

WINE ENTHUSIAST

TOP 100 CELLAR SELECTIONS 2021



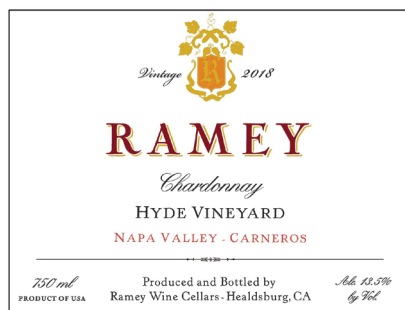
Each year, we release the Top 100 Cellar Selections list, a ranking of the best wines tasted throughout the year that exhibit pedigree, structure and staying power—the hallmarks of ageworthy wines. All these bottles will stand the test of time, of course to varying degrees depending on region, variety, vintage and style, yet look to the reviews from our expert tasting panel for insight on when best to pop the cork.

Classic examples from Bordeaux, Burgundy, Barolo and Napa are well represented, yet there are also many exciting discoveries, like Syrah from New Zealand, Cabernet Sauvignon from Northeast Spain and Mataro (a.k.a. Mourvèdre) from California's Central Coast.

Red wines aren't the only cellar-worthy options. Some white and sparkling wines also shine best with a bit of age. In fact, our top pick this year is a Napa Chardonnay that delivers the complexity, longevity and finesse many look for in white Burgundy.

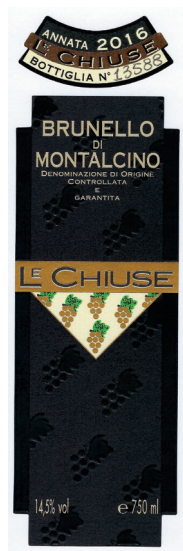
This list boasts nine 100-point wines, some of which cost hundreds of dollars, but don't let these high-flying prices deter you. More than half of the selections clock in \$70 and less, with a third between \$20–50. With prices like this, what are you waiting for?

1



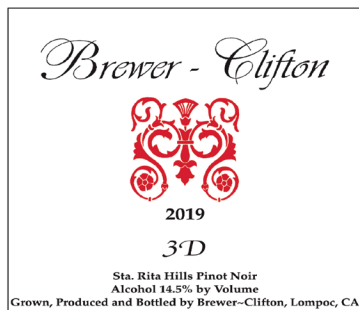
100 Ramey 2018 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). This is a stunner from blocks planted in 1997 and 1999. Beautiful aromas of toasted hazelnut and stone lead to a palate that shows undeniable minerality paired with lasting acidity. It shows freshness and energy throughout. Drink 2026–2032. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

2



100 Le Chiusse 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This gorgeous wine opens with fragrant aromas of violet, wild berry, new leather, tilled earth and spice. Showing the estate's hallmark elegance, structure and precision, the focused, full-bodied palate delivers cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and tobacco before finishing on a note of black tea. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity keep it vibrant and balanced. Drink 2024–2046. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$99

3

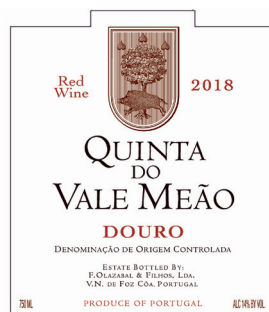


98 Brewer-Clifton 2019 3D Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This wine is both crowd-pleasing and elegantly complex. Focused aromas of strawberry, ripe cherry, hibiscus and spearmint make a punchy start on nose. The palate is loaded with minty herbs, bright strawberry and sizzling acidity. Drink through 2039. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

4

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

5

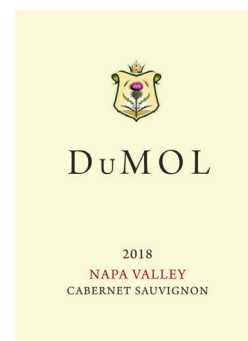


99 Quinta do Vale Meão 2018 Red (Douro). This stellar wine comes from one of the grandest estates in the Douro, created in the 19th century by Dona Antónia Ferreira, whose family still owns it. For such a massive wine, it is surprisingly elegant. It is dense with tannins and black fruits but also sophisticated and certainly ageworthy. Drink from 2026. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$100

6

100 Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2018 Saint-Julien. Vintage 2018 was generous to the style of Ducru-Beaucaillou. The rich character of this wine is enhanced by the ripeness and concentration of the vintage, yet at the same time it keeps an amazing freshness. This will go down in the annals of this historic estate. It is not likely to approach drinkability before 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$200

7



98 DuMOL 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A lovely, 100% varietal wine aged 20 months in French oak, this is juicy, herbal and offers a substantial foundation of power. Cedar, tobacco and tomato leaf accent a core of crushed rock, dark plum and threads of acidity—the weight and structure lifted by underlying freshness. Enjoy from 2028–2038. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$119

