradil Alvarinho (Lisboa).** With a bottle weighing in at an unnecessary 3.5 pounds, this wine is apple crisp, full of cool-climate freshness as well as bright acidity. It is lightly textured and ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**86** **Parras Wines 2019 Quinta do Gradil Colheita Branco (Lisboa).** Sauvignon Blanc and Arinto bring their varied interpretations of acidity together in this wine. It is lightly grassy, herbal with plenty of freshness and just a hint of orange zest. Drink now. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14



# BUYINGGUIDE

**85 Casca Wines 2019 Cabo da Roca Chardonnay-Fernão Pires-Vital (Lisboa).** This bright, light and fruity wine contrasts the richness of Chardonnay with the crisp texture of the two Portuguese grapes. With its fruitiness and lively acidity, the wine is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

## TEJO

**90 Quinta da Lapa 2019 Retro Fernão Pires (Tejo).** Fermentation at higher than usual temperatures and long skin contact has created a wine that has structure and tannins, as well as ripe, textured yellow fruits. This unusual old style of winemaking produces a rich wine. Drink from 2021. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**90 Quinta do Casal Branco 2018 Falcoaria Vinhas Velhas Fernão Pires (Tejo).** Partly aged in wood, this is rich with the concentration that old vines bring and the spice from the wood. With its apple and lime-zest flavors, this attractive wine easily offers ripeness and freshness. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Quinta S. Joao Batista 2018 Grande Reserva Branco (Tejo).** This wood-aged wine has a spicy character, with nutmeg and cinnamon showing strongly against the citrus and apricot flavors. With richness as well as balance, the wine is just reaching maturity. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Monte da Casta Branco (Tejo).** Soft and creamy, this is a smooth wine that has already rounded its youthful corner. Its acidity and freshness come from zesty orange and lime, giving a crisp streak that goes through this ready-to-drink wine. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Special Selection (Tejo).** A crisp, grassy and perfumed blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Verdelho, this is freshly attractive, with some softness within the crisp character of the wine. Drink now. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**87 Quinta da Lapa 2019 Alvarinho (Tejo).** Crisp and textured, this is a fresh, cool example of this grape. It has hints of apricots that give the wine ripeness but the main, attractive thrust is of tight, tangy citrus flavors. Drink now. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**86 Quinta da Alorna 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo).** A lightly herbal, grassy wine has great freshness as well as attractive acidity. There is also a nod to the warm Tejo climate with hints

of pineapple. The wine is ready to drink. American B.D. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**86 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Vinha dos Vinte (Tejo).** Bright, crisp and fruity, this lemon-flavored wine is lively and vibrantly fresh. With its intense acidity, it is ready to drink. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Quinta da Lapa 2019 Chardonnay (Tejo).** Green-plum and nutty flavors are attractive facets of a ripe wine. Its fruitiness is intense at the moment and will benefit from a few months more aging. Drink from 2021. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Quinta do Casal Branco 2018 Fernão Pires (Tejo).** This crisp and fruity wine is breezy, with herbal flavors and lively acidity. This is tang with lemon-zest and grapefruit flavors, ready to drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**85 Quinta da Lapa 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo).** A tropical-fruit style of Sauvignon Blanc, this is softly textured and fruity. Pineapple and yellow fruits come through the wine's texture and light acidity. It is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**85 Quinta do Casal Branco 2019 Lobo e Falcão Branco (Tejo).** Fernão Pires with a touch of Moscatel make a fruity, lightly perfumed wine. Crispily textured, with bright citrus and a hint of honey, the wine is ready to drink. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**85 Quinta do Casal Branco 2019 Terra de Lobos Fernão Pires-Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo).** The crispness of the two grapes complement each other well in this floral, fruity wine. It is light and bright, with vibrant, tangy fruitiness. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**wabv:** 13% **wPrice:** \$10

## ALENTEJO

**89 Adega de Borba 2019 Montes Claros Branco Reserva (Alentejo).** Wood fermented and aged, this is a ripe wine. Its acidity and freshness are tempered by the spicy edge and touches of toast. This gives a sophisticated texture to the wine that will age a little further. Drink from 2021. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Adega de Borba 2019 Castelo de Borba (Alentejo).** Antão Vaz is the Alentejo white variety and this wine shows how its acidity and crispness survives well in the hot climate. Lovely lemony fruit flavors dance across the palate in

freshness and lightness. Drink the wine now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8

**87 Adega de Borba 2019 Montes Claros Branco (Alentejo).** The wine is soft, rounded with a fine balance between its acidity and ripe white stone fruits. With a perfumed crispness from the Arinto in the blend, the wine is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**87 Herdade de Coelheiros 2019 Coelheiros (Alentejo).** A fresh, crisp and creamy wine, this is bright with acidity, apple and citrus flavors. With a light tang of zest, the wine is ready to drink. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

## ALENTEJANO

**90 Howard's Folly 2019 Sonhador Branco (Alentejano).** The cool mountain vineyards of northeast Alentejo give this wine its crisp texture while the granite soils bring in minerality. The wine with its hints of wood aging is textured and still young. So wait to drink until 2021. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**89 Howard's Folly 2018 Sonhador Branco (Alentejano).** From a field blend, this partially wood-aged wine is showing richness, maturity and a fine tension between acidity, fruit and minerality. The wine is perfectly ready to drink. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**88 Casca Wines 2018 Monte Cascas Colheita (Alentejano).** This is a blend of fruit and freshness. Both grapes give the wine a fresh, green-fruit character that's filled out by yellow-fruit hints as well as the wine's wood aging. The wine is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Herdade do Esporão 2019 V Verdelho (Alentejano).** A textured, perfumed wine, this is rich and attractively fruity. With touches of apricot as well as layers of lime and freshly sliced apple, the wine is all about fruitiness. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**87 Herdade do Rocim 2019 Verdelho (Alentejano).** Juicy with some spice and almond flavors among the green-fruit flavors, this is brightly attractive and packed with fruitiness. Drink now. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Ravasqueira Reserva da Familia (Alentejano).** An intriguing blend of Alvarinho and Viognier, the wine is fruity, crisp and fresh. The Viognier does bring a rounder texture to the mix that is further enhanced

by the short wood-aging's spice. The wine has a perfumed, lively aftertaste. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**92** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Casa Grande Sant'Anna Alvarinho (Minho).** This is a beautifully mature wine. There is spice, toastiness and fine ripe and generous white fruits, all softened and given richness by the aging. Drink this wine now. Green Bus Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$27

**92** **Quinta de Foz de Arouce 2019 Beira Atlantico.** This estate, situated just east of Coimbra, has released this wood-aged, perfumed and sophisticated wine made from 100% Cerceal. The wine's fruity acidity blends with the acidity and tense texture from the wood, enhancing the crisp apple and toastiness. Drink now. Winebow. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

**89** **Parras Wines 2019 Casa das Gaeiras Branco (Obidos).** All about the bright fruit and freshly sliced apples, this attractive blend of Arinto, Chardonnay and Fernão Pires is lifted, crisp, still young. It has vibrant acidity and refreshing aftertaste, totally ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$12

**88** **Lima & Smith 2018 Covela Branco (Minho).** Made mainly from Avesso, this wine comes from vines grown on the north bank of the Douro river at the southern limit of Vinho Verde region. Its lemon fruitiness is crisp although there is also some richness from the wine's ripe pear flavors. Drink now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

**88** **Venâncio Costa Lima 2019 Pioneiro Branco (Península de Setúbal).** The Moscatel grapes in this white blend add an attractive perfume with hints of lychee and floral character. The wine's Fernão Pires grapes bring fine freshness and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$13

## SPARKLING WINES

**91** **Adega de Cantanhede 2014 Marquês de Marialva Baga Cuvée Bruto (Bairrada).** This blanc de noirs from the local red Baga grape is a finely made wine. Its hint of structure is balanced by the bright fruitiness and crisp red-currant flavors. The wine is still packed with fruit, deliciously ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$55

**90** **Adega de Cantanhede 2015 Marquês de Marialva Bical & Arinto Reserva (Bairrada).** Aged for two years on lees, this ripe, mature wine

is showing a fine nutty character while preserving acidity and a tangy citrus flavor. With its rounded aftertaste, the wine is at the cusp between freshness and maturity. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

**90** **Adega de Cantanhede 2012 Marquês de Marialva Cuvée Extra Bruto (Bairrada).** Aged for three years on its lees before disgorgement, this wine has developed an attractive toasty character that underlines its floral, fruity character. It is a finely wrought wine, ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

**90** **Kompassus 2016 Blanc Brut (Bairrada).** A crisp, refreshing wine, this is full of citrus flavors as well as delicious floral apples and acidity. The wine has a light minerality that adds texture to its freshness. Drink now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

**87** **Adega de Cantanhede 2016 Marquês de Marialva Baga Blanc de Noirs Bruto (Bairrada).** A soft, fruity wine, this has a creamy mousse and a light texture from the tannins of the Baga grape. Its acidity is now softening, giving a hint of toast in its place. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

**87** **Adega de Cantanhede NV Marquês de Marialva Baga Rosé Bruto (Beira Atlantico).** The local red grape, Baga, lends a floral as well as a structured character to this wine. Packed with red fruits, red currants and raspberries, the wine is crisply textured and ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$13

**87** **Adega de Cantanhede NV Marquês de Marialva Blanc de Blancs Bruto (Beira Atlantico).** Bical and Arinto produce a spicy, lightly peppered wine. Its white fruits and acidity shine brightly through the hints of mineral texture. The wine is ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$13

**88** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2015 Ribeiro Santo Bruto (Dão).** This sparkling wine, produced from white grapes, is crisp and fruity. Its light apple and pear flavors are zesty with bright acidity shining through the soft texture. Drink now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$25

**88** **Bernard Magrez NV Ariela Bruto (Portugal).** Produced from Pinot Blanc, this crisp and ripe sparkling wine is perfumed, lit by citrus fruits and rounded by creamed apples. A light texture holds all this fruitiness together. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

**90** **Casca Wines 2014 Altitude Brut (Távora-Varosa).** A sparkling wine region south of the Douro Valley is the source of this wine. Based mainly on a blend of Touriga Nacional and Malvasia it is a perfumed, softly textured wine, with attractive clean apple and peach flavors. With its touch of maturity, it is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

**89** **Quinta da Lapa 2016 Brut Nature Reserva (Tejo).** A bright, fruity wine, this has a lively mousse and crisp apple and pear acidity. The Arinto gives its signature freshness and tight texture. Drink now. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

**88** **Quinta da Lapa 2018 Nana Rosé Bruto (Tejo).** Touriga Nacional and Aragonez make a fresh, red-currant flavored wine. Its crisp texture and clean, bright acidity are just right, giving a wine that is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$18

**86** **Adega Cooperativa do Cartaxo 2018 Plexus (Tejo).** This is an attractive, fruity wine, crisp with acidity that balances the medium-sweet flavors. Bright, lively, it is ready to drink. Wine Enterprises LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$7

**85** **Adega Cooperativa do Cartaxo 2018 Plexus Tinto (Tejo).** Produced from 100% Alicante Bouschet, this red sparkling wine shows slight tannins and plenty of spice. It is dry, unlike the others in this range of sparkling wines and will be a fine food wine. Drink now. Wine Enterprises LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$7

**83** **Adega Cooperativa do Cartaxo 2018 Plexus Rose (Tejo).** A medium-sweet pink wine, this blends Castelão and Tinta Roriz, which has the benefit of at least being clean and fruity. Drink now. Wine Enterprises LLC. —R.V.

abv: 9.5%

Price: \$7

## ROSÉS

**88** **Fontes da Cunha 2019 Quinta do Mondego Rosé (Dão).** A ripe, strawberry and fresh fruit flavored wine, this is attractively ripe and balanced. The wine is warm, full bodied and ready to drink. EcoValley. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

**88** **Monte da Ravasqueira 2018 Ravasqueira Premium Rosé (Alentejano).** Wood-aged for six months, this softly textured wine balances ripe red fruits with a boost of acidity. The wine is attractively fruity, lightly spicy and ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

**88 Quintas de Melgaço 2019 QM Rosé (Minho).** A blend of white Alvarinho and red Sousão, this is an intriguing wine. Its freshness and citrus character comes from the white grape, while the Sousão gives the color and texture. Together, they make a deliciously bright and fruity wine. Drink now. Le Wine Importer. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 Quinta da Lapa 2019 Nana Rosé (Tejo).** A ripe, rounded and balanced wine, this has red-berry fruits and a fine freshness. Crisp while also full of generous fruitiness, the wine is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**87 Quinta dos Avidagos 2018 Reserva Rosé (Douro).** Aged for three months in wood, this deeply colored rosé has spice and toastiness as much as fruit. It's mature, ripe with hints of red fruits and ready to drink. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**86 Quinta do Casal Branco 2019 Terra de Lobos Rosé (Tejo).** Touriga Nacional and Syrah make a soft, fruity wine, just lightly textured. With its fresh fruit, red-currant flavors and crisp acidity, this is an attractive, tangy wine that is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**85 Casca Wines 2019 1808 Colheita Rosé (Beira Interior).** This is a bright, light and fruity wine that has attractive red-currant and raspberry flavors. This is crisp, piled with acidity as well as fruitiness. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**84 Adega de Borba 2019 Premium Rosé (Alentejo).** Crisp and ripe, this is a simple, fruity wine, with red-currant and raspberry flavors. Plenty of tangy acidity gives it a lift at the end. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**84 Casca Wines 2019 Cabo da Roca Rosé (Lisboa).** This soft, rounded wine has touches of caramel to give extra richness to the strawberry flavors. It is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**84 Quinta da Lapa 2019 Selection Rosé Rosé (Tejo).** The wine is crisp, clean and fruity, with red currant freshness. It does have considerable acidity that is almost shockingly intense. Maybe by 2021 this will have softened. D'Ouro Vino Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8

**83 Quinta dos Avidagos 2019 Avidagos Colheita Rosé (Douro).** A strawberry-candy flavored wine, this has shockingly bright acidity and a vibrant feel. The wine is ready to drink. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

## PORTUGAL RED WINES

### DOURO

**97 Quinta do Crasto 2015 Honore (Douro).** This rare bottling blends the quinta's two top vineyards: Vinha Maria Teresa and Vinha de Ponte. Made to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the estate, it is a seriously rich, impressive wine. It brings out the great concentration of the old vines in the two vineyards and obviously demands considerable aging. Its rich tannins and powerful black fruits have many years ahead of them. Drink from 2025. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$1450/1.5 L

**96 Quinta do Crasto 2016 Vinha da Ponte (-Douro).** This originates from a field blend from a vineyard that is now at least 100-years-old. The wine is concentrated and dense. Fermented in open lagars, the wine has great potential for opulence and generosity. As the wine's tannins soften, it will reveal amazing richness. Drink from 2024. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$242

**95 Kopke 2015 Vinhas Velhas Limited Edition (Douro).** From old vines growing on the stone terraces at the producer's Quinta de São Luiz, this is a fine, ripe, mature wine. Its rich tannins have smoothed generously into the wine's black fruits. Secondary flavors, spice and a general sense of opulence give this wine authority. It is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**95 Quinta do Crasto 2016 Vinha Mara Teresa (Douro).** From a field blend of vines that are now 110-years-old, this is a magnificent wine. Its rich tannins, dark fruits and perfumed acidity are just a part of the extreme concentration and considerable potential. Named after a granddaughter of the founder of estate, the wine is ageless. Drink at the earliest from 2023. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$242

**95 Quinta dos Murças 2015 VV47 (Douro).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90

**94 Quinta do Crasto 2016 Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** For full review see page 8. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**94 Quinta do Crasto 2016 Tinta Roriz (Douro).** In the series of single-variety wines from this producer, this wine is rich, generously and smoothly textured. Tinta Roriz, aka Tempranillo, gives a powerful, concentrated wine, with ripe black

fruits and some fine potential. Drink the wine from 2022. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$87

**94 Quinta do Crasto 2016 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** This wine completes a trio of single-varietal wines, showcasing the top grapes of the Douro. This perfumed, ripe and stylish wine is rich with black fruits, while also stylishly restrained. It is just approaching its peak, but will certainly age well. Drink now, but better wait until 2021. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$78

**93 Quinta do Crasto 2016 Touriga Franca (Douro).** One of a series of single-varietal wines from this producer, this wine celebrates one of the essential grapes of the Douro region. It is a balanced, rich, black-fruit dominated, while also succulent wine. Generous tannins have been softened by the wood aging into a luxurious texture. Drink the wine now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$78

**93 Quinta dos Avidagos 2016 Grande Reserva (Douro).** This is a rich, properly mature wine that has developed leather and tarry characters while keeping its rich black fruits. Aging for 18 months in wood made the wine rich, dense with spice and with a touch of pepper as well as acidity at the end. Drink now. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80

**93 Quinta dos Murças 2018 Margem (Douro).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**93 Quinta dos Murças 2015 Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Casca Wines 2018 Bote Sailing Boat Reserva Touriga Nacional-Touriga Franca (Douro).** Perfumed and ripe, this is a firm, concentrated wine from its Portugal collection. It shows the Douro's minerality and structure, bringing out tannins and ripe black-plum flavors. The wine has a fine future, and will be best from 2022. Cellar Wines Distributing. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**92 Ramos-Pinto 2018 Duas Quintas Reserva (Douro).** The latest release of this iconic wine is beautifully structured, packed with black fruits and acidity. Coming from the producer's Quinta da Ervamoira and Quinta dos Bons Ares, the wine is dense, concentrated and certainly age-worthy. Drink this fine wine from 2022. Maisons Marques & Domains USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**91 Lima & Smith 2019 Tecedeiras Lilás (Douro).** Bold tannins and rich black fruits mark a wine that has youth and also a fine potential. It is structured and complex, balancing acidity and black-plum-skin flavors with firm tannins. Drink



the wine from 2023. Kindred Vines. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

**91** **Quinta do Crasto 2017 Crasto Superior (Douro).** For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice*.  
abv: 14% Price: \$29

**90** **Quinta do Vallado 2018 Vallado Tinto (Douro).** For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice*.  
abv: 14% Price: \$23

**90** **Quinta dos Avidagos 2016 Premium (-Douro).** This estate, in the Corgo river valley, was created in the 18th century. This rich wine, with its fully integrated tannins and black fruits, is ripe, still full of life and with a powerful structure. The wine can be drunk now, but will be better from 2021. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$42

**89** **Lima & Smith 2018 Flor das Tecedeiras (Douro).** This dense, juicy wine has some bold tannins as well as concentrated black fruits. The wine has some freshness in the acidity, as well as a dry core that needs to soften. Drink from 2021. Kindred Vines. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$23

**89** **Quinta dos Avidagos 2017 Reserva (Douro).** Four of the principal Douro grapes, including 50% Touriga Nacional go into this ripe wine. The tannins are still very present, backed by juicy fruits and touches of wood aging. The wine should age a further, so drink from 2022. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$24

**88** **Duorum 2018 Tons de Duorum (Douro).** This young, bright and fruity wine is packed with blackberry flavors. Tannins and a mineral texture are reminders that this comes from the Douro's schist soils. That makes for a ripe wine that has structure. Drink from 2021. Winebow. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

**88** **Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Terraços de Xisto (Douro).** The schist soil of the Douro vineyards is what gives the wine its minerality and texture. This young wine is striated with this tautness while also having fine black fruits and acidity. Drink the wine from 2021. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$12

**88** **Quinta do Crasto 2018 Crasto Tinto (Douro).** This is a ripe, full and generous wine. Touches of minerality give the black fruits structure but do not detract from the wine's rich fruitiness. The wine is very ready to drink. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**87** **Quinta dos Avidagos 2017 Avidagos Colheita Tinto (Douro).** Ripe berry fruits are now

softening well to give a ripe, fruity wine that has touches of spice and a smoky character. The wine, with its red-berry flavors, is ready to drink. Douro Vino Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$12

## DÃO

**93** **Fontes da Cunha 2017 Munda (Dão).** This Alfrocheiro is defiantly Dão in its structure, its rich tannins and its strong granitic minerality. The wine has softened and integrated so that there are some fine secondary flavors balancing this strong texture. Drink this fine wine now. EcoValley. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$49

**92** **Fontes da Cunha 2015 Munda Touriga Nacional (Dão).** This is a ripe, perfumed wine, finely structured and approaching maturity. Fermented and aged in wood, it has richness, a dense texture and black-fruit flavors that have softened into richness. With its concentration, the wine has power as well as a warm, opulent character. Drink now. EcoValley. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$45

**91** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2018 Ribeiro Santo Vinha de Santa Maria Cabanas de Viriato Reserva (Dão).** This is a fine, perfumed wine. Rich tannins and spicy flavors are moulded by the wood flavors, eucalyptus and rich black fruits. This is a fine, ripe and fruity wine that is still a little young. Give it more time and drink from 2022. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

**90** **Kelman Wines 2016 Reserva Lagar (Dão).** A classic Dão blend of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz and Alfrocheiro, this wine is still developing. The rich tannins and the mineral texture of the wine are still working towards maturity. Fermented in open stone lagars, the wine has a rounded, full character that will bring future richness. Drink the wine from 2021. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**90** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Ribeiro Santo Bastardo (Dão).** This is a wonderfully rich, dense, mineral driven wine. Its powerful tannins and solid structure speak of the granite soils of the Dão region. It is still young, bright with red fruits and should age further. Drink from 2021. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

**88** **Kelman Wines 2017 Kelman Tinto (Dão).** This mature, juicy wine, with its soft tannins and red fruits, is lightly structured and ready to drink. It has a line of bright acidity that comes from the wine's mature fruitiness. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**88** **Parras Wines 2018 Evidência Tinto (Dão).** This is an open, black-fruit flavored and

softly tannic wine. With rich black plums, a light touch of spice and a generous, ripe aftertaste, this wine is attractive and ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$10

**87** **Fontes da Cunha 2019 Mondego Jaen (Dão).** Pale red in color, this is a light, fruity wine that has developed quickly. With its red-cherry fruitiness and soft texture, it is an easy wine to drink now. EcoValley. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

**86** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Escadas da Beira Reserva (Dão).** With three years since harvest, this is a fine, rich wine. Its tannins and ripe fruit are fully integrated into the generous blackberry and smoky flavors. The wine is totally ready to drink. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$15

**84** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Escadas da Beira (Dão).** A blend of the classic Dão grapes of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz and Alfrocheiro, the wine has earthy aromas that translate into rustic fruitiness. This is a wine for barbecues, and easy drinking with fruitiness. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$12

## LISBOA

**91** **Casa Santos Lima 2017 Palha Canas (Lisboa).** This is a satisfyingly ripe, mature wine. The black fruits and rich tannins are developing well, giving a balance between the fresher acidity and the spicier flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

**90** **Casca Wines 2018 Bote Sailing Boat Reserva Touriga Nacional-Merlot (Lisboa).** A year in wood has produced a rich, elegant and balanced wine. Firm tannins are paired with concentrated black fruits, acidity and a fine smoky aftertaste. The wine could age a little further, so drink from 2021. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**90** **Parras Wines 2018 Quinta do Gradil Colheita (Lisboa).** This is a rare blend of Tannat and Touriga Nacional. The result is firmly structured, rich in dark fruits, solid tannins as well as ripe black-plum flavors. The balance of this wine is well established, giving a succulent richness to the wine's density. Drink from 2021. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$14

**90** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2018 Arreio (Lisboa).** The wine has a generous, rich character that is structured by the blend of Touriga Nacional and Cabernet Sauvignon. With some bottle age, the wine has become rich, the black fruits have evolved,

# BUYINGGUIDE

the tannins have softened and the wine is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**90** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2018 SyTR (Lisboa).** A rich, wood-aged wine, this has a fine smoky and black-fruit character. Blending Syrah and Tinta Roriz, the wine has spice, light toastiness and, above all, bold, rich blackberry fruits. The wine is just ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2018 Mina Velha Reserva (Lisboa).** Aged for six months in wood, the wine has structure and firm tannins. It has a serious, dry character that will give the wine density and dark fruits as it ages. The wine should be ready from 2021. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2018 Q.S.S. 1755 Reserva (Lisboa).** The wine commemorates the founding of this estate in 1755. With its dark tannins and firm structure, the wood-aged wine has weight and rich black fruits to balance the dry core. Drink the wine from 2021. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2019 Mina Velha (Lisboa).** Named after the water source under the vineyard, this wine is a stylish blend of Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz. Its fine tannins and structured black fruits are rich and with a good balance. Drink the wine now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**87** **Parras Wines 2018 Mula Velha Reserva (Lisboa).** This is an immediately attractive, lightly textured and fruity wine. Black currant flavors and juicy acidity are given a touch of wood aging to round the wine out and make it totally ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Parras Wines 2018 Ruelas Reserva (Lisboa).** Ripe red fruits with a touch of wood and a fine, maturing structure, all give this wine richness. Along with vibrant acidity, the wine is balanced and ready to drink. MS Walker. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2019 Miradouro da Vinha (Lisboa).** Bright with red fruits, the wine is open, balancing fresh acidity and a gentle tannic structure. The wine with its friendly character and young, vibrant fruit is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**87** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2019 Portão 9 (Lisboa).** A softly textured, juicy red-fruit flavored wine, this has an attractively perfumed character. This lightly structured blend of Touriga Nacional

and Syrah is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**86** **Casa Santos Lima 2019 Blend Portugal (Lisboa).** This simple, fruity blend has been aged briefly in wood to soften the wine's bright fruitiness. With light tannins, blackberry fruits and a touch of spice, the wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86** **Casca Wines 2019 Cabo da Roca Syrah-Castelão-Aragonez (Lisboa).** This bright wine brings out its fruitiness as well as light tannins and a warm, open structure. Blackberry flavors have spice and ripeness as well as a fresh streak at the end. Drink now. Cellar Wines Distributing. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Casa Santos Lima 2019 Topo Red Blend (Lisboa).** A light, bright and fruity wine, this has red-berry flavors and a fine line in refreshing acidity. A little wood aging has tamed the wine's fruitiness and it is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2019 Forte do Cego (Lisboa).** A smoothly textured, open wine, this has ripe berry fruits, soft tannins and a juicy, friendly character. The wine is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

## TEJO

**93** **Quinta da Lapa 2015 Santa Teresa d'Ávila Homenagem Reserva (Tejo).** The inky-black color of this wine comes from impressive Alicante Bouschet. It is a rich wine, packed with dense tannins and perfumes from the wood aging. Bold black fruits give the wine great ripeness and as well as the beginnings of maturity. Drink the wine from 2021. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**93** **Rui Reguinga 2018 Tributo (Tejo).** This rich, wood-aged wine has a touch of white Viognier to soften the power of the concentrated black fruits. The wine has a ripe southern feel to it, although the firm tannins do give structure and aging potential. The richness and the structure are developing together. Drink from 2022. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**92** **Terra Silvestre 2014 Grande Reserva (Tejo).** Two big, bold grapes (Syrah and Alicante Bouschet) have come together in this mature wine. It has flavors of old toastiness, along with rich black fruits that have developed undergrowth flavors and have softened the wine's tannins. The wine is

perfectly mature and ready to drink. Vinamericas Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$49

**91** **Adega Cooperativa do Cartaxo 2013 Desalmando (Tejo).** This heavy bottle, weighing 3.3 pounds, contains a richly mature wine. It is balanced, ripe with spice, hints of wood aging and generous smoky, licorice flavors. At seven years old, the wine is totally ready to drink. Wine Enterprises LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**91** **Quinta da Alorna 2017 Reserva Touriga Nacional-Cabernet Sauvignon (Tejo).** Produced from a selection of fruit, this rich, wood-aged wine is densely textured. Its firm black fruits are maturing well, moving from pure fruitiness to spice and perfumes. This is a fine, ageworthy wine that will be ready from 2021. American B.D. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**91** **Quinta da Lapa 2016 Reserva (Tejo).** This rich blend of four grapes is at perfect maturity with its smooth tannins, hints of undergrowth flavors and generous tannins. The wine's ripeness has now matured into a fine spicy character. It is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**91** **Quinta da Lapa 2017 Reserva Syrah (Tejo).** This luscious, generous wine manages to harness the perfumes and structure of the grape with great style. It is a rich wine, powerful and dense while also having elegance and freshness. Drink now. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Quinta da Lapa 2017 Reserva Merlot (Tejo).** One of a series of single-varietal wines from this producer, the wine is full of brisk red fruits, with juicy acidity and the beginnings of maturity. It is a delicious, rich wine that is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Quinta do Casal Branco 2018 Lobo e Falcão Reserva (Tejo).** A wood-aged blend, this wine includes Syrah and a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon. It is structured with smoky black fruits and a pinch of spice. Produced from a vineyard selection, the wine could age further. Drink from 2021. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Terra Silvestre 2016 Grande Reserva (Tejo).** Two-and-a-half years in wood have given a perfumed wine that has strong wood alongside the wine's warm black fruits. This rich blend of Touriga Franca, Syrah and Alicante Bouschet is stylish and only just ready to drink. Vinamericas Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$49

**88** **Quinta da Lapa 2017 Retro Clarete (Tejo).** A blend of white and red grapes, following a recipe created by medieval monks, this wine is light,

fruity with soft tannins and the freshest acidity. Drink now. D'Ouro Vino Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**87 Quinta do Casal Branco 2019 Lobo e Falcão (Tejo).** This easy, soft and fruity wine has plenty of black-currant fruit flavors that are lifted by the acidity and freshness. Driven by the fruitiness, this wine is ready to drink. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 Quinta do Casal Branco 2018 Red Blend (Tejo).** Syrah and Alicante Bouschet dominate this full, dark-colored wine. It has dark tannins and ripe juicy blackberry fruits. There is a fine layer of spice to bring out the wine's richness. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**87 Terra Silvestre 2018 Private Selection (Tejo).** Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, hardly a typical Portuguese blend, gives a stylish wine with softened tannins and attractive red-berry flavors. A touch of spice and wood add to the wine's final freshness. Vinamericas Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**86 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Monte da Casta Tinto (Tejo).** A ripe, spicy wine, this has wood flavors filling out the black-currant fruits. It is young and fruity but perfectly ready to drink. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**86 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Vinha dos Vinte (Tejo).** Showing toasty flavors and overripe black fruits, this is a generous wine that has smooth tannins and a juicy aftertaste. Drink now. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

## PENÍNSULA DE SETÚBAL

**90 José Maria da Fonseca 2017 Pasmados (Península de Setúbal).** With 10 months of wood aging, the wine, dominated by Touriga Nacional, has velvet tannins, layers of juicy black fruits and a full, rich texture. The tannins show the wine could benefit from further aging, so wait to drink this stylish wine from 2021. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 José Maria da Fonseca 2018 Vinhas de Algeruz Reserva (Península de Setúbal).** This wine comes from the recently-purchased Vinha Grande de Algeruz vineyard. A blend of Castelão and Syrah, it is perfumed with ripe red fruits and plenty of dense juicy fruitiness. Everything is underpinned by the wine's toastiness from wood aging. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$11

**87 Venâncio Costa Lima 2018 Pioneiro Tinto (Península de Setúbal).** Soft and fruity, this

is an immediately drinkable wine. With its red-berry flavors and gentle tannins, it has a friendly, open feel. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$13

## ALENTEJO

**93 Herdade do Rocim 2018 Clay Aged (Alentejo).** Foot trodden in open stone lagars and aged in an amphora, this wine reflects a traditional way of life. Its rich fruits and opulent texture give it an open, full-bodied character, enhanced by the warm structure. Drink the wine from 2022. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$51

**92 J. Portugal Ramos 2018 Marquês de Borba Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo).** From old vines, this structured blend of Alicante Bouschet, Aragonese, Castelão and Syrah has density and rich tannins. It has solid black fruits and concentration that gives a rich, licorice and spice flavor to the fruitiness. Age this wine further, drink from 2022. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Adega de Borba 2017 Quintas de Borba (Alentejo).** This is a ripe wine. Packed with tannins and densely textured, it has black-plum fruits, and a dark color from the Alicante Bouschet in the blend. Drink this rich wine now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$9

**88 Adega de Borba 2018 Reserva (Alentejo).** With its cork label as a reminder that this wine comes from the Portuguese heartland of cork production, this fruity wood-aged wine has light tannins and generous black fruits. It is not for long-term aging and this wine is enjoyably ready to drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**87 Adega de Borba 2018 Castelo de Borba (Alentejo).** A gentle aging in oak for a few months has brought spice to the soft black fruitiness of this wine. It is perfumed, fruity and with gentle tannins that have fully integrated with the fruit. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$8

**87 Herdade de Coelheiros 2018 Coelheiros (Alentejo).** A fruity, still lightly tannic, wine with a dry core, this is a juicy blend of Touriga Nacional and Alicante Bouschet. With its layers of black fruit and acidity, the wine can age. Drink from 2021. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**87 J. Portugal Ramos 2019 Marquês de Borba Colheita (Alentejo).** Wood aged and ripe, this is a rounded, young and fruity wine. With its blend of six grapes, it represents a fine cross-section of the vintage—rich, softly textured and almost ready

to drink. Just wait until early 2021. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**86 Adega de Borba 2018 Montes Claros (Alentejo).** An open, fruity and juicy wine, this has simple red-berry fruits. Lit by the acidity and spice, the wine is an easy blend of Aragonese, Syrah and Touriga Nacional. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$9

## ALENTEJANO

**94 Casa Relvas 2018 Herdade de São Miguel Pé de Mãe (Alentejano).** This vineyard-select wine, wood aged for 18 months, is powerful and dense, and still very young. Rich tannins, licorice and spice flavors along with concentrated blackberries, give this wine power and aging potential. It is impressively rich, drink from 2023. Quintessential Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**94 Casa Relvas 2018 Herdade de São Miguel Reserva (Alentejano).** For full review see page 6. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**94 Monte da Ravasqueira 2014 Ravasqueira Premium (Alentejano).** This is a major wine, aged for two years in wood and sustained by substantial fruit weight. Dense black fruits, rich tannins, powerful spice and a finely rounded texture all come together in an impressive concentration. The wine is now mature although still showing considerable life and freshness. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**93 Howard's Folly 2015 Reserva (Alentejano).** The top wine from this producer is now impressively mature. The blend of Syrah and Alicante Bouschet grown on granite soils brings out terrific richness along with a cooler elegant side. The wine is now developing maturity and is ready to drink. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**93 Monte da Ravasqueira 2018 Ravasqueira Reserva da Família (Alentejano).** This is a beautifully structured blend of Touriga Nacional and Syrah. Its richness is generous, full of black fruits, ripe tannins and a fine, smooth texture. With a fine jammy, juicy character, along with layers of fruitiness, the wine is well ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**93 Monte da Ravasqueira 2017 Ravasqueira Syrah-Viognier (Alentejano).** In the style of a Côte-Rôtie blend from the Rhône Valley, the wine is richly textured, mature with plenty of ripe tannins. A mineral texture gives an edge to the wine that makes it both rich and structured. Black-plum



# BUYINGGUIDE

fruits and acidity show well at the end. Drink this impressive wine from 2021. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**92 Casa Relvas 2018 Herdade de São Miguel Escolha dos Enólogos (Alentejano).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Howard's Folly 2013 Winemaker's Choice (Alentejano).** Now perfectly mature, this is a balanced, perfumed wine. Ripe tannins have been tamed and fully integrated into the ripe black fruits, blackberry flavors and dense texture. The wine, while ready, could well age further. Drink now or from 2021. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Monte da Ravasqueira 2018 Vinha das Romãs (Alentejano).** Named after a single vineyard, formerly a pomegranate grove, this wine is marked by its perfumed tannins and dark-black fruits. Its dense texture and young tannins indicate plenty of potential. Rich and full, it will be ready from 2022. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**91 Casa Relvas 2018 Herdade da Pimenta Colheita (Alentejano).** A ripe, perfumed wine, this has solid and rich layers of tannins and blackberry fruit. At this stage, the wood aging is a strong element and this needs to soften into the generous fruits and acidity. Drink the wine from 2022. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Casca Wines 2018 Bote Sailing Boat Reserva Touriga Nacional-Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano).** One of a range of wines that celebrate Portugal's regions, this is a ripe, sunny example from the south. Warm tannins come from the year in wood to produce a rich wine, full of dark-black fruits. Give the wine a few more months and drink from 2021. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Ciconia 2018 The Reserva Blend (Alentejano).** With nine months of wood aging, this ripe, structured wine has a spicy edge to go with the generous black fruits and rich tannins. Smoky and fruity, the wine does have some further potential, although it can be enjoyed now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Howard's Folly 2016 Sonhador (Alentejano).** From vineyards in the hilly northeast of the Alentejo, the wine is generous, smoothly textured and with some further potential. Its ripe tannins and vibrant black fruits are immediately appealing, offering richness and style. Drink now. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**90 Howard's Folly 2015 Sonhador (Alentejano).** The Portalegre vineyards of this producer, in northeastern Alentejo have produced what is

now a generous, rounded wine. It is just beginning its maturity, with the secondary flavors creeping into the black fruits. Drink this rich, full wine now. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$22

**90 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Dona Vitoria Coleção Privada (Alentejano).** This dense wine from the warm vineyards of the Alentejo region has a ripe texture, rich luxurious black fruits and juicy acidity. Combined together, they have produced a full wine that still has freshness. Drink from 2021. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**90 Monte da Ravasqueira 2017 Ravasqueira Touriga Franca (Alentejano).** This grape, normally found in Douro blends, takes on a much richer hue in the southern warmth of the Alentejo. It has spice and full, ripe black fruits lifted by generous acidity, with tannins to hold everything together. The wine is just ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Casca Wines 2017 Monte Cascas Colheita (Alentejano).** This perfumed wine, aged for six months in wood, is ripe and now mature. Juicy red fruits go together with a smoky texture to give spice and generous tannins. The wine is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**89 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Dona Vitoria Grande Escolha (Alentejano).** Although the wine is young, it has an attractive softness and fruitiness that make it nearly ready to drink. Blackberry flavors and fresh acidity are ripely brought together by the generous fruitiness. Light tannins have been softened further by short wood aging. Drink the wine from 2021. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Guarda Rios Gold Edition (Alentejano).** This is a ripe, juicy and fruity wine, made to be drunk young. It has attractive, open black fruits and warm tannins, with a fine edge of pepper at the end. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Casa Relvas 2019 Herdade de São Miguel Colheita Seleccionada (Alentejano).** Still young, but with vibrant red fruits and soft tannins, this is a spicy wine that has both richness and accessibility. Black fruits, with hints of berry as well as wood flavors, are already coming together. Drink the wine now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Fortissimo (Alentejano).** A ripe, bold and spicy wine, this has a rich, opulent feel to it. That contrasts with the juicy black-currant fruits that cut through the wine's density. A blend of four grapes with wood aging,

this wine is finely balanced and ready to drink. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Herdade do Rocim 2019 Alentejano.** Young, fruity and full of berry and spice flavors, this is full, generous and set to soften, to open and to be ready to drink. Wait a few months and drink from mid-2021. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 J. Portugal Ramos 2019 Loios Tinto (Alentejano).** Always fruity and with fresh red fruits and soft tannins, this is a vibrant wine. Its acidity and direct, forward fruitiness are delicious and ready to drink. Winebow. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$9

**88 Parras Wines 2016 Pêra Doce Signature (Alentejano).** This ripe wine still shows wood-aging flavors. That gives a strong spicy character and does unbalance the fruit. So the wine obviously needs more time to bring out the ripe damson plum flavors. Drink from 2021. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**87 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2018 Maria Mora Cabernet Sauvignon (Alentejano).** Black currant and ripe red berries shine in this wine. It does have some dry tannins but they are present as a support to the ripe, generous and juicy fruit. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2018 Seleção do Ano (Alentejano).** Properly rich and bold, this is a solid, dense wine. Its tannins are present but are well integrated into the black fruitiness. There is a freshness as well to this wine, giving a lift and fragrance at the end. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**86 Ciconia 2019 Alentejano.** The wine is all about ripe, soft fruits. Berry flavors are tempered by the wine's generous texture, juicy acidity and attractive fruitiness. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**86 J. Portugal Ramos 2019 Smart Dog Pingo's Edition (Alentejano).** Smoothly textured and mellifluous, this is an easy wine to drink. Its simple black fruits and touch of spice go well with the acidity to give freshness and softness. Drink now. Winebow. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**86 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2018 Flor de Maio Mayflower (Alentejano).** The mayflower is a red poppy that flowers in May in Portugal. The wine is juicy, ripe, full of red fruits and contrasting acidity. It is perfectly ready to drink. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Syrah (Alentejano).** A soft, lightly wood aged wine, this is ripe, easygoing and full of young, vibrant fruit. Acidity, fruitiness and light tannins hang together well. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**86 Parras Wines 2017 Pêra Doce Reserva (Alentejano).** This soft wine still shows its wood aging in the spiciness. That complements the red-berry fruits and gentle mature tannins. The wine is ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

## OTHER RED WINES

**90 Parras Wines 2019 Casa das Gaeiras (Obidos).** From vines around the historic walled city of Obidos, this black-fruit flavored wine with its ripe tannins is still young but promising plenty, with its ripeness and warm structure. It is not for long-term aging, but letting the tannins soften for a few months will give the wine its real shape. Drink from 2021. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**89 Casca Wines 2019 1808 Reserva (Beira Interior).** For a reserva this is surprisingly forward and ready. Its ripe black fruits have softened the tannins, rounding the structure. A smoky edge and bright acidity complete the profile of a fine wine that is ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Venâncio Costa Lima 2016 Reserva (Palmela).** Made from the red grape that dominates this region south of Lisbon, the wine is ripe, soft and mature. With its spice and juicy berry flavors well tamed, the wine is lightly peppery, fruity and ready to drink. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**85 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Al-Ria (Algarve).** From the southernmost wine region of Portugal, this blend of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz and Syrah, benefits from the sun to give a ripe, red fruit character ready for the barbecue. Drink the wine now. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

## PORT

**98 Quinta do Crasto NV Honore Very Old Tawny Port.** This is an extraordinary wine. It was created from a blend of very old tawnies (the oldest estimated to date from 1873). The resulting wine, amazingly perfumed and with a texture like liquid lavender honey is stunningly full of life. What shows most strongly are the perfumes, the intensely floral character and the poise between acidity, wood aging and freshness. It has been bottled in Portu-

guese crystal decanters. Drink now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$8500

**98 Taylor Fladgate 2018 Vintage Port.** This is an exceptional vintage, most unusually the third in a row from this producer. Intensely perfumed, richly structured with dark-black fruits, concentrated tannins, it is set for seriously long-term aging. The power of the wine, based around the producer's Quinta da Vargellas, is magnificent. Drink this major Port from 2029. Kobrand. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$120

**97 Kopke 1940 Colheita Tawny Port.** The seemingly inexhaustible supply of amazing old tawnies from this producer must surely have reached its apogee in this magnificent Port. Intense, both sweet from the original fruits and dry with the 80 years of wood aging, the wine still has raisin and dried prune flavors as well as the wonderful concentration. Like all old tawnies, this wine is ready for sipping. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$820

**95 Kopke 1981 Colheita Tawny Port.** The beautiful old gold color of this wine sets the scene for a Port that is rich, lusciously sweet but also shot through with acidity. It is this balance that makes for a gorgeous wine, ripe and fresh, rich and mature. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$90

**95 Kopke 1960 Colheita Tawny Port.** Bottled after 60 years in wood, this Port shows extraordinary intensity. It has kept plenty of richness from the original fruitiness, but it is the old gold and wood flavors that bring out concentration and the bite of spirit that opens up the palate at the end. Drink this fine wine now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$330

**95 Kopke 1940 White Colheita Tawny Port.** Although this is a white Port from white grapes, those 80 years in wood have transformed the color into light gold. Beautifully aromatic, this is a sipping wine, a meditation wine, with its extreme concentration, almost shocking acidity along with rich sweetness. It's a rare experience, happily ready to drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$950

**95 Quinta do Vallado 2018 Vintage Port.** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$110

**94 Croft 2018 Quinta da Roeda Vintage Port.** Croft's showpiece estate at Pinhão always forms the base of the producer's Vintage Ports. Here it shines on its own in a wonderful perfumed, richly textured wine. In a dry style, the wine goes for richness and nutty, dried raisin flavors. With its structure, it will certainly age. Drink from 2028. Kobrand. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$50

**94 Fonseca 2018 Guimaraens Vintage Port.** This is a beautiful, luscious wine. It has all the characteristics of a fine Vintage from this producer, with richness and opulence masking powerful tannins. Here, though, is a Port that will also develop relatively quickly. It is likely to be ready from 2027. Kobrand. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$58

**94 Kopke 1980 Colheita Tawny Port.** Ripe, sweet and with a toffee and caramel character, this is a smooth, generous Port. Its intensity comes from the concentration of fruit and the 40 years of wood aging that match it. This is a full, mellifluous wine, rich and ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$100

**94 Ramos-Pinto NV RP 30 Tawny 30 Years Port.** This Port is a triumph. Its age and its concentration are on one side of an equation that brings out the elegance of the style of this producer and the balance of sweetness, dark-toffee flavors and acidity are on the other. The wine is very ready to drink. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20.5% **Price:** \$115

**93 Kopke 2000 Colheita Tawny Port.** This wood-aged tawny is still fresh, boasting fruit as well as old-wood maturity. It has ripeness shot through with intense acidity. With its richness and balance between raisin and red fruits, the Port is perfectly ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$50

**93 Quinta do Crasto 2000 Colheita Tawny Port.** An especially dark and dense Colheita Tawny, this has great richness and a fine balance between the fruit and the wood-aging flavors. Dates, prunes and blackberry flavors mingle with nuttiness, spice and a fine end of acidity. Drink this Port now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$58

**93 Ramos-Pinto NV RP 20 Quinta do Bom Retiro Tawny 20 Years Port.** This quinta, in the heart of the Douro Valley vineyards, has produced an elegant Port, ripe and finely balanced. Its opulent texture gives it a smooth feel, lifted by the dried fruit, spice and freshened by acidity. This is a delicious wine to drink now. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20.5% **Price:** \$73

**92 Kopke 2001 Colheita Tawny Port.** As one of a series of great, aged tawnies released by Kopke, this Colheita is still quite young. It has just hints of the freshness of red fruits that are now endowed with intense acidity, old-wood flavors and great concentration. Dried fruits show through the bite of spirit and the mellow aftertaste. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$35

**91 Ramos-Pinto 2015 Late Bottled Vintage Port.** This is a beautifully perfumed wine. With its violet aromas and rich floral flavors, it has both

# BUYINGGUIDE

structure and great balance. Black fruits, sultanas and a poise between richness and great fruits, the Port is still young and will benefit from a few more months. Drink from 2021. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.

**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Borges 2018 Vintage Port.** This Port is from a vintage that is proving to be of great quality. The wine has layers of black fruits and dried berries. It is in a sweet style of Vintage, with its jammy black-plum and prune flavors. It is possible to drink this wine soon, certainly from 2022, but it will also age well. JMV USA. —R.V.

**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$52

**90 Poças 2018 Vintage Port.** A special edition bottling to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the producer, the wine is packed with sweet dried fruit, generous tannins and great opulence. The wine's structure will allow it to age well, but it has enough richness to be ready soon. Drink from 2022 or age for many years. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.

**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$100

**90 Quinta do Crasto 2015 LBV Late Bottled Vintage Port.** Aged in wood for years before bottling, this fine, mature wine boasts rich tannins that have opened into the ripe prune and date flavors. The wine has a sweet profile and is generous and softly textured at the end. Drink now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.

**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$26

**90 Ramos-Pinto NV RP 10 Quinta da Ervamoira Tawny 10 Years Port.** This quinta, in the upper reaches of the Douro Valley is spectacularly situated near the prehistoric rock paintings of Foz Coa. The Port, still poised between fruit and oak aging shows prunes, black plums and fine acidity, with a bite of spirit. It is easily ready to drink. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.

**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$40

**87 Quinta do Crasto NV Finest Reserve Port.** Produced from old vines, of which this quinta has many, the wine is soft, raisiny and a great winter warmer. Sweet raisins give the wine an open, easy character that is immediately attractive. Drink now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.

**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$17

## CARCAVELOS

**94 Villa Oeiras NV Superior (Carcavelos).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*

**abv:** 18.5% **Price:** \$31/500 ml

**91 Villa Oeiras NV Carcavelos.** This is a rare fortified wine, aged for seven years in wood, made in protected Carcavelos vineyards two miles from the ocean west of Lisbon. With a golden color and plenty of wood and spice flavors, the wine with its richness and link between sweet fruits and drier

wood-aged flavors, deserves to be better known. Haus Alpenz. —R.V.

**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$23/500 ml

## MADEIRA

**96 Blandy's 1920 Medium Rich Bual (Madeira).**

Dark gold-green, this 100-year-old wine is extraordinary in its age and its flavors. The concentration is immense, sweetness vying with the most intense acidity in a welter of flavors. Such is its focus that it is for sipping rather than drinking—a wine for amazed meditation. Drink now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$2200

**96 Cossart Gordon 1975 Terrantez (Madeira).**

This rarest grape variety on Madeira has an awesome ability to age, with 200-year-old examples still full of fruit. That makes this 45-year-old wine almost youthful. It is off dry, with shocking intensity and concentration. Touches of sweeter toffee come through the acidity and old-wood flavors. This is an extraordinary experience. Now it has been bottled, the wine will not age further. So savor now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$388

**95 Blandy's 1976 Verdelho (Madeira).** The old gold color presages an intense wine. Acidity balances the smokiness and the candied orange-zest flavors. Medium dry in concept, it is a concentrated wine that brings the essence of its flavors together. Drink this wine now. Tasted 375ml. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$375

**92 Cossart Gordon 2008 Colheita Single Harvest Verdelho (Madeira).** For full review see page 12.

**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$48/500 ml

**90 Miles 1998 Tinta Negra Mole (Madeira).**

Produced from the chameleon grape of Madeira that has the ability to produce many styles of wine, this matured, wood-aged wine has sweetness as well as the acid intensity typical of aged Madeira. It is a beautifully textured wine that is ready to drink. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$154

## NORTHERN ITALY

### RED WINES

#### BAROLO

**100 Cavallotto 2013 Bricco Boschis Vigna San Giuseppe Riserva (Barolo).** A dazzling

showing that combines Old School structure with finesse, this stunning red offers sublime aromas of rose, camphor, dark-skinned berry and new leather. Full bodied and delicious, the compelling palate delivers fruit purity and complexity, featuring ripe Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, star anise and

tobacco. A backbone of noble tannins and vibrant acidity keeps it impeccably balanced. 2025–2053. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$165

**99 Cantina Bartolo Mascarello 2016 Barolo.**

Focused and fragrant, this striking red offers enticing perfumes recalling violet, rose, red berry and menthol. Showing extreme elegance, energy and precision, the palate doles out succulent cherry, raspberry, orange zest and star anise while a sprinkling of white pepper graces the lingering finish. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity provide wonderful balance. Drink 2026–2046. Rare Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$250

**99 Giuseppe Rinaldi 2016 Brunate (Barolo).**

Radiant and already showing impressive depth, this arresting red opens with perfumed berry, rose petal, violet, crushed mint and new leather aromas. Delicious and austere, it boasts compelling structure, delivering succulent red cherry, star anise, baking spice and orange-zest flavors framed in firm, refined tannins. Bright acidity provides energy and impeccable balance. Drink 2026–2046. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$249

**99 Mascarello Giuseppe e Figlio 2015 Monprivato (Barolo).** You can lose yourself just in

the aromas of this drop-dead gorgeous wine, thanks to a lovely bouquet that recalls rose, violet, vineyard dust, licorice and menthol. Boasting a winning combination of structure and finesse, the precise, full-bodied palate features juicy red cherry, raspberry, tobacco and white pepper alongside noble, enveloping tannins. It's impeccably balanced, with fresh acidity. Drink 2025–2035. Polaner Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$176

**99 Roagna 2015 Pira Vechie Viti (Barolo).**

Another drop-dead gorgeous wine from this dynamic estate, this elegantly structured wine opens with tantalizing aromas of camphor, fragrant purple flower, ripe berry, sunbaked earth and tobacco. Made with fruit from old vines, the youngest dating back to 1937, the compelling palate combines structure and grace, delivering pristine fruit sensations of strawberry compote and red cherry while licorice, baking spice and truffle add depth. Refined tannins and fresh acidity keep it balanced and vibrant. Drink 2023–2035. Polaner Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$225

**98 Giuseppe Rinaldi 2016 Tre Tine (Barolo).**

Gorgeous, fragrant and structured, this has enticing scents of violet, camphor, orange zest and red berry. The focused palate boasts great energy, doling out strawberry compote, crushed raspberry, cinnamon and white pepper alongside taut, elegant tannins and vibrant acidity. Just fantastic. Drink 2024–2041. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$249



**98 Oddero 2013 Vignarionda (Barolo).** Aromas of wild berry, rose and star anise mingle with scents of pine forest on this compelling, full-bodied red. Hailing from one of Barolo's most illustrious crus, it's a classic in the making, delivering juicy red cherry, baking spice and menthol alongside noble tannins. It's precise, structured and elegant, with a savory, lingering finish. Drink 2023–2043. Polaner Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$170

**96 Anselma Giacomo 2012 Vignarionda Riserva (Barolo).** From one of the most legendary vineyard sites in all of Barolo, this soulful, full-bodied red opens with aromas of leather, truffle, tobacco, baked plum and a hint of game. Compelling, velvety and delicious, the palate features fleshy Morello cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice and baking spice accompanied by firm, polished tannins that lend finesse. It's already showing beautifully but will age wonderfully for years to come. Drink through 2032. Weygandt-Metzler. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$160

**96 Mascarello Giuseppe e Figlio 2015 Perno Vigna Santo Stefano (Barolo).** Enticing aromas of red berry, baking spice, crushed rose and chopped mint waft out of the glass. It's all about intensity, complexity and elegance, delivering mature Marasca cherry, orange zest, licorice and tobacco before closing on a note of smoky flint. Taut but refined tannins provide support while fresh acidity lends perfect balance. Drink 2023–2030. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$112

**96 Roagna 2015 Pira (Barolo).** Leather, forest floor, rose and camphor aromas take shape on this fragrant red along with a whisper of tobacco. Polished, linear and savory, the elegantly structured palate features juicy cranberry, orange zest, licorice and a hint of baking spice. Taut, refined tannins provide support while fresh acidity keeps it nicely balanced. Drink 2022–2030. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$112

**95 Anselma Giacomo 2012 Felice Asnelma 100 Anni Riserva (Barolo).** Aromas of underbrush, leather, camphor and sunbaked soil form the nose. Structured and enveloping, the full-bodied palate presents dried cherry, blood orange, licorice and tobacco. It's concentrated with a velvety texture, thanks to firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2032. Weygandt-Metzler. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$110

**95 Mascarello Giuseppe e Figlio 2015 Villero (Barolo).** This compelling wine opens with enticing aromas of camphor, toasted hazelnut, white pepper and pipe tobacco. Demonstrating the firm's hallmark of power and finesse, the structured, focused palate shows Morello cherry, orange slice and licorice framed in firm, fine-grained tan-

nins. It's well balanced, with bright acidity. Drink 2025–2033. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$112

**94 Anselma Giacomo 2013 Collaretto Riserva (Barolo).** Earthy aromas of underbrush and leather align with dark spice and blue flower on this full-bodied red. Velvety and savory, the enveloping palate is loaded with personality, delivering ripe black cherry, licorice, tobacco and game alongside a backbone of noble tannins. It's a quintessential, old school Barolo and that's a good thing. Drink through 2033. Weygandt-Metzler. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**94 Bel Colle 2016 Monvigliero (Barolo).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**94 Roagna 2015 del Comune di Barolo (Barolo).** Violet, menthol, new leather and wild berry aromas waft out of the glass. The elegant palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, baking spice and a hint of rusty nail alongside taut, polished tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$112

**93 Anselma Giacomo 2015 Barolo.** Classic Nebbiolo aromas of dark-skinned berry, new leather, underbrush, violet and camphor mingle together in the glass. The full-bodied, chewy palate doles out ripe black cherry, crushed raspberry, baking spice and tobacco framed in firm, fine-grained tannins. It closes on an almond note. Drink 2022–2030. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$71

**93 Varej 2016 Barolo.** Earthy and downright delicious, this has aromas of forest floor, violet, new leather, game and tobacco. The full-bodied, enveloping palate doles out fleshy black cherry, mature plum, licorice and cinnamon alongside fine-grained, velvety tannins. Give it time to fully unwind and develop. Drink 2024–2031. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Bel Colle 2016 Simposio (Barolo).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Bel Colle 2009 10 Anni Riserva (Barolo).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**92 Fontanafredda 2016 del Comune di Sereralunga d'Alba (Barolo).** Aromas of black-skinned berry and baking spice follow through to the focused, savory palate along with licorice and orange zest. It's linear and structured, with taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2031. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$54

**90 Luca Bosio 2016 Barolo.** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**89 Rocchiverti 2016 Bricco Boschis (Barolo).** Aromas of French oak, coconut and orange rind follow over to the palate along with sour cherry, camphor and a hint of aniseed. It closes on an espresso note while grainy tannins clench the finish. The Piedmont Guy. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**87 Tenuta Carretta 2014 Riserva (Barolo).** This opens with aromas of forest floor, coconut and a whiff of eucalyptus. Mirroring the nose, the palate suggests French oak, espresso and butterscotch alongside the barest hint of orange rind. Assertive, grainy tannins leave a clenching, abrupt finish. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$160

**87 Tenuta Carretta 2013 Cannubi (Barolo).** Aromas of damp underbrush, oak, menthol and a whiff of incense form the subtle nose. The lean palate shows oak-driven sensations of coconut, exotic spice and toasted nut alongside a note of powdered sage but it lacks fruit richness. Astringent tannins leave a bracing, mouthdrying close. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

---

## BARBARESCO

---

**99 Roagna 2015 Montefico Vecchie Viti (Barbaresco).** Showing more strength and intensity than you normally find in Barbaresco, this stunning red opens with heady scents of wild berry, new leather, underbrush and menthol. The compelling palate features mature black raspberry, juicy cherry and licorice before finishing on a note of tobacco. It's still youthfully nervous and austere so give it time to fully develop. Drink 2027–2040. Polaner Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$225