8



97 Famiglia Anselma 2016 del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). This classic Barolo opens with aromas of truffle, new leather, camphor and blue flowers. The youthfully assertive palate has knife-like precision, delivering raspberry compote, blood orange, star anise and crushed mint alongside noble tannins and bright acidity. Austere at this stage, it has incredible energy and boasts serious aging potential. Drink 2028–2046. Crus & Stills. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$54

9

97 Maximin Grünhäuser 2019 Abtsberg Riesling GG (Mosel). Struck flint and river rocks introduce this brilliantly steely dry Riesling. Compared to the youthful, almost tropical, charm of the producer's 2019 Herrenberg GG, lime and grapefruit flavors in the Abtsberg are bracing and linear in youth but suggest a depth and elegance that should reward cellaring. Best to hold till 2024 at least. It should evolve wonderfully through 2035 and hold longer still. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.I.

abv: 12%

Price: \$70

10



98 Taylor Fladgate 2018 Vintage Port. This is an exceptional vintage, most unusually the third declared in a row from this producer. Intensely perfumed and richly structured with dark black fruits and 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. —R.V.

abv: 20%

Price: \$120

11



98 Domäne Wachau 2019 Ried Achleiten Grüner Veltliner Smaragd (Wachau).

Stony savor swings as a vestige alongside zesty citrus on the closed nose. The palate starts off tight and taut, right now it is all sleek and stony. Time in the glass allows glimpses of what still lies deeply buried: a rich, profound yeastiness reverberating with peppery, salty depth. This is an astonishingly concentrated package that may just be a time capsule that survives us. Drink 2030–2050. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

12

100 Château Pichon Baron 2018 Pauillac. This great estate in southern Pauillac, facing the Latour vineyard, is at the top of its game. In this release, the tannins are as impressive and dense as the black fruits. Together they form a harmonious ensemble, richly structured, concentrated from the many old vines in the blend, and very ageworthy. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$222

13

99 Fuligni 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Enticingly fragrant, this opens with heady aromas of rose, violet, new leather, truffle and a whiff of camphor. Vibrant and focused, the chiseled, elegant palate is all about finesse, delivering bright red cherry, orange zest, licorice and white pepper framed in taut, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it superbly balanced and fresh. It's already drinking beautifully but hold for even more complexity. Drink 2024–2036. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$112

14

96 Ridge 2018 Pagan Ranch Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Drenched with ultrarich fruit flavors, this generous, full-bodied and mouthfilling wine is an unabashed, fully ripened red that exults in Zinfandel's jammy blackberry and blueberry extravagance. High octane but also supple in texture, this will be a great wine to linger over at the end of a special meal. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$40

15

97 Bründlmayer 2019 Ried Heiligenstein Riesling (Kamptal). The vibes on the nose are faint but pervasive nonetheless in tones of citrus essence and crushed conifer needle. The palate then expands into ripe Mirabelle fruit which we get to see through that citric, conifer prism. This has wonderful depth which for now is dressed in fruit, but the essential stoniness will shine through with age. Drink 2030–2050. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$44

16



96 Theopolis 2018 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Yorkville Highlands).

This singular wine from Theodora Lee is one of the top expressions of this variety. Arresting aromas of menthol, lavender, black pepper and rosemary excite interest on the nose before darkly concentrated black-fruit flavors hit the palate. Firm tannins and a lip-smacking, appetizing textural bite beautifully play off the dramatic flavors. Not for the faint of heart, this medium- to full-bodied wine will be best from 2023–2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

17

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 keep it impeccably balanced. Drink 2025–2053. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$200

18

96 Château Malartic-Lagravière 2018 White (Pessac-Léognan). The white wine from this estate has become a reference point, and this release continues that reputation. It is rich while keeping freshness through crisp acidity. Spice and touches of tropical fruits add richness and complexity to a wine that is sure to age. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

19

98 Terre Rouge 2017 Ascent Syrah (Sierra Foothills). This explosively flavorful, ageworthy 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 blackberry, rhubarb and woodsmoke without overdoing any one element. Great balance and layering are its hallmarks. Best from 2026–2040. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$100

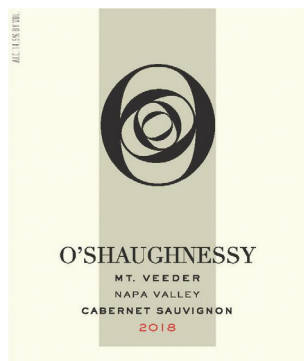
20

100 Salvioni 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Absolutely stunning, this gorgeous red has enticing aromas of wild rose, forest berries, new leather and camphor. Full-bodied and delicious, the smooth, structured palate is all about flavor, focus and finesse, doling out succulent black cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and white pepper notes framed in tightly knit, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it impeccably balanced. Beautiful now and will continue to age and develop even more complexity for years to come. Drink 2024–2041. Vias Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$223

21



98 O'Shaughnessy 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). This red is youthful, wound-up and full of tension. Plush, polished tannins add to a weighty mouthfeel filled with deep flavors of cassis and blood orange, with seasonings of sage, herbes de Provence and black and white pepper. A showcase of sophisticated complexity, it will do well in the cellar. Enjoy 2028–2038. —V.B.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$150