**99 Roagna 2015 Pajè Vecchie Viti (Barbaresco).** Aromas of camphor, new leather, sunbaked soil and a whiff of violet shape the nose on this enthralling wine. Full bodied and boasting a concentrated depth of delicious flavors, the structured linear palate delivers mature Morello cherry, blood orange, star anise and tobacco set against a backbone of firm but refined tannins. Fresh acidity provides balance. Drink 2027–2040. Polaner Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$225

**98 Roagna 2015 Asili Vecchie Viti (Barbaresco).** From one of the greatest vineyard sites in Barbaresco, this captivating wine boasts enticing perfumes of fragrant purple flower, pressed rose, new leather, forest floor and dark spice. The palate is both elegant and earthy, doling out juicy Marasca cherry, crushed raspberry, truffle and star anise before finishing on the barest hint of game. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity keep it focused and balanced. Drink 2025–2035. Polaner Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$225

**98 Roagna 2012 Cricchet Pajè (Barbaresco).** Camphor, truffle, wild berry and new leather are just some of the aromas you'll encounter on this riveting red. The enveloping, delicious palate shows both power and finesse, featuring dried cherry, pomegranate, star anise and tobacco framed in noble tannins. Surprisingly bright acidity for the warm vintage lends balance and even more intensity. Drink 2022–2032. Polaner Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$950

**96 Roagna 2015 Pajè (Barbaresco).** Balsamic notes of camphor meld with ripe dark-skinned cherry, leather and dark spice. Delicious and loaded with personality, the enveloping palate doles out juicy black cherry, raspberry jam and star anise alongside earthy hints of truffle and game. Tightly knit, fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Drink after 2025. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$112

## NIZZA

**90 Pico Maccario 2017 Tre Roveri (Nizza).** Aromas of ripe black-skinned berry, forest floor and underbrush form the earthy, alluring nose. The savory, approachable palate offers ripe black plum, tobacco and black pepper alongside polished tannins. Enjoy through 2024. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Tre Secoli 2016 Riserva (Nizza).** Aromas of black plum, tilled soil and baking spice lead the way. The savory, rich palate offers blackberry jam, tobacco and licorice alongside velvety tannins. Drink through 2025. Wine 4 All. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**90 Vite Colte 2016 La Luna e i Falò (Nizza).** Enticing aromas of black cherry, eucalyptus and tobacco lead the way. The savory, full-bodied palate delivers crushed blackberry, clove and licorice alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2026. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**89 Garesio 2017 Nizza.** Aromas of black-skinned berry, scorched earth and mocha lead the nose. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, vanilla and tobacco alongside polished tannins. Enjoy through 2024. Vias Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**89 Vinchio-Vaglio Serra 2015 Laudana (Nizza).** Aromas of black plum, underbrush and mocha form the nose. The juicy, approachable palate offers Marasca cherry, clove and white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2023. Ionia Atlantic Imports, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**88 Il Botolo 2016 Nizza.** The shy nose eventually reveals ripe black plum, smoke and scorched earth. The dense palate offers prune,

mocha and vanilla alongside dusty tannins. You'll also detect the warmth of evident alcohol on the close. Drink through 2022. R.S. Lipman Co. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**88 Il Falchetto 2015 Bricco Rocche Riserva (Nizza).** Espresso, ripe black-plum and scorched earth aromas form the subtle nose on this solid red. The dense, monolithic palate offers toasted oak, prune and roasted coffee bean alongside ripe tannins and the heat of evident, almost scorching alcohol. Drink through 2022. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$85

## BARBERA D'ASTI SUPERIORE

**90 Cascina Castlet 2016 Litina (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Aromas of violet, baking spice and red-skinned berry lift out of the glass. The juicy palate offers red cherry, raspberry jam and tobacco alongside velvety tannins. Drink through 2024. Tutto Vino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$22

**89 Cascina Castlet 2016 Passum (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** This opens with aromas of black-skinned berry, cedar and tobacco. On the dense palate, pliant tannins accompany blackberry jam, mocha and clove notes alongside the warmth of evident alcohol. Drink through 2024. Tutto Vino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$37

**89 Pico Maccario 2017 Epico (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Aromas of black-skinned berry, underbrush and eucalyptus emerge from the glass. The concentrated palate shows black currant, clove and mocha alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2023. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**89 Vite Colte 2017 La Luna e i Falò (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Aromas of black-skinned berry, cedar and cooking spice emerge from the glass. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, clove and licorice alongside firm tannins. Enjoy through 2023. Opera Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 CarlindaPaolo 2016 Bricco della Cappelletta (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** This opens with aromas of black plum, cedar and espresso. The dense palate offers black-currant jam, coconut and black pepper alongside dusty tannins. Alluvial Wine. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Tenuta San Mauro 2016 Barbera d'Asti Superiore.** Aromas of cedar, mocha and black plum lead the nose. The dense palate offers blackberry jam, toasted oak and licorice alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2023. Good Company Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**87 Ca' de Lion Ghione 2017 Le Mucchie (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Earthy aromas of scorched earth, dark-skinned berry and leather lead the nose. The straightforward, accessible palate offers blackberry jam, vanilla and star anise alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. One Vine Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Il Botolo 2016 Barbera d'Asti Superiore.** This opens with aromas of mocha, dried plum and clove. The warm, straightforward palate offers raisin, cedar and vanilla alongside round tannins. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Neirano 2018 Le Croci (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Subdued aromas evoking cedar, baking spice and mocha slowly emerge from the glass. The straightforward, approachable palate suggests baked plum, clove and vanilla alongside rounded tannins. Drink soon. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## BARBERA D'ASTI

**93 Braidia di Giacomo Bologna 2017 Bricco dell'Uccellone (Barbera d'Asti).** Enticing aromas of mature black-skinned berry, violet, new leather and graphite emerge from the glass. The powerful, concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, ripe black cherry and black pepper alongside fine-grained, enveloping tannins. The rich fruit flavors counterbalance the warmth of alcohol. Enjoy through 2026. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$75

**92 Braidia di Giacomo Bologna 2017 Bricco della Bigotta (Barbera d'Asti).** Aromas of ripe black-skinned berry, scorched earth and baking spice emerge from the glass. The full-bodied, concentrated palate offers Marasca cherry, ripe black plum, black pepper and star anise. Drink through 2025. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$75

**92 Braidia di Giacomo Bologna 2016 Ai Suma (Barbera d'Asti).** This opens with mature black plum, cooking spice, toasted oak and underbrush aromas. The bold, full-bodied palate offers raspberry jam, cherry marinated in spirits, vanilla and tobacco alongside velvety tannins. Drink through 2025. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$102

**91 Braidia di Giacomo Bologna 2017 Monte Bruna (Barbera d'Asti).** Aromas of violet, black cherry and underbrush lead the way. The big, savory palate offers blackberry jam, tobacco and licorice alongside tightly knit, polished tannins. Drink through 2024. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Damilano 2018 Barbera d'Asti.** Aromas of red-skinned berry, cooking spice and green peppercorn lead the way. The silky palate offers

fleshy black cherry, almond and licorice alongside fresh acidity and pliant tannins. Enjoy through 2023. LLS-Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$23

**89 Enrico Serafino 2017 Cruva (Barbera d'Asti).** Aromas of black cherry, cedar and baking spice are front and center. The savory, medium-bodied palate offers crushed blackberry, tobacco and a hint of orange zest alongside lithe tannins. Drink through 2024. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Marengo 2018 Bassina (Barbera d'Asti).** Violet, red-plum and baking-spice aromas emerge from the glass. The juicy palate offers raspberry jam, black cherry and star anise alongside pliant tannins. Drink through 2024. Vias Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Abbazia 2018 Barbera d'Asti.** This opens with dark-skinned berry and cooking-spice aromas. The easy-drinking palate offers ripe blackberry, clove and a hint of white pepper alongside round tannins. Drink through 2023. Straitalian. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Cascina Castlet 2018 Barbera d'Asti.** Aromas of violet, underbrush and clove lead the nose. The savory, easygoing palate offers red cherry, cinnamon and white pepper alongside pliant tannins. Drink soon. Tutto Vino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**88 Castello del Poggio 2018 Barbera d'Asti.** Violet, black-skinned berry and cedar aromas come together in the glass. The savory palate doles out blackberry, clove and ground pepper alongside firm acidity and pliant tannins. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**88 Crotin 2018 La Martina (Barbera d'Asti).** Made with organically farmed grapes, this offers red-skinned berry, underbrush and cake-spice aromas. The easy-drinking palate features raspberry jam, star anise and cinnamon alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. Vance Vine Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Dogliotti 1870 2018 Barbera d'Asti.** This has aromas suggesting red plum, underbrush and baking spice. The juicy, accessible palate offers raspberry jam, white pepper and star anise alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. R.S. Lipman Co. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Pico Maccario 2018 Lavignone (Barbera d'Asti).** Aromas of violet, underbrush and cooking spice emerge from the glass. The savory palate offers black cherry, raspberry jam and star

anise alongside smooth tannins and bright acidity. LLS-Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Tre Secoli 2018 Laramè (Barbera d'Asti).** Made with organically grown Barbera grapes, this features aromas of red-skinned berry, scorched earth and baking spice. The straightforward palate offers red cherry, star anise and white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2023. Wine 4 All. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Vinchio-Vaglio Serra 2018 Sorì dei Mori (Barbera d'Asti).** Aromas of dark-skinned berry, baking spice and clove emerge from the glass. The juicy palate offers crushed blackberry, star anise and a hint of white pepper alongside easygoing tannins and fresh acidity. Ionia Atlantic Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**88 Vinchio-Vaglio Serra 2017 I Tre Vescovi (Barbera d'Asti).** This opens with aromas of black-skinned berry and whiffs of dark spice. The straightforward palate offers black plum, almond and ground clove alongside supple tannins. Drink through 2023. Ionia Atlantic Imports, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Viotti 2016 Ca' Nova (Barbera d'Asti).** Subtle red-skinned berry and baking-spice aromas emerge from the glass. The straightforward palate offers raspberry, clove and white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. EnoClassica Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Bricco dei Guazzi 2017 Barbera d'Asti.** This has aromas of black-skinned fruit, scorched soil and baking spice. The ripe, brawny palate offers prune and licorice alongside rounded tannins before closing on the heat of evident alcohol. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**87 Ca' de Lion Ghione 2018 L'Alterà (Barbera d'Asti).** Subdued aromas of underbrush, baking spice and a whiff of dark-skinned fruit emerge from the glass. The simple palate offers black plum and clove alongside rounded tannins. Drink soon. One Vine Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Il Botolo 2018 Barbera d'Asti.** This opens with subdued aromas of red-skinned fruit and cooking spice. The simple palate offers red cherry, star anise and vanilla alongside rounded tannins. Drink soon. R.S. Lipman Co. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87 Tenuta Olim Bauda 2018 Barbera d'Asti.** This opens with aromas of vanilla, violet and baking spice. The no-frills, accessible palate offers blackberry jam, almond and star anise alongside

smooth tannins. Drink soon. Weygandt-Metzler. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**86 Giordano 2018 Collection (Barbera d'Asti).** This simple red opens with aromas suggesting red-skinned berry and baking spice. The easy-drinking palate offers raspberry and a hint of clove alongside pliant tannins. Drink soon. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Il Falchetto 2017 Bricco Paradiso (Barbera d'Asti).** Toasted oak, vanilla and scorched earth lead the way while the dense, syrupy palate evokes prune, mocha and coconut alongside assertive tannins. The scorching heat of evident alcohol dominates the finish. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$35

---

## DOLCETTO D'ALBA

---

**91 Elvio Cogno 2018 Mandorlo (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Aromas of black-skinned berry, cooking spice and grilled herb emerge from the glass. The enveloping palate doles out juicy blueberry, star anise, almond and black pepper alongside velvety tannins and bright acidity. Enjoy through 2025. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Castello di Neive 2016 Vigna Basarin (Dolcetto d'Alba).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 G D Vajra 2018 Coste & Fossati (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Fragrant blue-flower, dark-skinned berry and nutmeg aromas lift out of the glass. The fresh, savory palate offers black currant, clove and raw almond alongside polished tannins. Enjoy soon. Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 Tenuta Rocca 2018 Rocca (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Made with organically farmed grapes, this medium-bodied red opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, violet and graphite. The juicy palate offers succulent red cherry, star anise and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Enjoy soon. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**89 Voerzio Martini 2018 Rocchettevino (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Black-skinned berry, licorice and cooking-spice aromas form the nose on this approachable red. The velvety palate offers blackberry, star anise and white pepper alongside smooth tannins. Drink soon. HB Wine Merchants. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88 Enrico Serafino 2019 Dosso (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Aromas of black-skinned berry, licorice and baking spice shape the nose. The light-bodied palate offers black cherry, star anise and a



# BUYINGGUIDE

touch of almond alongside pliant tannins. Enjoy soon. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Cantina Massara Burlotto 2019 Dolcetto d'Alba.** This has subdued aromas evoking red-skinned fruit and baking spice. The straight-forward palate offers red plum and clove alongside rounded tannins. Drink soon. Selezioni Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Giorgio Carnevale 2018 Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba.** Violet, tilled soil and cooking-spice aromas lead the nose. The juicy palate offers black cherry, clove and bitter almond alongside smooth tannins. Enjoy soon. PSP Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88 Giovanni Abrigo 2018 Garabei (Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba).** This opens with aromas of dark-skinned berry, tilled soil and a whiff of charcoal smoke. The savory palate offers blackberry, licorice and black pepper alongside smooth tannins. Enjoy soon. Elevation Wine Partners. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**87 Giordano 2018 Sorì Costa Fiore (Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba).** Subtle aromas suggesting blue flower and baking spice lead the nose. The easygoing palate offers cranberry and white pepper alongside lithe tannins. Drink soon. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87 Salvano 2017 Fosco (Dolcetto d'Alba).** This opens with subdued aromas evoking baking spice and ripe black-skinned fruit. The straight-forward palate offers dried black cherry, clove and hazelnut alongside relaxed tannins. Drink soon. Siema LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

## GATTINARA

**95 Travaglini 2015 Tre Vigne (Gattinara).** Fragrant and showing great class and pedigree, this opens with alluring aromas of wild berry, forest floor, new leather and dark spice. On the smooth, delicious palate, taut fine-grained tannins seamlessly support ripe Morello cherry, raspberry, licorice and tobacco before a flinty finish. Drink 2022–2035. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Travaglini 2015 Il Sogno (Gattinara).** Made with dried Nebbiolo grapes, this has aromas recalling mature dark-skinned fruit, baking spice, flint and menthol. The bold, velvety palate doles out baked plum, raspberry jam, vanilla and nutmeg framed in densely woven, fine-grained tannins before closing on an almost tangy mineral note. Drink through 2030. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$120

**93 Travaglini 2015 Riserva (Gattinara).** Aromas of underbrush, camphor and dark spice

shape the nose along with a whiff of blue flower. The firmly structured, medium-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, star anise, clove and tobacco framed in tight, close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Travaglini 2014 Tre Vigne (Gattinara).** Underbrush, tilled earth, blue flower and wild herb aromas meld together on this racy red. The savory, medium-bodied palate features juicy Marasca cherry, cranberry, licorice and flinty mineral set against a backbone of firm acidity and taut, refined tannins. Drink through 2026. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Travaglini 2016 Gattinara.** Enticing scents of rose, blue flower and perfumed berry mingle with whiffs of alpine herb and camphor on this fragrant red. Medium bodied and loaded with finesse and energy, the elegant palate doles out ripe black cherry, licorice and tobacco before closing a mineral note suggesting iron. Polished tannins and bright acidity provide lithe support. Drink through 2026. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Travaglini 2017 Gattinara.** Aromas of dark-skinned berry, violet and dark spice mingle with balsamic notes of camphor. Elegantly structured, the linear palate reveals mature Morello cherry, licorice and a hint of espresso framed in firm, fine-grained tannins. Give it a few more years to fully unwind. Drink 2022–2027. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## BOCA

**95 Carlone Davide 2016 Adele (Boca).** Forest floor, camphor, blue flower and new leather are just some of the aromas that you'll find on this structured, vibrant red. Firm and austere, the vibrant, focused palate has youthful intensity, featuring mature Marasca cherry, blood orange, white pepper and licorice set against assertive, noble tannins. Bright acidity keeps it balanced and precise, while an energizing mineral note suggesting flint caps off the finish. Drink 2028–2041. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**92 Carlone Davide 2016 Boca.** A fragrant blend of Nebbiolo and 15% Vespolina, this linear, focused red has aromas of rose petal, alpine herb, new leather and underbrush. On the racy, medium-bodied palate, notes of white pepper and star anise accent ripe Morello cherry before a savory saline finish. Tightly wound fine-grained tannins and a backbone of firm acidity provide the ageworthy framework. Drink 2026–2036. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

## GHEMME

**92 Ioppa 2015 Balsina (Ghemme).** Forest-floor, alpine-herb, blue-flower and new leather aromas waft out of the glass. Firm and medium bodied, the palate has a racy, linear elegance, featuring dried cherry, tobacco and licorice alongside tightly wound fine-grained tannins. Drink 2025–2035. Grand Cru Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 Ca' Nova 2011 Ghemme.** Red-berry, rose, tobacco and tilled soil aromas rise out of the glass on this 100% Nebbiolo from Alto Piemonte. It's still youthfully austere, offering dried Marasca cherry, orange zest and licorice alongside a backbone of assertive, fine-grained tannins. Give the tannins a few more years to unclench then drink to capture the remaining fruit. Tradizione Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**90 Ioppa 2015 Ghemme.** Aromas of pipe tobacco, blue flower and a whiff of baked plum form the nose. On the palate, notes of licorice and clove accent a core of dried black cherry. Firm, fine-grained tannins provide plenty of support. Drink 2023–2030. Grand Cru Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Ioppa 2015 Santa Fè (Ghemme).** Made with Nebbiolo and Vespolina, this has aromas of camphor, dried botanical herb, underbrush and a whiff of violet. It's austere and medium bodied, offering flavors of dried cherry, white pepper and star anise alongside assertive, close-grained tannins that grip the close. Drink 2025–2035. Grand Cru Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

## COSTE DELLA SESIA

**91 Cascina Preziosa 2016 Castleng Nebbiolo (Coste della Sesia).** Forest-floor and wild-berry aromas mingle with whiffs of rose and menthol. Smooth and concentrated, the medium-bodied palate offers fleshy Marasca cherry, raspberry, licorice and a hint of white pepper alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. It's balanced, with fresh acidity. Drink 2023–2028. The Piedmont Guy. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**90 Le Pianelle 2017 Al Forte (Coste della Sesia).** A blend of 70% Nebbiolo, 20% Croatina and 10% Vespolina, this has aromas of ripe black-skinned fruit, menthol and licorice. The aromas carry over to the smooth, medium-bodied palate, along with white pepper and orange zest while fine-grained tannins provide the lithe framework. Drink through 2023. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 Cascina Preziosa 2017 Spanna (Coste della Sesia).** A blend of 85% Nebbiolo and 15% Barbera, this has aromas of exotic spice, blue flower and a whiff of toasted nut. It's firm and austere,

offering suggestions of dried cherry, orange zest and licorice alongside tightly knit, close-grained tannins. Bright acidity keeps it energized. Drink after 2022. The Piedmont Guy. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

### 89 Travagliani 2019 Nebbiolo (Coste della Sesia).

Violet, red-berry and dark-spice aromas shape the nose on this young, vibrant red. The savory, easy-drinking palate offers juicy Morello cherry, licorice and a hint of white pepper alongside bright acidity and smooth, supple tannins. It shows the lighter side of Nebbiolo and is ready to enjoy now. Drink through 2024. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

### 88 Cascina Preziosa 2018 Vespolina (Coste della Sesia).

Aromas of forest floor, dark-skinned berry, toasted hazelnut and a potpourri of baking spice lead the nose. On the concentrated palate, a backbone of vigorous acidity accompanies dried Marasca cherry, black pepper, ground clove and minty notes alongside dusty tannins before a puckering, mouthdrying close. It's a bit rustic but has charm for sure. Drink after 2023. The Piedmont Guy. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$36

### 88 Colombera & Garella 2018 Coste della Sesia.

Red-berry, forest-floor, rose and cinnamon aromas follow over to the racy palate together with orange zest and star anise. Vigorous acidity and lithe tannins provide the setting. Give it a few more years to fully integrate then drink. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

## COLLINE NOVARESI

### 88 Ioppa 2019 Nebbiolo (Colline Novaresi).

Violet and red-berry aromas mingle with dark spice on this bright, youthful red. Linear and racy, the palate shows black cherry, orange zest and ground brown pepper alongside zesty acidity and taut tannins. Drink through 2023. Grand Cru Selections. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

### 88 Ioppa 2015 Mualetta Vespolina (Colline Novaresi).

This spicy red opens with aromas of clove, star anise, wild herb and exotic spice. The round palate is light on its feet, offering Marasca cherry, black pepper and a hint of blood orange. It's ready to enjoy, with lithe tannins and fresh acidity. Grand Cru Selections. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

### 87 Ca' Nova 2010 San Quirico Nebbiolo (Colline Novaresi).

This ten-year-old wine has aromas recalling underbrush, carob, flint, prune and sunbaked soil. The aromas carry over to the rather lean palate alongside firm, drying tannins that leave a somewhat astringent finish. It still has firm acidity

but the fruit has largely vanished so drink sooner rather than later. Tradizione Imports. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

## OTHER RED WINES

### 92 Colombera & Garella 2016 Pizzaguerra (Lessona).

Intensely fragrant, this has aromas reminiscent of freshly picked rose, botanical herb, perfumed berry and dark spice. Linear and precise, the focused palate delivers fresh strawberry, sour cherry, licorice and sage alongside racy acidity and fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2036. Porto Vino Italiano. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

### 89 Braida di Giacomo Bologna 2019 Limonte (Grignolino d'Asti).

Aromas of red-skinned berry and cooking spice lead the nose while the medium-bodied palate offers succulent strawberry, red cherry and hints of white pepper. Bright acidity and smooth tannins provide freshness and balance. For a perfect summer red, serve slightly chilled. Soilair Selection. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$24

## NORTHERN ITALY SPARKLING WINES

### ALTA LANGA

### 95 Ettore Germano 2016 Metodo Classico Extra Brut (Alta Langa).

Delicate aromas of white stone fruit, yellow spring flower and a whiff of bread crust form the delicate, enticing nose on this bone-dry sparkler. It's elegant, vibrant and delicious, doling out ripe apple, pear and a hint of ginger set against an extremely refined perlage. Bright, tangy acidity gives it a crisp, pristine finish. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$45

### 92 Enrico Serafino 2016 Oudeis Brut (Alta Langa).

Made with 85% Pinot Nero and 15% Chardonnay, this has inviting aromas of bread dough, red berry, eucalyptus and baking spice. The aromas follow through to the focused palate, along with pomegranate, hazelnut and star anise set against a refined perlage. Vibrant acidity lifts the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

### 91 Bel Colle 2016 Cuvée Valentina Extra Brut (Alta Langa).

Made with 90% Pinot Nero and 10% Chardonnay, this has alluring aromas of field flower, ripe apple, tropical fruit and wild herb. On the dry, radiant palate, firm acidity and a lively perlage accompany white peach, vanilla and lemon drop, before finishing on notes of thyme and bitter almond. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$60

### 91 Giribaldi 2016 Matteo Giribaldi (Alta Langa).

Delicate scents evoking white stone fruit,

underbrush and spring flower mingle with whiffs of bread dough on this 60% Pinot Nero and 40% Chardonnay. Elegantly sparkling, the linear palate doles out mature yellow apple, hazelnut, botanical herb and citrus zest alongside crisp acidity. CTS Distributing. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

### 91 San Silvestro 2015 Dosaggio Zero (Alta Langa).

A blend of 70% Pinot Nero and 30% Chardonnay, this has delicate scents of white stone fruit and bread crust. The elegantly sparkling palate offers yellow apple, ginger and of citrus alongside a refined perlage. It closes on a hint of white almond. More Than Grapes. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

## FRANCIACORTA

### 94 1701 2016 Rosé Brut Nature (Franciacorta).

Made entirely with Pinot Nero grapes cultivated according to certified biodynamic farming methods, this gorgeous sparkler offers delicate scents of wild red berry, baking spice and bread dough and grilled herb. The vibrant, bone-dry and delicious palate is loaded with finesse, delivering juicy strawberry, pomegranate, citrus zest and baking spice. Fresh acidity and a polished, foaming mousse lend balance and finesse. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

### 94 Berlucchi 2012 '61 Nature Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).

Bone-dry and elegant, this polished sparkler has aromas of spring wildflower, honey, white stone fruit and bread crust. On the vibrant palate, a silky perlage accompanies ripe yellow apple, peach and ginger before finishing on an almond note. Volio Vino. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$62

### 94 Fratelli Berlucchi 2012 Casa delle Colonne Brut (Franciacorta).

Crisp, dry and structured, this dazzling sparkler has aromas of yellow apple, pear, camphor and bread crust. The aromas follow over to the dry palate along with lemon drop and a sprinkling of ginger. A silky perlage provides loads of finesse while fresh acidity keeps it focused. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$80

### 93 1701 2013 Dosaggio Zero Riserva (Franciacorta).

A blend of 90% Chardonnay and Pinot Nero, this elegant, focused sparkler has aromas of bread crust, wild herb and ripe white stone fruit. Made with no dosage, the racy palate features mature yellow apple, Meyer lemon and toasted hazelnut set against an elegant, persistent perlage. Vibrant acidity lifts the rich flavors. Dry Farm Wines. —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$110

### 93 Bellavista 2013 Vittorio Moretti (Franciacorta).

Chamomile, yellow-pear, citrus-zest and bread-crust aromas shape the nose on this blend of 60% Chardonnay and 40% Pinot Nero. On the elegantly structured, creamy palate, a refined

# BUYINGGUIDE

perlage accompanies mature yellow apple, orange rind, walnut and vanilla. Fresh acidity brightens the rich flavors. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$142

**93 Bonfadini 2016 Victus Nature (Franciacorta).** Delicate scents of hawthorn and white stone fruit form the nose on this bone-dry sparkler. Racy and focused, the precise, savory palate delivers apple, pear, ginger and citrus alongside a refined, continuous perlage. It's full of energy, with bright acidity. Bottle to Glass. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Antica Fratta 2015 Essence Nature (Franciacorta).** Bone-dry and pristine, this elegant sparkler has delicate aromas of white stone fruit, yellow spring flower and a whiff of bread crust. On the vibrant palate, a refined, continuous perlage and bright acidity accompany ripe yellow apple, Meyer lemon and toasted hazelnut. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**92 Antica Fratta 2009 Quintessence Extra Brut Riserva (Franciacorta).** Bread-crust, chamomile, underbrush and mature yellow stone-fruit aromas form the nose on this dry, intriguing sparkler. At eleven years old, it shows complexity and freshness, offering toasted hazelnut, mature golden apple, unsweetened lemon drop and a hint of saline before closing on a coffee-bean note. A refined perlage provides finesse. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**92 Barone Pizzini 2011 Bagnadore Dosaggio Zero Riserva (Franciacorta).** Aromas of yellow spring flower, mature stone fruit and bread crust waft out of the glass on this elegantly structured blend of 60% Chardonnay and 40% Pinot Nero. The precise palate offers ripe yellow-apple, unsweetened lemon-zest, almond and savory mineral notes alongside bright acidity. A refined, persistent perlage provides finesse. LLS-Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$60

**92 Berlucchi 2009 Palazzo Lana Extra Brut Riserva (Franciacorta).** Enticingly delicate aromas of chamomile, white stone fruit and bread crust mingle with whiffs of orange-citrus zest on this dry, elegant sparkler. Incredibly youthful for an 11-year-old wine, it's well balanced, featuring mature yellow apple, white peach, ginger and a dollop of vanilla set against a silky perlage. Fresh acidity brightens the rich flavors. This proves the serious aging potential of top wines from the denomination. Volio Vino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$92

**92 La Montina 2012 Brut (Franciacorta).** Intriguing aromas include smoke, charcuterie and bread crust on this 100% Chardonnay sparkler. The aromas carry over to the elegantly sparkling palate along with juicy white peach, grilled herb and lemon drop. It's surprisingly fresh for an eight-year-old bottling, but also has complexity. A silky perlage keeps it polished. Wine Affairs. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**92 Mirabella 2013 Demetra Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** Dry and classy, this racy sparkler opens with delicate scents recalling spring wild flower and white stone fruit. The elegant, vibrant palate delivers yellow apple, Meyer lemon, bread crust and an energizing mineral note suggesting wet stone set against a polished, persistent perlage. Bacchanal Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**91 Antica Fratta 2015 Essence Rosé Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust and saline carry over to the racy palate along with yellow apple and pomegranate. Vibrant acidity and a lively perlage provide the energized setting. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**91 Bonfadini 2015 Aurora Rosé (Franciacorta).** A fifty-fifty blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Nero, this dry, elegant sparkler has aromas of bread crust and mature white stone fruit. The vibrant, linear palate reveals ripe golden apple, pomegranate and a hint of saline alongside small, continuous bubbles. It closes on a hazelnut note. Bottle to Glass. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Corte Fusia 2014 Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).** Aromas of yellow apple, bread crust and hazelnut carry on to the dry, racy palate along with lemon zest, Barlett pear and a hint of ginger. Vibrant acidity and an elegant, persistent perlage present the energized setting. WBMATCH VINO. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$64

**91 Ferghettina NV Brut (Franciacorta).** Tangy and creamy, this savory sparkler doles out ripe yellow apple, Bartlett pear and white peach alongside crisp acidity. Small, persistent bubbles provide the background while notes of lemon drop and almond grace the close. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**91 Ferghettina 2015 Miledi Brut Chardonnay (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust, honey and white stone fruit lift out of the glass. The brisk palate offers tangy orange rind, walnut and mature yellow apple alongside persistent bubbles. It closes on a bitter-almond note. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 La Montina 2011 Baiana Pas Dosé Riserva (Franciacorta).** Aromas of pressed chamomile, bread crust and citrus zest waft out of the glass. It's bone-dry and racy, delivering juicy grapefruit, yellow apple and saline alongside a lively, elegant perlage. Wine Affairs. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**91 Ricci Curbastro 2010 Gualberto Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).** Aromas of toasted bread crust, mature stone fruit and a whiff of honeyed nut form the nose. The aromas carry on to the vibrant palate along with mature golden apple and white peach before closing on a bitter-almond note. A

refined perlage accompanies the rich flavors. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**91 Ronco Calino 2012 Brut (Franciacorta).** Mature yellow stone-fruit, bread crust and baking-spice aromas waft out of the glass. On the palate, a silky perlage accompanies lemon drop, golden apple and toasted hazelnut. Fresh acidity lifts the rich flavors. Vineyard Road. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Antica Fratta 2015 Essence Noir Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust, toasted hazelnut and orange rind follow over to the palate, along with ripe apricot, ginger and a hint of pomegranate. Fresh acidity and a persistent perlage provide the setting. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$55

**90 Castello Bonomi 2011 Cru Perdu Millesimato (Franciacorta).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**90 Corte Fusia NV Brut (Franciacorta).** White stone-fruit and yellow spring-flower aromas align with a whiff of bread crust on this elegantly sparkling wine. Bright and linear, the tangy palate offers mature yellow apple, lemon drop and hazelnut. Matchvino. —K.O.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$40

**90 Ricci Curbastro 2009 Museum Release Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of mature stone fruit, bread crust, orange liqueur and cedar form the nose. On the subtle palate, an elegant perlage accompanies mature golden apple, orange rind and candied lemon drop before a bitter-walnut close. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75

**90 Ronco Calino 2015 Nature (Franciacorta).** Made with 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Nero, this has aromas of white spring blossom, white stone fruit and bread crust. The dry, focused palate features ripe golden apple, Meyer lemon and white almond set against bright acidity a vibrant perlage. Vineyard Road. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Santa Lucia 2014 Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust and toasted nut follow through to the bone-dry palate along with mature yellow apple and a hint of saline. A lively perlage and racy acidity provide energized support. Fantastik Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Villa 2015 Emozione Brut (Franciacorta).** Delicate scents recalling saline, botanical herb and a the barest whiff of citrus form the subtle nose. On the dry, racy palate, brisk acidity and a lively perlage accompany ripe yellow apple, unsweetened lemon drop and a hint of hazelnut. MPP Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40



**89 Antica Fratta 2015 Essence Brut (Franciacorta).** Hawthorn, pear and hazelnut aromas lift out of the glass along with a whiff of medicinal herb. The bright, lively palate offers mature yellow apple and bread crust set against a vigorous perlage. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**89 Ricci Curbastro 2015 Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** This vibrant sparkler has a subtle nose suggesting bread crust and orange zest. The aromas carry over to the racy palate along with toasted nut and mature yellow-apple skin while a lively perlage and brisk acidity keep it vibrant. Tavolo Vigneto. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**88 Bellavista 2015 Rosé Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust and orange liqueur are front and center. The aromas follow over to palate, along with mature yellow apple and toasted walnut alongside a lively perlage. Bright acidity keeps it tangy. USA Wine West. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**88 Bellavista 2015 Teatro alla Scala Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust and orange liqueur carry over to the palate along with mature yellow-apple skin and walnut. Fresh acidity and a vibrant perlage provide the invigorating setting. USA Wine West. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Contadi Castaldi 2015 Zero (Franciacorta).** Aromas of white stone fruit, toasted nut and medicinal herb lift out of the glass. Reflecting the nose, the dry palate offers mature yellow apple, hazelnut, and a hint of thyme alongside tangy acidity and an invigorating perlage. USA Wine West. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Lantieri 2016 Arcadia Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust and orange-flavored liqueur follow over to the palate along with ripe yellow apple, lemon drop and walnut. Bright acidity and persistent, steely bubbles provide the backdrop. Franciacorta Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**88 Lo Sparviere 2013 Extra But Chardonnay (Franciacorta).** Aromas of bread crust, medicinal herb and a whiff suggesting adhesive bandage form the subtle nose on this sparkling Chardonnay. The aromas carry over to the palate, along with mature yellow-apple skin, toasted nut and orange rind. An elegant perlage provides finesse. Panebianco. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$120

**87 Castello Bonomi 2012 Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).** This invigorating sparkler opens with subdued aromas suggesting toasted nut, bread crust, coconut and citrus. The aromas carry over to the dry, linear palate along with mature yellow

apple and bitter walnut skin set against a bracing perlage. Serendipity Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**87 Monte Rossa NV Blanc de Blancs Brut Chardonnay (Franciacorta).** Aromas of orange rind and walnut are front and center on this bracing sparkler. The aromas follow over to the invigorating palate, along with yellow-apple skin, bitter nut and brisk acidity. Dark Star Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Monte Rossa NV Flamingo Rosé Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of walnut and orange rind follow over to the palate, along with bread crust and hints of sour cherry. An invigorating perlage and bright acidity provide the backdrop. Dark Star Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Villa 2014 Bokè Rosé Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas suggesting toasted bread crust, underbrush and hazelnut form the nose. On the racy palate, notes of orange-flavored liqueur and vanilla accompany pomegranate and apple. Firm acidity and an invigorating perlage provide the backdrop. MPP Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

## OLTREPÒ PAVESE

**92 Travaglini 2016 Gran Cuvée Blanc de Noir (Oltrepò Pavese).** Made entirely with Pinot Nero but vinified as a white wine, this dry, savory sparkler has delicate scents of spring wild flower, pastry dough and ginger. On the focused, structured palate, an elegant, persistent perlage accompanies bread crust, apple, citrus and white almond. Vibrant acidity keeps it fresh and balanced. Alarich Distributing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Travaglini 2014 Metodo Classico Monteceresino Rosé Brut (Oltrepò Pavese).** Aromas of red berry, rhubarb and botanical herb shape the enticing nose on this vibrant sparkler. Made entirely with Pinot Nero, the dry, savory palate offers juicy pomegranate, strawberry compote, baking spice and a hint of bread crust alongside crisp acidity. A silky perlage keeps it smooth and polished. Alarich Distributing. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Travaglini 2011 Riserva del Fondatore Vincenzo Comi Brut (Oltrepò Pavese).** Aromas suggesting bread crust, mature stone fruit and yellow spring flower form the inviting nose. Creamy and vibrant, the savory palate doles out ripe yellow apple, orange drop, apricot and toasted hazelnut alongside a refined, persistent perlage. Bright acidity keeps it crisp. Alarich Distributing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$33

**90 Travaglini 2016 Metodo Classico Cuvée 59 (Oltrepò Pavese).** Spring-flower, white stone-fruit, citrus and bread-crust aromas waft

out of the glass. The palate is polished and smooth, featuring yellow apple, orange rind and walnut alongside a silky perlage and bright acidity. Alarich Distributing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Jako Wine 2009 Metodo Classico Brut (Oltrepò Pavese).** Made entirely with Pinot Nero, this mature sparkler offers aromas suggesting bread crust, walnut and orange-flavored liqueur. Reflecting the nose, the structured palate features orange zest, brandy soaked apricot and toasted nut alongside a refined perlage. The evolved flavor profile shows its age but it still has surprisingly fresh acidity. Strategic Importers. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$80

## LAMBRUSCO DI SORBARA

**95 Paltrinieri 2019 Leclisse (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Absolutely delicious, this elegant, fragrant wine offers enticing aromas of violet, red berry, citrus and baking spice. The bone-dry, foaming palate delivers strawberry, raspberry and red cherry, accented with cinnamon and ginger notes. Crisp acidity gives it a pristine, quenching finish that leaves you wanting more. Lyra Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$25

**95 Paltrinieri 2019 Radice (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Made by carrying out the second fermentation in the bottle, this radiant, lightly sparkling wine opens with heady aromas of citrus, violet and a yeasty whiff of bread dough. Bone-dry and delicious, the energized palate delivers tart sour cherry, juicy pomegranate, pink grapefruit and white pepper alongside crisp acidity and a savory hint of saline. One bottle probably won't be enough. Lyra Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$20

**92 Medici Ermete 2018 Metodo Classico Carezza (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Aromas of strawberries, rose petals and a whiff of brioche follow over to the tangy, savory palate along with orange rind and sour cherry. Bright acidity and an elegant, lively perlage provide the energized setting. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

**92 Paltrinieri 2019 Grosso Metodo Classico (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Bread-crust, strawberry, vanilla and orange-rind aromas escape the glass. The aromas carry over to the elegant palate along with pink grapefruit and star anise set against tangy acidity. Lyra Wine. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Cantina di Soliera NV Il Trovador (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Refermented in the bottle, this savory sparkler has aromas of grapefruit, rose and red berry. The lightly sparkling palate doles out juicy red cherry, citrus, yeasty whiffs of bread dough and

# BUYINGGUIDE

white pepper alongside tangy acidity. It has a crisp, mouthwatering close. Dark Star Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$27

**91 Medici Ermete 2019 Phermento Frizzante (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Refermented in the bottle, this lightly sparkling wine has aromas of red berry, violet, citrus and yeasty whiffs of bread dough. Mirroring the nose, the dry, tangy palate doles out juicy raspberry, grapefruit and a hint of ginger alongside crisp acidity. Kobrand. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$27

**91 Paltrinieri 2019 Piria (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Fun and refreshing, this dry, lightly sparkling wine presents juicy strawberry, raspberry and orange rind accented by a hint of white pepper. Made with 70% Lambrusco di Sorbara and 30% Lambrusco di Salamino, it's crisp and savory, with ultrafine bubbles. Lyra Wine. **Best Buy.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**91 Paltrinieri 2018 La Riserva (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Aromas of violet, botanical herb and whiffs of walnut form the nose. It's bright and savory, featuring juicy pomegranate, pink grapefruit and a hint of spice alongside a refined perlage. Lyra Wine. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**91 Villa di Corlo 2019 Primevo (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Dry and tangy, this sparkler has aromas of violet, red berry, grapefruit and a whiff of baking spice. Reflecting the nose, the savory, quenching palate doles out juicy sour cherry, strawberry and white pepper, alongside a foamy mousse and crisp acidity. Ethica Wines. **Best Buy.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

## TRENTO

**95 Maso Martis 2016 Dosaggio Zero Riserva (Trento).** A blend of 70% Pinot Nero and 30% Chardonnay, this compelling, focused sparkler offers aromas of white spring flower and bread dough. Made with organically farmed grapes, the pristine, delicious palate offers white stone fruit, alpine herb and juicy Meyer lemon alongside savory saline mineral notes. Crisp acidity and an elegant perlage provide energy and finesse. For lovers of bone-dry, elegant bubbly, this is for you. Solstars. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$67

**94 Revi 2016 Rosé Brut (Trento).** Aromas of wild berry, freshly baked bread and alpine herb lead the nose, along with whiffs of cake spice and pink grapefruit. The silky palate shows structure and finesse, delivering juicy strawberry, pomegranate, white pepper and white almond alongside racy acidity and an elegant perlage. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**93 Maso Martis 2010 Rare Vintage Riserva (Trento).** Aromas of bread crust, mature

white stone fruit and a delicate whiff of forest floor form the alluring nose. Elegant and structured, the palate delivers ripe yellow apple, toasted hazelnut, ginger and a dollop of vanilla alongside a refined, persistent perlage. It has intriguing depth and complexity while fresh acidity keeps it vibrant. Solstars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Altemasi 2016 Millesimato Brut (Trento).** Aromas of white spring flower, white stone fruit and bread crust form the nose on this bright, sparkling Chardonnay. The elegant palate offers ripe yellow apple, chamomile and a dollop of baking spice set against a refined perlage. Palm Bay International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Rotari 2012 Flavio Riserva (Trento).** This elegant sparkler offers inviting aromas of toasted hazelnut, mature white stone fruit and bread crust. The aromas carry over to the polished palate, along with ripe yellow apple and a hint of citrus set against vibrant acidity and a persistent perlage. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$49

**90 Altemasi NV Rosé Brut (Trento).** Fresh and refined, this bright sparkler opens with aromas of graphite, dried herb and alpine wild flower. A blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Nero, it offers ripe white stone fruit, pink grapefruit and a hint of brioche. Racy acidity and a polished, vibrant perlage provide the setting. Palm Bay International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

## PROSECCO

**93 Ca' dei Zago 2018 Metodo Classico Dosaggio Zero (Valdobbiadene Prosecco).** Bone-dry and savory, this focused sparkler has delicate, enticing scents of aromatic herb, white stone fruit and yellow field flower. On the racy palate, crisp acidity accompanies Bartlett pear, Anjou pear, citrus zest and flinty mineral notes. An elegant perlage provides finesse. Ethica Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Ruggeri & C. 2019 Vecchie Viti Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

**91 Bellenda 2017 Sei Uno Metodo Classico Rive di Carpesica Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Ruggeri & C. NV Brut (Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartize).** Creamy and polished, this lovely sparkler offers enticing scents of white spring wild flower and Granny Smith apple. On the palate, a silky mousse accompanies white peach, lemon drop and ripe yellow pear before a white-almond

close. Bright acidity lifts the rich flavors. WinesU. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 La Gioiosa 2019 Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Crisp and savory, this polished sparkler has alluring aromas of green apple, citrus and white almond. The aromas carry over to the dry, gently foaming palate along with tangy lemon zest. Bright acidity keeps it refreshingly vibrant. Ethica Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$19

**90 Villa Sandi 2019 Rive di San Pietro di Babozza (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Intense aromas of Granny Smith apple and honeysuckle follow through to the vibrant palate along with candied lemon drop and pineapple packed in syrup. Crisp acidity lifts and balances the rich flavors while a foaming palate lends finesse. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$23

**89 Bacio della Luna 2019 Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas of green apple and hawthorn shape the nose. The Granny Smith note follows over to the palate, along with white peach and lemon drop alongside vibrant acidity. A foaming mousse provides the backdrop while a hint of almond marks the close. Schenk Wines USA. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$25

**89 Bellenda 2017 Metodo Classico Rive di Carpesica Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas suggesting pastry dough, white flower and citrus waft out of the glass. On the rather sweet, creamy palate, a refined perlage accompanies ripe yellow apple, honeyed almond, fig and candied lemon drop. Bright acidity refreshes the rich flavors. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Masottina 2019 R.D.O. Rive di Ogliaio Extra Dry (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Heady aromas of white wild flower and green apple lead the nose. The creamy, off-dry palate offers ripe white peach, pineapple and lemon drop alongside a foaming mousse. Tangy acidity brightens the rich flavors. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Merotto NV Dry (Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartize).** This rather sweet sparkler has aromas of toasted hazelnut and ripe apricot. The aromas follow through to the foaming palate, along with mature yellow apple, bitter almond and candied lemon-drop notes. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Nino Franco 2019 Dry (Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartize).** Aromas of yellow apple, toasted nut and chamomile form the nose on this sparkling dessert wine. The aromas carry over to the foaming palate along with candied orange rind

and candied lemon drop. Fresh acidity brightens the sweet flavors. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$38

**89 Santi 2019 Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Creamy and crisp, this charming sparkler has delicate aromas of hawthorn and ripe stone fruit. The polished palate offers white peach, green apple and candied lemon drop alongside a silky mousse. Vibrant acidity brightens the rich flavors. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**88 Bacio della Luna 2019 Extra Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas of green apple, citrus and medicinal herb are front and center. The aromas carry over to the foaming palate along with lemon drop before a bitter-almond close. Wooden Ships. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$25

**88 Bacio della Luna 2019 Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas of fragrant spring wild flower, tropical fruit and citrus form the delicate nose. On the vibrant palate, bright acidity and a polished mousse accompany Granny Smith apple, white peach and candied lemon drop before a bitter-almond close. Schenk Wines USA. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$25

**88 Bellenda 2017 S.C. 1931 (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas of brioche, yellow apple and toasted nut carry over to the dry palate along with hints of Bartlett pear and lemon zest. Bright acidity and a lively perlage keep it vibrant. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Cà di Rajo 2019 Cuvée del Fondatore (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** White spring flower, white stone fruit and a whiff of botanical herb form the nose. On the crisp palate, a light mousse and bright acidity accompany green apple and bitter-almond before a lemon-drop close. The Barterhouse. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Cà di Rajo 2019 Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas of toasted nut align with grilled herb, white spring flower and white stone fruit. On the palate, invigorating bubbles accompany Bartlett pear, ripe peach and candied tangerine drop. The Barterhouse. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$22

**88 Graziano Merotto 2019 La Primavera di Barbara Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Foamy and fragrant, this has delicate aromas of green apple and candied citrus drop. On the sweet palate, bright acidity lifts rich flavors of ripe yellow pear, pineapple packed in syrup, candied orange slice and honeyed almond. A creamy perlage provides the backdrop. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 La Gioiosa NV Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Green-apple, toasted nut and chamomile aromas follow over to the palate along with candied lemon drop and bitter walnut. A refined perlage and crisp acidity form the backdrop. Ethica Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**88 La Gioiosa 2019 Asolo Prosecco Superiore.** Aromas of jasmine, tropical fruit and green apple lift out of the glass. The fruity aromas carry over to the vibrant palate along with white peach and candied lemon drop before a white-almond close. A silky mousse accompanies the rich flavors. Ethica Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**88 Merotto 2019 Castè Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Subdued aromas suggesting orange rind, yellow apple and walnut follow over to the racy palate, along with a hint of honeyed almond and a candied lemon-drop note. A silky mousse lends polish, while fresh acidity keeps it fresh. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Pizzolato NV Stefany Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco).** Made with organically grown Glera grapes, this has aromas of green apple, pastry cream and citrus. On the off-dry palate, a foaming perlage and tangy acidity accompany white peaches and candied lemon drops. Natural Merchants, Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$19

**88 Val d'Oca 2019 Millesimato Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Aromas of ripe white stone fruit, spring blossom and citrus zest lead the nose. On the foaming palate, vibrant acidity accompanies ripe yellow peach, yellow apple and vanilla alongside notes of candied lemon drop and white almond. A creamy mousse offers elegance. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**88 Val d'Oca 2019 Rive di San Pietro di Barbozza Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** This has delicate aromas suggesting mature white stone fruit, chamomile and toasted nut. The aromas follow through to the brisk palate along with ripe yellow apple and roasted hazelnut alongside steely, invigorating bubbles. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$33

**87 Ciodet NV Lebano Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Granny Smith apple and toasted nut aromas lead the nose on this foaming sparkler. Reflecting the nose, the tangy palate offers mature pear and bitter-almond alongside crisp acidity. Solstars. —K.O.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**87 Piccini NV Extra Dry (Prosecco).** Packaged in a stunning ridged bottle, this has delicate scents of white spring flower, citrus and a hint of nut. The tangy palate offers mature yellow apple,

candied lemon drop and a note bitter almond alongside a lively perlage and crisp acidity. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**87 Santi 2019 Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Delicate scents of white spring flower and white stone fruit waft out of the glass. On the crisp palate, racy acidity and a foaming mousse accompany Granny Smith apple and white almond. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**86 Jako Wine NV Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Subtle aromas of green apple, spring blossom and sage follow through to the brisk, off-dry palate, along with candied lemon drop. Firm acidity and steely bubbles provide the backdrop. Strategic Importers. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**85 Cecilia Beretta 2019 Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore.** Aromas of green apple, citrus rind and medicinal notes are front and center. The aromas follow over to the brisk, simple palate along with a hint of vanilla and lively, steely bubbles. Pasqua USA LLC. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$10

**84 Bacio della Luna 2019 Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore di Cartizze).** Aromas of adhesive bandage and walnut form the nose. The muddled palate is both sweet and bitter, offering ripe white peach, candied notes, astringent medicinal herb and sweet-and-sour sauce alongside harsh, steely bubbles. Wooden Ships. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$35

**83 Bellenda 2018 VS Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Fermented in the bottle but not disgorged, this has aromas of medicinal herb and adhesive bandage. The pungent aromas carry over to the muddled palate along with hints of yogurt, bread dough and orange-rind set against sharply brisk acidity. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$28

## OTHER SPARKLING WINES

**92 Zenato 2017 Metodo Classico Brut (Lugana).** Creamy, dry and delicious, this opens with aromas of Spanish broom, yellow apple, orange zest and bread dough. Refined and savory, the polished palate doles out ripe Bartlett pear, white peach and vanilla alongside a silky perlage. Tangy acidity lifts the rich flavors. Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**86 San Silvestro 2016 Metodo Classico Rosé Neboise (Nebbiolo d'Alba).** Aromas of adhesive bandage, walnut and bread crust lead the nose along with orange zest. The aromas carry over to the brisk palate, along with honey and bitter-almond set against steely bubbles. More Than Grapes. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30



## CENTRAL ITALY

### CHIANTI CLASSICO GRAN SELEZIONE

**92 Fattoria Montecchio 2015 Pasquino Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Made with 100% Sangiovese, this opens with aromas of underbrush, cocoa, new leather and sunbaked earth. Aged partly in large casks and partly in terra-cotta amphora, the chewy, rounded palate doles out dried cherry, star anise, tobacco and bitter-almond. Polished tannins provide smooth support. Drink through 2025. Simone International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Principe Corsini-Villa Le Corti 2016 Zac Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Baked plum, vanilla, menthol and fragrant purple-flower aromas shape the alluring nose. Made with organically grown Sangiovese, the densely concentrated palate doles out mature Marasca cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside close-grained tannins that give some grip to the finish. Drink 2022–2028. Total Beverage Solution. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**91 Cinciano 2015 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of underbrush, sunbaked earth, prune and pipe tobacco shape the nose. The full-bodied, chewy palate doles out mature plum, licorice and toasted hazelnut alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2025. Noble Harvest, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**91 Frescobaldi 2016 Tenuta Perano Rialzi Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Mature dark-skinned fruit, French oak, coconut and blue-flower aromas are front and center on this 100% Sangiovese. On the linear palate, vanilla, espresso and licorice notes accent a core of black cherry and blackberry extract. Assertive, close-grained tannins provide the framework. It's still very much on its oak and needs time to fully integrate. Drink 2024–2031. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$64

**91 Tenuta di Nozzole 2015 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of black plum, leather and cooking spice lead the nose. The concentrated, ripe palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and tobacco alongside firm tannins. Drink through 2025. Kobrand. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Tolaini 2016 Vigna Montebello Sette Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of plum, underbrush, tobacco and French oak mingle with a whiff of violet. The enveloping palate features ripe black cherry, roasted coffee bean and licorice alongside close-grained, drying tannins that clench the finish. Drink 2021–2026. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**91 Volpaia 2016 Il Puro Casanova Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Made with organically farmed Sangiovese, this has aromas of underbrush, French oak and dark-skinned fruit. Reflecting the nose, the firm, elegant palate offers coconut, vanilla, French oak and savory Mediterranean herb set against firm, close-grained tannins that leave a drying finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$213

**90 Castello di Verrazzano 2016 Sassello Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of underbrush, camphor, moist earth and mature black-skinned fruit form the nose. On the full-bodied, concentrated palate, close-grained tannins accompany dried black cherry, licorice and roasted coffee bean before a firm, mouthdrying finish. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$73

**90 Rocca delle Macie 2016 Riserva di Fizzano Single Vineyard Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$41

**90 San Fabiano Calcinaia 2015 Cellole Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** A blend of 95% Sangiovese and 5% Merlot, this has aromas of mocha, cedar and menthol. Made with organically farmed grapes, the full-bodied palate offers ripe black plum, licorice and orange peel alongside assertive tannins. Drink 2021–2027. Matchvino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Tenuta di Lilliano 2017 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** This opens with aromas of mature black-skinned fruit, tobacco and mocha. The concentrated palate shows dried black cherry, clove and licorice alongside polished tannins. Enjoy through 2027. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Volpaia 2017 Coltassala Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of exotic spice, dried aromatic herb, camphor and wood shop shape the nose. The austere palate shows dried cherry, prune and licorice alongside close-grained tannins that clench the lean finish. Give it a few more years so the tannins can unwind then drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**89 Bibbiano 2016 Vigna del Capannino Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Subdued aromas of tilled soil, French oak and roasted coffee bean slowly emerge from the glass. The dense palate features prune, tobacco leaf and espresso alongside fine-grained tannins. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol that dominates the finish. Drink through 2026. Massanois Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$43

**89 Casa di Monte 2012 Le Capitozze Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** This opens with aromas of mature dark-skinned berry, mocha and

tobacco. The chewy palate offers dried black cherry, espresso and vanilla alongside dusty tannins. Drink through 2025. Vino Veritas. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Casale dello Sparviero 2016 Paronza Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of black-skinned berry, underbrush and mocha shape the nose. The ripe palate offers dried black cherry, star anise and espresso alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2025. PSP Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Castello La Leccia 2015 Bruciagna Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Cedar, tobacco and underbrush aromas lead the way. The tight palate offers Marasca cherry, ground clove and espresso alongside assertive tannins. Drink through 2026. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Lamole di Lamole 2016 Vigneto di Campolungo Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of forest floor, tobacco and camphor follow over to the rather evolved, subdued palate along notes suggesting prune and a hint of star anise. Drying tannins provide the framework. Santa Margherita USA. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Villa Rosa 2016 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Made entirely with Sangiovese, this opens with aromas of mocha, dark-skinned fruit and toasted oak. Packed in an excessively heavy bottle, the solid palate offers ripe black plum, espresso and vanilla alongside assertive tannins. Drink through 2025. Volio Vino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**88 Astorre Noti 2015 Fattoria di Ruppiano Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** This has aromas of scorched earth, leather and black plum. The solid, no-frills palate offers dried black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2023. Alma Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

**88 Cantalici 2016 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Made with organically farmed Sangiovese, this opens with aromas of espresso, toasted oak and coconut. The dense palate offers roasted coffee bean, licorice and clove alongside assertive, drying tannins. Chigazola Merchants. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$67

**88 Castello di Querceto 2017 La Corte Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** This has a shy nose that eventually reveals whiffs of leather and tobacco. The densely concentrated, fleshy palate is already accessible, featuring prune, blackberry extract and licorice set against enveloping tannins. Drink through 2022. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Castello di Radda 2015 Vigna Il Corno Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** French oak,

coconut, eucalyptus and scorched earth aromas form the nose. Showing the heat of the vintage, the densely concentrated palate offers prune, roasted coffee bean and tobacco, alongside tightly knit, close-grained tannins. The warmth of evident alcohol dominates the finish. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit richness. Panebianco. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

**88 Livernano 2015 Casalvento Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** This has aromas of coconut, mocha and French oak. On the tight palate, assertive, grippy tannins accompany prune, espresso and sage. Drink through 2024. Amici Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Querceto di Castellina 2017 Sei Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of French oak, coconut and camphor are front and center on this 100% Sangiovese. Reflecting the nose, the assertive palate shows raw wood, orange zest, prune and hints of exotic spice alongside grainy, drying tannins. Give the tannins a few more years to unwind then drink sooner rather than later before the remaining fruit dries out. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**88 Villa Trasqua 2012 Nerento Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Cedar, mocha and stewed prune aromas lead the nose. The tight palate offers blackberry jam, coconut and espresso alongside grainy tannins that leave a rather astringent finish. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit richness. Misa Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**88 Viticcio 2016 Prunai Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of graphite, espresso, black-skinned fruit lead the nose. The ripe palate features toasted notes, roasted coffee bean and spiced plum alongside assertive, rather drying tannins. Drink 2021–2025. Serendipity Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## CHIANTI CLASSICO RISERVA

**94 Cinciano 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Truffle, new leather, camphor and fragrant purple flower are just some of the aromas you'll find on this savory, full-bodied red. It's concentrated yet elegant, offering ripe black cherry, licorice and tobacco framed in noble, refined tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2021–2026. Noble Harvest, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**94 Valiano 2016 Poggio Teo Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Enticing scents of fragrant blue flower, wild berry, camphor and dark spice take shape on this elegantly structured red. On the smooth, savory palate, supple tannins accompany juicy Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, star anise and baking spice. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced

and focused. Drink 2022–2028. 8 Vini, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**93 Castello di Verrazzano 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Full bodied and savory, this has aromas of fruitcake, pipe tobacco, new leather and blue flower. Made with organically grown grapes, the chewy, rounded palate doles out juicy black cherry, baked plum and licorice framed in velvety tannins. Drink through 2024. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Volpaia 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of blue flower, spiced plum, new leather and sunbaked earth form the inviting nose on this pure Sangiovese. Made with organically farmed grapes, the smooth, savory palate doles out fleshy black cherry, baking spice and chopped mint alongside velvety tannins that give it a polished texture. Drink through 2025. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**92 Fattoria La Ripa 2013 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo blend offers enticing aromas of iris, red plum and underbrush. Made with organically grown grapes, the savory, fragrant palate offers raspberry jam, white pepper, star anise and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Enjoy through 2028. Tradizione Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Felsina 2017 Rancia Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Balsamic aromas of camphor mingle with new leather, scorched earth, pressed blue flower and oak-driven spice. The firm, elegantly structured palate features dried black cherry, licorice and tobacco before a coffee bean close. Close-grained provide support, drying finish. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Marchesi Antinori 2017 Villa Antinori Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Ormanni 2016 Borro del Diavolo Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Brawny and enveloping, this has aromas of fragrant purple flower, ripe black-skinned fruit, underbrush and baking spice. The concentrated, chewy palate doles out juicy Marasca cherry, plum and blackberry jam accented by vanilla and licorice. Enveloping, fine grained tannins provide support while the warmth of alcohol lingers on the close. Virtuoso Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Principe Corsini 2016 Villa Le Corti Cortevecchia Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of spiced plum, blue flower, botanical herb and a whiff of cedar lift out of the glass. Made with organically farmed Sangiovese and 5% Colorino, the smooth, savory palate features juicy Marasca cherry, licorice

and tobacco alongside supple tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Total Beverage Solution. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Aiola 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Truffle, violet, mature black-skinned fruit, camphor and oak-driven spice aromas come together in the glass. Vibrant and linear, the focused palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, orange zest, sage and star anise alongside lithe, fine-grained tannins that leave a rather drying finish. Drink 2022–2026. Hill City Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**91 Castello di Monterinaldi 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of leather, underbrush, camphor and dark spice form the nose. The medium-bodied, firm palate shows prune, mature berry and tobacco alongside tightly knit, fine-grained tannins that leave a slightly grippy finish. Give it a few more years to unwind. Drink 2022–2028. Bradley Alan Imports LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Marchesi Antinori 2017 Tenuta Tignanello Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**91 Villa Trasqua 2015 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Underbrush, dark-skinned berry and balsamic aromas come together in the glass along with a whiff of tobacco. The juicy, balanced palate offers fleshy black cherry, licorice and chopped aromatic herb alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2025. Misa Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**90 Badia a Coltibuono 2016 Cultus Boni Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of exotic spice, eucalyptus, fruitcake and a whiff of wood shop form the nose. On the full-bodied palate, firm, fine-grained tannins accompany dried black cherry, orange peel, ground pepper and licorice. It's balanced, with bright acidity. Drink 2024–2030. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**90 Cantalici 2015 Messer Ridolfo Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Made with organically grown Sangiovese, this offers aromas of new leather, ripe dark-skinned berry and mocha. The taut palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and vanilla alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2026. Chigazola Merchants. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Casa al Vento 2016 Foho Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Underbrush, leather and a whiff of game form the earthy nose. Racy and focused, the linear palate offers red cherry, orange zest licorice and sage alongside grippy, grainy tannins that dry out the finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Castello di Albola 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** New leather, underbrush, balsamic

# BUYINGGUIDE

notes of camphor and iris aromas meld together in the glass. On the austere palate, close-grained, drying tannins accompany dried cherry, blood orange and exotic spice alongside hints of bitter-almond and roasted coffee bean. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

**90 Fattoria Montecchio 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Scents of forest-floor, wild-berry and baking-spice mingle with a whiff of new leather on this blend of 95% Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Alicante. The smooth, accessible palate offers juicy Morello cherry, cocoa and a dollop of espresso alongside buffed tannins. Drink through 2024. Simone International. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

**90 Lamole di Lamole 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 20.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

**90 Orsumella 2016 Corte Rizieri Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Black-skinned berry, toasted hazelnut and underbrush aromas lead the nose. The juicy palate offers Marasca cherry, tobacco and clove alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2026. WineMakers Import. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**90 Riecine 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of ripe plum, pine forest, exotic spice and cedar slowly appear in the glass. Bold and brawny, the palate offers cherry marinated in spirits, prune and licorice alongside velvety, close-grained tannins. You'll also notice the warmth of evident alcohol on the close. Soilair Selection. —K.O.

abv: 15%

Price: \$40

**89 Bibbiano 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This opens with aromas of mocha, French oak and ripe black plum. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, sage and licorice alongside dusty tannins. Enjoy through 2026. Massanois Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$31

**89 Cantalici 2016 Baruffo Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Made with organically grown Sangiovese, this has aromas of dark-skinned fruit, mocha and baking spice. The firm palate offers ripe black plum, licorice and espresso alongside dusty tannins. Drink through 2025. Chigazola Merchants. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$36

**89 Castello di Monsanto 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of spearmint, toasted oak and a whiff of blue flower form the nose. The chewy, fleshy palate is already accessible, offering blackberry extract, licorice and espresso alongside fine-grained, drying tannins. Drink through 2022. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$29

**89 Castello di Querceto 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Earthy aromas of truffle, tilled

soil and leather mingle with blue flower and ripe plum. The juicy palate starts off with fleshy black-cherry and baking-spice notes before close-grained tannins jump in and leave a drying finish. Drink through 2022. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

**89 Castello La Leccia 2015 Giuliano Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of black plum, leather and underbrush shape the nose. Made with organically grown Sangiovese and 2% Malvasia Nera, the brawny, savory palate features dried black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside dusty tannins. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol. Enjoy through 2025. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —K.O.

abv: 15%

Price: \$35

**89 Lornano 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of black-skinned berry, mocha and baking spice emerge from the glass. The firm palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and clove alongside close-grained tannins. Drink through 2026. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

**89 Panzanello 2016 1427 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A blend of 95% Sangiovese and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, this brawny red has aromas of black plum, scorched earth and roasted coffee bean. The dense palate shows dried black cherry, star anise and espresso alongside polished tannins. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol. Drink through 2027. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 15%

Price: \$35

**88 Barone Ricasoli 2018 Brolio (Chianti Classico).** Red-berry, menthol and espresso aromas mingle together in the glass. It's taut and racy, with flavors suggesting sour cherry, botanical herb and a hint of star anise set against fine-grained tannins and an acidic backbone. Drink through 2023. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

**88 Bindi Sergardi 2015 I Colli Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of black plum, leather and ground clove emerge from the glass. The ripe palate offers blackberry jam, star anise and vanilla set alongside close-grained tannins. Drink through 2024. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$43

**88 Carobbio 2015 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of coconut, baking spice and toasted oak lead the nose. The tight palate offers blackberry jam, espresso and powdered sage alongside assertive tannins. Drink through 2024. Alarich Distributing. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

**88 Casa di Monte 2013 Le Capitozze Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of coconut, espresso and prune carry over to the tight palate along with blackberry extract, roasted coffee bean and powdered sage. Close-grained tannins provide

the framework. Drink through 2023. Vino Veritas. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**88 Casa Sola 2014 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Subdued aromas suggesting damp earth, cooking spice and tobacco slowly emerge from the glass. The straightforward palate offers black plum, espresso and clove alongside dusty tannins. Drink through 2024. The House of Burgundy. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**88 Castelvechi 2016 Lodolaio Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas suggesting French oak, coconut, menthol and blue flower lead the nose. It's medium bodied, offering flavors suggesting sour cherry, roasted coffee bean and powdered sage alongside close-grained tannins that leave an astringent close. Serendipity Wine Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

**88 Dievole 2017 Novecento Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This opens with aromas of scorched earth, tobacco leaf and a whiff of violet. The assertive palate offers mature black plum, licorice and toasted hazelnut alongside dusty tannins. Drink through 2024. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

**88 Tenuta di Lilliano 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of mature dark-skinned fruit, sunbaked soil and roasted coffee bean emerge from the glass. The linear palate offers blackberry jam, vanilla and espresso alongside dusty tannins. Drink through 2023. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

**88 Vignamaggio 2016 Gherardino Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The initially shy nose eventually releases suggestions of star anise, forest floor and prune. The aromas carry over to the equally subdued palate along with grainy, rather fleeting tannins. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

**88 Viticcio 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This opens with aromas of black plum, roasted coffee bean and a whiff of toasted oak. The chewy palate offers prune, espresso and star anise alongside tightly knit tannins. Drink 2021–2025. Serendipity Wines. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

**87 Casale dello Sparviero 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of toasted oak, mocha and underbrush emerge from the glass. On the dense palate, drying but fleeting tannins accompany prune, orange rind and roasted coffee bean. PSP Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

**87 Tenuta di Arceno 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of toasted oak and espresso dominate the opening. The dense palate offers prune, roasted coffee bean and dried orange slice alongside



assertive tannins that lead to a mouthdrying finish. Drink through 2023. Jackson Family Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**86** **Geografico 2017 Borgo alla Terra Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This has a shy nose that suggests mature black-skinned fruit and a hint of leather. The dense, simple palate offers blackberry extract and a hint of spice. Drink now. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## CHIANTI CLASSICO

**94** **Vecchie Terre di Montefili 2017 Chianti Classico.** This has aromas of scorched earth, toasted nut and eucalyptus. The lean palate suggests prune, blood orange and bitter walnut alongside unripe tannins. You'll also note a green note suggesting powdered sage on the abrupt, astringent finish. Domenico Valentino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**93** **Fontodi 2017 Vigna del Sorbo (Chianti Classico).** Made entirely with organically cultivated Sangiovese, this bold red has aromas of baked plum, pipe tobacco, new leather and French oak. The full-bodied palate is concentrated yet weightless, delivering black cherry extract, blackberry, licorice and espresso. Close-grained, velvety tannins provide the tight framework. Drink 2022–2027. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Istine 2018 Vigna Casanova dell'Aia (Chianti Classico).** Made entirely with Sangiovese, this has energizing aromas of crushed mint, cedar, rose and tilled earth. Vibrant and focused, the structured palate delivers juicy black cherry, ripe plum and baking spice alongside taut, fine-grained tannins. It finishes on a licorice note. Give it a few more years to fully develop. Drink 2023–2028. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Istine 2018 Vigna Cavarchione (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of forest floor, blue flower, leather and pipe tobacco shape the nose. The firm palate is youthfully austere, featuring Marasca cherry, orange zest, licorice and botanical herb framed in tightly knit, close-grained tannins that grip the finish. Vibrant acidity provides balance. Needs time. Drink 2025–2033. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92** **Castello di Verrazzano 2017 Chianti Classico.** Made with organically grown grapes, this delicious red has aromas suggesting underbrush, blue flower, eucalyptus and mature black-skinned fruit. The smooth, chewy palate shows ripe Marasca cherry, black plum licorice and hazelnut. Taut, fine-grained tannins provide the framework and generate a rather drying finish. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**92** **Dievole 2016 Vigna di Sessina (Chianti Classico).** Enticing aromas of violet, tobacco and new leather lead the nose. The savory, balanced palate features black cherry, raspberry jam, star anise and white pepper alongside fine-grained tannins and firm acidity. Enjoy through 2029. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**91** **Isole e Olena 2017 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of underbrush, violet, toasted nut and camphor lift out of the glass. Showing the heat of the vintage, the palate features prune, dried cherry, espresso and hazelnut alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2023. Chambers & Chambers. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Carobbio 2016 Chianti Classico.** Made entirely with Sangiovese, this opens with aromas of violet, black-skinned berry and Mediterranean brush. The juicy palate offers black cherry, star anise, clove and white pepper alongside velvety tannins. Drink through 2025. Alarich Distributing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**90** **Castello di Monsanto 2018 Chianti Classico.** Red-berry, blue-flower and tilled earth aromas waft out of the glass. On the juicy palate, bright acidity and polished tannins accompany Marasca cherry, orange zest and a hint of aniseed. Drink through 2023. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Castello La Leccia 2017 Chianti Classico.** Made with organically farmed Sangiovese, this opens with aromas reminiscent of black-skinned berry, scorched earth and leather. The juicy palate offers blueberry, star anise and cinnamon alongside polished tannins and firm acidity. Drink through 2027. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Cinciano 2017 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of crushed aromatic herb, incense and sunbaked earth meld with violet on this 100% Sangiovese. The full-bodied, savory palate delivers exotic spice, dried cherry and licorice alongside taut, refined tannins. Drink through 2025. Noble Harvest, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**90** **Fattoria La Ripa 2017 Chianti Classico.** Made with 90% Sangiovese and 10% Canaiolo, both organically farmed, this opens with aromas of black-skinned berry, Mediterranean brush and sunbaked earth. The juicy palate offers dried black cherry, tobacco and licorice alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2027. Tradizione Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90** **Geografico 2016 Contessa di Radda (Chianti Classico).** Lithe and polished, this has aromas of red berry, wild rose, menthol and a whiff of nutmeg. The savory, medium-bodied palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, baking spice and a hint of

coffee. Supple tannins and fresh acidity keep it balanced. Drink through 2024. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Riecine 2018 Chianti Classico.** Dark-spice, toasted nut, blue-flower and camphor aromas waft out of the glass. Round and savory, the chewy palate doles out ripe black cherry, star anise and coffee bean alongside supple tannins. Drink through 2023. Soilair Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90** **San Fabiano Calcinaia 2018 Chianti Classico.** Made with organically farmed 90% Sangiovese, 5% Canaiolo and 5% Malvasia Nera, this opens with pretty aromas of violet, Mediterranean brush and nutmeg. The savory palate offers black cherry, mocha and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2027. Matchvino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Castello di Bossi 2017 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of wild berry, iris and botanical herb lead the nose. On the chewy, accessible palate, supple tannins accompany ripe Marasca cherry, ripe plum and baking spice. Drink through 2022. LLS-Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**89** **Dievole 2018 Chianti Classico.** Made with 90% Sangiovese, 7% Canaiolo and 3% Colorino, all organically farmed, this has aromas of red-skinned berry, leather and underbrush. The bright palate shows raspberry jam, cinnamon and white pepper alongside smooth tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2025. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Mazzei 2018 Fonterutoli (Chianti Classico).** The shy nose eventually reveals plum, blue flower and earthy whiffs of truffle and damp soil. The straightforward, subtle palate is between light and medium bodied, suggesting sour cherry and star anise alongside dusty tannins. It closes on a coffee-bean note. Drink through 2022. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Tenuta di Lilliano 2018 Chianti Classico.** Red-skinned berry, Mediterranean brush and cooking-spice aromas emerge from the glass. The juicy, straightforward palate doles out red cherry, star anise and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2024. Vos Vinum Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Villa Trasqua 2016 Chianti Classico.** Made with organically grown grapes, Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, Mediterranean brush and leather. The juicy palate offers tart cherry, tobacco leaf and botanical herb alongside polished tannins and bright acidity. Enjoy through 2024. Misa Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88 Brancaia 2018 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of toasted hazelnut, underbrush and roasted coffee bean follow over to the palate, along with prune and aniseed. Close-grained tannins sneak up on the end and leave a drying finish. E. & J. Gallo. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Brancaia 2016 Chianti Classico.** Made with Sangiovese and 20% Merlot, this shows aromas ripe dark-skinned fruit, roasted coffee bean and toasted oak. The taut palate presents prune, espresso and powdered sage alongside assertive tannins that lead to a mouthpuckering finish. Drink through 2024. E. & J. Gallo. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**88 Cantalici 2017 Baruffo (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of mature black-skinned fruit, menthol, French oak and blue flower come to the forefront. Made with organically farmed Sangiovese, the full-bodied, evolved palate shows the heat of the vintage, offering dried cherry, prune and roasted coffee bean while close-grained tannins leave a drying close. Chigazola Merchants. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**88 Casa di Monte 2016 Le Capitozze (Chianti Classico).** Mocha, vanilla and a hint of violet lead the nose. The taut palate features clove, espresso and black plum alongside assertive tannins. Drink through 2024. Vino Veritas. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Casale dello Sparviero 2017 Chianti Classico.** This has aromas suggesting dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth and leather. The straightforward palate offers ripe black plum, star anise and toasted hazelnut alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2024. PSP Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Il Poggolino 2017 Il Classico (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of underbrush, grilled herb and blue flower shape the nose. On the easygoing palate, dusty, rather drying tannins accompany ripe black cherry and spiced plum. Drink through 2022. MHW, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Livernano 2015 Chianti Classico.** Prune, leather and espresso aromas form the subdued nose. The medium-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, star anise and vanilla alongside close-grained tannins. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Amici Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Nittardi 2018 Casanuova di Nittardi Vigna Doghessa (Chianti Classico).** Blue-flower, plum and menthol aromas form the nose. The medium-bodied palate offers tart sour cherry, powdered sage and aniseed alongside grainy tannins that leave a firm, astringent finish. Misa Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Panzanello 2018 Chianti Classico.** Ripe black-plum, underbrush and menthol aromas shape the nose. The forward palate offers blackberry jam, star anise and a hint of vanilla alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2024. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18

**88 Panzanello 2018 1427 (Chianti Classico).** Black-skinned berry, toasted hazelnut and roasted coffee-bean aromas shape the nose. The easygoing palate shows ripe black plum, vanilla and mocha alongside dusty tannins. Drink through 2023. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Piemaggio 2016 Le Fioraie (Chianti Classico).** Leather, underbrush and mature dark-skinned berry aromas form the nose. On the smooth, easygoing palate, buffed tannins accompany mature plum and baking spice notes. Drink soon. Rinascimento Wine. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**88 Rocca delle Macie 2018 Famiglia Zingarelli (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of fragrant blue flower, botanical herb and red berry lift out of the glass. It's fresh and easy drinking, offering sour cherry and hints of spice alongside lithe tannins. Palm Bay International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Rocca di Castagnoli 2018 Chianti Classico.** A blend of 90% Sangiovese with Canaiolo and Colorino, all organically farmed, this has aromas of violet, toasted nut, forest floor and wild berry. On the fresh palate, dusty tannins accompany juicy Marasca cherry, espresso and hints of baking spice. Drink through 2022. Coeur Wine Co. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Villa Rosa 2017 Ribaldoni (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of roasted coffee bean, vanilla and cooking spice lead the nose. The dense palate shows clove, espresso and dried blackberry alongside close-grained tannins. Drink through 2024. Volio Vino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Aiola 2017 Chianti Classico.** This opens with aromas of scorched earth, underbrush, grilled herb and prune. On the palate, dusty, drying tannins accompany dried cherry and roasted coffee bean before leaving a grippy, astringent close. Hill City Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Cantalici 2016 Chianti Classico.** Botanical herb, leather, truffle and plum aromas meld with a hint of blue flower. Made with organic grapes, the straightforward palate offers prune and tobacco alongside dusty tannins. Chigazola Merchants. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**87 Carpineto 2018 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of blue flower, botanical herb and wild berry

form the delicate nose. Light bodied and easy drinking, the fresh palate offers red cherry and the barest hints of baking spice alongside dusty tannins. Opici Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87 Casa Sola 2017 Chianti Classico.** Aromas suggesting prune, camphor and new leather form the subtle nose. Showing the heat of the scorching vintage, the medium-bodied palate offers dried cherry, ground clove and a hint of coffee bean alongside close-grained, drying tannins. The House of Burgundy. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Castelli del Grevepesa 2017 Castelgreve (Chianti Classico).** This easygoing red has subtle aromas of wild berry and a hint of tobacco. On the straightforward palate, dusty, somewhat drying tannins accompany dried cherry and a touch of baking spice. Drink soon. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**87 Castello di Albola 2018 Chianti Classico.** Vinous aromas of just-pressed grapes mingle with red berry and blue flower on this tangy red. The easygoing palate offers sour cherry and ground clove alongside bright acidity and light tannins. Drink through 2022. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2018 Guado Alto (Chianti Classico).** Blue-flower, wild-berry and damp soil aromas form the nose. The zesty, straightforward palate suggests sour cherry and star anise alongside dusty tannins before closing on a tinny note. Drink through 2022. FX Magner Selection. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**87 Il Molino di Grace 2017 Chianti Classico.** This has aromas of toasted oak, sunbaked earth and hints of grilled herb. It shows the heat of the scorching vintage, with flavors of prune and dried cherry accented by roasted coffee-bean notes. Grainy, drying tannins leave a lean, astringent finish. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87 Lecci e Brocchi 2018 Ragonaia (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of toasted oak and roasted nut follow over to the light-bodied palate along with mature plum and orange rind. Dusty, fleeting tannins leave a rather short, drying close. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**87 Livernano 2015 Casalvento (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of ripe black-skinned fruit, scorched earth and roasted coffee bean lead the nose. The straightforward palate shows ripe black plum, clove and mocha alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2023. Amici Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Lornano 2017 Chianti Classico.** This has subdued, earthy aromas suggesting leather, grilled Porcini mushroom, ripe berry and a whiff of violet. Showing the heat of the vintage, it's full bodied, warm and evolved, with flavors reminiscent of dried cherry, prune and coffee bean set against drying tannins that leave an astringent finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Melini 2017 Terrarossa (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of wild berry and dark spice waft out of the glass. The straightforward palate suggests dried cherry, orange peel, clove and powdered sage alongside dusty, drying tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87 Podere La Cappella 2018 Chianti Classico.** This has aromas reminiscent of dark-skinned fruit, tilled earth and mocha. The dense palate suggests prune, sage and roasted coffee bean alongside solid tannins. Drink through 2023. Artisan Wines, Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Poggio ai Mandorli 2017 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of dark-skinned fruit and cooking spice emerge from the glass. The straightforward palate offers ripe black plum, orange peel and sage alongside smooth tannins. Vi. Sco., Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 Rocca delle Macie 2017 Tenuta Sant'Alfonso (Chianti Classico).** Camphor, underbrush and graphite aromas form the nose. On the subdued, straightforward palate, dusty tannins accompany suggestions of prune and espresso before an abrupt, drying finish. Palm Bay International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**87 Villa La Pagliaia 2018 Chianti Classico.** This easygoing red has delicate aromas suggesting red berry and tilled soil. On the fresh palate, relaxed tannins lightly support sour cherry and a hint of aniseed. Drink through 2023. Vision Wine & Spirits. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Viticcio 2017 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of toast, dark-skinned fruit and mocha emerge from the glass. The easygoing palate offers black plum, clove and vanilla alongside smooth tannins. Serendipity Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**86 La Casa di Bricciano 2016 Chianti Classico.** Earthy aromas of leather and truffle lead the nose along with whiffs of ground clove, ripe plum and violet. The palate is less expressive than the nose and already somewhat evolved, offering suggestions of dried cherry, espresso and a green note of powdered sage alongside close-grained, drying tannins that leave an astringent and rather abrupt finish. European Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**86 Lecci e Brocchi 2017 Chianti Classico.** Leather, scorched earth, violet and overripe plum aromas form the nose. It's rather light bodied, offering suggestions of prune, ground clove and a tinny note alongside dusty tannins that leave a fleeting, mouthdrying finish. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Tenuta di Arceno 2018 Chianti Classico.** This has aromas of mocha, toasted oak and tangerine zest. The assertive, monolithic palate shows raisin, roasted coffee bean and a green note of powdered sage alongside raspy tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Despite the bold tannins, drink sooner rather than later to capture what little fruit there is. Jackson Family Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**85 Castello di Querceto 2018 Chianti Classico.** Aromas of red berry lead the nose on this easygoing red. The light-bodied, simple palate suggests juicy red cherry and the barest hint of ground clove alongside dusty, not very persistent tannins. Drink soon. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

## CHIANTI COLLI SENESI

**87 Geografico 2019 Borgo alla Terra (Chianti Colli Senesi).** Aromas of ripe red fruit and baking spice follow over to the easygoing palate along with a hint of orange rind. It's already drinkable with a lithe tannins and bright acidity. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## CERASUOLO D'ABRUZZO

**93 Amorotti 2017 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** This stand-out Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo starts off with an engaging nose of fresh-pressed cherry, lemon oil and crushed herbs on the nose. An earthy, brambly base note underpins it all. There's weight, presence and grip to the palate, driven by pulsing flavors of Morello cherry and red currant. Gentle tones of rooibos and crushed stone add depth and lift to this textural beauty. Drink now–2022. Jan D'Amore Wines. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Francesco Cirelli 2017 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** This textural pink wine was fermented with indigenous yeast in amphora, giving it a bit of a wild edge. Concentrated aromas of dark cherry and blackberry meld with accents of rooibos and crushed stone on the nose. The medium-bodied palate is rounded yet energized, with no harsh edges. Detailed tones of wild berries are lifted by persistent acidity and framed by crunchy tannins. It's a delicious pink wine to enjoy in the cooler months of the year. Drink now–2022. Zev Rovine Selections. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**92 Tiberio 2019 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** This richly hued pink wine starts off with a nose of

freshly pressed cherries and blackberries—stems and all. While the fruit is intense and concentrated, there's are earthy base notes of herbs and bramble that tie it all together. It's full, yet fresh on the palate, showing amazing purity to the berry-fruit flavors. Slicks of crushed stone and herbs keep this lifted and energized. This is an excellent offering from an estate winery located in the Pescara province of Abruzzo. Drink now–2021. The Sorting Table. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**91 Illuminati 2019 Lumezzano di Rosa (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This rich wine is an excellent example of the Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo style. It's rounded and ripe in a red-cherry flavor, with a textural, gripping mouthfeel that's cleaned up by tangy acidity and crushed stone. It's a wine to enjoy year-round, but could be a great choice as a winter-time rosato. Drink through 2021. Montcalm Wine Importers. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**91 Valentini 2018 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** Pretty closed upon opening, this needs some time to stitch together, so decant or enjoy leisurely over a long meal. Tight aromas of pomegranate, coriander seed and red currant slowly unfurl on the nose. The medium-bodied palate displays a mix of textures and flavors, from smooth raspberry and racy pomegranate, to powdered white pepper and slick wet stones. The alcohol shows its face a bit, but it's well compensated for by the detail of flavor and texture. Jan D'Amore Wines. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$130

**90 Annona 2018 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** A bit closed upon opening, after time this offers a pretty nose of juiced raspberry and cranberry, with orchard blossoms chiming in. A gentle, tannic grip on the palate comes off like red-apple peel and cranberry skins, while a fresh, lifted tone of river rocks gives this pink wine vitality. Enjoy with a bit of a decant alongside poultry and veggie roasts on a crisp autumn evening. Drink through 2021. Third Leaf Wines. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Cantina Tollo 2019 Hedòs (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** Perfumed aromas of apple blossom and cherry carry the delightfully floral nose. The palate is smooth and inviting, offering a tasty mix of apple peel and tangy raspberry flavors. A bit of cherry-cocktail bitters adds some grip, but integrates nicely into the fruit. Drink through 2021. Vino Veritas. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Cataldi Madonna 2019 Malandrino (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** Aromas of crushed limestone, red-cherry skin and blood-orange rind make an engaging, fresh start to this pink wine made from organically grown Montepulciano. The medium-bodied palate boasts tart red-berry, orange and herbal spice notes that are wrapped in a gentle tan-



# BUYINGGUIDE

nic frame. Drink through 2021. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**90 Cirelli la Collina Biologica 2018 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** Rich aromas of juicy red cherry and cranberry carry meld with an accent of balsamic-dripped herbs. Medium to full in feel, the palate is broad yet tangy, honed by impressions of crushed stone and red-berry skins. It's a fun wine to geek out over, especially for its texture. Drink in the near term. Zev Rovine Selections. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**90 Masciarelli 2019 Villa Gemma Superiore (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This vibrantly hued cherry-red Cerasuolo kicks off with brisk aromas of red-apple peel and Morello cherry, underpinned by a soft washed cheese-rind note. The palate is rounded and well integrated, echoing the fruit tones of the nose and lifted by tangy crushed stone. A bit tightly coiled now, this will be an enjoyable pour in the winter and spring months of 2021. Vintus LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Illuminati 2019 Campirosa (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** This entry-level Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo is a very good example of the style at an attractive price. A rounded palate boasts flavors of balsamic-dipped cherries and crushed limestone, with a gentle, gripping mouthfeel akin to freshly pressed cranberry juice. It ends brisk and tangy. Montcalm Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**89 Tenuta I Fauri 2019 Baldovino (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** Rich red-cherry in color, this Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo is inviting in aromas of fresh-pressed Morello cherries, with flecks of warm spices and earthy rooibos. The medium-bodied palate is fleshy and rounded, driven by a tart cherry flavor and spritz acidity. A persistent cocktail-bitters note arises on the midpalate and extends on the finish. Wineberry America LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Talamonti 2019 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** Brisk aromas of blood orange, red cherry and potpourri carry the nose. The medium-bodied palate follows suit, with a slightly tangy wet stone note chiming in. This is a tasty, straightforward pink wine that should be enjoyed in the near term. Panebianco. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87 Il Feuduccio Di S. Maria D'Orni 2019 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** A relatively quiet nose of red-apple peel and crushed raspberry starts this off. The light-bodied palate is zesty in feel, driven by a tart red-cherry flavor that's held in check by a mild grip of tannins. Acidity is the main driver here, making this a bright, crisp offering to enjoy in the near term. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87 Valle Reale 2018 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo.** Aromas of pressed raspberry and cranberry meld with a gentle herbal tone on the nose. The red-berry flavors are brisk and bouncy on the palate, with lifted acidity pushing them along to a mild, yeasty finish. Winebow. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER ROSATOS

**86 Il Feuduccio Di S. Maria D'Orni 2019 Fonte Venna Rosato (Terre di Chieti).** Aromas of wild thyme and sage carry the herbal-driven nose. The palate is more expressive in flavors of tart red cherry and crushed limestone. It shows good lift thanks to vibrant acidity, with a pomegranate-laden finish marking the brisk close. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**86 Masciarelli 2019 Rosato (Colline Teatine).** Shy aromas of banana, guava and blood orange carry the delicate nose. The medium-bodied palate boasts tart flavors of melon and citrus, ending brisk on a slightly candied tone. Vintus LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

## PUGLIA

### PRIMITIVO

**90 Ronco di Sassi 2016 Riserva (Primitivo di Manduria).** This rich, enveloping wine melds savory, spicy accents of tobacco and black pepper with a dense dark-berry and plum core. It's suave and seductive on the palate, with polished tannins and lifted acidity lending structure to the rich fruit. For those looking for a comforting red to enjoy in the cooler months of the year, this fits the bill. Votto Vines Importing. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**90 Tagaro 2017 Muso Rosso Collection (Primitivo di Manduria).** Toasty spice notes are prominent on the nose, riding over a rich dark-fruit core. This red is rounded and plush in feel, with soft, pliant tannins lending just enough support to the dense dark-cherry and plum flavors. Accents of anise and vanilla add interest and give this wine lots of appeal. Eagle Spirits Imports and Exports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**89 Varvaglione 2016 Papale Oro (Primitivo di Manduria).** A rich nose of black plum, blackberry and tilled earth mixes with an orange-spice accent in this wine. The medium-bodied palate is driven by flavors of juicy plum and dark berry, pushed along by lifted acidity and a slight saline note. The tannins are soft and mellow but supportive, playing well alongside the rich fruit and warm spice tones. WinesU. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**89 Vigneti del Salento 2016 Leggenda Vigne Vecchie (Primitivo di Manduria).** Tar and

iodine are at the fore of the nose, leading to a palate that's more giving in its rich black-plum and dark-berry flavors. Rich fruit and dark cocoa tones dominate the palate, all wrapped in a firm coating of tannins and juicy acidity. Warm spice flavors feel a bit heavy on the robust finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**88 Vespa 2017 Raccontami (Primitivo di Manduria).** Aromas of tar and iodine are dominant on the nose, with hints of violet and peppery spice chiming in. The full-bodied palate brings robust flavors of plum and blackberry jam, supported by burly tannins and firm acidity. It feels gripping and mouthcoating, but the fruit is nice and rich. Ethica Wines. —A.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$55

## SUSUMANIELLO

**90 Masseria Li Veli 2018 Askos Susumaniello (Salento).** Pretty aromas of violet, raspberry and blackberry carry to the light, fresh palate. This shows juicy fruit flavors struck against a solid structure, making this a great red to enjoy as the weather turns slightly cooler. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**90 Tagaro 2015 U'Cucci Susumaniello (Valle d'Itria).** Opaque ruby in color, this red starts off with quiet aromas of black grape and iodine, but becomes more expressive in a ground coffee tone as it sits. It's smooth and rich in feel, filled out by thick-skinned dark-berry and plum flavors framed by peppery tannins and balanced acidity. It's a bold, gripping red that would do well beside a hearty protein. Eagle Spirits Imports and Exports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Tenute Rubino 2018 Oltremé Susumaniello (Brindisi).** There's a brambly, spicy edge to the enticing raspberry and blackberry aromas in this wine. The palate is plush and rounded, filled out by juicy berry flavors that are framed by gentle tannins and lifted acidity. This is a young, fresh, easygoing wine that will please many with its accessible style. Soilair Selection. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Schola Sarmenti 2017 Antièri Susumaniello (Salento).** This rich, sultry red offers aromas of dark cocoa, toasted anise and chocolate-covered cherries that carry to the rounded palate. A bit of fiery Bourbon spice kicks in on the midpalate, but is tamed come the finish. Massanois Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$31

**87 Tenute Rubino 2017 Oltremé Susumaniello (Salento).** Aromas of rubber, toasted anise and black raspberry carry the nose. The palate is fruity and forward, with slightly jammy flavors of blackberries and bursting plum. It's mellow and soft

in feel, with plenty of acidity lending support. Soilair Selection. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Cantine Menhir 2019 Pietra Susumaniello (Salento).** This simplistic red starts off with aromas of violet and black grape. Jammy fruit flavors are wrapped in firm acidity, with mellow tannins giving it a soft, rounded feel. Francoli USA. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Tenute Rubino 2016 Torre Testa Susumaniello (Salento).** This rich wine gushes in tones of crushed black grapes, blackberry and violet. It's sultry and dense on the palate, offering gripping flavors of thick-skinned dark fruit framed by firm tannins and lifted acidity. It ends fiery hot and peppery, unable to tame the alcohol within. Soilair Selection. —A.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

## RED BLENDS

**89 Botromagno 2015 Pier delle Vigne (Murgia).** A blend of 60% Aglianico and 40% Montepulciano, this wine offers aromas of dried red berries, crushed black pepper, game and dried hibiscus on the nose. The palate is developed and soft in feel, with mild tannins and bright acidity carrying flavors that echo the nose. Enjoy in the near term. LLS-Winebow. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89 Claudio Quarta 2016 Cantina Moros Riserva (Salice Salentino).** Dense aromas of brandy-soaked cherries and blackberries meld with a heady dose of anise and allspice on the nose. The medium-bodied palate is rounded and soft in feel, carried by plush dark-fruit flavors with a framing of polished tannins and lifted acidity. Dark cocoa lingers on the close. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**88 Amastuola 2017 Onda del Tempo Organic (Puglia).** A blend of Aglianico, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this red offers baked fruit aromas of plum and raspberry set against plenty of sweet spice tones. Plush red fruit and anise arise on the palate, framed by slightly gritty tannins and fresh acidity. Tuscan Vineyard Imports LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88 Apollonio 2013 Valle Cupa (Salento).** A rich nose of toasted spice, blackberry jam and plum starts this off. This blend of Primitivo and Negroamaro is rounded and plush on the palate, filled out by ripe dark-fruit tones and a firm dose of warm spices. It's well balanced in structure, but leans a little heavy on the oak. Montcalm Wine Importers. —A.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$27

**87 Cantine Menhir 2018 Pietra (Salento).** A blend of 80% Negroamaro and 20% Malvasia Nera, this red offers aromas of baked rasp-

berry and blackberry, with accents of sweet hay and tobacco. It's rounded and soft on the palate, displaying lightly concentrated flavors of cranberry and raspberry framed by mellow tannins and lifted acidity. Francoli USA. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**87 Claudio Quarta 2018 Sud del Sud (Puglia).** A blend of 35% Primitivo, 35% Negroamaro, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot and 10% Shiraz, this red starts off with aromas of tar, jammy red fruit and peppery spices. There's a pleasing roundness and suppleness to the palate where juicy red fruit plays alongside tar and warm spices. Gentle tannins frame it all, with balanced acidity lending lift. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**87 Tagaro 2017 Passo del Sud Negroamaro-Primitivo (Puglia).** With the blend dominated by Negroamaro, this red kicks off with ripe aromas of bramble berries and cherries alongside a firm dose of sweet spice. Medium in weight, ripe fruit meets cocoa and toasted anise on the palate to yield a style that will please many who enjoy a rounded wine with sweet spice tones. Eagle Spirits Imports and Exports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 Tommasi 2017 Masseria Surani Ares Primitivo-Cabernet Sauvignon (Puglia).** This accessible red starts off with bright aromas of raspberry and fig jam, with a bit of a green-herbal tone riding underneath. It's light in feel on the palate, driven by tangy red-plum and currant flavors that are framed by bright acidity and slightly sandy tannins. Vintus LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Tormaresca 2016 Bocca di Lupo Aglianico (Castel del Monte).** Initial tones of coconut, anise and cola carry the nose, with dense blackberry and black cherry aromas eventually chiming in. It's full and rich on the palate, oozing with seductive warm spice tones and gripping dark fruit, all while polished tannins and well-integrated acidity lend to the ample structure. It's surly in its infancy, needing time to stitch together. Drink 2023–2030. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**90 Crifo 2015 Augustale Riserva Nero di Troia (Castel del Monte).** Offering a pleasing mix of sweet and savory tones on the nose, this red delves into aromas of black plum, baked ham, anise and peppery spice. The medium-bodied palate is rounded in feel, built by a firm grip of tannins but filled out by rich flavors cherry and plum. Pullano Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88 Tormaresca 2018 Nèprica Cabernet Sauvignon (Puglia).** A pleasingly rich nose of dark plum and bramble-berry pie carries the nose

alongside accents of crushed black pepper and dried herbs. Firmly medium in weight, the palate offers ripe berry-fruit flavors against a backdrop of granite and spice. Well-structured tannins give it a firm feel, but lifted acidity and rounded fruit lend plenty of balance in this attractively priced red. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**87 Claudio Quarta 2017 Tenute Eméra Anima di Negroamaro (Lizzano).** Dense aromas of baked plum, fig and blackberry carry the rich nose. The palate is driven by jammy black-fruit flavors, with plenty of lifted acidity to keep it fresh. The tannins are firm and a bit sandy, but are a fine match for the rich fruit flavors. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**86 Amastuola 2017 Capocanale Merlot (Puglia).** This accessible red offers tones of raspberry and red-plum jam, with accents of tar and geranium. It's light and tangy on the palate, showing a slight bitter edge in the middle that resolves on the finish alongside a firm hug of tannins. Tuscan Vineyard Imports LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**86 Apollonio 2019 Elfo Negroamaro (Salento).** This fresh, easygoing red is made entirely in stainless steel and meant to be enjoyed young. Brisk aromas of red plum and raspberry blend with tones of violet and peanut shell on the nose. The palate is bright and zesty in red-berry fruit, driven by a pulsing river of acidity and mellow tannins. Montcalm Wine Importers. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**86 Claudio Quarta 2018 Qu.ale (Salento).** This light-bodied red blend offers rounded flavors of plum and blackberry. Bright acidity seems to stick out against the ripe, jammy fruit, with a gentle film of tannins framing it all. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**85 Amastuola 2018 Vignatorta Organic Syrah-Primitivo (Puglia).** A faint nose of blackberry and currant carries a sharpness to it. The palate is light and racy in feel, driven by tart berry flavors housed by brisk acidity and blunt tannins. Tuscan Vineyard Imports LLC. —A.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**84 Villa Schinosa 2018 Laghiglione Rosso (Puglia).** Aromas of charred jalapeño, currant and baked black plum carry the nose, with a tin-can accent arising as it sits in the glass. A blend of Primitivo and Syrah, the medium-bodied palate offers ripe plum and cherry fruit that ends on a sweet bubblegum note. Mild tannins and soft acidity hold it all together. Massanois Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**83 Amastuola 2016 Aglianico (Puglia).** A straightforward nose of raspberry, cherry and tobacco carries the nose. The palate is light in feel, with clenching tannins drying up the red-fruit fla-

# BUYINGGUIDE

vors. It ends superdry and gripping. Tuscan Vineyard Imports LLC. —A.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$16

## ROSATOS

**90 Claudio Quarta 2019 Tenute Eméra La Vigne en Rose Negroamaro Rosato (Salento).** Brisk aromas of cantaloupe, grapefruit and red-apple peel make for a crisp, enticing entry to this rosato. There's nice roundness and weight to the palate, with flavors of melon and citrus accented by peppery spice. A gentle grip of tannins matches the fruit intensity well, making this a well-balanced, textured offering. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$18

**89 Cantine Menhir 2019 Pietra Rosato (Salento).** A blend of Primitivo and Susumaniello, this rosato is crisp in tones of blood orange, cranberry and watermelon. The easygoing fruit flavors are held in check by a slick of wet stone and zesty, bright acidity. A gentle hug of tannins gives grip to the close. Francoli USA. *Best Buy.* —A.P.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

**86 Ognissole 2019 Pontelama Nero di Troia Rosato (Castel del Monte).** Rich aromas of strawberry and raspberry meld with a stemmy accent of rooibos on the nose. The palate is rounded in feel, showing a mild vein of ripe red-berry tones that's just balanced by a lifted acidity. It ends a bit drying and a bit astringent. Palm Bay International. —A.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$13

## WHITE WINES

**88 Cantine Menhir 2019 Verdeca (Salento).** A quiet nose of spring flowers, lemon zest and melon carries to the light-bodied palate. There's a gentle creaminess to it all, lifted by a delicate vein of crushed stone and pushed along by zesty acidity. It's a light, bright wine to enjoy alongside seafood, poultry and roasted veggies. Francoli USA. —A.P.  
abv: 12% Price: \$15

**87 Mocavero 2019 Curtirussi Verdeca (Puglia).** Brisk aromas of lemon, melon rind and crushed stone carry to the lightly concentrated palate. There's a bit of a creamy, yeasty note on the midpalate, but fresh lemony zestiness rises back to bring a crisp finish. Martin Ulisse Imports. —A.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$18

**87 Tenute Rubino 2018 Malvasia Bianca (Salento).** Notes of gravel, melon rind and citrus carry the nose of this brisk white wine. There's a rounded feel to the fruit on the palate, with juicy white plum and tangy citrus peels meeting a slight bitter-almond tone. Soilair Selection. —A.P.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

## SICILY

### ETNA ROSSO

**96 Graci 2015 Arcuria Sopra il Pozzo Rosso (Etna).** Smoke, star anise, mature wild berry, Mediterranean scrub and blue flower are just some of the aromas you'll find on this compelling red. Elegant, structured and incredibly delicious, the smooth, focused palate delivers juicy Marasca cherry, rhubarb, licorice and tobacco alongside a vein of flinty mineral. It's impeccably balanced, with polished tannins and fresh acidity. Drink through 2027. Massanois Imports. —K.O.  
abv: 14% Price: \$189

**95 Terra Costantino 2015 Contrada Blandano Rosso (Etna).** Intense aromas of rose, underbrush, scorched earth and camphor lead the way. Medium bodied and elegantly structured, the focused, savory palate delivers ripe Marasca cherry, raspberry, licorice and flinty mineral framed in lithe tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it well balanced. Drink through 2027. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$42

**93 Alta Mora 2016 Feudo di Mezzo Rosso (Etna).** Elegant and savory, this focused red has aromas of wild berry, blue flower, underbrush and dark spice. The radiant palate has great energy, delivering juicy Morello cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside lithe, fine-grained tannins that give it a rather drying finish. Bright acidity keeps it well balanced. Drink through 2026. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$58

**93 Alta Mora 2016 Guardiola Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of fragrant purple flower, underbrush, Mediterranean scrub and fragrant spice shape the nose. Focused and elegantly structured, the vibrant palate features ripe black cherry, raspberry, licorice and a hint of saline alongside tightly wound, fine-grained tannins that grip the close. Drink 2022–2028. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.  
abv: 14% Price: \$58

**93 Calcaneus 2017 Arcuria Rosso (Etna).** Mediterranean scrub, violet, camphor and dark-skinned berry are some of the aromas you'll find on this fragrant, full-bodied red. The savory, bright palate offers ripe blackberry, juicy blood-orange, ground clove and slate notes offset by taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Giuliana Imports. —K.O.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**93 Tenute Bosco 2015 Vico Prephylloxera Rosso (Etna).** Made with extremely old vines planted at the end of the 1800s—some of them ungrafted, this has aromas of eucalyptus, Mediterranean scrub, blue flower, wet stone and a whiff of French oak. Elegant, savory and focused, the palate offers juicy red cherry, vanilla and licorice along-

side fine-grained tannins. It's balanced, with bright acidity. —K.O.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**92 Ampelon 2017 Passo delle Sciare Rosso (Etna).** Savory and mineral-driven, this opens with aromas of smoke, mature dark-skinned fruit, underbrush and camphor. The medium-bodied palate features concentrated flavors of black cherry, raspberry jam, licorice and a sprinkling of cinnamon framed in fine-grained, rather drying tannins before a flinty close. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —K.O.  
abv: 14% Price: \$35

**92 I Custodi delle Vigne dell'Etna 2012 Saeculare Riserva Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, fragrant purple flower, scorched earth and Mediterranean scrub form the nose along with a whiff of sandalwood. This is a blend of Nerello Mascalese (80%), Nerello Cappuccio and Alicante. The palate is both concentrated and weightless, featuring dried black cherry, orange zest, licorice and hints of French oak alongside, grainy, drying tannins that sneak up on you. It closes on a note of rusty iron. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.  
abv: NA Price: \$75

**92 Pietradolce 2018 Contrada Santo Spirito Rosso (Etna).** This racy red opens with aromas of wet stone, wild aromatic herb, violet and ground clove. It's exquisite and has intense energy, featuring juicy pomegranate, orange zest, star anise and savory saline alongside firm acidity and taut, polished tannins. Some may find this too ethereally delicate, but lovers of extreme elegance will be hooked. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

**91 Gambino 2016 Petto Dragone Rosso (Etna).** Elegant and savory, this Nerello Mascalese opens with heady aromas of wild red berry, blue flower, wet stone, toasted nut and botanical herb. The linear, focused palate offers sour cherry, orange zest, star anise and espresso alongside lithe, fine-grained tannins. Bright acidity keeps it balanced. Total Wine & More. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$58

**91 Palmento Costanzo 2017 Mofete Rosso (Etna).** Red-berry, wet stone, wild-rose and Mediterranean brush aromas are front and center on this fragrant red. The taut, linear palate presents sour cherry, saline and aniseed alongside tight, fine-grained tannins that leave a grippy finish. Drink after 2023. Artisanal Cellars. —K.O.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

**90 Calcaneus 2017 Feudo di Mezzo Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of scorched earth, grilled porcini mushroom, leather and toasted nut form the nose along with a whiff of eucalyptus. The linear, assertive palate features dried cherry, orange zest, clove and toasted hazelnut set against a vein of salty saline. Firm, close-grained tannins provide the



framework. Drink 2023–2029. Giuliana Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 I Custodi delle Vigne dell'Etna 2014 Aetneus Rosso (Etna).** Delicately scented, this has aromas suggesting violet, Mediterranean brush, hazelnut and eucalyptus. The linear, elegant palate offers dried Marasca cherry, aniseed, orange zest and coffee bean alongside fine-grained tannins. It closes on an almost salty note. Porto Vino Italiano. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90 Pietradolce 2018 Contrada Rampante Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of rose, exotic spice and wild berry shape the nose on this fragrant red, along with whiffs of moist earth and leather. The linear, vibrant palate features Marasca cherry, licorice and a hint of espresso alongside racy acidity and close-grained tannins that leave a drying finish. Drink 2022–2028. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**90 Terrazze dell'Etna 2016 Carusu Rosso (Etna).** Scents of Mediterranean brush, fragrant purple flower and rusty iron meld together in the glass. Full bodied but weightless, the lithe, palate features juicy red cherry, star anise and savory mineral notes suggesting rusty nail alongside firm acidity. Fine-grained, somewhat drying tannins provide lithe support. Ethica Wines. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Al-Cantàra 2017 O'Scuro O'Scuro Rosso (Etna).** Made with Nerello Mascalese, this has aromas of scorched earth, camphor, French oak and exotic spice. The linear palate offers dried cherry, licorice, vanilla and roasted coffee bean alongside close-grained tannins. Total Wine & More. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Contrada Santo Spirito 2016 Animardente Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of French oak, scorched earth and vanilla form the nose. The palate is rather evolved, offering prune, dried cherry and star anise alongside grainy, drying tannins. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit richness. Kobrand. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Cottanera 2017 Feudo di Mezzo Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of toasted nut, scorched earth, leather and eucalyptus shape the nose. Full bodied and linear, the taut palate shows dried cherry, licorice, hazelnut and vanilla. Tightly knit, close-grained tannins leave an assertive, tongue drying finish. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Tenuta Monte Ilice 2017 Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of red-skinned fruit, underbrush and aromatic herb emerge from the glass. The savory palate offers juicy strawberry, clove and star anise alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2023. Wine Icons. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**89 Tenuta Monte Ilice 2017 Capinera dell'Etna Rosso (Etna).** This opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, Mediterranean scrub and lemon zest. The easygoing palate offers juicy raspberry, cinnamon and baking spice alongside lithe tannins. Drink through 2023. Wine Icons. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**88 Al-Cantàra 2017 Lu Veru Piaciri Rosso (Etna).** Red-berry, Mediterranean herb and wet stone aromas form the nose. Lithe and linear, the palate offers black cherry, aniseed and a tinny mineral note alongside pliant tannins. Total Wine & More. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Ampelon 2015 Le Caldere Rosso (Etna).** Blue-flower, Mediterranean scrub and over-mature black-skinned-fruit aromas form the nose. The ripe palate is rather evolved, offering fleshy plum, spiced blue berry and a hint of cinnamon alongside dusty, drying tannins that leave a lean finish. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**88 Federico Curtaz 2017 Il Purgatorio Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of camphor, exotic spice, Mediterranean brush and fruitcake lead the nose. On the linear, rather evolved palate, dusty, drying tannins accompany dried cherry, licorice and menthol. Palermo Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Monteleone 2018 Rumex Rosso (Etna).** Aromas of French oak dominate the nose while whiffs suggesting blue flower and wet stone stay in the background. Reflecting the nose, the medium-bodied palate offers coconut, espresso, vanilla and prune alongside assertive, drying tannins and racy acidity. It's more about oak-driven spice than Etna's classic fruit and mineral sensations. Golden Ram Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**87 Curatolo Arini 1875 2017 Rosso (Etna).** This has subdued aromas suggesting scorched earth, grilled porcini, violet and menthol. The palate opens with prune, licorice and roasted coffee bean before assertive, drying tannins generate an abrupt, astringent finish. Grape Expectations (CA). —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Cottanera 2015 Zottorinotto Riserva Rosso (Etna).** This has subdued aromas of oak, toasted nut and coconut. The aromas follow over the lean, extracted palate along with espresso notes but it lacks fruit richness and vibrancy. Grainy, drying tannins leave a raspy finish. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

## OTHER RED WINES

**95 Planeta 2016 Nero d'Avola (Noto).** Wild-berry, blue-flower, Mediterranean brush and exotic spice aromas shape the expressive nose.