22

97 Anton Bauer 2017 Reserve Artist Blaufränkisch (Wagram). Subtle notes of ripe blueberry need to be shaken awake on the shy nose. Swirling also brings out a note of cinnamon. The dense palate surprises with its inherent, almost cooling freshness and its superfine tannins. This is elegant and poised despite its undoubted power, a wonderfully light touch has revealed the inherent grace of this wine. Drink by 2040. KWSelection.com. —A.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$39

23

100 Château Figeac 2018 Saint-Émilion. With its rich swathe of Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has density and immense structure balanced by stunning black fruits that give impressive promise. This powerful wine is probably the greatest ever produced from this estate. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$245

24

96 Drew 2019 The Fog-Eater Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Rose petal and mint accents merge with deep, concentrated black-fruit flavors in this medium- to full-bodied wine that is laced with velvety, fine-grained tannins. It combines superb balance with layers of fruit and subtle spices for a very compelling palate. Best from 2024. —J.G.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$45

25

98 Comm. G. B. Burlotto 2017 Monvigliero (Barolo). The aromas alone will stop you in your tracks thanks to a compelling combination of pressed rose, crushed mint, pine forest and a whiff of woodland berries. Full-bodied and elegantly structured, the firm, delicious palate delivers red cherry, pomegranate, licorice and salt alongside tightly wound, noble tannins. Drink 2025–2037. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$110

26

95 Betz Family 2018 Père de Famille Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This is a wine for the ages. Aromas of thyme, the blackest of cherries, licorice, bay leaf and spice are followed by outright delicious, plump fruit flavors. There's a whole lot of primary fruit,

with ample structure to hang it all on, along with plenty of depth and intensity. The finish is near endless. It flat-out impresses, with remarkable intensity. Best from 2028–2038. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$78

27

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

abv: 13%

Price: \$110

28

96 Ken Wright 2017 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Scents of tea, sassafras and tart cherry open the way to a bright palate. Air this out and it brings up hints of umami and truffle, leading into an elegant and detailed finish with a dash of allspice. It's a distinctive and unique expression of this iconic vineyard. Drink through 2030. —P.G.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$63

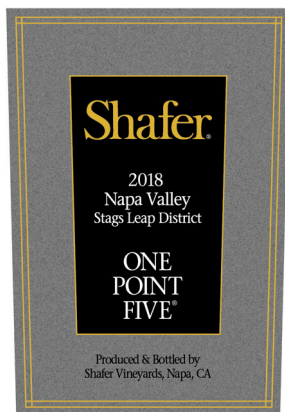
29

98 Brovia 2017 Brea Vigna Ca' Mia (Barolo). Mesmerizing aromas of violet, rose, perfumed berry and dried aromatic herb mingle together with a whiff of forest floor in this compelling wine. Full-bodied, elegant and delicious, the structured palate delivers ripe Morello cherry, cranberry, licorice and tobacco framed in youthfully assertive but refined tannins. It closes on a tangy mineral note. Drink 2027–2037. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$110

30



97 Shafer 2018 One Point Five Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This is a muscular wine with a velvety backdrop—classic for the vintage and appellation. Silky tannins glide across a foundation of turned earth, crushed rock, clove and tobacco. The wine is hugely structured and grand. Dark plum, cherry and mocha flavors round out the profile. Enjoy from 2028–2035. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$98

31

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

32

95 Gini 2018 La Frosca (Soave Classico). One of the iconic wines of the denomination, this gorgeous, polished white opens with enticing scents of yellow stone fruit, summer wildflowers and hay along with a whiff of wet slate. Elegantly structured, the delicious palate doles out ripe apricot, white peach and tangerine drop candy before a savory—almost salty—almond finish. While it's wonderful now, it will continue to evolve and age beautifully for years. Drink through 2030. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

33



94 Penley Estate 2019 Phoenix Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). This excellent wine offers aromas of blueberry, currant, terra cotta, iodine, savory spices and an umami-like seaweed nuance. There's lovely depth of flavor, tannin structure and regional expression on the palate. Drink through 2040. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

34



96 Contucci 2016 Mulinvecchio (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). Aromas of truffle, tilled earth, rose, camphor and star anise slowly take shape on the nose of this elegantly structured red. Radiant and savory, the bright, focused palate showcases juicy Morello cherry, strawberry compote and ground cinnamon before a licorice close. Tightly wound, refined tannins and fresh acidity keep it balanced and give it an ageworthy structure. Drink 2024–2036. Specialty Cellars. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

35



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

36

97 Torres 2015 Mas la Plana (Penedès). Lifted aromas of flowers, cherry and black plum are supported by accents of mineral and lightly toasted oak. On the palate, an explosion of ripe, pulpy berry fruit and snappy acidity settles with ease and elegance, while this Cabernet Sauvignon from a warm, dry year offers blackberry, cassis and chocolate flavors. There's plenty of depth to a smooth and balanced finish. This is one to hold for many years. Best from 2025–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