Smooth and vibrant, the delicious palate doles out juicy black cherry, blackberry, spiced blueberry and tobacco cushioned in velvety, enveloping tannins. It's well balanced, with fresh acidity. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$44

**92 Planeta 2018 Nocera (Sicilia).** For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Planeta 2017 Mamertino.** Made with 60% Nero d'Avola and 40% Nocera, this has aromas of dark-skinned berry, baking spice and Mediterranean herb. Reflecting the nose, the medium-bodied palate has concentrated flavors of dried Morello cherry, blackberry jam and cinnamon set against taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2021–2025. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**91 Tasca d'Almerita 2016 Tenuta Regaleali Rosso del Conte (Sicilia).** Aromas of French oak, Mediterranean scrub and blue flower are front and center on this vibrant blend of Nero d'Avola and Perricone. The palate is still primary and youthfully austere, offering blackberry, cranberry, licorice and tobacco alongside notes of sage and thyme. Assertive, close-grained tannins provide grippy support and a drying, clenching finish. Give it time to unwind and fully develop. Drink 2025–2036. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

## WHITE WINES

**90 Curatolo Arini 1875 2019 Grillo (Sicilia).** This crisp, tangy white has enticing aromas of sea breeze, citrus and white stone fruit. On the savory palate, bright acidity accompanies white peach, juicy grapefruit and pineapple before finishing on hints of saline and white pepper. Grape Expectations (CA). *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**89 Stemmari 2019 Pinot Grigio (Sicilia).** White spring-flower and white stone-fruit aromas lead the nose on this tangy white. On the refreshing palate, crisp acidity accompanies yellow apple and apricot before finishing on a lime note. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. *Best Buy.* —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**88 Pietradolce 2017 Sant'Andrea Bianco (Etna).** This has subdued aromas suggesting yellow apple and hazelnut. The aromas carry over to the rather evolved palate along with saline notes and vibrant acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$129

## ROSATO

**93 Barone di Villagrande 2019 Rosato (Etna).** Bright and savory, this lightly hued, delicious rosato has delicate aromas of spring blossom,

stone fruit and a whiff of Mediterranean brush. Made with 90% Nerello Mascalese and 10% Carricante, the tangy palate offers white peach, blood orange and pink grapefruit alongside crisp acidity. Savory saline notes lift the finish. Omnivines Distribution. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

## OTHER SOUTHERN ITALY

### BASILICATA WHITE WINES

**88 Cantina di Venosa 2019 Verbo Malvasia (Basilicata).** A bold, fruity nose shows a wealth of tropical fruit alongside rose petals and white pepper. The medium-bodied palate has nice weight and concentration, with juicy tropical-fruit flavors honed by bright acidity and a floral orange-blossom tone. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —A.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$17

**88 Re Manfredi 2018 White (Basilicata).** Unique for the region, this white is a blend of Müller-Thurgau and Traminer. It starts off with brisk aromas of Mandarin orange and white flowers that carry to the silken, sultry palate. There's low verve to the pear and stone-fruit flavors, making this a wine to enjoy in the near term. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

**87 Taverna 2019 San Basile Greco Bianco (Matera).** Crisp aromas of yellow apple, green pear and blanched almond start off this straightforward yet enjoyable white. It's tangy and lifted on the light-bodied palate, driven by powerful waves of citrus-laden acidity. There's a mild grip of almond on the finish. This zesty offering needs some food to counteract all that acidity. Enjoy with seafood or poultry. Zeman Global Selections. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

**87 Taverna 2019 SenS02 White (Basilicata).** With no added sulfites, this hazy, slightly spritz white is made from Pinot Bianco. Aromas of pear juice, tangerine and citron carry to the medium-bodied palate. A gentle tone of savory yeast lends some grip to the fruity tones, ending briskly on a lemon-kissed banana note. Zeman Global Selections. —A.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

**86 Paternoster 2018 Volcanico Falanghina (Basilicata).** A feint nose of lemon, apple and blanched almond starts off this straightforward white. It's light in feel, with tart lemon and orchard-fruit flavors that end on a brisk salted citrus note. Vintus LLC. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

### BASILICATA ROSATOS

**89 Cantina di Venosa 2019 Verbo Rosato (Basilicata).** This Aglianico rosato boasts bright aromas of lychee, papaya and orange blossom. It's juicy and fruity on the palate, showing a mix of tangy and ripe tropical-fruit tones that manage to be held in check by a zesty line of orange-laden acidity. It's a bold, forward style that many will enjoy as an aperitivo. Grapejuice Group. —A.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

**88 Taverna 2019 Maddalena Primitivo Rosato (Basilicata).** Spicy, brambly aromas of currant and raspberry meld with a hints of crushed herbs and blood orange on the nose. The light-bodied palate echoes the aromas, with a salty, savory note creeping in on the finish to lift it all up. Zeman Global Selections. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

### BASILICATA RED WINE

**86 Taverna 2018 I Sassi Primitivo (Matera).** From a region in Basilicata that borders Puglia, this Primitivo starts off with a quiet nose of iodine and tilled earth. The medium-bodied palate begins smooth and silken in feel, with tasty red-fruit flavors holding court. However, by the finish, clenching tannins constrain the fruit and give a dry bite. Zeman Global Selections. —A.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$22

### CALABRIA WHITE WINES

**90 Benvenuto 2018 Zibibbo (Calabria).** There's a flinty, earthy edge on the nose of this white, with rippling tones of ripe melon and white flowers riding beneath. The medium-bodied palate boasts a delightful array of fruit—from tart citrus to juicy, ripe white plum and luscious melon. A zesty frame of acidity keeps this feeling light and bright, with a lifted orange-blossom tone extending on the finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$24

**90 Ippolito 1845 2019 Pecorello (Calabria).** Boasting crisp tones of greengage plum, crushed stone and a bit of melon, this light-bodied white is made solely from the Pecorello grape, which is native to Calabria. It's taut and bright on the palate in juicy white plum and lemon, with bits of stone and a slight herbal edge chiming in. Soilair Selection. *Best Buy.* —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

**90 Statti 2018 Greco (Calabria).** Ripe tones of pear and melon meld with wild thyme and white flowers in this rich, textural white. It's rounded in feel yet properly balanced by integrated acidity and a gentle grip of blanched almond. For those looking for a full-bodied, food-friendly white, this is the ticket. Vias Imports. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

**89 Benvenuto 2018 Mare White (Calabria).** A blend of 60% Malvasia and 40% Zibibbo, this white delivers detailed aromas of apricot, pot-pourri, ripe lemon and sun-dried hay. There's a pleasing roundness to the palate, with a delicately viscous texture that's propped up by integrated acidity. Flavors of apple, apricot and dried hay are lifted by tangy orange-laden acidity. Jan D'Amore Wines. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

**89 Ippolito 1845 2019 Mare Chiaro (Cirò).** This tasty white seamlessly blends floral, fruity and savory elements to yield a delicious outcome. Orange blossom, yellow apple and crushed salt tones are honed by vibrant acidity, ending smooth and lifted. It's a great wine to enjoy alongside fresh seafood. Soilair Selection. *Best Buy.* —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

**88 Statti 2018 White (Lamezia).** A blend of Greco and Mantonico, this white offers a decently rich nose of apricot and sun-dried hay. The medium-bodied palate shows plush flavors of orchard fruit and melon, with fresh enough acidity keeping it all in check. It ends ripe and open, making this a solid offering for those who enjoy fuller-bodied, soft white wines. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$13

**87 Librandi 2018 Critone White (Val di Neto).** A blend of 90% Chardonnay and 10% Sauvignon Blanc, this white starts off with subtle aromas of peach, apple and sea spray. The light-bodied palate is bright and crisp in orchard-fruit flavors that are lifted by lemon-tinged acidity. Winebow. —A.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

**87 Librandi 2017 Efeso Mantonico (Val di Neto).** A creamy nose of brioche, lemon curd and melon starts off this barrel-aged Mantonico. It's viscous and rich in feel on the palate but propped up well enough by bright acidity. Creamed fruit flavors of lemon and melon blend on a buttery soft texture. Winebow. —A.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

**85 Librandi 2019 Segno (Cirò).** Mild aromas of lemon and white flowers carry a candied edge to them on the nose. This is bright and zesty on the palate, boasting straightforward flavors of banana and tangy tropical fruit. LLS-Winebow. —A.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$14

**83 Statti 2016 Mantonico (Calabria).** Fermented in Acacia, this gold-hued white is taut and gripping on the palate. Lemon-peel, apricot-skin and pine flavors are wrapped in tannins reminiscent of over-steeped white tea. It ends a bit bitter and astringent. Vias Imports. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

## CALABRIA ROSATOS

**90 Librandi 2019 Segno Rosato (Ciro).** Made entirely from Gaglioppo, this rosato starts off with an engaging nose of red currant, Mediterranean scrub and watermelon rind. There's a pleasing, rounded feel to the palate, boasting juicy red-berry flavors struck against a dash of blood-orange rind. Lifted acidity and gentle fruit-skin tannins provide the framing for this food-friendly rosato. LLS-Winebow. **Best Buy.** —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Ippolito 1845 2019 Mabilia Rosé (Ciro).** Made from Gaglioppo, this rosé offers tense tones of tangy red berries filled out by creamy melon and a dash of crushed herbs. It's light bodied in style, showing a pleasing grip of berry skins lifted by a salty, savory undercurrent. Soilair Selection. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## CAMPANIA RED

**93 Feudi di San Gregorio 2018 Sirica (Campania).** Made from the rare native grape Sirica, this offers enticing aromas of fragrant purple flower, black-skinned berry and Mediterranean brush. The balanced, succulent palate features blackberry, clove, tobacco and black pepper alongside velvety tannins and bright acidity. Enjoy through 2028. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER ITALY

### WHITE WINES

**91 Selva Capuzza 2019 Campo del Soglio Friulano (San Martino della Battaglia).** White flower, tropical fruit and pear aromas lead the nose. On the palate, crisp acidity accompanies green melon, tangy lemon drop and a drop of saline. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Ugo Lequio 2019 Arneis (Langhe).** Aromas of beeswax, chamomile and mature white stone fruit shape the nose. On the medium-bodied palate, fresh acidity accompanies ripe yellow apple, honey and white almond. Wade & Clark Wine Imports. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Morgante 2019 Bianco di Morgante (Vino Bianco d'Italia).** Made with 100% Nero d'Avola but vinified as a white wine, this bright offering opens with aromas of white stone fruit and honeysuckle. The fresh palate offers pink grapefruit, white almond and a saline finish. LLS-Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**85 Basilisco 2019 Sophia Biologico White (Vino Bianco d'Italia).** Aromas of lemon curd, lem-

ongrass and shortbread carry the nose of this Fiano. A slight spritz on the palate dissipates quickly to reveal flavors of lemon and pear that mingle with a savory yeast tone. Lifted acidity ensures a brisk, clean ending. Vias Imports. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## ROSATOS

**91 Francesco Cirelli NV Amphora 15+16+17 Organic Rosato (Italy).** A blend of three vintages (2015, 2016, 2017) of amphora-aged Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo blended and bottled in July 2018, this wine is rich in color and boasts a cozy nose of wild cherries, softened leather and clay. The palate is vibrant and integrated in defined tones of red cherry and blackberry, with a delicate interplay between lifted acidity and a grip of tannins. There's a pleasing fruit-skin and earthy mineral grip to it all, giving this pink wine a wild edge. Zev Rovine Selections. —A.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**90 Villa Guelpa 2018 Vino Rosato d'Italia.** Made with 80% Nebbiolo and 20% Pinot Nero, this has enticing scents of wild rose, woodland berry and botanical herb. On the savory palate, bright acidity accompanies pomegranate, red cherry, white pepper and a tangy saline note before a dry finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Cirelli la Collina Biologica NV Organic Rosato (Italy).** Aromas of balsamic-dipped cherry, freshly cut thyme and blood orange carry a slightly wild quality about them. The palate is rounded and smooth in a rich red-cherry flavor that's held in check by a tangy limestone accent. The tannins offer a gentle grip, but are polished in nature, making this a textural beauty to enjoy in the near term. Zev Rovine Selections. —A.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**89 Ioppa 2019 Rusin Rosato (Colline Novaresi).** Red berry, blue flower and a whiff of baking spice form the delicate nose on this refreshing rosato. Made with Nebbiolo, the savory, racy palate offers juicy strawberry, orange-slice and white-pepper notes. Grand Cru Selections. **Best Buy.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

## RED WINES

**93 Villa Guelpa 2018 Longitudine 8.26 Nebbiolo (Vino Rosso d'Italia).** Rose, violet and red-berry aromas mingle with a whiff of alpine herb. Juicy and delicious, the smooth, graceful palate features Marasca cherry, blood orange and star anise alongside polished tannins and bright acidity. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92 Jermann 2017 Red Angel on the Moonlight Pinot Nero (Venezia Giulia).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90 Calabretta NV Cala Cala (Vino Rosso d'Italia).** Savory and soulful, this lithe red opens with earthy aromas of tilled earth, eucalyptus oil, blue flower, game and underbrush. A blend of multiple vintages of wine made from Nerello Mascalese and Nerello Cappuccio grown on Mount Etna, it offers ripe raspberry, orange-zest, baking-spice, saline, mineral and gamy notes. Smooth, fine-grained tannins provide support. It's a bit funky but loaded with flavor and personality. Drink through 2024. Polaner Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## VINO SPUMANTE

**92 BiancaVigna 2018 Sui Lieviti Brut Nature Glera (Vino Spumante).** Green-apple, jasmine and bread-crust aromas fill the glass. Smooth and creamy, the savory palate doles out Granny Smith apple, white peach, citrus and white almond alongside a silky mousse and bright acidity. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Cantine di Marzo NV Metodo Classico Extra Brut 1930 (Vino Spumante).** Aromas of white stone fruit, bread crust and Mediterranean brush shape the inviting nose. Creamy and fresh, the bright palate delivers ripe apple, pear, pastry dough and hazelnut alongside fresh acidity and an elegant perlage. Omniwines Distribution. —K.O.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Dubl NV Esse Dosaggio Zero (Vino Spumante).** Made entirely with the native grape Greco, this sparkler from Campania has heady aromas of white spring wild flower, Mediterranean herb, white stone fruit and bread crust. Racy and elegant, the dry, linear palate offers mature yellow apple, unsweetened lemon drop and a hint of acacia honey alongside a continuous perlage. It closes on a toasted hazelnut note. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$80

**92 Dubl NV Rosato Dosaggio Zero (Vino Spumante).** Delicately scented, this offers light aromas of spring wild flower, crushed thyme and wild berry. Bone-dry but loaded with flavor, the savory palate delivers cranberry, pomegranate, citrus and bread crust before a grilled rosemary finish. Crisp acidity and a refined perlage provide the backdrop. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Scacciadiavoli NV Metodo Classico Rosé Brut (Vino Spumante).** This lovely, radiant sparkler has aromas of wild herb, red berry, violet and bread crust. Made entirely with the native Umbrian grape Sagrantino, the dry, focused palate delivers red cherry, pomegranate, orange zest and



# BUYINGGUIDE

bitter almond alongside crisp acidity that gives it a pristine close. A refined, persistent perlage lends finesse. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Dorigo NV Blanc de Blancs Pas Dosé (Vino Spumante).** White stone-fruit, bread-crust and hay aromas form the nose on this linear sparkler. On the bone-dry, rather lean palate, racy acidity accompanies yellow apple, unsweetened lemon drop and white almond alongside an elegant, continuous perlage. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 G D Vajra NV N.S. della Neve Metodo Classico (Vino Spumante).** Vibrant and linear, this tangy sparkler offers aromas of rose, red berry and a hint of pastry dough. On the racy palate, small, continuous bubbles and lively acidity accompany juicy red cherry, pomegranate, citrus and bread crust before a dry, crisp finish. Winebow. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**91 Sciacchiavoli NV Metodo Classico Brut (Vino Spumante).** Focused and savory, this refined sparkler has aromas of chamomile, white stone fruit, orange zest and baked bread. The aromas follow over to the bright, linear palate along with a hint of lemon drop. A silky perlage and bright acidity provide the backdrop. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$30

**90 Medici Ermete NV Uspanique Rosé Brut Metodo Classico (Vino Spumante).** Bread-crust and red-berry aromas follow over to the tangy palate along with notes of candied citrus zest and a dollop of vanilla. Fresh acidity and a persistent perlage provide the background. Kobrand. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Baracchi 2016 Brut Rosé Metodo Classico (Vino Spumante).** Aromas of underbrush, toasted nut, red berry and blue flower form the nose on this racy sparkler. Made with Sangiovese, the vibrant palate features pomegranate, sour cherry and bread crust alongside persistent, steely beading. Grapejuice Group. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Gabriele Scaglione NV Metodo Classico Rosé Brut (Vino Spumante).** Made entirely with 100% Nebbiolo, this pretty sparkler has aromas of violet, red berry and just a hint of bread dough. On the lively palate, bright acidity accompanies pomegranate, strawberry and a hint of baking spice. Matchvino. —K.O.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$50

## NEW ZEALAND SAUVIGNON BLANC

**93 Fromm Winery 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is an expressive and down-

right delicious Sauvignon from a great vintage and a thoughtful producer. Hand-picked and whole-bunch pressed with six months on lees, there's a refreshing ease of winemaking here. The nose is like unbaked apple crumble combined with notes of lemon verbena and tomato leaf. The texture is gorgeous, with bright acidity and a long lemony, herbal finish. This is good friendly and filled with personality. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**92 Giesen 2019 The Brothers Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Giesen's lees and barrel aged "The Brothers" is back and, likely thanks to the fantastic 2019 vintage, is better than it's been in several years. It opens with a delicate perfume of honeydew melon, green-apple slices, black-currant leaf and honeysuckle. There's a slight burn of sulfur on the palate but overall it's fruit driven and textural, lifted by a lovely crunch of acidity and a welcome layer of complexity amidst the refreshment. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**92 Middle-Earth 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Nelson).** For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**91 Paddy Borthwick 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Wairarapa).** This is a well-balanced, classically styled Kiwi Sauvignon from a great vintage. The nose is relatively restrained and layered, revealing waxy citrus, crushed green herbs, delicate florals and that slightly sweaty funk that's a signature of this style. There's a lovely play between texture and acidity on the palate, setting this up to be a food-friendly drop. LeVecke. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**91 Te Whare Ra 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** While TWR is celebrated more for its beautiful aromatic whites like Riesling and Pinot Gris, the latest Sauvignon is a young yet well-balanced drop. Notes of relatively ripe peach and citrus fruit run along a spine of green bell pepper and that feline funk typical to this style and region. On the palate, complexity is added to the bright citrus fruit and zingy acidity via a chalky texture. This is a solid and unforced SB that speaks, not shrieks, of its origins. Another year or two in bottle should add a whole new dimension here. DJK Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Astrolabe 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Staete Landt 2019 Map Maker Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Reflective of the better vintage, the 2019 is a big step up the previous year's bottling of this wine. This is classic life-of-the-party Marlborough SB with all that's charming about the style minus all that's sweaty and feline. Passion fruit, grapefruit, lime and peach explode from the glass with softer grassier notes following in the wake. The palate is equally explosive, like a Popsicle on overdrive: fresh and fruity, with a gen-

tleness to the texture to temper all that acidity. This is an affordable example of an iconic and inimitable wine style. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90 Tinpot Hut 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This fresh, perfumed Sauvignon presents a fruit bowl of flavor (citrus, stone and tropical), with bass notes of damp grass and dried green herbs. Acidity is lifted but in check, with a pithy bite and herb-flecked finish. This is a refreshing, balanced, bone-dry bottling perfect for summer salads. Copa Fina Imports CA. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89 Lawson's Dry Hills 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** From one of Marlborough's early grape pioneers, this Sauvignon ticks all the regional and stylistic boxes. It opens on the reductive, funky side, soon revealing gooseberry, citrus, bell-pepper and dried green-herbal notes as it opens in glass. Still very young, there's a bite to the acidity, like sucking on a lemon, that may settle into the wine more with another six months to a year in bottle. Mt. Beautiful USA. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88 Moon Twist 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This classic Marlborough Sauvignon walks a line between fruity and vegetal, with notes of grapefruit and lemon oil alongside grass and that slightly sweaty, feline funk typical to this style. There's what feels like a touch of residual sugar on the palate and textural creaminess balancing plenty of zingy acidity and boisterous fruit. Drink now, with a pool or beach in sight if possible. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Kennedy Point 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** There's what feels like a good whack of sulfur to start on this wine. Underneath, plenty of typical Marlborough Sauvignon notes can be found: green bell pepper, gooseberry, passion fruit, lemon and a slightly sweaty, feline funk. The acidity is mouthpuckering, like chewing on a lemon, but there's some textural weight here, too. A line of bright citrusy fruit flows through to finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**86 Rubus 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Waipara Valley).** In line with many in this category, there's a hefty funk factor here. It opens with pungent oniony, feline notes followed by green-bell-pepper, snow-pea and seashell aromas. Stone and citrus fruit peek through the cracks. The reductive, underripe elements are more prominent on the palate where what feels like a small amount of residual sugar adds a bit of texture and sweetness to the jagged edged acidity. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Tomtit 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Less boisterous than some in this category, this wine leads with characters of waxy lemon-lime, snap pea and tomato leaf. The style's

distinctive feline funk stands out, too. The palate feels generally underripe, with acidity forced and sharp, but there's a slight creamy texture to add much needed generosity to what is a mostly skeletal wine. Advantage International. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**85 Lexicon 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is a straightforward Sauvignon with a heavy dose of winemaking. Reductive and sulfuric to start, the Band-Aid and onion aromas stifle the fruit and green veg characters. The palate is watery in texture with searing, cheek-sucking acidity, but with a visible line of fruit. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$18

**85 Tiki 2019 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This opens with the unmistakably pungency of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc: bell pepper, green beans and tomato leaf followed by lemon-lime and gooseberry. The acidity is cheek sucking, with an unforgiving bite that makes it hard to take another sip. Could use some riper, fleshier fruit and less sulfur. USA Wine West. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## PINOT GRIS

**92 Lawson's Dry Hills 2019 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** This is an opulent yet charming Pinot Gris from one of Marlborough's most historic wineries. Medium-gold in hue, it opens with delicate aromas of spiced apple, peach, cherry blossom and honeysuckle with saline streaks underneath. There's an ease and balance to the palate: texture, acidity and flavor all working together seamlessly. This Pinot Gris would be a happy companion to a broad array of cuisine, from Southeast Asian fare to cheese platter. Mt. Beautiful USA. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**91 Amoise 2019 Gris Pinot Gris (Hawkes Bay).** This is a new, micro-label by Hawkes Bay-based winemaker Amy Farnsworth, whose philosophy is "no additives or adulterations of any kind," including sulfur. This Pinot Gris, cloudy and amber-hued, is a fun and funky nod towards northeast Italy. There's a bit of fizz at first but it quickly dissipates and then the focus is on the heady aromatics: nectarines, grapefruit rind, salt, beeswax, butterscotch and wildflowers. In the mouth it's light and refreshing—bone dry, with a pithy bite, like chomping on a citrus seed. Don't drink this too cold, and knock the whole bottle back straight away, for it won't hold up long. That should be an easy task considering how deliciously drinkable it is. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Middle-Earth 2019 Pinot Gris (Nelson).** From the Nelson region at the top of the North Island, this affordable Pinot Gris offers notes of pear and honeysuckle, backed by subtler aromas like ginger and something dustier, like the spine of a library book. Fruit on the palate is tangy although

acidity isn't as lifted as other PGs. Nevertheless there's a lovely texture and food friendliness here that makes for an easy-drinking drop. Copa Fina Imports CA. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Astrolabe 2019 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** This is a solid, and beautifully labeled example of a white wine variety that has seen a rise in popularity in New Zealand. While there's what feels like a fair whack of sulfur on the nose, this is nonetheless ripe and fruity, bouncing from the glass with notes of pears, peaches, nectarines, and a floral-soap character often found in this variety, akin to lavender talcum powder. The palate neatly balances bright acidity with a slippery texture. It remains fruity but is also dry and refreshing. Share a Splash. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

## CHARDONNAY

**92 Paritua 2018 Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay).** Vibrant yellow in color, this shows a fair bit of sulfur when first opened, but offers a lovely energy and brightness nonetheless. Vibrant lemon peel, freshly sliced peaches, flower blossoms and a touch of toast and yeast make up the nose. The palate comes with a silky smooth texture, freshened by a lift of acidity and a lick of oak. This is a charming, grown up wine designed for the dinner table. Whanau Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Decibel 2018 Testify by Daniel Brennan Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay).** This full-throttle Chardonnay, made by a New Jersey native turned Hawkes Bay-based winemaker, is made in a divisive style that nods vigorously towards Burgundy. The nose is intensely perfumed—a heady combo of roasted nuts, seashells and gun flint. The orchard fruit is tucked into the background. The oak-driven palate finds more restraint than the nose suggests, thanks to a lovely lift of acidity and a salty finish. This style of Chard is trendy at the moment but easily goes overboard, wiping away any sense of place and varietal expression. Whanau Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$44

**89 Paritua 2018 Stone Paddock Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay).** This is a sturdy Hawkes Bay Chardonnay that opens with notes of lemon oil, lime and vanilla bean, with subtler undertones like smoke, nuts and ginger. It's full bodied and creamy in the mouth, with a bite of slightly forced acidity.—a modern, polished bottling. Whanau Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Matt Connell Wines 2017 Lowburn Chardonnay (Central Otago).** There's some lively citrus-fruit characters on this wine, but there's also what feels like a green woody note that may be from the barrel. The palate is lean and angular but offers some creamy texture, a crunch of acidity and lovely

fruit purity and length. The oak feels somewhat bitter at the finish. DJK Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## WHITE BLENDS

**93 Te Whare Ra 2019 Toru Single Vineyard 5182 (Marlborough).** This coferment combines the aromatic white varieties TWR is renowned for: Gewürztraminer, Riesling and Pinot Gris. Quiet at first, it offers delicate aromas of red apple and pear skins, peach, lime blossoms, honeysuckle and a mineral streak that shows more prominently as the wine warms in glass. It's the palate that really strikes gold—slippery but fresh and elegant, with a whisper of sweetness and a long limey finish. Ultra-food friendly, it combines the best of all three varieties into a soft-spoken wine from a sensitive and skilled winemaker. DJK Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**91 Paddy Borthwick 2018 Paper Road CPR (Waipara).** This is a relatively unusual—but, in this vintage anyway, harmonious—blend of Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Riesling. Aromas rush from the glass: lime oil, red apple skins, orchard blossoms and more subtle dried herbal notes. The palate is highly textured, chalky yet slippery, with zesty acidity and a saline finish. A few more years in bottle should offer it a more honeyed complexity. Drink now through 2027. LeVecke. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## PINOT NOIR

**95 Te Whare Ra 2016 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Anna and Jason Flowerday possess the oldest vineyards in Marlborough. This Pinot, while still young, sings of brambly red berries layered with woody spice, soy sauce, mushrooms, flowers and a stony minerality. The medium-weight palate is a testament to restraint and a cool climate. It's both elegant and austere, set for the long haul. Tannins are taut, spicy and fine, the fruit taking a back seat to the spice. Drink now through 2028. DJK Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**94 Koyama 2016 Pearson's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Waipara Valley).** Takahiro Koyama started this label and later purchased Mountford (the estate where he worked for many years). While this wine isn't the most ageworthy, it's joyful and energetic. It smells of all four seasons combined: freshly plucked red berries; the warming, woody smell of baking spices; a newly bloomed rosebush; black olives in brine. The palate is just as the nose suggests. Medium weight, fleshy fruit is supported by sappy, spicy tannins—an expressive beauty reflective of the exciting Waipara Valley. Whanau Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**94 Koyama 2016 Williams' Vineyard S Pinot Noir (Waipara Valley).** With 70% whole

# BUYINGGUIDE

bunch fermentation in open-top French barrels, this is an ultraprecise wine that is young now but should age remarkably well. Tones of kirsch, prunes, mushroom, charcuterie, baking spice and woody, alpine notes flow into a tightly knit palate, wound by sappy, savory, ultrafine tannins. This serious and food friendly Pinot needs a decanting if you are cracking open now, but it will reward the most patient imbiber for at least the next decade. Whanau Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**94 Mountford 2014 Estate Pinot Noir (North Canterbury).** This Pinot, from North Canterbury's cool climes, has hit its stride. Traditional winemaking from well-established vines makes for a lively, complex yet crowd-pleasing nose of red berries, cloves, dried flowers and ground white pepper. The palate is light weight, with a gentle grip of spicy, savory tannins, juicy fruit and some well-placed oak. Balanced with length and poise, this is a charming drop that's drinking well now and will hold up over the next few years. Whanau Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**93 Mountford 2015 Estate The Rise Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (North Canterbury).** The low crop vines for this small, North Canterbury-based estate grow in active limestone soils. Woodsy notes of pine, cedar and spice wander amongst brambly berries, licorice, flowers and vanilla bean. There's lovely lifted acidity on the palate and spicy, fine tannins. The barrel shows, along with more wood-spice flavors, but the fruit is bright and silky. Drink now through 2025. Whanau Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**92 Decibel 2017 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinsborough).** Pop this in a decanter or give it some good swirling to really uncoil it aromatically. When it does release its aromas, it's a characterful and tasty drop. Think plump brambly berries, warm stones, mushrooms and roses. It's medium weight, with fleshy fruit, crunchy acidity and silky tannins. There's a lovely spiciness that flows through to the finish. Drink now with rustic, fatty, Pinot-friendly fare. Whanau Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**92 Wild Earth 2016 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** This is a superfruity Pinot that ranks high in crowd appeal. Red-cherry fruit bounces from the glass, followed by vanilla bean, licorice, soy sauce and subtle floral notes. The palate has an autumnal vibe about it, the acidity crunching like fall leaves underfoot and the savory sinewy tannins and earthy umami characters juxtaposing silky juicy fruit. Drink now and over the next few years. Cape Ardor LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Wild Earth 2012 Earth and Sky Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** This translucent, cherry-hued Otago Pinot is showing slight browning at the edges due to bottle age, but other than that, is still bright and vibrant. Plush cherry fruit dominates,

backed by baking spice, crushed rose petals, and a subtle mushroom note. Light to medium bodied, there's still plenty of zingy acidity at hand to brighten the ripe berry fruit and spice. There's a little bitter astringency on the finish and not much complexity seems to have been gained from time in bottle, but overall this is holding up nicely. Drink now—2025. Cape Ardor LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$60

**91 Hans Family Estate 2013 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** This bottle-aged Pinot walks to its own beat. It's showing a little oxidation on the appearance, and a touch of volatility on the nose, but this adds an element of complexity to the red currants, strawberries, roses on stems and cinnamon notes. The palate is lightweight, juxtaposing bright fruit and elegance with a grip of austere, slightly astringent tannins that seem more derived from the fruit than the barrel. There's a bitterness to the finish, like biting into a grape seed. This is a wine that's personality-filled but that doesn't need to shout to be heard. Drink now—2023. Cape Ardor LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**90 Wild Earth 2014 Special Edition Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** A selection of two Pinot clones, this still very youthful wine shows an onion-like reductive funk to start but with air eventually reveals red- and black-berry fruit, licorice and a subtle but distinctive mélange of spices, herbs and campfire smoke. The palate is still tightly wound, gripped by taut, ultrasavory tannins and punctuated by angular acidity. Despite this, there's a lovely silkiness to the fruit and obvious clonal character shining through. It would be worth looking at this again in another few years. Drink 2022–2028. Cape Ardor LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$60

**88 Huia 2015 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** This five-year-old Pinot bottling is on the dense side, by Marlborough standards, with an autumnal vibe. It needs air for some of the reduction to blow off and then it reveals notes of ripe brambly berries, dried violets, earthy spices and meaty undertones, with a bit of soapy oak. The palate isn't as harmonious as one would hope considering the bottle age, but there's lifted acidity, a grip of dusty tannins and oak spice amidst the slightly heavy fruit. USA Wine West. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88 Invivo 2017 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** This is a fruity wine that benefits from a bit of swirling in glass to really make those red cherries and currents pop. Flower stalks, vanilla and baking spices line the underbelly. It's fleshy and ripe in the mouth, medium in weight and has a silky texture and chalky, spicy tannins—a straightforward but varietal Pinot. Seaview Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**87 Lawson's Dry Hills 2017 Reserve Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** This is an austere Pinot that may benefit from some time in the cellar. For now, it

needs plenty of air before it relinquishes its reductive, oniony grip. With time, the red-berry fruit emerges, as do earthy, savory notes like mushroom and soy sauce, and finally a lick of oak. The trajectory on the palate is similar, where biting acidity and vice-like tannins dominate, without fleshy fruit to temper and soften things. Mt. Beautiful USA. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**86 Tinpot Hut 2017 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** This starts out on the reductive side, with barnyard notes dominating, but it opens somewhat with time in glass, revealing plump cherries, spicy notes of cracked pepper and cloves, violets and damp earth. There's mealy oak on the underbelly. The bone-dry palate is on the thin, watery side, with angular acidity, astringent tannins and lacking some depth and fruit concentration. Copa Fina Imports CA. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

## CHILE

### CHARDONNAY

**91 Valdivieso 2018 Single Vineyard Wild Fermented Barrel Aged Chardonnay (Leyda Valley).** Aromas of lanolin, lightly smoked oak and mixed white fruits are on the money and provide a red-carpet welcoming. On the palate, this is medium in body, with a touch of bite. Integrated oak blends with flavors of apple, pear and melon, while this delivers latent oak spice on a healthy finish. Drink this excellent Leyda Valley Chardonnay now. Global Select Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**89 Undurraga 2018 T.H. Terroir Hunter Chardonnay (Limari Valley).** Aromas of toast, vanilla, peach and apple show a barrel influence in front of a round palate that's a bit short on structure. Briny orange and nectarine flavors offer a touch of the sea, while this is satisfying but slightly hollow on a finish that says "drink now." Freedom Beverage Co. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Santa Rita 2018 Floresta Chardonnay (Limari Valley).** Apple and melon aromas are fully oaked, while this feels plump and melony despite showing some malic zap. Flavors of baked apple and melon are backed by obvious oak, and this maintains its DNA on a plump, slightly chunky finish that's creamy in feel but somewhat bitter in flavor. Drink now. Delicato Family Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**88 Viña Casablanca 2018 Nimbus Single Vineyard Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley).** Fresh, fruity and easygoing is the best way to describe this well-made but standard Casablanca Valley Chardonnay. Saline aromas blend with oceanic citrus scents, while this tastes of lightly salted apple and orange, with a touch of briny citrus peel. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15



**87 Siegel 2019 Crucero Collection Chardonnay (Colchagua Valley).** Melony fruit aromas enter the tropical zone, with a touch of oak in support. Good acidity propels flavors of tangerine and green melon, while this deals a hint of spicy oak on a healthy finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**85 Santa Ema 2019 Select Terroir Reserva Chardonnay (Maipo Valley).** Mild apple and pear aromas are friendly, while this fresh and easy Chard shows some roundness in the mouth. Briny stone-fruit, apple and dry cheese flavors form the sum of this. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**84 Santa Rita 2019 120 Reserva Especial Chardonnay (Central Valley).** Aromas of spiced applesauce and vanilla come prior to a plump but soft palate, with low acidity. A somewhat false woody flavor dominates generic tropical-fruit notes, while this loses steam on the finish. Delicato Family Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**83 Bodegas Tagua Tagua 2019 Chardonnay (Central Valley).** Waxy, stinky aromas are low on fruit in front of a lean, acidic palate. Distant apple-like flavors are a touch bitter, and overall this is fresh in feel but just passable with respect to aromas and flavors. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$6

**82 Dos Almas 2018 Famiglia Zonin Gran Reserva Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley).** Skunky apple aromas are woody and clashing. This is lean in body and ultimately empty. Briny flavors of sea-shells and green-citrus fruits finish with cheeky dry tannins. This smells, tastes and feels underripe. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —M.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**91 Undurraga 2019 T.H. Terroir Hunter Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley).** For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Errazuriz 2019 Max Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Aconcagua).** Lean, punchy aromas of celery, jalapeño and citrus fruits include a pop of cool-coast pyrazines. A pure mouthfeel, with crispness and acidity frames green-leaning flavors of bell pepper and tangerine, while this holds the line on a clean finish with latent acidity. Vintus LLC. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Dos Almas 2019 Famiglia Zonin Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley).** Basic green-fruit and briny aromas set up a palate that starts out more bright and balanced than it ends. Lime and apple flavors are correct for Casablanca

SB, while this is clean but lacking in complexity on the finish. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —M.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Matetic 2019 EQ Coastal Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley).** Citrus and melon aromas are punchy and a touch grassy, while this features a plump mouthfeel with medium acidity. Slightly green and bitter flavors of citrus control the flavor profile, while this coastal SB holds its shape on a mostly tasteless finish. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Viña Casablanca 2019 Céfiro Cool Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley).** Apple aromas share space on the nose with pyrazines, sea brine and matchstick scents. A fairly full palate shows some citric zest, while typical Chilean SB flavors of citrus fruits, pickle brine and green apple finish short. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.* —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8

## OTHER WHITE WINE

**88 Siegel 2019 Special Reserve Viognier (Colchagua Valley).** Varietally correct aromas of white flowers, honey and lemon verbena set up a medium-weight palate with bright acidity and good overall balance. Spunky flavors of green grapes are offset by a slight banana-like sweetness. Consider this right for curries and other spicy foods. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

## SPARKLING WINE

**81 Dos Almas NV Brut (Casablanca Valley).** Onion and garlic aromas are not appealing, while this Chilean sparkler from the Italian Zonin family feels flat as a board, with no lift. Mustard and bitter green flavors are barely acceptable. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —M.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**93 Carmen 2017 Gold Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Composed from the start, this flush but supple Cabernet makes favorable points right off the bat. Full-fledged cassis and spiced plum aromas are lush but poised and elevated. A forward-leaning palate with medium-bright acidity and smooth tannins stages cherry, plum and cassis flavors that are long and pure. Chocolate notes appear on a lightly oaked finish; drink through 2028. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$130

**92 Carmen NV Vintages Blend II Limited Edition Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Plum, blackberry and cassis aromas are forward and flush as they lead to a grabby, concentrated palate with

warmth. Ripe flavors of cassis, black cherry and licorice finish steady and long, with dry tannins. This nonvintage winner is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon from 2017 blended with smaller parts of Cabernet from 2016, 2015 and 2014. Drink through 2025. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Lafken 2017 Single Vineyard Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Aromas of pencil eraser, dried cherry, cassis and natural spices are savory and complex. On the palate, this is syrupy and held together by dry tannins. Minty, medicinal plum and berry flavors settle on spicy, and overall this is quite different than the usual big fruit-oak-herbal trio that many Chilean Cabernets revert to. Copa Fina Imports CA. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**89 Dos Almas 2017 Famiglia Zonin Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Aromas of rubbery berry fruits, hard spices, raw oak and wild brush improve with breathing prior to a palate with mildly astringent tannins. Oaky flavors of plum and berry include hints of green herbs, coffee and baking spices, while this feels dry on a finish that's short on fruit and length. Drink now. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 Scarlet Vine 2017 Selected Hillside Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Alto).** Smoky oak gives this Cabernet a scent of barbecued meat along with latex. A full but creamy mouthfeel seems worked and not fully natural in texture. Heavy oak covers minty berry and cherry flavors prior to a flush, oaky finish. Delicato Family Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

## CARMENÈRE

**92 Caliterra 2017 Tributo Carmenère (Colchagua Valley).** Berry and black plum aromas meld with an herbal accent in this typical Colchagua Valley Carmenère. On the palate, this is full and dense, with just enough lively acidic pop. Toasty, spicy flavors of smoky oak accent a core of blackberry and cassis, while this is long and slightly tannic on a well-focused finish. Drink through 2024. Seaview Imports. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**92 Montes 2017 Purple Angel Carmenère (Colchagua Valley).** Savory, saucy blackberry and black-plum aromas include common Carmenère notes of olive, along with charred oak and asphalt. A shot of tartaric acidity brightens an otherwise soft and lush palate, while this tastes of blackberry, spiced black plum and resinous oak. An easy finish with soft tannins wraps things up; drink through 2024. Kobrand. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**92 Santa Rita 2018 Pewën Carmenère (Apalta).** A dark and deep purple color complements fully ripe and rubbery aromas of blackberry, sage,

# BUYINGGUIDE

bell pepper and rain forest. A juicy bolt of tartaric acidity is probing and amplifies flavors of black cherry, blackberry and peppercorn. A solid finish that doesn't demand too much closes this Apalta-raised Carmenère that's polished but holds onto its varietal character; drink through 2028. Delicato Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**92 Valdivieso 2017 Single Vineyard Carmenère (Peumo).** Intense aromas of olive, green tobacco, hard spices and black fruits create the nose on this structured Carmenère. Spicy blackberry and dark-plum flavors are backed by oak and varietal green notes, while this tastes minty on a finish with clarity and length. Drink through 2024. Global Select Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**91 Apaltagua 2017 Grial Carmenère (Apalta).** Heavily oaked aromas of graphite and wood resin blend with saucy, herbal black-fruit scents to form a powerful nose. This Carmenère from the Apalta subsection of Colchagua is flush on the palate and pulpy in feel. Blackberry and resinous oak flavors turn minty on a finish that goes on and on. Drink through 2024. Global Vineyard Importers. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**91 Concha y Toro 2018 Terrunyo Carmenère (Peumo).** One of Chile's most consistently excellent Carmenères is playing at its normal high level, with a glistening dark-purple color and spicy, lightly herbal berry aromas that are purely of the grape variety. Tartaric burn roughens the palate prior to flavors of tart plum, wild berry and pepper. Slight heat and burn are noted on the finish; drink through 2028. Fetzer Vineyards. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Santa Rita 2018 Floresta Carmenère (Apalta).** Spicy cherry aromas are edgy and lively as they open for a fresh, loud palate with an aggressive tannic-acid interplay. Plum and wild-berry flavors evolve to include saltiness, while a dark and peppery finish shows a flash of burnt oak as this intense Carmenère from Apalta battles to stay elegant and classy; drink through 2027. Delicato Family Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90 Viña Chocalan 2017 Gran Reserva Origen Carmenère (Maipo Valley).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**89 Santa Ema 2018 Amplus One Carmenère (Peumo).** Leathery berry aromas are a bit stewed, with hints of soy sauce and hoisin. The palate-feel is a blend of soupy thickness cut by tartaric acidity, while this tastes of green herbs, yesterday's coffee and peppery berry fruits. A bit murky throughout, this is lightly green and oaky on the finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Valdivieso 2018 Valley Selection Gran Reserva Carmenère (Rapel Valley).** Hard spice, tomato and red-bell-pepper aromas indicate that a leaner, more fiery style of Carmenère is on tap. Dry tannins toughen the palate in front of minty plum and coffee flavors. Not much fruit sticks around for the finish. Global Select Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

## MERLOT

**88 Bodegas Tagua Tagua 2017 Des Complicados Merlot (Maule Valley).** A compact, gritty nose includes aromas of rubber, asphalt and dark plum. A medium-to-full palate is a bit dull and baked, while plum, raisin and grainy oak flavors are lightly herbal on the finish. Marquee Selections. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Château Los Boldos 2017 Vieilles Vignes Merlot (Cachapoal Valley).** Raw berry and plum aromas are furry at first then a touch green and funky. A tight-fisted palate with popping raw acidity is lively but scratchy, while oaky berry flavors carry an herbal overtone. Dry tannins make for a hard, pulling finish that's both intense and fiery. Evaton, Inc. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87 Viña Casablanca 2017 Nimbus Single Vineyard Merlot (Casablanca Valley).** Herbal aromas of plum and berry fruits show cool-climate stalkiness and a touch of green. A medium-bodied palate offers easy access, while this Merlot tastes of herbal plum and tomato leaf prior to a lively finish that's spicy but shows edginess and burn. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Bodegas Tagua Tagua 2017 Reserva Merlot (Rapel Valley).** Stalky, herbal berry and plum aromas settle on earthy, while this Merlot is crisp on a palate with limited depth and breadth. Red-plum and cherry flavors come with peppery spice and dried earth notes, while the finish offers tomato leaf, pepper and stewy flavors. Marquee Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

## RED BLENDS

**93 Tutunjian 2015 Entre Valles Maipo-Colchagua-Maule (Chile).** Lusty aromas of black plum, campfire smoke, baking spices and green herbs make for a classic Chilean nose, while this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenère and Malbec is stout yet fresh on a lively, ripping palate. A mix of spiced plum flavors, herbal notes and light oak is integrated and singing in unison, while this is long, minty and just a touch green on a full finish; drink through 2024. The Imported Grape LLC. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Dos Almas 2015 Apogeo de Apalta (Colchagua Valley).** For full review see page 12. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Lagar de Codegua 2015 Aluvi6n (Cachapoal Valley).** This Cabernet Sauvignon-led blend opens with grapy blackberry and black-currant aromas followed by a fleshy mouthfeel anchored by rubbing tannins. Cassis and prune flavors echo a warm vintage, while this is more about ripeness and power than nuance. Lightly blackened flavors drive a finish with mild heat. Drink through 2023. Vino Del Sol. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**92 P.S. Garcia 2015 Facundo (Maule Valley).** Initially this blend of Carignan, Cab Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot smells heavy and obtuse, with little pop; airing, however, allows this warm-vintage red to breathe and express itself. A plump mouthfeel is full but a touch soft and flabby. Deep flavors of black plum, blackberry and oak are saucy, while lightly cooked berry fruit carries the finish. Drink through 2023. Vine Connections. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Undurraga 2015 T.H. Terroir Hunter Rarities Garnacha-Cariñena-Monastrell (Cauquenes Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Casa Donoso 2017 1810 Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère (Maule Valley).** Blackberry and black-cherry aromas come across hard and tough, but still honest and welcoming. This hot-year blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Carmenère offers a round, mostly smooth palate with controlled tannins. Spicy black-fruit flavors are accented by mint and cola notes, while hints of tobacco and herbs on the finish confirm the wine's Chilean roots. Palmateer Wine Group. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$37

**91 TerraNoble 2017 Lahuen (Chile).** Dark-berry aromas are accented by whiffs of hot pavement, olive, coffee grounds and stalky herbal notes. This Cabernet Sauvignon blend benefits from lively acidity, while plum, wild-berry, spice and oak notes are integrated. An edgy finish with oak and cocoa flavors runs long and is brightened by juicy acidity. Drink through 2024. MundoVino-Winebow. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 P.S. Garcia 2017 Bravado (Itata Valley).** Ripe berry aromas veer towards sunbaked and raisiny, with hints of licorice and fennel adding complexity to the bouquet. A juicy palate is racier than the nose suggests, with pushy currant-like acidity. Flavors of cranberry, red currant and peppery spice wind down on a lively, fiery finish. Drink through 2022. Vine Connections. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Morandé 2017 Mediterráneo (Maule Valley).** Gritty, earthy berry aromas are very

much in the Maule profile, while this blend of five Rhône varieties feels tight and acidic at first, then more open and widespread. Spicy plum, currant and herbal flavors plow forward on a straight-lined finish. Grupo Belen USA. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

### 87 Oveja Negra 2017 Lost Barrel (Maule Valley).

Cherry and plum aromas are kind of fluffy and vague, with a touch of oak. This Carignan-led blend feels wide and lacking in structure. Minty green flavors of plum, currant and buttery oak finish with green tannins—possibly a reflection of a hot vintage that forced a very early harvest. Total Beverage Solution. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

## URUGUAY

### WHITE BLENDS

### 89 Cerro Chapeu 2019 Gran Tradición Petit Manseng-Viognier (Montevideo).

Buttery oak aromas are out front on this barrel-aged Petit Manseng (with 10% Viognier). A plump palate is ripe and round on first take, then softer and flatter on the back end. Apple, saline, tropical-fruit and citrus flavors are a mixed bag, albeit a good one, while this runs short on the finish. Drink now. MHW, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

### 88 Familia Deicas 2019 Preludio Barrel Select Lote N°24 (Juanico).

A generalized white-fruit nose leads to a full and round palate whose heft is balanced by healthy acidity. Chunky flavors of honeydew melon and banana finish warm and with mild oak spice. Drink this full-bodied Chardonnay blend now. World Brands. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

### 87 Establecimiento Juanico 2020 Don Pascual Coastal Albariño Blend (Juanico).

Apple and pear aromas are light and clean, leading to a lively palate, with fleshy roundness offset by snappy acidity. Peach and citrus flavors are tangy, with a touch of sweetness. On the finish, this patio-friendly Albariño blend (containing Chardonnay and Verdejo) is smooth and clean, with a lasting note of apple. Cork Alliance. —M.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

### OTHER WHITE WINES

### 85 El Capricho 2020 Verdejo (Durazno).

A cloudy gold color along with waxy, dusty apple aromas open this Verdejo. A full, round mouthfeel loses some steam and turns more flat on the back side, while apple and green-melon flavors are slightly bitter and suggestive of grape skins. Lanciano Imports Inc. —M.S.

abv: 12%

Price: \$15

### 84 Pisano 2020 Río de los Pájaros Reserve Torrontés (Progreso).

A light tan color and

perfumed aromas of citrus fruits and snappy pyrazines announce a citric palate with blazing acidity. Tangerine and orange-peel flavors are on the bitter and oily side, while green flavors and a citric snap share the finish. Total Wine & More. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

## TANNAT

### 93 Cerro Chapeu 2017 Batovi T1 Single Vineyard Tannat (Uruguay).

Massive dark-berry aromas range from blackberry to spiced black cherry. Following the nose, this is flush and lush but balanced more than just hefty. Chocolatey oak blends with ripe berry and spice flavors in front of a smooth, toasty finish with black-coffee notes and welcome acidity. This feels big and rich. Drink through 2025. MHW, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

### 92 Artesana 2018 Reserva Tannat (Canelones).

Dark-berry aromas form a nose that's quite dense. A saturated palate is packed with concentrated power, while blackberry and cassis flavors are backed by oak that's slightly charred and warming. Hence, dark-chocolate and smoky flavors play out on a muscular finish with some tartaric burn. Drink this high-level Tannat through 2025. Austral Estates Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.

abv: 15%

Price: \$19

### 92 Bouza 2018 B6 Parcela Única Las Violetas Tannat (Canelones).

A nearly black color and maximum ripe aromas of cassis, raisin and road tar announce a typical Bouza Tannat that's saturated and rich. Given the color, nose and 16% weight, it's no surprise that this is packed to the hilt with pulpy black fruit and tartaric acidity that helps with balance. Dark flavors of blackberry, cassis, espresso and chocolate finish warm, rich and spicy, with a fiery burn. Drink through 2024. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.

abv: 16%

Price: \$48

### 92 Viña Progreso 2016 Old Vines Tannat (Progreso).

This small-batch Tannat from the traditional Progreso subzone near Montevideo opens with bright berry aromas and a sense of balanced freshness. The palate is racy but balanced by nicely extracted fruit, while oaky flavors of coffee and chocolate aid the core blackberry fruit. A supple finish with good flow wraps up this attractive red. Drink through 2023. Copa Fina Imports CA. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$31

### 91 Aguará 2018 Special Reserve Tannat (Durazno).

Brambly berry and oak aromas lead a nose that includes notes of mint, black licorice and peppery spice. This Tannat named after a rarely seen fox seems a touch austere and acidic on first take, but over time that translates to freshness. Oaky flavors of black fruits have an herbal tomato-like background, while a touch of oaky vanilla flavor helps smooth out a snappy finish. Drink through 2024. Lanciano Imports Inc. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

### 89 Cerro Chapeu 2018 Reserva Tannat (Uruguay).

Blackberry and cassis aromas are lightly oaked, while this is medium to full in body, with tomatoey acidity. Raw plum and currant flavors are fresh and a bit salty, while this Tannat is quite dry and tannic on a rubbing finish. MHW, Ltd. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

### 89 Familia Deicas 2019 Atlántico Sur Reserve Tannat (Uruguay).

Ripe blackberry aromas are a bit cheesy and wild, with a note of dried beef adding meaty complexity to the nose. A dry, smacking palate with seizing tannins frames earthy black-plum and cassis flavors, while this voluminous Tannat is anchored by dry tannins on a savory tasting finish. Drink through 2023. World Brands. —M.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

### 88 Establecimiento Juanico 2019 Don Pascual Coastal Tannat (Uruguay).

A darkly concentrated color and compact blackberry and black-currant aromas open this leathery Tannat. Flavors of blackberry, cassis and spicy beef jerky finish full and warm, with notably full tannins providing textural support and toughness. Cork Alliance. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

### 87 Pueblo del Sol 2019 Roble Tannat (Canelones).

A light rusty-red color and dry, gritty red-berry aromas indicate a lighter style of Tannat. Crisp, smacking acidity freshens the palate, while cherry, plum and distant prune flavors finish steady. World Brands. *Best Buy.* —M.S.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$9

### 86 Bizarra Extravaganza 2019 Vino Natural Anphora Tannat (Uruguay).

Heavily reduced aromas of new pavement, onion and tire rubber take a long time to settle, while this "natural" Tannat made and aged in clay amphora feels compact and lacking in breadth. Saucy blackberry flavors are backed by a linear finish with olive and rubber notes along with savory berry hints. World Brands. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

### 86 El Capricho 2019 Tannat (Durazno).

Ripe aromas of blackberry and black cherry veer into prune territory, while this Tannat is dense and jammy in feel. Black-currant and prune flavors are a touch salty, while this feels slightly dried out on the finish. Lanciano Imports Inc. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

### 86 Familia Deicas 2019 Extreme Vineyards Suelo Invertido Tannat (Uruguay).

This site-specific Tannat opens with reduced aromas of olive, beef soup and sappy black fruits. A high-acid palate is raw and narrow, especially for Tannat. Sour-plum and grape-skin flavors finish tart and salty. While not bad, this is definitely lean and seems undernourished. World Brands. —M.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$45

### 85 Pueblo del Sol 2019 Tannat (Canelones).

Earthy berry and raisin aromas are more generous than this Tannat's lean and racy palate,



# BUYINGGUIDE

which rides along on a beam of fresh acidity. Saucy plum and berry flavors are short, while notes of tomato, red currant and plum skins drive the finish. World Brands. **Best Buy.** —M.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$7

## RED BLENDS

**91 Bouza 2018 Monte Vide Eu Tannat-Merlot-Tempranillo (Montevideo).** Heavy oak aromas accompany berry and cassis scents, while this feels thick, jammy and a bit stewy. Said heavy oak is the lead element of a baked and woody black-fruit flavor profile, while a saturated finish delivers smoky notes along with jammy weight. Elixir Wine Group. —M.S.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$64

**90 Aguará 2018 Tannat Blend (Durazno).** Blackberry aromas are earthy, full and rich in front of a jammy palate with meaty tannins and weight. Savory, lightly baked blackberry flavors are accented by herbal-tea notes, while this blend of Tannat, Cabernet Sauvignon and Tempranillo finishes smooth and full. Drink through 2024. Lanciano Imports Inc. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90 Artesana 2018 Reserva Cabernet Franc-Merlot (Canelones).** Blackberry and crushed peppercorn aromas are a bit rough and grating. A full mouthfeel is balanced by lively acidity that lends balance. Blackberry and cassis flavors are a touch warm and stewy, while this blend of Merlot and Cab Franc is choppy and mildly tannic on a finish that tastes ever so slightly green. Austral Estates Wines. —M.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**89 Familia Deicas 2019 Extreme Vineyards Cerro del Guazuvirá (Uruguay).** Jammy berry aromas are wooly, furry and candied, while this blend of Tannat, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Viognier is high in acidity and clamping. Medicinal plum and currant flavors show active kick, while pointy acidity adds urgency and intensity to the finish. World Brands. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**88 El Capricho 2019 Tannat Blend (Durazno).** Early aromas of horseradish and mint give way to lightly herbal and grassy berry aromas, while this blend of Tannat, Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon feels punchy and chewy. Standard black-fruit flavors show a minty green accent, while this flattens out on a dense finish with tannic grab. Lanciano Imports Inc. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Establecimiento Juanico 2020 Don Pascual (Uruguay).** Early aromas of briny berry fruits and balsamic vinegar settle on jammy raspberry and strawberry. Juicy tightness makes for a raw palate feel, while plum, raspberry, cherry and chocolate flavors are lasting on the finish. The more

time this youngster has to breathe, the better it gets. Cork Alliance. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER RED WINES

**88 Bodegones Del Sur 2019 Vineyard Select Cabernet Franc (Juanico).** Plum and cherry aromas are clean and presentable, while this Cabernet Franc feels fresh, bouncy and smacking. Cherry and plum flavors come with mild herbal notes in front of a straightforward finish. Establecimiento Juanico. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**83 Cerro Chapeu 2018 Reserva Limited Edition Estate Selection Nebbiolo (Uruguay).** This varietal Nebbiolo offers up a blender's worth of funk on the nose: compost, onion, wet wool and stewed fruit. A tannic palate feels raw, while flavors of scallion, fennel and berry fruits finish dry and tannic. MHW, Ltd. —M.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

**95 Byron 2018 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Expertly layered aromas of toast, fine-grained oak, smoked apple, nectarine, crushed limestone and light butterscotch make for a nose that should please all types of Chardonnay lovers. The palate is immediately hit with chalky and fresh acidity, leading into lively flavors of sliced Asian pear and finishing with an intriguing hint of spearmint. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$NA

**95 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Devil's Gulch Vineyard Chardonnay (Marin County).** For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**95 Three Sticks 2018 Origin Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55

**94 B Cellars 2018 Calesa Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** This wine is richly layered and thick on the palate in tropical fruit and butterscotch, finding balance on the midpalate with bright acidity and a bit of grip. Flavors of vanilla and peach play on the lengthy, baking spice-laden finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55

**94 Hirsch Vineyards 2018 Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** This perennially well-regarded producer is known rightly for Pinot Noir, but farms a small four acres of Chardonnay on its Fort Ross-Seaview site as well. Reductive, nutty and fleshy in grapefruit, lime and apricot, finishing as crisp as it starts. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**94 Hyde Vineyard 2017 Larry Hyde Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Elegant and vibrant, this well-concentrated and well-balanced wine is well worth finding for the most-special occasions. Lemon cream and toasted oak aromas, luscious pear and marzipan flavors and great acidity all come together beautifully. It has a long finish and will have a long life. Best from 2023. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60

**94 La Follette 2018 Sangiacomo Green Acres Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** From the great coastal site this white is deliciously high-toned and structured, with an earthy underbelly. Its seamless structure supports a wealth of integrated Meyer lemon, wet stone and green apple, finishing in a balanced note of baking spice and oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$38

**94 LaRue 2018 Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** This is a beautifully made white from the cool-climate site, made in tiny amounts. Explosive in floral aromas and an array of citrus and stone fruit, it offers great texture and breadth, with both a flinty aspect of earthiness and a creamy, memorable finish of bold acidity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$60

**94 Three Sticks 2018 One Sky Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**93 Auteur Wines 2018 Manchester Ridge Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge).** This multi-layered wine smells crisp and tangy like green apples and minerals before it goes deeper in the flavors, bringing out vanilla, cream and apple pie. It's full bodied, well balanced and shows great depth. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**93 B Cellars 2018 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Rich and brawny up front, in caramel apple, butterscotch and lemon meringue, this vineyard-specific white has tropical flourishes and a savory undercurrent of nutmeg. Ultimately, the acidity wins out, helping pull the wine into a complex, balanced frame of delicious length and elegance. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$55

**93 Challen 2018 Dierberg Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Aromas of orange cream, lemon zest, baked apple, wet chalk and cinnamon show on the complex nose of this single-vineyard expression. There's compelling tension to the palate, where a chalky mouthfeel delivers flavors of orange zest and crisp, tangy lime. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**93 Chappellet 2018 Calesa Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap).** Juicy and rich in tropical flavors of pineapple and guava, this white is from five blocks of a cool-climate site farmed by Oscar Renteria. Stone fruit, toasted oak and moderate

acidity keep it fresh and ample in the glass, with supple succulence and length. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$49

**93 Chappellet 2018 El Novillero Chardonnay (Carneros).** Rich, layered and salty, this classic white is rounded and juicy in apple, pear and a lovely concentration of crème brûlée. Made from one block planted by the Sangiacomo family to Robert Young clone in 1993, it retains a structure of grace and high-toned acidity that balances the overall lushness and length. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$49

**93 LaRue 2018 H. Klopp Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** This lovely white starts with a touch of reduction, opening slowly in the glass to reveal crisp, bright acidity and elegant flavors of green apple and Meyer lemon. As it develops further, the brightness continues, complemented by a subtle richness of Tahitian vanilla and toasted oak. —V.B.  
abv: 12.9% Price: \$60

**93 Newton 2017 Unfiltered Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This 100% barrel-fermented white opens in an intriguing landscape of salty stone and toasted oak, inviting one in for more. Creamy on the palate in balanced weight and breadth, it offers a length of green apple, pear and fresh citrus, finishing bright and with a dash of nutmeg and clove. —V.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$55

**92 Ancien 2017 Haynes Old Block Chardonnay (Coombsville).** This is a barrel-fermented white from a great site, tantalizing in citrus and stone fruit with a hint of just-cut pear. Floral and earthy, it provides ample structure and balanced weight, the tannin and oak held in check. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$62

**92 Diatom 2019 Bar-M Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** Greg Brewer's wines are always intriguing and sometimes challenging, often recasting what one grape can be. This bottling from a vineyard in the Los Alamos Valley leads with dried lime, wet wool and citrus pith aromas. The palate is laser-focused on citrus peel and pith and yet somehow also earthy, reflective of damp sand. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**92 Eden Rift 2018 Reserve Chardonnay (Cienega Valley).** A rather opulent style of Chardonnay aged on 25% new French oak, this reserve bottling offers buttered peach, macadamia nut, light butterscotch and a hint of lemon zest on the nose. The palate is toasty with baked apple and blistered almond flavors, which are cut by zesty lemon peel leading into a pecan finish. —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$64

**92 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Crushed chalk, zesty lime blossom and balm and a lightly minty forest floor component show on the nose of this bottling from La Estancia Vineyard. There's a river-stone minerality

to the sip, where lemon blossoms, baked grapefruit and a touch of brioche flavors converge. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

**92 Three Sticks 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** From the producer's marquee site, this wine has a bright entry that evolves into a richly layered, sumptuous medley of caramel toffee and butterscotch. Stone fruit, apple and citrus play against the richness with ease, providing a balanced, seamless whole. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$55

**92 Wrath 2018 Fermata Chardonnay (Monterey).** Light, tight and bright on the nose, this bottling, whose name implies that the malolactic fermentation was stopped halfway through, offers apple cream and melon flesh on the delicate but intriguing nose. There's a streak of crushed stone throughout the palate, where lemon zest, lychee and white melon also show. —M.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$35

**92 Zaca Mesa 2018 Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Warm touches of lemon cream and honeysuckle make for a soft and approachable core to this bottling, yet there are sharper edges of grapefruit rind on the nose as well. The palate is framed in a chalky structure, offering mellow flavors of peach, lychee and more lemon and grapefruit. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$35

**91 Allan Hancock 2018 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** Lemon-zest, wet clay and chalk aromas make for a fresh and mineral-driven nose on this bottling that's spearheaded by college students. There are touches of apple and riper pome fruit on the palate, but the structure remains taut and grippy into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

**91 Claiborne & Churchill 2019 Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Very fresh and tightly wound aromas of crisp apple and pear drizzled with lime juice make for a brisk entry to the nose of this bottling. It's impressively lively on the palate, where that citrus sharpness cuts into the guava and tropical notes. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$34

**91 Four Vines 2019 Naked Chardonnay (Central Coast).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

**91 Raywood 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** This offshoot of Castoro Cellars in Paso Robles makes a solid lineup of affordable wines. This is a fresh style of Chardonnay, offering clean melon-rind, white-peach and lime aromas. The palate is bright and tight, with lime peel, honeydew and a light touch of guava. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$9

**91 Sleeping Giant 2017 Buena Tierra Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Dark in color and salty in oak, this robust, full-bodied white

is rich and well integrated, tasting of pear, apple and pineapple. Notions of butterscotch and crème brûlée develop in time, adding to the enviable intensity and sublime lushness. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

**91 Sleeping Giant 2017 Paige's Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros).** Dark in color and offering toasty richness, this is a sublime white, textured and layered in Meyer lemon and green apple. Great acidity lifts it throughout a medium-bodied weight and expanse. —V.B.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$50

**91 Stressed Vines 2018 Petersen Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Firm acidity lifts up a tightness of oak in this crisply structured, bright white. Meyer lemon, pear and white peach combine to give it a succulence on the midpalate, finding a way to indulge a richer note of crème brûlée on the finish. —V.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**90 Böen 2018 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County-Monterey County-Sonoma County).** For full review see page 18.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$25

**90 Bravium 2019 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This is a versatile, well-balanced, well-made wine. It's medium to full bodied and offers tempting cream and vanilla aromas, mouth-filling pear and vanilla flavors and a rich texture supported by good acidity. —J.G.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$22

**90 Davis Bynum 2017 River West Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**90 De Loach 2017 Stubbs Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap-Marin County).** This full-bodied, barrel-fermented wine is excellent in a big, oaky style. It overflows with vanilla and baking-spice aromas, and offers rich, buttery, pastry-like flavors that linger on the finish. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**90 Domaine de la Rivière 2018 Next Door Neighbor Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 20.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$62

**90 Knights Bridge 2018 Estate Unoaked Chardonnay (Knights Valley).** Fermented and aged in stainless steel, this wine is freshly layered in pear and apple flavors, with a creamy palate that's both edgy and bright. The lack of oak doesn't take away from its ability to deliver both straightforward flavor and ample mouthfeel. —V.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**90 Kopriva 2018 Ricci Vineyard Unoaked Chardonnay (Carneros).** For full review see page 20.  
abv: 12.9% Price: \$19

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 La Follette 2018 Sun Chase Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** From the high-elevation site at the top of the Petaluma Gap region, this wine is thick and juicy, with an underlying intensity of fruit and body. Flavors of white peach and pear come to the fore, matching its herbal earthiness and length of baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$50

**90 Lepe 2018 Village Chardonnay (Carmel Valley).** Peach blossoms meet with lime balm and chalk on the nose of this bottling, which combines rich tones with a bright acidity. The palate is both slightly viscous and texturally grippy, delivering ripe peach flavors as well as hits of citrus peel. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$35

**90 Sequoia Grove 2018 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Thick, rich and hearty, this wine has prominent oak and creamy texture, an enduring opulence that appeals. Baked apple and pear flavors highlight the midpalate, finishing in a touch of nutmeg and vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$32

**90 Skyside 2018 Chardonnay (North Coast).** Light earthy, toasty aromas lead to ample Anjou pear and golden-apple flavors in this very agreeable, full-bodied and mouthfilling wine. Very good balance and no overt oakiness will make it easy to pair with food. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$20

**90 Valledelneez 2019 Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County).** Tightly woven aromas of chalk and lemon syrup drizzled on nectarine show on the nose of this bottling by Doug Margerum. There is a chalky tension to the palate, where lemon zest and riper orange flavors lead into a stony finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Williams & Heim 2018 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Seared lemon peel, seared marshmallow, toasted cashew and a hint of marzipan show on the nose of this bottling. The palate blends that richer, toastier tone of nuts, marshmallow and butterscotch with a brighter seared lemon-peel kick. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$36

**89 Hook or Crook 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Lodi).** Smooth and well balanced, this medium-bodied wine offers a seamless combination of crisp apple and generous pear flavors with some complexing elements of butter and vanilla. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 My Story 2019 Chardonnay (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$17

**89 NSO By Dusty Nabor 2019 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** It's quite stunning that this brand can make wines from all-star appellations at this price point. In this bottling, aromas of plumeria, ripe pear and wet stone lead into a palate

of more ripe pome fruit and tropical-flower flavors that are cut by lime zest. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**89 Wolff 2018 Old Vines Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** From a selection of old vines in the estate vineyard, this bottling shows dried apple, lemon peel and a fat yellow flower on the nose. The palate is forward in fruit, offering poached pear, baked lemon and browned butter flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$28

**88 Chateau Souverain 2018 Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

**88 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Very mellow on the nose, this bottling offers wet stone, lemon-peel and light pear-flesh aromas. There's a light toast to the palate, where yellow-apple-skin and more lemon-peel flavors make for a clean while simple sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$34

**88 Crü 2019 Unoaked Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** The nose on this unoaked Chardonnay is very Sauvignon Blanc-like, featuring tonic-like aromas of lemongrass, cut grass, wild lime and jasmine oil. The jasmine element is strong on the sip too, where Thai basil and spearmint flavors also show. Pair with spicy and fresh Asian food. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Essere Franco 2018 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Coombsville).** This is a rich, thickly concentrated white, made in a luscious style, that shows opulent layers of crème brûlée, baked pear and pineapple. Barrel fermented, it is made in small amounts and appeals in its creaminess. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**88 It's a Headsnapper 2018 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** White-flower, lime-blossom, apple-flesh and light toast aromas show on the clean nose of this bottling. It's soft and smooth on the palate, where peach, lemon-cream and light butter flavors lead into a riper finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

**88 Ivory and Burt 2018 certified sustainable Chardonnay (Lodi).** Quite rich in flavor, this full-bodied wine offers plenty of vanilla, butter and baking-spice flavors on a rather soft creamy texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Montoya 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Old Soul 2019 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Lodi).** A steely, dusty aroma starts this full-bodied wine off, then rich, ripe pear and but-

terscotch flavors fill the palate, giving it plenty to appreciate. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**88 Rodney Strong 2018 Knotty Vines Chardonnay (California).** Underlying acidity provides good balance and palate-cleansing properties to this flavorful, full-bodied but not overblown wine. Light toasted oak and earthy aromas lead to good peachy flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 SeatPocket 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** Light aromas of lime blossom, jasmine and orange peel are pleasant if simple on the nose of this bottling. It's very easy on the palate with lemon-brioche and toasty oak flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$25

**88 Sunstone 2018 Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dried honeysuckle, smoked oak, lemon blossom, Pink Lady apple and pomelo peel arise on the nose of this reserve bottling. The smoky flavor is even more prominent on the sip, where the baked apple flavors are wrapped in generous oak. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**88 Three Girls 2018 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Lodi).** This very ripe and rather oaky wine offers enticing smoky, toasted-oak aromas and rich, abundant pear, butter and vanilla flavors. Full body is accompanied by some good juicy acidity giving it decent balance. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**88 Vina Robles 2019 Mistral Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey).** This wine is very peachy and somewhat viscous on the nose, with hints of tuberose and coconut oil. There is a strong amount of acidity on the palate, where extremely tropical flavors of guava, plumeria and more coconut arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**87 Hook or Crook 2019 Vintner's Select Chardonnay (Lodi).** This brass-colored wine slathers sawn oak and vanilla aromas over a combo of crisp and ripe fruit flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 LangeTwins 2018 Merrill Vineyard Chardonnay (Clarksburg).** Rich and ripe flavors like peaches and pear syrup ride a soft, mouthfilling texture in this full-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$24

**87 Maggio 2019 Chardonnay (Lodi).** Quite ripe-tasting and mouthfilling, this full-bodied wine pours on the poached pear flavors and accents them with vanilla and nutmeg on a soft texture. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**87 Toad Hollow 2019 Francine's Selection Unoaked Chardonnay (Mendocino County).** This uncomplicated, medium-bodied wine offers



straightforward crisp apple flavors and a hint of butter. Good acidity keeps it refreshing on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$15

**86 Barefoot NV Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 13% Price: \$7

**86 Bucket List NV Chardonnay (California).** This low-key but well-balanced wine blends good ripe apple and peach flavors with hints of vanilla and butter that don't overwhelm. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$8

**86 Lorenzi Estate 2018 Dijon Clone 76 Extended Barrel Aged Chardonnay (Temecula Valley).** Clean lines of peach and pear skins meet with apple sauce and sea salt on the nose of this bottling. The extended barrel aging seems to have sucked some vibrancy out of the wine, as the palate shows baked apple, vanilla and very strong oak tones. —M.K.  
abv: 14.65% Price: \$45

**86 Martin Ranch 2017 Therese Vineyards Griva Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** Mud-dled lemon, dried apple, pungent smoke and a hint of toasted nuts show on the nose of this bottling. Dried flavors of apple and lemon rind meet with melon on the palate. —M.K.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$35

**86 Mirassou 2017 Chardonnay (California).** This full-bodied wine is especially smooth and soft, almost thick in texture, filling the palate with unctuous vanilla, banana and cream notes. —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$12

**86 Spellbound 2019 Chardonnay (California).** This pleasant, easygoing wine blends vanilla, butterscotch and ripe apple flavors on a medium body. It is smooth and soft in texture. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**85 Cocobon 2018 Roasted Oak Chardonnay (California).** Strong charred oak aromas and flavors are backed by butter and vanilla undertones in this obvious and oaky wine. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$7

**85 Imagery 2018 Chardonnay (California).** A steely, mineral aroma leads to toasted nut and butter flavors in this medium-bodied wine. A soft texture carries ripe but vague fruit flavors. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**85 Montagne Russe 2018 Farina Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain).** With an intensity of cinnamon and oak, this wine is thick and intensely built, with a creaminess on the texture that finishes flat. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

**85 Winemakers Selection 2019 Chardonnay (California).** Buttery flavors and an extra-

thick texture define this full-bodied, mouthcoating wine. The vanilla and melted butter flavors don't let much fruit come through in this pastry-like pour.