37

96 Tardieu-Laurent 2018 Hermitage. Rocky tones of granite and earth are lifted by a hint of violet in this sleek, stately Hermitage. It's a gorgeous, linear wine in youth but offers beautifully concentrated blackberry and cassis flavors edged by firm, penetrating tannins. Hold till 2024 at least, though it's likely to develop and expand beautifully well past 2038. Europvin USA. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

38



94 Casa Relvas 2019 Herdade da Pimenta Grande Escolha Red (Alentejano).

Made from selected grapes and aged in wood for six months, this wine has powerful fruits, impressive tannins and dark layers of black-plum skin and licorice. This big, boastful wine needs more time. Drink from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.

abv: 15%

Price: \$35

39



97 Larkmead 2018 Firebelle (Napa Valley).

Marrying 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is focused, soft and rounded in feel, with an underlying structure that should lend well to aging. It shows integrated notes of cedar, dried herb and slate that mix with a core of blueberry and plum. Lingering accents of nutmeg and cocoa nib mark the close. Enjoy from 2028–2033. —V.B.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$100

40

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. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$225

41

95 Vignobles Mayard 2017 Domaine du Père Pape Red (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).

A small addition of Cinsault in this Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre blend seems to contribute smoky shades of earth and bramble to otherwise pure, luminous blackberry and cherry. Vinified in concrete and matured in large-format foudres, it's a rapturously fruity, concentrated red framed by firm, strident tannins that should meld as the wine gains complexity and depth through this next decade. Drink through 2029. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.

abv: 15%

Price: \$40

42

96 Prats & Symington LDA 2018 Chryseia Red (Douro).

This wine is the result of a joint venture between Bordelais Bruno Prats and the Symington family in the Douro. It has an impressive mix of elegance, density and concentration. It's a wood-aged wine that's packed with dark plum, berry and rich tannins, which will lend well to cellaring. Drink from 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$95

43



96 Penfolds 2017 St. Henri Shiraz (South Australia).

The latest bottling of St. Henri, from a cool vintage, is a classic. Inky-hued, it's a deep well of flavor: plush blackberries, roasted vegetables, coffee beans, dark chocolate and a sanguine nuance. The palate is rich and mouth-filling but linear, with polished, spicy oak and fine, powerful tannins. It's a big wine that needs a major hit of protein if drinking now, but it will age beautifully for many decades to come. Drink through 2045. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$150

44

96 Villa Guelpa 2018 Lessona. Rose petal, forest berry, botanical herb, menthol and truffle aromas are front and center in this gorgeous, sublimely scented Nebbiolo. Made by one of the denomination's rising stars, it's all about elegance, precision and energy, delivering

juicy red cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and crushed mint flavors alongside taut, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it radiant, and a savory, saline mineral note lingers on the finish. Drink 2023–2038. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$70

45

96 Domaine des Bosquets 2018 La Colline (Gigondas).

Salty, chalky mineral notes lend a cutting edge to sun-drenched black-cherry and plum flavors in this wine. Sourced from 50-year-old vines planted in a high-altitude vineyard abutting the Dentelles de Montmirail, it's decadently rich and concentrated but scintillating and fresh. Still approaching peak, it should drink beautifully from 2022 and improve well through 2030. European Cellars. —A.I.

abv: 15%

Price: \$75

46

96 Booker 2019 Oublie Red (Paso Robles).

The nose of this blend of 34% Grenache, 31% Syrah, 27% Mourvèdre, 4% Tannat and 4% Petite Sirah is wildly complex, running from boysenberry and black plum to packed lavender, black pepper and dried beef. The floral aspects fly higher on the palate, from elderflower to violet, combining a delicate aspect with black plum intensity. Will only get better for years. Drink through 2035. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$75

47

100 Il Marroneto 2016 Madonna delle Grazie (Brunello di Montalcino).

This dazzling wine is for Sangiovese purists and fans of extreme finesse. Opening with tantalizing aromas of rose, violet, berry, tilled earth and new leather, it's youthfully intense but already a classic. Focused, structured and radiant, the chiseled palate delivers cherry, raspberry, licorice and crushed mint before a tobacco close. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity keep it perfectly balanced. Drink 2026–2046. Winebow Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$350

48

95 Smith and Sheth 2018 Cru Heretaunga Syrah (Hawke's Bay).

This is a precise, tightly knit wine for the cellar that beautifully captures both the power and the elegance of Hawke's Bay Syrah. Like a hug in a glass, it offers comforting aromas of melted chocolate, baking spice, ground pepper, fresh bramble berries and a hint of something more mineral. The palate is broad but focused. The tannins are beautifully textured, talc-like and spicy, cradling the pristine

fruit. Drink through 2040. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$50

49

99 Schloss Johannisberger 2018 Purpurlack Riesling Beerenauslese (Rheingau).

Seductive notes of rose petal, violet and saffron perfume this intoxicating, delicately spicy Riesling. Lusciously sweet and decadently concentrated, it's packed with succulent flavors of pineapple, golden raisin and yellow peach. It's remarkable how much power and penetration such a light-footed wine can have, but this wine's a stunner now and sure to improve for decades upon decades to come. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —A.I.

abv: 7.5%

Price: \$300/375 ml

50



97 Schramsberg 2012 J. Schram Rosé Sparkling (North Coast).

This wonderful wine layers together subtle red fruit, cinnamon, tamarind and savory, meaty accents for an extraordinarily complex outcome. Mouthfilling and rich in texture but also lively and bright in underlying acidity, it is beautifully balanced and will age well. Best from 2023. —J.G.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$160

51

95 Figgins 2018 Estate Red (Walla Walla Valley).

Aromas of macerated cherry, coffee, flower, licorice and date lead to cherry, cranberry and raspberry flavors that give a full impression on the palate. There's plenty of precision and detail to be had, so much acidity and a quite firm tannic structure. A big, burly, beautiful wine, it will last and drink well as long as you care to keep it. Don't go near it now. Best after 2032. —S.S.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$85

52

96 Te Mata 2018 Coleraine Red (Hawkes Bay).

Te Mata's top wine comes mostly from the Havelock Hills, the first legally protected vineyards in New Zealand. This vintage is a strong

one, showcasing the power and ageability of a world-class red with the precision of this traditional estate. Notes of black currant, plum, black olive, baking spice, dried green herbs, vanilla and chocolate are present throughout. The chalky tannins are taut and powerful but well-integrated, hinting at a long life ahead. Drink 2022–2040. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$90

53

100 Château Lafite Rothschild 2018 Pauillac.

An immensely structured wine, this is complex, concentrated and yet so contained. The wine impresses with its balance, layers of succulent black-currant fruits and effortless style. A wine for the long term, it should not be touched before 2029. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$780

54

96 Rochioli 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

This is a blend of several single-vineyard designates, predominantly Little Hill (53%) and Big Hill (15%), with additions from West Block, East Block and Sweetwater as well. Dark plum and raspberry accent a lively and expansive palate framed by rounded tannins and easy oak accents. Enjoy from 2029–2034. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

55

96 Jean-Luc Colombo 2018 Les Ruchets (Cormas).

This inky, intensely plummy Syrah balances rich, pulsating black-fruit flavors against lip-smacking cassis and accents of tapenade, charcuterie and blood. Sourced from 90-year-old vines and aged 22 months in oak (15% new), the penetrating wine is framed by fine, firm tannins and lingering notes of vanilla, chocolate and earth. Drink 2023–2040. Taub Family Selections. —A.I.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$106

56

95 Domdechant Werner 2019 Kirchenstück Riesling GG Trocken (Rheingau).

While full bodied and delightfully creamy in texture, there's a freshness and delicacy in this blossomy, perfumed white. Lime and white peach flavors are scintillating and pure, accented by strikes of crushed stone and a long, salty finish. It feels a bit subtle in youth but should gain depth as it improves. Best to hold through 2023 at least, but

it should improve well past 2030. Miller Squared Inc. —A.I.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

57

96 Castello dei Rampolla 2017 Sammarco (Toscana).

A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Merlot, this delicious, juicy red offers inviting aromas of new leather, blue flower, ripe black-skinned fruit and grilled herb. On the smooth, savory palate, tightly knit, fine-grained tannins seamlessly support fleshy black cherry, raspberry compote, licorice and tobacco before closing on a mocha note. Drink through 2029. Vias Imports. —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$100

58

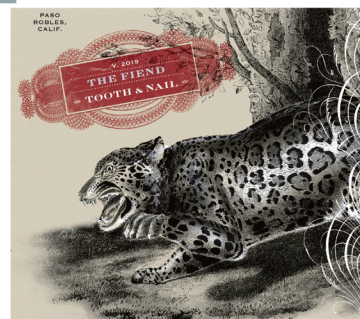
95 Château Coutet 2018 Barsac.

This wine is beautifully textured. The orange peel and candied fruitiness are balanced by a dry core of botrytis that gives the wine weight while keeping a light touch. It has all the tight freshness and minerality typical of this great estate. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$58

59



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

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

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$30

60

94 I. Brand & Family 2018 Bayly Ranch Cabernet Franc (Paicines).

This is a sprightly, textural, mineral-driven bottling that's immediately fascinating yet will be a joy to watch evolve. Light in the glass, it begins with aromas of cranberry, nori wrap, herb-dusted strawberry and a hint of dried blood. The palate shows a rusty

edge, offering dried strawberry, crumpled oregano and a hint of green peppercorn. Drink through 2034. —M.K.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$30

61

99 **Château Palmer 2018 Margaux.** This dense wine is almost black in color. Offering rich tannins and luscious black fruits, it is ripe with both structure and depth. The concentration and thought-provoking intensity are impressive. Drink this wine from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$343

62

94 **San Vicente 2015 Rioja.** Lightly baked black-fruit aromas are oaky and powerful, while this feels dry, firm, tannic and well structured for a warm-year Rioja. Lush berry, black currant and dried beef flavors come with plenty of oak, while tannic pinch and dryness anchor a full-sized finish with oaky spice. Drink through 2034. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.S.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