*Best Buy.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$6

**84 Tailor Made 2018 Creamy Chardonnay (California).** Aromas of butterscotch and cotton candy precede heavy baking-spice flavors from vanilla to nutmeg that coat over any fruit flavors that might lie underneath. It plays a one-note, oaky song. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**82 Rotation Vineyards 2019 Chardonnay (Lodi).** Earthy aromas and milky, lemony flavors don't quite come together in this medium-bodied wine. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**81 Brownstone NV Chardonnay (California).** This soft wine has very little color, feels rich and thick on the palate, and its flavors of pear syrup and canned peaches carry some sweetness. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$9

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**95 La Pelle 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

**94 Joseph Phelps 2019 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (St. Helena).** Offering tremendous value for the price, this is a lively, seamless and textured white wine from estate grapes that shows elegance and length. Green apple, apricot and lemon-grass highlight a sublime core of integrated finesse and complexity. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$45

**94 Lail 2019 Blueprint Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$40

**93 Cadre 2019 Stone Blossom Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley).** Lemongrass, lime-sorbet, wet grass, light bell-pepper and lily aromas are reminiscent of walking through a springtime meadow on the nose of this bottling by John Niven, whose family pioneered the Edna Valley. The palate is zesty with green grass, shiso chiffonade and minced jalapeño flavors, with a lingering white-pepper elements into the acid-sizzled finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

**91 Cannonball 2018 Eleven Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$23

**91 Kaena 2018 La Presa Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District).** Clean and inviting aromas of Meyer lemon, lime peel, peach, guava and sansho pepper show on the nose of this bottling. The palate hits with a light stone-fruit ripeness but is

immediately cut by grass, pepper herbs and guava skin. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

**91 Noble Vines 2019 242 Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$13

**91 Red Mare 2017 Gamble Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville).** Hearty with body weight and pronounced oak, this white succeeds in finding a complex balance between opulence and nuanced elements of green apple, lime and vanilla. Robust and lengthy, it showcases the site and winemaker's skill in a warm vintage. —V.B.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$24

**91 Retzlaff 2018 Family Reserve Old Vine Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 17.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$42

**90 Amici 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa County).** With 3% Sémillon, this is tart, textured and cohesive, densely layered in lime and lychee, with an underlying earthiness of dried herb. Medium bodied, it has a subtle lushness that appeals. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$25

**90 Cuvaison 2019 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Los Carneros).** For full review see page 19.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

**90 Dutton Estate 2019 Kylie's Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Tank fermented, this white is steely, stony and fresh, a nicely structured celebration of pear, melon and apple blossom. Textured, it is medium bodied and balanced in acidity and fruitiness. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$27

**90 G & C Lurton 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** A sleek, crisp white wine fermented in a majority of stainless steel, this is layered nicely in bright apple, lemon and lychee flavors, with a lasting sense of wet stone. —V.B.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

**90 Hawley 2019 Hopkins River Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Lime, lemon and salty wet stone combine invitingly in this crisp white wine, tart in lasting acidity. Light bodied and balanced in ripeness, it develops further characteristics of green apple, melon and peach as it opens in the glass. —V.B.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

**90 Kaena 2017 La Presa Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District).** Lemon-peel, melon-flesh, Pink Lady apple and white-pepper aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Dried grass and lime pith meet with white flower flavors on the palate, which finishes with a citrus tang. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Knights Bridge 2019 Pont De Chevalier Sauvignon Blanc (Knights Valley).** Made in a sweetly effusive and rich style, this tastes of mango, pineapple and a hint of vanilla, the oak minimal and well integrated. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 La Crema 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Given time in both oak and stainless steel, this lively white is grassy and lively in stone fruit, with an enduring crispness to the texture. Bright and food-friendly, it offers wide appeal and elegance. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Lava Cap 2019 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (El Dorado).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90 Markham 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** With 3% Sémillon and mainly stainless-steel aged, this medium-bodied white is juicy and lengthy, likable in its immediate approachability. Pear, peach and passion fruit highlight the experience on the palate, the wine made from certified-sustainable grapes. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$25

**90 Paradise Ridge 2019 Grandview Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Grassy and herbal, this resplendent white is creamy on the palate in a refined richness of ripe peach with a trail of vanilla. Made in a lush style, it retains plenty of underlying acidity to remain fresh and focused in the glass. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$22

**90 Paradise Ridge 2019 Vineyard Select Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Light and bright with a creamy underlying palate of smooth richness, this impressive white shows a wealth of passion fruit and guava flavor. It's ready to be enjoyed at the table or as an apéritif. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$28

**90 Red Mare 2016 Alpha Mare Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Though not labeled as such, this is 100% Sauvignon Blanc, given time in bottle to become a cohesive, richly layered wine of good balance and complexity. Meyer lemon, white-flower and tangerine flavors contrast against honey and brioche. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$38

**90 Schug 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Coast).** Crisp, lively and textured, this white delivers balanced flavors of white peach and tangerine, offering nice length, breadth and underlying acidity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

**90 Shannon Ridge 2019 Urgency Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).** This superflavorful wine is definitely an extrovert. It practically shouts out fresh herb and veggie aromas followed by tangy citrus flavors. It feels zingy and nicely acidic on the

palate and has enough concentration for a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**90 Textbook 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Smoothly integrated and soft on the palate, this well-made white is light in style and brimming in fruity peach and apricot. It has a touch of grass and dried herb on the finish that contrast against the fruit. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$25

**90 Whitehall Lane 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford).** With 11% Sémillon, this white is balanced in acidity and weight, with a viscosity that presents as opulent and lush. Stone fruit, Meyer lemon and green apple accent a lengthy, complex palate of varietal expression and exuberance. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**89 Bliss 2019 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino).** For full review see page 23.  
**Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Guenoc 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**89 LangeTwins 2019 Estate Grown Musque Clone Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** Effusive floral and fruit-bowl aromas lead to fresh, tangy lemon-zest and grapefruit flavors in this light-bodied wine. It's something bright and palate-cleansing for the cocktail hour. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Silver Spur 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).** Classic varietal aromas of snap peas and citrus lead to vibrant, fruity and herbaceous flavors that are absolutely fresh and appealing. There is just enough acidity to deftly balance the fruitiness. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$18

**88 Badger Hound 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** A stainless-steel fermented and aged white, this is steely and citrus-driven in grapefruit, Meyer lemon and melon. Sleek and crisp, it continues the brightness theme in a finishing touch of tangerine. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$20

**88 Charles B. Mitchell 2019 Estate Reserve Fumé Blanc (Fair Play).** This tangy, lemony and light-bodied wine seems rather lean at first sip yet it offers dabs of vanilla and nutmeg along with good acidity and refreshment on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$21

**88 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Fumé Blanc (Sonoma County).** Stainless-steel fermented and inspired by the wines of the Loire Valley, this is a grassy, herbal white with enduring freshness and wide appeal. Value priced, it offers lovely, integrated

flavors of pineapple and guava that lead to a finish of lemon candy. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Flora Springs 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Thick and meaty on the palate, this white opens in a sweetness of white peach on the nose, following through on the palate with a dry tartness of lemon peel and melon. Creamy with a touch of crispness, it finishes with a light accent of baking spice. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**88 Highway 12 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Robustly tropical, this likable white is creamy in peach, pineapple and guava, with a dense richness and enduring likability. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$15

**88 Michael David 2019 Whole Cluster Pressed Stainless Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** Ripe green-apple and lemon-lime flavors converge in this richly textured but not heavy wine. It's smooth on the entry and has enough good acidity to keep it lively on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Oberon 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** With nearly 25% Sauvignon Musque, this white is earthy and concentrated in flavors of legume and Meyer lemon. Grapefruit and stone fruit follow on the steely palate, finishing in a swirl of lemongrass and vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$19

**88 St. Supéry 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Made in a rich, rounded style, this has lovely layers of peach, apricot and lemon chiffon, leading to a soft, supple and seamless finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Sterling 2018 Vintner's Collection Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This is a smooth, but lively and fruity wine, emphasizing honeydew melon and light kiwifruit notes. It's clean and fresh but also rich and mouthfilling for the varietal. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Barefoot NV Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$7

**87 Cline 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** This deceptively full-bodied wine offers light petrol and earth aromas followed by peach-skin and peach-flesh flavors on a juicy, appetizing texture. It's lively, flavorful and different. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 OneHope 2018 Fumé Blanc (Rutherford).** Textured and intensely flavored, this tastes of tart lemon, grapefruit and guava. Full bodied and overtly ripe, it packs a lasting punch of concentration and weight. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**86 Imagery 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This smooth and straightforward wine is medium bodied, fairly neutral in flavor and easy to sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Montgomery Estates 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This white is thick and oaky, with citrus-driven fruitiness. Medium bodied, it has a twist of legume and grassiness on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**86 SeatPocket 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Dried grapefruit-peel and light basil aromas show on the nose of this bottle. The palate it a bit flat in texture, offering flavors of lime peel and apple juice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 SIX26 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast).** Dried grass, lime-peel and green-sage aromas make for a typical nose on this bottling. The palate is a tad sweeter, with riper apple flavors and not much acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$29

**86 Sonoma Collection 2019 Wines for Lunch Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley).** Steely and high-toned in citrus-driven flavors of lime and grapefruit, this wine is light bodied and simple in approach. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Bella Grace 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Amarador County).** Bright aromas of bananas and bubble gum make this fruity, medium-bodied wine an outlier. It's a gushing, effusive style of Sauvignon. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**85 Dogwood & Thistle 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino Ridge).** This rather light-bodied wine shows a strong dried garlic aroma, followed by onion and dried herb flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$22

**85 Lucky Rock Wine Co. 2019 County Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County).** Thick in melon and apricot flavors, this white has a metallic edge and enduring earthiness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$17

**85 OneHope 2018 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford).** This white has a candied quality and a lingering flavor of sour lemon. Stainless-steel fermented and aged, it finishes in a crisp last note of green apple. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$35

**84 Prix 2018 Moskowitz Ranch Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This wine tastes candied in lemon, lime and grapefruit, with a crisp tartness that is slightly out of proportion to the perceived sweetness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

## VIOGNIER

**94 Terre Rouge 2018 Viognier (Fiddletown).** Mineral, peach skin and apricot are just a few of the aromatic nuances that give this full-bodied and well-balanced wine a fascinating Old World expression. Fresh acidity braces peach and apricot flavors while the mouthfeel broadens with each sip. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Le Casque 2019 Damiano Vineyard Viognier (Placer County).** Aromas of citrus flowers and flavors of ripe pear and marzipan make this full-bodied, barrel-fermented wine tempting and delicious. A creamy texture, good depth of flavor and lingering finish all contribute to its impressive quality. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30

**92 Table Eleven 2019 Quail Valley Vineyard Viognier (Los Olivos District).** Crisp and fresh on the nose, this bottling begins with light honeysuckle and plumeria aromas that are held in place by a citrusy edge of Meyer lemon peel. That tension carries through the sip as well, where Anjou and Asian pear-flesh flavors are framed by a chalky backbone and a zesty Key lime acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Crü 2019 French Camp Vineyard Viognier (Paso Robles Highlands District).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20

**91 Hungry Hawk 2019 Viognier (San Diego County).** Few San Diego County wineries are exploring the terroir as diligently as this family-run winery. This estate bottling is fresh yet rich, with light peach and creamy lemon aromas. The palate is clean and full, with more peach and apple-pie flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**90 Dovecote 2019 Quail Valley Vineyard Viognier (Los Olivos District).** Steely aromas of cold metal meet with a light hint of peach on the tightly wound nose of this bottling. That taut sense carries to the palate, which also offers more generous flavors of stewed pome fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$35

**90 Dovecote 2018 Quail Valley Vineyard Estate Viognier (Los Olivos District).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

**90 Sapien 2018 Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley).** Toasty aromas of baked nectarine, dried white flowers and light nuts show on the nose of this bottling. There's a line of alkalinity to the sip, where dried lime and orange-rind flavors meet with a hint of guava peel. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$32

**90 Zaca Mesa 2018 Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dried apple and honeysuckle meet with lemon peel on the nose of this bottling from a regional Rhône pioneer. The palate is fresher, offering apple and pear flavors atop a persistent acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$25

**89 Vina Robles 2019 Huerhuero Vineyard Viognier (Paso Robles).** This is a very exuberant style of Viognier, from the aromatics and flavors to the acidity and texture. Aromas of peach, guava, tuberose and Stargazer lily kick off the nose, leading into a palate that is very fresh while loaded with bubblegum and guava flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## GRENACHE BLANC

**93 Ridge 2019 Adelaida Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles).** Very fresh and pure aromas of honeysuckle, coconut cream and a light kiss of wood show on the nose of this unique bottling, which includes 18% Picpoul and 5% Roussanne. The wine is expertly balanced on the palate, which is smooth with honeydew yet flecked with flashes of lime peel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**91 Dovecote 2019 Thompson Vineyard Estate Grenache Blanc (Alisos Canyon).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$35

**91 Kaena 2018 Tierra Alta Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Ballard Canyon).** Tangy lemon-peel aromas meet with richer tones of melon, honeysuckle and peach on the nose of this bottling. Fresh acidity kicks off the palate, where rounded peach flavors lead into a finish awash in tart citrus tension. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**90 Le Casque 2019 Grenache Blanc (Sierra Foothills).** This medium-bodied wine is fashioned in a richer style than many, offering tempting lemon-zest aromas and generous pear and fresh apple flavors. A luscious mouthfeel and an addition of 18% Picpoul Blanc add to its charm. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$28

**87 Moniz Family 2019 Grenache Blanc (California).** This is a spare and tangy wine that holds its apple-skin and flint flavors pretty tightly. Vivid acidity makes it a great palate cleanser. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## ROUSSANNE

**91 Bolt To Wines 2018 Roussanne (Ballard Canyon).** Roussanne can be a challenge, but it's deftly handled here, starting with aromas of dried yellow flowers, a touch of peach and a bit of marzipan on the nose. There is a waxy heft to the sip, as there should be, yet also a tension to rein in



# BUYINGGUIDE

the dried peach, pear, sea-salt and walnut flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**91 Le Casque 2019 Roussanne (Sierra Foothills).** This attractive, full-bodied wine offers subtlety in flavor, richness in texture and a good sense of concentration that gives it length on the finish. It's a good bet for cellaring, since time should open up more mineral and lanolin notes. Best from 2022. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$28

**90 Holly's Hill 2019 Estate Roussanne (El Dorado).** Bright aromas and flavors of Anjou pear and Gravenstein apple make this medium-bodied wine lively and satisfying. It feels relatively light in mouthfeel and is absolutely refreshing and appetizing. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$22

## PINOT GRIGIO

**88 Bota Box 2019 Pinot Grigio (California).** This wine has more flavor than many of its competitors, boasting bright peach and ripe melon in the aroma and satisfying white peach on the palate. It's medium bodied and mouthfilling. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23/3L

**88 Hungry Hawk 2019 Pinot Gris (San Diego County).** Clean aromas of wet stone, lime and nectarine show on the crisp nose of this bottling. There is a strong sizzle at the front of the sip, which drops into riper flavors of pear and apple. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Sand Point 2019 Pinot Grigio (California).** Lively and well-concentrated, too, this medium-bodied wine has good acidity to make it appetizing and plenty of tasty green-apple, white-peach and apricot flavors to savor. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**86 Bucket List NV Pinot Grigio (California).** A rich texture makes this wine more mouthfilling and expansive than many. It boasts tasty, seemingly sweet honeydew-melon and peach flavors. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8

**86 Mirassou Sun 2019 Pinot Grigio (California).** This light-bodied wine could pass for a Riesling, with its not unpleasant petrol aroma and lean peach and apricot flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**86 Winemakers Selection 2019 Pinot Grigio (California).** This fruit bowl of a wine is packed with apples, peaches and melons on a smooth, soft texture that brings a sensation of sweetness on the finish. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$6

**85 Sterling 2018 Vintner's Collection Pinot Grigio (California).** This light-bodied wine is refreshing and clean but almost neutral in flavor, offering faint lemon and cucumber notes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**85 Tree Fort 2019 Pinot Grigio (Paso Robles).** Light herbs and dried grass show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is somewhat flat in texture but delivers acceptable flavors of Granny Smith apples and more dried grass. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**84 Terra d'Oro 2019 Pinot Grigio (Clarksburg).** Lively green-apple aromas meet heavier flavors and a thick texture in this full-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## RIESLING

**93 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Claiborne Vineyard Estate Dry Riesling (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Talley 2019 Riesling (Edna Valley).** Tight aromas of lime, grapefruit and rainy cement show on the nose of this brisk bottling. There's a flash of sweetness on the palate but it tightens quickly around nectarine, peach and seared orange flavors, extending into a very long and textural finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

**92 Tatomer 2018 Vandenberg Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** Aromas of dried and wet grass, pomelo zest, lime peels and dried seaweed show on the nose of this bottling. There's a flash of richness on the palate before the green-peppercorn, Mandarin orange and light dairy flavors come across the sizzling texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**91 Wolff 2017 Riesling (Central Coast).** Intriguing aromas of honey, lemon, citrus pith, tangerine paste and white flowers show on the nose of this bottling. There is ample acidity to the palate, yet the mouthfeel remains viscous, offering hints of petrol, lemon peel and orange cream on this smooth, weighty expression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$23

**88 Bannister 2018 Cole Ranch Riesling (Mendocino County).** Rather rich in mouthfeel but also tangy, this orange wine shows a true-to-type brassy color and offers ripe peach and floral aromas followed by mild orange-zest and dried apricot flavors. It dampens the typical varietal flavors, but is well made, fun and different. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$28

## ALBARIÑO

**93 Cadre 2019 Sea Queen Albariño (Edna Valley).** Aromas of peach blossom, apple blossom

and pineapple guava show on the nose of this refreshing bottling. It's zesty and lively on the youthful palate, where pineapple and guava flavors are cut by lime peel and grapefruit zest, with a hint of spicy ginger toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$28

**90 Allan Hancock 2018 Albariño (Santa Barbara County).** Lime-peel, green-lily, honeydew-rind and jasmine aromas make for a nearly tropical expression on the nose of this bottling by viticulture and enology students. Key lime flesh and makrut lime leaf flavors pop on the fresh palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$14

**90 Croma Vera 2019 Spanish Springs Vineyard Albariño (San Luis Obispo County).** Pear peels, apple flesh and a squeeze of lime make for a crisp and fresh nose on this bottling. The tense palate combines more pome fruit with citrus pith, climaxing in a grippy finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$27

**89 Crū 2019 Albariño (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20

**89 Moniz Family 2019 St.Cin Albariño (California).** Flowers, apricot and flint are the key aromas and flavors of this crisp, appetizing, medium-bodied wine. It is bright and refreshing and should be versatile in food pairings. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Garcia 2019 Santa Ynez Vineyard Albariño (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** There's a richness to the nose of this bottling, with aromas of baked apple, white flowers and a toasty coconut element. The palate is ripe with honeysuckle and baked peach flavors, proving viscous in texture and the slightest bit sweet, with a toasty finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$22

**88 Kaena 2018 La Presa Vineyard Albariño (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dried apple flesh, lime-peel and a touch of apple-blossom aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Pear and apple-juice flavors appear on the sip, which is smooth rather than taut in texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

## WHITE BLENDS

**95 Arietta 2019 Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Napa Valley).** A blend of 74% Sauvignon Blanc and 26% Sémillon, this superb white is robust and complex, with a sophisticated structure and lively underlying acidity. Hints of nutmeg, honey and flint meet a serious palate of tension and length. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$65

**92 Kaena 2018 Hapa Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Mikael Sigouin uses a rich-yet-blend of 50% Roussanne, 25% Viognier, 17% Grenache

Blanc and 8% Albarino to craft a great Chardonnay alternative. Aromas of baked apple, tangerine peel, white melon and toast lead into an oily palate that offers cashew cream and light marzipan flavors, cut by citrusy acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**92 Le Casque 2019 Adrian (Sierra Foothills).** Great depth, layering and complexity make this full-bodied wine something to linger over. Notes of pear, cream and vanilla harmonize on a nicely viscous texture that extends the finish. It's a blend of Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Picpoul Blanc. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 St. Supéry 2018 Virtú Estate Bottled Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 15. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Revelshine 2019 White Blend (Russian River Valley).** Presented in a 500 ml aluminum bottle that's refillable and recyclable, vintner Jake Bilbro combines 95% Chardonnay and 5% Grenache Blanc into a delicious, gulpable package of bright stone fruit and pineapple, with plenty of underlying acidity to keep it fresh and crisp. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$18/500 ml

**90 Winemaker's Folly 2019 Chapter 1 Vino Blanco (Sonoma County).** Vintner Jake Bilbro goes back to his roots here, as the son of Marietta Cellars' founder and winemaker Chris Bilbro, in this deliciously approachable, cheerful white. Combining 80% Chardonnay with the remainder a mix of Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Trousseau Gris, Grenache Blanc and Berger, it's a tribute to simpler times that remains flavorful, textured and bright. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$24

**89 Wolff 2019 White Wolff (San Luis Obispo County).** Boisterous aromas of poached pear, gardenia and guava are ripe but cleanly presented on the nose of this blend of 50% Viognier, 27% Albarino and 23% Grenache Blanc. Strong peach-blossom-oil and tropical tones show on the palate, but it's zesty and lively to sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$24

**88 Charles B. Mitchell 2019 Estate Reserve Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Fair Play).** A lively snap-pea aroma is followed by nicely rich herb, honey and melon flavors in this full-bodied, complex and lightly earthy-tasting wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$21

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**94 Tatomer 2018 Paragon Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 8. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**93 Cadre 2019 Band of Stones Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley).** When his pioneering wine family sold off its large brands, John Niven started his own small project, and the early results are stunning. Best is this Gruner Veltliner, which begins with clean and sharp aromas of lime skin, white pepper and green apple peels. The palate is tense and green in pome and citrus fruits, with a touch of briny kelp that coasts into the acid-driven finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$28

**92 Vina Robles 2019 Huerheuro Vineyard Vermentino (Paso Robles).** Very light in the glass, this bottling is incredibly aromatic in all the right ways, offering just enough hints of jasmine, plumeria and coconut oil as well as a brisk line of citrus peel. The palate is vibrant with acidity and scintillating texture, which balance the tropical tones of tuberose and plumeria extract. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Broken Earth 2019 Limited Release Fiano (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 18. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$24

**90 LangeTwins 2019 Estate Grown Moscato (Clarksburg).** Soaring honeysuckle aromas and vivid peach and pistachio flavors make this slightly sweet and light-bodied wine a pleasure to sip. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**90 Nichelini Family Winery 2019 Caterina Reserve Semillon (Napa Valley).** Opening with a buttery nose and touch of matchstick, this bright white possesses an underlying richness and a lush mouthfeel. Lively and floral, it tastes of lemon cake and apple. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$32

**89 Allan Hancock 2018 Torrontés (Santa Barbara County).** Loads of grapefruit peel, guava, jasmine and candied honeysuckle show on the generous nose of this bottling, which is labeled as white wine but is 100% Torrontés. A bright, dazzling acidity lifts the palate, where those strong plumeria and jasmine flavors are unabashedly ripe and floral. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Le Casque 2019 Marsanne (Sierra Foothills).** This subtle, tangy, medium-bodied wine shows a great acid-to-ripeness balance and offers a combo of subdued apricot and white-peach flavors to savor. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$28

**87 LangeTwins 2019 Diablo Vineyard Moscato (Clarksburg).** This semisweet wine makes a good case for Moscato as a dinner, or better, lunch wine. Picture the petrol and peach aromas and lush honey and apricot flavors with fried chicken or fish and chips. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**85 Chuparosa 2019 Kohill Vineyard Semillon (Ramona Valley).** Sémillon is a tough grape to work with solo, and this wine, which is golden in the glass, smells of oxidized apple juice, orange rind and dried mango. There's an oily quality to the palate, which is flat in texture and showing similar notes as the nose. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

## SPARKLING WINES

**94 Thacher 2013 Blanc de Blanc Extended Tirage Hastings Ranch Vineyard (Adelaida District).** Lively aromas of crisp apple, lychee, lemon peel, jasmine and apricot blossom show on the nose of this sparkling Viognier, which spent six years *en tirage*. The complexity comes through on the palate, where apple-skin and lemon-flesh flavors meet with the wet stone minerality. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Schramsberg 2017 Blanc de Blancs Méthode Traditionnelle Brut (North Coast).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$41

**93 Schramsberg 2011 J. Schram (North Coast).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$130

**92 Paradise Ridge 2012 Blanc de Blanc Late Disgorge (Russian River Valley).** Dry and complex in lemon zest, green apple and stone fruit, this wine has benefitted from extra time in bottle, showing a lovely persistence of acidity and texture. A hint of oyster shell continues its salty, silky and savory complements. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$52

**92 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Reserve (Sonoma County).** This sparkling blend relies on 92% Chardonnay, mingling in 8% Pinot Noir. Robust and dry on the palate, it has crisp acidity and a taste of oyster shell—both complements to the fresh Mandarin orange, pineapple and lemon zest that come to the fore. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Equinox 2017 Brut Ultra Fiano Cuvée (Santa Clara Valley).** Fiano is starting to become slightly more popular in California, but sparkling Fiano remains a complete anomaly. As this bottling reveals, it works, starting with aromas of orange rind, corn bread, dried white flower and rust. The palate packs dried pear and mellow mango flavors into the foamy mousse. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Folktale 2019 Talking Animals Pétillant Naturel (Monterey County).** This *pét-nat* of Grenache Blanc from Mission Ranch Vineyard is cloudy in the glass and refreshing on the nose, with plenty of grapefruit zest, river stones, lime and a hint of riper pear. The palate picks up an Asian pear

# BUYINGGUIDE

note and amplifies the wet rock minerality. It is fun and flavorful. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$30

**91 Piper Sonoma NV Blanc de Blancs (Sonoma County).** Made from 75% Chardonnay and 25% Pinot Blanc, this is a dry, elegant sparkler that delivers nuanced flavors of green apple, mango and grapefruit. Quenching in acidity, it has a linear focus that remains consistent and complex on the palate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$22

**91 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Méthode Traditionnelle (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Cadre 2017 Ode to Pearls Sparkling Albariño (Edna Valley).** This sparkling wine shows potential for Albariño as a bubbly, starting with crisp aromas of pear and apple, as well as a touch of yogurt. There is sizzling acidity and a pinpoint texture on the palate, where the grippy structure offers rounded flavors of yellow apple and white flowers. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**90 Erosion NV Sparkler Machine (Napa Valley).** This is a dry, refreshing sparkling wine made with 43% Sauvignon Blanc, 43% Chardonnay and 14% Sémillon. Simple stone fruit and pineapple meet a flinty like stoniness that adds texture and grip, with lasting lemon candy on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29/250 ml

**90 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Rosé (Sonoma County).** Made from 53% Chardonnay, 39% Pinot Noir, 6% Pinot Blanc and 2% of an aged reserve blend, this wine has great pink color and is dry, fresh and fruity. Strawberry, raspberry and tangerine wrap around crisp acidity and a lasting opulence that remains balanced and bright. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$22

**90 Sosie 2018 Brut Nature First Things First (Sonoma County).** With a richness of nutty brioche, this warm, winning wine is dry and structured, with a depth of oak, baked lemon and high-toned acidity. Floral aromatics adorn it further. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Hungry Hawk 2019 Brut Rosé (San Diego County).** Sparkling Mourvèdre is uncommon, at least in California, but this is a solid showing of its potential. Pale pink in the glass, the wine combines watermelon aromas with a steely, metallic tone. Flavors of dried cranberry and rose petal converge with that tinny minerality on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$32

**88 Weibel Family 2019 Archgate Rose Pinot Noir (California).** A finely beaded texture and rich mouthfeel are filled in with light cherry and

plum notes in this well-balanced, polished wine. Freshness and softness are its hallmarks. —J.G.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Migration NV Brut Rose (North Coast).** A light copper color and rather advanced nut and dried fruit flavors give this wine a mature profile that's interesting to taste. It's broad and rather soft in texture, dry and a bit lean on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**86 Scotto Family Cellars NV Proscotto Semi-Sweet Bubbles (California).** Crisp apple and dried herb aromas lead to sweet, broad floral and pistachio flavors in this frothy, fruity wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$7/375 ml

**86 Scotto Family Cellars 2018 Villa Antico Pétillant Naturel Rosé of Sangiovese (Lodi).** This soft and frothy wine shows a deep orange color and noticeable sweetness, giving it an easy, straightforward appeal. —J.G.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$25

**85 Ultraviolet NV Sparkling Rosé (California).** Simple cherry and strawberry flavors compete for attention with a dried herb accent in this dry, light-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

## ROSÉS

**93 Limerick Lane 2019 Rosé (Russian River Valley).** A perennially memorable wine, this combines 50% Syrah with 27% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache and 3% Grenache Blanc. Crisp, meaty and sublime on the palate, it offers bold, layered flavors of wild strawberry, blood orange and vanilla bean. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$28

**92 Dovecote 2019 Thompson Vineyard Estate Rosé (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**92 Terre Rouge 2019 Vin Gris d'Amador Rosé (Sierra Foothills).** This is a serious, savory and well-structured rose blended from Rhône varieties, and is meant for drinking in place of the usual red wine. A full body and bracing acidity back up interesting plum, rhubarb and melon flavors that are concentrated enough for a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Indigené 2019 Rozane Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tightly woven on the nose, this rosé begins with light aromas of strawberry and wet stone. The palate is driven by zesty acidity and a rocky minerality, with subtle, refreshing flavors of melon and pink citrus. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**91 Salvestrin 2019 Vin Rosé (St. Helena).** Made entirely from Syrah and fermented and aged

in both neutral oak and stainless steel, this is dark cranberry in color. Strong, concentrated flavors of cherry, cassis and orange make for a juicy palate of length and grip. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Topa Mountain Winery 2019 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Barbara County).** A slightly yellow shade of pink, this bottling offers white melon, chalk and a splash of citrus on the nose. The palate is very grippy with chalky tension, which frames generous flavors of melon and plum. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Baca 2019 Ring Around the Rosé of Zinfandel (California).** Sold in three-packs, this can is made entirely from Zinfandel and aged four months in neutral French oak. With an inviting nose of cherry, blackberry and cranberry, it is dry, leathery and satisfying, with balanced fruitiness that appeals. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24/250 ml

**90 Belle Glos 2019 Oeil De Perdrix Pinot Noir Blanc Rosé (Sonoma County).** Made in a rich, likable style, this Pinot Noir Blanc is light in color and quenching in strawberry, melon and peach. Fleshy and lush, it delivers bold, robust layers of flavor and velvety texture. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$22

**90 Crü 2019 Jose's Rosé (Central Coast).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$20

**90 Grgich Hills 2019 Estate Grown Rosé (Napa Valley).** This is made from 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Zinfandel, 10% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. Reductive, the oak is nutty and the palate soft and supple. Strawberry, cherry and Meyer lemon accent a balanced richness lifted by crisp, lasting acidity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$25

**90 Grounded Wine Co. 2019 Space Age Rosé of Grenache (Central Coast).** This creatively packaged bottling delivers on the wine front as well, offering aromas of cranberry, raspberry and dark strawberry—a riper side of rosé yet still fresh and zesty. It's softer and mellow on the palate, where hibiscus, watermelon and fruit-punch flavors pop. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$15

**90 Kaena 2019 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Simultaneously tight and fruity on the nose, this rosé of Grenache shows strawberry, cherry-sorbet and citrus-spray aromas on the nose. The palate lands with riper strawberry and cherry-cream flavors, with a light brush of zesty tangerine. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**90 LangeTwins 2019 Estate Grown Rosé Sangiovese (Lodi).** This tangy, light-bodied wine shows a particularly vivid coral color, effusive peach and cranberry aromas and bright, crisp fla-



vors. It's very well balanced and food friendly. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
abv: 12% Price: \$15

**90 Paradise Ridge 2019 Bride's Blush Rosé (Russian River Valley).** Light-pink in color, this is a nutty, dry and resplendent wine, light, bright and delicately crafted. Layers of citrus, rose petal and wild strawberry mingle with ease. —V.B.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$26

**90 Revelshine 2019 Rosé (Russian River Valley).** This wine comes in a game-changing package, a 500 ml aluminum screwcap bottle that's both refillable and recyclable. The brainchild of Jake Bilbro of Limerick Lane, the wine delivers plenty of bang for the buck as well—as it's a smooth, lovely and crisp celebration of appellated 50% Syrah, 27% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache and 3% Grenache Blanc that evokes a day of picking fresh berries. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$16/500 ml

**90 Schug 2019 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Inviting in strawberry, watermelon and peach, this is a fruity, likable wine with a touch of richness, as well as length and breadth across the palate. Bright acidity lifts the fruit throughout. —V.B.  
abv: 13% Price: \$26

**89 Hideaway 2019 S&M Rosé (Santa Barbara County).** A yellow shade of pink, this 50% Syrah and 50% Mourvèdre rosé begins with aromas of baked cherry, brioche, vanilla and the lightest hint of smoke. There is brisk acidity and textural tension to the sip, where the light smoke tone meets with more cherry flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.6% Price: \$32

**89 Rotation Vineyards 2019 Rosé (Lodi).** A savory, earthy aroma blends into juicy peach and delicate spice flavors in this layered, complex and distinctive wine. Made from Chenin Blanc grapes and a dash of Syrah, it is medium to full bodied and mouthfilling in texture. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**89 SeatPocket 2019 Rosé (Central Coast).** Rose petals and watermelon are strong while pleasant on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more dynamic, from zesty lemon peel to riper peach-oil flavors, all wrapped in decent tension. —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$20

**88 Michael Pozzan 2019 Giapoza Rosé (California).** Melon and prosciutto flavors mingle nicely in this full-bodied but nicely tangy wine. It has a traditional salmon color, plentiful aromas and mouthfilling peach and melon notes. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**87 Kenwood 2019 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Cranberry colored, this is a dry,

straightforward wine that is crisp and likable in citrus, strawberry and melon. —V.B.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

**87 LangeTwins 2019 River Ranch Vineyard Aglianico Rosé (Jahant).** An earthy, smoky aroma leads to fruity, fresh flavors and medium body in this light and tangy wine. —J.G.  
abv: 13% Price: \$22

**87 Trentadue 2019 Estate Rosato di Sangiovese (Alexander Valley).** Cranberry-orange in color, this wine is dark and raisiny, with a richness that veers into sweet. Christmas spice and leather accent its rustic nature. —V.B.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$22

**86 Bota Box 2019 Dry Rosé (California).** This light-bodied wine is clean and straightforward. Its aroma is light, and its cherry and raspberry flavors are mild, resting on a soft texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$23/3 L

**86 Keynote 2019 Rosé (California).** Red-cherry and sour-cherry flavors light up this medium-bodied wine, adding a nip of good fruit acidity on the finish. —J.G.  
abv: 13% Price: \$12

**86 OZV 2019 Estate Grown Rosé of Primitivo (Lodi).** This very fruity and dry wine gushes juicy grape flavors on a medium to full body that gives it a pretty big mouthfeel. —J.G.  
abv: 13% Price: \$12

**86 Winemakers Selection 2019 Rosé (California).** Light bodied, this wine offers tasty watermelon flavors and touches of earth and smoked meat. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$6

**85 Bucket List NV Pink Moscato (California).** Floral aromas and lychee fruit flavors make this lightly sweet wine very vivid and boisterous. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
abv: 9% Price: \$8

**85 Bucket List NV Rosé (California).** Good cherry and raspberry flavors carry a bit of sweetness in this medium-bodied, straightforward wine. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
abv: 10.5% Price: \$8

**85 Nichelini Family Winery 2019 Rosé of Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Made both from pressed grapes and a *saignée* bleed, this wine is hearty and dark in color. Cedar, dried herb, tobacco and bell pepper make for an herbaceous quality that falls a bit flat. —V.B.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$30

**85 Vina Moda 2019 Sierra Rose Rosé (Sierra Foothills).** A smoky, flinty streak dominates the flavors of this medium- to full-bodied wine. Its

freshly cut wood and black-pepper notes don't leave much room for fruitiness. —J.G.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$22

**84 Frey NV Organic Rosé (Mendocino).** Tasty raspberry and watermelon flavors in this full-bodied wine are coated in rather heavy baking spices and vanilla. —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$9

**84 Manzanita Creek 2018 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This is a dry and somewhat metallic wine, blended with a tiny amount of Grenache that tastes quietly of wild strawberry and cherry. —V.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

## PINOT NOIR

**96 Anthill 2018 Hawk Hill Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** From the cool climes of Freestone, just miles from the Pacific Ocean, this vineyard-designate captures all the feral, crisp and complex aspects of site and variety in the right hands. Carbonic, with euphoric red raspberry and strawberry flavors, it is textured, savory and endlessly bright. —V.B.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$48

**96 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Angel Camp Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 3. **Editors' Choice.**  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$62

**96 Joseph Jewell 2018 Ryan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County).** The ripe, concentrated fruit flavors in this superb medium- to full-bodied wine range from warm strawberry to brooding black cherry and tangy pomegranate. Lightly accented with baking spices and moderately tannic, there is a bit of nervy tension that bodes well for aging—best from 2024. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$39

**95 Anthill 2018 Campbell Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This remarkably impressive wine opens in an intriguingly edge, earthy nose, leading the way to a lengthy and complex experience on the palate. Balanced red-fruit, spice and forest notes accent supple, integrated tannin and oak, never losing sight of its coastal brightness and exuberance. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$48

**95 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Devil's Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Marin County).** For full review see page 4. **Editors' Choice.**  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$72

**95 LaRue 2018 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This is a bringing together of three vineyard sites, 46% Thorn Ridge, 38% Rice-Spivak and 16% Emmaline Ann. Gorgeous and delicious, it sings in black tea, rhubarb, violet and orange peel, with

# BUYINGGUIDE

bright, delicate structure and underlying acidity. A tease of dark chocolate lingers on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$60

**95 LaRue 2017 Rice-Spivak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Tangy citrus undertones of lemon and grapefruit lift a midpalate that takes on darker, more savory elements of strawberry, dark cherry, clove, nutmeg and tea. Light and delicate on its feet, it holds steady on the lengthy palate in bright acidity and an elegant richness that provides ample mouthfeel and structure. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$75

**95 Maggy Hawk 2018 Jolie Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A captivating blend of savory characteristics along with great balance and a good fruit foundation make this wine especially interesting. Elements of sage, tobacco and earth mingle with red and black cherries, and are backed by moderate tannins and good, nervy acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$65

**95 Merry Edwards 2018 Meredith Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

**95 Peake Ranch 2018 Peake Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Expertly focused and intense aromas of black cherry, clove and star anise make for a very exuberant and delicious nose on this bottling from this brand's estate, which surrounds the winery. Layers of wood spice and black cherry are wrapped in soft voluptuous tannins on the palate, making for a very full and satisfying sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$60

**94 Auteur Wines 2018 Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A deep dark color and ebullient fruit aromas lead to rich, ripe, vivid black-fruit and tobacco flavors in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. The wine has a grippy texture and seems built for further aging. Best from 2023. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$75

**94 Belle Glos 2019 Balade Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A dark, purple-red color in the glass, this single-block study begins with spicy aromas of cola and root beer as well as intense but not over-ripe berry and cherry aspects, a touch of toasty oak and an earthy, tar-like scent. The palate is rich with baked boysenberry-pie flavors but also deep and complex with loamy soil and more cola spice. The structure is tightly woven. Drink now through 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

**94 Challen 2018 Peake Ranch Calera Clone Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dark aromas of roasted plum and mulberry meet with sumac, pepper and earth on the nose of this single-vineyard clonal expression. It's thick and richer on the palate, where intensely plush flavors of baked cherry,

plum, toasted sage, thyme and loamy soil make for an attention-grabbing sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$60

**94 Challen 2018 Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** The nose on this single-vineyard showcase is very spicy yet with a fruity core, offering plum and mulberry alongside cola, cardamom and mace. It's lush on the palate, with ripe cherry, cola and chai spice, wrapped in a smooth silky texture that's delicious and hedonistic. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**94 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$52

**94 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Runestone Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$56

**94 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Docker Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino).** For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$68

**94 Hyde Vineyard 2017 Larry Hyde Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Toasted oak and turned earth aromas are swept clean by vibrant red cherry and ripe strawberry flavors in this full-bodied, rather broad-textured wine. Made by the Larry Hyde family from its famous vineyard-designate property, it has mouthcoating richness, moderate tannins and great concentration to bring a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$70

**94 Joseph Jewell 2018 Alderpoint Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County).** Inviting strawberry and forest-floor aromas and ripe, generous red-cherry and sour-cherry flavors fill out this full-bodied, lightly tannic wine. An earthy, woody complexity develops with time in the glass, making it warm and enjoyable to sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$39

**94 LaRue 2017 Thorn Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Lavender and rose make for a floral entry into this wine, which is exuberantly bright in racy cherry, blackberry and blood orange. Offering length and subtle richness, it is adorned further in clove, nutmeg and vanilla, with ample body weight to match the acidity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$75

**94 Lichen Estate 2018 Moonglow Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**94 Maggy Hawk 2018 Unforgettable Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A dark heart of black fruit centers this complex and well-balanced wine. Enticing, spicy clove, cedar and earth aromas lead to a supersmooth but well-structured palate

that reveals black-cherry, rhubarb and black-tea nuances. It's distinctive and should age well in the mid-term. Best from 2023. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$65

**94 Merry Edwards 2018 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Jammy plum, strawberry and dark cherry ooze from the core of this beautifully coastal wine, seasoned in dried herb, clove and black tea. Expressive and varietal, with a thick tannin structure, it has room to open further and unwind, its oak well integrated and its tannins structured. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$48

**94 Merry Edwards 2018 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Supple in tannin and earthy in black tea, this appellation wine is delicious, with depth and freshness. Lively acidity boosts a core of dark cherry, pomegranate and cherry—the fruit well contrasted in nutmeg and clove. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**94 Merry Edwards 2018 Georganne Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Textured, tangy and tart in wild-berry flavor, this wine is powerfully concentrated, full bodied and expansive, the tannins supple and supportive of the rich, dense fruit. Secondary characteristics of violet, rose and earthy black tea give it additional intrigue and beauty. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$66

**94 Merry Edwards 2018 Olivet Lane Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Juicy with brawny black fruit, this wine offers soft, supple tannins that support fleshy ongoing richness on the midpalate. Varietally satisfying and expressive in velvety texture, it finishes in baking spice and a depth of earth. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$72

**94 Merry Edwards 2018 Warren's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Sharp and tangy in crisp citrus, rhubarb and pomegranate, this lively, complex and structured wine shows secondary characteristics of forest floor, tea and dried herb. Moderately structured and ripe, it offers richness within a context of balance and grace. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$66

**94 Mount Eden Vineyards 2017 The Tanaka Project Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This bottling is a personal one for the Patterson family, dedicated to funding suicide prevention after the loss of their friend Ron Tanaka. The wine offers hearty aromas of blistered plum, funky mushroom and hints of dried seaweed and iodine on the nose. The palate also reflects those savory seashore elements along with touches of dried cranberry and mulberry touches. It's built for aging, so drink now through 2032. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**94 Ram's Gate 2018 Bush-Crispo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Spicy red cherry and strawberry highlight this seamlessly bright,

complex and delicious wine from a long-standing vineyard designate. With secondary accents of vanilla, clove and black tea, it provides varietal specificity within a lush, opulent and ultimately balanced framework. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$75

**94 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Hand in Hand Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Extremely aromatic in the glass, this bottling from a vineyard in the Corralitos area shows smashed cranberry, crushed thyme, bay leaf, green peppercorn and green tea in the glass. The wild mix of herbs and cracked pepper pops on the palate, which also offers a juicy cranberry and cherry tone while remaining light on its feet. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$49

**94 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$49

**94 Table Eleven 2018 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Pristine aromas of black raspberry, crushed river stone and a delicate flake of mace converge for a complex and complete nose on this bottling of the Pommard clone. The palate is lively and zesty at first, then offers waves of fresh berry and light fennel pollen—altogether a very focused expression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$52

**94 Wrath 2018 Ex Vite Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Zesty aromas of thyme, tarragon, pine needle and peppercorn reveal the whole-cluster style of this bottling, which rests on a fresh black-raspberry frame. The palate is peppery and herbal as well, tossing wild sagebrush and marjoram in with toasted tomato and lightly dried cherry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$38

**94 Zaca Mesa 2018 Bien Nacido Vineyard Homage Collection Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$48

**93 Anthill 2018 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Tangy red fruit and a burst of citrus accent this juicy, supple and nuanced coastal wine, which offers a brilliant contrast of richness and acidity. Black tea, dried herb and a hint of forest floor add savory context and complexity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$39

**93 Anthill 2018 Baker Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Generous and distinctive flavors are balanced against a good sour-cherry acidity in this nervy, individualistic wine. Nuances of black tea and rhubarb develop on the palate while mild tannins add some welcome grip to the texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**93 Anthill 2018 Comptche Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** Very ripe and earthy, this big but relaxed wine overflows with

black-cherry and cooked cherry flavors that are accented by rhubarb and tobacco nuances. Moderate tannins give the palate some heft. It's a fun trip down the path less traveled. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**93 Anthill 2018 Harmony Lane Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** From a site along Occidental Ridge, that can be described as cool climate and ocean influenced, this wine opens in an exuberance of strawberry and raspberry on both the nose and palate. Soft, silky and delicate in style, it sings in bright acidity and lasting savory tones of black tea and forest. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$52

**93 Anthill 2018 Peters Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Opening in a richness of toffee on the nose, this wine is delicate on the palate, layered brightly and seamlessly in pomegranate, rhubarb and cranberry. Clove, tea and dried herb give it a savory, earthy contrast and lasting complexity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$48

**93 August West 2018 Peterson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Red cherry, pomegranate, lavender, rose petals and wet clay aromas show on the dynamic nose of this bottling. There is a core of crushed rock minerality on the sip, where pomegranate, hibiscus and fruit-punch flavors are enhanced by dried herbs and cinnamon-laced spices. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**93 Auteur Wines 2018 Manchester Ridge Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** A distinctive and potent crème de cassis aroma and similarly lavish black-fruit flavors give this full-bodied wine plenty to savor. Laced with fine-grained tannins, it feels mouthfilling and keeps the focused fruit flavors flowing through the lingering finish. Best from 2023. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$75

**93 Challen 2018 Bentrack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Pungent aromas of black plum, ripe cherry and creamy baking-spice hits of star anise and mace make for a very compelling nose on this bottling. The palate is full flavored and boisterous with baked licorice and stewed boysenberry flavors that are cut by ample waves of acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**93 Challen 2018 Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Strawberry, sumac, French toast spice and crumpled violets make for a very expressive nose on this single-vineyard bottling. The palate is a spice rack of flavors, from cardamom to nutmeg to thyme, which decorate the roasted plum fruit and enhance the soft mouthfeel. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Challen 2018 Scarlett Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Hearty aromas of black cherry and boysenberry meet with loamy soil and cocoa on

the nose of this bottling. There's a silky thickness to the sandy tannins, which uphold black plum, thyme and even slight basil flavors that will continue to converge with time. Drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$42

**93 Challen 2018 Tondre H Block Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Full aromas of candied cherry and raspberry meet with wild mint and light licorice on the rich but tightly woven nose of this block selection. The soft, silky texture is mouthcoating on the palate, where muscular tannins carry delicate flavors of hibiscus and rose petal as well as heartier smoked berry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$60

**93 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Twin Creeks Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Roasted cherry, struck stone, rose hips and light oak aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Smoky red-cherry, roasted plum and grilled strawberry flavors meet with a touch of pleasant hickory on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$46

**93 Crū 2018 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$60

**93 Dutton-Goldfield 2018 Azaya Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap-Marin County).** This taut and concentrated wine seems to be all about the future. Slightly restrained aromas of black cherry and sour cherry lead to deep, tightly wound black-fruit flavors that are firmly wrapped in fine-grained tannins. Best from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$62

**93 El Pino Club 2018 Sea Floored Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$60

**93 MacRostie 2018 Manzana Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley).** Grippy, layered and textured, this impressive wine is elegantly lean and balanced, with contrasting notions of blood orange, cranberry and forest floor. It impresses in its enduring acidity and bold structure. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$58

**93 Maggy Hawk 2018 Afleet Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Light baking spices blend with red cherry and a touch of sour cherry in this medium-bodied, deftly balanced wine. An elegant texture and subtleties in flavor seem to improve it with each sip. Best from 2023. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$65

**93 Maggy Hawk 2018 Stormin' Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Silky and polished, this elegant wine offers restrained oak aromas and flavors like cinnamon and nutmeg backed by vibrant red- and black-cherry flavors. Great balance from light tannins and good acidity give it an appetizing



# BUYINGGUIDE

mouthfeel and will help it age well. Best from 2023. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

**93 Mansfield-Dunne 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Rich aromas of black plum, blackberry, melted licorice and hearty oak spice show on the powerful nose of this appellation blend. The palate is packed with deliciously extracted fruit, offering deep, hearty and rugged flavors of boysenberry and garam masala spice. —M.K.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$39

**93 Merry Edwards 2018 Coopersmith Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Creamy with high-toned, underlying acidity, this wine is well structured and weighty. Rich layers of strawberry and cranberry highlight a core of concentrated tannin and oak, with underlying complements of baking spice and cola. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$68

**93 Merry Edwards 2018 Klopp Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Forest, clove, oak and thick tannin make for a hearty entry into this perennially impressive vineyard-designate—one of the producer's earliest partnerships. Weighty and powerful, it offers forest floor, tea and wild strawberry, the acidity lasting and lively. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$66

**93 Oleandri 2018 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is an ethereally light style of Pinot Noir, yet is extremely complex and engaging on all fronts. Fresh aromas of strawberry, wild mint and tarragon lead into a snappy palate of pomegranate and hibiscus, with a savory white-pepper spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$60

**93 Peake Ranch 2018 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Baked black cherry, nutmeg cream and a prominent amount of licorice spice show on the nose of this bottling from a steeply sloped vineyard on the eastern side of the appellation. The palate tightens up a bit, showing tart and brisk red plum as well as brushes of eucalyptus oil and mint. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$60

**93 Ram's Gate 2018 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Fruity and earthy in good measure, this memorable wine is effusive in baked cherry and racy acidity, the spice components equally intriguing in cardamom, clove and pepper. Cohesive and supple on the palate, it is a great showcase for the vintage and appellation. —V.B.  
abv: 14% Price: \$48

**93 Ron Noble 2018 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

**93 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Ananda Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

**93 Sante Arcangeli 2018 Split Rail Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Baked black-plum, cherry, clove, nutmeg and roasted meat aromas arise on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate snaps with buoyant fruit flavors of raspberry and pomegranate, enhanced by dried red flower, toasted sagebrush and a bright acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$49