63

99 **Pol Roger 2012 Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill Brut (Champagne).** The great 2012 vintage shows well in this rich, full Champagne. Dominated as usual by Pinot Noir, the wine is powerfully ripe and impressively full of white fruits and tight minerality. Ready to drink from 2022, it is worthy of aging and certainly drinkable even in 10 years time. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$360

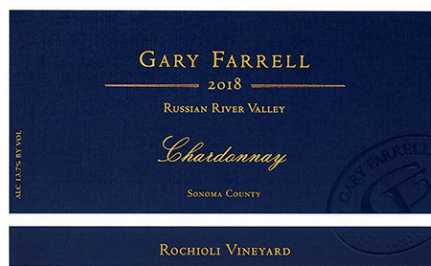
64

94 **Domaine de la Haute Olive 2018 Les Cornuelles (Chinon).** Vines from a single four-acre parcel that are between 80 and 100 years in age make up this wood-aged wine. These old vines add to the dense structure and richness of the black fruits. This wine is full of promise and aging potential. Drink from 2023. Schatz Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$33

65



95 **Gary Farrell 2018 Rochioli Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).**

Steely, spicy and youthfully grippy, this is a powerful white that's buzzy in acidity. Tangerine, wet stone, pear and vanilla play around a supple, seamless midpalate. This will be enjoyable for years to come. Enjoy from 2028–2030. —V.B.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$65

66

97 **Louis Roederer 2013 Cristal Rosé Brut (Champagne).**

The pale rosé color of this great Champagne leads to a wine that has toast, spice and layers of citrus and red fruits. Its richness is balanced by freshness that will take several years to fully mature. So, even at eight years, the wine has plenty of room to develop. Drink from 2023. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$579

67

96 **Horsepower 2018 The Tribe Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).**

The aromas start out brooding, opening to reveal notes of soot, grilled asparagus, freshly mortared herbs, wet rock, orange rind and olive tapenade. Intense, palate-coating, velvety, savory flavors follow, with plentiful Kalamata olive and potpourri notes. A truly endless, palate-shaking flower- and olive-filled finish caps it off. Sit down, strap in and get ready, it's one hell of a ride. Best after 2025. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$121

68

94 **Sandlands 2018 Mataro (San Benito County).**

Hailing from the historic Enz Vineyard, this bottling begins with elegant aromas of lavender, plum and dried earth. The tannic tension is immediately apparent on the palate, both leathery and taut, giving long-living structure to the cranberry, sour cherry, crushed cement and tar flavors. Drink 2022–2038. —M.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

69



95 **Allegrini 2016 Amarone della Valpolicella Classico.**

Ripe plum, blue flower and spice aromas lift out of the glass in this full-bodied red. The smooth, concentrated palate boasts a weightless elegance, delivering blackberry compote, ripe Morello cherry, licorice and baking spice framed in enveloping, velvety tannins. Drink 2022–2031. LUX Wines. —K.O.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$85

70



94 **Starfield 2018 Estate Grown Aglianico (El Dorado).**

Both powerful and silky, this extraordinary wine is supple in texture, wrapping deep and complex fruit and spice flavors in fine-grained tannins. Rich black-cherry and blueberry notes coat the palate while nuances of cocoa, cinnamon and black pepper reveal with time. Best from 2025. —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$42

71

99 **Disznókő 2007 Eszencia (Tokaji).**

Mahogany colored in the glass, this Eszencia draws you in with ethereal aromas of acacia honey, beeswax, caramelized pineapple upside-down cake, English toffee and apricot jam. These heady aromas transfer seamlessly onto the palate. It is hefty and voluptuous in mouthfeel yet silky smooth and creamy, with just the right amount of acidity to counteract the intense sweetness. Drink through 2035. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.J.

abv: 1%

Price: \$500/375 ml

72

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

73

94 Brittan Vineyards 2018 Estate Chardonnay (McMinnville). This is the first estate-grown Chardonnay from Robert Brittan, and as you'd expect from this master winemaker, it's a doozy. The influence of 15% new French oak is felt but not overwhelming, and the clean apple, peach and citrus fruit bursts open with exhilarating freshness. There's a whiff of flint also, and a seam of honeysuckle. This clearly has long-term aging potential. Drink through 2032. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

74

93 Contino 2016 Reserva (Rioja). Fully ripe blackberry, cassis and prune aromas are a touch brandied and heady, indicating that this Reserva from a high-quality year needs a bit more time. A plump palate is both fleshy and flashy, with good depth. Plum, raspberry, currant and chocolate oak flavors finish full and a touch creamy. Drink through 2028. Arano LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

75

94 Domaine Laporte 2019 La Comtesse (Sancerre). Full of floral aromas, this wine is rich and intense. Fruitiness is balanced by the tight mineral edge and powerful, still-young acidity. The wine's concentration is impressive and ageworthy. Drink from 2022–2030. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