**93 Shokrian Vineyard 2018 Harvest Moon Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$44

**93 Shokrian Vineyard 2017 Rue Dauphine Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 12.  
abv: 12.7% Price: \$42

**93 Valle de Inez 2019 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** This vintage of Doug Margerum's more affordable label is a complex and delicious stunner, beginning with opulent aromas of black cherry, wet loam and light mint on the nose. There's a tight line of stony, loamy minerality on the palate, balancing the wild raspberry, mulberry and black-pepper spice flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

**93 Wrath 2018 115/667 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Pleasantly rustic in approach, this clonal combo showcase begins with earthy aromas of sagebrush, bloody rust, iodine and dried cherries on the nose. It lands on the palate with ample smoke as well as more blood and iodine, with mulberry at the core and a penetrating bay-leaf kick into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

**92 Apriori 2017 Wentzel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This deep-colored and full-bodied wine offers a distinctive blend of black-fruit flavors accompanied by forest floor and slightly smoky undertones that add nice complexity. With time in the glass dried plum and black-tea nuances come out and the mouthfeel melts into a very smooth texture. —J.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

**92 Birichino 2017 Boer Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone).** Smoke, toasted, crisp red-plum, wild-sagebrush and gamy meat aromas converge on the layered nose of this bottling. The palate is equally complex, as toasted sage battles for attention against wild-plum, cranberry and roasted red-apple flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**92 Boheme 2017 English Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Rose-petal-potpourri aromas lead to a palate of baked plum, dried currant and white pepper in this vineyard-designate from the coast. Racy acidity boosts the balanced richness and concentration, finishing in toasted oak and black tea. —V.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$55

**92 Boheme 2017 Taylor Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Herbal and evocative of forest floor and bay, this is a juicy and well-structured wine, made in small amounts from a coastal site. Rhubarb, pomegranate and strawberry flavors mingle around a core of bright acidity and grippy texture, with a saline edge. —V.B.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$55

**92 Eden Rift 2018 Lansdale Block Pinot Noir (Cienega Valley).** From a block of the Calera clone that yielded less than 1.3 tons per acre, this bottling offers aromas of boysenberry, iron, loam and gamy funk on the nose. Fairly heavy, rocky tannins frame the palate, where blistered black plum and more boysenberry meet with dried meat and lavender flavors. Drink 2021–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$78

**92 Eden Rift 2018 Palmtag Block Pinot Noir (Cienega Valley).** Boiled raspberry and pomegranate aromas meet with rose petals on the nose of this bottling, which pays homage to one of the historic property's former owners. The palate is cohesive in flavor and structure, offering raspberry and sagebrush flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$78

**92 LaRue 2018 Emmaline Ann Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Youthful and still untangling, this wine is peppery and spicy—a mix of white pepper and clove that season complementary components of forest floor and black tea. Crisp orange fruit, raspberry and strawberry provide a tanginess that appeals and coats the delicate palate with just a hint of oak. —V.B.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$75

**92 LaRue 2017 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Another cuvée made from top sites, this captures the beauty of three sites: 52% Rice-Spivak, 31% Thorn Ridge and 17% Emmaline Ann. Baking spice, brioche, rhubarb and orange flavors meet an undercurrent of salinity and ocean air, with thick tannin supporting the bright, racy acidity. —V.B.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$60

**92 LaRue 2017 Coastlands Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This is not a wine that owner and winemaker Katy Wilson makes every year. But it's worth noting when she does. This vintage is balanced in weight and style, with black tea, raspberry, strawberry and bay leaf mingling around strong tannin structure and notes of cardamom and vanilla. —V.B.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$75

**92 MacRostie 2018 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Rich in cola and vanilla flavors that accent the core of strawberry, rhubarb and orange peel, this wine is cohesive and integrated. Silky and creamy on the palate, it builds tannin weight over time, finishing in a balance of black tea. —V.B.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$46

**92 MacRostie 2018 Nunes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Thick and savory forest and tea elements combine effortlessly with crunchy fruit flavors of cranberry and orange in this light-bodied, elegant vineyard-designate. The concentration gives way to a silky smoothness that rides along the lengthy finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$58

**92 Merry Edwards 2018 Flax Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This vineyard-designate is tart and rich in crunchy red fruit, the body, which is full and fleshy on the palate, is rendered in an opulent style. Toasted oak and supple tannin add to the weight, breadth and complexity of the wine. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$63

**92 Ron Noble 2018 Estate Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$68

**92 Wrath 2018 Swan/828 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Quite dark in the glass, this clonal blend packs intense boysenberry, damson plum and dark-strawberry atoms, with vanilla pie crust, light violet and tea on the nose. It's lush and thick on the palate, with flavors of blackberry, nutmeg and French toast, proving ripe and hedonistic. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$35

**91 Castelli Family Vineyards 2018 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** This bottling from a Ramona Valley winery comes from the Central Coast, and it shows, with aromas of strawberry, mulberry, roasted meat and struck stone. There is zippy acidity on the palate, where wild-plum, mushroom and brown-tea flavors arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.75% **Price:** \$25

**91 Comartin 2018 R-Bar-R Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Dark aromas of black raspberry, loamy soils and smoky oak show on the toasty nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is a mix of brighter, fresh fruit and more dried berry flavors, wrapped in a sandalwood oil spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$54

**91 Dogwood & Thistle 2018 Oppenlander Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino).** An earthy, meaty character sets this full-bodied wine apart from the pack. It offers wet stone and dried meat aromas, nicely concentrated black-cherry and sour-cherry flavors and a good nip of tannin in the texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**91 Garcia 2018 Apple Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Baked red cherry, light cola and a barrel-spice streak of clove show on the nose of this bottling by Jesse Hampton, longtime assistant at Ampelos Cellars. The palate balances eucalyptus-like herbs with dark-raspberry jam, and remains light on its feet. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$35

**91 Harrington 2018 Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** This bottling, from both the Siletto and Woodside vineyards, begins with aromas of baked plum, cherry, dried tarragon, sagebrush and rosewater. There is a zesty sense of orange rind and tart cranberry on the palate, where dried herbs add nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$30

**91 LaRue 2017 Emmaline Ann Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** From a cool-climate site in a relatively warm year, this light red is bright and well structured, with lasting flavors of orange, cranberry and strawberry. It retains intense savory elements of forest, tobacco and cardamom, which complement and intrigue. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$75

**91 MacRostie 2018 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Hearty and full bodied in style, this wine is nonetheless high toned in edgy acidity and cool-climate vibes, giving a balanced perspective of brightness within its power. Rhubarb, raspberry and forest notes dominate along a silky smooth texture of layered tannin and oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

**91 MacRostie 2018 Putnam Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Robust tannins wrap around a core of forest floor, black tea and savory, edgy intrigue in this coastal wine. High-toned acidity buzzes along a focused palate of wild strawberry, cranberry and rhubarb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$58

**91 Martin Ranch 2017 Therese Vineyards Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Baked cherry, earthy rust, wild-tea and sage-oil aromas show on the nose of this bottling. It's cohesive and rich on the palate, where soft tannins deliver boysenberry, plum-skin and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$48

**91 Ram's Gate 2018 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Spicy and earthy on the nose, this wine continues those themes on the palate, showing high-toned acidity and a wealth of black tea and forest floor. Cool climate in nature, it has balance and supple tannins, with flavors of cherry, strawberry and rhubarb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**91 Ram's Gate 2018 Silver Eagle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Meaty and thick in a full-bodied style, this vineyard-designate is also racy in acidity and freshness. Forest floor, black tea and dried herb accent the ample ripeness and girth of black cherry and strawberry. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**91 Sandler 2018 Cuvée Marcy Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Light in the glass with a slight have, this bottling offers aromas of thyme, sagebrush, rustic cherry and a touch of tangy red-plum skin. The palate pops with cranberry and straw-

berry while flirting with bay leaf and dried ginger spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**91 V. Sattui 2018 Collina d'Oro Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** With a bright, fresh opening of wild strawberry and orange peel, this medium-bodied wine is balanced and well structured, the oak and tannin well integrated into the whole. A lasting note of cardamom and black tea sparks on the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49

**91 Wente 2018 Riva Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** Ripe aromas of blistered cherries, clove, star anise and dusty earth show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. There's a pleasant herbal spice to the palate, where taut red-plum, pomegranate, hibiscus and cinnamon flavors lead into a structurally significant finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Wrath 2018 Pommard 4/777 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Baked red cherry, mace and hints of French toast spice show on the nose of this clonal combination. Toasty oak spice leads the sip, where baked red-fruit, sagebrush and a touch of eucalyptus flavors show. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 August West 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Wild-herb, tangy boysenberry and dewy pepper-tree aromas show on the nose of this appellation blend. There's a strong amount of thyme and tea leaf on the palate, as well as snappy flavors of baked raspberry, all sliced by a penetrating acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$36

**90 Belle Glos 2011 Taylor Lane Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This magnum from the famous site has been given years to age in its big bottle, mellowing to show subtle waves of baked cherry and plum along a velvety texture. Light seasonings of nutmeg, clove and cola add to its enduring richness. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$299/1.5L

**90 Black Ridge 2015 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Herbal elements and singed wood aromas meet with riper boysenberry aspects on the earthy nose of this bottling. Very dry fruits and forest-floor flavors are wrapped light smoke and slightly bitter herbs on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50

**90 Boheme 2017 Occidental Hills Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Dense tannins gird a robust core of toasted oak and black tea in this coastal wine. Sturdy elements of forest floor and clove complement wild strawberry and raspberry flavors and reach a cohesive whole. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$55

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Bonterra 2018 Made with Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$18

**90 Darioush 2017 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Made in a robust, powerfully concentrated style, this wine is earthy and stemmy, with a carbonic liveliness beneath the weight. Thick, rich and creamily lush on the palate, it is well made and richly layered. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$74

**90 NSO By Dusty Nabor 2019 NSO Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is a tart and lively take on Pinot Noir, done at an amazing price point. Underripe aromas of tangy red plum, pine needle and eucalyptus lead into a sagebrush-loaded palate of menthol, cranberry and tart plum. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90 Ram's Gate 2018 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Given 16 months in 34% new French oak, with a small percentage of whole-cluster fermentation, this wine is earthy and fresh in tangy, tart strawberry and rhubarb. Thick tannins wrap around and provide structure and breadth without overt weight, allowing the wine to finish in sage and dried herb. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

**90 Sleeping Giant 2017 Dearden Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Rich and velvety in style, this lush red is opulent in blue fruit and baking spice. Well-integrated tannins support the powerful concentration and help to accent the toasted oak and lasting note of vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$52

**90 Talisman 2016 Adastra Vineyard Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** Earthy and velvety, with racy acidity, this wine has intensity and full-bodied weight—the fruit a mix of rhubarb and pomegranate, tart and tangy on the palate. Black tea and cardamom close it out. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**89 Goldeneye 2017 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This attractive, ultrasmooth, full-bodied wine gently wraps black cherries and mulled plums in soft tannins and modest acidity for a warm, mouthcoating effect. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**89 Maggio 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Lodi).** This is a gutsy but well-balanced wine, offering exuberant black-cherry and blackberry flavors, medium to full body and a snappy texture. It's very generous and has just a nip of tannin. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**89 Metz Road 2018 Riverview Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Subtle at first on the nose, this bottling offers aromas of strawberry, cranberry, cherry paste and a hint of rust. The palate is tightly

woven and clean, with flavors of cranberry and cracked pepper. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Montagne Russe 2018 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Thick and intense with a savory underbelly of dried herb, black tea and forest floor, this big wine offers an array of fruity orange peel, rhubarb and strawberry. The tannins are structured and strong. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**89 Peltier 2017 Barrel Aged Cosumnes River Pinot Noir (Lodi).** This well-built, medium-bodied wine has a good, grippy texture to balance ample flavors of grilled plums, cinnamon and clove while leaving the palate clean for the next bite of food. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 SeatPocket 2018 Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Cherry, raspberry and wet stone aromas make for a familiar and fine entry to the nose of this bottling. A chalky texture frames the sip, which is full of cranberry and raspberry, with a light vanilla and toast finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$25

**89 TreeFort 2019 Lush & Juicy Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** This is a value brand to watch, originating out of August Sebastiani's 3 Badge Beverage Corporation. Aromas of dried berries, dried flowers, sandalwood and roasted plums lead into a palate with chalky tension and flavors of cranberry, hibiscus, wild mint and more floral touches. It's mellow and tightly woven, which is uncommon at this price point. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Wrath 2018 Ex Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Dried cherry, shiitake, rusty earth and soy aromas show on the nose of this umami-rich bottling. There's a hint of oak on the sip, which is intriguing for a wine that did not see strong oak aging, but it works well with the dried cherry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$27

**88 Angels Ink 2018 Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Candied aromas of cherry and berry meet with hibiscus on the nose of this bottling. There is a decent snap to the tip of the sip, where fresh fruit flavors pop, and there's also compelling tension, but sweetness arises toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Argus 2017 Pinot Noir (Carneros).** With a rich entry of dark cherry and plum, this approachable red is soft, fleshy and round, with wide appeal. Integrated tannin and oak provide a cushy opulence that underscores its jammy exuberance. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$32

**88 Bannister 2017 Pinot Noir (Green Valley).** Silky smooth and robust in tannin, this wine offers nuanced red fruit, baking spice and

black tea—characteristics that make it appealingly varietal. A lift of acidity brightens the finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$44

**88 Barra of Mendocino 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Mendocino).** Smooth, ripe tasting and well rounded, this full-bodied wine is packed with broad strawberry and red-cherry flavors and shows a relaxed, easy mouthfeel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Böen 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County-Sonoma County-Monterey County).** This bold and full-bodied wine offers an unusually deep, dark color, plenty of superripe cherry and berry flavors and lavish baking-spice accents. It's concentrated and mouthfilling. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$25

**88 Castle Rock 2019 Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Girasole 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** Juicy and fresh-tasting, this wine offers plenty of cherry, plum and strawberry flavors that seem to gush out of the glass. It's full bodied, but fairly soft in texture and easy to gulp. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$16

**88 It's a Headsnapper 2018 Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Slightly subdued aromas of cranberry, wild berry and light stone are delicate on the nose of this bottling. Dried cranberry and rose-petal flavors show on the palate, which is compelling enough for midweek meals. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

**88 Long Meadow Ranch 2016 Farmstead Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Packed with mushroom, toasted oak and grilled plum flavors, this is an earthy, complex wine that shows the savory side of Pinot Noir. Full body and moderate tannins give it an appetizing grip on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**88 Martin Ranch 2017 Therese Vineyards Griva Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** Tangy aromas of smashed plums, roasted wood, turned earth and slight game show on the nose of this bottling. There is immense wood spice on the palate, where slightly sour fruit flavors of red plum and wild berry are wrapped in cedar smoke. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$36

**88 Sandler 2018 Peterson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Very light on the nose, this bottling offers hints of hibiscus and tangy plum. The palate shows dried cherry, light oregano, a touch of licorice and a light leather flavor, with balanced acidity and tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**88 Sean Minor 2019 4B Pinot Noir (California).** This attractive medium-bodied wine is



smoky and brooding, offering forest floor aromas, hints of charred oak and solid-quality black-fruit flavors accented by black tea. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Talisman 2016 Wildcat Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This wine is overtly earthy and savory in style, edgy in stem and dried herb, the tannins thick and structured. Medium bodied, the fruit leans tart in rhubarb and pomegranate. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**88 Teachworth 2018 Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** Thick and juicy in dark black fruit, this wine offers a wealth of toasted oak, forest-floor and black-tea components that work well together. The tannin weight and oak give it a hearty heaviness for fans of a bigger style. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.75% **Price:** \$60

**87 Ernest Hemingway Wines 2016 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This wine opens in a sweet nose of muddled strawberry and plum, a richness that complements its heartiness of oak and tannin. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$64

**87 Frey 2019 Organic Pinot Noir (Mendocino).** Effusive, fresh cherry and blackberry aromas lead to a rather grippy, lively texture that's almost effervescent. This gulpable wine packs plenty of fruit flavors and has no added sulfites. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Love Noir 2018 Pinot Noir (California).** This straightforward, medium-bodied wine shows attractive black-cherry and sour-cherry flavors, a low level of tannin and a smooth texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Michael Pozzan 2017 Giapoza Pinot Noir (California).** Quite ripe tasting and showing early maturity, this full-bodied wine offers dried plum and raisin flavors, a rich texture and full body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Mirassou 2018 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$12

**87 Tassajara 2018 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Dark-berry and plum aromas meet with roasted meat and red flowers on the nose of this bottling. A creamy texture carries cranberry and river-stone flavors across the pleasant (if simple) palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Trinity Oaks 2018 Pinot Noir (California).** This firm-textured and tangy wine is nicely structured for pairing with rich protein dishes. Vivid cranberry and red-cherry flavors are accented by light toast and baking spices. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**86 Castle Rock 2019 California Cuvée Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**86 Chateau Souverain 2018 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

**86 Highway 12 2017 Pinot Noir (California).** Jammy aromas give way to a plummy, berry-like flavor in this straightforward, medium-bodied and soft-textured wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Old Soul 2018 Pinot Noir (Lodi).** Spicy in aroma and flavor and medium bodied, this wine exudes toasted wood, cinnamon and clove notes on a smooth, lightly tannic texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**86 Paradise Ridge 2017 Walter's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This wine is reductive and aromatic in oak, with robust underlying power. Flavors range from dark cherry and pomegranate to black tea and cola, with specks of vanilla from the wood. —V.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$54

**85 Rodney Strong 2018 Knotty Vines Pinot Noir (California).** Dramatic notes of brown sugar and charred oak in the aroma linger and dominate the good cherry and berry flavors in this medium-bodied, highly stylized wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**84 Contour 2018 Pinot Noir (California).** This is a serviceable, medium-bodied wine that smells a bit like cough syrup but pulls off decent black-cherry and plum flavors on a smooth texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**97 Joseph Phelps 2017 Insignia Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This estate-grown blend combines 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Malbec and 2% Cabernet Franc, allowing the main variety to speak loudest. Gorgeously perfumed, it unfurls wave after wave of cassis, dusty rock and cocoa powder—seasonings that boost secondary characteristics of black and red currant and cherry. With structure and complexity to spare, it should do well over time; enjoy best from 2027–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$300

**97 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2017 S.L.V. Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$195

**96 Alpha Omega 2017 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).**

Juicy on the palate and supple in tannin, this wine opens in a swirl of caramel apple, dark cherry and dust—flavors full of tension and powerful concentration. Herbal and spicy in equal measure, it delivers robust complexity and intense structure, able to age well over time. Enjoy best from 2027–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$NA

**96 Chappellet 2017 Hideaway Vineyard Chappellet Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 3.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$140

**96 Mira 2015 Schweizer Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$377

**96 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2017 Cask 23 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$295

**95 Alpha Omega 2017 Drew Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Juicy black fruit and rocky minerality combine with force to create a lasting impression in this incredible wine from the wild appellation. Baking spice, clove, sage and herb wrap around a length of complex structure and persistent power, with just enough acidity to keep it fresh. Enjoy best from 2027–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$NA

**95 Austin Hope 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 4.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$56

**95 Davies 2017 Renteria 360 Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Layered in black olive, currant and red and black cherry, this wine is effusively perfumed, herbal and balanced, with a tremendous amount of underlying power. Toasted oak and clove dust the fruit and provide a mineral component that contrasts well, accentuating its overall structure. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$100

**95 J. Davies 2016 Jamie Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$225

**95 Kintera Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** For full review see page 4.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$150

**95 Mira 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$144

**95 Seven Apart 2018 Expedition Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$135

# BUYINGGUIDE

**95 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2017 Fay Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$150

**94 Anthem Winery 2016 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** For full review see page 6.  
abv: 15.6% Price: \$125

**94 Bacio Divino 2017 An Artful Red Wine Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Sourced from Beckstoffer Heritage Vineyards, this red includes 4% Sangiovese. Soft, velvety red and black cherry adorn sweet tannin, integrated oak and lifted acidity, making for a balanced, cohesive whole of full-bodied richness. —V.B.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$110

**94 Davies 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Woody in spice and oak, this appellation wine is powerfully built, with a lift of acidity that keeps it fresh and lively in the glass. Cigar box, tobacco and ample red fruit glide across the palate with ease and length, integrated in tannin and weight. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$85

**94 Diamond Creek 2017 Gravelly Meadow Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Richly concentrated yet elegant in style, this wine is brimming in dense layers of baked plum, mocha and leather. The tannins are sinewy and supportive, with great structure and power. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$250

**94 Diamond Creek 2017 Red Rock Terrace Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** From a part of the property deep in rocky soils and rich in iron, this wine offers a wealth of herbal intensity and dusty rock. Light baking spices highlight the well-integrated oak, pillowy tannin structure and elegant black fruit, finishing in a cohesive, seamless whole of ripe balance. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$250

**94 Ghost Block 2017 Ghost Block Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** Entirely varietal, this bold red is herbal and earthy, brimming in cedar, clove and blue fruit. Robust and hearty, it has a graceful undercurrent of freshness and lively acidity, providing a seamless, structured experience of length and elegance. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

**94 Janzen 2017 Cloudy's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** From the producer's estate vineyard on the eastern side of the valley, this 100% varietal wine opens in a wealth of nutmeg, cinnamon and clove, giving it a spicy edge on the palate. Dark fruit, toasted oak and thick tannin wrap around each other in well-integrated layers of power and structure. —V.B.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$165

**94 Vina Robles 2017 Mountain Road Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 9.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$56

**93 Chappellet 2017 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Blended with 10% Petit Verdot and 8% Malbec this wine delivers tremendous value, the quality impressive. Sinewy and intensely concentrated in black fruit, iron and crushed rock, it has secondary aspects of dried herb and leather that expand across the palate voluptuously. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

**93 Four Vines 2018 The Kinker Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

**93 Pegasus Estate 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** Though five years old, this wine is still quite young and tightly wrapped in a savory coating. Aromas of baked black cherry and blueberry meet with crushed rocks, dried herbs and leather on the nose. The palate is very dry, full of oregano and more leather, with a bit of black plum. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$45

**92 Alpha Omega 2017 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak).** This is a thick and herbal wine from the great site, richly woven in cigar box, clove and toasted oak. Structured and dusty on the palate in iron and crushed rock, it has a richness of underlying cassis and dark currant and should do well in the cellar. Enjoy best from 2027–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$NA

**92 Darioush 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Incorporating 20% Merlot as well as a smattering of Malbec and Petit Verdot, this is a rich, layered wine that is soft and supple on the palate. Cedar, black pepper and dried herb highlight a seamless stretch of tannin as bold flavors of black and red currant cut in, finishing in mocha. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$108

**92 Edge 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** This wine offers outstanding value, blending in small amounts of Merlot and Petite Sirah and spending 18 months in French oak. Dark, brooding blackberry and plum flavors meet a heartiness of toast and caramel in a powerfully built experience of approachable smoothness and length. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

**92 Eleven Eleven 2016 Laki's Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District).** This full-bodied, ripe wine is soft and richly layered in a warmth of baking spice and mellow tannin, the fruit jammy and lush. Baked cherry, cassis and a trace of vanilla accent the toasted oak and make for an appealingly cohesive experience on the palate. —V.B.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$125

**92 Faust 2017 The Pact Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville).** From the coolish appellation in a warm vintage, this robust red offers thick, rich layers of blackberry, dark cherry and cocoa powder, sinewy tannins providing a sturdy foundation that adds to its overall power. Underlying acidity provides a welcome freshness as a soft finish builds. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$NA

**92 Harrington 2018 Wheeler Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (San Benito County).** Black-plum, crushed berry and crushed rock aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which aims to be a leaner style of Cab. The palate is very tense and chalky, with tannins wrapped around the fresh blackberry and black-plum flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$30

**92 Highway 12 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$17

**92 Patland 2016 Select Barrel Reserve Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Dusty, woody oak dominates on the entry of this wine, settling into a complementary relationship with its thick blue-fruit and supple tannin. Clove, black pepper, crushed rock and tobacco provide savory contrast and complexity. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$NA

**92 The Hideaway 2018 Time Will Tell, We Won't Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Barbara County).** Fresh and snappy black- and red-fruit aromas meet with wet stone and light herbs on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fresh and fun with black peppercorns, crisp blackberry and richer black-cherry tones that ride acidity into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$50

**91 Beringer 2017 Distinctions Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Jammy red plum and cherry highlight a soft, supple palate that presents as lush and velvety—a reflection of its full-bodied roundedness and rich style. The price point is fair and overdelivers on the wine's broad appeal. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$50

**91 Cakebread 2017 Dancing Bear Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** With 10% Cabernet Franc and 1% Merlot, this mountain wine is tannic and structured, with brawny, leathery black and blue fruit. Softened on the midpalate, it builds additional intensity toward the finish, ending in a note of clove, black pepper and toasted oak. —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$155

**91 Dusty Nabor 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Geneseo District).** Subtle aromas of smashed berries and light violet make for a mellow, measured entry into the nose of this bottling from an appellation on the east side of Paso Robles. The palate is cohesive with açai, Concord grape and dark-berry-sorbet flavors, enhanced by wood spice,

light pepper and purple flowers, with lingering acidity into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

**91 J. Davies 2017 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).** A hearty, iron-rich and red-fruited estate wine from the high-elevation mountain, delivers this wine with bold, beautiful layers of complex flavor and texture. Dusty, crushed rock components add to its earthy core. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$120

**91 Lucas & Lewellen 2017 Cote Del Sol Valley View Vineyard Estate Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$38

**91 McPrice Myers 2018 Bull by the Horns Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Blackberry, lilac, cinnamon and clove aromas converge on the complex nose of this bottling. The palate ranges from hibiscus and cherry to strawberry and rose petals, with plenty of layers to keep the taste buds entertained. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$20

**91 Mettler Family Vineyards 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** For full review see page 17.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**91 My Story 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 17.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$17

**91 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2018 Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

**91 Vina Robles 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 18.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

**91 Whitehall Lane 2017 Leonardini Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A broad, fleshy and lengthy wine, 100% varietal, this wine is dark and brooding in black cherry and cassis, with complementary accents of crushed rock and cocoa powder. Toasted oak and vanilla round out the plush finish. —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$85

**91 Whitehall Lane 2017 Leonardini Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Forceful tannins dominate in this powerful, youthful wine from the producer's own estate. Entirely varietal, it is densely built, ripe and lush in cassis, black cherry and blackberry, with a finishing touch of caramel oak. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$125

**91 Whitehall Lane 2017 Millennium MM Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Dark-cherry and berry fruit dominates in this 100% vari-

etal wine, the tannins well integrated and showing soft, supple appeal. Mocha, toasted oak and vanilla round out the experience on the palate, dotted in black pepper and clove. —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$100

**91 Wilson Creek 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley).** Dried berry aromas meet with crushed rocks, dusty soil and hints of sagebrush on the nose of this reserve bottling. It's lighter bodied in style, offering muddled strawberry and red-plum flavors with a mineral-driven, rocky-flavored core, leading into an oregano-dusted finish. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

**90 A. Torafio 2016 Mi Cielo Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** This wine has rich red fruit with well-integrated acidity and is well structured, with full-bodied ripeness and power. Hints of baking spice and clove liven the black cherry and cassis. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

**90 Bartholomew Estate 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** For full review see page 18.  
abv: 15% Price: \$60

**90 Beringer 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This wine offers great value for the quality, a weighty and intense expression of dark plum, woody oak and baking spice. Notes of iron, clove and tobacco add to the firm, supple tannin and structure. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$22

**90 Bluewing Vineyards 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 18.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**90 Castello di Amorosa 2016 Rapp Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville).** A 100% varietal wine from one site, this red is earthy and wild, with thick, concentrated blackberry and rich vanilla. The tannins are intensely structured and powerfully smooth. —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$195

**90 Castoro Cellars 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 19.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**90 Covenant 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This is a 100% varietal wine, powerfully structured and full-bodied, with intensely robust black fruit. Soft, supple tannin and integrated oak give it a rounded opulence that makes it delicious and enjoyable in its youth. Kosher. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

**90 Emerson Brown 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** From a variety of sites, this good-value wine overdelivers on its price point, offering sanguine notes of olive, crushed rock and

cassis and currant. The oak is well integrated and nuanced in toasty notes. There's a softness to the midpalate that appeals in balanced lushness. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**90 Hook or Crook 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** For full review see page 20.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

**90 Michael Pozzan 2018 Giapoza Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 21.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**90 Noble Vines 2018 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

**90 Paulownia 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Made from Glass Mountain Vineyard in St. Helena and Williamson in Oak Knoll, this 100% varietal wine is aged in 100% new French oak. Woody, herbal, savory and feral, it has subdued black fruit, sage, leather and tobacco that ride along a thickness of tannin. —V.B.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$145

**90 Pull 2017 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14% Price: \$16

**90 Shannon Ridge 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County).** Big, very ripe and velvety, this full-bodied wine is packed with black cherry, black fig and a dash of baking spices. It's quite smooth, moderately tannic and easy to sip. —J.G.  
abv: 15.6% Price: \$32

**90 Truchard 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Carneros).** With 10% Cabernet Franc and 1% each of Petit Verdot and Malbec, this elegant red is soft, supple and rounded in cassis and black cherry. Nuanced oak allows room for a hint of baking spice, clove and vanilla to complement the fruit. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

**90 Whitehall Lane 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A small addition of Petit Verdot adds to the full-bodied power of this wine, approachable in its well-integrated tannin and oak. Brawny blackberry and currant ride alongside mocha, vanilla and woody toasted notes. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$46

**90 Whitehall Lane 2017 Mancino Lanciatore Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Blended with 6% Petit Verdot, this is a thick, leathery and tannic red wine, robust in both new and neutral oak. Dry, it offers black currant, tobacco, cedar and clove within an approachable, full-bodied package. —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$68



# BUYINGGUIDE

**89 Allan Hancock 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast).** Ripe red-berry aromas are jammy on the nose of this bottling, yet the pepper and herb components hold the attention. Oregano and pepper meet with oak and dark red fruit on the palate, which shows a slight tang of acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$15

**89 Buena Vista 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** This full-bodied wine is quite concentrated and firmly tannic, packing in dense black-olive and bell-pepper flavors that are accented by vanilla and cedar. While a bit gangly now, it should be pretty tasty after 2021. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 G & C Lurton 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** This wine is subdued in fruit and earthy in leather, dried herb and barnyard, with restrained ripeness and classic structure. —V.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Hook or Crook 2018 Vintners Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Bold, concentrated but soft, this full-bodied wine boasts a core of black cherry and blueberry, generous baking spice and woodsmoke accents, all wrapped in a creamy texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Occasio 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** Packed with superripe black fruits, this full-bodied and lightly tannic wine is concentrated and mouthfilling. Dried cherries, black olives and prunes flood the taste buds. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$35

**89 Opolo 2017 Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Strong aromas of dried thyme and oregano lead into blackberry, baked soil and crushed stone on the nose of this bottling. Those herbal elements rise on the sip as well, meeting with fig paste and berry jam on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**89 Peachy Canyon 2018 Devine Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Savory aromas of dried meat, crushed herbs, peppercorn and ripe, dark fruits show on the nose of this bottling. There's a strong cherry-jam streak to the palate, which is lifted by dried herbs and spearmint tones. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**89 Porlier 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Templeton Gap District).** Candied red-cherry, tangy berry and dried fennel-stalk aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines smashed plum and cherry with savory peppercorn, leather and dried meat flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30

**89 Skyside 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Well structured and balanced, this full-bodied wine fills the palate with ripe but not jammy plum and black-cherry flavors backed by

moderate tannins. It's a very good, substantial wine to pair with red meat. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$23

**88 Chateau Souverain 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 23.  
**Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

**88 DNA Vineyards 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).** Pencil shavings, cedar and oak accent this medium-bodied, elegant red that is smooth and moderate in structure. Approachable and value minded, it has flavors of dark cherry, currant and vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**88 Donati Family Vineyard 2016 Ezio Cabernet Sauvignon (Paicines).** Baked cherry, stewed plum, toasted herbs and concentrated violet aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The dried herbs of marjoram, oregano and pepper rise up during the sip, where blackberry-jam, smoked meat and black-olive flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$35

**88 Kaena 2016 Stag Canyon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Olivos District).** Robust aromas of black cherry, tangy plum skin, caramel and cola show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with extracted black-plum fruit flavors, with touches of cocoa, remaining quite tangy into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$75

**88 Katherine Goldschmidt 2018 Stone Mason Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** A simple, approachable and 100% varietal wine, this is brightly concentrated in red fruit, with soft, supple tannins and well-integrated oak. Having spent 12 months in barrel, it has heft without being heavy. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$24

**88 Kendall-Jackson 2017 Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** This wine is juicy and intensely powerful, combining 11% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot into the whole. Concentrated in tannin, oak, blackberry and dried herb, the fruit comes from predominantly Alexander Valley, with a splash from Knights Valley, finishing with dark-chocolate and vanilla notes. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**88 LangeTwins 2017 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This robust and moderately tannic wine is packed with blackberry and black-cherry flavors and has a full body that encourages a generous, broad mouthfeel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Made by James 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Lucas).** Layered aromas of dark berry, cocoa and wood show on the nose of this bottling from southern Monterey County. The palate shows

blackberry sauce at first before offering more complex hints of wild mint and tea leaves. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31

**88 Martin Ranch 2017 JD Hurley Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Candied boysenberry aromas lead into tobacco, pepper and espresso-bean scents on the nose of this bottling. The fruit flavors are very ripe and syrup-like on the palate, where tangy black-plum, coffee and charred oak elements converge. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**88 Mount Veeder 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Tasting of blueberry coffee cake, this is a soft, supple and approachable red wine, firm in tannin and robust in dusty rock and mocha. It delivers bold, robust flavor without fuss. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**88 Mount Veeder 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This value-minded red is robust in red and black berry and powerful, youthful tannin. Cedar, dried herb and toasted oak provide structure and seasoning. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**88 NSO By Dusty Nabor 2018 NSO Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Clean lines of strawberry, raspberry and cherry meet with light oregano, marjoram, pepper and light smoke on the nose of this bottling. The palate is dusted with fennel pollen that gives depth to the ripe cherry-paste lines that approach sweetness through the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Raywood 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast).** Dried cherry, cured meat and lava-rock aromas show on the nose of this twist-top bottling. Fairly stiff tannins uphold the palate, where dark red berries meet with tea-leaf and coffee-bean flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

**88 Robert Mondavi 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** With 12% Petit Verdot, 12% Cabernet Franc and smaller amounts of Malbec and Merlot, this wine is thick and intensely concentrated in dense red fruit. Supple tannins are dotted in leather, clove and toasted oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**88 Shannon Ridge 2018 Buck Shack Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County).** Lush, dark and saturated with flavor, this velvety textured wine is practically syrupy in its degree of concentration and ripeness. Full body and moderate tannins give it a good grip on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$35

**88 Shannon Ridge 2018 High Elevation Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County).** Effusive fruitiness gives this well-structured wine a very tempting profile. It is relatively soft and creamy

on the palate, stuffed with black-cherry and chocolate-covered-cherry flavors. —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$23

**88 SIX26 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast).** Lighter aromas of red currant, dried herb, pepper and wet rocks show on the nose of this bottling. There's a compelling herbal touch to the palate, where oregano and marjoram meet with brisk red-plum flavors, leading into a riper finish. —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$29

**88 The Counselor 2017 River Pass Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** With up-front toasty oak and notes of cedar, this full-bodied wine is soft and approachable, with rich, rounded tannin. The fruit is a mix of dark cherry, currant and cranberry, delivering ample flavor and body weight. —V.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**88 The Show 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This bold and full-bodied wine is very deep in color, offers exuberant crushed berry aromas and very fruity, concentrated flavors that are nicely wrapped in moderate tannins. —J.G.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$15

**88 Whitehall Lane 2018 Rassi Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** Blended with 15% Merlot, this affordable red is nutty and herbal in cedar, with strong elements of toasted oak. Dark fruit presents as full bodied and deeply concentrated, with moderate structure giving it a supple foundation of power. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$30

**87 Francis Coppola 2018 Diamond Collection Claret Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This full-bodied wine is mostly soft in texture and light in tannins, allowing the ample baking-spice, strawberry and brown-sugar flavors to coat the palate. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$21

**87 LangeTwins 2017 Railroad Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant).** This wine is rich in flavor and texture. It is full in feel and offers dark plum and a bit of dark chocolate on the palate. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$32

**87 Retzlaff 2016 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** This snappy but full-bodied wine made from organic grapes offers generous, fresh, red- and black-cherry flavors backed by good fruit acidity for a lip-smacking texture. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$42

**87 Rubus 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This smooth and medium-bodied wine is generous and fruity, adding baking spices for a bit of complexity. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**87 Vina Moda 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Foothills).** A topping of woodsmoke and

black pepper give a spicy edge to this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine that shows decent black-berry flavors underneath. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$48

**86 75 Wine Co. 2019 Feliz Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County).** Bay-leaf, clove and juicy plum flavors give this smooth, medium-bodied wine a savory profile. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$20

**86 Cuda Ridge 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** An earthy aroma and chocolate, cherry and tobacco flavors rest on a smooth texture revealing low acidity and soft tannins. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**86 Frey 2019 Organic Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Black-pepper and veggie flavors accompany firm tannins and a full body in this rustic but enjoyable wine. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$17

**86 McManis 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This full-bodied wine offers obvious wood-char aromas and oaky, cedary, peppery flavors atop bright, fresh cherry-berry fruit. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**86 Old Soul 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This is a good, straightforward, medium-bodied wine, offering ripe and juicy berry flavors and light tannins. —J.G.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$13

**86 Sebastiani 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** This full-bodied and moderately tannic wine is very ripe and rowdy. Balsamic, woodsmoke and cooked cherry flavors ride a rather coarse texture. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**86 Winemakers Selection 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A light smoky aroma and salt-and-pepper flavors give this wine a good, meaty expression. It is medium bodied, light in tannin and easy to sip. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$6

**84 Pacific Redwood 2019 Organic Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Fresh blueberry and grape aromas lead to a rather light texture and lean herb and berry flavors in this full-bodied wine. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$17

**84 Rare NV Red Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A rubber-tire aroma gets this wine off to an awkward start, before it shows decent black-plum and woodsmoke flavors on the palate. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

**83 Stave & Steel 2017 Bourbon Barrel Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This full-bodied wine is a bit of a jumble, showing aromas like tama-

rind and red vermouth and strong herb and candied cherry flavors. Definitely an outlier. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**82 Great Bear 2016 The Graduate Cabernet Sauvignon (Yolo County).** Ripe and overripe fruit flavors and a balsamic note make this full-bodied and very mature wine extreme in style. —J.G.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$29

---

## CABERNET FRANC

---

**94 Harrington 2018 Calleri Vineyard Cabernet Franc (San Benito County).** Extremely fresh aromas of tiny wild berries and red currants meet with dusty herbs, turned soil, wet rocks, dried meat and a hint of leather on the nose of this bottling. The sip is zesty, lively and very fresh as well, combining those brisk red-fruit flavors with generous acidity and a very rocky minerality. —M.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$25

**91 Brady Vineyard 2018 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 15% Price: \$26

**88 Castelli Family Vineyards 2015 Cabernet Franc (Ramona Valley).** Extracted aromas of blackberry syrup and charred wood consume the nose on this bottling from San Diego County. There are soy-sauce and smoked beef flavors on the palate, as well as a strong berry tone. —M.K.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$40

---

## MERLOT

---

**95 Arietta 2018 Hudson Vineyards Merlot (Napa Valley).** This is a deliciously memorable Merlot, youthful in tannin and oak, with an herbal, earthy elegance that remains lengthy on the palate. Dark chocolate, crushed rock and beautiful black fruit balance against each other and provide substance and great style. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$75

**94 Arietta 2017 Hudson Vineyards Merlot (Napa Valley).** Nutmeg and clove accent a depth of complex length and breadth in this vineyard-designated wine, from the coolness of Carneros. Cedar, currant and plum adorn the midpalate with a softness at its heart, finishing in toasted oak and ample tannin. —V.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$75

**91 Bonterra 2018 Made with Organic Grapes Merlot (California).** For full review see page 15.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$16

**91 Brady Vineyard 2018 Merlot (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 15% Price: \$24

**91 Makor 2015 Westside Bien Nacido Vineyards Merlot (Santa Barbara County).** Roasted cranberry, iron and fennel stalk aromas show on

# BUYINGGUIDE

the nose of this bottling by Jim Adelman, who has run the day-to-day at Au Bon Climat winery for decades. The palate's dried berry and baked cherry flavors are enhanced by crushed herbs and light pepper spice. —M.K.

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

**91 Retzlaff 2018 Estate Bottled Merlot (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 17.

**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49

**91 Retzlaff 2014 Estate Bottled Merlot (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 17.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$36

**90 Bargetto 2018 Regan Vineyards Reserve Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Black-plum, roasted meat, purple-flower and charcoal aromas show on the nose of this reserve bottling. The palate is tightly wound, delivering flavors of blackberry, blueberry, and woodsmoke across a tense tannic framing. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$40

**90 Muirwood 2018 Merlot (Arroyo Seco).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$15

**90 Oberon 2018 Merlot (Napa Valley).** With the addition of nearly 11% Syrah and just under 2% Zinfandel, this is a hearty red with both fruit and spice on the nose. Supple, velvety texture is highlighted in bold flavors of cassis, raspberry and plum, finishing with ease. —V.B.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$23

**90 Ocasio 2017 Thatcher Bay Vineyard Merlot (Livermore Valley).** Absolutely fresh and alive, this medium-bodied wine is packed with just-picked blackberry and raspberry flavors that are lifted by light tannins and a touch of fruit acidity. It is nicely balanced and appetizing. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**89 Midnight 2017 Merlot (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Blackberry, mahogany and crushed gravel aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The tannins are very firm on the palate, where a zesty acidity delivers dark-berry flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$44

**88 Chateau Souverain 2018 Merlot (California).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$10

**88 Chelsea Goldschmidt 2018 Guidestone Rise Merlot (Alexander Valley).** Made entirely from Merlot, this red is leathery and made in a hearty, Cabernet-like style, with thick tannins and robust oak. Black pepper, cigar box and dark, brooding fruit figure into the profile, with baking spice and vanilla up front on the finish. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Kaena 2016 Estelle Vineyard Merlot (Los Olivos District).** Very ripe aromas of black plum, purple flowers and tart grape juice show

on the nose of this bottling, which needs a good amount of time to unwind and find its footing. The palate is both ripe and tangy, combining blackberry and clove flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Postmark 2018 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Perfumed in baking spice, this is a soft, juicy and rounded wine that will appeal widely and is value-minded in price. Dark-plum, cherry and vanilla flavors wrap around the toasted oak and supple, integrated tannin. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Sand Point 2017 Merlot (Clarksburg).** Attractive, complex notes of dried thyme and sage complement tasty red- and black-cherry flavors in this medium- to full-bodied wine. A light layer of fine-grained tannins gives it a velvety mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$11

**88 Vina Moda 2018 Merlot (Sierra Foothills).** Dark and luscious, this full-bodied but smooth-textured wine is filled to the brim with ripe black-plum and blackberry flavors and accented with cocoa. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$32

**87 Whitehall Lane 2017 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Blended with 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petit Verdot, this is an intensely built, full-bodied varietal wine, tannic and robust in oak. Baking spice, graphite and dried herb season ripe cranberry, currant and plum. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$32

**86 Maggio 2018 Merlot (Lodi).** This medium-bodied wine is centered on good black-fruit flavors and generously accented by notes of menthol, black pepper and olive. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**86 Ryder Estate 2018 Merlot (Central Coast).** Turned soil, dried herbs, clay and dried red fruits show on the nose of this bottling. The soil and clay flavors are prominent on the palate, where light red-berry tones show in the background and tannins add grip toward the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Spellbound 2017 Merlot (California).** This medium-bodied wine offers fresh, tangy red-fruit flavors and a strong baking-spice element of cloves, cinnamon and cardamom. It's an extreme style of wine and memorable for its fragrant spices. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**83 Kwaya 2019 Organic Merlot (North Coast).** Berry and herb aromas and earthy, meaty flavors make this full-bodied wine appealing. It turns tannic on the palate and has a smoky finish. —J.G.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

## MALBEC

**93 Cuda Ridge 2017 Reserve Malbec (Livermore Valley).** Wonderful aromas of balsam and cedar give way to warm, broad, grilled plum and cooked blueberries in this full-bodied wine. Soft tannins give an especially velvety texture that pulls the tempting flavors through a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**92 Mount Saint Joseph Wines 2017 Malbec (Sierra Foothills).** This absolutely mouth-filling and delicious wine packs extra-ripe black-cherry and blackberry flavors into a firmly tannic but and high-octane structure. The intense fruit concentration is a treat to experience now, but best from 2024. —J.G.

**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$39

**92 Peachy Canyon 2018 Ms Behave Malbec (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 14.

**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**91 Allan Hancock 2018 Malbec (Santa Barbara County).** This is a fun and sprightly take on Malbec by the students at this Santa Maria college, starting with crisp aromas of black raspberry, seared beef and crumbled flowers. There is a peppery spice to the palate, where white-pepper, dried meat and fresh raspberry flavors converge. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

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

**90 Europa Village 2017 C'est la Vie Malbec (Temecula Valley).** Roasted cherry, light clove, caramel and a hint of baked fennel show on the nose of this bottling. Hearty flavors of blackberry meet with licorice on the palate, which is balanced by just enough acid. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**90 Kaena 2016 Stag Canyon Vineyard Malbec (Los Olivos District).** Very dark aromas of black currant, prune and bourbon show on the nose of this bottling. There is intense fruit character to the palate, where lavish tannins frame flavors of smoked fig paste, thick cassis and loads of vanilla. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**89 Martin Ranch 2016 Therese Vineyards Dos Ninas Vineyard Malbec (Santa Clara Valley).** Toasted grape-seed, dried herbs and black-currant aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There is solid black fruit to the palate, where cedar and eucalyptus spice also make for an herbal kick. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$42

**89 Wilson Creek 2017 Reserve Malbec (Temecula Valley).** Lightly colored in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of raspberry juice, toasted peppercorns, cured meat and charcoal on the nose. The mouthfeel is both delicate and taut,



with flavors of smashed cranberry, light pepper and savory meats. It is a light style of Malbec. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$55

**87 Arianna 2017 Malbec (Red Hills).** This full-bodied and mature-tasting wine offers dried herb and balsamic aromas, tomato-leaf and raisin flavors and a lightly tannic texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

## GRENACHE

**94 Birichino 2018 Besson Vineyard Old Vines Grenache (Central Coast).** From vines planted in 1910, this wine impresses on multiple levels. Aromas of dark berry, strawberry, dried thyme and turned soil are both rustic and refined. The palate is framed by fresh acidity and a delightful rocky minerality, which give depth to the cranberry, raspberry and herbal flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**94 Folded Hills 2018 Estate Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Done very much in the personal style of winemaker Angela Osborne, this is a very lightly colored Grenache that's full of beautiful aromas of strawberry, rosewater and red shiso leaf, begging for another sip. Brisk red-currant, hibiscus and wet stone flavors cling to a taut texture on the palate, which finishes with a toasty touch of graham cracker. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$70

**94 Harrington 2015 Siletto Vineyard Grenache (San Benito County).** Grenache is not known for aging, but this five-year-old bottling remains very alive and fresh with aromas of rose petals, carnation and strawberry-basil sorbet. White-pepper and snappy cran-raspberry flavors pop on the palate, finishing on a sour-cherry kick. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**94 Kaena 2017 Lerner Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon).** Lavish spice aromas of root beer, cola and star anise meet with baked boysenberry fruit on the lush nose of this multidimensional single-vineyard bottling. Chalky tannins provide tension on the palate, where the berry, flower and spice-rack flavors provide plenty to chew on, leading into a lingering, vanilla-kissed finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$60

**93 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Spanish Springs Vineyard Grenache (San Luis Obispo County).** This vineyard just miles from the sands of Pismo Beach makes for very firm Rhône wines, even presenting Grenache as a perfect candidate for the cellar. Clean aromas of black raspberry, turned loam, dewy sage and a touch of game lead into a minty, dark-berry palate that's heavily structured yet still playful. Drink 2021–2028. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$56

**93 Croma Vera 2018 Grenache (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$45

**93 Folded Hills 2019 Cluster Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** This whole-cluster, carbonic bottling manages to capture the fresh factor of such a regime while retaining plenty of unique savory and spice qualities. Transparent in the glass, this begins with aromas of pomegranate, Ruby Red grapefruit, green sage and eucalyptus. The palate is snappy and grippy with raspberry, tarragon and dewy thyme flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$37

**93 Kaena 2017 Ali'i Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is an attention-grabbing style of Grenache, starting with aromas of candied cherry and black-cardamom cream. There is a firm grip to the frame of the sip, where rich and ripe black-cherry and baked red-currant flavors are spiced with mace and nutmeg. Generous acidity keeps everything in check. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$55

**93 Kaena 2017 Tierra Alta Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon).** Lush and lovely aromas of baked currant and frozen strawberry slushie meet with wet stone on the juicy yet complex nose of this bottling. The sip lands with intensity and power, structured by firm tannins and buoyant acidity, as waves of red fruit, spicy pepper and roasted pork unfold. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$50

**93 Vie Winery 2015 L'Imaginaire Grenache (Lake County).** Enticing, spicy oak and tobacco flavors give this gorgeous, full-bodied wine plenty to like. Attractive earthy and subtly spicy aromas give way to complex, perfectly mature flavors and a supersmooth texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

**92 Grounded Wine Co. 2017 Public Radio Grenache (Paso Robles).** Light aromas of cranberry, strawberry and cherry are bolstered with an earthy background of freshly dug loam and light sagebrush on the nose of this bottling, which includes 10% Syrah. There's a compelling balance of toasted sage, crisp red fruit and light smoke on the flavorful sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$25

**92 Midnight 2017 Moonbeam Grenache (Paso Robles).** Dense and gooey aromas of blackberry, red fruit syrup, star anise and chai spice show on the nose of this bottling. There are firm tannins that frame the lush flavors of the sip, where baked mulberry, plum and fig meet with cardamom cream. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$49

**91 Broken Earth 2017 Limited Release Grenache (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$29

**91 Chiron Wines 2017 Emergent Truth Grenache (California).** A sweet, floral, raisiny aroma is followed by broad and fruity flavors that stay surprisingly light for all their sunny, ripe characteris-

tics. While full bodied, the wine is low in tannin and stays supersmooth on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**91 Dusty Nabor 2019 NSO Grenache (Paso Robles).** Tart red-plum aromas play against richer strawberry and purple-flower tones on the nose of this very fairly priced bottling. The palate packs fresh fruit-punch and strawberry flavors with pleasantly sour acidity, making for a lively sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Hungry Hawk 2018 Estate Grenache (San Diego County).** Very light in the glass, this bottling from Southern California shows candied cherry, dried hibiscus, chai-spice and crushed stone aromas on the nose. The palate is crisp with red fruit and lively acidity, all laid across a pleasantly tense, rocky texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$44

**91 Kaena 2018 La Presa Vineyard Grenache (Los Olivos District).** This is a Grenache with lots of guts, starting on dense aromas of charred fruit, cola, rust and turned soil. The is heavy, dense and rich with dark red and nearly purple fruits, doused in clove and cardamom spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

**88 Kaena 2017 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Strongly concentrated aromas of cherry syrup and caramel show on the nose of this rich bottling. Vanilla and cola spice met with tar and ripe red fruits on the palate, where the tannins remains firm. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$35

**88 Kaena 2016 Alamo Creek Ranch Grenache (San Luis Obispo County).** This bottling is very dense, extracted and slightly boozy on the nose, offering aromas of blackberry pie, nutmeg and bourbon cream. It's thick on the palate as well, where firm tannins frame flavors of blackberry jam and prune. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$60

**87 Vina Moda 2018 Grenache (Sierra Foothills).** Black-pepper and wood-char aromas lead to concentrated blackberry and woodsmoke flavors in this hearty, spicy and full-bodied wine. It's not very tannic, so even with all that flavor it sips easily. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$38

## SYRAH

**98 Terre Rouge 2017 Ascent Syrah (Sierra Foothills).** This explosively flavorful, age-worthy wine combines complexity, power and finesse in a compelling way. Intricate, spicy aromas of graphite, minerals, black pepper and white pepper lead to a superbly balanced palate of just ripe blackberries, rhubarb and woodsmoke without overdoing any one element. Great balance and layering are its

# BUYINGGUIDE

hallmarks. Best from 2026–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

**96 Terre Rouge 2017 Sentinel Oak Vineyard Pyramid Block Syrah (Shenandoah Valley).** Meaty, mineral aromas meet layered and intricate flavors of graphite, violet, dried beef and blackberry in this complex and fascinating wine. It goes well beyond fruit to bring many enticing nuances of salt, pepper and wet rocks to the palate. Best from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**95 Peake Ranch 2018 John Sebastiano Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Darkly roasted aromas of seared beef, charcoal, blueberry, lavender and purple flowers make for a very intense nose on this bottling. It's lavish on the palate, where dark berries, nutmeg, star anise and cardamom converge atop a creamy yet tense mouthfeel. It offers a great cohesion of spice, fruit, power and finesse. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$60

**95 Terre Rouge 2017 DTR Ranch Syrah (Fiddletown).** This bold, flavorful and nervy wine creates a great tension between its core of raspberry and rhubarb flavors and generous, intriguing accents of mineral, singed herb and grilled beef carried on good acidity and moderate tannins. Best from 2024. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**95 Wolff 2018 Syrah (Edna Valley).** Perfectly packaged aromas of roasted meats, dark berry fruits, purple flowers and ample baking spice satisfy all one needs in a Syrah. It's plush and generous on the palate, where hearty baked berry flavors are lifted by mace and star anise, cut by light sage and bay leaf and laid atop a soft yet penetrating texture. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$28

**94 Al Lago 2017 Aria Syrah (California).** This is an impressive bottling primarily from grapes, including 4% Merlot, grown in the Santa Rosa Valley near the Ventura County city of Camarillo. Dried and bloody beef, black currant and cracked black pepper show on the nose, while the palate offers an intriguing array of charred bacon fat, violet, cassis and more pepper. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$65

**94 Cattleya 2018 The Initiation Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Few Central Coast wines age more intriguingly than Santa Lucia Highlands Syrah. This wine is black as night in the glass, and offers aromas of asphalt, black pepper, caramel, fudge and black currant. The palate is dense and wrapped in polished tannins, carrying flavors of black plum, cassis, coffee and light vanilla. Drink now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$70

**94 Dovecote 2017 Thompson Vineyard Estate Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 7.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80

**93 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Syrah (Edna Valley).** Savory aromas of raw lamb and dried charcuterie meet with light lavender, black pepper and carnation on the savory nose of this bottling. The palate carries the cured meat element into an array of other flavors, including crisp yet dark red fruits and rose petals. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$38

**93 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Spanish Springs Vineyard Syrah (San Luis Obispo County).** Crumpled scarlet rose petals, plump violets, açai sorbet and a light hint of charred meat show on the nose of this bottling. There are ample waves of black pepper on the palate alongside crisp black raspberry, more açai and graphite flavors, and the fruit grows much richer with air. —M.K.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$40

**93 Folded Hills 2019 Cluster Nouveau Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** This brand is deeply exploring the whole-cluster and carbonic treatments to present fresh, lively and quaffable wines. Aromas of black raspberry bubblegum, smoked sage and thyme kick off the nose, while a mix of savory and fruity tones consume the palate, from red plum and roasted strawberry to peppercorns, herbs and a leather-kissed finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$37

**93 Harrington 2018 McEvoy Ranch Syrah (Marin County).** Crystalline aromas of boysenberry meet with singed sagebrush, white pepper and crushed rocks on the nose of this bottling by Bryan Harrington, one of his final wines before retiring his brand. Tart black-plum skin and spicy white pepper ride taut tannins on the sip, with a singed beef-loin flavor emerging toward the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$35

**93 Indigené 2017 Parenthesis Syrah (Chalone).** For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$45

**93 Lucia 2018 Garys' Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

**93 Scott Harvey 2018 J & S Reserve Syrah (Amador County).** Wonderful oak complexity gives this full-bodied wine a bounty of clove, cedar and chocolate aromas, leading to a focused core of blackberry and black licorice. It offers major fine-grained tannins and a mouthfilling texture. Best through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$39

**93 Shokrian Vineyard 2018 Opulent Goat Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**93 Stolpman 2019 Estate Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Pure and lively aromas of purple flowers, wet rocks and damp soil show on the nose of this bottling, which will benefit from a bit of patience. Brisk flavors of raspberry, cola, chalk and lavender show much promise on the palate, which is tightly wrapped in staff tannins at this young age. Drink 2022–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$30

**93 Terre Rouge 2017 High Slopes Syrah (Sierra Foothills).** This wine exemplifies how complex and enticing Syrah can be when it's not over-ripe, and lets the sage, char and black-pepper aromas roll. Medium to full bodied, this well-balanced wine is braced by fine-grained tannins surrounding satisfying blackberry and black-currant flavors. Best from 2024. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**92 Folded Hills 2018 Adolphus Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Seared game, pressed blackberry, roasted meat and a slight hint of sage show on the nose of this bottling. The roasted meat aspect continues on the palate, where black pepper, violet and a brush of iodine also play with the grilled boysenberry flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.6% Price: \$50

**92 Indigené 2017 Parenthesis Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 13.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$45

**92 McPrice Myers 2018 Right Hand Man Syrah (Central Coast).** It's hard to find better value than what McPrice Myers is doing with his "Hard Working Wines." This bottling offers roasted coffee, toasted wood and blistered black plum on the savory, engaging and comforting nose. The palate is also toasty, and focused on grilled blackberry flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$20

**92 Zaca Mesa 2016 Mesa Reserve Estate Vineyard Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 15. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$54

**91 Agharta 2017 Syrah (Central Coast).** Focused aromas of boysenberry, light violet and lavender show on the nose of this bottling. The palate snaps with boysenberry, black-plum and tart elderberry flavors, with a hint of those purple flowers, set atop very strong acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$33

**91 Kaena 2017 Tierra Alta Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Stewed black-plum and prune aromas show on the very rich and ripe nose of this bottling. The palate is more balanced and judicious, combining the plum and fig flavors with pepper, baking spice and coffee cream. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$55