76



94 Domaine Divio 2019 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Divio's AVA-specific Pinots provide a master class in terroir. Here, the underlying garrigue and bramble of the Eola-Amity Hills is on display, yet deftly muted and integrated into a complete wine with ample fruit, acidity and tannin. Mulberry, cranberry, pie cherry and more are in the mix, along with some lightly grainy, coffee-toned tannins. Built for aging, it should drink best from 2024 into the early 2030s. —P.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48

77

95 E. Guigal 2019 Château de Nalys White (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Blending is the historic trademark of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and this iconic white highlights the diversity of the region's white grape varieties as well as terroir. While similar in makeup to its sister bottling, the Saintes Pierres, it's a richer, more decadent sip packed with ripe pineapple and yellow-apple flavors swathed in honeycomb, orange blossom and vanilla cream. Matured 70% in oak barrels, it's luscious and spicy but also an elegant, balanced wine that should improve through 2035 and hold longer still. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$105

78

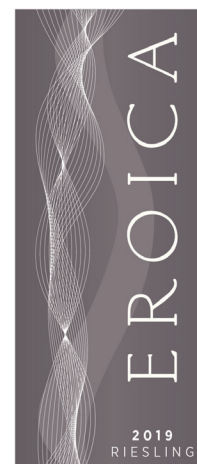
94 Quinta de la Rosa 2018 La Rosa Reserva Red (Douro). This wine comes from a selection of the year's best fruit, foot-trodden in granite lagars. It has great richness as it develops and fills out the already generous structure. This impressive wine will be ready from 2024. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

79

93 Moulin de la Roque 2017 Les Hauts du Vallon Red (Bandol). Mourvèdre, the grape of predilection in Bandol, shows its paces here. Just approaching mature, it has richness as well as layers of dense tannins and spicy black fruits. The wine's concentration and structure are impressive, giving a wine that will shortly show

its full ripe structure. Drink from 2022–2028. Jeff Welburn Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

80



92 Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen 2019 Eroica Riesling (Columbia Valley). The aromas are reserved, with notes of lime, flower, wet slate and herb. The dried Nestea lemon iced tea flavors are center-focused initially, broadening over time. It's a touch off dry, barely perceptible given the big blast of acidity behind it. Best 2022–2030. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

81

93 Château Peyros 2017 Vieilles Vignes (Madiran). This rich, wood-aged wine comes from 40- to 50-year-old vines on an estate at the southern limit of the Madiran appellation. It brings together dense tannins and old-vine concentration. The acidity, black-plum flavors and tannins will keep this wine developing for many years. Drink from 2023. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

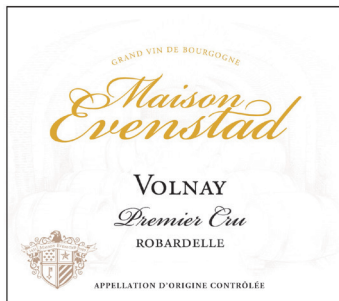
82

94 Quinta do Crasto 2018 Vintage Port. Richly perfumed with the Touriga Nacional in the blend, this is a firm, textured Port. It layers powerful tannins with blackberry fruits. It is a wine with structure and power, obviously set for long-term aging. Drink from 2029. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$55

83

94 Moët & Chandon 2013 Grand Vintage (Champagne). The effects of a cool year on this new vintage release is impressive in its texture, acidity and serious aging potential. Crisp apple and white-fruit flavors come together with a tight structure and a pure line of freshness. Drink from 2023. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$64

84



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

85

94 Mayacamas 2018 Merlot (Mount Veeder). With 6% Cabernet Franc, both it and the Merlot aged in neutral French oak before spending additional time in foudre and barrel, this elegant wine is grippy in its youth, with undeniable structure and elegance. Chalky tannin and earthy iron, dried herb and violet accent beautiful layers of raspberry and plum. Built to age, enjoy best from 2028–2038. —V.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$65

86

94 Domaine Bourillon d'Orléans 2019 L'Indigène Sec (Vouvray). This structured wine is tight, with a strong mineral texture to match the concentrated acidity and rich potential of the fruits. Almonds and layers of fruit and acidity indicate how this impressive wine will age. Drink from 2023. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

87

94 Ponzi 2017 Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). A refined, almost delicate sensibility is at work here. This is the most Burgundian of the high-end Ponzi Pinots, young and fresh and racy and tight. The bright raspberry and cherry fruit is compact and set up with balanced acidity and proportionate, ripened tannins. Notes of herb and citrus are in the background, as is the impact of aging in 30% new French oak. Drink 2024–2030. —P.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$65

88

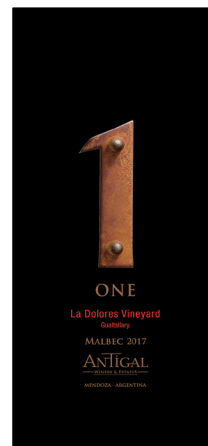


95 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Clos des Mouches Premier Cru (Beaune). This powerful, ripe Pinot Noir is a bold expression of the famed vineyard. Rich in extraction, the fleshy, velveteen sip is packed with black cherry and blueberry flavors accented by charred earth, crushed peppercorn and anise. Fine-grained but furry tannins are approachable young, but this solidly built wine should hit peak from 2024 through 2035 and hold much longer still. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.I.
abv: 14% Price: \$185