**91 Martin Ranch 2017 Therese Vineyards Dos Ninos Vineyard Syrah (Santa Clara Valley).** Iodine, boysenberry, smoked beef, violet and soy

show on the dynamic nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is more dense and ripe, offering black currant, baked berry pie, hint of lilac and cedar and firm tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$32

**91 Zaca Mesa 2016 Black Bear Block Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dense, thick and somewhat smoky aromas of dark-purple fruits make for a hefty nose on this bottling from the oldest block of Syrah in Santa Barbara County, planted in 1978. Firm tannins and strong acidity frame the palate, where those dark fruits meet with savory cured meat flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$75

**90 Michael David 2018 Sixth Sense Syrah (Lodi).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18

**90 Qupé 2018 Syrah (Central Coast).** For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Vina Moda 2018 Syrah (Sierra Foothills).** Ripe, jammy but not quite sweet, this full-bodied wine overflows with blackberry and huckleberry-pie flavors that are rich and layered. It's easy to swallow and not very tannic. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$34

**88 Allan Hancock 2018 Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** Rich aromas of roasted coffee, toffee, black cherry and black pepper show on the nose of this bottling. It plays to two sides of the palate, offering rich fruit as well as tart black-plum skin elements, dusted in a savory white-pepper spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Europa Village 2017 C'est la Vie Wine Chateau Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Muddled plums, blackberry, wet stone and a hint of teriyaki show on the nose of this bottling. Firm tannins uphold flavors of purple flower and black plum, leading into a savory midpalate of soy and Worcestershire sauces and finishing with a vanilla kick. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$40

**88 Kaena 2016 Alamo Creek Ranch Syrah (San Luis Obispo County).** Very ripe and rich aromas of blackberry syrup and grape seed show on the lush nose of this bottling from a unique vineyard north of the Santa Maria Valley. Goopy flavors of black-plum pudding and black-currant paste lead into a caramel-soaked finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$60

**88 Midnight 2017 Nocturne Syrah (Paso Robles).** Blistered black plum and boysenberry meet with a slight wet wool aroma on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers slightly sour black fruits and tart berries with a strong acidic backbone. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$49

**88 Scott Harvey 2018 Mountain Selection Syrah (Amador County).** Menthol and dill aromas lead to rich black-fruit flavors in this spicy, oak-

accented and full-bodied wine. It's broad in mouthfeel and leaves a lingering spicy finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$28

**88 Terre Rouge 2017 Les Côtes De L'Ouest Syrah (California).** A reduced, earthy aroma at first sniff blows off in a few minutes and leads to tasty plum, woodsmoke and chocolate flavors in this sturdy, full-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 Castelli Family Vineyards 2015 Syrah (Ramona Valley).** Smoked beef-bone, extracted lavender and candied grape-sorbet aromas arise on the nose of this bottling. There are roasted fennel, smoked berry and baked fruit flavors on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.86% **Price:** \$40

## MOURVÈDRE

**95 Stolpman 2018 Mourvèdre (Ballard Canyon).** There's a pure focus to this bottling that will benefit cellaring. Aromas of roasted black plum, black pepper and lavender lead into a palate loaded with iron shavings, graphite, charred beef and taut elderberry fruit. It's tight, and ready for years of enjoyment. Drink now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**94 Birichino 2019 Enz Vineyard Old Vines Mourvèdre (Lime Kiln Valley).** This old-vine bottling packs freshness together with constant intrigue, calling for repeated tastes over the course of multiple days. It begins with aromas of freshly plucked plum, just-ripe cherries, light herbs, rose petals and a streak of stone. The palate follows suit with tense, grippy tannins, a fresh and light body and refreshing flavors of plum and crushed stone. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**94 McKahn 2018 Mourvèdre (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$42

**94 Terre Rouge 2017 Mourvèdre (Sierra Foothills).** Aromas and flavors like sauteed mushrooms with beef jus give this full-bodied wine a different, distinctive personality and reveal the earthy, gamy aspects of Mourvèdre. It's a hearty, savory wine that charts its own path away from commercial styles. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**93 Birichino 2019 Mr. Natural No. 3 Enz Vineyard Old Vine Mourvèdre (Lime Kiln Valley).** Featuring a label collaboration with illustrations by cartoonist Robert Crumb, this is a natural wine done well, starting with lively and peppery aromas of black raspberry, wet rocks and purple-flower blossoms. There's a brilliant sizzle of acidity on the palate, carrying crisp raspberry and pluot flavors

as well as hints of white pepper and beef. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Holly's Hill 2019 Poco Loco Estate Mourvèdre (El Dorado).** Smooth as silk and overflowing with perfectly ripe fruit flavors, this full-bodied but elegant wine is hard to resist. Light tannins and fruit acidity balance the gorgeous red- and black-cherry flavors and linger through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$25

**93 Kaena 2017 Estelle Vineyard Mourvèdre (Los Olivos District).** Rich aromas of black-plum pudding, purple flower and warm cola-flavored cream show on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling. The palate combines a floral extract flavor with cardamom, nutmeg and black-plum paste, set atop a creamy texture and finishing with a slight nut tone. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Stolpman 2019 Pliocene Mourvèdre (Ballard Canyon).** From a densely planted block of own-rooted, head-pruned, "pre-clonal" vines, this still-young bottling begins with aromas of black fruit, wet stone and crumpled violet. There's fascinating tension and grip to the palate, with hints of white pepper, crushed chalk, rose hips and purple-flower flavors. Drink 2022–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**89 Mount Saint Joseph Wines 2017 Mourvèdre (Sierra Foothills).** Black-cherry and sour-cherry flavors give this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine a good, concentrated core while lively acidity keeps it vibrant through the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$37

**87 Vina Moda 2017 Mourvèdre (Sierra Foothills).** This full-bodied wine is soaked with meaty, peppery, oaky notes from the first whiff through the finish. Even the color has a smoky edge. Moderate tannins keep it grippy on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$34

**86 Martin Ranch 2017 Therese Vineyards Victoria Denise Vineyard Mourvèdre (Santa Clara Valley).** Very extracted aromas of prunes, fig and raisin show on the nose of this bottling. Those prune-like elements carry to the sip, where leather, black-pepper and smoked meat flavors arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$34

## PETITE SIRAH

**94 Portalupi 2018 L Venturi Vineyards Petite Sirah (Mendocino County).** This full-bodied wine is serious, powerful and age-worthy. The warm layer of fine-grained tannins that cloaks the enticing woodsmoke, game and blackberry flavors now will melt with time and bring out even more complexity. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$42



**93 Cardella 2017 Francesco's Vineyard Petite Sirah (California).** Outstanding complexity and nuance grace this full-bodied, deep and dark wine. Intriguing aromas of turned earth, tobacco and blackberries lead to layered blueberry and cedar flavors and a velvety layer of fine-grained tannins wraps the palate. Best through at least 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.44% **Price:** \$20

**93 Dovecote 2018 Thompson Vineyard Petite Sirah (Alisos Canyon).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**93 Mettler Family Vineyards 2018 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Lodi).** For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**93 Vina Robles 2018 Estate Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**92 Castelli Family Vineyards 2015 Estate Petite Sirah (Ramona Valley).** For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45

**92 Martin Ranch 2016 Therese Vineyards Victoria Denise Vineyard Petite Sirah (Santa Clara Valley).** Lavender, iodine, tar and dark-berry aromas kick off the nose on this single-vineyard expression from south of San Jose. The floral tones of lavender and violet come quickly on the palate, followed by seared pine needle, dark boysenberry and cracked pepper flavors, with sticky tannins that rise into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**92 Wolff 2018 Petite Sirah (Edna Valley).** Grown on a 125-acre vineyard that's just four miles from the coast, this may be the coolest spot for Petite Sirah on the planet. Aromas of baked boysenberry, lilacs and cola spice lead into a cherry-cola kick on the palate, with touches of pie crust and vanilla. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**91 Barra of Mendocino 2018 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Mendocino).** Gorgeous flavors of blackberry jam, mint and dark chocolate make this full-bodied and mouthfilling wine delicious to sip. While firmly tannic, it offers so much ripe fruitiness that the tannins are hardly noticeable. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Hideaway 2018 Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County).** Aromas of blistered plum, violet and roasted beef in blackberry sauce show on the nose of this muscular bottling. There's a flash of freshness to the palate, where cassis and purple-flower flavors are spiced generously with cracked black pepper. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$45

**90 Chacewater 2015 Petite Sirah (Lake County).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$28

**90 Wilson Creek 2017 Reserve Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley).** A bit lighter in color than other Petite Sirahs, this wine invites the nose with aromas of boysenberry, cracked pepper and wood spice. There's a savory streak to the palate, where roasted meat flavors converge with iodine, baked boysenberry and pencil shavings. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$75

**89 Hungry Hawk 2017 Estate Petite Sirah (San Diego County).** Dried beef, crumpled violets, lavender and leather all show on the nose of this bottling, which is a tad lighter than similar wines. It's relatively delicate on the palate, where roasted fennel, grilled bacon, red currant jam and coffee flavors show. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**86 Peirano 2018 The Heritage Collection Petite Sirah (Lodi).** Relatively light and superfruity, this medium-bodied wine shows an approachable, quaffable side to the varietal. Sweet plums, raspberries and a touch of cherry syrup stand out. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$15

## BARBERA

**94 Portalupi 2018 Shake Ridge Ranch Barbera (Amador County).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

**94 Robert Biale 2018 Gaudi Carli Vineyard Barbera (Calistoga).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 E16 2018 Baby Rattlesnake Vineyard Barbera (El Dorado).** Incredible, effusive and concentrated fruit aromas leap from the glass in this full-bodied, generous and focused wine grown at 2,300 feet. It pours out black cherry, tart cherry and blackberry fruit, framing them nicely in moderate tannins and good acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$38

**91 Europa Village 2017 Vienza Barbera (California).** Rustic aromas of dried herbs, light mint, clove and dried berry show on the nose of this bottling. Hearty flavors of baked berry, wet rocks and chocolate arise on the palate alongside the remnant clove and herb elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$37

**91 Portalupi 2018 Shake Ridge Ranch Barbera (Amador County).** Reduced at first, this full-bodied wine brings on powerful black-cherry and sour-cherry flavors backed by firm tannins and lively acidity. It's a palate-cleansing wine that will pair well with the richest roasts and risottos. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**89 Portalupi 2018 Pauli Ranch Barbera (Mendocino County).** A savory, earthy expression of bay leaves and grape stems gives this medium- to full-bodied wine an interesting twist while plummy flavors, good acidity and light tannins balance it out well. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$45

**86 Vina Moda 2018 Barbera (Sierra Foothills).** Beefy, meaty, toasted-oak and black-pepper flavors dominate this heavily spiced and full-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$34

## SANGIOVESE

**92 Saint K 2019 Like the Snows of Yesteryear White Hawk Vineyard Sangiovese (Santa Barbara County).** Sporting a gun on the label, this is a powerful Sangiovese, starting with ripe aromas of black currant, blackberry, lavender and toast on the nose. It's thick on the palate, where baked and fresh dark-berry flavors meet with dark cocoa and violet. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Al Lago 2017 Adagio Sangiovese (California).** Rich and extracted aromas of black cherry, caramel and creamy fudge show on the nose of this bottling from the hills above Camarillo, which includes 5% Syrah. The palate is viscous, showing strong flavors of loamy soil, black-plum pudding and fig, wrapped in creamy tannins and toasty wood touches. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.95% **Price:** \$65

**90 Chuparosa 2015 Sangiovese (Ramona Valley).** Italian varieties seem to excel in certain corners of Southern California. This bottling shows candied black plum and berry, with hints of rock, loam and sandalwood on the nose. Very dry tannins frame the sip, where oak and blackberry vie for attention. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$28

**90 Midnight 2017 Starlight Sangiovese (Paso Robles).** Cranberry, red-plum-skin, dried red-flower and lively potpourri aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Tart strawberry and cranberry flavors meet with chai spice on the sip, where bright acidity carries into the fresh finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$49

**87 Girasole 2019 Estate Grown Sangiovese (Mendocino).** An aroma like smoked blackberries leads to rich, plummy, black-fruit flavors and hints of milk chocolate in this full-bodied but non-tannic wine. It's fresh, mouthfilling and easy to swallow. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Lava Cap 2018 Sangiovese (El Dorado).** Hints of mint and cedar help give this full-bodied wine a mature, oak-aged, reserve-style personality despite its young age. Medium tannins and rather

strong alcohol lend plenty of appetizing grip to the texture. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$25

**83 Kwaya 2019 Organic Sangiovese (Mendocino).** A smoky, rubber-boot aroma leads to flavors of graphite, charcoal and sour cherry in this rather raw-tasting and full-bodied wine. No added sulfites. —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$18

## ZINFANDEL

**96 Brady Vineyard 2018 Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 15% Price: \$24

**95 Easton 2017 Rinaldi Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Fiddletown).** Earthy, mineral aromas and concentrated, nervy but ripe fruit flavors merge in this full-bodied, firmly textured and moderately tannic wine. Elements of dried herbs and river rocks accent deep wild-berry and roasted plum notes. Best from 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

**95 Limerick Lane 2018 Marquis Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** This is a spectacular showcase and field blend of several incredible sites, including Banfield (36%), Limerick Lane (23%), Soldini (18%), Bedrock (14%) and Carlisle (9%), familiar names to followers of exceptional Zin. Possessed of tension, power and surprisingly high-toned freshness, it is layered in crushed rock, iron and just-picked blackberry. The structure suggests aging; enjoy best from 2028–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$72

**95 Robert Biale 2018 R.W. Moore Vineyard Zinfandel (Coombsville).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$62

**94 Andis 2018 Old Vine Di Stasio Vineyard Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** This complex, well-spiced but also well-balanced wine starts with subtle oak nuances of cinnamon, toast and nutmeg, then reveals a core of rich, ripe black fruits and a mouthfilling texture buoyed by a touch of grippy tannin. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$40

**94 Easton 2017 D'Agostini Bros. Old Vine Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley).** Tempting mint and cinnamon aromas lead to rich, ripe blackberry and raspberry flavors that are wrapped in firm tannins. This absolutely flavor-packed wine from a truly outstanding Zin maker will reward cellaring. Best from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$35

**94 Easton 2017 E Zinfandel (Fiddletown).** Meaty, black-pepper aromas and broad, concentrated wild-berry flavors are framed by a firm structure of tannins and good acidity in this brawny

but well behaved wine. It's full bodied, nicely balanced on a big scale, and shows great depth. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**94 Robert Biale 2018 Black Chicken Zinfandel (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$50

**94 Robert Biale 2018 Valsecchi Vineyard Zinfandel (Carneros).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$58

**94 Robert Biale 2018 Varozza Vineyard Zinfandel (St. Helena).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

**93 Andis 2018 Old Vine Original Grandpère Vineyard Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** For full review see page 9.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$45

**93 High Valley Vineyard 2018 Zinfandel (High Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 15.9% Price: \$32

**93 Portalupi 2018 Shake Ridge Ranch Primitivo (Amador County).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$40

**93 Tres Sabores 2017 Perspective Estate Zinfandel (Rutherford).** This is a captivatingly complex, inviting and interesting estate wine from the western edges of the appellation. It is a mix of white pepper, wild game, wild strawberry and raspberry. With texture and structure, it has a savory element of crushed rock and dust that lasts on the finish. —V.B.  
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

**92 Andis 2018 Painted Fields Old Vine Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$25

**92 Easton 2018 Zinfandel (Amador County).** Pure, polished and deep, this excellent wine starts with a wild-sage and chaparral aroma, then pours on concentrated raspberry and blackberry flavors, accented with a hint of cocoa. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**92 Four Vines 2018 The Biker Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 13.  
abv: 15% Price: \$18

**92 Peachy Canyon 2018 Mustard Creek Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** For full review see page 14.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$42

**92 Portalupi 2018 Shake Ridge Ranch Zinfandel (Amador County).** Opulent fruit flavors and a firm but velvety texture make this full-bodied

wine big and bold. The baking-spice, grilled plum and blackberry-syrup flavors will make it a great after-dinner pour. —J.G.  
abv: 15% Price: \$40

**92 Robert Biale 2018 Falleri Vineyard Zinfandel (Calistoga).** For full review see page 14.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$58

**92 Shannon Ridge 2018 High Elevation Collection Zinfandel (Lake County).** For full review see page 15.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$23

**92 The Hideaway 2018 Motel Zinfandel (Santa Barbara County).** Pristine aromas of blackberry paste meet with white pepper and wet stone on the fresh nose of this bottling, which is one of the few Zinfandels from this county. Clean lines of boysenberry, fennel stalk and more pepper and stone consume the palate. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**91 Bannister 2017 Saini Farms Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** Spicy nutmeg, cinnamon and clove lead the way to a lively palate of red fruit and considerable power, the wine unabashedly full-bodied and fleshy. Still, acidity keeps it graceful and lively, with enduring balance. —V.B.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$36

**91 Birichino 2018 Saint Georges Old Vines Zinfandel (Central Coast).** This bottling, mostly from 1922-planted vines, is a uniquely intellectual spin on Zinfandel, proving unlike most other takes on the grape and somewhat simple, yet constantly calling out for attention. Aromas of red plum, cranberry and light herbs lead into light strawberry, dried meat and more herb tones, as well as a hint of blood. These elements all grow more ethereal with time. —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**91 Easton 2019 Zinster Lot 1852 Zinfandel (Fiddletown).** Aromas of dried herbs, rose petals, salt and pepper meet lively raspberry and cranberry flavors in this medium- to full-bodied wine. Made by fermenting whole clusters, it has an appetizing nip of tannin to firm up the texture. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**91 Hawley 2018 Alegria Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** A field blend with small amounts of Petite Sirah and Alicante Bouschet, this hearty red is thick in interwoven tannin and brawny oak, with a plush mouthfeel throughout. Dark, brooding notes of plum, blackberry and leather lead to a nutmeg-laden finish. —V.B.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$40

**91 Mettler Family Vineyards 2018 Epicenter Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$25

# BUYINGGUIDE

**91 Peachy Canyon 2018 Bailey Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** Juicy aromas of black plum remain focused and intense on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more complex, carrying flavors of roasted blackberry, black pepper, elderberry and purple flowers. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$46

**91 Peachy Canyon 2018 Vortex Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$44

**91 Peter Franus 2016 Brandlin Vineyard Zinfandel (Mount Veeder).** A field blend also including Mourvèdre, Charbono and Carignan, this wine impress in its opening notes of leather and cigar. Thick and concentrated, with generous oak and tannin, it shows brooding flavors of blackberry, dark chocolate, dust and rock. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$40

**91 Ridge 2018 Benito Dusi Ranch Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Aroma of crushed blackberry, black plum and fig meet with a toasted grape-seed touch on the nose of this bottling from a historic ranch. Firm tannins and flashes of acid frame the sip, where roasted fig jam, smoked pork and light prune flavors arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**90 Beran 2017 Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** With old-vine aromas of Christmas spice, leather and mocha, this velvety wine is hearty on the palate in full-bodied concentration and power. Flavors of blackberry, cherry and cranberry dominate across a persistent richness of style. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$22

**90 Concrete 2016 Tank No 209 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** This full-bodied wine tastes rich and somewhat spicy, combining quite ripe blackberry flavors with cedar and black-pepper notes that give it a unique and attractive profile. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$20

**90 Dutcher Crossing 2016 Pritchett Peaks Zinfandel (Rockpile).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$51

**90 LangeTwins 2017 Estate Grown Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** Rich plum and focused black-cherry flavors give this well-balanced wine a tasty center that's wrapped in light tannins and a touch of good acidity. It's appetizing and well-primed for food pairings. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$15

**90 Pellegrini 2018 AV Old Vines Zinfandel (Alexander Valley).** Aged in French oak barrels, this 100% varietal wine opens in a lightness of baking spice, cranberry and dark cherry. Thick tannin and a touch of toasted oak make it robust on the palate, the underlying acidity subtle and solid, with length and breadth. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$35

**89 Barra of Mendocino 2018 Estate Grown Zinfandel (Mendocino).** Fully developed dried-cherry flavors give this full-bodied wine made from organic grapes plenty of fruit concentration while a smooth texture and light tannins add a nice grip to the palate. It's not quite a fruit bomb, but high in ripeness and alcohol. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Hawley 2018 Hawley Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** Rich and jammy with a handful of Petite Sirah, this wine offers deep layers of baked plum, prune, baking spice and vanilla. A dash of black pepper accents the lengthy, full-bodied finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$42

**89 Husch 2018 Estate Bottled Zinfandel (Mendocino).** Attractive cedar and cinnamon notes from oak aging spice up this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine that has a very good core of ripe red-cherry and raspberry flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Michael David 2018 Freakshow Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Midnight 2017 Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Rich, dark and ripe fruit aromas stop just sort of being too prominent on the nose of this bottling, which also shows some purple-flower hints. There is a firm tannic core to the sip, where dark-blackberry and goeey black-plum-sauce flavors arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 16.3% **Price:** \$44

**88 Girasole 2019 Estate Grown Zinfandel (Mendocino).** Superfruity and fresh, this is a very friendly, quaffable version of Zin, offering grapey, jammy flavors on a full body that doesn't feel too tough, due to light tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$14

**88 Hawley 2018 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** With an earthy opening of mushroom and forest, this is a thick, rich and dusty red wine, made from dry-farmed grapes. Bold and full bodied, it offers layers of blackberry, black cherry and vanilla. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$40

**88 Peirano 2016 The Immortal Zin Zinfandel (Lodi).** Lush, plummy fruit flavors mingle with more savory, meaty notes in this richly textured, full-bodied and soft-textured wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$16

**88 Seven Deadly Zins 2017 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$16

**88 Trione 2016 Flatridge Ranch Zinfandel (Sonoma Coast).** Thick in tannin and rich in mocha and marshmallow flavor, this is a ripe, robust wine seasoned in savory elements of black

pepper and sage. The tannins are supportive and supple. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$37

**87 DNA Vineyards 2018 Mud Pie Zinfandel (Mendocino County).** This powerful, full-bodied wine leads with a maple-syrup aroma and then offers fresh raspberry and red-cherry flavors accented by vanilla. It's mouthfilling, has light tannins and a warm finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 OZV 2018 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** This smooth, full-bodied and very ripe-tasting wine seems infused with clove and cedar flavors that rob attention from the blackberry notes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**84 Europa Village 2016 Vienza Primitivo (Temecula Valley).** Quite light in the glass, this bottling shows aromas of roasted fennel and strawberry balsamic sauce. The palate is sharp with tangy acetic tones, though offers a rounded red-fruit touch in the midpalate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$40

## TEMPRANILLO

**94 Bodega de Edgar 2017 Gran Reserva Tempranillo (Paso Robles).** This reserve blend of Paper Street and Denner vineyards, which spent 34 months in 100% new French oak, begins with intense aromas of roasted black currant, black cherry, coffee cream and asphalt. The palate is thick yet snappy with berry-like acidity, savory flavors of singed tobacco and roasted meat, and a cappuccino finish. The tannins are ready, but will last for years. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$100

**89 Peirano 2018 The Heritage Collection Tempranillo (Lodi).** Savory aromas of tobacco, bay leaf and beef stew meet abundant black-cherry and blackberry flavors in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. It has more than enough tasty fruit flavors to balance out the firm structure. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$15

**88 Vina Moda 2018 Tempranillo (Sierra Foothills).** Bold, flavorful and firmly tannic, this full-bodied wine wraps dramatic toasted oak and grilled plum flavors in plenty of grippy tannins and has the concentration needed to keep it balanced. Best through 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$44

## RED BLENDS

**95 Arietta 2018 H Block Hudson Vineyards (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$150

**95 Arietta 2018 Quartet (Napa Valley).** This blends 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24%



Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot into a cohesive whole of complex structure and grace. Cedar, pencil shavings, iron and crushed rock provide a savory foundation complemented by lush richness in the form of dense blueberry, dark chocolate and nutmeg. Enjoy best from 2028–2035. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$75

**95 Arietta 2018 Variation One (Napa Valley).**

Blending 58% Syrah with 42% Merlot both grown on Hudson Vineyard, this is an intriguing, impressively structured and powerful wine with enduring grace. It opens in *garrigue*, iron and oak, with refined, supple and supportive tannins. Black pepper and espresso come to a peak on the long finish, meshing perfectly with the underlying acidity. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$100

**95 Ramey 2016 Template (Napa Valley).**

Ramey blends 70% Merlot from Mount Veeder with 23% Oakville Cabernet Franc and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon from St. Helena for this winning, complex wine that substantially overdelivers on its price. Herbaceous and earthy in peppercorn, cedar and clove, it offers remarkable structure and grace around sublime red fruit and cocoa powder. It will age well. **Editors' Choice.** —V.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**95 Ridge 2017 Monte Bello (Santa Cruz Mountains).**

This iconic bottling, which hails from mountaintop vines that produce less than 1.5 tons per acre, begins with aromas of roasted plum, clove and nutmeg. The blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc is framed by elegantly tense tannins, as baked plum, mace and cardamom flavors consume the midpalate, while the finish stays quite fresh. This epitomizes the definition of Cellar Selection. Drink 2021–2042. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$230

**94 Anonimo 2017 Red (Paso Robles).**

This unique blend of 80% Sangiovese, 10% Mourvèdre and 10% Petit Verdot by Hearst Ranch's winemaker Soren Christensen works extremely well. Aromas of black raspberry, clove, nutmeg and crushed rock leads into a palate that's both tense in structure and yet generous in flavors. Strawberry, sumac, white peppers and rosewater all make a showing. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.

**abv:** NA **Price:** \$40

**94 Arietta 2017 H Block Hudson Vineyards Cabernet Franc-Merlot (Napa Valley).**

A 50–50 marriage of Cabernet Franc and Merlot from the well-farmed site in Carneros, this red opens in cedar, graphite and iron, with a dusty texture and enviable structure. Black currant, raspberry and anise combine around a softness and integration that endures. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$150

**94 Arietta 2017 Quartet (Napa Valley).**

Dark and brooding, this blends 68% Cabernet

Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. With savory, herbal components that contrast beautifully against the juicy plum and dark currant, the wine finishes in toasted oak. Enjoy best from 2027–2035. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$75

**94 Daou 2018 Eye of the Falcon Reserve (Paso Robles).**

For full review see page 6. **Price:** \$75

**94 Niner 2016 Fog Catcher Estate Grown (Paso Robles).**

For full review see page 8. **Price:** \$100

**94 Terre Rouge 2017 L'Autre (Sierra Foothills).**

This full-bodied, aromatic and complex wine opens a spice box full of cedar, clove, tobacco and tamarind aromas that lead to meaty, mushroomy flavors backed by moderate tannins for good balance. It's hard to find this kind of earthy, spicy, savory and nuanced wine in California. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**94 Vina Robles 2018 The Arborist Estate Red Blend (Paso Robles).**

For full review see page 9. **Editors' Choice.**

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**93 Al Lago 2017 Sonata (California).**

Roasted red-plum and strawberry aromas converge with cured meat, pepper and seared tomato on the nose of this blend of 43% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Sangiovese and 7% Cabernet Franc. There's compelling tension to the palate, where black- and white-pepper flavors decorate the dark-plum and charred meat tones. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$65

**93 Anonimo 2016 Red (Paso Robles).**

This inventive blend of 74% Sangiovese, 16% Mourvèdre and 10% Petite Sirah beautifully captures dark-strawberry, scarlet-red rose-petal, sumac, cinnamon and milk-chocolate aromas on the nose. There is a texture of chiseled stone on the palate, where dark berry, pepper spice and a hint of leather interact with ample acidity. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**93 Dusty Nabor 2017 NSO (California).**

Zesty black raspberry, damson plum, cracked pepper, fig paste and a gamy tang show on the nose of this Grenache and Syrah blend, which is quite complex for the price point. Sagebrush and fennel-bulb flavors meet with roasted red plum and mulberry on the intriguing palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

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

**93 Harrington 2018 Hard Luck (California).**

Baked raspberry and strawberry aromas meet with clove, wild plum and a hit of herbs on the nose of this bottling. There's an herbal array to the palate, where sagebrush flavors meet with rounded plum, as firm enough tannins run from front to back. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$25

**93 Harrington 2018 Tempesta (California).**

Bryan Harrington championed obscure grapes in this now-retired brand, including the 64% Corvina, a Venetian grape, that he blended with 36% Pinot Noir in this bottling. Light in the glass, the wine begins with raspberry-paste, riverstone and damp soil aromas. Lively flavors of cranberry, red currant and candied rose petals show on the fascinating sip, which also offers a tense and stony structure. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.

**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$30

**93 Imagery 2017 Gee eS eM (North Coast).**

Spicy, complex and mouthfilling, this alluring, oak-influenced wine blends luscious black-fruit flavors with baking spices, new leather and tobacco nuances for a fascinating and delicious profile. A velvety texture of fine-grained tannins nicely wraps up all the chocolate, blackberry and sweet plum flavors. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**93 Kaena 2017 Cuvée Lucille Charlies Vineyard (Ballard Canyon).**

This blend of 65% Grenache and 35% Syrah is powerful and rich, loaded with baked boysenberry, licorice and French toast spices on the nose. The palate is viscous with flavors of roasted red plum and chai spices, particularly clove and cardamom. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$65

**93 Limerick Lane 2018 Estate Cuvée (Russian River Valley).**

Combining 63% Zinfandel, 27% Syrah and 10% Petite Sirah from the producer's estate, this blend invites one in with aromas and flavors of fresh blackberry, nutmeg and vanilla bean. Soft and supple on the palate, it has full-bodied intensity with complex accents of black pepper, leather and coffee. —V.B.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$85

**93 McPrice Myers 2018 Beautiful Earth (Paso Robles).**

This blend of 64% Syrah, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Grenache, 6% Mourvèdre, 4% Petite Sirah and 2% Clairette Blanche is still young and tight on the nose, but it allows aromas of black currant, cola and seared wood to emerge. The palate combines black raspberry and lavender onto a taut frame of tannins that release their grip with time. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40

**93 Midnight 2017 Zenith (Paso Robles).**

This is a booming blend of 50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Malbec and 12% Petit Verdot that starts with candied cassis and violet on the intense and powerful nose. The tannins are well polished on the sip yet with just enough edge to carry the dark-fruit, tobacco and lilac flavors into the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$75

**93 Peake Ranch 2018 Bellis Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).**

Wet stone, lavender, black raspberry and char show on this blend of Syrah and Grenache from a property where the Rhône grapes are thriving. The palate is hearty with cassis, tart with black

# BUYINGGUIDE

raspberry, floral with purple buds, and finished on a savory kick of charred meat. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$40

**93 Pegasus Estate 2017 Quadrille (Santa Ynez Valley).** Fresh black raspberry makes for a lively aromatic entry to the nose of this blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Petit Verdot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 6% Merlot, while crushed lava rocks add a mineral-like tension. A similar scheme plays out on the sip, where snappy boysenberry flavors meet with a rocky minerality, packaged in a tannic frame that should last a while. Drink 2021–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**93 Porterhouse Winery 2016 Porterhouse Reserve (Santa Ynez Valley).** Deep and dark aromas of black-currant pie, clove, vanilla and roasted meats emerge from on the nose of this wine, which is almost opaque in the glass. The roasted meat component comes on strong through the palate, where seared beef and blistered blackberry and blueberry flavors ride a generous acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$60

**93 San Lorenzo Winery 2018 Rock Garden Hillside (Alexander Valley).** Seamless tannin, earth, cedar and pencil shavings accent this bold blend of 90% Zinfandel with 5% Petite Sirah and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Clove and vanilla flavors build on the midpalate. The body weight is substantial and brightened in blackberry, currant and cassis. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$48

**93 San Lorenzo Winery 2018 The Pearl (Alexander Valley).** This is a field blend from a vineyard bought by proprietor Pete Seghesio's grandfather in 1896, the site itself dating back to 1892. Leading with 55% Zinfandel, there's Petite Sirah, Alicante Bouschet, Carignane and other mixed reds. Together, they make for a bright, thick and earthy expression of dense red fruit, cedar and cigar box, coming together into a full-bodied, impressive whole. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$70

**92 Bargetto 2016 La Vita (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Ripe aromas of damson plum, mahogany and licorice kick off the nose of this unique blend of 47% Refosco, 29% Dolcetto and 24% Nebbiolo. The palate is tightly woven with tannins that rise into the finish, carrying flavors of boysenberry juice, fennel pollen and wood spice. Drink now through 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**92 Black Ridge 2015 San Andreas Red (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's an elegant cohesion to this blend of four traditional Bordeaux grapes (minus the Petit Verdot), offering black plum, cassis, olive, dried meat and nutmeg spice on the nose. The palate kicks off on smooth tannins that slowly rise in firmness, carrying black-plum

and lavender flavors toward the finish. Drink now through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**92 Dovecote 2016 Redtail Thompson Vineyard (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**92 Hook or Crook 2018 Field Blend Reserve (Lodi).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**92 Kaena 2016 Hapa (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is a very rich kitchen-sink blend of 24% Syrah, 22% Grenache, 22% Merlot, 11% Mourvèdre, 11% Tempranillo, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Petit Verdot, starting with aromas of blackberry jam, black-plum juice, caramel and cola. There's a blast of acid at the tip of the sip and a firm tannic structure, which envelops the cola, fudge, caramel and dark-fig flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**92 Niner 2017 Heart Hill Vineyard Twisted Spur (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** For full review see page 14. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$75

**92 Sandar & Hem 2018 Red (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon explores the elegant edge of Bordelaise style, starting with aromas of blackberry jam, dark plum and dark strawberry. The palate is framed by sharp acidity that cuts into the darker purple fruits and maintains a medium body throughout. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$44

**92 Shannon Ridge 2018 Buck Shack Small Batch Red Wine (Lake County).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**92 Sunstone 2018 Founder's Reserve (Santa Ynez Valley).** Aromas of dark-red berries, warm fruitcake and a touch of toasted grape seed kick off the nose of this blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. There is a pleasant freshness to the palate, where boysenberry and blueberry flavors meet with roasted wood, cured meat and a rocky minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

**92 Toccata 2017 Riseerva (Santa Barbara County).** This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese, Merlot, Freisa and Petit Verdot offers a roadmap for a successful Super Tuscan style. Aromas of roasted black currant and black plum meet with grilled meats, cola and violet on the dynamic nose. It approaches the palate smoothly before more rigid tannins arise, with dark berry, cardamom and cracked pepper flavors. Drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**91 Black Ridge 2015 Winemaker's Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's a structure that often comes with Santa Cruz Mountain wines that just won't quit. This bottling begins with aromas of oregano, pepper, mahogany, iron and dried cherry on the nose, followed by smoked oak, cured meat and dark cranberry on the palate. But it's the tannic core that ensures a long, savory life. Drink now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**91 Chiron Wines 2017 Virtue and Vice (Napa Valley).** This blends 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 3% Petite Sirah and 1% Petit Verdot. Plummy, it is juicy and robust on the palate, with supple, integrated tannin and oak. Baking spice and black pepper play on the lengthy finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**91 Claiborne & Churchill 2018 Red (San Luis Obispo County).** This blend of 65% Syrah and 35% Grenache offers aromas of concentrated black plum, boysenberry-pie crust and a hint of star anise on the nose. The palate pops with plum and light berry flavors, picking up floral tones of violet and lilac, as well as a Concord grape touch. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$46

**91 DNA Vineyards 2017 Coro (Mendocino County).** This full-bodied and firmly tannic wine holds its ample black-cherry and blackberry flavors pretty tightly so it will pair nicely with braises and roasts or a mushroom risotto. Best from 2024. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**91 Dovecote 2017 Redtail Thompson Vineyard (Alisos Canyon).** Focused aromas of black currant, violet extract and charred beef make for a very floral nose on this blend of 31% Grenache, 23% Syrah, 23% Mourvèdre and 23% Petite Sirah. There is black-plum and berry-paste intensity to the sip, which is delicate in texture and full of purple-flower and licorice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55

**91 Kaena 2016 Buona Terra Stag Canyon Vineyard (Los Olivos District).** Strong aromas of smashed blackberry sauce and black-plum skins show on the nose of this blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Petit Verdot from a vineyard on the eastern edge of this district. Smooth and soft tannins are expertly managed on the palate, allowing the dark-fruit flavors to pair with the nutmeg and mace spice tones. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$70

**91 Kaena 2016 Kuliouou Cuvée Alamo Creek Ranch (San Luis Obispo County).** Strong aromas of potpourri, blackberry jam, licorice and sandalwood show on the nose of this blend of 65% Grenache and 35% Syrah from a hidden vineyard north of the Santa Maria Valley. The sip is tense in structure, which frames the exuberant cassis, fig and baked licorice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$40

**91 Stolpman 2019 La Cuadrilla (Ballard Canyon).** This blend of 70% Syrah, 15% Grenache and 15% Sangiovese, which is directed by and directly benefits the winery's full-time vineyard crew, begins with aromas of roasted yet crisp red fruit, rose petals and grilled meats, with an underlying carbonic tone. The palate is bright and zesty, with fresh fruits, white-pepper and charred meat flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$22

**91 Terre Rouge 2017 Tête-à-Tête (Sierra Foothills).** This big and engaging wine made from Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah is full bodied, ripe, layered and delicious. It gushes with strawberry, sweet plum and dried cherry flavors supported by good acidity and moderate tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Beringer 2017 Quantum (Napa Valley).** This is a hugely concentrated blend of all five Bordeaux red varieties, leading with 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot. Plum, dark berry and earth lead to a midpalate of dried herb, cedar and clove, with rich, full-bodied ripeness at its core. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**90 Chiron Wines 2016 Virtue and Vice (Napa Valley).** Blended with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 5% Petite Sirah, this red is thick in oak and tannin, with an intensity of blackberry and dark-cherry fruit. With accents of leather, gun smoke and toast, it has a juicy finish. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$60

**90 Chloe 2018 No. 249 (North Coast).** This ripe jammy, effusive wine overflows with blackberry, black-grape and dark-chocolate flavors on a velvety texture of fine-grained tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$18

**90 Cuda Ridge 2018 Melange d'Amis Reserve (Livermore Valley).** Well-defined mint and cedar aromas lead to vibrant red-cherry and baking-spice flavors lifted by balanced tannins and acidity. This is a well-focused, palate-cleansing wine that will be versatile at the dinner table. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$55

**90 Erosion NV The Floor is Lava! (Napa Valley).** Dark, rich layers of chocolate, tobacco, clove and nutmeg highlight a luxurious palate of 98% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Merlot in this fun, flavorful can. Bold, ripe and supple, it is bright while also spicy and concentrated. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$59/250 ml

**90 Harrington 2018 Eros III Cep Sumu Kaw Vineyard (El Dorado County).** Light in the glass, this blend of 49% Mourvèdre, 26% Syrah and 25% Grenache shows sour strawberry and dank herbs on the nose. Thyme, sagebrush and bay-leaf flavors arise on the palate, where tart black-plum-skin flavors dominate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$35

**90 McPrice Myers 2018 High on the Hog (Paso Robles).** Dark baked cherry, cassis, violet and woody earth aromas show on the nose of this affordably priced red blend. There's a hearty soil component on the front end of the palate, where oregano and marjoram meet with dark-fruit, soy and char flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$20

**90 Mount Veeder 2017 Reserve (Napa Valley).** A blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot and 6% Malbec, this wine is thick, concentrated and powerful in sticky, grippy tannin. Black fruit, leather and dried herb combine across a foundation of toasted oak and baking spice that appeal in full-bodied intensity. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**90 Ramey 2017 Claret (North Coast).** The producer pulls from Napa Valley, High Valley, Alexander Valley and the Russian River Valley to combine 44% Cabernet Sauvignon with 20% Merlot, 14% Malbec, 12% Petit Verdot, 8% Syrah and 2% Cabernet Franc. The result is an outstanding value and a food-friendly table wine that is seamless and Old World in style, with ample elements of structure, black fruit, tobacco, tomato leaf and toasted oak. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**90 Robert Mondavi 2017 Maestro (Napa Valley).** A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec. Meaty and iron-filled, it offers powerfully dense black fruit, tobacco and cedar that dance along the palate, finishing in toasted oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**90 Sapien 2017 Red (Santa Ynez Valley).** Crushed boysenberry and violet-paste aromas make for a rich nose on this blend of Sangiovese, Mourvèdre and Grenache. The palate is tighter, offering dried violet, elderflower and jasmine flavors as well as açai sorbet. The tannins and acidity make for a long finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**90 Sequoia Grove 2016 Cambium (Napa Valley).** Made from 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, this bold, brawny blend is powerfully dusty, thick and tannic. The structure is impressive and complex, its fruit profile a mix of currant, cassis and plum encased in prominent oak. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$135

**90 Seven Deadly 2017 Red Wine (Lodi).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$16

**90 Sunstone 2018 Villa Soleil (Santa Ynez Valley).** Strong aromas of berry and cassis kick off the nose of this blend of 54% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 22% Syrah. It lands with a rich heft on the palate, where aged strawberry and goeey

black-currant flavors are wrapped in vanilla tones. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**90 Vina Moda 2017 Vinas (Sierra Foothills).** Flavors like salt and pepper and grilled beef give this full-bodied wine a rich, robust profile. Made from mostly Syrah and Petite Sirah, it is concentrated and deep, lightly tannic, with persistent plum and savory notes on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40

**90 Winemaker's Folly 2018 Chapter 1 Vino Tinto (Sonoma County).** Jake Bilbro's ode to simpler times growing up a winemaker's son in Sonoma County, this red combines 76% Syrah, 19% Zinfandel, 4% Grenache and 1% Petite Sirah. Meant to be a table wine without fuss, it overdelivers on that premise with bold, approachable flavors of blackberry, blueberry, wild game and a bit of *garrigue*. Soft and easy to enjoy, it's a great, full-bodied wine. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$26

**89 Apriori 2016 Proprietary Red (California).** This full-bodied wine is big and bold, packed with good black-fruit flavors and supported by moderate tannins. It has a mouthfilling texture and good grip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**89 Dashe Cellars 2017 Delta Reds (California).** Rich, fruity and concentrated, this full-bodied wine is packed with ripe black-fruit flavors and wrapped in a big, smooth texture with light tannins. Carignan and Mourvèdre grapes form the bulk of the blend. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$24

**89 Pestoni Family 2017 1892 Field Blend (Lake County).** This powerful, full-bodied wine based on Zinfandel is packed with wild-berry and black-pepper flavors on a big structure of firm tannins and ripe alcohol. Earthy, dusty aromas meet dried cherry and berry on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$28

**89 Retzlaff 2014 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Livermore Valley).** This firmly textured and mature wine is laser-focused on vivid cherry flavors from the aroma to the palate and finish. Red and black cherry and some sour cherry too are lightly shaded in baking spices and bolstered by moderate tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$42

**89 Sapien 2017 Estate Reserve (Santa Ynez Valley).** This unorthodox blend of Sangiovese, Mourvèdre and Grenache is intriguing, offering deep and dark aromas of black plum, cassis, violet and baking spice. The palate is awash in ripe fruit, from blistered berries to dark plums, with loads of acidity pumping into the baking-spice-kissed finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$52



**89 Topa Mountain Winery 2017 Chief Peak (Ventura County).** Plum paste, strawberry extract, licorice and caramelized berries show on the nose of this blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Grenache from Ventura County grapes. Fennel-bulb and roasted black-plum flavors appear on the palate, which is medium to lightly bodied in texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40

**89 Vigilance 2017 Cimarron (Lake County).** This concentrated and focused wine emphasizes vivid fruit flavors and good acidity for a lively, mouthcleansing effect. Black-cherry, cranberry and blackberry notes make it engaging, and moderate tannins keep the mouthfeel fresh. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$25

**89 Vina Moda 2018 Vinas (Sierra Foothills).** There is a nice meaty note in this full-bodied, rich wine blended from Mourvèdre, Syrah and Grenache grapes. It offers delicious berries, plums and a bit of woodsmoke backed by light tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$36

**89 Zaca Mesa 2017 Repose (Santa Ynez Valley).** Broiled berries and a hint of caramel show on the nose of this blend of Rhône and Bordeaux grapes. It lands with thickness and density on the palate, where rich flavors of fig and prune meet with roasted meat elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**88 Donati Family Vineyard 2016 The Immigrant (Paicines).** Roasted plum, berry, crushed rock and strong oak aromas show on the nose of this bottling that honors the family's ancestors. There's a savory streak to the sip, where smoked pork in cranberry sauce, dried herbs and leather flavors arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

**88 E16 2018 Baby Rattlesnake Vineyard G-S-M (El Dorado).** Wood-char aromas give way to concentrated red- and black-fruit flavors that are strongly accented by black-pepper and beef notes in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$38

**88 Erosion NV Afraid of Clowns (Napa Valley).** Tannic and earthy in cedar and dried herb, this is a robust, thick and concentrated red, blending Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc. Smooth texture emphasizes its rich, velvety soul. —V.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45/250 ml

**88 Erosion NV How Big? (Napa Valley).** Combining 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 6% Petite Sirah, 3% Cabernet Franc and 3% Zinfandel, this is an unabashedly big, soft and velvety rich red, thick in toast and blackberry jam. Roasted marshmallow adds a lasting confectionery note. —V.B.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$59/250 ml

**88 Frey 2019 Biodynamic Field Blend (Mendocino).** Jammy, fresh aromas lead to darker, richer black-fruit flavors in this full-bodied and firmly tannic wine. It shows a deep, dark color, tasty black-cherry and dark-chocolate flavors and has a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Gundlach Bundschu 2018 Mountain Cuvée (Sonoma County).** This is an impressive blend, leading with 81% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, with smaller amounts of Petit Verdot and Syrah. Big, bold and brawny, it broods in dark fruit, toasted oak and accents of cedar, cigar and dried herb, with ample structure, texture and length. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Lost Poet 2018 Red Blend (California).** This medium-bodied wine offers light herb, smoked meat and ripe plum flavors accented by smoke and baking-spice notes. It's well balanced and only lightly tannic. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$17

**88 Mount Saint Joseph Wines 2017 Confession (Sierra Foothills).** Solid in quality, and subtle in flavor, this full-bodied and well-balanced wine balances tasty plum and red-cherry notes with a lightly gripping texture and good acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88 Mount Saint Joseph Wines 2017 Marelllo (Sierra Foothills).** This lively and slightly tangy wine offers fresh red-cherry flavors, soft tannins and good balance. It's smooth in texture and keeps revealing more fruit flavors through the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$35

**88 OneHope 2018 Vintner Collection (California).** Generous red- and black-cherry flavors give this full-bodied wine plenty to like, while the snappy, lightly tannic texture is appetizing. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**88 Peirano 2018 The Other (Lodi).** A light herbal aroma leads to nicely ripe and rich red- and black-cherry flavors while a full body and moderate tannins give the wine good structure. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$18

**88 Skyside 2018 Red (North Coast).** A tempting black-fig aroma leads to rich black-fruit flavors and good balance in this dry, lightly tannic and well-concentrated wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Sunstone 2018 Rapsodie (Santa Barbara County).** Roasted blackberry, coffee cream, liquid lilac and grape-seed aromas show on the nose of this blend of 70% Grenache, 24% Syrah and 6% Mourvèdre. Crushed berries and grape-seed tones also show on the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**88 The Messenger 2018 Chara (Shenandoah Valley).** Beef and black-pepper aromas give this wine a big personality without totally overdoing it. It's dry, full bodied, moderately tannic and backs up the oaky, spicy notes with good, subdued berry flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$25

**88 Z. Alexander Brown 2018 Proprietary Red (California).** A smoky, beefy aroma and rich, ripe plum and dried herb flavors give this full-bodied wine a lot to like and a smooth texture wraps it all up. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Bonterra NV Red Wine (California).** Full bodied and moderately tannic, this dark-colored wine oozes woodsmoke and blackberry flavors, presenting a very hearty, robust character. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23/1.5 L

**87 Cline 2018 Cashmere Black (California).** Big and smooth, this full-bodied wine made from Petite Sirah and Alicante Bouschet grapes offers plenty of jammy fruit and peppery oak flavors, a bit of sweetness and a soft touch in the texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Peirano 2018 Illusion (Lodi).** Floral and licorice aromas are backed up by good, rich grapey, jammy flavors in this smooth and broad-textured wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$20

**87 Retzlaff 2016 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Livermore Valley).** Lots of well-ripened dark fruits from plum to blackberry to black olive give this wine plenty of flavor to savor, while a smooth and not very tannic texture keeps it relatively soft on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$44

**87 Rodney Strong 2016 Knotty Vines (California).** Strong cocoa and coffee aromas meet up with robust black-fruit and sweet-spicy oak flavors in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. It's not bad at all for the genre. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Shannon Ridge 2018 Urgency (California).** Concentrated and full bodied, this deeply colored wine packs in dried plum and raisin flavors that are tinged with black pepper, milk chocolate and mint. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$30

**87 Vina Moda 2018 Phoenix (Stanislaus County).** This robust wine leads with black-pepper and charred oak aromas, then pours ripe blackberry flavors on a moderately tannic texture. Blended from mostly Primitivo and Tannat it's boisterous and tasty. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$34

**86** **75 Wine Co. 2019 The Sum (California).** This full-bodied wine seems softened with a touch of sweetness, and offers lots of graphite, herb, olive and oak flavors for more of a savory expression than an outright fruity one. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86** **It's a Headsnapper NV Radiant (California).** This nicely blended and smooth-textured wine goes easy on the tannins and acid, and coats the palate with milk-chocolate and sweet plum flavors. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**86** **Melodramatic 2018 Red Wine (California).** A bit of sweetness rounds the edges of this full-bodied, rich and jammy wine. It is saturated with blackberry and plum notes and has a smooth texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**85** **It's a Headsnapper NV Dark (California).** This full-bodied wine offers heavy tamarind and steak-sauce aromas and beefy, berry-like flavors. It is quite oaky and obvious in flavor and somewhat tannic in texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**84** **Brownstone NV Red (California).** Prune, raisin and chocolate flavors saturate this soft and somewhat sweet wine. It's medium bodied and smooth in texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

**84** **Keynote NV Red (California).** An oaky sweet-seeming spiciness dresses up this broad-textured and full-bodied wine, pouring out cinnamon, clove and maraschino-cherry flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**84** **Rotation Vineyards 2018 Red (Lodi).** A smoky, rubber-tire aroma and black-pepper flavors give this full-bodied wine a dark, charred profile. It's moderately tannic and pretty extreme in flavor. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER RED WINES

**95** **Harrington 2016 Luna Matta Vineyard Nebbiolo (Paso Robles).** Nebbiolo lovers should lament that Bryan Harrington is retiring his brand, as he mastered the grape like few others in California. This bottling is full of spicy plum, raspberry, pepper, rose and earthy soils on the nose. The palate combines those rocky flavors and structure with rosewater, light strawberry, tar and nutmeg, elements that will only focus with time. Drink 2023–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**95** **Stasis 2019 Murmur Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 5. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$42

**94** **Harrington 2018 Calleri Vineyard Gamay (San Benito County).** This is a wild spin on Gamay, full of heady earth tones from first sniff to finish. Light in the glass, it begins with aromas of crushed rainbow peppercorns, smashed olives and freshly dug mud pit. The palate is loaded with forest-floor flavors, from the soil to the pine needles, with wild-thyme, cherry, cherry-pit and tea-leaf flavors all singing as well. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

**94** **Harrington 2018 Calleri Vineyard Sagrantino (San Benito County).** For full review see page 7. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$35

**93** **Bodega de Edgar 2018 Gracias Paper Street Vineyard Graciano (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** When Graciano was accidentally planted across the Central Coast, vintners were mostly pleased with the result, and this wine shows why. Bolstered by 5% each Mourvèdre, Tempranillo and Grenache, it's very inky in the glass, offering fresh aromas of Luxardo cherry and lilac. The palate is full of fresh acidity that cuts through the cassis, violet and açai flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$58

**93** **Wolff 2018 Teroldego (Edna Valley).** Lush and jammy while expertly ripe aromas of black cherry and boysenberry meet with vanilla and baking spice on the nose of this fresh and fun wine. The grape hails from the cooler spots of northeastern Italy, which fits the Edna Valley, producing a palate of smooth tannins, blackberry-pie flavors and spice accents of star anise and mace. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$34

**92** **Dogwood & Thistle 2018 Testa Vineyard Carignan (Mendocino).** This wine is sleek and elegant, combining red- and black-fruit flavors on a smooth texture lifted by subtle acidity and very light tannins. The raspberry and Bing cherry flavors are nicely concentrated, lingering through the graceful finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$38

**92** **Midnight 2017 Titan Tannat (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 14. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$49

**91** **Europa Village 2017 Vienza Montepulciano (Temecula Valley).** Italian grapes seem to thrive in this warmer region, as evidenced in this bottling's aromas of red currant, rose petals, wet stone and sandalwood. Baked cranberry and raspberry meet with cigar-box elements and peppery spice on the palate, which is fresh and light. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$36

**91** **Hungry Hawk 2018 Carmenère (San Diego County).** Roasted red-fruit, rose-petal and white-pepper aromas make for a cohesive nose on this bottling of a Bordeaux grape that's most common in Chile today. Crisp black raspberry and more

pepper spice meet with lightly dried herbs on the acid-driven palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$44

**90** **Martin Ranch 2017 Therese Vineyards Victoria Denice Vineyard Carignane (Santa Clara Valley).** Smashed blackberry jam and lilac meet with a tart edge on the nose of this bottling of this once prominent grape that is growing in popularity again. The palate is very floral with violet and lavender as well as spicy with black pepper, leading into a cedar-touched finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$32

**89** **Hawk Watch Winery 2017 Solo Barrique Tannat (South Coast).** This is a smoky bottling, beginning with aromas of roasted black plum, grilled berries and hickory. The palate is loaded with wood spice and woodsmoke, which are pleasant elements alongside those roasted fruits and lingering tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$58

**88** **Europa Village 2017 Bolero Monastrell (Temecula Valley).** Rusty red-fruit aromas meet with bloody earth tones on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows dried berry, smoke, oak and a vanilla finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**88** **Kaena 2016 Stag Canyon Vineyard Petit Verdot (Los Olivos District).** Very dark in the glass, this wine offers dark-plum, fruitcake and melted chocolate aromas on a very ripe nose. The mouthfeel is very full and lush, offset by balsamic black-plum flavors, a rich prune streak and baking-pice elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

## SWEET WINES

**92** **Covenant 2018 Zahav Late Harvest Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain).** Thick and lovely in flavors of honey, apricot and vanilla, this dessert wine is balanced and delightful, made from whole-cluster pressed grapes and barrel-fermented from late-harvested grapes. It has a lushness on the palate that finishes with just a touch of brightness and energy. Kosher. —V.B.  
**abv:** 11.7% **Price:** \$28/375 ml

**92** **Harrington 2017 Angelica Mission (California).** Based on recipes from the days of Spanish friars, this dessert bottling is a unique shade of ruby brown in the glass, offering aromas of wood and dried plums. The whole experience is unique, really, including the palate's mix of fresher strawberry, bourbon, dank oak, vanilla and cigar flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 17.5% **Price:** \$36/375 ml

**90** **Patland 2015 D'Oro Red Dessert Petite Sirah (Napa Valley).** Made from Petite Sirah grapes and fortified with Germain-Robin Brandy, this dessert wine is dark and syrupy, viscous in salty dark chocolate, cigar box and Christmas spice. With

# BUYINGGUIDE

secondary aromas of sandalwood and fig, it delivers great flavor and decadence. —V.B.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$80/375 ml

**91 Kaena 2017 Late Harvest Rancho Rio Robles Vineyard Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley).** A slightly dark shade of yellow in the glass, this late-harvest wine is full of melon, plumeria and wild-flower honey on the nose. It's viscous and smooth on the palate, where acidity keeps the wine fresh as it grows thicker and sweeter, offering honey, mango-sorbet and creamy orange flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Dashe Cellars 2017 Lily Hill Vineyard Late Harvest Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** With 11% residual sugar, this late-harvest wine spent eight months in oak, soaking in great flavors of baked plum, prune and Christmas ginger cake. With a punch of acidity it remains vibrant and complex within its viscous concentration and supple texture. —V.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30/375 ml

**90 Carol Shelton 2019 Black Magic Late Harvest Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$20/375 ml

**90 Europa Village 2004 Bolero Cellars Tesoro Del Sol Zinfandel (Temecula Valley).** A dark shade of brownish red in the glass, this 16-year-old dessert Zinfandel smells of prune, raisin, caramel and cigar wrapper, with enough alcohol to burn the nose a bit. The palate is quite balanced in texture and acidity, as lingering tannins uphold the baked prune, cola spice, leather and smoky cigar flavors rather impressively. —M.K.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$50/500 ml

## WASHINGTON

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**91 Cymbal 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** Pear, citrus, kiwi and pineapple aromas are followed by full, fleshy tropical-fruit flavors, with plenty of acidity backing them up. There's hang time on the finish. It's an enchanting look at the variety's fuller bodied side and will have a long life ahead of it. Best after 2022. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**91 Lobo Hills 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** The aromas are expressive, with notes of gooseberry, kiwi, underripe pineapple and lemon zest, and are thoroughly compelling. The palate shows a lovely sense of restraint and freshness to the richly textured kiwi flavors. Mouthwatering acidity enlivens it all. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Aquilini 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Red Mountain).** The aromas are light, with notes of herb, citrus and whiffs of tropical fruit. Full-bodied

guava, kiwi and pineapple flavors lead to a warm finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.66% **Price:** \$35

**90 H3 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills).** Appealing aromas of grass, green pepper, guava and citrus lead to crisp, tart, lemony flavors. It's everything there is to love about this variety at a terrific price. *Best Buy.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**88 Airfield Estates 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** Guava, pineapple and citrus aromas lead to light lemon flavors that hang on the finish. There are good things happening, but the flavors are light in concentration. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$15

**86 Waterbrook 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** Aromas of dried rose petal and herb lead to flavors that fall a bit flat, looking for a hook to hang the hat on. Tart acidity lingers on the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.34% **Price:** \$13

## CHARDONNAY

**93 House of Bones 2018 Celilo Vineyard Chardonnay (Washington).** The aromas bring notes of muscat, pumpkin puree and lemon curd, not fully in harmony initially but melding together over time. It's medium weight and flavorful, with the vibrant acidity and mineral notes that this vineyard brings. Don't touch it now. Best after 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$45

**91 Ashan 2019 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** The aromas are pleasing, with notes of ripe, cut pineapple, fig and almond. Rich pineapple and other tropical-fruit flavors follow, bringing density and balance. It shows the variety's riper, fuller side. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Luke 2019 Chardonnay (Ancient Lakes).** All of the fruit for this wine comes from Evergreen Vineyard. Aged in third-fill barrels and neutral oak with 50% malolactic fermentation, the aromas of apple, pumpkin and talc are plentiful. The palate is bright and fresh, with lemony flavors. It brings texture and tension. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$22

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**95 DeLille 2019 Roussanne (Red Mountain).** The aromas are intoxicating, with notes of apricot, sea shell and herb showing complexity. The flavors display texture, depth, purity, balance and length. The acid balance in particular is exquisite. It's an accomplishment for this variety and for white wines in the state. It is delicious now but has

a long life ahead of it. Best from 2022–2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 DeLille 2019 Chaleur Blanc 25th Vintage (Columbia Valley).** With 69% Sauvignon Blanc and 31% Sémillon, this wine is still in its shell at present. It offers aromas of toast, nut oil, tropical fruit and lemon zest that need time to get going. The palate is all about sophistication, showing a pleasing sense of depth and polish, along with vibrant acidity. It has all the stuffing to excel in the cellar. Best from 2024–2029, with plenty of life beyond that. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$35

**91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2019 Riesling (Columbia Valley).** The aromas intoxicate, with notes of white peach, lime, jasmine and flower. Off-dry leaning sweeter stone fruit and Nectea Lemon Iced Tea flavors follow, with a strong sense of acidity threading through it. The balance and intensity are exquisite. It's everything one could want from this variety. *Best Buy.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$9

**91 Lobo Hills 2017 Roth Rock Farm Chenin Blanc (Yakima Valley).** The aromas intrigue, with notes of muscat gummy, mineral, toasted grape nuts and whiffs of tropical fruit. It's rounded in feel, with an exquisite sense of tension that the acid ratchets up through the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2019 Cold Creek Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Valley).** The aromas are charming, with notes of lime leaf, white peach and wet rock. Just off-dry lemon iced tea flavors follow. It's a lovely expression of the variety. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Structure 2019 Oculus Viognier (Columbia Valley).** Expressive aromas of apricot, flower and jasmine are followed by full-bodied, plentiful stone-fruit flavors. It's weighty, but with ample acidity to keep it tied together. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$25

**89 Lone Birch 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Gris (Yakima Valley).** Bright aromas of pear and cantaloupe lead to fleshy kiwi, papaya and other tropical-fruit flavors. It's a cornucopia of fruit, with a zing on the finish tying it together. *Best Buy.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$12

**87 Waterbrook 2019 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley).** As much about feel as flavor, this wine is a bit reductive out of the gate. Beyond that are medium-bodied apple favors that bring some life on this otherwise neutral-seeming wine. —S.S.  
**abv:** 11.79% **Price:** \$13



## ROSÉS

**88 DeLille 2019 Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Grenache (47%) and Mourvèdre (45%) make up most of this wine, with the rest Cinsault. Pale-salmon colored edging slightly darker, the aromas bring notes of satsuma, cherry and watermelon. The palate is full bodied, seeming quite ponderous. There's nice acid, but the wine still gets weighted down. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$32

**87 H3 2019 Rosé (Horse Heaven Hills).** There's just a tinge of color to this wine. Cherry and watermelon aromas lead to broad, slightly fat-feeling flavors that get bogged down. —S.S.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$15

**86 Waterbrook 2019 Sangiovese (Columbia Valley).** An appealing pale-salmon color, this wine shows a significant amount of reduction out of the gate. The palate is light and bright, with a pleasing zip of acidity. —S.S.  
**abv:** 10.9% **Price:** \$13

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**93 DeLille 2017 Four Flags Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** This is a blend of fruit from Upchurch (30%), Ciel du Cheval (27%), Grand Ciel (24%) and Klipsun vineyards (19%). The aromas offer notes of sautéed dried herb, raspberry, dry chocolate and earth. Dense, fresh coffee and cherry flavors follow. It lingers on the finish, showing a pleasing sense of brightness. It drinks well now but seems to be immortal. Best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$70

**93 DeLille 2017 Lot 3 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** All of the fruit for this wine comes from Klipsun Vineyard. The aromas pull you in, with notes of cherry, black currant, barrel spice, earth and whiffs of satsuma. Full-feeling dark-chocolate and cherry flavors follow, bring a sense of density and chewiness. It shows the vibrancy of the vintage, with compelling structure and impressive length. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$75

**93 DeLille 2017 Shaw Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** The aromas draw you into the glass, with notes of earth, dark cherry, flower, black currant and raspberry, showing a compelling sense of detail. The palate is dense, full of plum flavors, backed by tightly wound tannins and accented by bright acidity. Coffee notes linger on the finish. It's hard to resist now but will only get better with time in the cellar. Best from 2026–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$75

**93 DeLille 2016 Grand Ciel Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** The aromas offer notes of roasted coffee, cherry, black currant, scorched earth

and plum. The flavors show restraint and sophistication, with plenty of stuffing. The acidity of the vintage brightens it. It has a very long life ahead. Best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$160

**93 Gorman 2017 Albatross Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** All varietal and aged in 100% new French oak, the aromas offer notes of ripe black cherry, incense and char. Rich, intense fruit flavors follow. It's a big hammer of a wine, bringing power like only this producer can bring it. Toast notes linger on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$80

**93 Luke 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope).** Highly regarded Stone-Tree Vineyard is the dominant fruit source for this wine. Coffee, dried herb and black-cherry aromas lead to a palate that brings a whole lot of seriousness to it. It's rich and dense, full of tannic heft. Give it time to stretch its legs—and drink it at a cool temperature—to see it at its best. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$60

**92 Doubleback 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine is a blend of fruit from McQueen, Lefore, Bob Healy, Seven Hills and Figgins vineyards. Vibrant aromas of char, dark chocolate, coffee, cherry and barrel spice lead to a pleasingly restrained palate, with a tart snap of acidity. It shows the variety's sophisticated side. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$99

**92 Doubleback 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This is all McQueen and LeFore vineyard fruit. Coffee and barrel-spice aromas are in the lead at present. The palate is packed full of tannins and acid structure, with the fruit currently playing second fiddle. It needs time in the cellar for the oak to integrate. Best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$145

**92 Luke 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$25

**91 Gorman 2017 The Bully Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Blended with 8% Petit Verdot and aged in 90% new French oak, this wine's roasted coffee-bean and dark-chocolate aromas are up front, followed by notes of cherry liqueur. Plentiful, sensuous chocolate and cherry flavors follow, lingering on the finish. It shows both the vintage and the winery's hedonistic style. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$50

**91 Virtue 2018 Charisma Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Fruit for this wine comes from Olsen and Solaksen vineyards. Seeing no new oak, the aromas are pulled back, with notes of herb, anise, fresh black currant and plum. Exquisitely

pure dark-fruit flavors follow. It's a window into a pure expression of the variety, absolutely delicious. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$28

**90 Airfield Estates 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley).** Subtle aromas of matchstick, cherry and herb lead to plentiful black-currant, plum and herb flavors brightened by tart acids. It hasn't come out of its shell yet but has the stuffing to excel when it does. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$18

**90 Dixie & Bass 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 19. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Gorman 2018 Old Scratch Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Aromas of blue fruit, dried herb, barrel spice and graphite lead to plentiful plum flavors. A fresh lick of acidity keeps it all in focus, despite the high labeled ABV. There's plenty of tannin to back it up. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$31

**90 Lobo Hills 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Blended with both Malbec (13%) and Merlot (12%), this wine's roasted coffee-bean, scorched earth, herb and raspberry aromas lead to fruit and barrel flavors that have a pleasing acidic lift. It will have a very long life ahead of it. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.25% **Price:** \$25

**89 Lady Hill 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The aromas suggest notes of graphite, bittersweet chocolate, cigar box, anise, flower and dark cherry. Soft, reserved flavors follow. It needs more tannin structure to fully stand it up but it's an enjoyable expression. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**89 Lone Birch 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley).** This wine shows much of what there is to love about the 2018 vintage: a mouthful of plush, expansive fruit flavors, with plenty of acidity to back them up. One would like more aromatically from this quiet wine, but the palate delivers plenty. *Best Buy.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$13

**88 H3 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** The aromas offer barrel-forward notes of baking spice and vanilla in front of cherry. The reserved blue-fruit and spice flavors show pleasing balance. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Roaming Dog 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Spice and cherry aromas lead to lightly sweet dark-fruit flavors. It's a pleasant easy drinker. *Best Buy.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

## CABERNET FRANC

**91 Virtue 2018 Temperance Cabernet Franc (Horse Heaven Hills).** Fruit for this 100% varietal wine comes from Destiny Ridge Vineyard. Brooding cigar-box, dried herb and cherry-licorice aromas lead to fruit flavors that show a lovely sense of purity, depth and freshness. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$26

**90 Lady Hill 2016 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** There's a pleasing sophistication to this wine, with its aromas of flower, herb and cherry. Like many wines from this vintage, the flavors are light and the tannins are bunched up at present, but there will be good things there when they stretch out. Best after 2022. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$38

**90 Lobo Hills 2017 Lonesome Springs Ranch Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley).** This is a 100% varietal wine. Lighter in color than the norm for this variety, it offers aromas of spice, flower, licorice and raspberry. The palate shows sophistication and elegance. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

## MERLOT

**92 Luke 2018 Merlot (Wahluke Slope).** The aromas pop, with notes of dark raspberry, chocolate and cherry, showing a bright sense of varietal purity. Ripe, full-bodied, layered fruit flavors follow, with the acidity bringing a lot of freshness and exquisite balance. It lingers on the finish. Delicious and fruit filled, with plenty of structure, it's hedonism at its best—a surefire crowd pleaser. Give a short decant if drinking in the near term. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$25

**91 Structure 2018 Spire Merlot (Yakima Valley).** The aromas bring notes of whole orange, sweet flower, raspberry and plum. Plush plum and pomegranate flavors follow. Coffee notes linger on the finish. It brings a pleasing sense of texture, freshness and terrific staying power. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Virtue 2018 Authenticity Merlot (Yakima Valley).** Though not labeled as such, this is all single-vineyard Olsen Merlot. Roasted coffee-bean aromas are out front initially, followed by notes of herb and raspberry. Smooth fruit and barrel flavors follow, showing depth and structure. The barrel influence shows more prominently than other inaugural offerings from the winery, smoothing out over time, but it still impresses. Drink from 2022 to 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$26

**90 Airfield Estates 2016 Reserve Merlot (Yakima Valley).** Aromas of raspberry

jam, plum, garden greens and spice are followed by garden-herb and red-fruit flavors wrapped up in a whole lot of tannic structure. Give it plenty of time to open up. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Airfield Estates 2017 Merlot (Yakima Valley).** The aromas bring notes of plum, tar and black licorice. The flavors paint around the edges, offering lightly medicinal flavors and a smoky finish that trails. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$18

**88 Be Human 2018 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** The aromas suggest notes of cigar leaf, dried herb and cherry. The flavors are restrained, showing nuance. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 H3 2017 Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills).** The oak has a strong influence on the aromas and flavors, with notes of vanilla, baking spice and coconut. It seems under-fruited for the oak impact. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

## SYRAH

**97 Liminal 2018 High Canyon Series Weather-Eye Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain).** Coming from a canyon high up on Red Mountain and aged in 18% new French oak, the aromas pull you into the glass, with notes of mulberry, blackberry, kirsch, earth, crushed rock, coffee and bacon fat. There's depth, intensity, richness, layering, polish, and texture to the palate. The finish is endless. This wine has it all, with the impressive balance, intensity, acidity and length separating it far out front. It sings from the top of Red Mountain. Best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$75

**96 Liminal 2018 Block Highlight Series Block 16 WeatherEye Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley).** Fruit for this wine comes from the highest block currently planted on Red Mountain, north facing at the top of the ridge, outside the AVA boundaries. Aged in 25% new French oak, it's the most brooding of the winery's inaugural releases, with notes of dried herb, blackberry, coffee and clove. It's dazzling in its intensity and layering, saturating the palate from end to end while still showing fleetness of foot. Packed full of tannin and acid, it absolutely sails on the finish. The balance is exquisite. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**94 Luke 2018 Reserve Syrah (Wahluke Slope).** For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**93 Betz Family 2018 Domaine de Pierres Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** The aromas offer notes of iron, firepit, stem, Mandarin orange and black olive—classically Rocks District. The firepit and other savory flavors are intense, bringing textural

richness, lingering on the finish. It's the winery's most complete and captivating offering from the Rocks to date. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$62

**93 Betz Family 2018 La Côte Patriarche Red Willow Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley).** The heart of this wine is fruit from the original 1986 plantings at this vineyard, the first Syrah vines in the state. The aromas pop, with notes of mulberry, huckleberry, dark plum, leather, fresh clove, spice and dark fruit. Full fruit flavors follow, bringing tannic heft that augurs well for its longevity. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$62

**93 Structure 2018 Bauhaus Syrah (Columbia Valley).** A blend of Wallula (60%) and Stillwater Creek fruit, the aromas are captivating, with notes of dark raspberry, bramble and herb that show a piercing sense of purity. The flavors are dazzling, showing intensity and depth but also elegance and balance. Coffee notes linger on the finish. It's a frankly delicious wine, but it's the structure—and the quality at this price—that impresses most. Best after 2023 with an extremely long life ahead of that. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30

**93 Virtue 2018 Sincerity Syrah (Columbia Valley).** All of the fruit for this wine comes from Wallula Vineyard in the Horse Heaven Hills. The aromas pop, with notes of freshly chopped parsley, whole tangerine, fresh boysenberry and smoked meat. Rich, layered flavors follow. It brings intensity and depth, but there is still plenty of freshness. But it's the purity and lengthy finish that captivate. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$25

**92 Betz Family 2018 La Côte Rousse Syrah (Red Mountain).** Cofermented with 6% Viognier, the aromas are lifted, with notes of boysenberry pie, fresh flower and orange peel. It's a mouthful of blue- and purple-fruit flavors, showing impressive freshness and deftness for this warm appellation. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$62

**92 Betz Family 2018 La Serenne Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley).** Blackberry, smoked meat, plum, dried herb and medicine aromas lead to expressive fruit flavors, with light Robitussin cough-syrup accents. It puts a premium on elegance. The most backward initially of the 2018 releases, it is tightly clenched at present. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$62

**92 Luke 2018 Syrah (Wahluke Slope).** Aromas of black raspberry, scorched earth and pomegranate lead to rich fruit flavors. It's a no holds barred, rich, intense Syrah. Decant if drinking in the near term. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$25

**92 Structure 2018 Foundation Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This blend of Stillwater Creek,

Wallula and Red Willow fruit is everything there is to love about this variety: compelling aromatics and great depth of flavor. Alluring aromas of flower fresh, chopped parsley, boysenberry, smoked meat and medicine lead to full-bodied layered flavors. Though delicious now, it appears it will be near eternal. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Airfield Estates 2017 Reserve Syrah (Yakima Valley).** The aromas offer notes of orange oil, smoked meat, medicine, fresh herb and dark fruit. An assortment of sleek-feeling orange-peel, plum and savory flavors follow, with the orange notes showing prominently at present. Coffee flavors linger on the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$30

**91 DeLille 2017 Signature Syrah (Columbia Valley).** Ciel du Cheval fruit makes up 71% of this wine, with the rest from StoneTree. Aromas of coffee, lavender, earth and assorted dried herbs are followed by a sleek but flavorful palate that shows the acidity of the vintage. Drink now. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$46

**91 DeLille 2016 Grand Ciel Syrah (Red Mountain).** The aromas suggest notes of iron, medicine and earth, along with dark berry. The palate has depth of flavor but with an acidic snap that ups the ante. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$75

**91 Proper 2018 Estate Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine could only come from one place, with its aromas of wet rock, savory herb, flower, plum, orange rind and olive brine. The palate shows a sense of deftness to the fruit and savory flavors, along with the Rocks District's plush feel. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$65

**91 Structure 2017 Red Willow Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley).** This wine comes from one of the state's top Syrah sites. Compelling aromas of dark raspberry, bramble, smoked meat and medicine lead to plentiful, lightly tacky-feeling fruit flavors. The acid of the vintage drives it, and it shows an impeccable sense of balance. Drink in the near-ish term. —S.S.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$35

**90 Gorman 2018 Sleeping Giant Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley).** Coming from one of the state's top Syrah sites, aromas of spice, dark fruit and sugared plum lead to raspberry flavors that are more restrained than the aromas might suggest. It shows the riper side of the variety. —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$60

**89 Gorman 2017 The Pixie Syrah (Red Mountain).** Aromas of barnyard, hay and berry lead to fruit and savory flavors that are more sleek and center focused than the norm for this producer. As with many wines from this vintage, there is a pleasing acidic snap. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

**88 Lobo Hills 2015 StoneTree Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope).** The aromas bring notes of manure, licorice, berry and whiffs of oak spice. Especially considering the warmth of the vintage, the palate is surprisingly reserved, trailing on the finish. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.75% **Price:** \$30

**88 Lone Birch 2018 Estate Grown Syrah (Yakima Valley).** Showing some reduction initially, the aromas suggest notes of char, black raspberry and gravel. The palate is deft and up front, trailing a bit toward the finish but overall showing good balance. There's plenty of value to be had. *Best Buy.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$13

## GRENAACHE

**97 Liminal 2018 High Canyon Series WeatherEye Vineyard Grenache (Red Mountain).** The first thing one notices about this wine is the depth of color for the variety. Coming from the Amphitheater block, the aromas pop in notes of black raspberry, rose petal, pomegranate and crushed rock. Red and black fruit flavors undulate across the palate, showing deftness, richness and detail. The finish goes on as long—longer even than one cares to count. Throughout it all, it retains a sense of balance and freshness. It's a yardstick against which future Washington Grenache will be measured. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75

**92 Virtue 2018 Enthusiasm Grenache (Columbia Valley).** All of the fruit for this wine comes from Thunderstone Vineyard on the Royal Slope, and is fermented as whole berries, with extended maceration. The aromas aren't fully ready to reveal their charms on first pour, but they eventually open to reveal notes of chopped parsley, black pepper and pure berry. The palate is full of grace and polish, ramping up in intensity over time, with a lingering finish. It has the stuffing to go the distance. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$26

**90 Rôtie Cellars 2018 Little G Grenache (Washington).** The aromas intrigue, with vivid notes of freshly peeled orange along with gravel and red fruit. Orange-peel and smoked meat flavors follow. It's a very pulled-back offering of the variety, interesting though a bit one-note at times. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

## RED BLENDS

**96 Liminal 2018 Vineyard Series WeatherEye Vineyard G-S-M (Columbia Valley).** Fruit for this inaugural wine comes from a new site up and over the top of Red Mountain and down onto the north side. Grenache makes up 42%, followed by Mourvèdre (38%) and Syrah. The aromas bring notes of pomegranate, mulberry, crushed rock, savory herb and black pepper. It's a big mouthful of

a wine, rich, layered and intense, with earthshaking intensity and plenty of tension. There's impressive tannin and an abundance of acidity to enliven it all. The fruit-filled finish seems near endless. It's a new benchmark for Rhône-style blends in Washington. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60

**94 Betz Family 2018 Bésolèil (Columbia Valley).** Grenache makes up 46% of this wine, with Mourvèdre and Counoise each accounting for 24% and the balance being Syrah. With the majority of the fruit coming from Olsen Vineyard in Yakima Valley, the aromas explode from the glass, with notes of raspberry, smoked meat, huckleberry and white pepper. The palate has dense, textured, layered fruit flavors but still remains fleet of foot. There is a compelling sense of freshness and texture to it. It's a complete dazzler. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$48

**93 Cadence 2017 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard (Red Mountain).** Cabernet Franc (42%) is in the lead on this wine, with Cabernet Sauvignon (33%), Petit Verdot (17%) and Merlot following. Brooding aromas of black currant, anise, dried and fresh herb, scorched earth and boysenberry lead to a tightly packed, highly structured palate, with mouthwatering flavors. It will be timeless, but best after 2026. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$45

**93 Cadence 2017 Taptail Vineyard (Red Mountain).** Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 43% of this wine, with the rest Cabernet Franc (29%) and Merlot. The aromas pop, with notes of raspberry, flower, fresh herb, black currant and scorched earth. The palate is tightly coiled, packed full of bold tannin and bright acids. It's a classic example of the vintage, region and this producer's style. Best from 2024–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$45

**93 DeLille 2017 Chaleur Estate (Red Mountain).** Cabernet Sauvignon (65%) and Merlot (25%) make up the heart of this wine, with the rest Cabernet Franc (8%) and Petit Verdot. The aromas show complexity, with notes of barrel spice, plum, cherry, scorched earth, herb and licorice. Structured, rich fruit flavors with lively acids, big tannins and a hyperextended finish follow. It will have a very long life ahead of it. Best after 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$85

**93 Gorman 2018 Evil Twin Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** An 80–20 blend, the aromas provide appeal, with notes of iron and other minerals along with plum and dark fruit. Dense, layered, rich blue- and black-fruit flavors follow, with plenty of tannins providing the scaffolding. It's a hedonistic delight, made in this producer's trademark power-packed style. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$65

**92 Cadence 2017 Bel Canto Cara Mia Vineyard (Red Mountain).** Cabernet Franc (73%)



# BUYINGGUIDE

makes up most of this wine, with the balance Merlot (18%) and Petit Verdot. The aromas aren't ready to reveal themselves, opening to show notes of earth, flower and fresh herb. The flavors are textured, undulating across the palate. It brings a sense of intensity and freshness that is thoroughly captivating. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$60

**92 Cadence 2017 Camerata Cara Mia Vineyard (Red Mountain).** This is a rare 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from this producer. The aromas are compelling, with notes of scorched earth, flower and cherry, showing an unmistakable Cara Mia profile. A dense, structured palate follows. —S.S.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$60

**92 DeLille 2017 D2 (Columbia Valley).** Merlot makes up two-thirds of this wine, with the rest Cabernet Sauvignon along with bits of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The aromas are unique, with notes of bittersweet chocolate, cedar, black tea, and raspberry. The palate is sleek in style, filling in over time, bringing a lovely sense of finesse and balance. Bright acidity ups the interest. Give it some time in the cellar to see it at its best. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$48

**92 DeLille 2017 Doyenne (Yakima Valley).** This is 60% Syrah and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas bring notes of brown spices, berry and barrel toast. The coffee and cherry flavors are sleek in feel initially, broadening with time open. —S.S.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$45

**92 DeLille 2017 Harrison Hill (Snipes Mountain).** Two-thirds of this are Cabernet Sauvignon, with the rest Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Its pleasing aromas of roasted coffee bean, fresh savory herb, green flower and cherry are followed by light, elegant flavors. Toasty flavors linger on the finish. It's a very pretty, elegant expression of this site with a very long life ahead of it. Best after 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$98

**92 DeLille 2018 Métier (Columbia Valley).** This delicious wine is a blend of Mourvèdre (50%), Grenache (28%), Syrah (20%) and Cinsault. The aromas bring notes of iron, earth, dried herb, flower and berry. The palate is pure, rich unadulterated hedonism, with superb length. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$40

**92 DeLille 2017 Red Willow Vineyard (Yakima Valley).** Cabernet Franc (54%) makes up over half of this wine, with the rest Merlot (32%) and Cabernet Sauvignon. The aromas are generous, with notes of barrel toast, fresh herb, raspberry, black currant and soil. Ripe, plush flavors follow, showing pleasing purity, freshness and length. Tasty now, it will have a long very life ahead. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$75

**92 Gorman 2018 The Devil You Know (Columbia Valley).** A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, its barrel aromas are out front initially, with notes of coffee and baking spice followed by cherry. Plentiful pit-fruit flavors follow, showing a lovely sense of balance. It's thoroughly delicious. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$30

**92 Gorman 2018 Zachary's Ladder (Red Mountain).** It seems that 2018 was a bountiful vintage, and this wine offers its cornucopia of fruit. Cherry- and raspberry-gummy aromas are followed by plump, rounded fruit flavors that show impressive depth, layering and plenty of structure to support it all. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

**92 Luke 2018 The Companion Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$22

**92 Structure 2018 The Newel (Columbia Valley).** This is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Syrah. Its fresh garden-herb, flower stem and cherry aromas are out front. The fruit flavors are palate coating, showing pleasing density and intensity. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$28

**92 Virtue 2018 Fortitude (Columbia Valley).** This is 48% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon and 25% Malbec, with fruit coming from Olsen and Solaksen vineyards. The aromas are compelling, with notes of raspberry, dried herb, plum and cherry, showing mesmerizing purity. Full, achingly pure flavors follow, with knee-buckling texture. It's an end-to-end delight. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$24

**92 Virtue 2018 Unity G-S-M (Columbia Valley).** Syrah makes up 48% of this wine, with the rest 32% Mourvèdre and 20% Grenache. With fruit coming from Wallula, Des Etes Long, and Thunderstone vineyards and seeing only second-fill and neutral oak, the aromas are light but intriguing, with notes of smoked meat, medicine, fresh parsley, plum and berry. It's beautifully textured but still sleek and velvety in feel, showing exquisite polish, structure and a long finish. It's gorgeous stuff at a can't-be-beat price. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$24

**91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2017 Artist Series (Columbia Valley).** Cabernet Sauvignon accounts for 56% of this wine, with the rest Merlot (39%) and smidgen of Malbec and Cabernet Franc. The aromas are brooding, with notes of barrel spice, dark chocolate, dried and black cherry. Creamy fruit and barrel flavors follow, showing an appealing texture. Coffee and raspberry notes linger on the finish. It's a complete charmer. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

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

**91 DeLille 2017 Minuit (Yakima Valley).** Malbec makes up 70% of this wine, with the rest

Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of satsuma, cedar, plum and herb lead to plump fruit flavors. It's thoroughly enchanting. —S.S.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$54

**91 Gorman 2018 The Devil You Don't Know (Columbia Valley).** Like many wines from this producer, this one puts an emphasis on hedonism, and it brings plenty of it. Plum, coffee, mineral, nougat and cassis aromas lead to ripe, intense but still-balanced fruit flavors that pack a big punch. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$30

**91 Lobo Hills 2017 Right Bank Blend (Columbia Valley).** This is Merlot blended with Cabernet Sauvignon (18%) and Cabernet Franc (9%). Coffee, cherry and herb aromas are followed by a pleasingly reserved style. Coffee notes linger on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Rôtie Cellars 2017 Homage (Washington).** Mourvèdre makes up 70% of this wine, with the rest Syrah (20%) and Grenache. Aromas of black pepper, smoked meat, blue fruit and herb lead to a palate that shows more of the same and brings a sense of liveliness. Olive notes linger on the finish. Pair it with grilled lamb. —S.S.

**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$65

**90 Airfield Estates 2018 Dauntless (Yakima Valley).** This Right Bank-style blend offers aromas of dark raspberry, black currant, toast and fresh herb aromas. Plum, raspberry and cherry flavors follow. There is a lot to like. Best after 2022. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90 Cadence 2018 Coda (Red Mountain).** Cabernet Franc makes up 37% of this blend, with the rest Merlot (29%), Cabernet Sauvignon (23%) and Petit Verdot. The aromas are locked up on first pour, with notes of whole orange, raspberry, cherry and herb that show freshness. Soft, plush fruit flavors follow. It's less overtly structure-driven than previous offerings, but still has plenty of longevity in it. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$28

**90 H3 2018 Red (Horse Heaven Hills).** Like many wines from this vintage, this one packs a fruit-filled wallop. Toast, coffee and blueberry aromas give way to ripe, plush plum flavors that bring a sense of seamlessness. It's a whole lot of wine for the money. *Best Buy.* —S.S.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Airfield Estates 2017 Runway (Yakima Valley).** The volume is turned up on this wine, with ripe fruit aromas and flavors full of black fruit. Grainy tannins back it up. There are interesting things happening, but they don't all entirely come together. —S.S.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$32

**88 Ad Lucem 2016 Day Star Slide Mountain Vineyard (Columbia Valley).** This is a blend of Tempranillo (38%), Touriga Nacional (37%) and Syrah. The aromas intrigue, with notes of pencil eraser, herb and saddle leather. Like many wines from this vintage, the palate is sleek in feel, with bright acidity. Drink now. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$42

**88 Airfield Estates 2017 Founders H. Lloyd Miller (Yakima Valley).** The aromas aren't ready to reveal themselves, with notes of dark cherry, orange peel and barrel spice. Full-bodied, lightly smoky flavors follow, with mesquite notes on the finish. The tannins give a firm, slightly astringent squeeze. It's bunched up at present. Give it some time in the cellar to stretch out. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**88 Paplow 2016 Boushey Vineyard G-S-M (Yakima Valley).** Grenache makes up 57% of this wine, followed by near equal parts Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault along with a dollop (6%) of Viognier. The aromas bring notes of black pepper, manure, flower and an assortment of red and black fruit. Full-feeling flavors follow, with the acids offering freshness. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Proceso 2016 Credente Red Willow Vineyard (Columbia Valley).** Sangiovese makes up 56% of this wine, with the rest Cabernet Sauvignon (22%), Merlot (11%) and Cabernet Franc. Light aromas of cherry cough drop, flower and herb are followed by fruit flavors, with good acids and a firm backbone of tannin. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$42

**88 Roaming Dog 2018 Red (Columbia Valley).** The aromas offer notes of boysenberry and huckleberry. Plush, palate-coating flavors follow, showing impressive balance. It's a lovely, fruit-filled wine. *Best Buy.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Lone Birch 2017 Estate Grown (Yakima Valley).** The aromas are unusual, with notes of seaweed, umami and orange peel. Lighter styled, quite smoky flavors follow, with the tannins giving a light squeeze. —S.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 Waterbrook 2018 Mélange Founder's Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** Subdued aromas lead to flavors that seem a bit muddled. It's somewhat off-step with the vintage. —S.S.  
**abv:** 13.95% **Price:** \$16

---

## OTHER RED WINES

---

**92 DeLille 2017 Red Willow Malbec (Yakima Valley).** Coming from one of the state's top vineyards, satsuma, orange-oil and plum aromas lead to palate-staining purple-fruit flavors. It's a

textbook example of what there is to love about this variety. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$49

**92 Virtue 2018 Vitality Malbec (Columbia Valley).** All of the fruit for this 100% varietal wine comes from Solaksen Vineyard on the Royal Slope. Aged in second-fill and neutral oak, the aromas are brooding initially, with notes of cherry, plum, orange oil and dried herb, showing a sense of purity. The flavors are expressive and focused, showing density and richness. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$25

**91 Rôtie Cellars 2018 Dre Mourvèdre (Washington).** All of the fruit for this 100% varietal wine comes from Upland Vineyard on Snipes Mountain. It's chock-full of aromas of freshly ground black pepper, along with fresh and dried herb. The palate has an acidic snap, with plentiful black-pepper accents. Tasty stuff. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65

---

## SWEET WINE

---

**95 Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen 2012 Eroica Single Berry Select Riesling (Columbia Valley).** Compelling aromas of marmalade, honey, lemon and ginger lead to rich, mouthcoating, exquisitely balanced fruit flavors. The intensity is outrageous, but it's the balance and endless finish that separates this wine—a true accomplishment of sheer enjoyment. Best after 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$200

# SPIRITS

## Blended Scotch with added intrigue

Conventional wisdom about blended Scotch is that it's an everyday dram that's engineered for consistency. It's easy-drinking in terms of flavor and proof, and tends to be priced with an eye toward value.

While that's true of many, it's not universal. In fact, a growing number of blended Scotch bottlings are complex and intriguing, and a handful are clearly priced as special-occasion sippers. While consistency still is prized, many blends are produced in limited quantities, yielding just as few hard-to-duplicate bottles as a small-batch single malts.

Consider, for example, Hedonism Felicitas, produced by Compass Box to celebrate the brand's 20th anniversary. When the brand launched in 2000, the vanilla-forward Hedonism was its first product. The new limited-edition Felicitas comprises three grain whiskies, each distilled in a different decade. Despite its custardy plushness—a Hedonism on steroids—it's complex and bottled at 106 proof, not

exactly a standard easy-sipper for entry-level whisky fans.

Despite famously strict regulations from Scotch's governing agency, producers employ a number of tools and techniques to stretch boundaries. Just look to "teaspooned" blends like Peatside, meaning it's 99.9% of one single malt, and .01% (a teaspoon) of a sister malt, or Syndicate 58/6, which is finished in a solera system—in other words, it may contain tiny traces of older whiskies. And while finishing Scotch in casks that previously held other spirits or wines is a long-held tradition, mezcal is a relative newcomer to the toolbox. Witness stalwart Dewar's experiment with Illegal

Mezcal-finished Scotch.

These bottles defy many of the usual expectations about blended Scotch and that's not necessarily a bad thing. An old reliable is great to have on hand, but since every day is a little different, maybe it's best to have more than one "everyday dram" to enjoy. —Kara Newman

Many blends are produced in limited quantities, yielding just as few hard-to-duplicate bottles as small-batch single malts.

**96 Compass Box Great King Street Artist's Blend Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).** Part of the Great King Street series, this is a sweetie of a blended Scotch. The first feather-light sips open with vanilla custard, orchard fruit and coconut cream, rounding into enticing red fruit on the finish. A splash of water unlocks more red fruit, along with tinges of butterscotch, oak and spice. **Best Buy.**  
abv: 43% Price: \$37

**95 Compass Box Rogues' Banquet Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).** Warm golden raisin and dried fig aromas entice on the nose. The rich palate shows cooked and dried fruits—raisin, dried apricot, figs and baked apple—plus a smooth layer of marzipan and peppery spice on top. The faintest whiff of smoke finishes it off. Complex and ideal for sipping.  
abv: 46% Price: \$225

**94 Compass Box Hedonism Felicitas Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).** Released to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Compass Box brand in 2020, this special, higher-octane edition of the Hedonism expression is worth seeking out. Look for fresh apple and almond aromas. The notably soft, plush palate opens with vanilla custard and warm baked apple, finishing gently on a cloud of sweet spices and final burst of cinnamon. A splash of water brings more vanilla forward, so each sip suggests cinnamon buns or vanilla French toast.  
abv: 53% Price: \$175

**94 Compass Box The Spice Tree Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).** The name says it all: This is a spice-forward blended Scotch for sure. The bold aroma evokes fresh apple and spice, while the palate shows darker, more warming flavors of baked apple, cinnamon, vanilla and

clove. It finishes long and alluring on plenty of sweet spices and a puff of pipe smoke.

abv: 46% Price: \$67

**94 Murray McDavid Òrdha Meas 13 Year Old Scotch (Scotland; Glass Revolution, Las Vegas, NV).** Òrdha meas means golden fruit in Gaelic. Look for a burnished gold hue and mel-low aromas that suggest baked apple drizzled with caramel. The velvety palate opens on a toffee note coupled with fiery clove, cinnamon and black pepper, while salted caramel flows into the finish. This limited edition bottling is made using a blend of whiskies from all five Scotch-making regions.  
abv: 46% Price: \$50

**93 Compass Box Hedonism Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).** Fresh aromas suggest red apple slices and hint of vanilla. The supersoft palate rings out with vanilla cookie and custard, finishing long and mouthwatering on sweet spices, piquant cayenne and drying hints of cigar wrapper and campfire smoke. Consider this as a dessert pairing.  
abv: 43% Price: \$115

**93 Compass Box Myths & Legends III Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).** The third installation of the Myths & Legends series is light and elegant. Mild honey, coconut and floral honeysuckle tones finesse nose and palate, winding into a spiced finish marked by a mouthwatering hint of sea salt and the faintest puff of smoke on the exhale. A splash of water pulls it all together.  
abv: 46% Price: \$153

**93 Duncan Taylor Politician Blended Scotch (Scotland; Shand Import, Duarte, CA).** So named because it was originally an exclusive for The Politician bar on Scotland's remote Eriskay island, this golden whisky has a mild, slightly floral aroma. Hints of almond butter, pear and white flowers lead into a warming toasted coconut finish laced with plenty of tingly white pepper. **Best Buy.**  
abv: 40% Price: \$20

**92 Blackadder Puff Adder Scotch (Scotland; Glass Revolution, Las Vegas, NV).** Not as overwhelmingly smoky as the name might suggest, this pale-straw blended whisky offers a fresh apple aroma. The buttery palate echoes that apple sweetness, layering it with moderate smokiness, coconut and black pepper. With repeated sips, the balance shifts, with smokiness overtaking the fruit and spice, finishing on iodine and saline. Still, it's a moderate amount of smoke that enhances rather than engulfs.  
abv: 46% Price: \$73

**92 Monkey Shoulder Scotch (Scotland; William Grant & Sons, New York, NY).** This blended Scotch opens with a bright, fresh-cut apple aroma. On the palate, butterscotch richness gives way to mild hints of smoke and juicy citrus. This versatile



pour could be enjoyed on its own or recommended for mixing. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$33

## 92 The Islay Boys Flatnose Blended Scotch (Scotland; Shand Import, Duarte, CA).

Golden and bright in the glass, this whisky offers mild aromas of toasted grain, hops and white flowers. The silky, delicate palate echoes that grainy note, alongside oatmeal and a flicker of gingery spice. Mouthwatering sea salt trails off into the long finish. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$35

## 91 Compass Box Tobias & The Angel Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).

This blended Scotch has a smoky aroma, with honeyed undertone. The light, silky palate echoes that smokiness, wrapped around a comforting core of honeycomb and finishing on mouthwatering salt and brisk black pepper. A splash of water relieves the alcohol heat and unleashes a bit more peat smoke.

**abv:** 47.6% **Price:** \$500

## 90 Compass Box No Name No. 2 Scotch (Scotland; MHW Ltd., Manhasset, NY).

Pale gold in the glass, this blended Scotch offers a bracingly smoky aroma and faint whiffs of sea air and iodine. The fiery palate opens on tones of honey, baked pear, banana and coconut all wrapped in a wispy peated note. A final exhale of smoke and black pepper finishes each sip.

**abv:** 48.9% **Price:** \$145

## 90 Islay Mist 8-Year Scotch (Scotland; M.S. Walker, Boston, MA).

Made at Laphroaig, the Islay distillery famed turning out uber-peaty single malts, this blended Scotch offers a more moderate approach to peat. Look for a wispy peated aroma and mild, pleasant smokiness on the palate mixed with almond sweetness. The spiced midpalate segues into a smoky waft. Sip or mix. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$26

## 90 Murray McDavid 2010 Peatside 6 Year Old Scotch (Scotland; Glass Revolution, Las Vegas, NV).

This limited edition is a teaspooned Scotch, meaning what's in the bottle is 99.9% single malt from one distillery, plus a small amount of whisky from another distillery, just enough to call it a blend. Sweet smoke aromas entice the nose. The palate echoes that note, reading as cigar wrapper and cigar smoke, honey and stewed fruit. Peppery spice and alcohol heat make for a drying, somewhat numbing sip. Adding water unfurls a smokier note. This was finished in Port and PX Sherry casks.

**abv:** 46% **Price:** \$65

## 89 Duncan Taylor 5 Star Blended Scotch (Scotland; Shand Import, Duarte, CA).

The mild aroma mingles faint hints of dried fruit and smoke. The palate is bolder, advancing with vanilla and gingery heat from the first sip, finishing long and mouthwatering on tones of sugar cookie, cinnamon and black pepper, yielding a flavor that suggests

spicy ginger cookies. Adding water releases a slight medicinal tinge and even more spice into the finish.

**Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$17

## 89 Harleston Green Blended Scotch Whisky (Scotland; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).

This golden and bright whiskey has mild aromas of apple and resin. The palate opens lightly in tones of oak, vanilla and almond, finishing dusty and spicy on nutmeg and cayenne. A splash of water coaxes out pleasing honey sweetness. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$26

## 88 Wemyss Malts Spice King Scotch (Scotland; Palm Bay International, Port Washington, NY).

Concentrated vanilla frames the nose and palate. The first sips also reveal mellow cinnamon and cocoa, rounding into a baked apple note on the warming finish.

**abv:** 46% **Price:** \$55

## 87 Syndicate 58/6 Blended Scotch Whisky (Scotland; Worldwide Libations, Lyndhurst, NJ).

Made with a blend of malt and grain whiskies, this blended Scotch is finished in a solera system—in other words, it may contain tiny traces of older whiskies. It drinks like a relatively young whisky, however. Soft floral aromas are at odds with the otherwise herbaceous profile of this Scotch. It opens brisk, tingly and slightly mentholated, with hints of hops, espresso and bitter orange peel. The finish is long and medicinal, with a final citrusy astringency and burst of alcohol heat.

**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$64

## 86 Dewar's Illegal Smooth Mezcal Cask Finish Scotch (Scotland; Bacardi, Coral Gables, FL).

This innovative bottling rests an eight-year-old blended Scotch in a cask that previously held Illegal Mezcal for one month. The result is smoky tinge in the aroma and a palate that layers a core of honey with hints of smoke and rubber, finishing brisk and drying with a sprinkle of peppery heat.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$22

# BEER

## Finding beauty in barleywine

A second mug of barleywine always seems like a good idea at the time, but the next morning tells a different story. The strong, dark ale is a historical style that remains popular with a small section of brewers and drinkers, but has largely fallen by the wayside in the mainstream beer drinking community.

This is a shame because there is real depth and beauty in this malt-forward style that's built to age and evolve over time. The colors range from deep copper, to tawny brown and garnet. There are even some nearly black pours.

While fun to look at, the real marvel is the oxidized flavor, which at times resembles wet cardboard and is acceptable in this style, especially in aged versions. Candied flavors like rich caramel, butterscotch and fudgy chocolate appear in some versions, while tones of aged leather and wet pipe tobacco arise in others. Sherry-like aromas and warming alcohol sensations are also hallmarks of the style.

There is real depth and beauty in this malt-forward style that's built to age and evolve over time.

English barleywines are typically more malt focused, while American versions can have heartier doses of hops that add earthy or fruity flavors to the brew.

Some brewers choose to release barleywines in the colder months of the year as annual offerings. One of the largest and best known is Bigfoot from Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. In recent

years, the California-based brewery has been offering vertical packs of the beer, letting drinkers taste three previous years against the current batch. Thomas Hardy, a United Kingdom-based brewer also releases an annual barleywine ale, a tradition that stretches back more than 50 years.

Because of its high alcohol content and ability to age gracefully, a lot of brewers will design barleywines to condition in spirit or wine barrels, adding exciting flavors to the mix. To add to the specialness, quite a few brewers choose to dip the bottles in wax, adding to the presentation.

Cheers!

—John Holl

**97 Lakefront 2019 Black Friday Barleywine (Barrel-aged Barleywine; Lakefront Brewery, WI).** The strength of this barleywine is that it stands tall on its own and the barrels only play a small role in the overall flavor. The wood is important, mind you, and offers up the vanilla and spice components that one expects from Bourbon barrels, but the base beer offers tones of caramel, butterscotch and light minerality. An annual release from the brewery available on the day after Thanksgiving, this will age well over the next five years or can be consumed immediately.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$20/22 oz

**96 Cigar City Leon (Barrel-aged Barleywine; Cigar City Brewing, FL).** This is barleywine has a vinous background, thanks in part to the brandy barrels this was aged in. A special release from the brewery, it is dark brown in color, with no discernable head and a big, boozy kick on the finish that swirls with notes of smooth leather, pipe

tobacco and decadent caramel. It goes down easier than the posted alcohol might suggest and a full bottle empties quickly.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35/750 ml

**95 Springdale 2019 Grain Reaper (Barrel-aged Barleywine; Springdale Beer Co., MA).** The color of rich caramel, this barleywine starts off with a big, fluffy off-white head that dissipates quickly. It shows some age from both the mature base beer as well as the wood it spent time in. Vanilla, oak and a wonderful spiciness mix with red berry, leather and a whiff of wet tobacco.  
**abv:** 10.6% **Price:** \$12/500 ml

**94 Cigar City Stakhanov's Barleywine (Barrel-aged Barleywine; Cigar City Brewing, FL).** Thick and nearly black in color, this barleywine has many stout-like elements to it. A special, limited release from the brewery in collaboration with Three Weavers Brewing, this is full of savory

flavors of aged soy and fish sauce. It is the umami that brings you back sip after sip as flavors of dark chocolate, Bourbon and caramel slowly unfold on the palate. Drink soon.

**abv:** 11.1%

**Price:** \$35/750 ml

**94 Port Brewing Don't Drink Barleywine (Barleywine; Port Brewing Co., CA).** A collaboration with the group Don't Drink Beer, which promotes the "Barleywine is Life" mantra, this is a straightforward example of the style without the bells and whistles of barrel aging or adjuncts. It should age nicely, but enjoyed young it has an earthy hop bitterness accented by raisin, dried tobacco and pine tar.

**abv:** 10.5%

**Price:** \$8/19.2 oz

**93 Thomas Hardy 50th Anniversary Golden Edition (English Barleywine; MHW Imports, NY).** Packaged in 2018 but still available on store shelves, this golden anniversary offering of a revered barleywine is heavy on the Sherry notes, with hints of aged leather, butterscotch and red berries. It's a warming ale that's low carbonation and streamlined in mouthfeel. As it sits it releases a whiff of tobacco. Beloved for a reason, it is never too early to start a collection of this annual release and taste it over time.

**abv:** 13%

**Price:** \$11/11.5 oz

**93 Weathered Souls Barrel Aged #BIL (Barrel-aged Barleywine; Weathered Souls Brewing, TX).** The color of golden honey and topped with a frothy off-white head, this barleywine relies heavily on the Bourbon barrels it was aged in. Big on soft vanilla, toffee and a sharp oak kick, the base beer is somewhat thin, making it easy drinking. It shows some pleasing oxidation alongside flavors of caramel and breadly malt.

**abv:** 14%

**Price:** \$26/500 ml

**92 Sun King Johan Barleywine (Barrel-aged Barleywine; Sun King Brewery, IN).** Bursting with aromas of butterscotch and caramel, this dark mahogany colored ale is sprightly in both its carbonation and flavor. Where some barleywines might be stodgy, this has life and lift to it, starting with a slightly fudgy note all the way to a mild vanilla finish.

**abv:** 10%

**Price:** \$20/16 oz 2 pack

**88 Burlington Beer Co. Mahogany & Tweed (Barrel-aged Barleywine; Burlington Beer Co., VT).** Thanks to a viscous mouthfeel, there is no mistaking the maple in here. Reminiscent of pancake breakfast syrup from a diner, this is a sticky, rustic ale, with a faint metallic note on the finish. It was aged in Cognac barrels.

**abv:** 12%

**Price:** \$32/16 oz 4 pack

## SOUR ALES

**94 Community Simple Dry-Hopped Sour Ale (Sour Ale; Community Beer Works, NY).** This sour is wonderfully refreshing, with a decidedly tart profile. Notes of melon and pineapple mix together nicely but never stand center stage. It gives the brain a workout trying to tease out flavors and aromas, making this anything but simple, but infinitely enjoyable. A mango flavor appears towards the end of the sip, adding one last hit of topical enjoyment before the dry finish.  
**abv:** 6.3% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

**90 By All Means Release 001 Sour (Berliner Weisse; By All Means, MT).** This is a very delicate ale that occasionally shows pricks of aggression. It shows flavors of honey and graham cracker, with a mouthwatering savoriness that drinks easy but would likely be overwhelmed by most foods. It is perfect for an adult refreshment after a long hike to a camp site.  
**abv:** 4.4% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 4 pack

## PALE ALES

**94 Community Frank (American Pale Ale; Community Beer Works, NY).** This ale is grainy and chewy, with a soft malt character and vibrant pine aromas and flavors. It opens into some grapefruit, orange peel and caramel tones as the glass empties. It's a pale ale that is just right for when the mood calls for something hoppy but not too hoppy.  
**abv:** 4.6% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

**93 Atlas Dance of Days (American Pale Ale; Atlas Brewing, Washington D.C.).** This is a jaunty pale ale that shows a mellow hop character and mineral twang. It doesn't demand too much attention from your tastebuds, lending itself to a lazy afternoon on the patio with friends.  
**abv:** 5.7% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

**89 Roadhouse Trout Whistle (Juicy/Hazy Pale Ale; Roadhouse Brewing Co., WY).** This pours a hazy golden yellow, with a low earthy hop profile on the nose. It opens up to lemon balm, a little honey and an underbaked white bread grain aroma. The body is watery and the carbonation is medium. This would be a hoppy refresher after an afternoon of raking leaves.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$16/12 oz 6 pack

**87 White Lion Pale Ale 2.0 (American Pale Ale; White Lion Brewing, MA).** This is orange peel forward and grainy on the aroma, even a little earthy at times. It seems rooted in the British tradition but has hints of modern double dry hopping done with a restrained hand. Lower carbonation than most, this finishes with a slight pineapple bitterness.  
**abv:** 6% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 6 pack

## FRUIT BEERS

**95 Atlas Blood Orange Gose (Fruit Beer; Atlas Brew Works; Washington, D.C.).** With an herbal thread that weaves between flavors of Key lime, vanilla and honey, this ale is right at home on a beach vacation. It is brewed with blood orange and pink Himalayan salt, and both are also on display with the meaty, assertive citrus character that emerges halfway through the glass. The finish is tart and sprightly.  
**abv:** 4.4% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

**93 Community Lemon Grass Cream Ale (Fruit Beer; Community Beer Works, NY).** This ale is crisp and easydrinking, with an herbal citrus forward aroma and flavor. It's beer that would be at home along spicy Asian dishes, or just an afternoon in the yard. Cream ales don't always get a lot of love, but they can be a great canvass for brewers. This is a fine example of a humble style getting a splash of creativity that ultimately benefits the drinker.  
**abv:** 4% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

**92 Community That Yuzu IPA (Fruit Beer; Community Beer Works, NY).** This is a low alcohol IPA that lets the fruit shine without completely dominating the base beer. Intensely citrus forward, this is an enjoyable tart ale that drinks easy and refreshes in the process. A lime peel bitterness on the finish keeps the taste buds at attention and welcomes a fresh sip.  
**abv:** 4.6% **Price:** \$16/16 oz 4 pack

**91 Lakefront Pumpkin Lager (Fruit Beer; Lakefront Brewery, WI).** There's no mistaking the pumpkin pie spice that dominates this lager. It's like having a slice of pie but in a glass. It shows overwhelming aromas of allspice, clove, ginger and cinnamon that are mellowed on the palate and then wiped nearly clean by the finish, inviting another sip to revive the fall classic.  
**abv:** 6.3% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

**91 White Lion Fight the Sour (Fruit Beer; White Lion Brewing, MA).** Light purple in color, this is spicy and herbal tea forward, with some under-ripe berry bitterness and tartness that finishes dry. Brewed with juniper, lemon juice and blackberry, it is an homage to a bramble cocktail and a perfectly suitable stand in. It's a collaboration with Grist House Craft Brewery in Pittsburgh.  
**abv:** 6.5% **Price:** \$4/16 oz

**90 Dust Bowl Kash Crop Orange Mango (Fruit Beer; Dust Bowl Brewing, CA).** Showing an initial combination of ginger spice and vanilla, it takes a little while for both the mango and orange tones to appear in this beer. When they do, it's with a soda-like sweetness that is refreshing and even a little crisp.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

**90 Saint Archer Blackberry Gose (Fruit Beer; Saint Archer Brewing, CA).** This pours a bright, vibrant dusky pink and is big on a tart red-

berry flavor. A slight salty but dry finish makes this an easydrinking ale that calls to mind warm summer afternoons.  
**abv:** 4% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

**90 Knotted Root Thick Key Lime Pie Goo (Fruit Beer; Knotted Root Brewing, CO).** Imagine a decadent slice of Key lime pie that was pureed, dosed with a little bit of booze and served in a glass. This is that. From the citrus, to the vanilla, to the graham cracker crust, it's all here with just a slight earthy pungency in the background.  
**abv:** 5.6% **Price:** \$20/16 oz 4 pack

**90 New Jersey Beer Co. LBIPA (Fruit Beer; New Jersey Beer Co., NJ).** This IPA offers up big tones of pink grapefruit and orange peel, with intriguing accents of ginger and hibiscus. It plays well with the fruit flavors added and is just right for sunset on the byside of the Jersey shore.  
**abv:** 6.6% **Price:** \$11/16 oz 4 pack

**89 Überbrew Pink Slip (Fruit Beer; Superlative Beer, MT).** A raspberry aroma is vibrant on the nose yet disappears on the palate. What remains is a gluten reduced, fruit punch that doesn't have much beer character. Still, it's refreshing and thirst quenching—fine companion to brunch or garden parties.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

**87 Knotted Root Thick Fruit Salad Goo (Fruit Beer; Knotted Root Brewing, CO).** This offers a big aroma of Piña Colada fruit punch, with a soapy finish. It has a lot of puree in this that overwhelms the base beer. Cherry, pineapple, mango and raspberry, this is a turbid combination that. If slightly frozen, would be just right for a tropical resort in peak season.  
**abv:** 7.6% **Price:** \$18/16 oz 4 pack

**85 Veza Sur Mangolandia (Fruit Beer; Veza Sur, FL).** While the label boasts big flavors of mango, but they are tough to find. Rather this is big on a generic cotton candy sweetness, hints of candied cherry and even more sugar.  
**abv:** 4.8% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

## DOUBLE IPAS

**94 Flying Dog Tropical Truth (American Double IPA; Flying Dog, MD).** Vibrant aromas of pineapple and coconut offer a warm welcome to this IPA that transports you to a warmer climate and a relaxing state of mind. It's a showcase of what hops and adjuncts can do to have a beer stand a little taller than others in the category. It finishes with a jaunty guava clap that carries through to the next sip. Have this in place of a tiki cocktail.  
**abv:** 8.7% **Price:** \$14/12 oz 6 pack

**94 Lawson's Hopzilla (American Double IPA; Lawson's Finest Liquids, VT).** The hops are a showcase here, with traditional pine, grapefruit and dried citrus flavors and aromas. There is also a boost from a strong malt content that is not shy



# BUYINGGUIDE

about flavors of caramel, grape nuts and crusty bread. This is an old school IPA that is doing just fine in a modern hoppy world.

**abv:** 8.7% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

**93 Lawson's Triple Sunshine (American Imperial IPA; Lawson's Finest Liquids, VT).** This is a thick, hoppy, mouthcoating beer that grabs your palate by the lapels, gives you a good shake and then still holds on for longer. It's boozy, with flavors of pine resin, aged grapefruit peel and a delightful dankness.

**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$15/12 oz 4 pack

**91 Lawson's Double Sunshine (American Double IPA; Lawson's Finest Liquids, VT).** Smooth and slightly tropical, with a pine twinge and herbal essence on the finish, this double IPA is made for bright sunlit afternoons where there is nothing on the agenda but to relax with another pint.

**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

**91 Iron Hill Double Kryptonite (American Double IPA; Iron Hill Brewing, DE).** Dark amber but clear, this double IPA is strong on natural autumnal aromas of leaves, dried herbs and orange peel. It's a fun, boozy sipper that fits in with a Sunday afternoon at the pub (or home), when the home team is losing and you need something to brighten your mood.

**abv:** 9.4% **Price:** \$21/16 oz 4 pack

**90 Shmaltz No Shtick (Hazy/Juicy American Double IPA; Shmaltz Brewing, NY).** This is a no-nonsense double dry hopped IPA that delivers on familiar hop flavor and aroma and kicks you in the liver while doing it. Mostly citrus heavy hops give this beer a warming depth that feels at home with drinking at home in the cooler months.

**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$23/16 oz 4 pack

**89 Knotted Root Perpetually Unimpressed (Hazy/Juicy American Double IPA; Knotted Root Brewery, CO).** This is hazy, murky straw colored, with a thick foamy head. Overall, it is thin and watery, with some candied lemon, orange blossom a touch of mango juice. Hazy IPA fans will love it for its low hop bitterness and slight astringency on the finish.

**abv:** 8.2% **Price:** \$20/16 oz 4 pack

## STOUTS

**95 Atlas Silent Neighbor (Stout; Atlas Brew Works, Washington, D.C.).** This is a fun everyday stout that is rich, warming and easydrinking. It's a fine accompaniment to a lunch out or a session during an evening around the firepit. It was brewed with molasses and rye, but won't weigh you down with alcohol or body weight. It will tickle the taste buds with milk chocolate, a smooth coffee roast and a hint of vanilla bean.

**abv:** 6.7% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

**94 Seventh Son Qahwah Spiced Imperial Stout (Imperial Stout; Seventh Son, OH).** This is a

spicy, peppery milk stout that uses a strong chocolate malt base to boost up the capsaicin from the peppers that are warming and a little fruity. Cinnamon comes on strong after a few sips and helps bring some earthy character to the overall Mexican chocolate cake vibe. Not for the faint of heart, this beer is a fun experiment.

**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$13/12 oz 6 pack

**91 Weathered Souls Black is Beautiful (Imperial Stout; Weathered Souls Brewing, TX).** At first whiff, there is a bit of ash that comes across but that quickly evolves to rich, spicy wet pipe tobacco. That is the flavor that stays until the last sip. There is jasmine, chai and a warming herbal quality that is woven into the recipe of this beer, making it a slow sipper rather than a quick pint at the bar. Likely to be polarizing at a table of drinkers, this will favor the bold.

**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$24/16 oz 4 pack

**91 Pure Pantera (Imperial Stout; Pure Brewing Project, CA).** Slightly spicy and a little sweet with whiffs of oxidation, this oily stout would be a fine accompaniment to fresh oysters and steaks off the grill, especially towards the later hours of an evening. Brewed with coffee and coconut, it is earthy, sweet, thick and fun.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$26/22 oz

**90 East Brother Oatmeal Stout (Oatmeal Stout; East Brother Brewing, CA).** Thin, chocolaty and a little mineral, this has many easy drinking qualities that make it a fine companion to an ordinary day of drinking. No frills, it offers a fine balance between roasted and sweet notes.

**abv:** 5.4% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 4 pack

**90 New Jersey Beer Co. Garden State Stout (Stout; New Jersey Beer Co., NJ).** Slightly smoky and a lot of fun, this stout has depth and soul in tones of chocolate and roast coffee. Low acidity and a pleasing sweetness mark the finish. It's a stout for every day.

**abv:** 6.6% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 4 pack