89

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. Drink 2025–2033. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

90



93 Antigal 2017 One La Dolores Vineyard Malbec (Gualtallary). Deep blackberry, cassis, prune, vanilla and graphite aromas open this powerfully built Malbec that's fully saturated and fully oaked. Toasty blackberry flavors are distinctly chocolaty on the back side. The wine tastes of black licorice, café mocha and black pepper on the finish. Drink 2023–2030. Cork Alliance. —M.S.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$60

91

93 Astrales 2017 Ribera del Duero. Ripe, earthy black-plum and blackberry aromas are backed by hints of prune and chocolate. Gravelly tannins and choppy acidity combine to create roughness on the palate, while this tastes of baked black fruits backed by savory depth and toasted richness that rises up the longer this sits. Chewy tannins make for a dense finish; drink through 2028. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

92



93 Stark-Condé 2017 Oude Nektar Cabernet Sauvignon (Jonkershoek Valley). This wine, sourced from a high-elevation site, leads with earthy aromas of fresh mentholated herbs, raw tobacco leaf and licorice root partnered with snappy currant and blackberry liqueur tones. The palate is plush and robust from first sip, with big,

gripping tannins that are tight and structured, framing the skin-driven black fruit flavors and fueling the length and astringency on the finish. Additional earthy tones of cigar box spice and chicory root unfold on the back of the close. Drink 2027–2033. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$80

93



2018 | Cabernet Franc | Rosa Mystica

92 Owen Roe 2018 Rosa Mystica Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). Nuanced aromas of savory herb, barrel spice, dark chocolate and black cherry are followed by a well-structured palate, with the tightly wound tannins supporting soft, layered fruit flavors. It brings both a bit of tannic brawn and sophistication and is guaranteed to impress. Best after 2024. —S.S.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$28

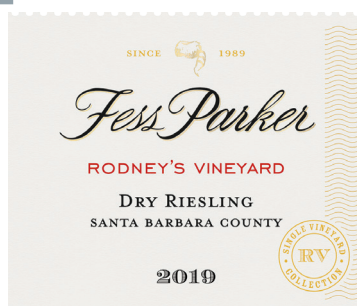
94

93 Torre dei Beati 2017 Mazzamurello (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). This rich red delivers dense aromas of brandy-soaked berries, tobacco, cocoa powder and clove. It's plush in texture, with succulent berry flavors that envelop the palate. Savory and sweet spices weave throughout, making for a cohesive whole. Firm tannins give power, with fresh acidity riding closely behind. Drink 2023–2030. Artisan Wines, Inc. —A.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$44

95



92 Fess Parker 2019 Rodney's Vineyard Dry Riesling (Santa Barbara County).

Chiseled granite and crushed gravel aromas make for a very stony entry to the brilliant nose of this bottling, which also offers tight apple-peel scents. The palate sizzles with acidity and grips with mineral-driven tension, allowing struck stone, lemon-pith and lime-peel flavors to compete for deserved attention. Drink through 2039. —M.K.

abv: 12.2%

Price: \$25

96



93 Montes 2018 Alpha M (Apalta). Can't-miss Chilean aromas of herbal black fruits and juniper are backed by cedary oak, a hint of eucalyptus, tobacco and earthy warmth. Dry tannins dominate a gravelly palate that needs more time to soften. Flavors of charred oak, chocolate and herbal berry fruits see dryness prevail on a long and potent finish. Drink 2023–2035. Kobrand. —M.S.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$110

97

92 Kaapzicht 2017 Steytler Pentagon Estate Wine (Stellenbosch). This traditional Bordeaux-style blend is pretty tight and closed right off the bat, so if you're going to try and enjoy it now, definitely decant or give it some time to breathe after opening. However, once it opens up, waves of black plum and cassis are layered with intense notes of cigar box spice and leather, all of which carry through to the big, firmly structured and fully gripping palate. But it's all in balance—the intensity is there all around, from fruit to structure to finish—so give this some time to truly come into its own and shine. Drink 2027–2036. Red Wolf Imports. —L.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$62

98

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. —S.S.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$35

99

93 Osprey's Dominion 2014 Flight Meritage (North Fork of Long Island). This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot delivers tightly compact aromas of currant and plum flecked with thyme, graphite and moss. It's polished and poised on the medium-bodied palate, with graphite, herb and currant flavors vying for the spotlight. The intense coil of flavors, as well as the firm structure, indicate cellaring potential. Drink through 2030. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

100

91 Casa Silva 2018 S38 Los Lingues Single Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Off the blocks this is oaky, highly herbal and pushing up against green, which is typical for Los Lingues. An intense palate is saturated and woody, while this tastes of oak grain, sawdust, berry fruits and tobacco. This is a potent Cabernet with a tone of barrel influence. Drink through 2026. Vine Connections. —M.S.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30